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China 'not confident' of restarting Myitsone dam

China's ambassador to Myanmar casts doubt over China Power Investment Corporations ambitions to resume the suspended Myitsone mega-dam in Kachin State but says Chinese companies are being unfairly singled out for criticism in Myanmar. **NEWS 3**

A nation remembers its fallen heroes

Thousands turned out to mark Martyrs' Day at monuments throughout the country on July 19, with Yangon's Martyrs' Mausoleum a focal point. Once the official ceremony - attended by Vice President Sai Mauk Kham - was completed the mausoleum was opened to the public and many said it was the first time they had been able to salute the martyrs at the historic site.



Political activists enter Yangon's Martyrs' Mausoleum on July 19 to pay their respects to General Aung San and others killed in 1947.

NEWS 6

Activists say US was planning Na Sa Ka sanctions

Controversial border security force accused of human rights violations was about to be sanctioned by the United States before the government abolished it on July 14, activists in Washington say

OPINION 18

Is it crisis time for the kyat?

Myanmar's currency has dropped sharply in recent months and is down more than 20 percent since it was floated in April 2012 but there is no reason to panic yet.



BUSINESS 22

Cracks begin to show in UMFCCI after election

Members of the country's leading business body call for fresh elections at its annual meeting and raise concerns over the organisation's lack of financial transparency, including "entertainment" expenses incurred in Yangon.

THE PULSE 42

Ghost films rise from the dead

After years hidden under a blanket of censorship, ghost films have emerged to terrify audiences dulled by a steady diet of slap-stick comedy and schlock drama. *Mile Post 26* is among the first to take advantage of the relaxation on filmmaking restrictions.

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THE INSIDER: The local lowdown & best of the web

McDonald's launches financial-planning website

McDonald's restaurant launched a website last week designed to better guide their restaurant employees on how to get by on a fast food worker's salary. The site provides advice such as "get a second job" and spending \$0 a month on heating.

In addition to their advice, McDonald's has also included a games section on the site. In 'Financial Football' players answer personal finance questions to gain yards and score touchdowns. There's also 'Countdown to Retirement' which carries the description: "Play out the career and lifestyle of your choice, and see if your decisions allow you to retire in luxury or keep working until the day you die. It all depends on how well you manage your money."

Visit www.practicalmoney-skill.com/mcdonalds to learn more.

Salvation in 140 characters or less

Catholic World Youth Day is being celebrated all this week in Rio De Janero, and the leadership of Vatican city has promised time off from purgatory for any faithful who follow the festivities on Twitter. As reported in *The Guardian*, Catholics who follow Pope Francis's tweets live in the coming days may be granted 'indulgences', or time off their stay in purgatory awaiting judgement.

In the papal decree announcing the decision, The Vatican stated that the faithful must pay full attention to Pope Francis's tweets and pray with "requisite devotion" to earn an indulgence. "You must be following the events live. It is not as if you can get an indulgence by chatting on the internet," said one Vatican official.

Though most famous for their great expense during the middle ages, the Vatican today awards indulgences for good acts.

Kremlin stocks up on typewriters

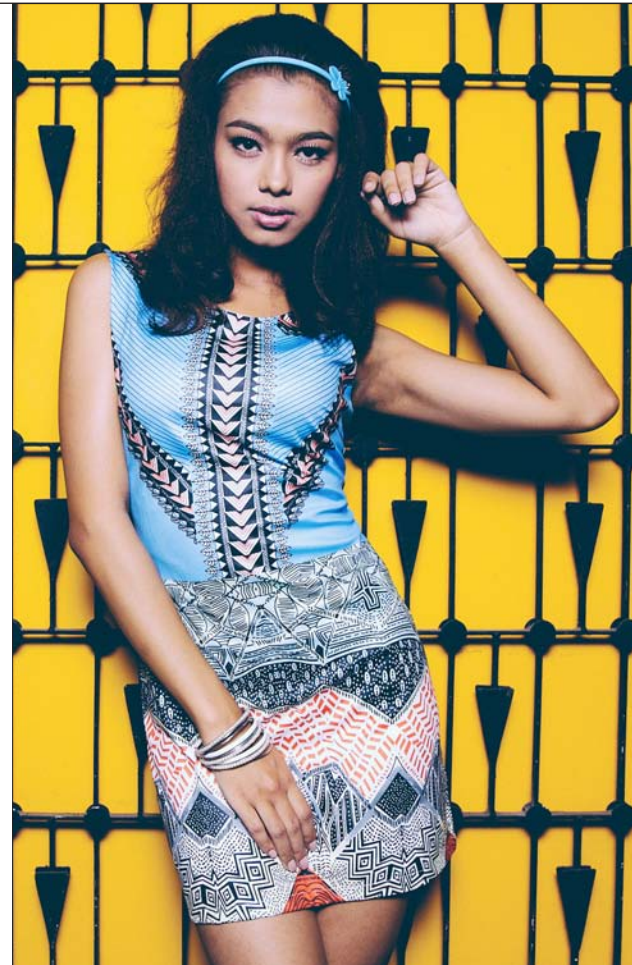
Fearing for their secrets in the aftermath of American Andrew Snowden's leaking of classified information, a section of the Kremlin's intelligence service will spend over 15,000 dollars purchasing a fleet of typewriters.

According to The Global Post, Russia's Federal Guard Service, which is in charge of safe-guarding state communications and protecting President Putin.

The Federal Guard Service declined to comment, but a pro-kremlin newspaper quoted a government source as saying, "After scandals with the distribution of secret documents by WikiLeaks, the exposes by Edward Snowden, reports about Dmitry Medvedev being listened in on during his visit to the G20 summit in London, it has been decided to expand the practice of creating paper documents" which are safe from the prying eyes of hackers.

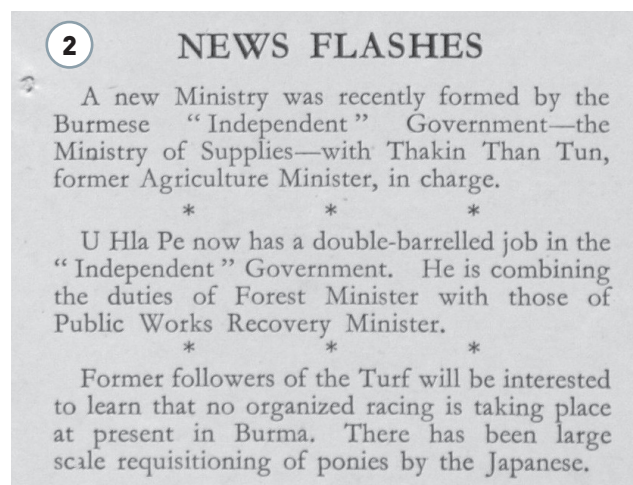
Style Statement

NOW!



This week's tall drink of water is Kyal Sin Hsaung: part time model, part time student, and full-time beauty. A Burmese Christian, Kyal Sin Hsaung was born in Mawlamyine, went to school in Taungyi, and finally came to Yangon in 2009 to pursue modeling. She has already got two film credits to her name, and in between photo shoots she's a long distance student of zoology at Dagon University set to graduate this fall! Kyal Sin Hsaung is the only daughter of the Deputy Director for the Ministry of Sport, so hands off boys!

When Myanmar was Burma...



1. An early 1970's poster advertising Shan folk singer Salai Son Kye O and his new album "Woodcutter"
2. News Brief from an 1944 edition of *Burma To-day*, which served as a mouthpiece for the British Colonial Government in Exile during the Japanese Occupation.
3. A cover from *Oh Way!* (the sound of a peacock's call) Journal from 1971, featuring a picture of U Ba Swe, considered at the time to be a leader in monastic education.

To see more, visit Pansodan Art Gallery at 268 Pansodan Road (1st floor)

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Chinese ambassador casts doubt on Myitsone resumption

TIM MCLAUGHLIN
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THE Chinese ambassador to Myanmar said he is “not confident” that the suspended Myitsone Dam project will be restarted, despite continued lobbying by China Power Investment Corporation.

In an exclusive interview with *The Myanmar Times*, ambassador Yang Houlan said CPI’s efforts to address concerns surrounding the project, which was suspended in September 2011 for at least five years, have had little impact.

“I’m not confident the project can be started,” Mr Yang said on July 17. “For the Chinese company [China Power Investment Corporation], they hope that they can make some progress through communications and negotiations, but as for now there has been no progress in this regard.”

President U Thein Sein halted the project following fierce opposition from environmentalists, ethnic minority groups and political activists, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

With 90 percent of the electricity generated to be exported to China, many saw the project as bringing few benefits to Myanmar.

Myitsone is not the only project



Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Yang Houlan with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

back by China to face such criticisms. The Letpadaung copper mine, a joint venture between military-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and Wanbao, and oil and natural gas pipelines linking Rakhine State and Yunnan Province have also been marred by similar accusations.

Mr Yang admitted that the approach Chinese companies had taken in the past, which he described as “do more, speak less”, was no longer feasible.

“We are not so experienced on how to communicate with local people, how to make more feasibility studies on the environment and issues connected with local p[oples’] welfare,” said Mr Yang, adding that Chinese firms could learn from how Western companies ap-

proach foreign investment.

Led by Mr Yang, a seasoned diplomat who arrived in Yangon in March after stints as ambassador in Afghanistan, the Korean peninsula and Nepal, the Chinese embassy has stepped up its efforts to improve China’s image in Myanmar.

As part of these efforts, the Chinese-Myanmar Enterprises Association (CMEA), which comprises about 100 Chinese companies that work in Myanmar, issued a new set of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives on July 5 in conjunction with the embassy. The two-page document calls for greater environmental protection, transparency and interaction with local communities in future projects.

“We are asking [Chinese companies] to adapt to the new situation,” Mr Yang said.

The guidelines show that Chinese companies understand the need to change their practices but the important test will be whether they are adhered to. Mr Yang said the embassy would work to ensure compliance but there is a risk that, however well-intentioned, the guidelines will end up looking like a public relations stunt.

While maintaining a smile throughout the interview, Mr Yang was clearly frustrated over the expectations that Chinese companies single-handedly carry out CSR projects with little or no help from Nay Pyi Taw.

“There are some things that should be the duty of the government but now the investors have to take charge,” Mr Yang said. He cited schools built by China National Petroleum Corporation along the route of the China-Myanmar pipelines as an example. Mr Yang said that after the schools were built the company received complaints from residents that it had not supplied teachers to staff them.

“Teachers are the government’s responsibility. The Chinese company cannot provide teachers for the schools,” Mr Yang said.

He said he felt Chinese companies had also been unfairly singled out when working on projects with companies from other countries, while the benefits Myanmar could reap from these projects are rarely reported in the media.

Religious groups protest Bodhgaya bombing

ACTIVISTS were planning to stage a protest over the bombing at Bodhgaya in northeast India over the weekend in front of Yangon’s High Court building.

The July 21 anti-violence protest was organised by the Thera-vada Dhamma Network, which comprises more than 75 Buddhist organisations.

The July 7 bombing wounded two monks. Ten small devices exploded, while three were defused.

Protesters said before the event that they planned to recite metta sutras to show loving kindness. Organiser U Mg Mg said the groups wanted to show their opposition to the violence at Bodhgaya and religious conflict generally.

“No places of religious significance should be used as a tool for conflict. Bodhgaya is not only important for Buddhists but is a part of the world’s heritage and we should safeguard it,” he said.

The protest had originally been scheduled for July 16 outside City Hall but the authorities rejected the application and it was moved to the High Court.

– Cherry Thein

Kachin activist Daw Bauk Ja arrested over 2008 death

BY EI EI TOE LWIN
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NATIONAL Democratic Force member and land rights activist Daw Bauk Ja has been arrested on charges related to the death of a man in 2008, her lawyer said last week.

She was detained by police at her home in the Kachin State capital Myitkyina on the evening of July 18, said NDF leader U Khin Maung Swe.

Daw Bauk Ja was transferred to the police station in Hpakant township’s Karmine ward the following day, police in Myitkyina said.

“We don’t know the exact details of the case – we just arrested her and handed [her] to Karmine police station last night based on their request,” said Police Captain Ywan Sein from the Myitkyina district police station.

“We know that police charged her under section 304(a), which relates to causing death by negligence,” he said.

Daw Bauk Ja’s lawyer, U Myit Thwin, said she had been



Daw Bauk Ja. Photo: Staff

previously been charged under section 304(a) prior to the 2010 general election, in which she stood as a candidate for the Pyithu Hluttaw seat of Hpakant. However, the plaintiff agreed to withdraw the case in 2010, he said.

He said the case related to the death of a man who was treated by Daw Bauk Ja’s sister, who is a doctor in Karmine ward.

“Daw Bauk Ja used to help her sister and one day a man who had been treated by her died. They accused Daw Bauk Ja. I don’t know the exact details – she didn’t even realise a complaint had been submitted until

the Union Election Commission told her that she had been accused,” he said.

“So we tried to find the man’s wife to withdraw the suit and she agreed to do so. We discussed it with the police chief and he said he would close the file. Our understanding was that the file has already been closed and as a result Daw Bauk Ja was then able to compete in the election as a candidate of the NDF.

“Now I have received information that the police arrested her and said she evaded the case.”

In the November 2010 election, Daw Bauk Ja competed against U Ohn Myint from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). She lost and submitted a complaint to the Union Election Commission but later agreed to withdraw the suit.

She was also an active participant in the campaign against the Myitsone Dam and has taken Yuzana Company to court for its land confiscations in Kachin State’s Hukawng Valley region.

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KIO liaison office to reopen

Senior government and Kachin Independence Army officials expected to attend July 23 ceremony in Myitkyina

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THE Kachin Independence Organisation will reopen its liaison office in Myitkyina this week, a Myanmar Peace Center official has confirmed.

The office, which was shuttered when a 17-year ceasefire broke down in June 2011, will open on July 23. High-ranking officials from both sides are expected to attend the ceremony.

“Senior officials from the Union

Peace-making Committee will attend the ceremony but I haven’t got the list of names yet,” U Hla Maung Shwe, a peace facilitator with the Myanmar Peace Center, told *The Myanmar Times* on July 19.

An agreement to reopen the office was reached at talks in Myitkyina in late May. Under the preliminary agreement reached by the government and KIO on May 30, both sides will set up technical teams to improve communication. The Kachin team will be based in the Myitkyina office.

“We are preparing to hold the ceremony. We were informed that [deputy Kachin Independence Army chief] General Sumlut Gun Maw

and other KIA officers will attend the ceremony,” said U San Aung of the Peace-talk Creation Group.

Members of the Kachin technical team have already arrived in Myitkyina in preparation for the office opening, he said.

However, it is not clear when the next round of talks will be held.

“Both sides are attending only for the opening ceremony. I haven’t heard when they will hold another meeting,” said U Hla Maung Shwe.

At the May talks, U Aung Min said that if the KIO signed a formal ceasefire agreement President U Thein Sein would hold a nationwide ceasefire ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. The ceremony was originally

planned for July but U Hla Maung Shwe said it would almost certainly be delayed.

“More discussions are needed,” he said.

Meanwhile, U Hla Maung Shwe said a meeting with the United Nationalities Federal Council in Chiang Mai on July 13 went smoothly.

The talks were aimed at planning a path forward for political dialogue between the government and the UNFC’s 11 members.

“We had good results. We have forwarded the points that [the UNFC] raised to the peace-making committee,” said U Hla Maung Shwe, who led the government delegation at the talks.

President lifts Meiktila state of emergency

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THE state of emergency order in Meiktila was lifted on July 20 after Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint approved a letter from President U Thein Sein asking parliament not to extend the order.

President U Thein Sein imposed the state of emergency in Meiktila in March after an outbreak of communal violence that resulted in more than 40 deaths. Parliament extended the state of emergency for 60 days on May 20 following a request from the president.

The state of emergency put the army in charge of security and a 7pm to 5am curfew was installed. This has gradually been relaxed but the army has remained in control of security for the past four months, patrolling the city day and night and guarding areas that could be flashpoints for further violence.

U Win Htein, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Meiktila from the National League for Democracy, said he welcomed the announcement.

“Because of the state of emergency, residents could not do business well,” he said, adding that the town’s economy has “plummeted” in the aftermath of the violence.

He said residents were afraid to visit the city’s main market after midday and the night market was unable to operate. This had hurt suppliers, business owners and casual workers.

One business owner from Meiktila confirmed that most residents avoided visiting the town’s central



A policeman stands guard on a Meiktila street during an outbreak of violence in March. Photo: AFP

market after 2pm.

“Rumours occasionally spread that Muslims will sell poisoned beef and fish and so on. Both communities have doubts about each other,” he said.

U Win Htein said that the security situation in Meiktila is improving but both Buddhist and Muslim residents remain anxious about their safety.

“We will have to wait and see how the Myanmar Police Force will

ensure the security of the residents [after July 20],” he said.

Police Colonel Sat Nay Lynn, the head of police for Meiktila district, said the Myanmar Police Force would take over security responsibilities from the army from July 20. He declined to say how many officers will be assigned to the area.

Mandalay Region Attorney General U Ye Aung Myint said he did not know how many soldiers had been assigned to provide security

in Meiktila prior to the lifting of the order on July 20. *The Myanmar Times* was unable to reach Mandalay Region Minister for Border Affairs and Security Colonel Aung Kyaw Moe.

“We want peace and stability in our township so no more riots break out,” said U Kyi, a 63-year-old resident, adding that he supported the lifting of the state of emergency because it would boost Meiktila’s economy.

Farmers reject ‘protection’ bill, push for changes

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AYEYARWADY Region farmer representatives say they are not satisfied with a proposed law that would set minimum prices for agricultural products and will push the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to make amendments.

The Law on Enhancing the Economic Welfare of Farmers – formerly known as the Farmer Protection Law – was drafted by MPs in collaboration with agriculture and business organisations. It is expected to be discussed during the current session of parliament. (See related story page 10.)

U Myo Min Tun, a farmer representative from Thapaung township in Ayeayarwady Region said the bill “mainly serves to benefit businessmen” rather

than real farmers. He said Thapaung farmers will not support the law in its present form.

“When they are making the bill, they didn’t ask real farmers what they need or how they should be protected,” U Myo Min Tun said.

He said farmers were particularly

‘When they were making the bill, they didn’t ask real farmers what they need.’

U Myo Min Tun

Farmers’ representative, Thapaung

upset that the law includes agribusinesses as “farmers”.

“They cannot call businessmen who own agricultural companies farmers. From my point of view, they law seems mainly serves to benefit businessmen ... I would like to ask for the bill to be amended to benefit real farmers, who are suffering from various kinds of troubles,” he said.

Another farmer representative, from Kangyi Daunt village in Thapaung, also expressed dissatisfaction with the bill. “Since the bill is called the ‘Farmers Protection Act’ it should really be for farmers,” the representative said. “If the bill is not really effective for real farmers, we can’t agree with it.”

The farmers are calling for eight amendments, including issues related to obtaining fair prices for their products and having access to a fair

market. They are also seeking to put forward a law that will protect farmers’ land use rights.

The inclusion of agribusinesses in the draft law’s definition of a farmer was also criticised by U Myint, an economic adviser to President U Thein Sein.

“Including private companies and enterprises as ‘farmers’ and why their economic well-being should be promoted by law will need to be more thoroughly discussed in the hluttaw,” he said in comments released on July 6.

“The enterprises that will increase welfare of the rural poor will be small family-run shops creating off-farm employment that cater to basic needs of village folks and that provide employment and income to poor families in the off-agriculture season,” he said.



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- သွေးချိုတိုင်းတာမှုရလဒ်ကို mg/dl (၁၅) mmol/L ဖြင့်
ဖော်ပြပေးနိုင်ခြင်း။
- သူတပါးအား သွေးစက်နှင့်ထိတွေ့ပေးမှုမရှိစေသော
အဆင့်မြင့်နည်းပညာ။
- Memory အရေအတွက်အကြိမ် (၁၅၀) အထိ ထိန်းသိမ်းထားနိုင်ခြင်း။
- စမ်းသပ်ခေါင်းများကို အလွယ်တကူဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ခြင်း။

ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အပူချိန်ကို နားမှတစ်ဆင့်
တိကျလျင်မြန်စွာ တစ်စက္ကန့်အတွင်း တိုင်းတာနိုင်သည့်

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US planned to sanction disbanded border security force, say activists

"Imminent" sanctions were common knowledge in Washington before July 14 decision to abolish controversial security force known as Na Sa Ka

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HUMAN rights groups say a controversial border security force that was disbanded last week was about to be sanctioned by the United States Treasury.

The decision to abolish the force, which is widely referred to as Na Sa Ka and has been accused of human rights abuses, was announced by the President's Office in a statement on July 14. "It is hereby announced that Border Area Immigration Control Headquarters has been abolished," the statement said, referring to the group by its official name.

The statement gave no reason for the decision and presidential spokesperson U Ye Htut declined requests for comment.

But human rights groups based both in and outside Myanmar have told *The Myanmar Times* that US sanctions against the security force were "imminent" and the decision to abolish the force was likely taken to stop the sanctions from being put in place.

"There were plans afoot in Washington to list the Na Sa Ka on the [Specially Designated Nationals] list maintained by the US Department of the Treasury," said Phil Robertson, the Bangkok-based Asia director for Human Rights Watch.

"A decision on that was imminent and obviously Burmese leaders in Nay Pyi Taw learned about this and decided to cut their losses by scrapping the unit," he said, adding that he had been told this by people "in the know" in Washington.

Matt Smith of Fortify Rights International said he was not absolutely certain what the US was planning but agreed that "Na Sa Ka was being looked at closely by the US Treasury due to its abusive record, and was on the verge of being sanctioned".

"This and other factors undoubtedly influenced Thein Sein's decision," he said.

A spokesperson for the Department of Treasury said he could not comment on possible Treasury actions.

Andrew Leahy, a public affairs officer at the US embassy in Yangon, also declined to comment on Treasury operations.

He did say, however, that "sanctions are certainly designed to hold

people accountable. The reason they're in place is to target people who hinder the reform process."

The allegations raise the question of how the President's Office learned of the planned sanctions.

In Washington, however, activists say the impending sanctions were relatively common knowledge. In February, rights groups pushed for the sanctioning of controversial government bodies like Na Sa Ka at a Congressional hearing on Myanmar.

"We know this was the discussion because we've been pushing sanctions for the Na Sa Ka and regional commanders [to the US Treasury Department]," said Jennifer Quigley, the Washington-based executive director of US Campaign for Burma.

As the recent decision to sanction Lieutenant General Thein Htay for his involvement in arms deals with North Korea shows, the US is more than willing to add new entities to its targeted SDN list even as it allows US companies to invest in and trade with Myanmar.

Na Sa Ka was a unique organisation that brought together officials from the departments of immigration and customs, as well as members of the military.

Its mandate was limited to secur-

ing the border with Bangladesh in northern Rakhine State.

Over the past year and a half, the 1200-strong force was implicated in communal violence in Rakhine State, particularly the persecution and exploitation of the Muslim Rohingya, who are commonly referred to as Bengalis in Myanmar.

1200

The approximate strength of the Na Sa Ka border security force before it was disbanded on July 14

Ms Quigley described Na Sa Ka as the most "violent and corrupt" armed body in Myanmar.

While sanctions against specific commanders are still possible under US law, several sources said they were concerned that the move to abolish the force would protect the Na Sa Ka from investigation for the alleged rights violations.

"U Thein Sein's decision was based on ... trying to short-circuit investigations of what the Na Sa Ka has done" and limiting public relations damage before his European trip, Mr Robertson said.

The 1200 members of Na Sa Ka have returned to their original organisations and a battalion of police have assumed the group's duties along the border and at various checkpoints in northern Rakhine State.

It is not clear if the police will permanently take on this role and rights advocates expressed scepticism that the decision to abolish Na Sa Ka would lead to any improvements in the human rights situation in northern Rakhine State.

"In the absence of accountability, there is nothing to prevent the next security force from simply replicating Na Sa Ka's abusive ways," Mr Smith said.

Sittwe resident U Aung Win said he had not heard any reports of the police battalion engaging in the exploitation that Na Sa Ka was notorious for.

He said the most people were "very happy" to see Na Sa Ka disbanded, regardless of the motives behind the decision.

Fare hikes top list of bus complaints

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THE top complaint among Yangon bus passengers is conductors asking for fares above the fixed rate, figures from the Yangon Region Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicles show.

In the first half of 2013 the committee, which is better known by its Myanmar-language acronym Ma Hta Tha, received 90 complaints from passengers, of which 36 concerned conductors asking for extra fares.

Yangon's buses operate with fixed fares but a Ma Hta Tha official conceded that it was common for conductors to ask for extra.

"For example, the fixed price is K50 but the bus conductors collected K100. The most common situation is that they collect K200 instead of K150," the official said. "Some pretend they are 'special' buses to collect higher fares because the maximum fare for a special bus is K300, while

for an ordinary bus it is only K200."

However, the penalty for illicitly increasing fares is unlikely to deter dodgy conductors: those charged face just a K3000 fine, which has to be paid by the bus owner at the 51st Street traffic police office.

Commuter Ma Mar Mar Htun from Thingangyun township said it was common for conductors to demand fares above the fixed rate but most people do not want to take the time to file a formal complaint.

"I often encounter bus conductors who ask for higher bus fares but I've never considered complaining," she said. "Ordinary buses are the worst; they do it all the time. I try and avoid those buses but sometimes you don't have any choice. If more passengers complain [to Ma Hta Tha] I think they will stop."

The other main complaints concerned the rude behaviour of conductors and dangerous driving.



A man wearing a T-shirt reading "Free All Political Prisoners Now" waits outside Insein Prison on October 12, 2011. Photo: AFP

Caution over president's prisoner comments

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POLITICIANS and activists have welcomed President U Thein Sein's pledge to release all political prisoners by the end of the year but warned that how the government defines who a political prisoner is will be an important test for its reconciliation credentials.

The president made the pledge during a public address at the Chatham House think-tank in London on July 15 during his visit to Europe. (See related report page 6.)

"The president can only carry out his promise after the government has announced the list

of those who have been arrested for political reasons," said U Yae Aung from the Former Political Prisoners group. "However, the most important thing is how you define who is a political prisoner."

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy spokesperson U Sai Laik said he did not think the president would be able to keep his pledge because some political prisoners have been jailed for criminal acts, particularly those involved in anti-government insurgencies.

"For the political prisoners who were charged with criminal offences it will be very difficult to gain their release," he said. "That's why all political

parties and social organisations should work together to send their lists of political prisoners to the hluttaw. If it doesn't work, we will also try and get international support."

A committee formed earlier this year by the government to oversee the release of all political prisoners has been working with civil society organisations and political parties to identify how many are still behind bars. While there is still disagreement over the exact number, it is thought to be about 200 based on the figures provided by various groups, said committee member U Sai Nyut Lwin.

"This does include those who were charged with criminal acts

and those who have been arrested recently," he said.

Former Political Prisoners provided a list of 155 people who are still in prison at the most recent committee meeting, U Yae Aung said, and will submit more names if they come to light.

U Sai Laik said his party had provided the names of about 170 people to the committee.

"There will be more who are not on our list and there are many in ethnic areas and some of them are accused of criminal acts," he said.

The next meeting of the committee, which is chaired by Minister for the President's Office, is scheduled for late July.



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SPECIAL REPORT: THE PRESIDENT IN EUROPE

Hollande urges U Thein Sein to push on with reforms

FRENCH President Francois Hollande urged U Thein Sein to push ahead with reforms and follow through on a vow to release political prisoners during a meeting in Paris on July 17.

U Thein Sein, fresh from a three-day trip to London, was in Europe to build on support for introducing much-lauded reforms in Myanmar.

He held a 45-minute meeting in the Elysee Palace with Mr Hollande, who called on him to “continue the process of political transition and deepen economic reforms launched two years ago”.

In a statement, Mr Hollande’s office said the French president had praised the fact that “the opposition is now taking part in the national political debate”.

But he said the government also needed to follow through on U Thein Sein’s promise on July 15 that all prisoners of conscience in Myanmar would be freed by the end of the year.

Mr Hollande “underlined the need to see all prisoners of conscience quickly freed without condition”.

He also expressed France’s concern at “persistent” inter-communal violence in the country.

U Thein Sein shunned the spotlight during his visit to Paris and did not speak to journalists after the meeting with Mr Hollande or after earlier meetings with Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and the MEDEF employers’ union.

He left France on July 18 after visiting the palace of Versailles outside Paris.

An adviser to Mr Hollande said the “historic” visit, the first to Paris by a sitting Myanmar head of state, was aimed at showing Yangon’s “willingness to normalise relations with the international community”.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the adviser said a number of projects were discussed, including potential French investment in agriculture, water management, transport infrastructure, energy and tourism.

A number of leading rights groups – including the International Federation for Human Rights and Reporters Without Borders – urged Mr Hollande in a joint letter to press U Thein Sein on the human rights situation in his country.

“France must not let itself be guided solely by economic interests [because] major French businesses such as Vinci Bouygues, Total and Orange are in the process of negotiating contracts in Myanmar,” the groups wrote.

In a protest timed with the visit, activists from rights-group Avaaz dressed up as Mr Hollande and U Thein Sein made mock toasts with a bottle of champagne before cardboard graves and a banner reading: “Don’t let Burma become the next Rwanda”.

Trade between France and Myanmar remains at a modest level, with one diplomatic source putting the figure at 18 million euros (US\$23 million) a year.

French Minister of Foreign Trade Nicole Bricq is scheduled to visit Myanmar later this month. – AFP

President promises to release all prisoners

Hard line will be taken against those fuelling ethnic violence, president says in speech after meeting with British PM David Cameron in London on July 15

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein said on July 15 that all political prisoners would be freed by the end of the year and that a ceasefire with ethnic groups was possible within weeks.

“I guarantee to you that by the end of this year there will be no prisoners of conscience in Myanmar,” U Thein Sein told an audience at the Chatham House think-tank in London.

time in over 60 years,” he said.

“Difficult talks will follow and hard compromises will need to be made. But it must be done.”

British Prime Minister David Cameron earlier urged the president to defend human rights during talks.

U Thein Sein promised to take a “zero tolerance approach” to people who “fuel ethnic hatreds” following

promoting human rights and dealing with regional conflicts.

“We are particularly concerned about what has happened in Rakhine province and the Rohingya Muslims.”

About a dozen protesters gathered outside Downing Street during U Thein Sein’s visit calling for action to protect the Rohingya.

But Mr Cameron followed the international community’s line on the need for economic development in particular to support reform in Myanmar.

“We believe there are many areas for Britain and your country to cooperate together, diplomatically, in terms of trade and investment, the aid and development relationship and also our growing links in terms of our militaries,” Cameron said.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond later met with U Thein Sein, insisting that “reforming the Burmese military and pursuing a sustainable peace process” was key to Myanmar’s progress.

“The focus of our defence engagement will be on developing democratic accountability in a modern armed forces, and we have offered training for the Burmese military to this end,” he added.

Development Secretary Justine Greening later announced £30 million (US\$45.2 million) in aid “to provide essential healthcare services, education and humanitarian aid to those affected by conflict”. – AFP

‘Very possibly over the coming weeks we will have a nationwide ceasefire and the guns will go silent for the first time in 60 years.’

President U Thein Sein

“We are aiming for nothing less than a transition from half a century of military rule and authoritarianism to democracy.”

He was also optimistic about ending decades of conflict that have raged between the government and more than a dozen ethnic groups since the country formerly known as Burma won independence from Britain in 1948.

“Very possibly over the coming weeks we will have a nationwide ceasefire and the guns will go silent everywhere in Myanmar for the very first

attacks against the Rohingya Muslim minority in which hundreds of people have been killed.

Welcoming the Myanmar leader on the red carpet outside his 10 Downing Street office, Mr Cameron said he was “very pleased” to see U Thein Sein on his “historic visit”.

But Mr Cameron, who last year became the first British prime minister to visit Myanmar, added: “As well as the continuation of your reform process, we are also very keen to see greater action in terms of



British Prime Minister David Cameron greets U Thein Sein ahead of a meeting at 10 Downing Street in central London on July 15. Photo: AFP

MRCS to give highway police first aid training

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THE Myanmar Red Cross Society has offered to train police officers along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in first aid as part of efforts to reduce the number of road deaths on the notoriously perilous road.

The training will begin as soon as the proposal receives approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Daw Ni Ni Moe, manager of the Myanmar Red Cross Society’s ambulance service in Nay Pyi Taw, said the goal was to “preserve and save lives before [accident victims] arrive at the hospital”.

“[Police officers] need to have the skills to save people,” she said.

“We are going to train them to deal with injuries and will teach them how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. We will also show them the right way to carry a patient with a fracture to the ambulance, as well as how to bandage a patient.”

There are 14 highway police stations along the highway and police are often the first to arrive on the scene of an accident, she said.

Twelve of the stations will each send two officer to take part in the first training program, she said.

Police Lieutenant Soe Win from the Highway Police said 140 people had been killed and 608 injured in 243 accidents on the highway since May 2012.



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Thai police hunt disrobed cleric over underage sex, tax allegations

A THAI monk who was disrobed after a videotaped private jet trip unleashed allegations of improper conduct will face arrest for sex with a minor, authorities said last week.

Wiraphon Sukphon, who is believed to be abroad, is being sought in Thailand on suspicion of having sex with an underage girl around a decade ago while he was a monk, and of fathering a child with her.

A Department of Special Investigation chief Tarit Pengdith said the woman is seeking court action to prove that the former monk is the father of her son, who is now 11.

Thailand's Criminal Court on July 17 approved an arrest warrant sought by DSI, MCOT news agency reported.

The defrocked monk is also accused of deceiving the public by

advertising seeking donations.

Mr Thaweevat said the DSI would work with the Foreign Ministry and the Immigration Bureau to bring Mr Wiraphon back to Thailand to be tried, MCOT reported.

The Anti-Money Laundering Office will also be asked to freeze all ill-gotten assets of the ex-monk.

Footage of Wiraphon, 33, and two other monks travelling in a private jet, wearing sunglasses and carrying a Louis Vuitton luxury bag, caused a scandal recently in Thailand.

He has since been investigated on suspicion of an array of offences including tax evasion, drug possession and money-laundering.

Wiraphon as a cleric went by the name Luang Pu Nen Kham to bolster his claims to be the reincarnation of

a famous miracle-performing monk. He has 41 bank accounts, according to the DSI.

"The evidence shows Wiraphon violated Buddhist regulations by having sex with a woman. He ceased to be a monk at that time," Phra Khru Wacharasittikhun of the monastic disciplinary team in the eastern province of Sisaket said on July 13.

"The authorities can now carry out their duties, the monks have ended their role in the issue," he added.

Thai monks have been hit by a series of scandals, with local media reporting cases of drug-taking, drinking, gambling and visiting prostitutes.

More than 30 Thai monks were defrocked earlier this month for use of the illegal drug methamphetamine. — AFP

Group targets 'fake' monks, religious swindlers



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A BUDDHIST organisation in Ayeyarwady Region has launched a crackdown on religious fraudsters, while its leader has slammed the state sangha committee for failing to take proper action to protect the image of Buddhism.

The Sangha Gonesaung Yahantaw group has so far uncovered seven fake monks and 30 fundraisers in Maubin township who pretended to be associated with famous Buddhist leaders and monasteries to get donations from the public.

The head of organisation, Sayadaw U Weiseita, told *The Myanmar Times* the program was launched to protect the image of the monastic order.

He said those who dress as monks to "beg" on the streets were "shameful" for Buddhism.

"True Buddhist monks would never beg because they respect their robes and the Buddha," he said.

"But some people have no respect for the Buddha ... and are not afraid to cheat using robes and the names of sangha associations. They have no fear of hell."

He also accused the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, also known as the state sangha committee, of ignoring the issue.

"I have tried to stop this cheating for more than 15 years. I urged the head of the sangha association and other officials to take action but they ignored me. I have no idea why they are too busy but I couldn't stand it any longer so I just did it myself," he said.

Sangha Gonesaung Yahantaw was established on June 8 with the support of the township sangha association and 60 monasteries. It has about 50 members.

U Weiseita said the practice of beggars donning monks' robes has only developed in the past four decades.

"The numbers increase each year, especially in cities. These cheaters wear robes during the daytime but then beg as laypeople in the nighttime. Some are just doing it on their own but in other cases they work in groups, including whole families," he said.

There are also cases of groups of people asking for money under the pretence it is going towards religious activities, such as building a rest house or a hospital. These fake projects are normally conducted using the name of a famous sayadaw, U Weiseita said.

He said when the organisation uncovers a fake monk it asks the person to remove their robes. They also sometimes send them to the police station but U Weiseita said the police always refuse to lay charges.

'Some people ... are not afraid to cheat using robes and the names of sangha associations. They have no fear of hell.'

Sayadaw U Weiseita

Founder, Sangha Gonesaung Yahantaw



A monk with two of the men detained for fraudulently collecting donations. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

Religious fund raisers arrested in Mandalay

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THE sangha committee for Mandalay's Pyigyitagon township has helped catch one monk and five laypeople fraudulently collecting money from the public.

The group was detained on Tharyarwaddy Mingyi Street on the afternoon of July 16 and taken to the police station. An officer from the station said police are

conducting an investigation and have not yet decided whether to press charges.

U Pan Tawa, from the township sangha committee, said the group was notorious in the township.

"They've been cheating people for a long time. The monk does not reside in a monastery and has no sangha Registration Card. He collects money during the daytime and goes around as a layman at night," said U Pan Tawa.

He said the Mandalay Region committee had ordered the crackdown.

"The Sangha Nayaka Committee does not tolerate fraudulent fundraising and did not issue approval to any monasteries to collect money like this. The regional Sangha committee has already instructed us to investigate if we see suspicious fundraising groups," U Pan Tawa said.

— Translated by Zar Zar Soe

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Despite a new name, farmer bill cops flak

Farmers want a minimum rice price – and MPs want to give it to them. But economists have warned that a new bill could saddle the government with huge debts

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A PROPOSED law that would set minimum prices for key agricultural products has drawn fire from economists, as the parliament last week invited members of the public to give feedback on the draft.

The draft Law on Enhancing the Economic Welfare of Farmers – originally called the Farmer Protection Law – has generated significant debate in recent weeks, with the 88 Generation also speaking out against it.

Unlike nearly all other pieces of legislation submitted over the past two years, which have been drafted by government ministries, this bill was written by MPs with advice from legal experts. The process has been spearheaded by Thura U Shwe Mann and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with the lower house speaker personally sitting in on the eight meetings held to formulate the bill.

On July 14 state-run newspapers invited members of the public to submit “complaints” about the bill in person to the Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw by July 18.

Judging by public comments on the law to date, there is likely to be quite a queue.

Hluttaw representatives’ first foray into drafting legislation from scratch has attracted criticism from a number of prominent economists, who have compared it to Thailand’s disastrous rice purchasing program, which has seen the government accumulate 17 million tonnes and decimate its export industry. They have also drawn parallels with failed programs under Myanmar’s socialist and military regimes.

Presidential adviser U Myint, a former senior economist with the United Nations, released a critique on July 6 warning that the price setting in the bill could lead to “large debts and massive budget deficits”.

“Administratively set prices for farm products and other basic necessities over the past half century has been one of the reasons that ruined the Myanmar economy,” he said.

“The hluttaw will need to come up with convincing arguments why what has not worked for the past 50 years will work now.”

Under the law, minimum prices would be set by an Agriculture Marketing Committee (AMC) with approval from the hluttaw, with “financing requirements” – and losses on purchases – “met out of the government’s financial resources”.

U Myint said the committee “faces an extremely difficult task. Its chances of success ... are very slim”, particularly given the acute capacity shortages in the bureaucracy.

He also questioned whether MPs were pushing the minimum price because it has been requested by farmers, who make up an important voting bloc.

“Farmers are fond of this arrangement and show their satisfaction by voting for the political party that helps set up such a scheme. However, although politically attractive, the guaranteed minimum rice price scheme has some highly undesirable side effects.”

Meanwhile, another prominent economist, U Hla Myint, warned in an article published in the state-run *New Light of Myanmar* on July 12 that the program “would result in a large rise in the cost of living in Myanmar when the scheme comes into operation” because the AMC would likely be buying rice above world prices.

This could lead to wage rises that would “unwittingly undermine the promising start Myanmar has made in the export of labour-intensive manufactured products”. If wages did not rise, however, the policy would “aggravate the poverty of the poorest section of the population in the country”, said U Hla Myint, a former rector of the economics faculty at Yangon University and lecturer at Oxford.

Some in the agriculture sector, however, insist that the minimum price is needed – and can even work.

“Without a guaranteed price, how can they pay back their money? If the

‘The hluttaw will need to come up with convincing arguments why what has not worked for the past 50 years will work now.’

U Myint

Presidential adviser on economics



A farmer works in a field in Ayeyarwady Region last month. Photo: Kaung Htet

price goes down [farmers] will lose everything,” said U Soe Tun, general secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation, which has been involved in the drafting of the bill.

“Production costs in Myanmar are higher and higher every year ... but rice prices in international and world markets are lower and lower every year. How can the farmers survive? That’s why [the minimum price] is important.”

U Soe Tun said the draft was initially called the Farmer Protection Law but MPs had agreed at the last minute to change its name because “protection” was too broad.

He conceded that the bill was likely driven by political concerns.

“U Shwe Mann said he only sat in on meetings for that law, not other laws. MPs are writing a lot of laws but he emphasised only the farmer empowerment law. I’m not sure about their idea but from our side we want

to get something for the farmers, that’s all,” U Soe Tun said.

“[The draft] is not perfect ... nothing is 100pc perfect. Something is better than nothing and in the parliament the MPs will discuss more points.”

Myanmar already has a number of land and agriculture laws, however, and there are concerns that the new legislation could complicate their implementation.

In its submission on the draft law, the Food Security Working Group, a network of NGOs working on agriculture-related issues, said that instead of creating a new law, “the first priority should be to revise and improve laws which are already on the statute books to ensure that the rights of smallholder farmers are adequately protected”.

“If these and other laws are adequately revised ... then there is likely to be no need for the drafting of an-

other law for the protection of farmer’s rights,” it said.

Both U Myint and U Hla Myint said lawmakers concerned with the welfare of farmers would be better advised to focus on reducing transaction costs.

U Hla Myint said reforms of Myanmar’s transport, marketing and credit systems would require “extensive reorganisation and institutional changes [and] may take time to show results”. If successful, however, they would not only benefit farmers but also the country at large.

“They may not have the populist appeal of a minimum guaranteed rice price policy claiming to raise the price of rice paid to the farmers at a stroke of the pen,” he said. “But if successfully carried out ... these policies would facilitate the expansion [of] market transactions and stimulate economic growth.”

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Fake degrees land 21 Myanmar in jail

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TWENTY-ONE Myanmar nationals have been jailed in Singapore for using false academic documents to apply for jobs, Singapore’s Ministry of Manpower said last week.

A total of 25 foreign

workers pleaded guilty to the charge on July 16, of whom 20 received a four-week jail term. The remaining five were fined S\$5000 but could not pay the fine so received 20-day jail terms, the ministry said in a statement.

Twenty-four of the 25 acquired the forged documents in their home

country that were then used between May and August 2012 to get work passes and jobs in the operations, sales and retail sectors.

The 25 individuals were investigated after the ministry verified with the institutions that purportedly issued the certificates that they were forged.

“All the accused did not possess university degree qualifications and the forged academic certificates were knowingly used to mislead [the ministry] into issuing them with the work passes,” the statement said.

In 2012, the ministry prosecuted 43 people for similar offences.

Farmers accuse Htoo Group plantation of seizing water supply

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FARMERS from five villages of Pyin Oo Lwin township have accused an agriculture company owned by Htoo Group of monopolising water sources for its orange orchard.

They have told *The Myanmar Times* that the strength of a mountain stream, known as Chaungmagyi, that is the main water source for the area has dropped dramatically because the company is pumping water to a dam, which is uses to irrigate the orchard.

“Now we don’t even have enough water to plant our paddy,” said U Maung Shwe, a farmer from middle Pinlane village.

“We requested that they give us more water but they didn’t do anything. We’ve also complained about it to the township administration but nothing has happened. Even though we own farmland, we can’t grow anything,” he said.

U Mya Than from eastern Pinlane village said the water flow had slowed since Htoo Group created the orange orchard in 2007 but declined rapidly since 2010. The company had initially planned to grow coffee at the site.

“Once the company has pumped up all it needs, the farmers have just a tiny amount of

water left to use for their fields. Because of the low water we have not yet planted seeds over the farmland,” he said.

“Our farmland is in the hills. We are poor and can’t afford to buy water pumps so we can’t irrigate the crops when the water level of the creek is so low,” said U Tin Win, a farmer from Pinlane Thapyae village.

‘We don’t even have enough water to plant our paddy.’

U Maung Shwe
Farmer from Pinlane village

U Thant Zaw Myint, a manager from the orange orchard, said it would negotiate with the farmers to improve their water supply.

However, he said the dam on the plantation was filled by rainwater rather than water pumped from the creek.

He said the company will dig artesian wells in its plantation to reduce its reliance on the creek and the company will support local farmers as much as it can.

– Translated by Zar Zar Soe

Gay rights group to file complaint over abuse

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A GAY rights network says it will submit complaint letters to the human rights commission and parliament over allegations that police abused a group of transsexuals in Mandalay.

Yi Lay Po, a dancer from the Moe Kyo Ngat Nge Dance Group, said he and nine others were detained in a cell with 10 police officers and physically assaulted during the examination process.

“They made fun of us when they forced us to take off our clothes. They touched our chests, one by one. They told us to dance. They deliberately humiliated us. They also questioned us with sexually abusive words,” he said.

The incident occurred on July 6 and 7 when plain clothes police detained a number of transsexuals gathered near Mandalay’s moat.

“The police caught us and put us in a truck just after 7pm. They forcibly handcuffed and they kicked our backs, cheeks and chests. They said sexually offensive words to us. These are human rights violations and we are arranging to submit a complaint about the police force’s inhumane actions to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission,” said Myat Noe.

Myanmar LGBT Rights Network member Shin Thant said the network would submit complaint letters to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Pyithu Hluttaw Rule



A transsexual speaks to journalists in Mandalay on July 14. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

of Law, Stability and Peace Committee, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

He said the police had acted above the law and violated the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, which states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

“The actions of the police are also not in line with section 347 of the 2008 constitution, which says that everyone has the right to be treated equally and to have equal protection under the law,” Shin Thant said.

However, the head of the regional police force office denied the allegations, describing what took place as “standard procedure”.

“[Their] clothes and other accessories have to be removed for the investigation in the jail,” said Police Major Soe Nyein.

He said transsexuals who gather beside the moat had made inappropriate remarks in a public area so the police detained them as part of an investigation. *The Myanmar Times* understands that the raid was launched following a complaint from a senior military officer who was allegedly propositioned while walking around the moat.

“We have to take action against everyone – not only gays – if they bother members of the public. We are not a targeting the gay community specifically,” he said. – Translated by Zar Zar Soe

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Comedian Zaganar speaks at a press conference on July 18. Photo: Ko Taik

Artists to hold peace festival

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ARTISTS from a number of high-profile entertainment associations plan to hold a peace festival in Yangon in late July.

Organisations that will contribute to the festival include the Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Association, Myanmar Theatrical Organisation and the Myanmar Music Association.

"We feel that genuine peace is the top priority that needs to be solved in our country," said U Thura, a comedian better known as Zaganar.

"[The] civil war has lasted for more than 60 years - how long will it last? We don't want to pass the impact of war over the next generation," he said at a press conference

last week. "We want to end the war. So we decided to yell out 'peace' with the same voice at the festival."

The festival will be held at the Thuwanna Stadium on July 27 and 28. Artists will show the horrors of war through a Myanmar traditional opera performance to be conducted by Nan Win, a famous dancer.

Director Kyaw Zaw Lin plans to conduct a drama titled *Myay Zar Pin* (Innocent Victim of a Fight) and said that he wants to show the plight of those who have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict.

Other performances will be provided by singer Mar Mar Aye, who will sing a Myanmar classic focusing on peace, while Iron Cross singers Lay Phyu and Ah Nge, as well as ethnic singers L Lun War, L Sai Zi and others, will sing peace tunes.

A spokesperson for Myanmar Peace Center said it welcomed the festival and believed it could encourage the peace process. The centre plans to provide support for the event, said program director U Aung Naing Oo.

He said the government, Tatmadaw and parliament members have been working hard to bring about peace but it also requires "the people's participation and cooperation".

Artists will establish a peace fund at a bank to allow everyone to donate to those affected by conflict. Further details will be announced at the festival, Zaganar said.

"We won't even touch the money. We will establish the fund at the bank and we will declare the account number to everyone [so they can donate]."

Magwe residents complain of forced labour

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RESIDENTS from five villages in Magwe Region's Chauk township have accused the village administrator of forcing them to clear a stream in area.

The villagers, from Salay village-tract, said the township administrator on July 5 threatened to fine each household K1000 unless they provided one worker to clear the stream, which was needed for a hydropower project, said U Thwin, from Alal village.

"The stream has been cleared twice this year already to help irrigate farmlands," he said, adding that on previous occasions the villagers had volunteered. "But now the administrator has threatened that unless we do it again we won't get any water. It's hard work and we start at 7am and finish at noon."

"He asked people to clear obstructions and dig out sandbanks," Ywarthit village resident U Soe Myint said, adding that at least 43 people from the five villages had been requested.

"Although President U Thein Sein said child soldiers and forced labour issues have declined by 90 percent in the country, actually it has only been

'The administrator has threatened that unless we [clear the stream] we won't get any water.'

U Thwin
Resident of Alal village

reduced by about half in some rural areas," said Ma Yin Yin Moe, an activist from Salay village-tract.

However, village administrator U Ye Tint denied that he had forced anybody to work and only wanted to help develop the community.

"I explained carefully to the farmers who rely on the irrigation project that their paddy fields will not get sufficient water if the stream is blocked ... so I called them and asked for the stream to be cleared but I didn't force anybody to do anything," he said.

"I did not say that I would issue a fine of K1000 to any household that did not supply a labourer."

- Translated by Zar Zar Soe

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Japanese experts to help preserve historic buildings

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ONE of Japan's most esteemed universities plans to lend its expertise and resources to the architectural community's efforts to preserve treasured historical sites.

Officials from Kyoto University and the Association of Myanmar Architects' Mandalay branch signed a memorandum of understanding at a seminar on July 15 formalising cooperation in preserving cultural sites. Experts from Kyoto University discussed plans to research the ancient city of Inwa, which is south of Mandalay on the Myitnge River.

Kyoto University has also established a scholarship program for Myanmar architecture graduates who are interested in heritage preservation.

The agreement was signed at an Architecture Heritage and Technology Exchange seminar held at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

The event was attended by more than 180 people, including officials from Kyoto University, the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library and Association of Myanmar Architects.

- Translated by Zar Zar Soe

Best Western plans further expansion after NPT opening



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BEST Western, the world's largest hotel chain, has signed an agreement to open its second hotel in Myanmar. The project will see the company cooperate with Eden Palace Company to open what it is billing as the first five-star luxury hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Best Western's vice president, who was in Yangon last week for the signing ceremony, said his company also has its eye on a third property, in Yangon's Chinatown area. It also plans to eventually open hotels in Mandalay and the tourism hotspot of Bagan.

'There are not enough international hotels – so that's why we are here.'

Glenn de Souza

Vice president, Best Western

Glenn de Souza, Best Western's vice president of international operations for Asia and Middle East, told *The Myanmar Times* on July 18 that the company saw plenty of opportunities in Myanmar, particularly in Yangon.

"I think we are going to see a huge influx [of visitors] but there are not [enough] international hotels - so that's why we are here," he said.

"I think the quality of hotels in Yangon is a little bit old and I think they have been here for a long time ... there is enough business - corporate business and tourism - for more foreign or international hotels to come into Myanmar in general."

Now that sanctions have been lifted, Mr de Souza said it was the right time for Best Western and other hotel chains to expand their presence.

"Being an American hotel, we are glad that the sanctions were lifted and we see Myanmar as a country with a lot of opportunities for the tourism business," he said.

The 205-room hotel in Nay Pyi Taw will become the first internationally branded hotel in the capital and is scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2014.

Eden Palace chairman U Tin Htwe said Nay Pyi Taw did not have enough high-end hotels for international visitors.

"Therefore, we have decided to develop an international class hotel in Nay Pyi Taw to meet the gap," he said.

It is Best Western International's second foray into Myanmar's hotel sector in two months, after the company signed an agreement to manage Green Hill Hotel in Yangon in early May. It will take over management in September.

Best Western has also reached a deal with the owner of Green Hill to manage a 100-room "upscale" hotel in Chinatown, Mr de Souza said.

He said he expects the project will take another six to eight months to complete, he said.

"So we will have one midscale and one upscale [hotel] with the same owner in Yangon," Mr de Souza told *The Myanmar Times*. "We also want to be in Bagan and Mandalay as well, but we want to go slowly."

Best Western International has hotels in more than 100 countries and Mr de Souza said the company would provide its Myanmar employees with training opportunities in management and service to help improve standards in the sector.

"We stay in a lot of hotels [in Myanmar] and I think the staff is wonderful and they speak in English and have a great attitude," he said. "We want to train them and we want to make them work more professionally in what they do."



A natkadaw, or spirit medium, at the Taungbyone nat festival in 2012. Photo: Phyo Wai Kyaw

Taungbyone festival trustees introduce cap on stall fees

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ORGANISERS of the famous Taungbyone nat festival have set a cap on how much companies can charge stall-holders for space, after high rental fees resulted in many vendors boycotting last year's event.

The festival takes place in Taungbyone village, in Mandalay Region's Madaya township, in the week leading up to the full moon of Wagaung, which this year will be August 14 to 21. Held to honour the nat (animist spirit) brothers Min Gyi and Min Lay, it draws tens of thousands of pilgrims from across the country.

The festival's trustees last week auctioned off the rights to nine income-generating aspects of the festival - including collecting store rental at the "big" and "small" markets, and collecting electricity and

water supply fees - and raised K80 million (about US\$82,000).

However, this was significantly down on last year - the first time in 15 years that trustees had conducted such an auction - when companies paid K300 million. Many of last year's winning bidders are thought to have lost money during the event.

The auction was conducted at the Madaya Township General Administration Department office on July 15, said U Sann Yu Aung, vice president of the board of trustees. While he would not reveal how many bids were submitted, he said between 20 and 25 forms were sold for each of the nine auctions.

"There was strong competition in last year's auction but less so this year. One reason is that we said the winning bidders could not collect more than K150,000 for a 5-foot-wide stall," U Sann Yu Aung said.

Accordingly, the winning bidders offered just K20 million for

the small market and K17 million for the big market, down from K140 million and K130 million respectively last year.

Last year's auction winners subsequently raised stall rental fees to as much as K500,000, up from just K80,000 in 2011. As a result the number of vendors at the festival was down by more than one-third, with many who normally attend the festival boycotting the price hike.

Vendors said they were pleased trustees had introduced the fee cap.

"Based on the size of the winning bids I think they will charge about K100,000 for a stall rather than the maximum of K150,000," vendor U Shwe said on July 15.

Similar limits have been put in place on other services: the winner of the electricity supply auction cannot charge more than K700 for a 4-foot long light, after vendors complained that the K1850 charged last year was too high.

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Martyrs' Day marked with a difference



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"SALUTE the fallen leaders," a voice intoned through a loudspeaker, as members of the crowd bowed their heads.

A few seconds later they were dismissed - "After your salute, please leave for the next visitors," the loudspeaker announced - and a new group arrived at Yangon's Martyrs' Mausoleum on July 19.

Some wore black 8888 Uprising 25th Anniversary T-shirts, while others held black and red flags with a peacock motif. The youngest were just a few years old, while others were in their 60s and 70s.

At 3pm, the clouds darkened and rain began to fall. Ko Kyaw Kyaw Win, 20, stood and saluted in the rain in front of the mausoleum, which was built to honour the national heroes assassinated in 1947, including General Aung San, Man Ba Khine, U Aung Myat and U Razak.

"I feel happy and sad," he said, as the rain fell on his face and hair. "Seeing the flowers makes me sad and reminds me about

try has become what it is today and what mistakes we have made. We need to remember them," she said.

What last week made clear is that Myanmar has changed dramatically in recent years - and so has the way it marks Martyrs' Day. However, it is not a radical break with the past - more a return to how the martyrs were previously honoured.

In 2011, the government lifted restrictions on visiting the mausoleum and last week's crowds were the largest in decades. People of all religions, ethnicities and political persuasions poured in to salute their leaders and for many, like Ko Kyaw Kyaw Win from Kyaikkatt, it was their first visit.

Wearing an orange T-shirt with pictures of General Aung San and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, 12-year-old Mg Saw Pyae Sone was one of the younger visitors. "I know General Aung San. He is the independence father and was assassinated by bad people," he said.

The seventh-grader said this is what his parents had taught him. "I never learned [about Martyrs' Day] at school," he said.

His father, U Ko Lay, who was clad in black to show his sadness, said he believed that it was important to teach children about their country's history.

"If we don't teach our children, how will they know?" he said. "We hand over this knowledge to our kids. And I want our kids to hand it on to the next generation," his wife, also dressed in black, added.

"Every Myanmar citizen should come here. In my heart, I feel sorrow. In the past, people didn't come because of fear," said 30-year old monk Ashin Mandala. "But I want young people to take the general as their role model."

For many, General Aung San was the focus of their visit to the mausoleum. However, the group of martyrs also included a Shan soapha, Sao Sarm Htun, Kayin leader Mahn Ba Khaing and U Razak, a Muslim.

Ko Moses, 28, said his visit reminded him that in General Aung San Myanmar lost a rare leader capable of crossing ethnic divisions.

"It makes me wonder if he had have lived whether things would be different," the Kayan national from Demawso township in Kayah State said as he visited Martyrs' Mausoleum.

"He was respected by the ethnic groups and build good relationships with them. He promised federalism but his promises were not kept after his death ... If you don't keep your words, no one will believe you."

Myanmar's political challenges are not behind it, a point that the state broadcaster made using General Aung San's own words from a speech given just six days before his death.

"Burmese people are good at the things they should not do. They are not good at reform ... but are good at fighting each other," he said.

"Burmese people want to give up if they think they will fail at something. We need to change this mindset. If we start something, we have to finish it."

'I want young people to take General Aung San as their role model.'

Ashin Mandala

what happened in the past.

Ko Kyaw Kyaw Win arrived in Yangon 20 days ago, from Kyauklatt township in Ayeyarwady Region, to work on a construction site.

"My friends are busy so I came alone. This is my first time here and I want to come again."

As is custom, the official event took place in the morning, with Vice President Sai Mauk Kham paying his respects along with other senior members of the government, family members of the deceased and representatives of prominent political and social organisations.

But for the first time in decades, the vice president met after the ceremony with family members of the martyrs, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. State television also broadcast programs about General Aung San's life, from his early days as a cadet to the signing of the Pinlone Agreement and the funeral of the martyrs.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told MRTV she appreciated the manner in which the government had marked the day, particularly the presence of the vice president.

She said the day was an opportunity to learn from the lives of the martyrs.

"For example, why our coun-

SPECIAL REPORT: MARTYRS' DAY



Martyrs' Day in Yangon

Photos: Zarni Phyo, Ko Taik

Hundreds hold ceremony in Pyinmana

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HUNDREDS of people last week took part in the largest Martyrs' Day march in Pyinmana since 1989.

Organisers did not get permission for the July 19 march and there were concerns prior to the event that participants could face charges under section 18 of the peaceful procession law.

However, officials agreed to let the event go ahead without formal permission. About 500 people marched through the streets and paid respect to the martyrs at the town's statue of General Aung San. At 10:37am, two minutes' silence was observed, a siren was sounded and then the national anthem sung.

"I was so happy when I heard that we were allowed to march on Martyrs' Day without applying for permission," said Daw Khin Win, a National League for Democracy member from Pyinmana township who was jailed for seven years for leading the 1989 march.

"I'd like to say thank you to the new government because it allowed us to celebrate Martyrs' Day like this. If the state really wants to hear words of thanks from its people then I think it should fulfil our desire and sound a siren at 10:37am on



Pyinmana residents pay respect to a statue of General Aung San on July 19.

July 19 in coming years," she said.

Security forces and government officials watched the marchers closely as they proceeded to the bronze statue, on the northern bank of Mingala Shan Lake, but confirmed they would not take action against those involved.

"Today people are allowed march, lay wreaths and bow in front of the statue. We won't bother them and won't take action," a policeman stationed near the statue told

The Myanmar Times.

Ko Myo Tay Zar Maung, a poet from Pyinmana, said the government's decision to allow people to mark Martyrs' Day freely represented "a new chapter" in the country's transition.

"A group of NLD youth sang the national anthem and another young group from Pyinmana sounded the siren ... I'm happy and I welcome this move," he said.

— Translated by Thiri Min Htun

Residents upbeat after Paunglaung dam relocation

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MORE than 15,000 villagers from southern Shan State's Pinlaung township who have been relocated for a 140-megawatt hydroelectric project say they are happy in their new homes and positive about the future.

Twenty-three villages, housing nearly 4000 households, were relocated since April this year to make way for the Upper Paunglaung hydropower project, said Ministry of Electric Power official Ko Soe Min, who is in charge of the project.

"The residents have integrated into their new villages, even though they only moved in a few months ago," he told *The Myanmar Times* on July 12.

"Most villagers did not want to leave their old homes but are pleased with the new location," he said.

The relocated villages are from Hteinpin and Thapyae-kone village tracts.

"In the beginning, we did not want to move," said Ko Kyi Win from Hteinpin village tract. "But we had no choice because we could not stay where we were because it's part of the floodplain. Now our villages are connected to each other and we've become closer. We believe the settlement will grow into a large town in future."

Villagers were paid compensation of between K930,000 and K6.2 million depending on their assets and provided land plots measuring 60 feet by 100 feet in the new settlements.

Pinlaung District Administrator U Win Soe said the government also compensated villagers for the crops they would not be able to harvest in coming years.

"The government paid K300,000 an acre for farmland for three years," he said. "We will also create fields for cultivation in the new villages."

Residents from the villages of Yaysoe, Sesonekonegyi, Lonekal and Talinema, which were outside the floodplain, also chose to relocate to the new site, Shan State's minister for electricity and industry said.

"The villages were moved to the new settlements because we wanted them to live together," said minister Sai Tun Yin.

"We shifted here in April this year," said Ko Sann Oo from Hteinpin. "We are getting used to our life here, although some of the older people are sad because they lost farmland they had cultivated for many years."

Farmers used to grow groundnut (peanut), paddy and turmeric in their former villages. U Myint Oo, deputy director of the Ministry of Electric Power, said the government would only start filling the dam at the end of monsoon season so that crops under cultivation are not destroyed.

The Upper Paunglaung project was launched in 2006 and



The new village in Pinlaung township, southern Shan State. Photo: Pyae Thet Phyo

is expected to come online in May 2014.

According to Burma Rivers Network, construction and design of the Upper Paunglaung Dam is being overseen by Swiss company AF Colenco, while Yunnan Machinery Export Company, which was involved in the Lower Paunglaung Dam, will provide US\$80 million of machinery and equipment. British and German firms are also involved in the project.

— Translated by Zar Zar Soe

Health campaign targets Rakhine

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MORE than 5000 households in Rakhine State are being educated on maternal and child health this month as part of a UN program to improve family health practices by addressing women directly, UNICEF said last week.

"Evidence shows that a significant reduction in maternal, newborn and child-related disease and death can be achieved through simple, low-cost, high impact intervention aimed at changing the behaviour and practices of individuals and families alike," Yosi Echeverry Burckhardt, head of the UNICEF field office in Sittwe, said in a statement.

The campaign, a partnership between UNICEF and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, will cover rural, urban and camp communities in Sittwe and Mrauk Oo townships and is expected to reach about 37,000 people in 100 villages, UNICEF said.

The initiative, called "Seven Things This Year", will also train IDP camp leaders to ensure internally displaced people share in the benefits of campaign.

"The initiative provides opportunities for women and mothers to meet and further positive family health practices aimed at the well-being of their children," Ms Burckhardt said.

100

The number of villages in Rakhine State targeted in a UNICEF health campaign

Topics will include exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding for infants; proper nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers; immunisation for children; usage of insecticide-treated bed-nets; better hand-washing practices; increased feeding and fluid intake for sick children; and seeking outside care.

The initiative has already held sessions in Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions and Mon and Kayin states in June 2012.



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Dagon Taryar awarded peace prize

PHYO WAI KYAW
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ONE of Myanmar's most prominent authors, Dagon Taryar, will be honoured with an award from a South Korean foundation next month.

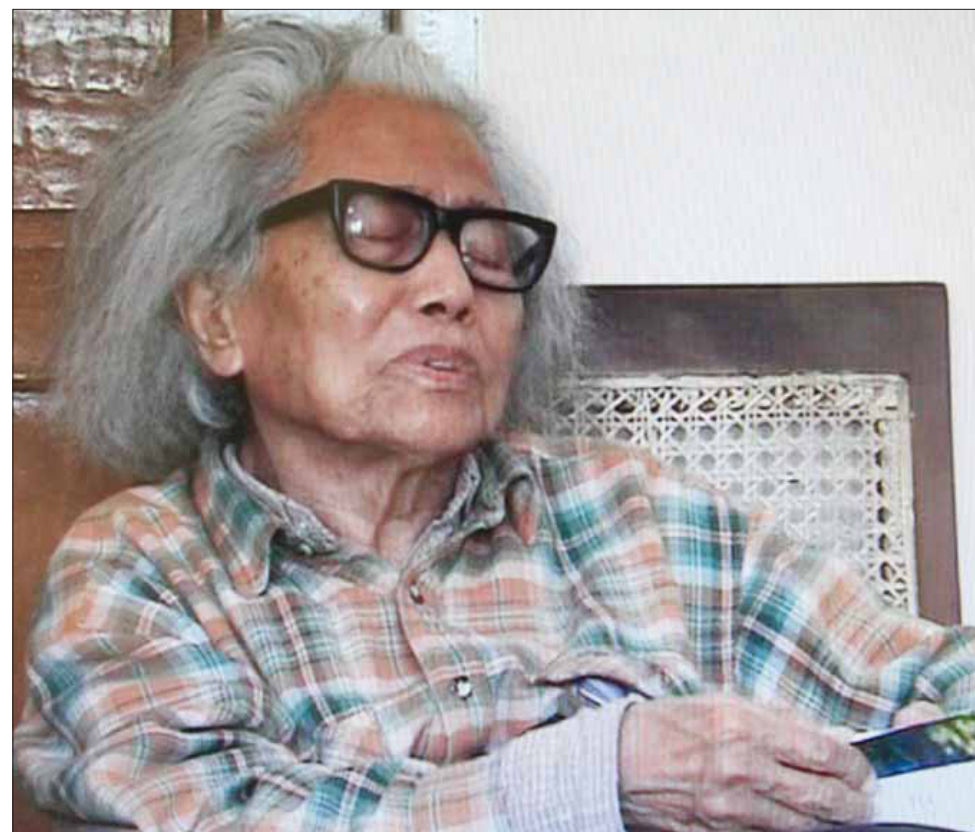
The 95-year-old writer's niece, Ma Thin Myat Sandy, will accept the Manhae Prize on his behalf at a ceremony in Gangwon Province on August 11. Dagon Taryar will be one of 10 recipients at the ceremony.

"The organisation praised his literature, leadership for young people and dedication to democracy and peace," said Ma Khine Su Kywe on July 16, a lecturer from the Ariran Korean language training centre in Mandalay, who will accompany Ma Thin Myat Sandy to the award ceremony.

"He also has a great deal of experience in Myanmar's political history, dating back to Bogyoke Aung San."

The Manhae prize was established in 1974 in memory of Han Yong-un, a poet and Buddhist monk whose pen name was Manhae.

Dagon Taryar is famous for novels such as *May* and *Tot Khit Ko Yout Ya Hmee Hmar Ma Lwae Par* (Certain To Reach Our Era) and also his



Writer Dagon Taryar at his home. Photo: Supplied

independence from previous governments. Prominent writers said the Manhae Prize was richly deserved.

"It is sad, however, that Dagon Taryar can't go to accept the award in person," said Mandalay writer Zaw Khine Oo.

"But it is fitting that he won this award for peace at a time when our leaders are trying to achieve an end to Myanmar's conflicts."

Hurdles to meeting new WHO guidelines on HIV

Government and NGOs are already unable to provide anti-retroviral treatment to all of those who qualify under earlier, less stringent WHO guidelines because of financial and capacity constraints



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MYANMAR will have difficulty meeting the World Health Organization's call for more aggressive and widespread provision of treatment for HIV sufferers because of financial and capacity constraints, the Ministry of Health says.

The WHO's new HIV treatment guidelines, released June 30, call for antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all children with HIV under five years of age, as well as all pregnant and breastfeeding women with HIV.

It also calls on all countries to offer anti-retroviral treatment (ART) to anyone with a white blood cell count below 500 CD4 cells/mm3, something a spokesperson for the ministry's HIV department said will pose challenges here due to a shortage of available drugs.

However, Myanmar is unable to meet the earlier WHO guideline, which recommends the provision of ART to those with a CD4 count below 350.

"To implement the new guideline, the government and UN organisations need to [improve] access to ART drugs," said Dr Tun Nyant Oo. "[But] Myanmar cannot easily change [its policy] to follow this guideline."

The CD4 count is considered an indication of the state of a patient's immune system,

with a lower number representing a weaker immune system. In keeping with the 2012 National Protocol, which adopted the previous WHO recommendation set in 2010, Myanmar is offering ART treatment to all patients with CD4 counts below 350.

Even so, Dr Tun Nyant Oo said, many patients in need of care are still missing out. Of the 125,000 people with a CD4 count of 350 and below, "over 70,000 patients are not receiving the required treatment", he said.

'In most locations we are enrolling patients with a CD4 of 350 and below. In certain locations, however, we have been using lower criteria due to the overwhelming need.'

Peter Paul de Groote

Head of Médecins Sans Frontières Holland in Myanmar

Ministry data from 2013 shows that 50,000 HIV patients are receiving ART treatment in Myanmar, including 4000 children and 700 pregnant women.

Peter Paul de Groote, head of Médecins Sans Frontières Holland in Myanmar, agreed many were missing out under the current guidelines.

MSF has been working in Myanmar since 1992 and started providing ART treatment in 2003. It has more than 30,000

patients on ART medication at clinics in Kachin State, northern Shan State, Tanintharyi Region, Yangon Region and Rakhine State.

"In most locations we are enrolling patients with a CD4 of 350 and below," Mr de Groote said. "In certain locations, however, we have been using lower criteria due to the overwhelming need."

Lack of funding for ART provision is one challenge. Last month the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria approved a US\$161 million

grant to combat HIV/AIDS in Myanmar until the end of 2016. The amount is estimated to be enough to provide ART to 106,000 people, an estimated 85pc of those in need.

But Mr de Groote said there were other challenges to expanding coverage. Improvements would need to be made to treatment models and care would need to be decentralised. Increasing the number of patients who

qualify for ART will also require a change in the national protocol.

For patients from more remote regions, ART is often unattainable because they cannot afford to travel to places where it is offered.

One patient from a village in Ayeyarwady Region's Labutta township, who is staying at Daw Phyu Phyu Thin's clinic in Yangon, said she was only able to seek treatment after her community paid for her travel expenses.

"I only found out I had HIV last month when I went to the township hospital because I had diarrhoea. The doctors then referred me to Yangon because they said I needed ART but it was very difficult for me to get to Yangon," she said, adding that her CD4 count is below 200.

"Finally, I arrived here thanks to the support of some people in my township and I've been receiving treatment for about two weeks from [MSF Holland]."

Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, who is also a Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Mingalar Taung Nyunt, said most patients arrive at her clinic with CD4 counts below 200. "I try to send them to [MSF] clinics to get ART as soon as possible, and get them sent to hospital," she said.

"To get ART treatment they have to spend at least three months in Yangon ... Some patients never come back to Yangon to get ART for a second time because they don't have the money."

Singer So Tay still in intensive care after crash

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SINGER So Tay remains unconscious but is showing signs of improvement following a life-threatening accident in Mandalay last week, a relative said.

Media reports said the July 14 accident also claimed the life of his 22-year-old wife, Chaw Chaw, who died on the way to the hospital.

So Tay's uncle, U Ye Myint Aung, said the singer's condition had improved and there were signs of movement in his legs and hands from the morning of July 16.

So Tay's heart rate and breathing had also returned to normal, his uncle said, but he had not yet awoken.

Doctors expected the 23-year-old singer "may wake up this evening or tomorrow", U Ye Myint Aung told *The Myanmar Times* on

the afternoon of July 16.

The state-run *New Light of Myanmar* reported that So Tay sustained life-threatening head injuries in the crash, which occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Meiktila in Mandalay Region.

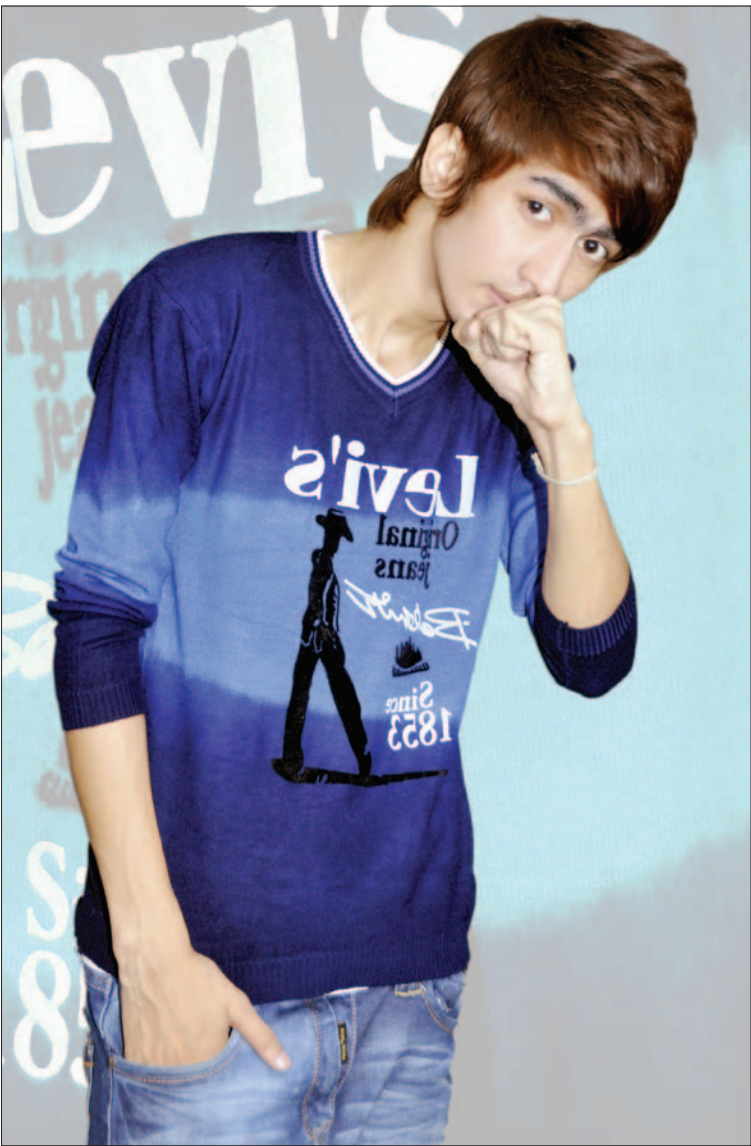
So Tay has been in the Intensive Care Unit at Mandalay Hospital since the accident.

The Irrawaddy reported that the driver of the vehicle, Ko Than Win Hlaing, 32, and a passenger, Ma Sabei Mon, 18, both sustained minor injuries in the crash.

Ko Than Win Hlaing is thought to have lost control of the car after blowing a tire. The car then crashed through a fence and fell 5 metres.

U Ye Myint Aung said So Tay's fans, friends and relatives were upset that reports he had died began spreading through social media.

"Because of these incorrect reports, his father didn't come to see his son [at the hospital]," U Ye Myint Aung said. "He's still crying - he can't believe his son might recover, after he thought he was dead." – *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*



Singer So Tay, who was injured in a July 14 car accident. Photo: Staff

Three rapes reported in one day in Mandalay

THREE minors in Mandalay were raped on the same day last week, police said, as they reported an increase in rape cases for the first half of 2013.

Thirty-six rapes were reported in the first half of 2013, of which 18 involved a minor, said Police Major Soe Nyein from the Mandalay Region police office.

Sixty cases were reported for the whole of 2012, of which 31 offences involved a minor.

The trend has continued into July, Pol Maj Soe Nyein said. In one day last week, there were three underage rapes reported in Mandalay, with the youngest victim just 11 years old.

Arrests have been made in all three cases, Pol Maj Soe Nyein said.

"The offenders are generally familiar with the victims and their families," said Pol Maj Soe Nyein. "Young girls should not easily believe anyone, whether they know them or not. Parents should also guide their children carefully. They [young girls] need an adult to closely look after them."

Residents said they were alarmed at the increase in rapes, particularly those involving minors. "The authorities need to enact more severe punishments," said Daw Moh Moh Aung, a mother of three daughters. – *Si Thu Lwin, translated by Zar Zar Soe*

BRIEFS

Mandalay zone fees switch to kyat
Entrance fees at Mandalay's historical sites have been charged from dollars to kyat, the tourist guide association said.

The price of the ticket, which permits entrance to more than 10 archaeological sites in and around Mandalay, was changed from US\$10 to K10,000 on July 15, said U Ye Myat Tun, the head of the Mandalay branch of the Myanmar Tourist Guide Association.

The change was not widely announced and U Ye Myat Tun said he was concerned some visitors would be caught out without enough money to pay the entrance fee. He said the authorities should have given more notice of the change.

– *Shwe War Lwin, translated by Zar Zar Soe*

Missing women found
A man has been arrested on charges of burglary after a July 9 hotel bust turned up two missing women who fled with him and an accomplice from Kachin State to Shan State, police in Taunggyi said.

"We arrested the accused for theft while also finding two missing women," said Police Captain Myint Win from Taunggyi.

The two women – a teacher and an 18-year-old student at a boarding school where the accused and another male suspect worked – were reported missing by their families on July 6.

The women were found after one of them gave their location to her mother over the phone.

Pol Capt Myint Win said the men are not being charged with human trafficking, but one was wanted by police for an earlier theft in Shwegu township, Kachin State. – *Shwegu Thitsar, translated by Thiri Min Htun*



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Mandalay police foil two alleged human traffickers

THAN NAING SOE

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TWO people have been arrested and charged with human trafficking after police thwarted an attempt to lure a young woman from Mandalay Region to Bhamo in Kachin State.

The alleged traffickers, police said, convinced the young woman to make the trip by promising her a well-paying job but intended to make her a prostitute.

Major Phay Thein Kyaw from the Anti-trafficking Unit in Mandalay Region said police made the arrests on July 7. Two people have been charged under section 24 of the anti-human trafficking law.

"We were informed by the ward administrator from Chan Mya Tharsi township [in Mandalay] that a woman staying in a lodging house was persuading a woman in his ward to leave the city so she could get a job in Bhamo," Maj Phay Thein Kyaw said. "They planned to leave ... by bus."

Police stopped the bus at a checkpoint on the way to Bhamo.

"When we checked that bus, we found the trafficker and the victim," he said.

Police said the woman arrested while travelling with the alleged victim was a former prostitute who regularly tried to lure young women to Bhamo.

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Dated: 22nd July, 2013.

Is Myanmar's curre

The kyat has fallen dramatically against the US dollar since it was floated in April 2012, but there's no need to panic yet

MIN THU MAUNG
REZA CHOWDHURY

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THE dramatic fall in the value of kyat in recent months has raised alarms and left many baffled. The irony is that it was not so long ago a strong kyat caused exporters and those with earnings in foreign currencies to grieve. Apparently neither a strong nor a weak kyat is pleasing and it is not an easy task to keep people on both sides happy. Nonetheless, wide fluctuations in exchange rates erode confidence and harm growth, something Myanmar cannot afford. Meanwhile, some of the most important questions remain largely unanswered. What factors contributed to this decline? What is the future of the kyat? And what are the policy implications?

The central bank should possess sufficient reserves to intervene should it decide to do so.

A search of local and international media offers some insights into why the kyat might have fallen so dramatically since it was floated in April 2012. While there is plenty of speculation, there are few concrete answers. One of the most commonly cited reasons is the construction boom and surge in imports, both of which drive demand for the dollar. Some also attribute the decline of the kyat to falling gold prices, while others blame currency speculation and hoarding of the dollar, something many in Myanmar are accustomed

to. Perhaps any of these, or all in conjunction, could have contributed to the fall in the kyat. However, one still needs to scrutinise the economic reasoning behind these drivers to address the potential policy implications and the future of the kyat.

What determines exchange rates? An exchange rate, like the price of any asset, is determined by its demand and supply. This generally applies to all currencies. Exchange rate regimes do not remain fixed forever and even values of currencies that are supposedly "fixed" could change - and usually during currency crises, such as Thailand in 1997. Demand for kyat primarily comes from exports and from those purchasing kyat-denominated assets. Apparently, demand for dollars primarily comes from imports. Did the import-driven dollar demand contribute to the decline of the kyat? The short answer appears to be yes. International Monetary Fund (IMF) data indicates that Myanmar's current account - which is the difference between imports and exports for Myanmar because its service sector is negligible - was mostly balanced for 1980 and 2010. However, while exports grew in 2011 and 2012, imports grew much faster, causing the country to have current account deficits of 4.2 percent of gross domestic product and 4.5pc respectively. The expected current account deficits for 2013-14 are 5.1pc and 5.8pc.

Economic theory dictates that exchange rates are self-correcting. A weak local currency promotes exports while it deters imports. Stronger exports would increase demand for kyat and given sufficient time this should eventually change the course of the kyat's decline. Nonetheless, it is possible for countries - one prominent example is the United



Photo: Kaung Htet

States - to run persistently large current account deficits as long as these deficits can be financed by other types of capital inflows, mainly from foreign investments. Myanmar currently does not have active financial markets so its foreign investment mostly takes the form of investment in real assets. In Myanmar's case, the flows from foreign investments exceed the deficit resulting from imports. A recent IMF report indicates that "international reserves will continue rising as foreign direct investment inflows outweigh a widening current account deficit". Given prospective foreign investors' interest in Myanmar it is perceivable that this situation will continue into the foreseeable future. In other words, the central bank should possess sufficient reserves to intervene should it decide to do so.

How serious is Myanmar's current account deficit? It is not unusual for emerging economies to run large current account deficits as greater openness and the drive for economic growth accelerate imports. Comparison with some neighbours that have similar development patterns make one suspect that the recent decline in the kyat could be solely attributed to the trade deficits.

One more avenue worth exploring is the budget deficit. Budget deficits cause the governments to borrow - or worse, print - money. This increases the money supply, which in turn creates inflation and reduces the value of the currency. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) indicates that Myanmar's budget deficit for 2012 is 5.4pc of GDP. An

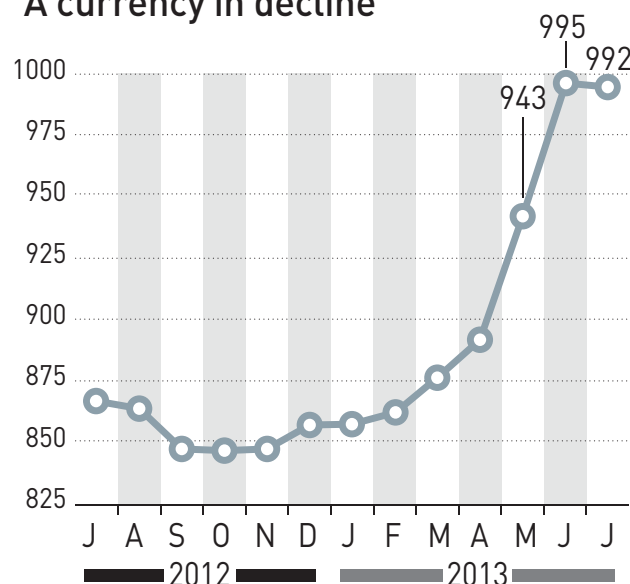
active and liquid government bond market (a mechanism for government borrowing) does not exist in Myanmar so a large deficit would undoubtedly put pressure on the value of the kyat. Instituting a more autonomous central bank would calm fears on this part. How does Myanmar fare compared to her peers? ADB data indicate that Cambodia's fiscal deficit as of 2012 is 5.2pc of GDP. The numbers are -7.9pc and -6.9pc for Laos and Vietnam respectively.

Another reason cited is declining gold prices. During times of uncertainties, gold serves as a hedge against inflation and an alternative form of investment. Gold is also considered a safe haven when the banking system is fragile and other investment opportunities are scarce. It is useful to recall that Myanmar has lowered savings rate since the beginning of the period and property prices have spiked. With the decline in gold prices, gold has become an attractive investment. Internationally gold is priced in US dollars and its value has declined by more than 20pc in the past year. Large-scale speculative purchases of gold increase the demand for dollars and, when the dust settles, it worsens the country's current account deficit. The world's largest importer of gold, India, faces this issue. Due to the rising trade deficit, the Indian rupee has depreciated by approximately 10pc over the past two months, which parallels the decline in the kyat. India responded by raising import duties on gold.

While it is not easy to predict the movement in gold prices, it is unlikely that this

The Myanmar kyat:

A currency in decline



Note: All rates used are official and taken from the last day of the month

ncy in crisis?



trend will continue for an extended period of time. That being said, should saving rates (and gold prices) decline further, this might add pressure on the kyat. While gold prices are volatile and are beyond the control of the local central bank, low inflation could serve as a defence mechanism. A recent IMF report indicates that the expected inflation in Myanmar is 5.5pc for the fiscal year 2013-14. This can be considered low by Myanmar's historical standards. As financial reforms strengthen Myanmar's financial institutions and financial markets are further developed, investment would gradually shift away from gold. One overlooked aspect is

will be minimal as Myanmar runs a large trade deficit with China (approximately \$3.5 billion in 2011). Myanmar's biggest export market is Thailand (39pc), followed by China (approximately 20pc). However, Chinese products account for nearly 39pc of Myanmar's imports. Kyat depreciation and yuan appreciation is desirable from this perspective. How about the strength of the US dollar? It is also doubtful that this could explain the magnitude of the kyat's decline. The US Dollar Index, a measure of the value of the dollar relative to a basket of six major foreign currencies, is little changed from a year ago. Neither has the dollar

institutions are also important factors. There is no single ideal exchange rate regime that is appropriate for all countries. Extreme volatilities cannot be avoided with some floating exchange rate regimes. For countries that are dependent on foreign trade – and have fragile economies and banking systems – extreme volatilities can be a threat to stability. One final question remains: Is the kyat in crisis? It might be a bit premature to say that. Currencies appreciate, depreciate, devalue, and revalue, and most countries, especially the less developed ones, are not immune to it. It should also be noted that Myanmar's exchange rate market is relatively young and illiquid with thin trading. As a result, a relatively large trade volume could create wide swings in prices. However, it would serve the country well to dampen the extreme volatility and speculation that is occurring. It is the central bank's job to instil confidence in the local currency by adopting sound policies and taking a proactive approach to curb speculation. This would require better disclosure practices and defending the currency if necessary during times of crisis. Silence is not always golden. Recent history has taught us that excessive speculation is as dangerous as bad fundamentals themselves. Min Thu Maung is an assistant professor of finance in the Department of Finance and Management Science at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Reza Chowdhury is an assistant professor and chair in the Department of Finance and Banking at the University of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

One overlooked aspect is the impact of the slowdown in the Chinese economy and the drastic fall in Chinese investment in Myanmar.

the impact of the slowdown in the Chinese economy and the drastic fall in Chinese investment in Myanmar in recent years. Chinese investment in Myanmar reportedly fell to about US\$400 million in 2012, down from \$4 billion and \$8 billion in the previous two years. This decline will have had a negative impact on the country's capital accounts. While the slack will eventually be picked up by other countries, the short-term effects will linger. Slowdowns in China will also affect Myanmar's exports and therefore the kyat. However, the effect

appreciated much compared to Myanmar's neighbouring and trading partners. There are some other questions important to the currency's depreciation. Did Myanmar adopt an appropriate exchange rate regime? Did Myanmar float the kyat too early? These are not easy to answer. The exchange rate regime that is most likely to suit a country's economic interests depends on specific circumstances, such as the size and openness of the country to trade and financial flows. Political conditions and the credibility of its policy makers and

Ministry say dengue cases highest in Yangon Region, Kayin and Mon states

YAMON PHU THIT
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THE number of recorded dengue infections this year has soared past 8000, with 16 confirmed deaths, a Ministry of Health official said last week.

Mon and Kayin states and Yangon Region have had the highest rates of infection, said Dr Ni Ni Aye, the deputy director of the Dengue Department, which comes under the ministry's Disease Control Unit.

This year is likely to be worse than 2010, when more than 16,000 cases and 100 deaths were recorded, she said on July 17.

Mon State has had the highest number of infections with 2468, followed by Yangon Region with 1743 cases and Kayin State with 1176 cases, she said.

Most of the recorded infections have been in children five to nine years old. However, cases have also been recorded in people over 15 years old.

Yangon Children's Hospital has admitted more than 1800 children, with seven deaths, hospital superintendent Dr

Than Htaik said.

Neither Dr Than Htaik nor Dr Ni Ni Aye could explain why the children's hospital had seen more cases than the Ministry of Health's figure for all of Yangon Region.

The true number of infections is likely to be much

16

The number of confirmed deaths due to dengue fever in 2013

higher, as those who present at hospitals normally have severe infections, including dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Dr Than Htaik said there was a higher prevalence of dengue haemorrhagic fever than in previous years, with 207 cases, or about 11.5 per cent of all dengue cases.

Dengue is the viral infection transmitted by the bite of the *Aedes* mosquito and is most common from June to August, when the mosquitoes

breed. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person with the dengue virus in their blood. The infection cannot be spread directly from one person to another.

The symptoms of dengue are a high fever, skin rash, severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, vomiting, mild bleeding from the nose or gums and bruising. More severe symptoms of the potentially fatal dengue haemorrhagic fever include decreased appetite, severe vomiting, tiny spots of blood on the skin and a shock-like state.

To cope with this year's epidemic, public hospitals have been providing free medicine and treatment to those with serious cases, Dr Than Htaik said.

"We don't want unnecessary deaths because patients cannot afford to come to hospitals. I would like to inform people they should come to the hospital at once [if they have dengue fever symptoms]. We offer free medicine and treatment," he said. "People should be careful about any signs of illness during rainy season as it could be dengue fever."

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- အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းအောင်မြင်ပြီး၍ UK/USA နိုင်ငံတွင် တက္ကသိုလ်တက်ရောက်လိုသူများ
- IGCSE အောင်မြင်ပြီး၍ UK/USA နိုင်ငံတွင်တက္ကသိုလ်တက်ရောက်လိုသူများ
- UK/USA တွင် Master's Degree များကို တက်ရောက်လိုသူများ
- UK/USA မှ နိုင်ငံတကာအသိအမှတ်ပြုဘွဲ့များရယူပြီးနောက် အလုပ်အကိုင်ရရှိမှု အခွင့်အလမ်း၊ အကြောင်းအရာများကို ဆွေးနွေးလိုသူများ
- ပြည်ပ ပညာရေးဆိုင်ရာအကောင်းဆုံးလမ်းကြောင်းများကို သိရှိလိုသူများ တက်ရောက်သင့်ပါသည်။

Seminar
Date - 27. 7. 2013 (Sat)
Time - 3 pm - 5 pm
Place - Regent office

Speaker
Mr. Tom Keenan
Regional Director
South East Asia
INTO University Partnerships

Scholarships Interview
Date - 28. 7. 2013 (Sun)
Time - 10 am - 12 pm
Place - Regent office



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Journal to cover the rights stuff

Until recently the *Journal of Human Rights and Democracy* would have been an unlikely addition to Myanmar's publishing scene. However, its founders are set on tackling the country's toughest issues, starting first with transitional justice. Editor-in-charge Nyunt Win explains the concept behind the journal and the editorial team's plans for future issues



MYO
LWIN

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How did the *Journal of Human Rights and Democracy* come about?

Some of my old friends and I have been working on this project for more than a year. We think now is the best time to promote key concepts about liberal democracy and human rights because we have more space to write. Myanmar has a huge vacuum in this kind of literature.

We also publish books ... on a variety of topics related to human rights, democracy and culture[that] focus on the theories, concepts and case studies [but] the journal focuses on the current political transition and the way it is moving. The first issue was mainly about transitional justice, the second [which will be released later this month] will be about ethnic conflict and peace building in Myanmar, the third issue will be a review of the 2008 constitution and the fourth will focus on freedom of speech.

How do you assess the human rights conditions in Myanmar at present and what is the level of awareness about human rights issues among ordinary people?

As the result of about 50 years of direct or indirect military rule, human rights problems in Myanmar have reached a [critical] stage. Previous regimes not only systematically violated the human rights of the people but they also systematically blocked all channels for people to [protect] their rights. Booklets about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were banned and being caught with one could mean at least seven years in jail. Over the past 50 years, human rights violations and a culture of impunity for the perpetrators became firmly rooted in all social strata. People did not know that their rights were being violated and those who did could not do anything to seek justice. Only now can we start to educate all stakeholders about human rights concepts.



Journal of Human Rights and Democracy editor-in-charge Nyunt Win. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

But has the situation improved under the current government?

Human rights violations have not completely stopped since the "civilian" government took power in 2011. A significant proportion of the population

and marginalisation of minority ethnic and religious groups; blockage of access to justice; influence of the executive and their cronies on the judiciary; and exploitation of labour and poor work conditions.

'Over the past 50 years, people did not know that their rights were being violated and those who did could not seek justice.'

U Nyunt Win

Editor-in-charge, *Journal of Human Rights and Democracy*

lation is still facing widespread violations, including intimidation from the authorities; the loss of land and property rights; alleged rapes and sexual harassment; persecution, discrimination

The promulgation of laws on freedom of assembly and expression mean we have seen improvements in exercising our basic human rights but there are still strings

attached, such as Article 18 of the peaceful protest law. Rights activists are still often detained, jailed or intimidated, albeit to a lesser degree compared to the [military] era. The human rights crisis is worst in areas affected by the armed conflict. Local populations fear both parties and fall prey to human rights violations by both sides.

What feedback did you get following the launch in May?

The feedback has been generally good. Many of the audience are impressed by the quality of our essays, the layout design and the print quality. There are a few who say the content is a little "dense" to read. This maybe because our target audience is those who are actively involved in or trying to get involved in the political process or, at least, interested in it.

I didn't see any advertisements in the journal - how do you cover the costs of publishing?

We get funding from Norwegian People's Aid, one of Norway's two official aid agencies. We plan to expand our organisation to also include a training centre in the future and we are seeking support from international donors or aid agencies for this training. In the future though we will phase out the [donor] funding and try to transform [our publishing house] MKS into a social enterprise.

As the editor-in-charge, what role do you play in putting the publication together?

Most articles are contributed by members of the editorial team. We also print contributions by freelance writers and scholars, both local and international. Most outside contributors are from within our social network. We set the cover theme for the issue and discuss the content and make assignments among the staff editors ... [and] outside contributors ... Also, when we come across a good [piece of] analysis or research that is relevant to the topic of an issue, we contact the original author and ask for permission to print their work.

How many copies did you print for the first issue?

The print run for the first issue was slightly more than 1000 copies but we'll double it for the second issue. The cover price is K1500 but as an advocacy organisation we also give complimentary copies to MPs, party members, related NGOs and our friends. We also distribute free copies at events, such as talks at [the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry].

Have freedom of expression and the media industry generally in Myanmar improved?

The media industry in Myanmar still needs to learn more about professionalism, I think. This does not mean the local media has to follow ... the Western media or copy its style and processes. We must learn from them about critical thinking and presentation [of topics] but we have to set our own editorial agenda.

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Govt to open aged care centre

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A DAYTIME care home for the elderly will open in Yangon on October 1 to coincide with International Day of Older Persons, a Department of Social Welfare official has announced.

"The main idea of establishing the centres is to help the aged who are lonely in the daytime while their family member are working or can't care them," said U Aung Tun Khine, the department's deputy director general.

The Yangon centre, at 64 Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, has been completely renovated in the past three months, U Aung Tun Khine said, with facilities for 50 and a possibility of further extensions if necessary. Another centre is also being

planned for Mandalay.

The centres will be funded by the government and private donors, and services will be free.

25%

The percentage of Myanmar's population projected to be 60 or older by 2050

"We hope the centre becomes a gathering place for the aged and helps those old people who feel lonely," U Aung Tun Khine said.

The centre plans to offer

programs in physical fitness, psychological health and nutrition, with more activities becoming available with additional funding. The centre will also provide healthcare services as required.

"There will be doctors who will consult with the aged about their physical and psychological problems," U Aung Tun Khine said.

Myanmar has an estimated 5 million elderly people and the number aged above 60 nearly quadrupled between 1950 and 2012, according to a 2012 survey conducted jointly by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Help Age International and the United Nations Population Fund.

One quarter of the country's population is projected to be aged 60 or older by 2050.

In Malaysia, Zam's the man

ROGER MITTON



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ON July 13, a 40-day Ramadan ceasefire was announced between the National Revolutionary Front, the main insurgent movement in southern Thailand, and the central government in Bangkok.

The landmark pact was brokered by Malaysia, and the media carried a photograph of one of its key negotiators, a security official called Zamzamin Hashim.

The name and picture puzzled me at first, but then the penny dropped and I recalled meeting Zamzamin – better known as “Zam” – a decade ago when I was a correspondent in Washington DC.

He was minister counselor at the Malaysian embassy, although it was clear from our first chat that he was an intelligence operative – and a pretty smart one too.

So it's no surprise that Zam helped negotiate the first real pact between the often duplicitous Thai authorities and the normally intransigent separatists in the country's Malay-speaking, Muslim-majority south.

Whether the ceasefire will hold and perhaps pre-empt more substantive accords that might include autonomy provisions is anyone's guess, though frankly not many people are hopeful.

Still, a temporary lull in the carnage is a relief. Mulling this welcome news, what struck me as ironic was that Zam and I used to lunch at a Washington restaurant called the Thai Kingdom.

Ironic, because it is Bangkok's stubborn insistence on absolute control over the entire Thai kingdom that blocks a lasting settlement in the south.

Granting even a sliver of autonomy to any province is viewed by the controlling establishment as the thin end of the wedge. “Not on our watch” has been every government's mantra.

But instead of getting bogged down in that Ulster-like quagmire, consider another ironic aspect of last week's news that also involved Malaysia.

Back in 2004, when I lunched with Zam, it was reported that Malaysia had set up a special police unit to protect “high risk” diplomats after a slew of threats and attacks against foreign missions.

The item intrigued me because seven years earlier I'd written about such attacks and had reported that there'd been about 100 break-ins at the homes of diplomats in Kuala Lumpur over the previous two years.

Partly as a result of this crime spree, Malaysia had been designated as a “hardship post” by many foreign ministries, including those of the United Kingdom and other European countries.

My story, headlined “Hardship in Kuala Lumpur”, caused a furor.

The Malaysian authorities, and the police in particular, went ballistic and not only denied its veracity but viewed it as an insult to their national pride and competence.

Within days, my office and apartment were raided. “We don't need a warrant, if you don't let us in we'll just arrest you now,” said one of the officers.

Soon afterwards, without any lawyer allowed to be present, I was subjected to intense interrogation for three days by senior officers at the Bukit Aman police headquarters.

It culminated in a torrid clash with the infamous Assistant Commissioner Ramli Yusof, notorious for being present when the former

Malaysian Deputy PM Anwar Ibrahim was given a black eye.

Fortunately, my story was rock solid and a stream of angry diplomats came forward to support me so the case was dropped.

Years later, when lunching with Zam and reading about ongoing robberies in KL, I naturally felt a wry sense of validation, coupled with surprise that it was still happening.

Today, another nine years on, one would surely think the problem has been solved and that diplomats can feel safe in KL. Think again.

Two weeks ago, burglars ransacked the home of Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin in Bukit Damansara, a district favoured by foreign missions in the Malaysian capital.

The homes of diplomats



Thai bomb squad members inspect the site of a roadside bomb attack that injured eight soldiers in southern Thailand on July 11. Photo: AFP

and other prominent figures, including the sister of DPM Muhyiddin Yassin, were also burgled over the past two

months.

It seems clear that Malaysia needs a root-and-branch review of its police force,

overseen by smart and dispassionate assessors like Zam, otherwise it will never shed that shameful “hardship” tag.

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Dated: 22 July 2013

Business

Backlash growing over 'cron

Members of the country's largest business federation plans to drum up international support for their bid to overturn a controversial vote that selected a 'crony' to lead them

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THE protest against the first democratic election at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is expanding into calls for greater transparency at the country's largest business association, following its annual general meeting on July 13 at which a fresh row erupted over the federation's financial report for the fiscal year ending in March.

The 12 association members who publicly opposed approving the report – by standing up from their seats and defiantly raising an arm – say they were speaking for most of the hundreds of people who attended the meeting. They also say they represent a silent majority at the 7000-member federation, one that is fed up with the lack of transparency, cronyism, corruption and misallocation of funds they allege permeates it.

They said that they had not been given an opportunity to examine the financial report for the last fiscal year before they were asked to approve it at the annual general meeting.

Members of the federation also told *The Myanmar Times* that the executives who run it have been misallocating funds to pay for lavish lifestyles, including questionable entertainment expenditures in Yangon and trips accompanying President Thein Sein to foreign capitals.

They say they are taking their protest against the June election international, asking business chambers and associations in Europe and Asia to support their call for a new vote to select the federation's executive and central executive committees.

"Myanmar is becoming democratic, so I will not accept cheating or bias in an election at a state-registered organisation like the federation," said U Tin Maung Sint, a member of the Myanmar Rice Federation's central executive

committee. "If U Win Aung is elected president again in the next election, I will warmly welcome him as our president if the election is conducted fairly," he added, referring to the federation's president, who was reinstated to his post for three years following the contentious June 15 vote.

U Win Aung is on a blacklist that prevents American companies and individuals from doing business with him or his many companies due to his links to the former military regime.

Federation members allege that the June election was rigged. They say it was designed to return incumbents who had previously been appointed by the government to their posts, and they have questioned a computer glitch that resulted in ballots being counted by hand until 3am the day after the vote.

U Tin Maung Sint said federation

'Myanmar is becoming democratic so I will not accept cheating or bias in an election.'

U Tin Maung Sint

Executive member

Myanmar Rice Federation

affiliates, like the Myanmar Paddy Producer Association, have signed memorandums of understanding with business groups in more than 50 countries, and that they will urge these overseas counterparts to support their push for a new election.

Entrepreneur Kyaw Thu, a member of the executive committee of the Myanmar Timber Merchants Association,

said he and other federation members wanted more transparency in elections as well as accounting. "Most members want free and fair elections and a transparent federation," he said. "It is not an issue of personalities. The system is not working properly."

U Khin Hlaing, chairman of Zawtika International – a company that makes religious attire – was not among those who initially called for a new vote, but on July 13 he objected to the way the financial report was approved. "I am not calling for new elections. I just want central executive committee members to provide clear statements on last year's finances to every member of the federation," he said.

However, he added that he had questions about the vote that returned U Win Aung to his post, and called for an "investigation of the process".

The President's Office and parliament appear to have washed their hands of the matter, federation members said. "We sent a protest letter to the President's Office on June 21 and to the hluttaw on July 10 [to protest against the election], but there has been no response," U Tin Maung Sint said.

A federation spokesperson rebutted allegations the financial report was approved before members could see it, saying it had been audited externally and disseminated to federation members. "We posted the statements on the federation's website and sent it to all members by email," he said.

Federation members, however, said they have not received the emails and that they are still unable to locate the report on the federation's website.

U Khin Hlaing said he could not approve the financial report because he did not know its content. "We don't know all the details clearly. That's why we can't endorse it. If we endorsed the report without knowing what was in it we would be stupid. We want to check



U Khin Hlaing, chairman of Zawtika International, expresses opposition to a vote to approve the financial report for last fiscal year at the annual general meeting on July 13. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

the audited report," he said.

Despite the furore at the annual general meeting, the financial report was approved after Commerce Minister U Win Myint formally announced it.

U Win Aung – who has been blacklisted for alleged assistance given by him and his Dagon group of companies to the former military regime – said he

would meet with his critics.

"I accept that members are saying they are dissatisfied," he said. He also thanked the protesters for bringing attention to the federation's "weak points".

U Win Aung said it was time for federation members to put the election dispute behind them. "The election is

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Government urged to join transparency initiative

BUSINESS 24



Sales begin to dive as China's credit boom unwinds

PROPERTY 28

Exchange Rates (July 20 close)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Euro	K1274	K1290
Malay Ringitt	K305	K310
SG Dollar	K775	K785
Thai Baht	K32	K33
US Dollar	K980	K990

y' election



over the federation's financial report



Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry president U Win Aung tries to calm protesters at the annual general meeting. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

over,” he said. “We need to work hard for our federation.” As he frequently does, he asked those attending the meeting to consider the needs of the rural poor. “If we don’t do anything, nobody will be able to depend on us, especially farmers. We should focus on helping them,” he said. – *Additional reporting by Vincent MacIsaac*

New banking taskforce set up

MYANMAR and the UK have created a taskforce to support the development of Myanmar’s financial services sector, the governments of two countries announced during President Thein Sein’s visit to London last week.

The taskforce will comprise officials from government ministries and agencies, and executives from financial and professional services firms, said a July 16 statement from government agency UK Trade and Investment.

Standard Chartered Bank and the UK government will co-chair the taskforce along with Myanmar government officials and banking executives.

According to the statement the taskforce will assist Myanmar’s financial and regulatory reforms by helping the domestic industry develop new types of loans and credit, advise on the sector’s regulatory framework and assist the development of human resources.

UK Minister for Trade and Investment Stephen Green said the taskforce will deliver “practical support and assistance to President Thein Sein’s government on the development of a fully functioning financial services sector”.

Lord Green added that financial services have the potential “to be a transformative sector in this reform process” by “unlocking capital and investment”. “It is a sector in which the UK is a world leader and I am confident that British business can play an important role in supporting President Thein Sein and his government in achieving the economic reform they are striving for,” he said.

Standard Chartered Group executive director Mike Rees said the taskforce will help “boost knowledge and expertise in the area of financial services”.

It will meet for the first time in October, when London’s mayor visits Myanmar. – *The Myanmar Times*

ASEAN faces tax-cut war

MEMBERS of the Association of South-east Asian Nations are engaged in a corporate tax-cut “war” to spur economic development, but some analysts warn this could be counterproductive.

Following Thailand and Myanmar, which have already made big cuts to their corporate tax rates, Vietnam recently passed a law to gradually lower the tax rate from next year.

In June, the Vietnamese National Assembly cut the nation’s corporate tax from the current 25 percent to 22pc in January 2014, and to 20pc in January 2016. The government is even considering a plan to bring it down to 18pc in the future, which would put it almost on par with the lowest rate among ASEAN member countries, Singapore’s 17pc.

“[The tax cut] coincided with construction of our new plant. It’s going to smooth out our business operation,” said Hirotaka Masuda, president of MHI Aerospace Vietnam, a subsidiary of Japan-based Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

Construction of the new factory is

to begin this month. As the firm had based its business plan on a 25pc tax rate, “Shaving 3pc off the tax we have to pay will benefit us greatly,” Mr Masuda said.

Thailand lowered its corporate tax rate from 30pc in 2011, reaching 20pc in January. Myanmar cut its corporate tax rate from 30pc to 25pc last year.

Thailand also gives preferential treatment to companies in certain business categories, allowing them to pay no corporate taxes for up to eight years. The incentive has attracted a large number of companies with foreign capital. Myanmar’s labour costs are about half of those in Vietnam, making it a strong competitor.

“Vietnam has a strong sense of crisis because it has fallen behind countries like Thailand in attracting foreign companies. The country may have needed to lower [its corporate tax rate] to Thailand’s level,” said an official at the Hanoi office of the Japan External Trade Organisation.

However, lowering the corporate tax rate during an economic slowdown

can be a double-edged sword. Vietnam’s governmental finances depend heavily on tax revenues from foreign capital companies. If the tax-cut policy fails to attract many such companies, it could aggravate the government’s fiscal situation.

“If countries in difficult fiscal situations such as Indonesia and the Philippines get caught up in the [corporate tax cut] war, this could accelerate fiscal deterioration in some ASEAN countries,” said Hirotaka Hiratsuka, chief Asian economist at Mizuho Research Institute. “Government bonds of some countries could be downgraded as a result. A tax-cut war is undesirable.”

Some experts say Japan could be affected as well. “If ASEAN’s overall power to attract foreign capital strengthens, this could accelerate a move among Japanese companies to move their operations to other countries. Japan could feel pressured to lower its own corporate tax rate,” said Chuo University professor Shigeki Morinobu. – *The Yomiuri Shimbun*

Petrol pause not likely to boost price



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THE government will halt domestic petrol production and distribution when its Thanlyin refinery in Yangon Region undergoes renovation, state-run Myanmar Petroleum Product Enterprise announced on July 18.

Prices at the pump, however, are not expected to rise because most motorists buy imported fuel that is a higher quality than the petrol produced at the government’s main refinery, fuel station managers said.

MPPE said the Ministry of Energy is preparing for a joint-venture operation that will boost the plant’s petrol refining capacity.

“The private sector will have to entirely rely on imported petrol when production at the Thanlyin refinery stops for renovation,” the announcement said. It did not provide a time-frame, however.

The government privatised MPPE’s network of fuel filling stations in 2010 and also allowed the private import and distribution of fuel. Since then, the number of filling stations has mushroomed to more than 900 nationwide.

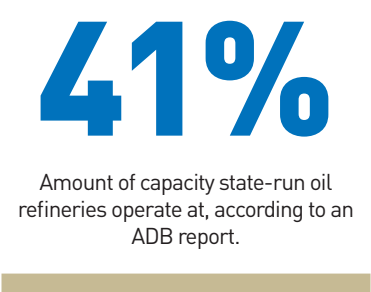
The manager of a filling station in Mandalay said he doubted that the halt in domestic petrol production would have much of an impact on motorists.

“Most people buy higher octane fuel, which is imported,” he said, adding that he did not expect petrol prices to rise.

The difference in price between locally refined petrol and imported 92 RON fuel was only K20 a gallon (4.55 litres) on July 19, he said, adding that domestically produced petrol was selling for K4290.43 a gallon, compared with K4311.06 for 92 RON.

MPPE sells domestically produced fuel to filling stations at K3350 a gallon. Domestic petrol production averages 10 million gallons a month and MPPE distributes 8.8 million gallons to private stations.

A Myanmar Petroleum Association official who asked not to be named said he did not expect any impact from the refinery’s renovation because more fuel will be imported to compensate for the drop in production. “MPPE’s role has been significantly reduced since its fuel-distribution network was privatised,” he added.



The energy ministry announced on July 9 a tender for environmental and social impact assessments for a new refinery in central Myanmar. The refinery will have a capacity of at least 20,000 barrels a day (BPD) and will be built in Magwe Region’s Minhla township.

It will refine crude oil from the Myanmar-China pipeline.

MPPE operates three refineries that have a combined capacity of 51,000BPD.

However, the refineries are old and no longer operate at capacity, according to the “New Energy Architecture Report”, released by the Asian Development Bank in June.

On average they operate at only 41 percent of their stated capacity, the report said.

Government urged to join transparency initiative



AUNG SHIN

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A PROMINENT non-government organisation has urged the government to show it is serious about improving governance by speeding up its efforts to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Shwe Gas Movement representatives made the comments at the launch of the group's report, "Good Governance and the Extractive Industry in Burma", in Yangon on July 17.

The report highlights the existing shortcomings of Myanmar's regulatory framework for the extractive industries.

"The government's current reform activities are just [for] public recognition," said Shwe Gas Movement representative Wong Aung.

He also criticised the lack of ethnic minority involvement in decision making.

"I don't see much involvement of ethnic people ... Local people from affected areas should be able to participate more than they can now," he added.

The report said governance in Myanmar is still weak and that the government must develop its own policy framework for sustainable extraction of natural resources.

It also highlighted the shortcomings of existing laws and the 2008 constitution in regards to the environment, human rights, transparency and natural-resource management.

"The government needs to consult more and encourage civil-society participation. Transparency and accountability for government activities is strongly needed ... [in particular] there must be transparency in revenue sharing," said Daw Khon Ja from the Kachin Peace Network.

While Myanmar's reforms have received international praise, they have had little impact on its ranking in international transparency indices.

The US-based Heritage Foundation placed Myanmar 40th out of 41 countries in the Asia Pacific region in its 2013 Index of Economic Freedom, with a score of 39.2 - an increase of just 0.5 points on 2012.

Similarly, Myanmar also received a "failing" score of just four out of 100 in Revenue Watch

Institute's 2013 Resource Governance Index, placing it last out of 58 countries surveyed for the quality of governance in the oil, gas and mining sectors.

The government announced its intention to join EITI in July 2012. Under the initiative, the government has to disclose contracts signed with extractive companies, establish proper regulatory agencies, publish timely and comprehensive reports on oil, gas and mining operations, and extend transparency and accountability standards to state-owned companies.

Joining EITI is particularly urgent given the country is expected to enjoy revenues of more than US\$30 billion from the Shwe gas project in the next three decades, speakers at the report launch said.

But new projects will also pose a threat, said environmentalist U Tin Than.

"We are facing new challenges in terms of environmental issues because of the political and economic reforms," he added.



A drilling rig explores for gas off Rakhine State.
Photo: Supplied

The Fine Print Legal & tax insight



Central Bank Law aims for independence

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THE long-awaited new Central Bank Law, signed by President Thein Sein on July 11 and published two days later in the Myanmar-language edition of *The New Light of Myanmar*, aims to establish the central bank as a body independent from the government.

Observers consider this to be an important step toward building investor confidence. Previously, the central bank was an entity under the finance ministry, effectively obliged to finance the government by lending money to it, or buying government securities from it, at concessionary conditions - in other words, by printing money.

This was a recipe for inflation. Business people are reluctant to invest in an inflationary environment as inflation decreases the value of the return on their investment.

The new law still allows the central bank to provide loans to the government, but only with parliamentary approval. The central bank may still purchase and sell government securities, however this is limited to transactions with "financial institutions and the public". The government may no longer have access to "cheap money".

Contrary to what observers expected, the new law contains no regulations on the formation of joint ventures between foreign and local banks.

According to the new law, the members of the board of directors of the central bank are to be appointed by the president and approved by parliament. Previously, the directors were appointed "by the government".

The appointment automatically terminates any tenure as public officer or membership in parliament. Directors must not be members of political parties. They are effectively banned from having any other employment and from owning more than 5 percent of a company's equity.

The old law also contained a clause barring lawmakers and public officers from serving on the board of directors of the central bank, but the government was authorised to grant "exemptions for special reasons".

The board of directors is composed of the central bank's governor, three deputy governors and "five external experts selected by the government". The directors must be "well versed and experienced in any of the central bank's operations, in economics, in finance and banking law, and in accounting and auditing". It may be a problem in practice to find a sufficient number of qualified and willing candidates. Foreigners may not be appointed.

Representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development may attend board meetings as observers.

An important aspect to the independence of any central bank is the security of tenure of its officers. If, for example, the governor, although nominally independent, can be replaced at will, he may be reluctant to fend off encroachments on the central bank's areas of competence. The new law states that, apart from voluntary resignation, a director's tenure may be terminated if an incompatibility arises (eg, the director acquires more than 5 percent of the equity of a company); if the director is sentenced to prison; if the director skips board meetings for more than three months; and if "the president decides that the director is incapable of discharging his duties".

The law does not specify whether the termination of a director's tenure requires parliamentary approval. In any case, the new Central Bank Law illustrates (again) the strong position of the president. It remains to be seen whether the president's power to determine that a director is "incapable of discharging his duties" (and the right of officials of ministries to attend board meetings) will have any impact on the central bank's independence. Ultimately, laws work best when their spirit as well as their letter is observed.

Sebastian Pawlita and Kyaw Zai Ya are consultants at Polastri Wint & Partners Legal & Tax Advisors in Yangon.

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Dated: 22nd July, 2013

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Dated: 22nd July, 2013

Foreign banks get gradual access to market



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THOUGH foreign banks are hoping to enter the banking market in Myanmar as quickly as possible, more regulation and infrastructure – and a number of intermediary arrangements – are needed before that can happen, officials told an international banking and finance conference in Yangon on July 16.

Daw Naw Eh Hpaw, deputy director general of the Central Bank of Myanmar, said the central bank's recently adopted strategy for developing the banking sector will be

incremental. Foreign banks will eventually be allowed to open branches here, but this will be a gradual process. The first step will be to allow domestic banks to operate joint ventures with foreign banks, after which foreign banks will be allowed to establish locally incorporated, 100-percent-owned subsidiaries, she said. After that, foreign banks will be allowed to open local bank branches without local partners, she added.

"At present, foreign banks are not yet allowed to operate in Myanmar, and when they are allowed in initially they will only be able to operate joint ventures with local banks," Daw Naw Eh Hpaw said.

The central bank, however, encourages foreign assistance for the newly privatised banking industry. "We invite foreign

investment, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and the technology sector," Daw Naw Eh Hpaw said.

A spokesperson for the central bank said it hopes regulations allowing joint ventures will be finalised within two months and that several domestic banks have already forged links with foreign partners.

"Even though some foreign banks do not want [to be limited to] joint ventures, we have to make the changes step by step because this is the most appropriate way for the country," the spokesperson said.

New regulations will set the ratio of investment between foreign and domestic banks in joint ventures, he added.

The conference was attended by executives from 25 representative offices of banks from

Southeast Asia, Japan, South Korea and India. Most are eager to sidestep the joint-venture process and invest directly.

David Proctor, chairman of the financial-services consultancy Consilium, said domestic bankers need more training in

international banking processes, better infrastructure, more capital and more foreign direct investment. At the same time, he said, foreign banks should have full branching rights instead of being restricted to subsidiaries or joint-ventures.

Daw Khine Khine Nwe, a member of the Myanmar Investment Commission, said the country has made great progress by implementing a floating exchange rate and preparing for the opening of a stock exchange.

The development of the banking and finance sector is crucial for continued economic development and it is necessary to sustain the momentum already achieved in economic reforms, she added.

U Maung Maung Thein, deputy minister of finance, said

the biggest challenge for the banking and finance sector is to establish the capital market, though a draft of a new securities exchange law is before parliament and is expected to be enacted this month.

"We now face some issues in the banking sector," he said. "The first is to modernise and strengthen the local banks. Another concerns regulatory issues ... the last issue is the entry of foreign banks into the domestic market."

Toshiyuki Mori, chief representative of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, summed up the interest of foreign investors. "Many Japanese customers want to be involved more and more [in Myanmar] because of the Thilawa industrial zone and other projects," he said.

'We have make the changes step by step because this is the most appropriate way for the country.'

Spokesperson

Central Bank of Myanmar

Sugary deal

THAN NAING SOE

thennaingsoe@gmail.com

MYANMAR Sugar Development is now selling shares to the public at K10,000 apiece, its firm's managing director said.

U Win Htay added that his Mandalay-based company will allow each investors to buy as many as 100,000 shares and a minimum of 10. "Anybody who buys 10,000 shares is eligible to be elected as a company director and can vote in general meetings," he added.

The company aims to increase the quality and output of the country's sugar industry by boosting investment in technology and agriculture inputs such as fertiliser and labour. It also aims to increase sugar exports and earnings.

"We are opening an international standard sugar factory in Katha township in Sagaing Region," U Win Htay said.

"Dividends will be paid at every annual general meeting and shareholders can resell shares on the open market."

Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee Call for Sub-Recipient Proposal Concept Note for Myanmar New Funding Model HIV & Malaria Grant

The Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee (M-HSCC) has successfully secured funding from the Global Fund under the New Funding Model for HIV, TB and Malaria Grant for the period of 2013 to 2016.

In support of the newly signed HIV and Malaria grants, the M-HSCC is seeking organizations to implement services and activities as follows:

HIV and AIDS - HIV prevention for people who inject drugs (PWID), Methadone Maintenance Treatment, HIV Testing and Counseling for bridging Populations and Civil Society Strengthening/Human Rights

Malaria - Active diagnosis and case detection, raising the community awareness, increasing the use of long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN), notably in artemisinin resistant area

The members of the review panel will review and rate applicants based on a set of criteria. These criteria and other documents can be viewed on the M-HSCC website -<http://www.MyanmarHSCC.org>

Alternatively the Secretariats of the TSGs can be contacted directly for more information:

UNAIDS for HIV - Mr. Eamonn Murphy, Email : murphye@unaids.org , Tel: 01 252361-2, 252498 Ext. 3001
WHO for Malaria - Dr. Krongthong Thimasarn, Email : thimasarnk@searo.who.int , Tel: 01 -241932 Ext. 4222

Submission Deadline and Location

One hard copy of the Concept Note will need to be submitted in the specified format, following the eligibility criteria.

The Concept Note must be received in a sealed envelope by 4pm on 16 August 2013 at:

Proposal Collection Desk

M-HSCC Secretariat Office
c/o UNAIDS
12th Floor, Traders Hotel,
233 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township

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ANALYSIS

Moving beyond diplomacy and defence in the US pivot to Asia

Asia and the United States will benefit from greater business, cultural and educational engagement



CURTIS S CHIN

curtis.s.chin07@gmail.com

AFTER having served for three-and-a-half years as the US Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank under presidents Barack Obama and George W Bush, I finally made my first trip to Myanmar last April, to Mandalay, as a private citizen. In early July I returned, landing in Yangon two days before US Independence Day. US sanctions and nearly a billion US dollars of loans in arrears from the ADB and World Bank to Myanmar had made it inappropriate for me to visit during my time in office. Indeed, as a matter of US policy, I would refrain from even using the name Myanmar for the nation.

For me, the signs of the so-called US pivot to Asia were still evident here more than seven months after President Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's historic visit in November 2012. "O-Burma" a local headline had proclaimed, and hope remained for better times ahead. The US president's visit along with the lifting or suspension of a range of US and European economic sanctions was intended to encourage change in this once pariah nation.

Today, it is not just unsold T-shirts featuring the US president that still hang in storefronts, or somewhat faded banners featuring Mr Obama and Ms Clinton embracing opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, that mark America's policy pivot eastward.

Instead, it is also Coca-Cola billboards, American teachers and volunteers, and the return visits of numerous US business leaders and delegations, hungry for the opportunity that beckons in the nation of some 60 million people, that also underscore growing US engagement in Myanmar.

And therein lies a critical insight for the Obama Administration and Capitol Hill. From the Beltway to Myanmar and beyond, the US pivot to Asia – though rebalance is the preferred word these days – must go beyond defence and diplomacy and include greater business, educational and cultural engagement.

US Secretary of State John Kerry's recent visit to Brunei to attend an Asia security forum as well as to help co-chair US-Southeast Asian ministerial meetings was certainly welcome news for a region concerned about China's growing assertiveness and questioning US commitment and focus amidst the latest leaks, budget discord and alleged scandals emerging from Washington.

From the permanent rotation of up to 2500 US marines in Darwin, Australia by 2016, to the ongoing shifting of US military troops, ships and aircraft to and in the Pacific region, Mr Kerry's visit underscored that the "rebalance" continues.

Yet, while Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations – including Myanmar – may well quietly welcome continued strengthened US defence and diplomatic engagement in Asia, there also remains the hope that the US will see the value of and support greater business, cultural and educational engagement in Asia and the Pacific.

Both the region and the United States will



Presidents Barack Obama and U Thein Sein during the former's visit to Myanmar. Photo: The Myanmar Times

benefit from a more robust policy pivot to Asia that extends well beyond increasing diplomatic outreach and rebalancing and repositioning a range of military assets in Asia and the Pacific. A greater business, cultural and educational dimension could add substance to the rhetoric that an economic pivot is also happening.

First, from a commercial and trade perspective, the United States would benefit from an explicit government recommitment to free trade and to free trade agreements. During tough times, the default position of government is often inward looking, seeking to shelter domestic businesses from competition. Ultimately, though, protectionism stifles productivity, and economies and consumers suffer.

Negotiations do continue toward a major regional free trade agreement – the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) – between the United States and several Pacific Rim nations. Yet, continued expansion of parties to that effort is likely to lead to inevitable delays. New, more focused initiatives are also warranted in Asia, even as the US has begun working on a trade pact with Europe.

For many years, the then-chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar called for a US-ASEAN free trade agreement. That is an idea worth revisiting.

A strengthened business pivot would also mean government leaders who do not talk down US businesses for succeeding overseas, or unintentionally make it more difficult for US businesspeople, particularly small businesspeople, to succeed outside the United States. A case in point, is the so-called Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act – a well-intentioned US piece of legislation that has in some cases made it difficult for US expatriate workers to obtain financial services due to onerous reporting requirements required of non-US financial institutions serving American clients.

US businesses are facing growing competition from companies in Brazil, Russia, India and China – the BRIC – and elsewhere. They also face a new "little bric" that poses an even larger challenge – bureaucracy, regulation, interventionism and corruption. That is as true today in Myanmar as it is in much of developing Asia.

mar as it is in much of developing Asia.

Second, from an educational perspective, while the US remains the overwhelming No 1 destination for students studying outside of their home country, the nation's share of that growing market is declining as other countries take efforts to make it easier for qualified foreign students to study in their colleges and universities. A US educational pivot would also follow suit, recognising the critical value – both economic and diplomatic – of young people, whether from Myanmar or elsewhere in Asia, traveling to and studying in the United States. Specific policy changes could include taking lessons from Australia, which has introduced efforts to better coordinate the university application and visa application processes.

Third, much attention has been given to China's efforts to promote Chinese culture and studies of the Chinese language abroad though government-funded institutes and programs. While US pop culture and the English language are increasingly ubiquitous, a strong case can be made for greater support for focused "cultural diplomacy" by the United States. In Myanmar, Korean pop music, Japanese anime and Chinese film all have a very visible presence, as they do elsewhere in Asia.

A US cultural pivot to Asia would include policy changes and encouragement of public-private efforts and partnerships that would increase exchange programs and the visits of US cultural organisations, particularly smaller institutions, to the Asia-Pacific region.

All this would foster the diversity and richness reflected in "Brand USA".

In Myanmar, as in much of Asia, the recent visits of US leaders – whether a president, secretary of state or US senator – are commemorated in framed photos and old newspaper clippings. To ensure a more lasting impact, the US must do more to move beyond carefully staged senior-level visits. US follow-up will be critical in areas that build on defence and diplomatic initiatives and must take place at the people-to-people and business-to-business level.

It remains time to rebalance the "rebalance", and for the US to follow up on defense and diplomatic visits with substantive policy efforts and investments that also encourage greater US business, educational and cultural involvement and ties in the region.

It has begun in Myanmar, despite very real continuing concerns about human rights violations and increasing religious and ethnic unrest. There will be inevitable setbacks in engagement here and elsewhere in Asia.

Yet, that is no excuse for stepping back from a more robust and balanced strategy for US involvement in Asia that goes beyond defense and diplomacy.

Curtis S Chin is a managing director with advisory firm RiverPeak Group and a member of the boards of World Education Services and Community and Family Services International. He served as US Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank from 2007 to 2010.



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.	Procurement and Logistics Assistant (LICA 3)	Yangon	National	22-7-2013
2.	Public Health Analyst (LICA 6)	Yangon	National	23-7-2013
3.	Field Finance Assistant (Roving) (LICA 3)	Yangon	National	24-7-2013
4.	Contracts Assistant (MNCH/ATM) (LICA 3)	Yangon	National	25-7-2013
5.	Associate Finance Officer-Treasury (LICA 5)	Yangon	National	29-7-2013
6.	M&E Analyst (MCH) (LICA 5)	Yangon	National	30-7-2013
7.	Senior Finance Officer/Deputy Financial Management Officer (NOC)	Yangon	National	4-8-2013
8.	Administrative Analyst (NOA)	Yangon	National	4-8-2013
9.	Procurement Analyst (NOA)	Yangon	National	4-8-2013

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

MOSCOW

G-20 targets global tax loopholes

TOP world economic officials were expected to agree last weekend on a major push to tighten global tax laws, touching off what could be a sensitive debate as nations vie to protect their favored industries and maintain tax breaks they've used to court investment.

In theory, the 40-page work plan to be endorsed by the Group of 20 economic powers in Moscow is about shaping the international tax system so it reflects how global companies now operate — and ensures that the Apples and Amazons pay a fairer share of tax in the nations they do business in.

But the more detailed discussion that will follow over the next two years or so, as countries try to develop changes to tax laws and treaties, could take on far more political tones.

The recommendations developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) set as a top priority the need to develop clear tax rules for the digital economy — a goal US officials are concerned could single out leading American companies.

While some, such as Apple, have been taken to task at home for sheltering profits overseas, a US Treasury official said there are also legitimate issues that Internet companies face as they try to sort out, for example, how to apportion expenses incurred at development labs in Silicon Valley against revenue earned worldwide.

Likewise, countries that have used tax laws to court investment — such as a recent UK tax break extended to earnings from some patents — may fight to hold onto policies they think they need to create jobs.

As the discussion plays out,



Participants of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting pose for a photo in Moscow on July 20. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has presented the G20 nations with a bold strategy to crack down on tax avoidance by corporate giants and the super rich, and so boost overstretched national budgets. Photo: AFP

“nobody wants to be first to become the inhospitable place” where tax rules have been tightened, said a US Treasury official. “At the same time, they want to be first to say come get a great tax deal.”

As the G-20 finance ministers reviewed the plan, US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said the proposal was an important step in allowing national tax systems to capture “stateless income.”

The Moscow session, to be

followed by a summit among the heads of state in the fall, is being held amid heightened concern that the world economy may be slowing and that a potential shift in US monetary policy could cause problems if it leads to rising interest rates.

The corporate tax issue is sensitive in this era of fiscal austerity and budget cutting in the developed world. At stake are tens of billions of dollars in revenue lost under current rules

in which companies lawfully apportion profits, expenses and investments to subsidiaries across complex global supply chains to limit the taxes they pay.

Officials at the OECD, a group of mostly developed nations, say there is momentum to close many of the most commonly used loopholes. “There is agreement on where we will be landing in 18 to 24 months ... there is political agreement,” said Pascal Saint-Amans, direc-

tor of the OECD’s Centre for Tax Policy and Administration.

With nations such as Greece struggling to enforce even basic tax collection, the finances of larger nations such as Italy being undermined by a massive off-the-books economy, and technologically sophisticated nations such as the United States struggling with how to adequately tax global companies, the issue has become a central one for the G-20. At an

earlier session, the group agreed to an information exchange that would crack down on tax shelters used by individuals. Bit by bit, traditional tax havens such as Switzerland, Luxembourg and the island nations of the British Commonwealth are agreeing to provide data as well.

The proposals being considered this weekend target an arcane world in which sprawling multinationals have deployed a variety of tactics to choose where and how they are taxed.

The cost of unfinished goods or materials transferred between subsidiaries for processing can be used to determine where expenses are charged or profits are booked. The expansion of the Internet and e-commerce has opened a set of issues about where economic “value” rests when an electronic product or information is beamed across borders. Complicated finance and investment arrangements might allow a company to, in effect, loan money to itself, record the interest payments as an expense that lowers profits in a high-tax jurisdiction, while recording the income on the books of a subsidiary where it is lightly taxed.

Overseas tax treaties have roots in agreements to limit double taxation, so companies that did business in more than one country would not have to pay tax on the earnings of a foreign subsidiary both abroad and in their home country.

But the situation has evolved into one of “double non-taxation”. “This has led to a tense situation in which citizens have become more sensitive to tax fairness issues,” the OECD said. “It has become a critical issue for all parties.” – *The Washington Post*

BEIJING

China to lift lending-rate controls: central bank

CHINA'S central bank will lift controls on lending interest rates and allow financial institutions to set them, it said on July 19, in a step toward liberalising the financial sector.

The bank touted the move as a way to lower financing costs for businesses and support China's long-term economic restructuring, while analysts called it a small positive step toward liberalisation.

They added that the move could help China's growth rate, which saw its second consecutive drop in the second quarter – falling to 7.5 percent – renewing concerns about the world's second-largest economy.

“The People's Bank of China has decided, as of July 20, 2013, to completely relinquish control of the lending rates of financial institutions,” it said on its website. As of Saturday the bank will allow institutions to “set lending rates themselves based on commercial principles”, it added.

The change will “be good for optimising the allocation of financial resources” and “more powerfully support the restructuring and upgrading

of the economy”, it said.

The bank removed a lower limit on lending rates, which had previously been set at 70pc of the benchmark rate fixed by the central bank. But it said it will not adjust policies on mortgages in order to promote “healthy development of the housing market”.

Property prices have continued to rise despite several measures to try to control them. Last month home prices in major Chinese cities jumped 7.4pc year-on-year to an average of 10,258 yuan (\$1,672) per square metre, according to a survey by Soufun Holdings.

Allowing lending rates to drop could benefit the economy and help it reach the annual growth target set at 7.5pc, said ANZ economists Li-Gang Liu and Hao Zhou. “To some extent, it could be regarded as a ‘stimulus,’” they wrote.

Gross domestic product expanded at 7.5pc in the second quarter, down from 7.7pc in the first quarter and 7.9pc from the last quarter of 2012.

The figures this year have so far proved disappointing after

the 7.8pc growth seen in 2012 – itself the worst in 13 years.

However other analysts saw the move as a “moderate” step in the wider context of the reform of interest rates, rather than a response to recent signs of economic slowdown.

China economist Zhiwei Zhang of Nomura said Premier Li Keqiang had already announced the reforms as a goal for 2013 and called the move a “positive” toward that end, suggesting China “intends to take a gradual approach” in liberalising interest rate policy.

Mark Williams, chief Asia economist at Capital Economics, called the lending-rate lift a “significant development for China's financial sector” – but said that it will have minimal impact. In principle more credit-worthy borrowers could now enjoy better rates, but “in practice the immediate difference will be small”, he said.

Bigger firms have already been able to access alternative sources of credit, thanks to a fast-growing corporate bond market. – AFP

MYANMAR INVESTMENTS

Myanmar Investments International Ltd, an investment holding company listed on the London Stock Exchange (ticker symbol “MIL”), is establishing an office in Yangon to identify, make and manage investments in a diverse range of sectors in Myanmar. Please visit us at www.myanmarinvestments.com

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A touch of serenity

THIS house off Kone Myint Thar Lane in Mayangone township offers a large compound and a touch of serenity for US\$3000 a month. Off the main road and down a side lane, the compound includes a two-storey main building, a two-car garage, a large paved yard and a smaller garden and lawn.

Newly repainted in blue, the simple house is ringed with a head-high wall topped with razor wire.

On the ground floor of the house there is a large living room with sliding doors, a kitchen and dining room complete with ceiling fan. The kitchen is bright and airy and connects to the garage.

The upper level has two bedrooms: a master with an en-suite bathroom and small balcony looking over the front yard and a single. They share a bathroom.

There is a small maid's quarters, including an outside kitchen, behind the main house.

The house comes with four air-conditioners and is fully, if modestly, furnished.

—Ei Thae Thae Naing

Location : Kone Myint Thar Lane, Mayangone township
Rent : US\$3000 (monthly)
Contact : Estate Myanmar
Phone : 01 512059, 01 701062



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Photos: Ko Taik

BEIJING

A symbol of speculative financing in China

POSTERS of the Chinese character for good luck adorn shops bolted shut in the northern city of Ordos, where cranes stand silently above half-finished developments and doors on workers' dormitories creak in the wind.

Apartment sales have come to a virtual halt in the central district, real-estate agent Zhang Wei says. With the municipality's revenue falling, the Inner Mongolian city that saw a surge in building during China's record credit boom is now a showcase for the speculative financing Premier Li Keqiang is trying to curb.

"In the past few years there was a lot of coal so people came from all over the country," says Gao Wei, 30, smoking in an office that deals in second-hand construction machinery and had no clients that day. "Now the economy has collapsed, they've all gone."

The implosion in Ordos, 750 miles west of Beijing, stands at one extreme of a national slowdown that a government report last week signaled may deepen this quarter, with industrial output gains last month matching the weakest since the 2009 global recession. The challenge for Mr Li's administration is to assure growth is resilient enough for the world's second-largest economy to weather busts in local finance and industries ridden by overcapacity.

"What has to drive growth now is greater productivity and more efficient investment with a financial system that channels money to the most efficient companies," said David Loevinger, former US Treasury Department senior coordinator for China affairs and now an emerging-markets analyst at TCW Group in Los Angeles.

China's growth slowed for a second quarter to 7.5 percent in April-to-June, the June 15 National Bureau of Statistics report showed. Factory production rose 8.9pc in June from a year earlier, equal to the lowest since 2009.

The report boosted speculation that the government will act to defend its 7.5pc growth goal for 2013. Nomura Holdings China will lower banks' reserve-requirement ratio four times by a total of 2 percentage points through June 2014. Bank of America said authorities will "introduce some fiscal expansionary policies on a limited scale."

The government has already started to fine-tune policies and support growth, HSBC Holdings said. State Council announcements this month encouraging investment in public housing, energy saving, environmen-



Horse sculptures stand in Genghis Khan Square before government headquarters in the new district of Kangbashi in Ordos, China. With the municipality's revenue falling, the Inner Mongolian city that saw a surge in building during China's boom is now a showcase for the speculative financing Premier Li Keqiang seeks to curb. Photo: Bloomberg

tal protection and technology infrastructure will help counter the slowdown, HSBC said.

On July 15 Nomura cut its growth estimate for next year to 6.9pc from 7.5pc, while JPMorgan Chase lowered its forecast to 7.2pc.

Other growth risks come from slowing consumption and income gains. Consumption contributed 45.2pc of GDP growth in the first half after accounting for 55.5pc in the first quarter, according to the statistics bureau. Per capita disposable income of urban households rose 6.5pc in the first half after adjusting for prices, compared with 9.7pc in the first half of 2012, government data show.

"We are all undergoing the temporary pains of restructuring," said Sheng Laiyun, a statistics bureau spokesman.

Nine provincial capital cities last year had debt equivalent to more than 100pc of a measure of annual revenue, and some cities were facing more difficulty repaying debt because of slower revenue from land sales, the

National Audit Office said in a report last month.

Apple Daily, a Hong Kong newspaper, reported on July 16 that Huaxi in eastern China, known as the nation's richest village, is at risk of failing as

of Kangbashi where high-rise apartments surround an artificial lake. Many local residents owned two to three homes each, said Bai Pusheng, a real estate agent.

Now the local government's rev-

'In the past few years there was a lot coal so people came from all over Now the economy has collapsed, they've all gone.'

Gao Wei
Resident of Ordos

most of its factories are empty. Sun Haiyan, Communist Party vice secretary for Huaxi, said that the report is unfounded and the village's efforts to restructure its economy are going well.

Fueled by a boom in coal production, Ordos saw a building spree in recent years, with an expanded airport, a sports stadium and the new area

enue is falling because the property crash has scuppered land sales, while residents no longer have compensation to buy property and make loans, according to real estate agent Zhang. About 70 percent of Dongsheng district's real estate market was funded by private lending that has now stopped, he said.

Ordos's January-May fiscal revenue dropped by 15.8pc from a year earlier, according to official statistics.

When the government sold land over the past few years, it always used the funds for infrastructure construction, Zhang said from the sales office of a new apartment complex with 1,000 units. "Now they don't have any money." Meantime, the city's coal rush has dried up amid sluggish domestic demand, with prices dropping to an almost four-year low.

That has not stopped efforts to keep the boom going. Authorities are planning construction for residents to see green spaces every 300 metres and a park every 500 metres, according to Guo Xiaojun, a publicity official from the Dongsheng government.

Such projects may be getting harder to finance. Some Ordos district governments had to borrow money from companies to pay municipal employees' salaries, Economy and Nation Weekly, published by the official Xinhua News Agency, said in a July 5 report.

Much of Ordos's borrowing has been through local government financing vehicles, special-purpose companies set by authorities across China to fund infrastructure construction. The entities have amassed debt that the National Audit Office estimated was 10.7 trillion yuan (US\$1.7 trillion) at the end of 2010.

While state-owned policy bank China Development Bank "greatly supports" the projects of local government vehicle Erdos Dongsheng City Construction Development and Investment Group, other banks have become stricter and will not lend for public-works projects such as roads and parks, said Dai Haishu, financial controller and senior accountant at the company.

"Our projects should have no risk," he said. "The economy has had an impact but we don't have to repay all our money at once."

A February 2012 bond prospectus for investors in Erdos Dongsheng forecast "fast growth" for the district and rapid gains in local government revenue. The company is continuing to borrow, and CDB loans have maturities of as long as 10 years, Mr Dai said.

"Ordos is a warning to other places in terms of how to guide the local economy and in what not to do," said Yao Wei, China economist at Societe Generale in Hong Kong. "The local governments are still not waking up to what they should do in this new environment." — Bloomberg

Cheap GSM SIMS to boost smartphone use

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THE RELEASE of K1500 GSM SIM cards July 25 will boost demand for smartphones, according to Yangon's mobile phone sellers.

"Many people who are using GSM SIM cards do not use keypad phones," said Ma Pa Pa from KKA mobile shop. "I think people will buy more GSM Android handsets for internet access."

Such handsets, which are more expensive than

conventional phones, would be payable in installments, said an official from Mobile King mobile shop, making them more suitable for wealthier urban areas.

"I think GSM Android handsets will rise in the Yangon market but GSM keypad handsets will increase in the other regions of the country," the official said.

U Htet Lin Kyaw, general manager of Mr. Fone Telecom Center, said the public is excited about the upcoming GSM SIM release. "People who didn't

submit an application last time are doing so this time, hoping the K1500 GSM will come to them."

"I like GSM lines because I can choose between the various GSM handsets," said Ko Thein Htoo Aung, who works for a bank. "There are so many different GSM handsets in the market."

Aye Myat Mon, a university student, added: "I want to use GSM handsets because CDMA handsets are rare in the market. I would like to buy the K1500 GSM SIM cards."

Text 133 for internet next month: MPT

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MOBILE phone users will be able to apply for internet access by text starting August 1, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has announced – but the feature comes at a price.

"People who want to apply to have internet enabled on their phones can do so by sending an SMS message to

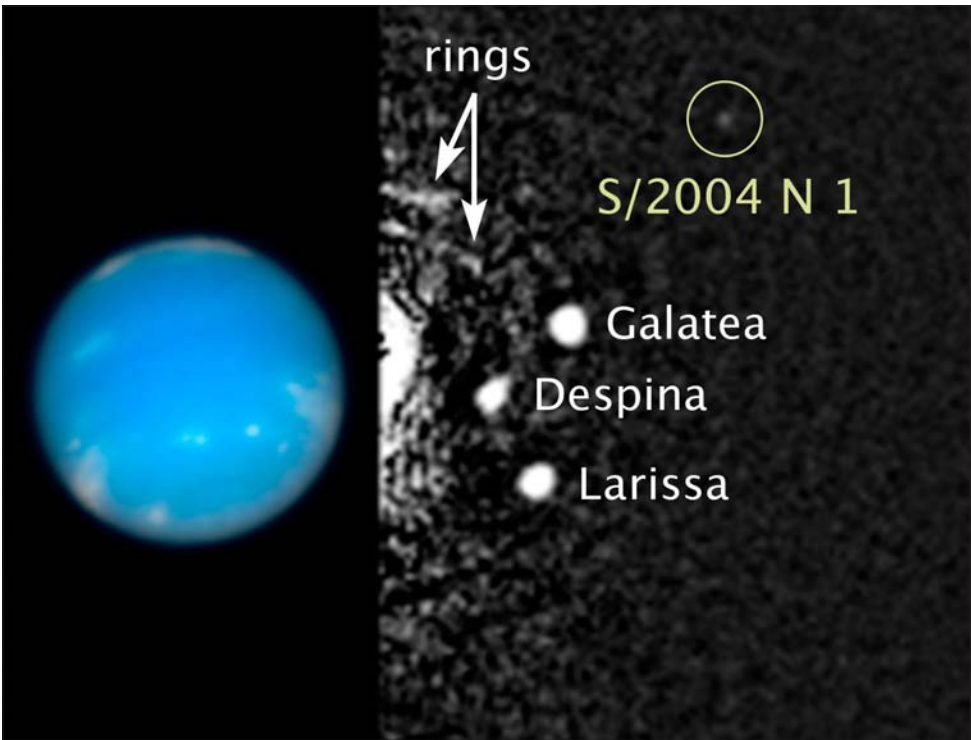
133, but they have to have at least K10,000 in their phone account," said U Aung Kyaw Thet, executive engineer for MPT's online billing system. The feature is likely to prove popular in such an internet-starved market.

"We will reply to tell users they have internet access after taking K10,000 from their phone balance. After the reply, they can use the internet

but they need to set up their phones themselves," he said.

The new system means people do not need to show their phone contracts, but applies only to users of GSM SIM cards, U Aung Kyaw Thet said. The system is similar to many other ASEAN nations.

He added there are no plans to offer the service for CDMA SIM cards, as the internet lines are already "jammed".



IN PICTURES

This composite Hubble Space Telescope picture shows the location of a newly discovered moon, orbiting the giant planet Neptune. The moon, named S/2004 N1, is about 100 million times fainter than the dimmest star that can be seen with the naked eye. Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, found the moon July 1 by studying the faint arcs around Neptune, NASA said. "The moons and arcs orbit very quickly, so we had to devise a way to follow their motion in order to bring out the details of the system," he said. "It's the same reason a sports photographer tracks a running athlete – the athlete stays in focus, but the background is blurred." Photo: AFP

Heli-Bike wins 30 year old engineering prize

A CANADIAN-BUILT helicopter that is powered by a human riding a bicycle has become the first winner of a decades-old \$250,000 engineering prize, the US awarder said Friday.

The American Helicopter Society had never given out its Igor Sikorsky Human-Powered Helicopter Award – initiated 33 years ago – until the team from the University of Toronto snatched it this week.

The challenge was to create a flying machine that would be able to reach a height of three meters (yards), fly for 60 seconds by human power alone, and stay in a 10 by 10 metre area.

"It was long seen as impossible to win this," AHS International executive director Mike Hirschberg told AFP.

The winning vehicle is called the Atlas, and was designed by a team of about 20 students and young professionals.

The aircraft is extremely light – just 121.4 pounds (55 kilograms) – but it spans a sprawling 162 feet (49.4 meters).

"This is not about creating a practical machine," said Hirschberg.

"This is to set a challenge for young engineers, to harness their creativity and technical skills and to experience working as a team against really, extremely challenging requirements," he added.

"It is sort of like climbing Mount Everest for the first time – to prove it can be done."

The winning June 13 flight was pedaled by team



Canadian engineering students have won a decades-old \$250,000 US science award for the first time by designing a helicopter that is powered by a human riding a bicycle, Photo: AFP

leader Todd Reichert, 31, an aerodynamics expert and competitive speed skater.

Reichert is chief aerodynamicist at a company called AeroVelo, which was created by the students in their mission to win the competition's cash.

It also requires a fairly strong pedaler, requiring about one horsepower to operate, when the average person could probably manage a half horsepower, he said.

Robertson said the team was motivated by the prospect of "showing people that impossible is nothing".

The \$250,000 prize, which was formally awarded Thursday after a month of technical review of the winning flight, was also a key factor.

Winning it will allow the team to invest more in AeroVelo

and support research with the current crop of University of Toronto engineering students, Robertson said.

"We are not rich but it will enable us and the students with us to continue doing what we love doing," he said.

The prize is named for Igor Sikorsky, a Russian born engineer and pilot who came to America in 1919 and in 1939 designed and flew the first successful single main rotor helicopter in the world.

The amount was set at \$10,000 when the award was initiated in 1980 and was soon raised to \$25,000.

But no-one ever won, and the program stagnated through much of the 1990s and 2000s until Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation agreed in 2009 to raise the amount to \$250,000.

"That quarter of a million

dollars absolutely brought out some of the best innovators and the best talents in tackling this challenge," said Hirschberg.

The first prize attempt at a human powered helicopter was by California Polytechnic State University, which flew its craft for 8.6 seconds at a height of 8 inches (20 cm) off the ground in 1989, according to AHS.

A team from Nihon University in Japan set the endurance record for the prize with almost 20 seconds in 1994.

For the winning University of Toronto AeroVelo team, Robertson said the next lofty challenge is building an extremely lightweight bicycle that can reach human-pedaled speeds of 75 miles per hour (120 kilometers per hour). — AFP



an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University

For 40 years and in over 155 countries, Jhpiego (www.jhpiego.org) has worked to prevent the needless deaths of women and their families. Jhpiego will implement a program to improve Maternal Health in Myanmar funded by USAID and a private foundation to support the local government to expand maternal and newborn health (MNH) services in Yangon, Myanmar.

Excellent, experienced and committed professionals with demonstrated ability to develop productive working relationships, to perform well in a complex environment with intense pressure and to travel are invited to fill the following positions in the Yangon office.

Finance and Administrative Officer

The Finance and Administrative Officer provides budgeting, financial, and administrative support for the project. S/he serves as the principal overseer of contracts, including subawards and subgrants.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor degree in Accounting or Finance
- Demonstrated experience with USAID cost principles, reporting requirements, finance regulations and management systems
- Qualified accountant with CPA, ACCA, CAT and/or CIMA qualification is an advantage
- Minimum 5 years' experience as an accountant with an international organization
- Advanced skills in Excel and Quickbooks; demonstrated proficiency in IT particularly in computer assisted audit techniques
- Excellent analytical, report-writing skills in English
- Demonstrated sound judgment and ability to ensure confidentiality

Finance and Administrative Assistant

The Finance and Administrative Assistant is responsible for financial and administrative coordination, will ensure project activities are administratively monitored for key deliverables, milestones, work plan adherence and financial record.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education in Accounting or Finance
- 2 to 5 years' experience of financial and administrative management with an international organization
- Expert knowledge in the use of financial software, databases, spreadsheets and word processing required. Experience with QuickBooks preferred
- Excellent analytical, report-writing skills in English
- Demonstrated sound judgment and ability to ensure confidentiality

Program Manager

The Program Manager assists with strategic, programmatic, technical and financial integrity of the project. S/he assists to develop the workplan, implementation plan and budget for national level activities and is responsible for overall program management and guidance to team members.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- BA in health, education; Master's degree preferred.
- 8+ years' experience in program development and project management with international development organizations.
- Experience in maternal and newborn health
- Ability to manage several major activities simultaneously
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and in Burmese
- Demonstrated sound judgment and ability to ensure confidentiality

Sr. Technical Advisor

The Sr. Technical Advisor provides leadership and technical assistance in the areas of maternal, newborn and child health; basic and comprehensive EmONC; PPH; infection prevention, postabortion care and health systems strengthening. S/he will work closely with the Program Manager to accelerate effective program start-up activities, engage with the government of Myanmar, advise Jhpiego on appropriate approaches for support of the Ministry of health at all levels and ensure timely, high-quality implementation and reporting of project activities.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- MD with MPH or equivalent
- 7 years' of mid-to senior level experience designing and implementing field-based programs focused on maternal, newborn and child health
- Proven ability to coach, mentor and develop technical capacity in individuals and institutions
- Strong understanding of Burmese health care system; must have strong contacts in the Burmese health sector
- Excellent skills in facilitation, team building and coordination
- Strong verbal, written communication and presentation skills

Jhpiego offers competitive compensation package and opportunities for career development. Qualified candidates must submit a detailed curriculum vitae and a letter of interest, including the position for which you are applying, on or before **Aug 10, 2013** to zinmyo@myanmarvigourgroup.com. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

World

WORLD EDITOR: Douglas Long | dlong125@gmail.com

FORT MEADE

US judge refuses to drop key charge against Manning

A US military judge on July 18 refused to dismiss a key charge that an American soldier “aided the enemy” by giving a trove of secret documents to WikiLeaks.

The decision marked another setback for Bradley Manning, 25, the Army private on trial for espionage who has admitted to passing hundreds of thousands of classified military and diplomatic files to WikiLeaks.

Mr Manning’s defence lawyers had filed motions seeking the dismissal of the aiding the enemy count as well as a charge of computer fraud. But the judge, Colonel Denise Lind, said prosecutors had offered enough evidence to allow the trial to go ahead with the charges intact, pending a final verdict.

Mr Manning maintains his massive leak – the biggest in American history – was meant to trigger a public debate about US foreign policy but he faces

a potential life sentence if he is found guilty of deliberately “aiding the enemy”.

The ruling also carries possible repercussions for the rights of government employees seeking legal “whistleblower” protections when they disclose classified or sensitive information.

Defence lawyer David Coombs had contended prosecutors failed to show that Manning had “actual knowledge” that by passing a trove of classified documents to the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks he would be assisting al-Qaeda, either directly or indirectly.

Ms Lind, however, said the government had provided “some evidence” that Mr Manning’s training as an intelligence analyst “included a lesson on the terrorist use of the internet” and that “he was aware the enemy was engaged in similar activities”.

Explaining her decision under court-martial rules, Ms Lind said in weighing a defence request to dismiss a charge, “evidence should be viewed in light most favourable to the prosecution”.

Although her decision does not prejudice Mr Manning’s innocence or guilt on the charge, it raised concerns among legal experts and rights advocates.

“It’s pretty disconcerting from a First Amendment perspective,” said Mary-Rose Papandrea, a Boston College Law School professor. “The government is equating all leakers with traitors and they’re not.”

She added that whistleblowers seek to shed light on wrongdoing while “traitors” seek to funnel secrets to adversaries.

At an earlier session, the judge asked if the government would have pressed charges if Manning had leaked the documents to a newspaper instead of WikiLeaks. The prosecutors said they would have still pursued the case.

Widney Brown, senior director of international law and policy at Amnesty International, called the ruling a “travesty of justice” based on a flawed interpretation of the law.

“What’s surprising is that the prosecutors in this case, who have a duty to act in the interest

of justice, have pushed a theory that making information available on the internet – whether through Wikileaks, in a personal blog posting or on the website of the *New York Times* – can amount to ‘aiding the enemy,’” said Mr Brown.

The Manning trial could have implications for the case of Edward Snowden, the intelligence leaker sought by US authorities for exposing far-reaching electronic surveillance by the National Security Agency.

And the court-martial also could influence the case of retired general James Cartwright, the former vice-chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who is a target of a probe of the leak that uncovered the Stuxnet cyber attack on Iran’s nuclear program.

Under President Barack Obama, who came into office promising more transparency, authorities have indicted six current and former government officials in leak cases – double the number brought by all previous administrations combined.

Mr Manning’s case represents the biggest leak in American history, with the documents proving an embarrassment to Washington and ranking allies.

If convicted on all counts, Mr Manning could face a prison sentence of more than 150 years. – *AFP*

‘It’s pretty disconcerting from a First Amendment perspective. The government is equating all leakers with traitors and they’re not.’

Mary-Rose Papandrea

Boston College Law School professor

SYDNEY

Australia now closed to boatpeople: PM

MARTIN PARRY

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on July 19 announced that no more boatpeople will be resettled in Australia as refugees, with all unauthorised arrivals to be sent to poverty-stricken Papua New Guinea.

“From now on, any asylum-seeker who arrives in Australia by boat will have no chance of being settled in Australia as a refugee,” said Mr Rudd, unveiling his new hard-line border protection policy in an election year as he was flanked by PNG counterpart Peter O’Neill.

Asylum-seekers arriving at Australia’s far-flung Christmas Island will be sent to the Manus Island processing centre on Papua New Guinea and elsewhere in the Pacific nation for assessment, with no cap on the number to be transferred.

Even if found to be “genuine refugees” Mr Rudd said asylum-seekers would have “no chance” of settlement in Australia under the harsh new policy.

Those whose applications were not successful would be sent back home or to third countries.

The Regional Settlement Arrangement, signed by the two leaders on July 19, will initially be in effect for 12 months and



Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (right) and Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister Peter O’Neill exchange documents after signing an agreement asylum seekers on July 19. Photo: AFP

reviewed annually. It will come into effect immediately.

The aim is to pose a strong disincentive for people considering the dangerous boat journey from Indonesia, particularly so-called “economic migrants” who make the trip not to flee persecution but for a better life in Australia.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr has said that increasing numbers of asylum-seekers arriving by boat fall into this category, many from Sri Lanka and Iran.

Mr Rudd’s new policy was announced as Indonesia agreed to tighten visa restrictions for visitors from Iran, who cur-

rently enjoy visa-free entry to the sprawling Southeast Asian nation and can then pay people-smugglers for passage to Australia.

It follows talks between Mr Rudd and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Jakarta earlier this month, where they announced an agreement to promote greater regional cooperation on cross-border immigration.

“The minister plans to sign a letter that will prevent Iranian citizens from being granted visas on arrival. But he has not done so yet,” Ministry of Justice and Human Rights communi-

cations chief Goncang Raharjo said in Jakarta.

The hard-line stance, among the strongest an Australian prime minister has taken on the divisive issue, is also designed to starve the lucrative people-smuggling networks that charge boatpeople thousands of dollars to make the hazardous trip.

“The hopes they offer their customers for the future are nothing but false hopes,” said Mr Rudd, who added that he had spoken to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon about the plan.

Australia has struggled to stem an influx of asylum-seekers arriving by boat, with record numbers turning up in 2012 and more than 13,000 so far in 2013.

Hundreds have drowned making the journey – as recently as July 16 a boat sank, killing four people – and Canberra’s plans to send asylum-seekers to remote Pacific islands for processing has so far failed to stop the flood.

In exchange for Papua New Guinea’s help, Australia will fund further aid initiatives including redeveloping a major hospital in Lae and assisting with its long-term management. – *AFP*



A member of the Conscience and Dignity Foundation inflates a balloon during an event to mark Nelson Mandela International Day in Mexico

PRETORIA

‘Improving’ turns 95 in

ANDREW BEATTY

NELSON Mandela entered a seventh week in hospital on July 19, the day after his 95th birthday was marked by millions of people around the world, heartened by news that the anti-apartheid icon is showing signs of improvement.

Ndileka Mandela said on July 18 that her grandfather is “steadily improving” and “using his eyes, nodding”.

That message was echoed by President Jacob Zuma who said after visiting his predecessor’s Pretoria bedside he “found him really stable and I was able to say ‘happy birthday’ and he was able to smile”.

That is a dramatic turnaround for the ailing peace icon, who just weeks ago was thought to be close to death.

Mr Mandela was rushed to hospital on June 8 with a recurring lung infection that had already put him in hospital three times in less than a year.

Outside the Pretoria facility that has been the focal point of a national vigil for the past six weeks, there were joyous scenes.

Reverellers sang anti-apartheid struggle songs, as school children read poems dedicated to a man nearing the end of his

long walk that took him from political prisoner to South Africa’s first black president.

“Tata [father] Mandela has once again proved that he is a fighter,” said well-wisher Agnes Shilowane, a local university student.

The news on July 18 was a relief elsewhere in the country to South Africans who marked Mandela Day with a panoply of good deeds. Biker gangs cleaned streets, volunteers painted schools and politicians spent 67 minutes on worthy projects – all to mark Mr Mandela’s 67 years of public service.

Near Pretoria, Mr Zuma tried to channel Mr Mandela’s cross-community appeal by delivering government housing to poor whites.

Messages of support also poured in from around the world – and even from astronauts on the International Space Station – to mark the anniversary, which many feared Mandela would not live to see.

US President Barack Obama, who was unable to visit Mandela during a trip to South Africa last month, led tributes to the peace icon, calling on people to honour him through volunteer work.

“Our family was deeply moved by our visit to Madiba’s

‘Mandela’s place in South Africa’s history is assured. His legacy of courage, perseverance and magnanimity will continue to inspire us - and people throughout the world - for generations to come.’

FW de Klerk

Former South African president



Taliban criticise
Malala’s UN
speech

WORLD 32

Poisoned Indian
students buried
at school

WORLD 38-39



Russian court
releases Navalny
pending appeal

WORLD 36



with an image of former South African President Nelson Mandela
City on July 18. Photo: AFP

Mandela
hospital

former cell on Robben Island during our recent trip,” Mr Obama said in a statement. “We will forever draw strength and inspiration from his extraordinary example of moral courage, kindness and humility.”

In New York, Mandela Day was marked by the showing on giant screens in Times Square of *The Power of Words*, a short film based on excerpts from his most memorable speeches.

Other well-wishers included the Dalai Lama, former US president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary, US actor Morgan Freeman and Mandela’s former jailer FW de Klerk, who went on to share the Nobel Peace Prize with him.

“Mandela’s place in South Africa’s history is assured,” former president De Klerk said in a statement. “His legacy of courage, perseverance and magnanimity will continue to inspire us – and people throughout the world – for generations to come.”

The Mandela family also did their bit, with his grandchildren volunteering at a children’s home.

They then gathered at the hospital for lunch, along with Mandela’s third wife Graca Machel, who also celebrated 15 years of marriage to her husband on July 18.

“The 67 minutes was the highlight of our day and also the time we spent with granddad and family. It was really a phenomenal day,” said Mr Mandela’s granddaughter Ndileka.

He was “excited” to have the family, including at least four great-grandchildren, gather around him for his birthday. “He always does, especially when he sees the little ones. It was good for him,” said Ms Ndileka.

The birthday meal included Mr Mandela’s favourite food, in-

cluding “oxtail, prawns, dumplings and vegetables”.

Another granddaughter, Zaziwe Dlamini-Manaway, distributed food at a school.

“I think it’s important for us to give back,” she said. “We are a family, we hope for him to come home, and we know the whole nation would hope the same thing, and the whole world.”

The United Nations declared the Nobel Peace laureate’s birthday Mandela Day in 2010, but for many this year it takes on extra poignancy.

Mr Clinton, UN leader Ban Ki-moon and Andrew Mlangeni, who was a prisoner with Mr Mandela, honoured the legendary freedom fighter in a special ceremony at the UN headquarters.

In central Lisbon the Don Pedro IV Square was to be renamed Nelson Mandela Square, and an open-air Mandela-themed opera concert was planned in Paris.

Born on July 18, 1918, Mr Mandela fought against white rule in South Africa as a young lawyer and was convicted of treason in 1964. He spent the next 27 years in jail.

It was in part through his willingness to forgive his white jailers that Mr Mandela made his indelible mark on history.

After negotiating an end to apartheid, he became South Africa’s first black president, drawing a line under centuries of colonial and racist suppression. He then led reconciliation in the deeply divided country.

But the sunset of Mr Mandela’s life has been somewhat eclipsed by bitter infighting among his relatives. A row over his final resting place has seen three of his children’s graves dug up and their remains moved amid public brawling and legal action among his children and grandchildren. – *AFP*

CAIRO

Mansour pledges to
fight for “security”

EGYPTIAN President Adly Mansour vowed on July 18 to battle for security “to the end”, as the military warned it would clamp down on any violence in rallies planned by Mohamed Morsi’s supporters and opponents.

“We are at a decisive moment in Egypt’s history, which some want to steer into the unknown,” Mr Mansour, installed as interim leader by the military after Mr Morsi’s overthrow on July 3, said in a televised address.

Mr Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood has refused to recognise Mr

Mansour, who was a top judge before becoming president.

Mr Mansour’s speech came as the military deployed reinforcements to the Sinai peninsula, where suspected militants killed a policeman on July 18.

Several policemen and soldiers have been killed in drive-by shootings and rocket attacks since Mr Morsi’s overthrow.

In his speech, Mr Mansour again offered an olive branch to Mr Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood, but he also pledged “transitional justice” amid calls for the prosecution of Mr Morsi and a crackdown on the Islamists.

‘It’s no longer a
question of just
Syria. It has a
lot to do with
his personal
credibility.’

Aaron David Miller
Former Middle East

Mansour’s government, instead placing its hopes in sustained protests it believes may reverse the coup that toppled the elected president after nationwide demonstrations against him.

Although mostly peaceful, Brotherhood rallies have led to clashes that have killed dozens of people since Mr Morsi’s ouster.

“We will fight the battle for security to the end. We will preserve the revolution,” said Mr

BRIEFS

Dhaka
Bangladesh Islamist ordered hanged for war crimes
A Bangladesh court on July 17 sentenced a senior leader of the country’s largest Islamic party to death for crimes committed during the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, 65, was found guilty of five charges, including abduction and murder, and was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal.

Justice Obaidul Hassan ordered Mr Mujahid be “hanged by the neck” after the panel of three judges read out the verdict to the packed courtroom in the capital Dhaka, amid tight security.

Mr Mujahid is currently the second highest-ranked member of the Jamaat-e-Islami party and also an influential leader in the 18-party opposition alliance.

That verdict prompted a nationwide strike by Jamaat supporters who took to the streets, sparking violent clashes with police that killed five people.

London
Suspect in British soldier murder ‘attacked’ in jail
British police are investigating claims that one of the two chief suspects in a brutal suspected Islamist attack, against a British soldier on a London street, was assaulted in prison.

British media reported that Michael Adebolajo, 28, had his two front teeth knocked out during a fracas on July 18.

Mr Adebolajo and co-accused, Michael Adebowale, 22, are due to face trial in November over the horrific knife attack that claimed the life of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich on May 22.

Rigby was hacked to death in broad daylight before Mr Adebolajo delivered an Islamist tirade to passers-by.

The killing stunned Britain and sparked a rise in community tensions. Several mosques have been attacked while the far-right British National Party and English Defence league have held a string of anti-Islamic rallies. – *AFP*

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Date: July 22, 2013

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KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES
For SEVENFRIDAY AG
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PESHAWAR

Taliban accuse Malala of 'smearing campaign'

A SENIOR Pakistani Taliban commander has written to Malala Yousafzai, the teenage education activist shot by militants, accusing her of "smearing" them and of promoting "satanic" values, while urging her to return home.

Gunmen from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) shot Malala, now 16, in the head in her hometown in Swat last October after she had campaigned for the right of girls to go to school.

She made a powerful speech to the United Nations on July 12 in her first public appearance since the near-fatal attack, vowing to continue her struggle for education and not be silenced by the militants.

In an open letter released on July 17, Adnan Rasheed, a former air force member turned TTP cadre, said he personally wished the attack had not happened, but accused her of

running a "smearing campaign" against the militants.

"When you were attacked it was shocking for me," Mr Rasheed wrote in English. "I wished it would never happened [sic] and I had advised you before."

But, he added, "Taliban believe that you were intentionally writing against them and running a smearing campaign to malign their efforts to establish Islamic system in Swat and your writings were provocative."

"It is amazing that you are shouting for education, you and the [UN] is pretending that you were shot due to education, although this is not the reason ... Not the education but your propaganda was the issue," he continued. "What you are doing now, you are using your tongue on the behest of the others."

The letter was sent to reporters in northwest Pakistan and its

authenticity was confirmed to AFP by a senior Taliban cadre who is a close associate of Mr Rasheed. It is understood Malala has not received the letter herself.

Mr Rasheed accused Malala of seeking to promote an education system begun by British colonialists to produce "Asians in blood but English in taste", and said students should study Islam and not the "satanic or secular curriculum".

"I advise you to come back home, adopt the Islamic and Pashtun culture, join any female Islamic madrasa near your home town, study and learn the book of Allah, use your pen for Islam and plight of Muslim [community]," Mr Rasheed wrote.

Malala was given lifesaving treatment in Britain, where she now lives with her family.

Mr Rasheed was sentenced to death over a 2003 attack on Pakistan's then-military ruler Pervez Musharraf, but escaped from custody in a mass jailbreak in April last year.

He said he had originally wanted to write to Malala to warn her against criticising the Taliban when she rose to prominence with a blog for the BBC Urdu service chronicling life under the militants' 2007-2009 rule in Swat, in northwest Pakistan.

The Taliban have destroyed hundreds of schools across the northwest, an area on the front line of the



Malala Yousafzai speaks at the United Nations Youth Assembly in New York City on July 12. Photo: AFP

'Nobody will believe a word the Taliban say about the right of girls like Malala to go to school until they stop burning down schools and stop massacring pupils.'

Gordon Brown

Former British prime minister

country's bloody struggle against Islamist militants.

But Mr Rasheed said the attacks were necessary because government forces used schools as hideouts and bases.

Gordon Brown, the former British prime minister turned UN special envoy for global education, who has supported Malala since she was shot, issued a caustic response to the Taliban letter.

"Nobody will believe a word the Taliban say about the right of girls like Malala to go to school until they stop burning down schools and stop massacring pupils," he said in a statement.

Last month, militants blew up a bus carrying female students in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta, and then stormed a hospital where survivors had been taken for treatment. At least 25 people were killed in the attacks. - AFP

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UNITED NATIONS

UN condemns DR Congo desecrations

UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon on July 17 condemned the alleged desecration of the bodies of Congolese Revolutionary Army, or M23, rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo by government forces.

"The secretary general is deeply concerned about reports of alleged mistreatment of M23 detainees and desecration of corpses of M23 combatants by the Congolese armed forces," said Mr Ban's spokesman Martin Nesirky.

The UN mission in DR Congo, MONUSCO, "has raised this matter at the highest level" with the army "and welcomes steps by the Congolese army to investigate these claims and to hold the perpetrators of these acts accountable", said the spokesman.

Images of DR Congo soldiers prodding the body of an M23 fighter were shown on the internet. The M23 has launched a new offensive on the major eastern city of Goma and scores of rebels were killed in fighting last week.

The desecration of bodies is the latest scandal to hit the Armed Forces of the DR Congo, known under the acronym FARDC, as it battles to secure control in the east of the country.

In November after the army fled a previous M23 onslaught against Goma, soldiers were accused of raping at least 130 women and girls, some as young as six, in a two-day rampage around the town of Minova in South Kivu province.

The UN launched one review of its links with the FARDC then and has started a new investigation after the latest incidents, Mr Nesirky said.

"In line with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, MONUSCO has launched the process of reviewing its support to FARDC units suspected of being involved in these incidents," said the spokesman. - AFP

WASHINGTON

Groups sue NSA over data collection

ROBERT LEVER

NINETEEN US organisations filed suit on July 16 against the National Security Agency, claiming their constitutional rights were violated by its secret data collection programs.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) filed the action on behalf of a variety of groups, including the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, the gun rights group Calguns Foundation, Greenpeace and Human Rights Watch.

The suit, filed in California federal court, alleges that the mass collection of phone records under the so-called PRISM program violates Americans' constitutional rights.

"Our case seeks to apply the right of association in the digital age," said EFF attorney Cindy Cohn.

Ms Cohn said the suit, based on a longstanding Supreme Court ruling, contends the government's collection

of "metadata" or information on calls placed, without the content of the conversation, allows the government to monitor who is associating with various groups.

"People who hold controversial views – whether it's about gun ownership policies, drug legalisation or immigration – often must express views as a group in order to act and advocate effectively," said Ms Cohn.

"But fear of individual exposure when participating in political debates over high-stakes issues can dissuade people from taking part. That's why the Supreme Court ruled in 1958 that membership lists of groups have strong First Amendment protection."

Sherwin Siy of the digital advocacy group Public Knowledge, which joined the lawsuit, said the programs "don't just invade privacy; they also harm people's First Amendment right of association".

"When the government collects information about who calls whom, when and how often, they get a vivid picture of a person's contacts and associations. In the past, authorities have tried to compile lists of association members to discourage people from joining certain groups," Mr Siy said.

Other groups joining the lawsuit include the California Association of Federal Firearms Licensees, the

Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Council on American Islamic Relations, the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, People for the American Way and Students for a Sensible Drug Policy.

The case is the latest in a wave of legal action since revelations in the media about the PRISM program, believed to have collected vast amounts of phone and internet data as part of

efforts to protect national security.

In a separate case on July 15, the secret US court overseeing national security investigations opened the door to declassifying documents related to the government's data collection program in a case involving internet giant Yahoo.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court said the government should review which documents should be declassified and inform the court of its decision by July 29.

The case dates back at least to 2008, when the court issued an order reportedly requiring Yahoo to allow the government to obtain access to customer data. The Justice Department took "no position" on the request, according to the court document.

Yahoo asked the court on June 14 to release documents about the program, shortly after revelations of the vast data collection program. – *AFP*

‘[F]ear of individual exposure when participating in political debates over high-stakes issues can dissuade people from taking part.’

Cindy Cohn
Electronic Frontier Foundation attorney

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Scholl is a footwear and foot care brand owned by British company, **LRC Products Ltd** ("LRC") with its registered address at 103-105 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 3UH, United Kingdom.

Some history ...

- Founded in **1906** by podiatrist William Mathias Scholl in Chicago, United States, the brand expanded globally through innovative designs, strong intellectual property protection and original ways to market such as advertising phrases, which included: "Put one on, the pain is gone" or "No more foot trouble" as illustrated below:



- By **1955** "Scholl" became the world's third-best-known brand name.
- Today**, Scholl can rightfully claim to be "The World's No. 1 Specialist in foot care".

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Scholl's ranges of footwear have long been established and well accepted by consumers for their comfort, health enhancement and durability. As a result "Scholl" has achieved a reputation for excellence, creating valuable respect and strong recognition in the brand.

Where can you safely buy genuine Scholl in Myanmar?

LRC has registered and regularly published its trade mark "Scholl" in Myanmar in various classes including in class 25 for "footwear". Therefore LRC is the only lawful owner of "Scholl" in Myanmar. In Myanmar, **genuine** footwear bearing Scholl can safely be purchased from the following outlets:

Yangon

Shop Name	Places
Wai De	Yuzana Plaza
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	Dagon Centre
	Junction Zawana
	Capital Hyper Market
Snazzy	No.A - B, Upper Pansodan Road, Aung San Stadium East Wing, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon.
Fashion Eye	72, East Wing (Inner), Bogyoke Plaza, Yangon
TAW WIN	F-11, 1 st Floor, Yangon Centre, Yangon
	A-22, 1 st Floor, Yuzana Plaza, Yangon
	No.710, Mahabandoola Street, Between 18 th & Sin: Oh Dan Street, Latha
GMP (Ga Mone Pwint)	245, Bargayar Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon + 3 other in Yangon area

Mandalay

Shop Name	Places
Royal	542, 80 th Street, Between 35 th & 36 th Streets, Mandalay
Three Star Trading	No.368, 81 st Street, Between 28 th & 29 th Streets, Mandalay
TAW WIN	No.542, 80 th Street, Between 35 th x 36 th Streets, Mandalay
Mandalay Shoe Centre	Corner of 70 th Street & 33 rd Street, Mandalay, (02-09544)

Taunggyi

Shop Name	Places
Moe Store	Bogyoke Aung San Road, Taunggyi
Golden Rose	Bogyoke Aung San Road, In Front of No. 1 Police Station Taunggyi, Southern Shan State
Royal	In front of Myoma Police Station, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Taunggyi

Beware of counterfeits Scholl

It has come to LRC's attention that a number of wholesalers and outlets and stalls in Myanmar have been offering for sale footwear using "Scholl" or confusingly similar marks such as "Sholl" when such footwear are not made by or with the consent of LRC.

On May 17, 2013, LRC has conducted with the support of the Police of Mandalay series of raid actions in the market area of Chan Ave Thazan in Mandalay against wholesalers of counterfeit Scholl resulting in the seizure of hundreds of counterfeit shoes and the lodge of criminal actions:

Following the success of its raid action and good cooperation with the Police, LRC is strongly determined to continue enforcing its trade marks against counterfeiters, including filing criminal and civil actions for damages against all identified counterfeits, including retailers, in Myanmar.

"Our commitment to fight both the manufacture of counterfeit products and the trade of them is not only about protecting the Scholl brand. It is, before all, protecting our customers and the public from a potentially serious safety risk since counterfeit Scholl and look-alikes do not provide the same reliability, stability, durability, comfort and safety that customers would expect to receive from genuine Scholl foot wear."

Mr. Ata Safdar, Managing Director Thailand, Philippines & Indo-China Cluster at Reckitt Benckiser.

By this notice we wish to inform all manufacturers and dealers of counterfeit "Scholl" and lookalikes that we have identified who they are and are determined to strictly enforce our rights to protect our customers, the public and our brand. In case of any doubts about the authenticity of "Scholl" foot wear and accessories you should immediately contact us at the following number tel: +66 (0) 2 614 8999 or send Email to: Schollfootwear@RB.com.

Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers
Tel: 01-557990 / 01-559894
(For, LRC Products Ltd, United Kingdom)

MEXICO CITY

Mexico fears violence after Zetas arrest

LAURENT THOMET

WITH the capture of the Zetas drug cartel's leader, authorities have dealt a blow to Mexico's most vicious gang, but analysts warn a violent power struggle and turf wars could follow.

Capturing Miguel Angel Trevino was the biggest anti-cartel victory for the administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto since he took office in December on a pledge to reduce a wave of drug-related murders that has left 70,000 people dead since 2006.

With the arrest, Mr Peña Nieto has provided a rebuttal to fears that his new security strategy focused too much on crime prevention instead of putting kingpins in handcuffs.

The president said the arrest was the product of good coordination between Mexican government agencies, reaffirming his administration's "commitment to creating better conditions for security".

But the arrest of Mr Trevino, a drug kingpin whom authorities say would "stew" victims in burning oil, could set off an internal war of succession marked by more strife in the cartel's northeastern territories, analysts say.



Mexican Navy marines stand guard on July 16 outside the headquarters of the Deputy Attorney General in Mexico City, where Zetas leader Miguel Angel Trevino is being held. Photo: AFP

Sinaloa drug cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, whose dominion covers the Pacific coast, could also see Mr Trevino's demise as the perfect opportunity to raid the regions dominated by the Zetas.

"There are two scenarios," said

Raul Benitez Manaut, security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. "The positive one is that the cartel is weakening, and the negative is that there could be a war between subordinates and much violence."

Interior ministry spokesman Eduardo Sanchez said authorities "have information about possible repercussions and we are attentive to be able to react".

Trevino was under the custody of prosecutors in Mexico City last week.

Trevino, alias "Z-40", was intercepted by marines before dawn on July 15 without a shot fired, after a helicopter swooped down in front of his pickup truck as he travelled with two associates on a dirt road near the northeastern city of Nuevo Laredo, which borders Texas.

The Mexican and US governments have not said whether the United States helped. The arrest came days after the head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) visited Mexico and amid a visit by the Mexican military chiefs in the United States.

"His ruthless leadership has now come to an end," the DEA said in a statement.

Mr Trevino's arrest came eight months after Mexican troops killed his predecessor, Heriberto Lazcano, in a gunfight in the northern state of Coahuila - only for Mr Lazcano's body to be stolen by gunmen hours later from a funeral home.

Mr Lazcano's death was not followed by internal bloodshed for his job, but it remains to be seen if Mr Trevino's capture will lead to an orderly succession or a fight.

His brother Omar "Z-42" Trevino is considered a potential heir, but it is unclear how high up he ranks within the organisation.

The Zetas were formed by former elite soldiers and its leaders had been ex-troops until Mr Trevino, a civilian, took over last year.

"Omar could step in and take power relatively quickly. Or someone within the Zetas could see this as an opportunity to step in and there could be infighting," said Sylvia Longmire, a former US Air Force special agent and author of *Cartel: The Coming Invasion of Mexico's Drug Wars*.

But she said Mr Trevino's arrest may not affect the cartel's day-to-day operations because the Zetas work like a decentralised franchise. At the same time, the rival Sinaloa cartel could say "this is a perfect, opportune time to strike".

"This leaves lots of opportunities for an increase of violence in the short term," she said. - AFP

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Reg. No. 6541/2013

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Reg. No. 6542/2013

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Aisin Seiki Kabushiki Kaisha
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Dated: 22 July 2013

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Reg. No. 4/8664/2008



Reg. No. 4/8665/2008

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PURE SOURCE

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **Beiersdorf AG**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 22nd July, 2013

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E Y E P U T T I

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **PIAS CORP.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 22nd July, 2013

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Dated this 22nd day of July, 2013.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Pepsico, Inc.**
53-55 Maha Bandoola Garden Street
Yangon

KIROV

Russia frees Navalny ahead of appeal

ANNA MALPAS

A RUSSIAN court on July 19 unexpectedly freed protest leader Alexei Navalny pending his appeal against a five-year sentence for embezzlement, as his conviction threatened to further strain relations between the Kremlin and the West.

The judge in the northern city of Kirov ruled that keeping President Vladimir Putin's top opponent in custody would deprive Mr Navalny of his right to stand in Moscow's mayoral election on September 8.

The new ruling came as Mr Navalny's conviction, which remains in place, drew widespread condemnation, with US President Barack Obama reportedly "rethinking" a planned trip to Moscow in September.

"What happened now is a completely unique phenomenon in the system of Russian justice," said Mr Navalny, who was immediately set free from the glass-fronted defendants' cage and rushed to embrace his wife Yulia.

A lower court in the city of Kirov 900 kilometres (560 miles) northeast of Moscow had on July 18 sentenced Mr Navalny to five years in a penal colony.

Mr Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied any foul play, saying in the Kremlin's first comment on the verdict that both decisions "were done in



Alexei Navalny sits in a courtroom in Kirov on July 18. Photo: AFP

accordance with the law" and "must be respected".

Mr Navalny, who is a lawyer by training, was found guilty of defrauding the government in the Kirov region of 16 million rubles (US\$500,000) in a timber deal while acting as an advisor to the local authorities in 2009.

Mr Navalny's co-accused, Pyotr Ofitserov, who was sen-

tenced to four years in prison, was also released on July 19 pending his appeal.

The guilty verdict disqualifies Mr Navalny from politics, but the restriction will come into force only if the verdict is upheld on appeal, giving him time to launch a credible campaign for the powerful and visible post of Moscow mayor.

Observers say the jailing of

a high-profile mayoral candidate during the campaign was a huge embarrassment for the authorities and link the prosecutors' decision to appeal to a possible change of heart by the Kremlin.

Legal experts said the decision to release Navalny was unprecedented and clearly politically motivated. "That has never happened before," said lawyer Dmitry Agranovsky.

The judge in his ruling on July 19 said that Mr Navalny's jailing would "limit his right to be elected" and put him at a disadvantage compared to other mayoral candidates.

Mr Navalny said he was not a "pet kitten or puppy" who could be first "kicked out of the elections" and then invited back. He said he would decide upon his return to Moscow whether to continue his campaign or boycott the polls, where he was due to challenge pro-Putin incumbent Mayor Sergei Sobyenin.

More than 200 people were arrested after thousands rallied near the Kremlin walls in Moscow to protest Mr Navalny's sentencing. All have now been freed.

Police said that 2500 people took to the streets in the Russian capital, while activists put the turnout at around 10,000, with protests continuing into the early hours of July 19. A similar demonstration also took place in Saint Petersburg.

- AFP

UNITED NATIONS

Reporters in conflict zones appeal for justice at UN Security Council

JOURNALISTS seized a rare chance on July 17 to plead for greater UN Security Council protection as the world media death toll mounts amid increased coverage of Syria and other conflicts.

AFP's prize-winning Somalia correspondent Mustafa Haji Abdinur told the 15 council ambassadors he was a "dead man walking" because of the dangers he faces covering his own country.

Mr Abdinur was one of four reporters to address the Security Council as the bullet-ridden body of crime reporter Alberto Lopez Bello was found in the Mexican city of Oaxaca.

"When a journalist is killed, the news dies too," Mr Abdinur said as he called for justice for the almost 1000 journalists killed around the world since 1992.

The vast majority of the deaths have gone unpunished.

Mr Lopez Bello adds to a toll of more than 100 Mexican journalists killed or missing since 2000.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) estimates that nearly 30 journalists have been murdered around the world so far

this year from Russia to Brazil.

About 100 journalists and bloggers have been killed in Syria since the start of the conflict there in March 2011.

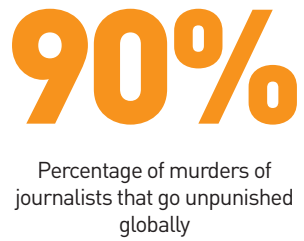
Eighteen reporters were killed in Somalia in 2012, and Mr Abdinur spoke barely a week after Liban Abdulahi Farah, a reporter for the Kalsan satellite television station, became the latest Somali media victim.

"Like so many others in my profession, on the dusty streets of Mogadishu they call me 'a dead man walking,'" Mr Abdinur, winner of a CPJ International Press Freedom Award in 2009, told the council.

"My story is not unique. I am here today simply because I am lucky, because the gunmen that have killed so many of my colleagues, my friends, have not yet found me."

Mr Abdinur said a security official could have a journalist thrown in prison because he does not like a story, and said he himself would face greater risks for having spoken at the Security Council.

"There is a sense of immunity in killing a journalist," said Ghaith Abdul Ahad, an Iraqi correspondent for British



newspaper *The Guardian*.

"It is one bullet and he will be killed and no one will be questioned after that bullet," added Mr Abdul Ahad, who was held by the Taliban while working in Afghanistan and by the Libyan army in 2012.

Abdul Ahad said journalists in conflict zones should be considered "part of a humanitarian effort to tell a story."

"Many of you hate us by the way," Mr Abdul Ahad told surprised envoys.

"It is a sign that we are doing our job properly. There has to be some sort of balance. Let us be there. Kind of treat us as human beings. Just don't kill us."

UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson told the meeting that journalists are the "life-

blood" of democracy.

He said it is "shocking" that 90 percent of murders of journalists go unpunished.

Richard Engel, a correspondent for American television channel NBC who was kidnapped in Syria last year, also spoke, and Kathleen Carroll of the Associated Press told of the agency's 31 journalists killed while working.

It was the first debate on journalism at the Security Council since it passed a resolution on journalism, proposed by France and Greece, in 2006.

Many Western envoys spoke up for journalists' rights.

"Journalists are literally our eyes and ears in every corner of the world," said acting US ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo. The United States, which is serving as council president for July, organised the meeting.

"Impunity for violence against journalists must end," Ms DiCarlo said. "This council has an obligation to help protect those who provide us with so much vital information."

Gerard Araud, France's UN ambassador, said that "everyone can see that the first reflex of the enemies of freedom is to muzzle the press". - AFP

KABUL

Delivering mail to streets with no name

MUSHTAQ MOJADDIDI

IN Kabul, many streets have no name and houses often have no number, meaning that postmen already braving the constant threat of suicide bombings must play detective to deliver mail.

Mohammad Rahim makes his rounds on the tattered, hilly streets of the Afghan capital riding an old bicycle. After 10 years on the job he is undaunted by even the vaguest addresses on letters.

“Here we have a letter for a man who lives near Dr Hashmat’s house,” Mr Rahim, 46, says. “I don’t know the address, so let’s see, how can we find the right place?”

His only clues are the addressee Mohammad Naeem, the doctor’s name and instructions on the back of the envelope saying “Kart-e-Sakhi hilltop, behind the agricultural ministry”.

Wearing a black fur hat, blue jeans and a violet T-shirt, he cuts a familiar figure and is often recognised by Kabul residents. He sets off from the neighbourhood post office to start asking people for help.

“Brother, can you tell me – where is Dr Hashmat’s house?” Mr Rahim shouts at a shopkeeper.

“Go up the hill, and turn right,” comes the reply, so Mr Rahim sets off up the rocky road.

Further on, another man tells him, “Turn right and it is the third

house on the left.”

After waiting outside the gate, a woman in her 40s comes out: Mohammad Naeem’s wife, who takes the letter for her husband.

“We have received letters from the US, Canada, Germany and Pakistan, and the postman always brings them safely and on time,” she says.

Mr Rahim delivers dozens of letters every day across west and southwest Kabul, a city reduced almost to ruins in the brutal 1992-96 civil war.

The Kabul population has boomed to five million as people have flooded in seeking employment and an escape from the fight against the Taliban, but much of the recent expansion is illegal, with many houses and shacks built on contested land or without planning permission.

But the days of confusion over addresses could soon be over, as last month the communications ministry signed an agreement with the city authorities to create a comprehensive new address system.

All streets and houses will be coded, numbered and mapped in a two-year project that the government hopes to expand to other cities.

The scheme – which will use the global positioning system (GPS) – should help Mr Rahim and fellow postmen such as Khan Agha, 42, who works in a post office in the central Shar-e-Naw district.

For now Mr Agha, who started



Afghan postman Mohammad Rahim delivers letters to a resident in Kabul’s Kart-e-Sakhi neighbourhood on June 11. Photo: AFP

delivering mail 22 years ago, says the chaotic street mapping makes it “the most difficult job in the world”.

“We don’t care about traffic, summer or winter, smog or rain, but there are many vague addresses, though a telephone number on the back of the envelope can help,” he says.

“We ring them up and they say, ‘I’m standing here,’ so we go and hand over the letter. I do my best to treat people well. We see on television that postmen are admired in foreign society, because we connect the sender and receiver”

The job is even more challenging for Mr Agha, who lost his right eye

when he was serving as a soldier more than 20 years ago, another victim of the fighting that has battered Afghanistan for decades.

“One day in the fighting, I was shot with a bullet in the back of my head and the bullet came out of my right eye socket.”

Admitting that the injury continues to trouble him, Mr Agha scrabbles through a huge pile of mail on the post office floor, looking for what needs to be delivered to his area.

“We are going to take a letter to a Mrs Barbara in Sherpoor sent in from Germany,” he says.

As so often, the letter has only the district name without any house or street number.

After a search lasting nearly two hours and asking 12 different people, including the local baker, he finally finds the small lane where the intended recipient works in a health centre.

Such hard work is not well-rewarded in Afghanistan, which has 900 postmen nationwide with 100 in Kabul. Mr Agha earns just 5000 afghanis (US\$90) a month – barely enough, he says, to feed his family of eight.

But he is hopeful that soon most streets and houses in Kabul will have a proper name and number.

“This is a good move by the ministry to create a new postal system,” he says. “With the completion of this project, we could do our job more easily.” – *AFP*

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(Reg: No. IV/4212/2013)

in respect of: - “Sunglasses, sports glasses, protective eyewear for personal use against accidents, replacement optical lenses, frames for optical glasses, eyeglass cases, goggles, eyeglass and sunglass chains and bands, protective helmets, parts and fittings for eyeglasses” Class: 9

“Backpacks, duffel bags, internal and external frame packs” Class: 18

“Sleeping bags and bivouac sacks, namely, sleeping bags that are normally used in association with traditional sleeping bags, thus eliminating the need for a tent when sleeping outdoors” Class: 20

“Tents and tent accessories, namely, rain flies and ground cloths” Class: 22

“Clothing, namely, jackets, parkas, coats, pants, bib overall pants, vests, one-piece shell suits, shells, mittens, gloves, hats, rainwear, wind resistant jackets, shorts, shirts, t-shirts, thermal underwear, and sweaters; boots, namely, hiking and trekking boots; shoes, namely, climbing, hiking, trail running, athletic, sneakers, and slippers, and climbing slippers” Class: 25



(Reg: No. IV/4213/2013)

in respect of:- “Sunglasses, sports glasses, protective eyewear for personal use against accidents, replacement optical lenses, frames for optical glasses, eyeglass cases, goggles, eyeglass and sunglass chains and bands, protective

helmets, parts and fittings for eyeglasses” Class: 9

“Backpacks, bottle pockets, fanny packs, waist packs, rain covers used to cover all of the aforesaid; internal frame packs and hydration packs, namely, backpack hydration systems consisting of a backpack, a reservoir, and a mouthpiece connected to the reservoir by a tube” Class: 18

“Sleeping bags and bivouac sacks, namely, sleeping bags that are normally used in association with traditional sleeping bags, thus eliminating the need for a tent when sleeping outdoors” Class: 20

“Upper outer garments, inner upper garments, sport upper garments, pants, inner pants, sport pants, underwear, sleepwear, dresses, suits, skirts, wristbands, scarfs, shawls, ties, gloves/mittens, socks, stockings, shoes, sport shoes, headbands, hats/caps, parkas, vests, jackets, anoraks, trousers, ski bibs, ski suits, gaiters, shorts, shirts, belts, rainwear and snowshoes” Class: 25

“Retail store, mail order, and distributorship services in the fields of camping and outdoor gear, books, food, hardware and sports equipment” Class: 35

NEVER STOP EXPLORING

(Reg: No. IV/4214/2013)

in respect of:- “Sunglasses, sports glasses, protective eyewear for personal use against accidents, replacement optical lenses, frames for optical glasses, eyeglass cases, goggles, eyeglass and sunglass chains and bands, protective helmets, parts and fittings for eyeglasses” Class: 9

“Backpacks” Class: 18

“Sleeping bags and bivouac sacks, namely, sleeping bags that are normally used in association with traditional sleeping bags, thus eliminating the need for a tent when sleeping outdoors” Class: 20

“Tents and tent accessories, namely, rain flies and ground cloths” Class: 22

“Upper outer garments, inner upper garments, sport upper garments, pants, inner pants, sport pants, underwear, sleepwear, dresses, suits, skirts, wristbands, scarfs, shawls, ties, gloves/mittens, socks, stockings, shoes, sport shoes, headbands, hats/caps, parkas, vests, jackets, anoraks, trousers, ski bibs, ski suits, gaiters, shorts, shirts, belts, rainwear and snowshoes” Class: 25

“Retail store, mail order, and distributorship services in the

fields of camping and outdoor gear, books, food, hardware and sports equipment” Class: 35



(Reg: No. IV/4215/2013)

in respect of:- “Backpacks, bottle pockets, fanny packs, waist packs, rain covers used to cover all of the aforesaid; internal frame packs and hydration packs, namely, backpack hydration systems consisting of a backpack, a reservoir, and a mouthpiece connected to the reservoir by a tube” Class: 18

“Sleeping bags and bivouac sacks, namely, sleeping bags that are normally used in association with traditional sleeping bags, thus eliminating the need for a tent when sleeping outdoors” Class: 20

“Tents and tent accessories, namely, rain flies and ground cloths” Class: 22

“Clothing, namely, non-aviation jackets, parkas, coats, bib overalls pants, vests, one-piece shell suits, shells, mittens, gloves, hats, rainwear, wind resistant jackets, shorts, shirts, t-shirts, leggings, tights, bras and sweaters; boots, namely, hiking and trekking boots; shoes, namely, climbing, hiking, trail running, athletic, sneakers, slippers and climbing slippers” Class: 25



(Reg: No. IV/4216/2013)

in respect of:- “Baselayer bottoms, Baselayer tops, Bottoms, Coats, Footwear, headwear, Jackets, Pants, Shirts, Tops” Class: 25

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **THE NORTH FACE APPAREL CORP.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416

Dated: 22nd July, 2013

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **Revlon (Suisse) S.A.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 22nd July, 2013

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APTIS

(Reg: No. IV/3357/2013)

in respect of:- "Educational services; provision of instructional, training, teaching, testing, examination and student assessment services; provision of interactive and distance learning courses; publication of instructional, training, teaching, testing, examination and student assessment materials, including examination papers and syllabuses and materials for the testing of English language skills; testing of English language skills; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to all the aforesaid goods."

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for **The British Council**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416

Dated: 22nd July, 2013

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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NIPRO

(Reg: No. IV/3209/2001)

The said trademark is used in respect of:- "Medical Instruments and apparatus including: Petri dishes; Blood collection tubes; Blood testing apparatus; Blood transfusion sets; Needles for injection; Blood collection needles; Winged needles; Dental needles; Spinal needles; Syringes for injection; Guide wire; Gloves for medical and surgical purposes; Catheters; Sphygmomanometers; Solution infusion set; 3-way stopcocks; Blood collection bags; Intravenous hyperalimentation bags; Urine bags; Elemental diet sets; Cannula, catheter kits, extension tubes for medical purpose; Artificial kidneys; Dialysate supply units; Infusion pumps; Dialysis machine; Ambulatory continuous infuser for medical fluid; Dialysis blood tubing set" - Int'l Class: 10

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **NIPRO Corporation**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416

Dated: 22nd July, 2013

SRINAGAR**Six dead in Kashmir clash**

INDIAN paramilitary forces on July 18 shot dead six people protesting at an incident involving the troops at an Islamic school in Kashmir, police said.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops fired on demonstrators who had gathered outside their headquarters in the district of Gool, two officers said on condition of anonymity.

"It is mayhem. Six are dead and dozens injured. The death toll could rise further," said one officer.

India's Home Minister Shrilal Kumar Shinde said he has ordered an investigation into the shooting and appealed for calm in the tense Himalayan region.

A revolt against Indian rule has simmered for decades in Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

"I have ordered an inquiry to be conducted without any loss of time to ascertain the circumstances leading to the firing," Mr Shinde said in a statement. "I assure that any use of excessive force or irresponsible action shall be dealt with strictly. The loss of life in this incident is particularly saddening."

Protesters clashed with troops after an incident on July 17 at the madrassa (Islamic school) attached to a mosque in Gool, witnesses said.

The head of the madrassa, Qari Shabir, said four BSF troopers came in looking for militants at the same time that a caretaker was alone there reciting prayers for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"They beat him up. That is when [caretaker] Abdul Lateef raised an alarm and people started to assemble and the word spread," Mr Shabir told AFP by telephone from Gool, 230 kilometres (143 miles) south of the state's main city of Srinagar.

Other local residents said the troops had entered the mosque to complain about the loud recitation of prayers by worshippers during Ramadan.

The angry protesters clashed outside the BSF base on July 18 with troops who started firing, witnesses said.

"The BSF soldiers fired indiscriminately, downing protesters left, right and centre," said one witness who declined to be identified.

The insurgency has been a regular source of tensions between residents and security forces, which often spill over into violence.

About a dozen rebel groups have been fighting Indian forces in Kashmir since 1989, either for independence or for a merger with Pakistan. The fighting has left tens of thousands dead, mostly civilians.

Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan have each administered part of Kashmir since the partition of the subcontinent after the end of British rule in 1947. Each country claims the territory in full. - AFP



Indian children hold candles on July 18 as they pay tribute to students who died from food poisoning at a

GANDAMAN**Poisoned Indian students buried on playing field****IMRAN KHAN**

A CHILDREN'S playing field outside an Indian primary school was turned into a mass graveyard on July 18 as victims of a poisoned lunch scandal that killed 23 youngsters were laid to rest.

As grieving parents spoke of how they relied on the school to give their children their main daily meal, officials in impoverished Bihar State tried to stem a wave of panic among other pupils who were dumping their free lunches.

Police meanwhile stepped up their investigation, exploring the possibility that the food given to the children was poisoned deliberately, as the school's headmistress remained on the run.

The burials were held on an area of open ground just outside the school where pupils play during their breaks.

"The school killed our children and so we decided to bury all of them here," said Shanti Devi, whose daughter was among those being laid to rest outside the school in Gandaman village.

"The government is responsible for converting a playground into a burial ground."

The sense of anger was echoed by many other parents as they tried to come to terms with the deaths of loved ones.

"My children always liked eating at the school and I was happy that at least they were getting one square meal every day, but I never dreamt that it would end up killing them,"

said Sanjudevi Mahato as she wept for the loss of three of her four children.

"My husband is bedridden. We have no food at home and it was only to ensure that my children got at least some food that I sent them to the school."

Ms Mahato was speaking as her surviving child, an eight-year-old girl named Kajal, received treatment at a local hospital from the effects of the poison.

"She only survived because she could detect the pungent smell in the food and refused to eat," Ms Mahato said.

Jankidevi Kumar, whose five-year-old son Ashok died, said it was not the first time that there had been complaints about food at the school.

"My elder son kept complaining that the food stank ... It tasted bitter, but the headmistress insisted that all the children should eat it," she said outside the school grounds.

The 23 children, aged four to 12, died after eating lentils, potatoes and rice cooked at the school on July 16. Initial tests have shown the meal may have

been contaminated with insecticide.

Some 30 children are still being treated for food poisoning, although doctors say their condition is not life-threatening.

"The death toll has risen to 23," Bihar State education secretary Amarjeet Sinha told reporters.

"It seems like a deliberate case of poisoning and we are expecting a forensic report to confirm the cause behind the incident."

No one has yet been arrested over the deaths, although police conducted raids on July 17 across the local district of Saran.

They raided the home of headmistress Meena Kumari, who fled after the children started dying on July 16, a senior officer said on condition of anonymity.

State education minister PK Shahi said on July 17 that police were probing whether the food was accidentally or deliberately poisoned.

The minister said the cook complained to the headmistress about the smell of the oil

'Some of the students dumped the lunch in school dustbins and we are trying to convince everyone that the tragedy will not be repeated.'

Lakshmanan
Bihar State government official



school in Bihar State. Photo: AFP

Students held

before the meals were served but the headmistress dismissed her concerns.

The tragedy has sparked panic elsewhere in Bihar, with reports from dozens of schools of children dumping their meals in bins and refusing to eat them.

“Parents have warned their children to not even touch the meal served in the school,” said Lakshmanan, a senior state government official who uses only one name.

“Some of the students dumped the lunch in school dustbins and we are trying to convince everyone that the tragedy will not be repeated,” said Lakshmanan, who is the director of the midday meal scheme in Bihar.

India’s state governments run the world’s largest school feeding program involving 120 million children. Bihar is one of India’s most populated and poorest states.

Educators see the scheme as a way to increase school attendance, in a country where almost half of all young children are undernourished.

But children often suffer from food poisoning due to poor hygiene in kitchens and occasionally substandard food.

Authorities have instructed all teachers and cooks in the state to first taste free lunches before serving them to children.

“We will have to make parents believe that midday meals provide nutrition and are not meant to kill students,” said Lakshmanan. – *AFP*

PHNOM PENH

Cambodian opposition leader returns from exile

SUY SE

CAMBODIA’S newly pardoned opposition leader arrived home from exile on July 19 to help his party’s bid to end Prime Minister Hun Sen’s nearly three decades in power, his party said.

Thousands of cheering supporters gathered outside Phnom Penh’s airport and lined the road to the city centre to welcome Sam Rainsy, waving flags and shouting, “Change! Change!”

“I’m very happy and excited to see the leader of democracy returning to the country,” said Sok Kan, 64, who was among those waiting to greet him.

The French-educated former banker fled in 2009 to avoid charges he contends were politically motivated.

Mr Rainsy kissed the ground at the airport upon returning from France shortly after 9am on a flight via Bangkok, and was due to later speak at Democracy Park.

“We expect some 40,000 people to greet him,” said Yim Sovann, a spokesman for the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). “His presence will galvanise activists and voters.”

The 64-year-old had faced 11 years in jail but was pardoned by King Sihamoni earlier this month at Mr Hun Sen’s request, clearing the way for his return ahead of elections on July 28.

US lawmakers have called for the United States to cut off aid to Cambodia unless the polls are free and fair.

Mr Rainsy said on July 12 that he was “very happy” to be able to return to Cambodia, adding that the pardon was “a small victory for democracy” but also warning that “much more remains to be done”.

The opposition leader, who is seen as the main challenger to strongman Hun Sen, has been removed from the electoral register and as a result is unable to run as a candidate this month unless parliament amends the law.

But he will hit the campaign trail soon after his return to try to boost support for his party.

Mr Sovann said the CNRP would discuss possible ways to register Mr Rainsy as a candidate after his return.

The UN’s special rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia, Surya Subedi, on July 15 urged

Cambodia to let Mr Rainsy play a “full part” in politics.

Mr Rainsy left his homeland and moved to Paris aged 16 after the disappearance of his father, which historians blame on agents contracted to then-dictator Lon Nol.

After earning an MBA from France’s INSEAD Business School, Mr Rainsy worked for various banks in Paris before setting up his own accountancy firm. He returned to Cambodia in 1992 and briefly held the post of finance minister.

He fled in 2005 after Mr Hun Sen pressed defamation charges against him but received a royal pardon the following year and returned to the kingdom.

He left Cambodia once again in 2009 and was convicted in his absence for charges including inciting racial discrimination and disinformation.

Mr Hun Sen’s government is regularly accused of suppressing political freedoms and muzzling activists. One of Southeast Asia’s longest-serving leaders, his Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) won the last two polls by a landslide amid allegations of fraud and election irregularities. – *AFP*

SEOUL

Sanctions-busting N Korea runs barter trade: analysts

CHAN KYONG PARK

THE seizure of a North Korean cargo ship loaded with undeclared weapons near the Panama Canal highlights a secretive barter trade by the isolated state aimed at evading UN sanctions, analysts say.

Pyongyang claimed Cuban arms found on the vessel last week were part of a legitimate deal after Havana had earlier said “obsolete” Soviet-era missiles and parts on board were being sent to North Korea for repair.

Analysts say the discovery of the arms, which were found among tonnes of sugar, shows how the North is responding to intensifying UN sanctions following a long-range rocket test in December 2012 and a third nuclear test in February.

They say that barter trade is convenient for North Korea because it leaves no financial records and does not require the country to use more of its scarce foreign currency.

Hugh Griffiths of the Stockholm Peace Research Institute said the haul was likely an example of a “barter trade of unknown magnitude” in which North Korea offers to repair old Soviet or Chinese equipment military equipment in return for currency or food.

He added that it was significant the seized items were concealed in a cargo of Cuban sugar.

“Most of it slips under the radar. Attention focuses on North Korea’s ballistic missile capabilities and its nuclear capabilities, but most of its foreign trade is actually in conventional arms with a small group



A Panamanian soldier guards a container on the North Korean ship Chong Chon Gang on July 17. Photo: AFP

of countries,” Mr Griffiths said.

Over the years North Korea’s trading partners have included poor and isolated countries such as Myanmar, Eritrea and Yemen, Mr Griffiths added.

“Within this context they need to trade, and North Korea has the technicians that can handle machinery both on the civilian and military side, so it’s a natural match in many ways,” he said.

North Korea has become adept at disguising this trade, often transporting the items in containers carried by respectable shipping companies that have no idea what is actually inside, he said.

“It’s very anonymous and hard to identify. Globalisation and containerisation have made trade easier but also made trafficking easier,” Mr Griffiths said.

Chang Yong-Seok of the

Institute for Peace and Unification at Seoul’s National University said the discovery on July 15 by Panama authorities was “just the tip of the iceberg”.

“In the case of Cuba, North Korea has been involved in this type of trade since the 1960s when Pyongyang reached out to non-aligned countries,” he said.

Mr Chang noted that impounding of the *Chong Chon Gang* ship “comes at a time when the United States and its allies have been stepping up sanctions against the North and expanding information sharing on its illicit trade”.

A report by a UN Security Council panel of experts last month said Pyongyang had continued to import and export items relevant to missile and nuclear programs despite sanctions. – *AFP*

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(Reg: Nos. IV1293/1995/ & IV/3353/2013)



(Reg: Nos. IV1292/1995/ & IV/3354/2013)

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“skin lotions; moisture lotions; milk lotions; non-medicated astringents; after shave lotions; skin conditioners; hair creams; hair liquids; hair tonics; hair rinses; perfumes; colognes; cleansing creams; massage creams; scrub foams; hair mists; hair foams; hair styling gels; creamy packs; mascaras; powder foundations; liquid foundations; eye shadows; cream foundations; lipsticks; toilet waters; toilet creams; moisture creams; jelly creams; lacquer-removing preparations; soaps; liquid detergents; powdered detergents; shampoos; dentifrice” - Class: 3

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Dated: 22nd July, 2013



the pulse

Coming out helps reveal truth

The country's move towards democracy is enabling a new openness. Here, three prominent homosexuals talk about their journey to a more open society.



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BEFORE other people discriminated against me, I discriminated against myself first," says 28-year-old Phyo.

As a gay man growing up in Myanmar, Phyo worried for much of his childhood that he was not "normal" and felt he had a mental health problem he needed to hide.

Now, as a coordinator for Colors Rainbow, a lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) rights organisation, he has overcome his own prejudice and is working to overcome others'. Coming to the point where he can speak frankly about being gay, however, has been a lifetime journey.

"When I was growing up, we didn't know about homosexuals," he says. "We didn't have books or photos showing men kissing or hugging each other. When we looked around us, we just saw couples made of men and women. There were no pairs of men to show."

Phyo says he worried about himself when he was younger because he didn't like girls the same way other boys seemed to. Because he didn't give any outward signs of being gay, he says he didn't face much discrimination at school. There was, however, a constant anxiety that he would be found out. His only exposure to other homosexuals, he said, was when he saw them being treated badly in the community.

"I felt unsafe because of that," he says. "Sometimes I would cry alone."

Eventually, he couldn't even relax at home, as societal pressures began to invade his family life.

"My mother and brothers scolded me when the longyi I wore looked like a girls' *htamein* [a women's longyi]. If I put thanaka on my face, they chastised me if I played in front of the mirror like a girl," he recalls.

Make-up artist Seint Seint also remembers facing disapproval from members within his family growing up.

"My mother and sisters didn't mind my being gay but my uncles and cousins didn't accept my behaviour," Seint Seint says. "To try and toughen me up after my matriculation exam, they made me stay with my cousins in

the jungle, where they were working for the Ministry of Forestry. After ten days, I left and they gave up trying to make me change," he says with a rueful smile.

Seint Seint is now one of the top make-up artists in the country, but says he is still subject to outward displays of homophobia.

"Whether a make-up artist is a girl or a gay man, people should respect our profession. But when some people talk with us, they change their behaviour and look down on us. In Myanmar, people think of your personal and professional lives as being the same thing," Seint Seint says.

U Aung Myo Min, executive director of Equality Myanmar, a human rights non-governmental organisation, said the number of LGBT rights organisations in the country is growing, but the discrimination faced by gay and transgender people has not changed. He said the laws need to change in Myanmar before homosexuals in the country can feel safe on the streets.

In Myanmar, section 377 of the penal code, for example, bans "carnal intercourse against the order of nature", and can lead to arrests, fines or jail terms of up to 10 years. U Aung Myo Min said law enforcement agencies should be among the first groups educated about the rights of gay and transgender people, as too often gay people are arrested on sight, and some are allegedly even tortured while in custody.

"We didn't choose our lives," he says. "We were born homosexual. We should be protected by laws, but instead we are targeted."

Despite the challenges still faced by the homosexual community in Myanmar, U Aung Myo Min says, there has been some progress made, with the establishment of LGBT rights groups such as Colors Rainbow helping to dispel stereotypes and educate the public.

Phyo, who is now an activist pushing for equal rights of gay and transgender people, did not have an easy path to self-acceptance. The turning point for him came in 2008, after he finished university and left home to work as a volunteer for World Vision in Ra Naung, in southern Thailand. It was a life-changing decision.

There he attended a course run by Colors Rainbow and started to learn about homophobia for the first time. He found support groups online and, most importantly, made friends with other people who were also gay. The

support, he says, helped him to no longer feel afraid.

That's the message he's now passing on to others. As someone who has lived through the discrimination and come out proud on the other side, Phyo is now helping others face the same struggles he once did, making sure that the next generation of gay Myanmar doesn't have to go it alone.

"I was afraid to be called *a-chouk* [gay] by my friends. I was afraid of other people finding out I was gay. I was afraid to come out in public. But when I learned that being gay is not a mistake, I felt strong."

U Aung Myo says personally, he just wants understanding from others.

"People in this country often think gay rights is about homosexuals trying to turn people gay," he says. "That's simply not true. Like everyone else we just want the law to protect our dignity and human rights."

"... When some people talk with us, they change their behaviour and look down on us. In Myanmar, people think of your personal and professional lives as being the same thing."

Seint Seint
Make-up artist



Seint Seint is a well-known make-up artist in Myanmar, but sa

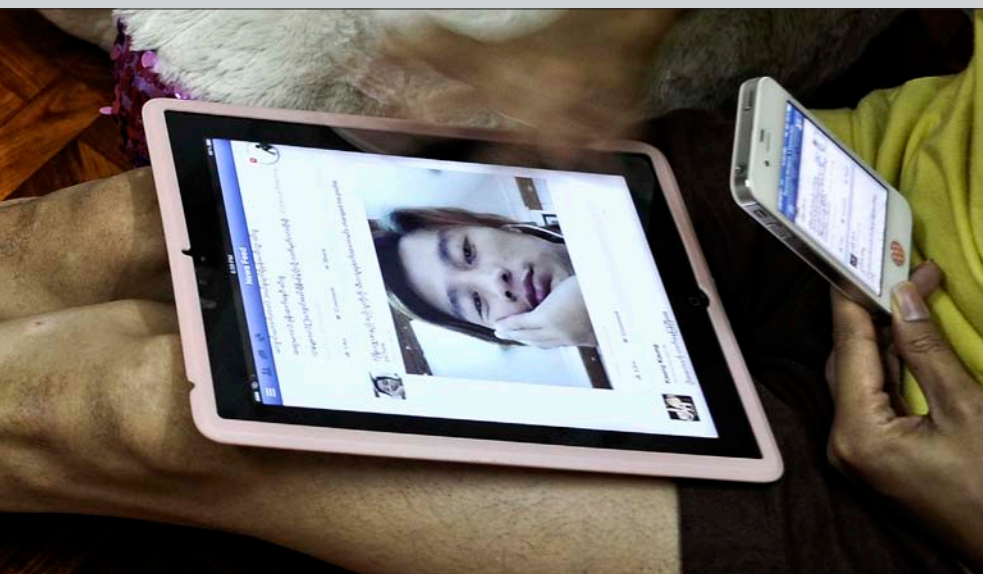


Out: Colors Rainbow truth behind stereotype

couraging those once living on the fringes of society to come forward,
t their experiences and explain what they want from Myanmar's move



ys he still faces discrimination despite being respected in his profession. Photos: Kaung Htet



"Like everyone else, we just want the law to protect our dignity and human rights."

U Aung Myo
Equality Myanmar

Ghost film genre rises from the dead



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GHOST films, so long hidden under the blanket of censorship, have emerged from behind the censor's door to terrify audiences who have been dulled by a steady diet of slapstick comedy and schlock drama – the only movies that avoided the cut.

One of the first ghost movies to spook a udience is *Mile Post 26* – directed by Maung Myo Min – and shown to audiences at Junction Square, Junction Nay Pyi Taw and Taw Win Centre since early July.

The film, claimed by Maung Myo Min to be based on a true story, follows a car accident involving a mother and daughter at Mile Post 26 on the Pyin Oo Lwin circular road (Chaut Htat Kway). Near death following the crash, the pair are robbed and murdered when discovered by a band of men.

The film's producer and lead actress, Kunn Sint Naychi, recounted the plot to *The Myanmar Times*, add-

ing that the spirits of the dead women vow to torment the murderer until he is brought to justice.

"The movie is based on a true story and was shot on location at the scene of the accident," says Kunn Sint Naychi.

And just like the film's anti-heroes, the movie itself is a resurrection – an earlier effort titled *Mile Post 76* was banned by the censorship board in 2011.

'I believe in ghosts and spirits, and I felt like there were spirits in some of the scenes.'

Kunn Sint Naychi
Director/Actress

"I had to clear many hurdles from the start to the finish of this movie," she said. "A fatal accident happened five days before we travelled to the site.

"And while we were making the film, I felt somebody touching me and pulling on my skirt, even though nobody was there. The film crew were also pelted with stones once but it was not so frightening. I believe in ghosts and spirits, and I felt like there were spirits in some of the scenes," she added.

Kunn Sint Naychi said she is confident in the quality of the movie and is registering it to be shown in Cathay Cineplex in Singapore. The film will be shown with English language subtitles.

"The film isn't intended to shock audiences and it won't sicken viewers. The film is woven into the true account of two persons who tragically lost their lives in an accident," she said.

"The film highlights the feelings of the victims ... and is intended to entertain and to empathise with the victims."

"Most of the local ghost movies are scary and aim to frighten the audience, which caused the censorship board to impose strict censorship



A hair-raising scene from the film, *Mile Post 26*. Photo: Supplied

on movies. It was very hard to get permission to air ghost movies in the past," she said.

She added that while *Mile Post 76* was banned by the censors, illegal

DVD and VCD copies found their way onto the street.

The film was directed by Maung Myo Min, starring Thu Htoo San and Kunn Sint Naychi.

Creating web space for local talent

Southeast Asian filmmakers create their own website to pitch regional films internationally



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ABOUT a year ago, two young, struggling filmmakers were eager to show their short films online but realised there was a problem with the internet as it was.

Caught between the English-speaking audience in the West and the Mandarin-speaking world of China, the Southeast Asian filmmakers felt overwhelmed by the amount of content on some of the larger websites of YouTube and Vimeo. However,

instead of getting depressed and giving up, they put their heads together and started their own website – Viddsee – with the goal of giving other Southeast Asian filmmakers like themselves, a place to feature their work, to be taken seriously and get noticed.

The two co-founders, Malaysian-born Ho Jia Jian and Singaporean Derek Tan, had just finished touring with their film, *"Cashless"* and were planning to put it up online when they were inspired to start Viddsee. Conceptualising the product started last September, and by January of this year, the website was launched.

"We realised that our short film ended up drowning in the midst of the sea of content [of YouTube and Vimeo]," said Jian. "Our film sat

among cat videos and Gangnam-style parodies. On the other hand, Vimeo, which is go-to resource for many international filmmakers, was geared towards more American and European content. We thought to ourselves whether other filmmakers in our part of the world faced the same issues and how a targeted content platform could help pitch Southeast Asian short films more easily."

For local, talented filmmakers the Viddsee format can help them reach through that "sea of content" and reach a targeted audience who will appreciate short films, Jian said. The films, he said are also "curated" – meaning that they go through a vetting process. Although it is rare to reject a film, the submissions are graded for quality, evaluating details such as camera work and importantly, the narrative.

"Some films, which are not good at all – we reject them," Tan said. "Not all films that are submitted are automatically up on the site ... The audience can come to Viddsee to discover the best short films from around the region," he said.

Since the launch of the site just over six months ago, Viddsee now has more than 75,000 users from about 100 countries – but only a few entries from Myanmar. "We want more short films by Myanmar's talented filmmakers," Derek Tan told *The Myanmar Times*.

Once the films have been accepted to the website, there is the potential for the filmmakers and their film to reach a global audience.

"The films will be among award-winning short films. Apart from that, we work with the filmmaker to share their film with a larger audience and also potentially syndicate the films

out to third party platforms. If there are revenue opportunities, we would also notify and keep the filmmakers updated," Jian said.

Audiences also can also participate in forums on the website and rate the films according to the various aspects of the film – like camera work, sound, acting and story development. Users of Viddsee can also review and share the films seamlessly on other websites, like Facebook and Twitter, he said.

"We see Southeast Asia as a region with plenty of unique stories that are just waiting to be discovered by a global audience," Jian said. "The main purpose of Viddsee is to enable discovery and accessibility of great Southeast Asian short films. We want to create and enable a wide and accessible market for short films."

Filmmakers interested in submitting their films should visit the website: viddsee.com or email hello@viddsee.com

Goethe Institut renews cultural exchange ties

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The government has sealed a deal with Germany to help foster cultural ties between the two countries.

Myanmar's cultural ministry and the Goethe Institut signed an agreement last week [July 15], that will enable cultural exchange, language and travel programs between Germany and Myanmar.

Germany's spokesperson from the Federal Foreign Office, Cornelia Pieper at a press conference on July 16, said the agreement intended to establish the Goethe Institut in Myanmar by the end of the year.

"We are very glad to have this relationship with Myanmar," Pieper said. "There are plans also for scholarships for Myanmar students to go to Germany."

The Goethe Institut also wants to partner with local universities so that German can be taught at a tertiary level.

However, she said there were other plans underway.

"We won't just concentrate on language programs: We will also have film festivals and exchange programs for students."

Pieper said the cultural exchange program could help boost tourism investment in Myanmar.

President of the Goethe Institut, Professor Klay-Dieter Lehmann said he hoped to plan out the structure of the programs before March 2014.

"We're trying to attract everyone from the public to take part in the programs," Lehmann said. "There will be media exchanges, discussions about music and art, film festivals

The Goethe Institute has opened once before in Myanmar in the early '60s but was closed down in 1965. There are 150 Goethe Instituts in 95 countries around the world.



Ho Jia Jian (left) and Derek Tan are the young entrepreneurs who launched Viddsee, a website dedicated to showcasing Southeast Asian films and filmmakers. Photo: Supplied

'Our film sat among cat videos and Gangnam-syle parodies.'

Ho Jia Jian
Viddsee

Local produce on the menu

Italian agronomist Paolo Cerati is filling the growing hunger for locally sourced produce at Fresco, his innovative farm and shop – while sating his own cravings for faves from home

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WHILE there is an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables available at produce markets across Myanmar, from time to time, it's hard not to miss the fruit and vegetables from home. Italian agronomist, Paolo Cerati, had this exact feeling when he decided to cultivate his own produce and create Fresco in 2007.

How did you start up Fresco and why?

I started Fresco for two reasons: First of all, I am a vegetable “lover”. I can’t resist one day without a bowl of fresh mixed salad. At the time I started Fresco, I was living in Taunggyi for almost two years, working for an INGO and I missed my Italian vegetables – not that in Taunggyi market there were not good vegetables but I just missed the Italian ones. The second reason was because working with farmers, I saw how much chemical insecticide they were spraying and I wanted to start producing good and healthy products that people can trust. So I started planning to establish my own farm and I discussed this with some friends who were also interested in starting the company.

What has it taken to establish your business in Myanmar?

It was not easy to start a business at that time in Myanmar. We were very unlucky because we started Fresco in 2007 and after that it seemed everything happened at once – the 2007 Saffron revolution, Cyclone Nargis in 2008. So business was very difficult as there were no tourists and foreigners coming. But I kept going because I knew that if we could survive, one day



Fresh produce is available to the public at the Fresco Shop in Yangon. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

we would be a successful company with a wide market. It was extremely difficult for many reasons, like lack of proper infrastructure, electricity, transportation, lack of technical inputs, the weather, but we are now prospering.

How is your supply developing in relation to consumer demand?

At the beginning the demand was quite small but enough to develop. At that time we put a lot of energy trying to grow many different types of vegetables, salads and herbs to be able to offer a wide range of products for the hotels and restaurant chefs and all our clients. It was a very difficult task to learn how to grow many different types of produce to grow in the climate but we are learning and so far we have 30 different products for our customers. Our main challenge is to keep our production constant, especially during the rainy season or the winter time but

now we are proud and able to produce all our products constantly.

How do you position yourself competitively in the international market?

Fresco is the only one that is growing all the products in Myanmar. Our motto is “Eat Locally Produced”. We do not import, we do not airfreight. I believe in the idea that we need to help this country by creating jobs here and not depending on imported products. Moreover, I want my products to be as fresh as possible therefore I make sure that the least amount of time passes from when we harvest our products to when they reach the consumer's table. Importing is still not well regulated and quality control is not in place. Most of the vegetables come illegally across the border from Thailand. You don't know who grows them and how, or what pesticides and chemicals they

have used, so it is difficult to control the product quality.

What is your philosophy on the use of pesticides and genetically modified products?

We are almost organic. I say almost because I'm not certified (in Myanmar there is not yet a recognised company who can do it) and it's difficult to find the right organic inputs such as organic insecticides and fungicides. Sometimes we import organic insecticide from Thailand but it's very expensive and difficult to get hold of. However, despite the difficulties, our products are safe and healthy because we use only organic fertilizer and we let them grow naturally.

How do you provide training for your staff?

I'm an agronomist so I teach our staff myself. I work with them directly and I do on-the-spot training.

How do you grow and harvest your produce?

Our farm is in Shan state, near Taunggyi. However we are now starting to establish a new farm closer to Yangon. We are also now discussing with one INGO to start contract farming with 30 farmers who want to produce organic local vegetables such as carrot and eggplant. We don't want to grow everything by ourselves; we want to help farmers to learn how to grow high quality vegetables for us. To those who are interested, we provide training, high quality seeds and a contract where we fix the price of the production and where we are committed to buy all the production. It's a good opportunity for the farmers not only because we offer a higher price than the normal market but also because

we buy all the production and they don't need to worry about the market demand and price fluctuation.

Have you ever been affected by natural disasters?

Not really natural disasters but severe weather yes. One of the first years the winter in that part of Shan state was extremely cold and temperatures went down below zero Celsius and we lost all our products. The value of the loss was very high. Here in Myanmar there is no insurance company that can back up farmers in case of severe weather loss so when something like this happens, it's a big shock to absorb.

What's the secret to cultivating your produce?

I would say passion for high quality products. We invest a lot in high quality seeds that are extremely expensive but they can guarantee a good result. The quality control is the most important thing in our business: We check our products again and again because we want to sell only the best ones. For example, our rocket salad is selected by hands, leaf by leaf. Our clients never complain about our quality and this is very important for us.

Can others do this at home?

Definitely not in Yangon because it's too hot and humid. Plus the plants suffer from disease here.

Fresco's locally grown produce is available for the public to purchase. They are open Tuesday s, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. 16/A Tharlawaddy lane, Mayangone township. Visit the Fresco website for more details: www.frescomyanmar.com

Living well in Myanmar

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Can we eat a Mediterranean diet in Myanmar?

IN this column, I am sharing ideas for leading a healthy lifestyle in Myanmar. As a primary care doctor who worries about avoiding disease, I am interested in helping patients care for their bodies and minds. This is the best therapy. Of course a major part of living a healthy lifestyle is having a healthy diet. Medical research continues to compile evidence that a ‘Mediterranean diet’ rich in beans, nuts, fish, fruits, vegetables, olive oil and wine can prevent disease, slow cognitive decline, and extend your life. In fact, a recent, high-profile study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (April 2013), which compared a Mediterranean diet to a regular European diet had to be stopped early because the people eating a Mediterranean diet were so much healthier statistically than the others. They were having fewer heart attacks and strokes and those conducting the study felt it had become unethical to


advise the others to continue eating their typical foods. If you live in Myanmar, this might be great news. Most of us can't walk far before passing small stacks of vegetables, fish, beans, or fruit on the street. And it's not hard to find nuts in Yangon. Of course, olive oil and wine are expensive, so these items may be less accessible to most residents of the city. For many decades, health research has shown that the longest living and most disease-free people tend to eat a big handful of nuts, three servings of fruit and two servings of vegetables per day. Also they eat fish and legumes – beans, peas, lentils – three times a week. They do not, however, eat processed cookies, cake or chips. Can we follow this diet in Myanmar? Sure – and it can be delicious. Myanmar cuisine features salads heavy in tomato, eggplant, corn, green beans, and pennywort. Kai-lan, morning

glory, and other dark greens are piled high in the markets. Fruit is plentiful and varies according to the season (but can be expensive when compared to the average salary). Beans and soya are easily available in South East Asian dishes and Shan noodles. Peanuts and cashew nuts can also be liberally added to many dishes. So eat more vegetables. Eat more fish. Get comfortable making beans. Go for a walk in the street market. Buy your food fresh and cook it well. Cut way down on processed foods. The research is clear that your mind will be sharper, you'll live longer, and you'll feel better along the way. Dr. Gelsdorf is an American Board of Family Medicine physician practicing in Yangon and California. He is an honorary member of the Myanmar Medical Association. Reader thoughts and questions are welcomed.



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Contemplating Korea

As one of the few who won a lucky draw prize and a trip to South Korea, our own Nuam Bawi shares with us her three-day experience touring the Korean capital



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SEOUL the city A FOG-enveloped city welcomed us as we stepped out of Incheon Airport in South Korea. Green trees lined both sides of the main roads in Seoul, somehow highlighting the wonderfully systematic and orderly architecture of the city. Looking nothing like Yangon, the only thing in common seemed to be how long it took by car to get from

one side of the city to the other.

We expected colourful leaves and hot weather, instead the other similarity to Yangon appeared to be the wet weather. Seoul receives about 60 per cent of its annual rainfall during the summer months, most of it in July. Still, the green trees and clean air exuded a cleanliness that was refreshing.

The Han River divides Seoul in half, and there are more than 30 bridges that connect the north side of the city from the south. There are more than 10 million people living in the capital, yet the numerous cars that get bottlenecked in the downtown area eventually clear. It's hard to comprehend that so many people live in the one space.

DEVELOPMENT

As Korean fashion is popular around the world, I was hoping to buy clothes and accessories when I arrived in Seoul. Unfortunately I found most items to be out of my price range, although the currency rate between Myanmar and Korea isn't that different. Korea, however, has a higher basic salary and a commercial industry that has been running a great deal longer than Myanmar's.

Travellers from Myanmar to other countries has been a rare sight, but there are more who are going abroad and gleaning experiences they can't get by reading books back at home. One of my travel companions, Ma Thida Win said that for her, travelling helped her



A rainy day in Seoul: outside the Gyeongbokgung Palace Photo: Nuam Bawi

to imagine how it could be like back home in Myanmar.

"I've been to some of our neighbouring countries such as Thai, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia," she said. "Each country has its own unique vibe and energy and Korea gives me a different feeling as well. I love taking in the creative and artistic form of architecture in the different countries, and particularly Korea.

"But I'm envious when I see other countries developing like this. I want our country to be like this country."

PALACES AND RUINS

On the third day of our trip, we

took the opportunity visit the *Gyeongbokgung* (Palace Greatly Blessed by Heaven), built in 1395 and which served as the residential palace of the Korean royalty for more than five hundred years. The palace was destroyed by fire during the Japanese invasion of 1592 and was not reconstructed until 1867. During the Japanese occupation from 1910 to 1945, most of the palace was torn down with just a few buildings left standing. An effort to fully restore Geongbukgun Palace to its former glory has been ongoing since 1990.

The palace has also been lovingly restored on the interior and now

serves as a museum. Old photos from the wars of twentieth century also hang as bleak reminders that South Korea was not always as affluent as it is today.

The palace reminds me of one closer to home - the Mandalay Palace which has not had anywhere near as much renovation or maintenance prescribed to it as the *Gyeongbokgung*. There are just a few visitors each year and hardly any attempts to replicate the interior to its former glory. It's a sad contrast to the palace in Seoul, where it's clear by their attention to detail that Koreans are proud of their culture and would actively encourage generations of Koreans to learn about their history.

Seoul is certainly a tourist-friendly, cosmopolitan hub. From eating great *kimchi* while watching a traditional show to cruising on the Han river, there are plenty of entertaining things to do. And of course, you could always just sit down and go to the theatre. The long running show, *Nanta* is responsible for a catatonic effect on the senses. The cooking show is more like a slap-stick comedy and includes everything from audience participation, dancing, singing and most entertaining of all - a magic show.

This reporter was the winner of Samsung Company's lucky draw prize for Samsung Galaxy users. Four lucky draw winners were able to go on the trip out of a total five winners.



Posing in the fashionable Gangnam district. Photo: Nuam Bawi

Black Rice: a tasty read

BOOK REVIEW

KO KO THETT

Black Rice by Myanmar-born author and political economist Dr. Kyi May Kaung, first published in the spring 2007 issue of Northern Virginia Review, has been released in print and e-book formats. It is a meticulously crafted bite-sized delight - bite-sized because you wouldn't even know how it dissolves on your literary palate until you come to realise you have savoured it in one sitting, wanting for more.

Set in the 1940s and 1950s colonial and decolonising Myanmar the nascent multiethnic state almost ripped apart by a war of all against the government forces, the communists and the ethnic Karen rebels, *Black Rice* is the story of a black-skinned boy, who describes himself as "the black mascot in their white-skinned family."

Black Rice was adopted and doted on by a food-binging mother, a survivor of multiple miscarriages, and firmed up by a booze-binging father. "It was as if she blamed him for his blood, which did not agree with hers ... It's good I had those miscarriages. They might have grown up to be drunkards like you." *Black Rice's* mother laments.

Black Rice fled from home at sixteen, after convincing his best friend of Shan extraction to tag along with him. They joined the army, whose task was to annihilate the communists and "multicoloured insurgents." Their fates seemed set on the same course until the boys ended up prisoners of war in the hands of predominantly Christian Karen rebels.

In a quaint lyricism, which is at times poetic and poignant and at times shockingly pithy, the author

manages to unpack many of Myanmar cultural idiosyncrasies and paradoxes in a most efficient way - *Black Rice's* observations of his own family, his society and the war he fought are first-hand and gory.

The reader is bound to relish layer after layer of Myanmar obsessions with astrology, amulets and the skin colour; a Myanmar mother's ritual to cope with her miscarriages; the Myanmar women's soft power over their husbands; the Myanmar men's barbarism; the brutality of the Myanmar armed forces and rebel

'Black Rice could be the most portable fictional guide to things Burma/ Myanmar.'

groups alike; and the Myanmar food culture from *naan* bread and steamed peas to fried water convolvulus to an extent that *Black Rice* could as well be the most portable fictional guide to things Burma/Myanmar.

To avoid repeating unpronounceable monikers and, also to improve a sense of wonder perhaps, Kyi May Kaung has calqued some Myanmar names to great effect. General Ne Win, the source of Myanmar's mili-

tary dictatorship, becomes General Bright Sun and Daw Chaw, *Black Rice's* mother, is Pretty Lady who suffers from consumption, a disease often associated with Victorian novels.

While many of the social, cultural and political issues remain eerily relevant in the transitional Myanmar today, many others, such as the kind of social bond the protagonist and his best friend had as children cracking the almonds with a broken brick on the roadside, may be felt as nostalgia.

When we read the disclaimer in the opening of a book, "This book is a work of fiction. The characters, incidents and dialogue are drawn from the author's imagination and not to be construed as real ...," we almost always expect a true story. Those who tend to judge a book by its cover might find *Black Rice's* cover art chintzy. Yet Dr. Kyi May Kaung's story is anything but chintzy as it could as well be a true story or a combination of many a true story common to Myanmar life to this day.

True or not, *Black Rice* is a novella of what Salman Rushdie calls human truth, as opposed to "photographic, journalistic, recorded truth" but "the truth we recognise as human beings ... our strengths, weaknesses, how we interact." It is my ardent hope that the author finds time to extend the novella into a grand novel someday.

Ko Ko Thett is a poet, literary translator and anthologist of contemporary Myanmar poetry. His first anthology *Bones Will Crow: 15 Contemporary Burmese Poets* (coed. James Byrne) is published by Northern Illinois University Press in the US.



The novella, *Black Rice* by Dr. Kyi May Kaung is sure to provide delightful insights into Myanmar's history. Photo: Supplied

Celebrity chef Nigella Lawson and art collector agree to speedy divorce

BRITISH art collector Charles Saatchi and his celebrity chef wife Nigella Lawson said on July 15 they would not make any financial claims against each other to ensure a swift divorce.

Saatchi, 70, was cautioned by police last month for assaulting his 53-year-old wife, after pictures emerged showing him grabbing her neck at a London restaurant.

The pair, both multi-millionaires in their own right, said in a joint statement that the first stage of the divorce would go through on July 31.

“A divorce will proceed on the undefended basis, the *decree nisi* is to be pronounced on 31 July, and neither party will be making any financial claims against the other,” they said.

They said Lawson had employed Fiona Shackleton, the divorce lawyer used by both Prince Charles and Paul McCartney, while Saatchi was representing himself.

“Both parties would appreciate privacy for themselves and their children at this difficult time,” their statement said.

Saatchi announced his desire to end the 10-year marriage in the press earlier this month, just days after he was forced to defend himself against accusations of domestic violence.

‘I feel that clearly I have been a disappointment to Nigella during the last year.’

Charles Saatchi

Lawson’s husband

The former advertising executive said the pictures of him with his hand around Lawson’s neck showed a “playful tiff”, but he accepted a police caution for assault.

The statement is Lawson’s first public comment since the row broke out, causing her to leave the family home.

The daughter of former finance minister Nigel Lawson, she is a successful writer and TV presenter, dubbed “the domestic goddess” and famed for her flirtatious approach to cooking.

Saatchi, whom she married in 2003, made his money in advertising and now owns London’s Saatchi Gallery of contemporary art.

Lawson has two children from her marriage to journalist John Diamond, who died of throat cancer in 2001, while Saatchi has one daughter from his previous marriage.

The normally publicity-shy collector said he wanted a divorce because Lawson had not come out publicly and defended him over the photographs

“I feel that I have clearly been a disappointment to Nigella during the last year or so,” he told the Mail on Sunday.

“And I am disappointed that she was advised to make no public comment to explain that I abhor violence of any kind against women, and have never abused her physically in any way.” – AFP



In hot water: Liam Gallagher is accused of fathering a child outside of his marriage. Photo: AFP

Love child is Liam’s?

Rocker, accused of fathering year-old daughter in extra-marital affair

L IAM Gallagher is being sued in a New York court by a woman who claims he is the father of her one-year-old daughter, the *New York Post* has recently reported.

A spokesman for the British rock star would not comment on the tabloid’s claims but said that lawyers would be taking action over the report, published on July 10.

The *Post* said in its online edition that the former Oasis frontman had been asked to provide financial support for the toddler in a confidential suit currently before the Manhattan Family Court.

It said the case had been reviewed by magistrate Matthew Troy on July 12 at a preliminary hearing listed as “Anonymous v Anonymous” and then adjourned until later this month.

The woman involved was said to be in her 30s and to specialise in interviewing celebrities.

The *Post*’s story follows a report in Britain’s *Sun* newspaper on Saturday which claimed an unidentified British rock star was being sued for US\$3 million dollars by the mother of an alleged American love child.

Gallagher, 40, is married to former All Saints member Nicole Appleton. He has three children, a

daughter who was the result of an extra-marital affair during his first marriage to actress Patsy Kensit, and two sons – one with Kensit and one with Appleton.

He is currently the lead singer of Beady Eye, a group he formed after the 2009 break-up of Oasis and his estrangement from brother Noel.

He claims to have turned his back on the rock and roll lifestyle for which he was once famous. – AFP

Patriotism is in the air tonight

Songs of nationalism to air on the radio after three decade ban



EI EI THU

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TO get a feel for how dramatic the changes taking place in Myanmar have been in the past year, a visitor needs only to turn on the radio.

For years, traditional, patriotic songs praising former General Aung San (Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s father) were forbidden from being played on air. It was more often exiled media stations like BBC and VOA that dared to broadcast the nationalistic, patriotic songs – save a handful of local stations.

Officials were particularly sensitive to the songs in the later part of July and early days of August, when the majority of the population commemorates Martyr’s Day.

But this year, there were no barriers, no censors, no orders to ban these popular, patriotic songs. This year, Myanmar observed and remembered,



The Martyr’s Day commemoration ceremonies are also partly festive this year, with songs that were once banned being allowed air-time on the radio once more. Photo: Ko Taik

marking Martyr’s Day in song over the radio waves.

Myanmar classical music vocalist Daw May Hla Myaing sang the patriotic song, “A Lay Pu Par Tal” (“To Give a Salute”) in the 1950’s, but those

particulars song hasn’t been broadcast on the radio for more than three decades. Prior to the student uprisings in 1988, an album called *Zar Teat Man (National Spirit)* was released by Daw Khin Nyunt Yee, also a Myanmar

classical vocalist who sang the songs of Daw May Hla Myaing.

“I’m very happy because they, the FM stations in Yangon played my songs ... which have not been broadcast for over 30 years,” said Daw Khin Nyunt Yee. “Protesters in 1988 were playing my version of the songs when the uprisings broke out in 1988. After, the songs were banned because of their link to political protests.”

Daw Khin Nyunt Yee said she originally sang about General Aung San out of respect for him and who he was, but after 1988, she said that while she wanted the country to progress, she didn’t want to sing the songs in Myanmar because she didn’t consider herself to be “a political person”. She would, however, sing the songs outside the country and performed them in Singapore.

The songs, she said, require a special effort and emotion and she often feels tired after performing them. “They are not like normal songs,” said Daw Khin Nyunt Yee. “These songs have meaning to the people listening and you have to convey that with honesty and respect when you sing.”

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

SALUTE! By Paula DeGrasse

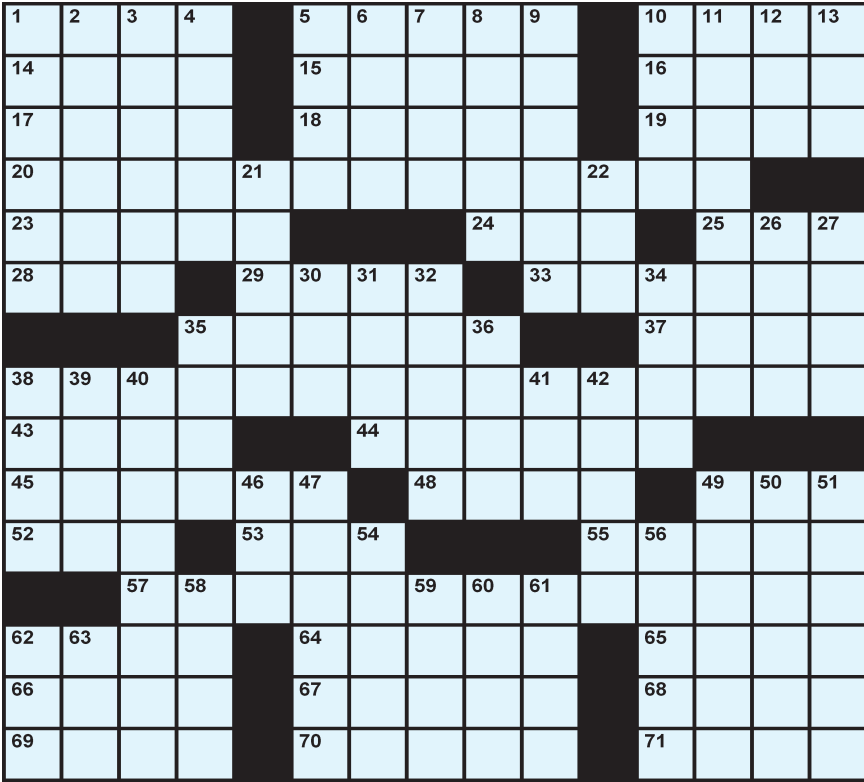
ACROSS

- 1 "No kidding!"
5 Paints unskillfully
10 Share a border with
14 Needing kneading, maybe
15 To whom a Muslim prays
16 Kind of block
17 What to do "in the name of love"
18 "S.W.A.T." lieutenant of '70s TV
19 Hardly ruddy
20 Some ball players
23 Dispatch boat
24 Plumbing pipe with a right angle
25 Wintertime in D.C.
28 Definite denials
29 Completely infatuated
33 Type of switch
35 Lead down the garden path
37 "Dynamic" prefix
38 Feature of chaos
43 Covering of a seed
44 "Hansel and Gretel" locale
45 Set on fire
48 Tide at the moon's first quarter
49 Candle dripping
52 Baby's "piggy"
53 _____ Arbor, Mich.
55 Sardonic literary style
57 Headmaster's domain
62 Anagram for "riot"
64 Plenty sore
65 Melange
66 Took off
67 Brilliance
68 Book-lined rooms, perhaps
69 Vaulted altar area
70 Guys' Broadway counterparts
71 You're out unless you put this in

DOWN

- 1 Certain meter reader
2 Book size
3 Japanese home's partitions
4 Vaccinator's supply, briefly

- 5 Actress Arlene
6 Common lotion ingredient
7 Arm bone
8 "Dragnet" credits sight
9 "Would"'s cousin
10 Withdrawn apple spray
11 Big name in steelmaking
12 "That turns my stomach!"
13 Diminutive dog
21 "Message received"
22 Certain Connecticut collegian
26 Lyric sung by Doris Day
27 City betrayed by a horse?
30 Pie-mode link
31 Abyss
32 After-market item
34 Emporium
35 Salami hangout?
36 Barney Stone land
38 Canter or gallop
39 Thus
40 They could be spare parts?
41 One of seven
42 Jelly often made with spiced tomato juice
46 _____ chi (martial art form)
47 Coveted
49 Like many sweaters
50 Consecrate with oil
51 Wood sugar
54 Antidrug cop
56 Sitcom starring Valerie Harper
58 Learning method
59 Like some orders
60 List-lengthening abbr.
61 Soaps are made on them
62 Defunct airline
63 Bodybuilder's unit



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



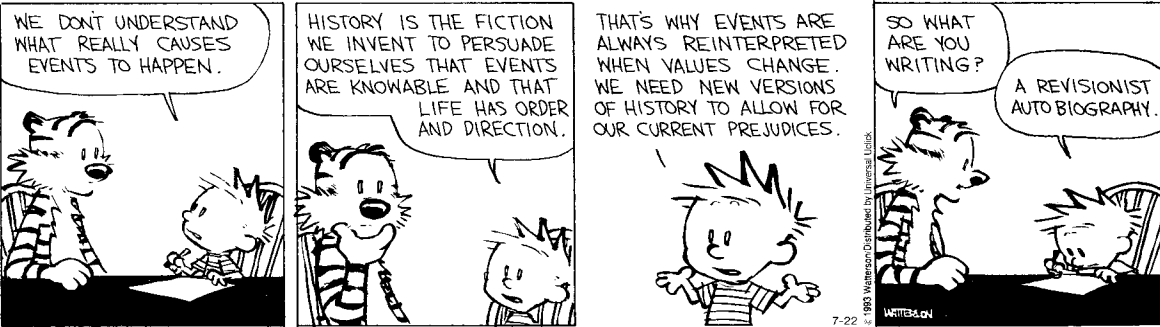
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



CALVIN AND HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



SUDOKU PACIFIC

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



7/22

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'SAY YES TO THE DRESS' (REALITY TV SERIES) Solution: 9 letters



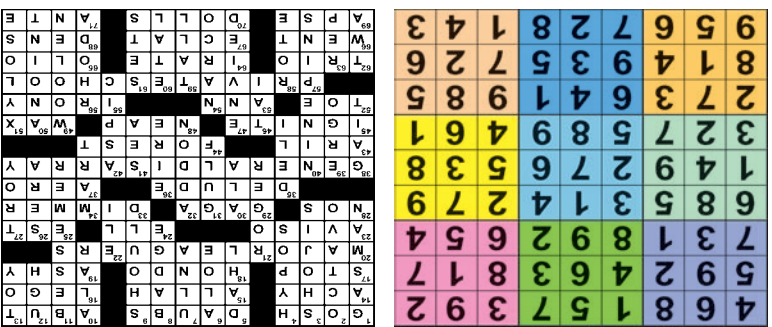
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7/22

Accessories, Alterations, Approval, Bling, Bow, Bride, Decision, Diamonds, Dorothy, Elegant, Find, Fitting, Flare, Friends, Frills, Garment, Gown, Groom, Heels, Kleinfeld, Laced, Like, Long, Love, Mara, Mermaid, Neckline, New York, Nitsa, Pnina, Randy, Roger, Ronnie, Sales, Salon, Sarah, Seal, Shoes, Short, Smith, Tears, Tiara, Train, Venue, Vera

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universaluclick.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Perfect pasta

Pasta is a staple in many diets across the Mediterranean. Enjoy these recipes as both a traditional Italian-style or Myanmar-influenced dish.



PHYTO'S COOKING ADVENTURE

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FOR my first recipe this week I'm making a very simple pasta dish for the whole family. It's great for a hearty Italian dinner and perfect for the next day's lunch box if you have some left over. You'll see from the recipes that I save some of the water used to boil the pasta for a later step. When I took an Italian cooking class in Sydney, an Italian chef was sharing

his tips for making better pasta, and this was part of what he told us. It gives a smooth consistency to the dish and prevents the pasta from turning into a dry, sticky mixture. While the recipe calls for grape tomatoes and crispy salami, you can substitute with chunky cooked tomatoes and bacon if you like. The inspiration for this week's second recipe comes from the Myanmar-Chinese fusion dish *sichet khaukswe*. I usually double the mixture of garlic and herbs, making two portions at once and saving one to mix up with pasta for the next day's lunch. You can add some BBQ chicken to the top as well. This is a great dish for toddlers and kids, but if you are cooking for

young ones you'll want to be sure to make it without the chilli flakes.

CRISPY SALAMI WITH PENNE PASTA

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 6)
500 grams dried penne pasta
1 tablespoon olive oil
350 grams Italian salami
200-250 grams grape tomatoes
100-150 grams cheddar cheese (grated)
¾ cup parsley (chopped)
Salt and pepper to taste

PREPARATION
Chop the salami in ribbon shapes and halve the tomatoes. Cook the pasta according to the package instructions without adding oil. When cooked, drain the pasta, reserving ½ cup of the boiling water for later. Meanwhile, add olive oil to the pan and heat over a medium heat. Fry the salami. When the pieces are crisp, add the tomatoes, turn down the heat, and fry for 4-5 minutes. Add the cooked pasta to the pan and toss, then add 1-2 tablespoons of the water used to boil the pasta earlier. Add cheese and parsley and mix well. Serve. Add salt and pepper to taste.

SPAGHETTI SICHET KHAUKSWE
INGREDIENTS (SERVES 6)
500 grams dry spaghetti
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 cloves garlic (crushed)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1½ tablespoons lemon zest
1 teaspoon chilli flakes
100-150 grams cheddar cheese (grated)



Spaghetti sichet. Photo: Phyto

2 tablespoons dried basil
Salt and pepper to taste

Serve with extra lemon wedges and salt and pepper to taste.

TIPS
If you can't find parsley, use basil instead. No oil is needed while boiling the pasta. If you want to keep cooked pasta for later, however, coat it with oil before you put it in the fridge.

QUOTE
"Everything you see, I owe to spaghetti."
Sophia Loren, Italian actress.

NEXT WEEK
Homemade pasta sauces.



Crispy salami with penne pasta Photo: Phyto

Legacy Thai Food upholds the Thai food legacy

MANNY MAUNG
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Thai fare has travelled far and wide across the world. Nearly everyone is familiar with the stalwart dishes of *pad-thai* noodles, a green chicken curry or a *tom-yum goong* soup.

Legacy Thai goes beyond the well-known favourites to offer something more authentic. One of the delights of their menu is the Catfish salad (K3300), a crispy mix of said fish species tossed with shredded cabbage and a lime-and-chilli dressing. While the peanuts in the

dressing may have been unnecessary, they didn't distract from the light and crunchy texture of the dish. I would recommend the salad to those who might not appreciate fish for its taste – that is, its fishiness. The salad isn't overwhelming in its flavour, although I could have done with a bit more lime juice in the dressing. I also tried the curry power crab (K7000), which again surprised me at how fresh the crab was. I refrained from asking where they had been sourced, simply because I wanted to enjoy my meal and didn't want to think about how far the poor little crabs

may have travelled. While they weren't cleaned very thoroughly, they were sweet and cooked gently so the meat remained juicy on the inside. Next time, I'll try the chilli crab dish. The most disappointing dish I ordered for the night was the chicken green curry (K4000). This is a staple meal for me, so perhaps my expectations were too high. The curry came out swimming in an oily coconut broth, suggesting the coconut cream used wasn't exactly home-made. It still tasted great, mostly because of the balance of flavours with the sweet and spicy contrasting nicely with the fish sauce and zesty kaffir lime leaves. I had a surprisingly pleasant dining experience overall and will definitely be bringing more friends along next time – all the better to sample more dishes!

Legacy Thai Food is located in a lane-way off Dhamazedi Road, Kamayut township (near the Wizira intersection). Telephone: 09 73012890 or 01 709748

Food:	7
Drink:	7
Service:	7
Atmosphere:	7
X-factor:	7
Value for money:	9
Total score:	7

Wine for dinner

The Agnes French restaurant at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel is hosting a special wine and dinner event on July 26. The event will feature wine that has been paired to match the special menu. Steamed sea bream and young artichokes from the Bordeaux region in France will be paired with a wine from the same region. Seared duck breast with wild mushroom is also on offer, along with a desert

of mango ice-cream that's paired with a Lafite wine from Chateau D'Aussieres. Wine specialist, Koh Chin Liang will be here from France to help with the wine pairing. A cocktail function starts at 6.30pm with dinner services starting at 7pm. Tickets cost USD \$60. For more information, contact the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel. Kyi Thar Nyein - 249255 (Ext: 7444), Khine Jue Zin - 09421088222.

Wine Review

RED WINE

Colombelle coeur de gascogne 2011:

Straight from the Iberian Peninsula to your glass, this red wine has a smooth, subtle taste that make it an ideal beverage choice for any number of food options. Pair it with a fine curry or a local pizza and it's a meal to remember.

Score 8/10

κ10,000

WHITE WINE

Yalumba – Vermintino 2011:

Vermintino-NO thanks! Based on the cartoon bees adorning the label, it's likely the makers of this Australian wine had the vision of sweet taste in an affordable white wine. However, this vision falls apart in execution, and the sweet tones combine with the alcohol to make leave a sour taste in the mouth.

Score 5/10

κ17,000



Chan Chan and Phone Theik's wedding



Yu Thandar Tin



Chan Chan and Phone Theik's



Awn Seng



RG II cosmetic brand launch

Michelle, Lynn Yang Wolf and Khine Thinzar Maung



Daw Ohanmar Lwin



Thandar Maung



Sophia Lee



Ko Aung Myo and Ko Naing Win Aung



Young An Choi

BBQ Chicken opening



India-Myanmar Cultural Expo

Indian Cultural group



Daw Shwe Sin



Daw Aung Aung Tun

JAPANESE FOOD PROMOTION

20 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2013
AT THE
TRADERS CAFE RESTAURANT
AVAILABLE LUNCH \$21.00 & DINNER \$28.00

A photograph of a chef in a white uniform and hat, standing behind a counter with various Japanese food items, including sushi and sashimi.

Chef Hideki Chomei will prepare traditional Japanese Food.

223, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar
tel: 01 242828 / ext: 6519 6441 6663
e-mail: f&b.thyn@tradershotels.com



Rajes and Yogerhj



NYEIN
EI EI HTWE

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IT was rather late to start the week for Socialite and she didn't know why. Maybe it was from the lack of vitamin D and all that rain that she was so sluggish. To get her engines revving, Socialite made time to sip some cocktails at the Desjoyaux launch party on July 12. That made her hungry though, so she decided to leave early and head to the opening of BBQ Chicken and tucked into some good old-fashioned fried chicken. The next event saw Socialite mingling at the India-Myanmar Cultural Expo, held at the Myanmar Convention Centre. Gaining mid-week momentum, she continued on by attending the HTC product launch at Junction Square and then finally, celebrating the wedding of her favourite singer, Chan Chan.



Juu Juu Thit Sar



Ritsuo Fukadai, Takashi Fujii, Koichi Kyono



Camus Cognac
tastings

Grace Knight, Myat Su



Nicolas Olive, Karim Benaissa



Karen Salamanca, Marek Lenarcik



HTC One
new product launch

Ko Soe Ngwe Ya, Richard and Herry Zin



Singapore Airline
next generation program launch

U Hla Win, Phillip Goh, Dr Myo Myo Naing, Ma Phyu Phyu Hlaing,
U Min Din and Lim Wei-Peng



Desjoyaux
cocktail party

Ko Win Lwin Oo and Quek Ser Yong



Ma Khine Pyone Aung and Yuwapa Banyongrakkul

Cold & Flu ...?

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Decolgen can provide complete and fast relief of running and blocking nose, fever, aching and flu.

The complete cold formula **Decolgen**

A NEW STANDARD IN MYANMAR AIR TRAVEL



DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW				
Day	Flight	Dep	Arr	
MON	6T 401	7:00	7:55	
	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30	
	UB-C1	16:30	17:30	
TUE	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30	
	UB-C1	16:30	17:30	
	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
WED	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30	
	UB-C1	16:30	17:30	
	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
THUR	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30	
	UB-C1	16:30	17:30	
	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
FRI	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30	
	UB-C1	16:30	17:30	
	FMI A1	7:30	8:30	
SAT	FMI A1	8:00	9:00	
	FMI A1	15:30	16:30	

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON				
Day	Flight	Dep	Arr	
MON	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
	UB-C2	18:00	19:00	
	FMI A1	8:50	9:50	
TUE	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
	UB-C2	18:00	19:00	
	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
WED	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
	UB-C2	18:00	19:00	
	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
THUR	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
	UB-C2	18:00	19:00	
	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
FRI	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00	
	UB-C2	18:00	19:00	
	UB-A2	8:50	9:50	
SAT	UB-A2	10:00	11:00	
	UB-A2	17:00	18:00	

YANGON TO MANDALAY				
Day	Flight	Dep	Arr	
MON	YJ 891	6:10	8:45	
	YH 917	6:10	8:40	
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30	
	YJ 143/W97143	6:30	8:35	
	K7 222	6:30	8:40	
	W9 143	7:00	9:05	
	6T 401	7:00	9:40	
	W9 201	7:30	8:55	
	YJ 001	8:00	8:55	
	K7 626	6:45	8:10	
	YJ 201	11:00	12:25	
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55	
	YH 727	11:15	13:25	
	K7 622	12:00	13:25	
	YH 731	14:30	16:40	
	W9 129	14:30	16:25	
	K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	YH 731	14:30	16:40	
	YJ 891	6:10	8:15	
	YH 917	6:10	8:40	
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30	
	6T 401/K7222	6:30	8:35	
	K7 222	6:30	8:40	
	K7 226	6:45	8:10	
	W9 143	7:00	9:05	
	YJ 143/W97143	6:30	8:35	
	W9 201	7:30	8:55	
	YJ 001	8:00	8:55	
	K7 624	10:30	11:55	
	YJ 751/W9 7751	11:00	12:25	
	YH 737	11:15	13:25	
	W9 129	14:30	16:25	
	K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	YH 731	14:30	16:40	
	YJ 891	6:10	8:45	
	YH 917	6:10	8:40	
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30	
	6T 401/K7222	6:30	8:35	
	YJ 143/W97143	6:30	8:35	
	K7 222	6:30	8:40	
	K7 226	6:45	8:10	
	YJ 211	7:00	8:25	
	W9 143	7:00	9:05	
	W9 201	7:30	8:55	
	8M 6603	9:00	10:10	
	K7 624	10:30	11:55	
	YH 729	11:15	14:15	
	YH 727	11:15	13:25	
	K7 622	12:00	13:25	
	W9 129	14:30	16:25	
	K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	YH 731	14:30	16:40	
	YJ 891	6:10	8:15	
	YH 917	6:10	8:40	
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30	
	6T 401/K7222	6:30	8:35	
	YJ 143/W97143	6:30	8:35	
	K7 222	6:30	8:40	
	K7 626	6:45	8:10	
	YJ 211	7:00	8:25	
	W9 143	7:00	9:05	
	W9 201	7:30	8:55	
	8M 6603	9:00	10:10	
	K7 624	10:30	11:55	
	YH 729	11:15	14:15	
	YH 727	11:15	13:25	
	K7 622	12:00	13:25	
	W9 129	14:30	16:25	
	K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35	
	YH 731	14:30	16:40	

SAT	YJ 891	6:10	8:15
	YH 917	6:10	8:40
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30
	6T 401/K7222	6:30	8:35
	K7 222	6:30	8:40
	W9 143	7:00	9:05
	YJ 143/W9 7143	6:30	8:35
	YJ 761	7:00	8:55
	W9 201	7:30	8:55
	YJ 001	8:00	8:55
	K7 624	10:30	11:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	YJ 601/W9 7601	11:30	12:55
	W9 129	14:30	16:25
	K7 224	14:30	16:35
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35
	YH 731	14:30	16:40
SUN	YJ 891	6:10	8:15
	YH 917	6:10	8:40
	Y5 234	6:15	7:30
	6T 401/K7222	6:30	8:35
	K7 222	6:30	8:40
	W9 143	7:00	9:05
	YJ 143/W97143	6:30	8:35
	W9 201	7:30	8:55
	8M 6603	9:00	10:10
	YJ 751/W9 7751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:15	13:25
	YJ 211	11:30	12:55
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	W9 129	14:30	16:25
	K7 224	14:30	16:35
	6T 501/K7 224	14:30	16:35
	YH 731	14:30	16:40

MANDALAY TO YANGON			
Day	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	Y5 233	8:10	9:25
	YH 918	8:40	10:45
	YJ 143/W97143	8:50	10:45
	K7 223	8:55	11:00
	YJ 892	9:00	10:55
	W9 201	9:10	11:05
	W9 144	9:20	10:45
	6T 402	10:00	12:00
	YJ 002	11:00	11:55
	K7 627	10:55	12:20
	W9 120	15:45	17:10
	YJ 202	16:00	17:55
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	YH 728	16:45	18:10
	YH 732	16:40	18:45
TUE	W9 129	16:40	18:45
	6T 502/K7 225	16:50	19:00
	K7 225	16:50	19:00
	Y5 233	8:10	9:25
	YJ 892	8:30	10:25
	YH 918	8:40	10:45
	YJ 143/W9 7143	8:50	10:45
	6T 402/K7 223	8:55	10:55
	K7 223	8:55	11:00
	W9 201	9:10	11:05
	W9 144	9:20	10:45
	K7 227	10:35	12:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	W9 129	16:40	18:45
	YH 732	16:40	18:45
	K7 225	16:50	19:00
WED	6T 502/K7 225	16:50	19:00
	W9 252	17:05	18:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
	Y5 233	8:10	9:25
	YJ 892	8:30	10:25
	YH 918	8:40	10:45
	YJ 143/W9 7143	8:50	10:45
	6T 402/K7 223	8:55	10:55
	K7 223	8:55	11:00
	W9 201	9:10	11:05
	W9 144	9:20	10:45
	YJ 002	11:00	11:55
	K7 625	17:10	18:35
	YJ 202	16:00	17:55
THUR	W9 120	15:45	17:10
	W9 129	16:40	18:45
	YH 732	16:40	18:45
	K7 225	16:50	19:00
	6T 502/K7 225	16:50	19:00
	YH 738	17:25	18:50
	YJ 752/W9 7752	17:50	19:15
	Y5 233	8:10	9:25
	YH 918	8:40	10:45
	YJ 143/W9 7143	8:50	10:45
	6T 402/K7 223	8:55	10:55
	K7 223	8:55	11:00
	YJ 892	9:00	10:55
	W9 201	9:10	11:05
	W9 144	9:20	10:45
	K7 227	10:35	12:00
FRI	YJ 202	11:00	12:25
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	W9 129	16:40	18:45
	YH 732	16:40	18:45
	6T 502/K7 225	16:50	19:00
	K7 225	16:50	19:00
	K7 625	17:10	18:35
	8M 6604	17:20	18:35
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
	Y5 233	8:10	9:25
	YJ 892	8:30	10:25
	YH 918	8:40	10:45
	6T 402/K7 223	8:55	10:55
	K7 223	8:55	11:00
	W9 201	9:10	11:05
	W9 144	9:20	10:45

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO BANGKOK			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
PG 706	Daily	7:15	9:30
8M 335	1,2,3,4,7	9:00	10:45
TG 304	Daily	9:50	11:45
PG 702	Daily	10:30	12:25
TG 302	Daily	14:55	16:50
8M 331	1,5,6	16:30	18:15
PG 704	Daily	18:20	20:15
Y5 237	Daily	18:05	19:50
TG 306	Daily	19:45	21:40

YANGON TO DON MUENG			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
FD 2752	Daily	8:30	10:20
FD 2756	Daily	12:15	14:05
FD 2754	Daily	17:50	19:35

YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
MI 509	1,6	0:25	5:00
8M 231	Daily	8:00	12:25
Y5 233	Daily	10:10	14:40
SQ 997	Daily	10:25	14:45
8M 6232	Daily	11:30	16:05
3K 586	Daily	11:30	16:05
VN 942	2,4,7	14:25	17:10
MI 517	Daily	16:40	21:15

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
8M 501	1,3,6	7:50	11:50
AK 1427	Daily	8:30	12:50
MH 741	Daily	12:15	16:30
AK 1425	Daily	16:45	21:00
MH 743	2,5,7	16:55	21:10

YANGON TO BEIJING			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
CA 906	2,3,4,6,7	14:15	21:55

YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
8M 711	4,7	8:40	13:15
CZ 3056	3,6	11:20	15:50
CZ 3056	1,5	17:40	22:15

YANGON TO TAIPEI			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
CI 7916	Daily	10:50	16:15

YANGON TO KUNMING			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
MU 2012	3	12:20	18:35
MU 2032	1,2,4,5,6,7,	14:40	18:00
CA 906	2,3,4,6,7	14:15	17:35

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
WV9 9607	4,7	14:20	16:10

YANGON TO HANOI			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
VN 956	1,3,5,6,7	19:10	21:30

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH CITY			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
VN 942	2,4,7	14:25	17:10

YANGON TO DOHA			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
QR 619	1,4,5	8:15	11:15

YANGON TO PHNOM PENH			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
8M 403	3,6	16:50	19:15

YANGON TO SEOUL			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
OZ 770	3,6,7	0:35	9:10
KE 472	Daily	23:35	08:05+1

YANGON TO HONG KONG			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
KA 251	1,2,4,6	1:10	6:00

YANGON TO TOKYO			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
NH 914	1,3,6	21:30	06:40+1

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
TG 782	2,5,6,7	9:30	11:55

MANDALAY TO DON MUENG			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
FD 2761	Daily	12:45	15:00

MANDALAY TO KUNMING			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
MU 2030	Daily	14:40	17:20

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
8M 336	1,2	6:15	7:00
TG 303	Daily	7:55	8:50
PG 701	Daily	8:50	9:40
TG 301	Daily	13:00	13:45
PG 703	Daily	16:45	17:35
TG 305	Daily	17:50	18:45
8M 332	Daily	19:15	20:00
PG 705	Daily	20:15	21:30
Y5 238	Daily	21:10	21:55

DON MUENG TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
FD 2751	Daily	7:15	8:00
FD 2755	Daily	11:10	11:45
FD 2753	Daily	16:35	17:20

SINGAPORE TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
SQ 998	Daily	7:55	9:20
3K 585	Daily	9:10	10:40
8M 6231	Daily	9:10	10:40
VN 943	2,4,7	11:40	13:25
8M 232	Daily	13:25	14:50
MI 518	Daily	14:20	15:45
Y5 234	Daily	15:35	17:05
8M 234	1,4,7	19:15	20:00
MI 520	5,7	22:10	23:35

BEIJING TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
CA 905	2,3,4,6,7	8:05	13:15

KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
AK 1426	Daily	6:55	8:00
MH 740	Daily	10:05	11:15
8M 502	1,3,6	12:50	13:50
MH742	2,5,7	14:45	15:55
AK 1424	Daily	15:05	16:15

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
CZ 3055	3,6	8:40	10:30
CZ 3055	1,5	14:45	16:35
8M 712	4,7	14:15	15:50

TAIPEI TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
CI 7915	Daily	7:00	9:55

KUNMING TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
MU 2011	3	8:20	11:30
CA 905	2,3,4,6,7	12:40	13:15
MU 2031	1,2,4,5,6,7	13:30	13:55

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
WV9 9608	4,7	17:20	18:10

HANOI TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
VN 957	1,3,5,6,7	16:35	18:10

HO CHI MINH CITY TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
VN 943	2,4,7	11:40	13:25

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
TG 781	2,5,6,7	7:25	8:50

DOHA TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
QR 618	3,4,7	21:05	07:00+1

PHNOM PENH TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
8M 404	3,6	20:15	21:40

SEOUL TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
KE 471	Daily	18:40	22:30
OZ 769	2,5,6	19:50	23:25

TOKYO TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
NH 913	1,3,6	10:30	15:30

HONG KONG TO YANGON			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
KA 250	1,3,5,7	21:45	23:30

DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
FD 2760	Daily	10:50	12:15

KUNMING TO MANDALAY			
Flight	Day	Dep	Arr
MU 2029	Daily	13:55	13:50

International Airlines

Air Asia (FD) Tel: 251 885, 251 886.
Air Bagan Ltd.(W9) Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102
Air China (CA) Tel : 666112, 655882.
Air India Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175
Bangkok Airways (PG) Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119
Condor (DE) Tel : + 95 1 -370836 up to 39 (ext : 810)
Dragonair (KA) Tel: 95-1-255320, 255321, Fax : 255329
Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5) Tel: 95 9 400446999, 95 9 400447999, Fax: 95 9 73256067
Malaysia Airlines (MH) Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124
Myanmar Airways International(8M) Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305
Silk Air(MI) Tel: 255 287~9, Fax: 255 290
Thai Airways (TG) Tel : 255491~6, Fax : 255223
Vietnam Airlines (VN) Fax : 255086. Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.
Qatar Airways (Temporary Office) Tel: 01-250388, (ext: 8142, 8210)

International
FD & AK = Air Asia
TG = Thai Airways
8M = Myanmar Airways International
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines
PG = Bangkok Airways
MI = Silk Air
VN = Vietnam Airline
MH = Malaysia Airlines
CZ = China Southern
CI = China Airlines
CA = Air China
KA = Dragonair
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines
IC = Indian Airlines Limited
W9 = Air Bagan
3K = Jet Star
AI = Air India
QR = Qatar Airways
KE = Korea Airlines
NH = All Nippon Airways
SQ = Singapore Airways
DE = Condor Airlines
MU=China Eastern Airlines
BR = Eva Airlines
DE = Condor
Subject to change without notice

NEPAL

Kathmandu’s hidden diners offer the real deal

DEEPAK ADHIKARI

DOWN a narrow, stone-paved alley a few minutes’ walk from Kathmandu’s bustling tourist hub of Durbar Square, Uttam Manandhar prepares a tapas-style array of buffalo brain, spine and testicles.

It might not look appetising to Westerners but dozens of indigenous Newars gather daily in his *bhatti* as part of a centuries-old social scene largely missed by the thousands of tourists who come to Nepal in search of culture.

Hidden in the capital’s myriad labyrinthine alleyways are hundreds of these traditional hole-in-the-wall eateries – “speakeasies” to the locals – serving potent home brew and various buffalo meat snacks.

“These are the daily staple of Newars,” Manandhar says, multi tasking between a boiling pot of spinal cord and some fried intestines.

“I think the locals come here because, apart from being cheap, they are also nutritious and delicious.”

Both sides of the alley are dotted with these grimy, smoky coves which can be identified by those in the know by the greasy green curtain covering their doorways.

Inside, a dozen Newari dishes comprising beaten rice and every conceivable part of a buffalo are spread out before the hungry locals, who wash down their spicy barbecued, or sometimes raw, meat with a rice-gin concoction called *raksi*.

Locals part with around 100 rupees (US\$1.83) for a filling meal while a double shot of home-distilled *raksi* – so potent at more than 50 percent alcohol that you soon forget how many you’ve had – costs little more than 40 rupees.

The delicacies on offer include buffalo brain, a greyish dish of boiled blood called *rakti*, *phokso* (lungs stuffed with minced meat), *kachila* (raw meat), baked buffalo skin, boiled spinal cord and fried intestines.

But the tourists who throng the courtyards of the nearby 17th century temples and other attractions in search of the “genuine” Kathmandu experience hardly ever venture here, says Manandhar.

“These places might be dark and not polished if you compare them with the fine dining places in Kathmandu. But once your palate knows about it, it will be hard for you not to be tempted by them,” he says.

A typical *bhatti* might serve 60

people on a good day, making around 4000 rupees after expenses are deducted, although staff costs are low, with the owner usually doubling as waiter, barman and chef.

“We are busy in the late afternoon and the evening when our customers, mainly local Newar people, come to eat and socialise,” says Manandhar.

Sitting under a naked bulb in a long room with wooden chairs and tables, Narendra Gopal Shrestha is enjoying a plate of potato stew and soya bean and cucumber pickle with a generous helping of chilli and vinegar.

“I grew up eating the Newari food at home and I can’t think of a day when I don’t have it. It’s found nowhere else except Kathmandu and it’s cheap and the best,” the 53-year-old tour guide says.

“My kids go out to expensive restaurants where they serve junk food like pizza and burgers. I think it’s only the older generation that knows the value of this cuisine,” he says.

Shrestha says the food reflects a rich culture that draws from his people’s unique mix of Buddhism and Hinduism and their agrarian past, when they supplied the food to their farmhands.

Diners in Kathmandu’s *bhattis* are united about the quality of the food, but it’s the *raksi* or *tongba*, a rice beer sipped through a pipe, that really stirs their passions during the capital’s chilly winters.

Because *bhattis* are hard to find, they have never been counted. And although there were several *bhattis* in every alley 10 years ago, their numbers are diminishing, according to food experts.

“These places emerged before fast food and the arrival of dining out culture. Back in the 1970s, creative people used to hang out there and spend hours over plates of the snacks and drinks on the side,” says food writer Shekhar Kharel.

Kharel believes diners have become more knowledgeable and cosmopolitan as Kathmandu has opened up to the world in recent decades, gradually rendering restaurants serving only one type of cuisine obsolete.

“*Bhattis* are now the poor cousins of the neighbourhood’s upscale cafes,” Kharel says, adding that it was not all bad news.

“Although they are threatened by the newcomers, there are some who enjoy a loyal following. They might retain their glory if they modernise a bit because you won’t get the authentic taste anywhere else.” – *AFP*



Kathmandu’s “real-deal” local fare isn’t for the faint of heart, and the options could be limiting for vegetarians. Photo: AFP

Fear of missing out? You're suffering FOMO

HAVE you heard about FOMO – “fear of missing out”? Most common among the under-30 crowd, it happens when someone feels nervous about not attending social events, like that awesome party everyone else enjoyed last weekend.

People have always been concerned about their social standing, but the explosion of social media has made FOMO a bigger issue, for everyone from middle schoolers newly toting smart phones to adults. Now researchers have developed a quiz [available at www.ratemyfomo.com] to test just how fearful people are about missing out.

Among the questions the FOMO quiz asks are how often someone checks social media – “when eating breakfast?”, “when eating lunch?”, “in the 15 minutes before you go to sleep?” – and how worried he or she feels when friends are hanging out without them. As the intro to the quiz puts it, “FOMO ... is a relatively new concept where people are concerned that others may be having more fun and rewarding experiences than them. It is characterised as the desire to stay continually connected with what others are doing.”

FOMO is often associated with a perceived low social rank, which can cause feelings of anxiety and inferiority. When someone misses a party, vacation or other social event, he or she can feel a little less cool than those who showed up and snapped photos. In some cases, people are even afraid to miss out on bad stuff. FOMO is most common in people ages 18 to 33 – in one survey, two-thirds of people in this age group said they experience these fears. The survey also suggests FOMO is more common among guys than ladies, though it's unclear why.

Research suggests FOMO can take a negative toll on psychological health. Constant fear of missing events can cause anxiety and depression, especially for young people.

Over the past few years, there's been a lot of research on the way social media influences FOMO. Recent research suggests people who experience FOMO are most likely to value social media as part of their social development. Status updates and tweets – “OMG best night ever!” – let us know about all the exciting activities happening while we're home catching up with the *Jersey Shore* crowd. Some psychologists even

'FOMO is often associated with a perceived low social rank, which can cause feelings of anxiety and inferiority.'

suggest FOMO helps drive the success of social media platforms, since we feel we need to use the technology to let us know what's happening elsewhere. But in some cases, FOMO might actually be a motivator, encouraging us to socialise with friends.

Some argue that the feelings associated with FOMO

strengthen connections with others, encouraging people to be more socially active. While it might be antisocial to sit around checking out the Facebook pages of pseudo-strangers, it's possible to use social media in a constructive way, like keeping in touch with friends and planning activities. (Maybe it's time to reconnect with an old buddy who lives nearby?)

Psychologists say fears about missing out may be a type of cognitive distortion, causing irrational thoughts – such as believing that friends hate you if you didn't get an invite to last week's party – associated with depression. For people prone to such thoughts, modern technology may just exacerbate their fears about missing out. So experts say unplugging all those gadgets might not solve the problem as well as engaging in cognitive behavioral therapy or another kind of talk therapy might.

Whatever you do, remember when scoping out other people's plans, especially online, that many people project their most idealized selves on the web. So spy with a skeptical eye. And to those who are confident enough in their plans for this Friday night ... well, hats off.

– *The Washington Post*

Norwegian black-metal musician arrested for terrorist intent

JACQUES CLEMENT

A NORWEGIAN neo-Nazi black-metal musician and convicted killer has been arrested again, just four years after coming out of prison, over fears he may have been preparing a “major terrorist act,” the French interior ministry said.

Intelligence officers arrested 40-year-old Kristian Vikernes at dawn at his home in a village in the central Correze region on July 16, along with his French wife Marie Cachet, 25.

The ministry said Vikernes was “close to the neo-Nazi movement” and could have been preparing a “major terrorist act”.

Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik had sent him the manifesto he published online just before he started his killing spree on July 22, 2011, said the ministry.

Interior Minister Manuel Valls conceded that they had as yet identified “no target, no plan” but intelligence chiefs had decided it was important “to act before and not afterwards”.

Vikernes is a black-metal musician notorious in Norway for having stabbed to death a fellow musician in 1993.

He was sentenced to



This image of Kristian Vikernes was taken while he was incarcerated for the murder of his bandmate. Photo: AFP

21 years in prison for the murder of Oeystein Aarseth, known as Euronymous, who was the guitarist in their group, Mayhem.

Musicians and fans of black metal – an extreme sub-genre of heavy metal – often express anti-Christian views and were involved in the burning of more than 50 churches in Norway between 1992 and 1996.

Released after serving 16 years for the killing, he eventually settled in France in 2010.

“The stay in prison probably made me a little more extreme, in every way,” he said

in a 2010 interview with the magazine *Guitar World*.

That same year on his blog, he called on people to vote for Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Front party.

Vikernes, who also goes by the name Varg, Norwegian for “wolf”, had been under surveillance for several years.

But anti-terrorism authorities in Paris opened a probe into the father-of-three at the beginning of the month after his wife purchased weapons – albeit legally as she has a permit.

Officers seized five long-range weapons at their home including four 22-caliber long rifles.

Explaining the decision to arrest Vikernes, Valls said, “The DCRI [French domestic intelligence service] considered that messages he had posted on the internet expressed huge violence.”

“The purchase of weapons and cartridges by his wife showed that a terrorist plan was possible. To know more, to know what this plan could be... the DCRI considered it was important to arrest and question him.”

In a statement on the interior ministry website Valls said Breivik had sent Vikernes his extremist manifesto shortly

before killing 77 people in two separate attacks in Oslo.

Breivik, who said the massacre was a protest against multiculturalism, is being held in isolation in a high-security Norwegian prison.

He was sentenced last August to Norway's maximum sentence of 21 years in prison, which can be extended indefinitely if he is deemed to continue to pose a threat to society.

The initial probe in France has labelled Vikernes – who investigators say posted anti-Semitic and xenophobic messages online – as dangerous, a police source told AFP.

The mayor of Salon-la-Tour told AFP that Vikernes had a year ago settled with his family in a rented house, away from the village.

Jean-Claude Chauffour said the couple met several years ago when Cachet was graduating from high school.

“He doesn't speak French very well,” Chauffour said, adding that the family had three children and Cachet was pregnant with her fourth. It is unclear whether all the children are the musician's.

One neighbour of the couple, Yves Langoile, told AFP that Vikernes was “polite” and “appeared to be normal and nice” and close to his children. – *AFP*

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS

JULY 22 - 28, 2013

AQUARIUS | Jan 20 - Feb 18



The twists and turns that life throws your way may conflict with the path you set for yourself. But nothing happens by accident, and the way you deal with any turmoil that's thrown your way will depend on how flexible you keep your mindset. Go with your gut instincts but temper your emotions and be wise in the way you deal with others.

PISCES | Feb 19 - March 2



Poor listening skills can lead to poor understanding and damage

relationships. Choosing your words hurts neither yourself nor others and should be used in social dealings. Communicate with a simple tongue and an optimistic nature. Your reasoning power becomes sharper with age, as long as you continue to strengthen your mind through new and surprising challenges.

ARIES | Mar 21 - Apr 19



Making yourself accessible to others leads to wealth and success. You must set

limits not only for yourself, but also set boundaries with family and friends. Remembering to fix your goals will supply motivation for moving forward. Success can be achieved when you integrate integrity, self-esteem and self-respect – retaining a certain aura along with it.

TAURUS | Apr 20 - May 20



It is through knowledge and awareness of yourself that you can minimise

the danger of negative effects and emotional illusions in your life. Make positive changes in your mental outlook and that will help develop the power of observation needed to focus and face social obstructions with courage. Adding a little flash to your external concept and attitude will also help you move up the ladder in your organisation.

GEMINI | May 21 - June 20



A self-centred nature is not conducive for creating a better society. Listen for

ideas to create light in the darkness of your own attachments and you can work more efficiently – if you can listen clearly for the whole message that is being sent. Use your imagination to more deeply understand the mental images of the ideas you are receiving and concentrate fully on the content as a simple pleasure, to encourage yourself wisely.

CANCER | Jun 21 - Jul 20



Set new challenges for yourself and dig deeper into different social relationships to make your perceptions comprehensive and significant through every action and reaction. What may be considered good news regarding land or property, land in possession, or your life style will be considered a high financial risk and you may need to make a change or adjust your

future expectations. Your heart still has enough emotional room and has not yet reached its capacity.

LEO | Jul 23 - Aug 22



As you develop your life plan, take stock of what you need to make your life better, what you should add to your daily manner and what needs to be eliminated as soon as possible. You need to know yourself do things for yourself. In many ways, life is a series of games that have rules and skill requirements just like any other game. Don't let your heart move too strong for beauty.

VIRGO | Aug 23 - Sep 22



Are you out of touch with your beautiful dreams? The time is now to start thinking about how to make your dreams come true. You must be willing to face yourself every single day and to change something in your old philosophy. Simply, react to whatever life deals you on any given day, and believe that it is possible to make any kind of plan.

LIBRA | Sep 23 - Oct 22



Think about how much time you've put into some aspects of your life. Know that there are no shortcuts to any place worth going. Believe that people will be more likely to open their minds if you are friendly instead of bossy, and people prefer to talk about the importance of themselves. Create your own experience to elicit the responses you want from others.

SCORPIO | Oct 23 - Nov 21



Every person's number one need is acceptance and number one fear is rejection. Failure is not an accident. You either set yourself up for it or you don't. Learn better how to do something beforehand and develop your know-how with self confidence and persistence. You control the way and the world responds to you by the way you conduct yourself.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 22 - Dec 21



Take pride in the fact that you're not going to let anyone else run your life, and be true to your values with enthusiasm. Stand for something and don't miss the opportunities that are being given to you; you should be grabbing them at any cost. Life rewards action. Refuse to stay unhappy today and be happy every other day. Love does not have any hidden meaning.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 - Jan 19



Decide that you're going to take some chances, and then take action to ensure your success. Make a life decision to risk reasonably and responsibly, but take that risk! Let yourself want more and then, take the action to get it. Never let the fear of striking out get in your way. Don't fall into the trap of “the safety lenses,” but see that life is better when we are safe, rather than sorry.

AUNG MYIN KYAW

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Brunei 17, Kanbawza Avenue, Golden Velly (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 566985, 503978, fax: 512854 email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

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Egypt 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 222886, 222887, fax: 222865, email: egymbyangon@mptmail.net.mm

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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: kutygn@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
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North Korea 77C, Shin Saw Pu Rd, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 512642, 510205

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

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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

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Sri Lanka 34 Taw Win Road, Yangon. Tel: 222812, fax: 221509, email: slembassy.yangon@gmail.com

The Embassy of Switzerland
No 11, Kabaung Lane, 5 ½ mile, Pyay Rd, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 534754, 512873, 507089, Fax: 534754, Ext: 110

Thailand 94 Pyay Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 226721, 226728, 226824

United Kingdom 80 Strand Rd, Yangon. Tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, fax: 370866

United States of America 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 536509, 535756, 538038, fax: 650306

Vietnam Bldg-72, Thanlwin Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 511305 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

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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.

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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.

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Savoy Hotel

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Strand Hotel

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17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. tel: 650933. fax: 650960.

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Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.
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Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-41358-9.
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

HOSPITALS

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Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.

Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.
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APARTMENT at Pearl Condo, Block B, Kabaaye Pagoda Road, Sqft 1750, 1MB, 2BR, 4AC, Fully furnish, Heater, Extpth, 2500 USD. Contact 09-516-4684, 09-514-1315.

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MAYANGONE, Taw Win Thiri Condo (9 Miles, near Ocean Super Center) 1550 sqft, 1 MB, 2 SB, Fully Furniture, 8th Flr, 3 AC, Phone, Foreigner Welcome. 1,300,000 Kyats per month at least 6 months contract . Ph : 09-4320-0669

Housing for Sale

8 MILE, MTP condo, 1500 sqft, 2mBR, 3 AC, Ph, 2700 Lakhs. Maureen : 09-518-8320.

LAND : 75 Acres farmland for sale . Land is near Myaung Ta Gar Industrial Zone (Hmawbi). 1 acre = 39 lakhs . Price is slightly negotiable . Majority of land has no flooding during rainy season. Ph: 09-43054936. Email: Richard.htein@gmail.com.

SOUTH OKKALAPA, Yadanar, Main Road (3500 Sq.ft)(3F), 3MBR, 2BR, Guest Room, Shrine Roo, 6AC, Home, Mini Theater, Parquette floor, Water Heater, Japan style furnished. Selling price-1800 (Negotiable), Ph: 249003, 09-4200-40787, 09-4200-40767, 09-4200-92888.

HLAING THAR YAR (near FMI City) RC-2 storeyed building, With a Garage, Furnished (50x60), 1900 Lakhs (Negotiable), Ph: 249003, 09-4200-40787, 09-4200-40767, 09-4200-92888.

LAND : We have Lands for sale suitable for making Industrial buildings in large area. Buyers can contact us on 09-4500-59037. (There is no pay for Agents & Third party ... Warmly welcome the buyers)

BAHAN, (1) Moe Myint San Condo, 2400 sqft, 2MB, 2BR, 4A/C, 23 Lakhs (2) New University Ave Rd, 2F, 40'x60', 3MBR, Ph 5A/C 20 Lakhs, No Agts. Maureen: 09-518-8320.

DAGON (1) Boyar Nyunt

Rd, (GF) 24'x47', 2A/C, Ph. 20 Lakhs (2) **Near Foregin Embassy**, 80'x100' RC2 storey, US\$ 5000, Maureen: 09-518-8320.

CHANTHA GONYAUNG Executive Condomini ums. Panthouse/ Rooms, 4 rooms, 5 rooms, Fully furnished, amazing serenity and satisfactory facilities, club restaurant, 24 hours electricity internet, cable TV Brokers welcome. Interested parties. Ph: 09-730-85811, 09-730-85844, 09-730-85822.

(1) **GOLDEN VALLEY**, 3 RC, 1500 Sqft, 7 bed room, near Kanbawza St, (2) **Golden valley**, 2 RC, 1500 Sqft , 3 bed room, fully furnish, Shwe taung Gon Yeik Ta (near city mark), 4000 USD (3) **Shwedondine**, driving (10 minutes), 3 RC, 2500 Sqft, 4 bed room, 3202 USD. (4) **8 Mile**, Bo Saw Aung St, 2 RC, 4200 Sqft, 4 bed room, 2668 USD (5) **May Li Kha** Housing complus. 2 RC, 3600 Sqft, 5 bed room, 3500 USD. Ph: 09-4921-4276, 09-4211-77105.

MYAWADDY luxury complex, 1950 sqft, 1 master bed room, 2 single bed room, 5 air con, small maid room contact Ph: 09-519-104268, 09-510-8204

APARTMENT at Pearl Condo, Block B, Kabaaye Pagoda Road, Sqft 1750, 1MB, 2BR, 4AC, Fully furnish, Heater, Extpth, 2500 USD. Contact 09-516-4684, 09-514-1315.

BAHAN, New University Avenue Condo, 1350 sqft, 1MB, 2SB, Fully furniture, 8th Flr, 3 AC, Phone, Foreigner Welcome, 1,300,000 Kyats per month: 09-432-00669.

MAYANGONE, Taw Win Thiri Condo (9 Miles, near Ocean Super Center) 1550 sqft, 1 MB, 2 SB, Fully Furniture, 8th Flr, 3 AC, Phone, Foreigner Welcome. 1,300,000 Kyats per month at least 6 months contract . Ph : 09-4320-0669

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DAGON (1) Boyar Nyunt


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Employment

UN positions

IOM Int'l Organization for Migration is seeking **Driver** 1 post in Thaton, Mon State : Pls submit an application letter & an updated CV with a maximum length of 3 pages including names and contact details of 3 referees (copies of certificates and further documents are not required at this stage) to Int'l Organization for Migration, 12th Flr, Traders Hotel :223, Sule Pagoda Rd, Kyauktada. Ph: 252560, 375601, Email: hryangon@iom.int, Closing date : 23 July 2013 .

Embassy

TURKISH Embassy is seeking : Experienced **Driver** 2 post, urgently required, attractive salary, Age under 45, can speak English .Pls submit CV with photo attached in person to 19AB, Kanyeikthar St, Mayangone, Yangon. Tel : 662992.

Ingo Positions

MEDECINSSansFrontiers -Holland (AZG)is seeking **Project Coordinator Advisor** 1 post in Sittwe: University Degree. Pls send application letter, CV & passport photo, copies of education qualifications & references to: MSF-Holland/ AZG (Yangon Coordination), 62-A, Bawdiyeiktha-ThanLwin Rd, Bahan, Yangon. or through rakhine-esd-recruiting@oca.msf.org, Closing date : 31st July, 2013.

MEDECINSSansFrontiers -Holland (AZG)is seeking **Field Manager** 1 post in Phakant, Kachin Project: University Degree. 1 year experience with MSF. 2 years experience in INGOs in relevant field. Pls send application letter, CV & passport photo, copies of education qualifications and references to: MSF-Holland/ AZG (Yangon Coordination) 62A, Bawdiyeiktha-Thanlwin Rd, Bahan, Yangon. Or through msf.myanmar.recruitment@gmail.com, Closing date : 26th July, 2013.

WORLD VISION Myanmar is seeking (1)**Area Development Program Manager** 4 posts in Hpa-An, Hlaingbwe, Thanbyu zayat & Thayetchaung : University Bachelor Degree in Social Studies & Masters Degree in Development/ Public Administration/ Business Administration/ Policy Studies would be an advantage. 5 years experience. Competent in use of Microsoft Office. Excellent command of Myanmar & English and excellent knowledge in report writing.(2)**Cashier cum Bookkeeper** in Palaw, Coastal Region: University Bachelor Degree in accounting/ Finance or related subject. 2 years experience as Cashier or in the field of finance & administration. (3)**Internal Audit Department Manager** in National Office, Yangon Region: ACCA, CPA or other internationally recognized accounting qualification. Prior auditing experience 5 years in a recognized. Good communication skills (English & Myanmar). (4) **Administration Asst** in Yenanchaung, Magway: University Bachelor Degree in any discipline. 1 year office experience in administration and support services. Pls submit your resume (clearly identify the post you apply) by post to HR Department, World Vision Myanmar or in person to application drop-box at 18, Shin Saw Pu Rd; Ahlone, Sanchaung PO or send to myajobapps@wvi.org not later than July 23, 2013.

WORLD VISION Myanmar is seeking **Consultancy** - Service Agreement. Interested entities should resume/ organization's profile including brief history of consultancy services done before & a cover letter indicating total detail cost of service addressing to Procurement Department, World Vision Myanmar : 16 Shin Saw Pu Rd, Ahlone, Yangon, or send email to Nyi_Nyi_Khine@wvi.org, Closing date : 24th July, 2013.

WORLD VISION Myanmar is seeking (1)**Communications Manager** in National Office, Yangon: Masters Degree in related studies is essential. Master Degree Mass Communications or Public Engagement is desirable. 5 years experience in related area is essential. 3 years experience in leadership role. Competent in use of Microsoft Office. Closing date : July 26, 2013. (2) **Protection Department Manager** (Re-Open) in National Office, Yangon: University graduate (BA) in an appropriate discipline is essential. Academic background in Law or Human Rights is desirable. 3 years experience in community development & INGO working experience is essential. Pls submit your resume (clearly identify the post you apply) by post to HR Department, World Vision Myanmar or in person to application drop-box at 18, Shin Saw Pu Rd; Ahlone, Sanchaung PO or send to myajobapps@wvi.org (3) **SOLIDARITES** is seeking (1) **Construction Manager** in Sittwe, Pauk Taw Rakhine State: Civil Engineer Degree; B.Tech (Civil) or B.E (Civil). 2 years professional experience in INGO. Good level in English. Excellent computer skills & skill in AutoCAD [optional] is an asset. (2) **Construction Manager** in Sittwe, Pauk Taw Rakhine State: Civil Engineer Degree; B.Tech (Civil) or B.E (Civil). 2 years of professional experience in INGO. Good level in English. Excellent computer skills (compulsory) & skill in AutoCAD (optional) is an asset. (3) **Administrative Clerk** in Yangon: Humanitarian values & strong motivation to gain experience with Int'l Humanitarian Organization. 1 years professional experience in Administrative field with INGO/NGO or other similar related areas also welcome. University Degree or Diploma for Administration. Or related proven experience in similar area. Knowledge of administrative management & MS office. Good spoken & written English & Myanmar Pls submit application (CV, cover letter, references) to : HR Department Solidarites Int'l office - 44 A, Tharyarwaddy Lane, Bahan, Yangon or per email: hr.solidarites.mm@gmail.com/ recruitment@solidarites-myanmar.org, Closing date : 31st July 2013. **MEDECINS** SansFrontiers - Holland (AZG) is seeking (1) **Project Head Mechanic**- 1 post in Yangon: Higher education in car mechanics. 2 years experience. Good command of English. (2) **Medical Storekeeper** - 1 post in Sittwe: University degree. Good computer skills. Good command of English. Pls send application letter, CV, passport photo, copies of education qualifications & references to: Logistics Coordinator, MSF-Holland/ AZG (Yangon Coordination) : 62A, Bawdiyeiktha-Thanlwin Rd, Bahan, Yangon. or through msf.myanmar.recruitment@gmail.com

RELIEF Int'l is seeking **Monitoring & Evaluation Officer** 1 post in Yangon: A relevant University degree with at least 3 years experience in M&E work including survey design, data collection, analysis and report writing. Skills in use of spreadsheet software, data base and word processing. Ability to communicate (verbal & written, excellent writing in English preferable). Pls send submit CV with a list of 2 references to the Relief Int'l at hla.oo@ri.org or deliver to Relief Int'l : 4/D Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone, Yangon, quoting "Monitoring & Evaluation Officer". Closing date : 23 July 2013.

MEDECINS SansFrontiers - Holland (AZG) is seeking **HR Officer** - Recruitment/ Training 1 post in Yangon: University degree. Diploma in HRM (Preferable). Fluent in English. 2 years experience in HRM with focus on recruitment. Excellent computer skills. Pls send application letter, CV, passport photo, copies of education qualifications & references to: HR Coordinator, MSF-Holland/ AZG (Yangon Coordination), 62A, Bawdiyeiktha-Thanlwin Rd, Bahan, Yangon. or through msf.myanmar.recruitment@gmail.com, Closing date: 22nd July 2013.

Local Position

CHATRIUM Hotel Royal Lake Yangon - Leading Five Star Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar with its headquarter in Bangkok, is now seeking highly energetic and motivated candidates for the following position with the specifications below: **Job Title: Guest Relations Officers (Japanese/ Thai/ Chinese Languages) (Female)** Comprehensive Computer Skills, fully understands MS Office, MS Excel Fluent English + any above language Interested individual is cordially invited to send CV in person or e-mail to the below address not later than 02 August, 2013. **Human Resources Department**, Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon, 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Tel : +951 5 44500 Fax : +95 1 544 400, E-Mail: hr.chry@chatrium.com

MYANMAR Intelligent Effort Co., Ltd. is seeking (1) **Business Coordinator F** - 2 posts : A high level of written & spoken English. University degree or diploma in relevant field. 3 years proven experience. Efficient Skills in MS Office, Email & Internet. (2) **Assistant Coordinator F** - 2 posts: A good level of written & spoken English. University degree or diploma in relevant field. 1 year proven experience. Efficient skills in MS Office, Email & Internet. Pls submit resume with recent photo, police recommendation, labour card, other qualification documents, last drawn salary, expected salary & available date to M.I.E Office, 707-708 C, Level-7, FMI Business Center, Pabedan, Yangon, Tel: 01-240400, Ext: 1708 within 2 weeks.

LOOKING for professor or lecturer A reputable Myanmar company is looking for a trainer who can work full time. Social science or management professor/ lecturer preferred. If interested, please contact Sue at sungoo087@gmail.com

SING-LINK Training Center is currently seeking for: Native or Near Native **English, Chinese, Myanmar Language Teachers** (full-time/part time) Requirements : Be a native/ near native-

speaker. Hold a 4-years university degree or higher. Have minimum 2 years teaching experience. Be positive thinking , hard-working. Flexible , innovative and resourceful teaching methods. Interested Candidates, pls forward CV to singlinkedunandar@gmail.com and singlinkedunandar@gmail.com. Pls Contact us , Sing-Link Training Center : 15/17, MTP Tower, 5-B (Hledan), Insein Rd, Kamaryut, Yangon. Tel: 09-4211-45155, 09-3130-6367, 09-31316-126

ASN has recently expanded to Myanmar opening branch in Yangon soon another in Mandalay and Tachilek. ASN is global marketing company offering wide selection of fast moving consumer goods: (skin & body care, make ups, supplements, cleaning products) We are currently looking for **independent distributors** to market our products throughout Myanmar. We provide free training and ongoing support. To arrange meeting call Mr. Tom 09-4237-02352

WEARE seeking (1) **Sales Trade Development Manager** : Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or relevant educational degree. 5 years' experience in similar position, in FMCG. Good understanding of Sales policies, WHO code & working process. Computer literacy & English communication skills. (2) **Brand Manager** : Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (Marketing) or related fields: MBA is a plus. 5 years' experience in field sales. Computer & English literacy (Thai literacy is a plus). (3) **Sales Executive** Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (Sales & Marketing) or related fields. 1 years' experience. Computer literacy & English communication skills. (4) **Nutrition Advisors** - Supervisor (Mandalay) : Bachelor's Degree in Food Science, Food Technology, Doctor, Nurse or related fields. 3 year work experience in Nutrition or Food Sciences. Knowledge of nutrition, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, food science, nurse applied science or physical therapy is required. Computer & English literacy. (5) **Nutrition Advisor** (Nay Pyi Taw) : Bachelor's Degree in Food Science, Food Technology, Doctor, Nurse or related fields. 1 year experience in Nutrition or Food Sciences. Knowledge of nutrition, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, food science, nurse applied science or physical therapy is required. Computer & English literacy. Pls submit resume to Nestle Trading (Thailand) Ltd. (Myanmar Representative Office) : 65, 11th Flr, Center Point, Corner of Sule Pagoda Rd & Merchant St Kyauktada, Ph: 09-732-32462. Email: zinhnaung.a@nestlemyanmar.com.mm

ORYX Int'l General Svc's Co., Ltd is seeking (1) **Computer Operator** - F 2 Posts: Good in English, 5 years experience in Internet, Email, Office Word, Excel, Pagemaker & Photoshop (2) **Admin Officer**- F 1 Post: Good in English, leadership skills, Age over 35, computer skills & knowledge of routine administration, strong personality. Able to work under stress situation (3) **Office Staff** - F 2 Posts: Good in English, Age over 30, computer knowledge, above 5 years experience. Salary will depend on experience

& qualification. Submit details resume to Rm 806, Yuzana Tower, Shwe Gone Daing Junction, Bahan, Yangon. Tel: 558398, 09-430-66708.

RUBY DRAGON Companies Hotels Group is looking for (1) **Operation Manager** - M 3 post (2) **Front Office Manager** - M/F 3 post (2) **Duty Manager** - M 3 post (3) **Reception Supervisor** - M/F 2 posts (4) **Receptionist** - M/F 3 posts (5) **Spa Masseuse** - M/F 3 posts (7) **Beautician** - M/F 2 posts (8) **Food & Beverage Manager** - M 2 posts (9) **Restaurant Supervisor** - M/F 3 posts (10) **Waiters and Waitress** - M/F 8 posts (11) **Bar Supervisor** - M/F 2 posts (12) **Bartender** - M/F 2 posts (13) **Executive Chef** - M 2 posts (14) **Sous Chef** - M 2 posts (15) **Chef De Parite** - M/F 2 posts Pls submit an application letter, CV with recent photo, copies of NRC and labour registration card. Educational Certificate and other testimonial to Admin Department 39(A), 7 1/2 miles, Pyay Rd, Ma Yan Gone . Tel: 664158, 652662 Closing date: 3rd August, 2013.

UNITED COURIER Services Co., Ltd is seeking (1) **Courier** - Post Man - M 15 Posts (Yangon - Naypyidaw) : Any graduate (For International Courier Services). - 1 year experience driving license for motorbike. Age 18 ~ 35 years. Good communication skill with customers. Ability work as team and at least 6 Months. (2) **Sales Executive** M / F 4 Posts : 1 year experience in Sales and Marketing field. Age 23 ~ 35 years. Good communication (English Language) and negotiation skills. Ability work as team and under pressure (3). **Customers Services** Agent F 3 Posts : Any graduate, 1 year experience in CS field. Age 23 ~ 35 years. Good communication (English Language) and negotiation skills. Ability work as team and under pressure. Interested candidates can submit an application letter with updated CV, a passport size recent photo, copy of labor registration card, NRC card and other supportive documents to following address and email. Deadline is 28-July 2013. 75 , Oak Pone Seik Rd, Mayangone, Yangon & Yangon Post Office UCS counter- Ph : 09- 730-730 99 - 09 431 901 99 - UCS office and counters- Contact Mail - wsh@ucscsl.com, kowinsanhtwe@gmail.com, www.ucscsl.com

HUMAN RESOURCES Manager -M/F 1 Post: University graduate. 2 years Experience in Admin. Age over 30. Fluent in spoken & written English. Excellent Interpersonal & Communication skills, Presentation and Strong Organizational Skills. Ability to work independently to be a high professional standard. Qualified & interested person are invited to send applications with updated resume. Short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Email - icsservices@myanmar.com.mm, Contact Person -Hnin Lei Ye (01-9000821)

EXOTISSIMO Travel is seeking (1) **Language Speaking Tour Operators** (French, Spanish, English) : 1 year experience in tourism related field, Excellent interpersonal skills & communication skills, Strong sales and customer service focus, Possess computer proficiency. Good communication in respective language i.e. German,

French, Spanish (Written & Spoken), Ability to work under pressure (2) **Reservations Officer**: 1 year experience in tourism related field, Good knowledge of hotels and restaurants in Myanmar, Excellent communication skill, Possess computer proficiency in MS office, Pls send a detailed resume with recent photo and other relevant documents to HR Manager at 147, Shwe Gone Dine St, West Shwe Gone Dine Ward, Bahan, Yangon, Email: memecho@exotissimo.com

WOH HUP Int'l Pte Ltd, a Building Construction Company is seeking (1) **Account Executive** : Degree in Accountancy, 2 to 4 years experience handling full set of account, Able to do MYOB will be an advantage, Good learning attitude & take initiatives, Basic Microsoft Office knowledge. (2) **Logistic Executive** : Diploma / Degree in Logistics, 2 ~ 5 years relevant experience, Good knowledge on custom clearance & freight forwarding, Quantity Surveyor, Degree in surveying, 3 years relevant experience, Purchasing Executive Diploma / Degree in Purchasing or relevant, 2 ~ 5 years working in purchasing, (3) **Site Structure Engineer** : Degree holder in Civil Engineering, 2 to 5 years experience, Fresh graduates are also welcome, For all posts: Good English standards in writing & speaking. Pls submit resume with cover letter in English, stating current & expected salary (in Kyt) to Woh Hup Int'l Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) - 483, Suite (8B), Aye Yeik Thar 2nd St, Aye Yeik Thar Condo, Bahan, Yangon, (OR) Email: thundamm@wh-intl.com.

WE ARE looking for a **Manager!** We are looking for a person that: Has significant management experience and can lead a team to success. Has a graduate degree, preferable in marketing and/or management. Is fluent in English. Is a proactive, enthusiastic person that can clearly communicate with management. Has a good personality, is self-motivated & mature in meetings. Has experience in sales. Has experience in the cars and/or motorcycles market. Has computer and internet skills. Has a foreign education (not required). Female or Male (full time), Age between 25 ~ 35. Pls send CV to Rocket Internet Myanmar (we recommend to upload your CV and apply via Work.com.mm)! You can also send your CV to theingi.oo@work.com.mm or call 01-2305629 for more info.

DRIVER 1 post : Age 30 ~ 45 years. Salary 1.5 Lakhs. Contact Maureen : 09-5188320. **AROMA GOURMET** Concepts Ltd (Nervin Café & Bistro) is seeking (1). **Sales and Marketing Manager** (2) **Sales and Marketing Executive** (3) **Service Technician** (Electrical) (4) **Outlet Manager** (5) **F&B Service Supervisor** (6). **Barista** (7). **Waiter & Waitress** (8). **Service** (Trainee) (9). **Sous Chef** (10). **Demi Chef** (11). **Commis I, II & III** (12). **Kitchen Helper** (13). **Kitchen Trainee** (14). **Security** (15). **Driver**. Pls apply personally to 390, Rm2, Set Hmu 1 Rd, Bahan (cross side of central Bank). Ph : 01-541188, 09-310 54 875 . Closing date : 31.7.2013 Bring along your CV, NRC copy, recent photo & copies of relevant certificates.

URGENTLY REQUIRES a **Russian speaking part time tutor** for a toddler kid. Please apply to the following address and e mail. advertising.myanmar@gmail.com **WE ARE** one of the Marketing Group for Pharmaceuticals Products in Myanmar has urgently requested **Medical Representatives** 5 posts in Yangon : 1.B.Pharm, B.Sc (or) any graduated. Experience candidate is more prefer to welcome. Willing to travelling around the area. Active & self motivation. Good personality. Any candidate who interested, pls contact urgently on Ph: 09-4224-86379, 09-516-9386 not later than 31st July 2013.

POST for Admin-F 1 post: With good communication skill (Myanmar & English), Marketing & accounting knowledge, Age between 22 ~ 28 years info@allianz.com. lazumruthkhawng@gmail.com, 09-4400-02276

SAVOY HOTEL, Yangon is urgently looking for (1) **Executive House keeper** - 1 post : 3 years experience in related field. Application letter by email to savoy.hra@gmail.com or Savoy Hotel - 129, Dhammazedi Rd, Yangon.

THE FREIGHT Co., Ltd is seeking (1) **Business Development Manager** - Myanmar : Bachelor's degree or solidaries experience preferably in logistics, shipping or int'l trade. Extensive experience in a sales position. Excellent customer service skills. Excellent oral and written English communication skills. (2) **Operations Staff** - Myanmar : Preferably with degree in logistics, shipping or international trade. Excellent in negotiating freight & other local charges. Good English communication skills. Pls submit CV to www.the-freight.com.

AREPUTABLE Int'l School in Yangon is seeking (1). **Technical/Systems Coordinator** (TSC) M : Aged 28 ~ 45, Must have a degree in IT & be able to manage the local area network, server functions & organization, user systems, the installation of all front-end (user) and back-end (infrastructure) school-wide technology systems, peripherals, apparatus, & software. 4 year experience. (2). **Receptionist** -M/F : Aged 22 ~ 30, Must have good & friendly looking personality, good English speaking skills. Experience in front office operation or customer service field will be an advantage. Pls send CV to Ms. Thin Thin Htay at thinthin@yismyanmar.com or call 09-730-44271, 01-578-171 by July 23, 2013.

JAPANESE Leading Trading Firm seeking one female staff for **Administration/ Business assistance**. English/ Computer skills required. Submit application ASAP to Ma Thandar, thandarwinawng@gmail.com or to Rm 101 (A), c/o Hotel Yangon, Ph: 651908.

ADVENTURE Myanmar Tours & Incentives is seeking (1) **Audit Manager** - M/F 1 Post : B.Com, CPA, ACCA & other relevant qualification, 5 years experienced in accounting and auditing, 4 skill of English, Computer literate (2) **Accountant** - M/F 3 Posts : B.Com, LCCI level II or III, 2 years experience, Knowledge of accounting software & windows application, Knowledge of financial statement, management reporting, Internal control & Budgeting. (3) **Legal Consultant** M/F 1 Post:

Qualification of Lawyer, 3 years experience, To be familiar with policy, law & regulations, 4 skill of English, Computer literate (4) **Personal Secretary** - M/F 1 Post: Any graduate, 3 years experienced, 4 skill of English, excellent computer skill (5) **Admin Staff** - M/F 1 Post : Any graduate, 2 years experienced, 4 skill of English, Computer skill (MS office) (6) **DTP Staff** - M/F 1 Post : Any graduate, Good computer skill, 2 years experience (7) **Media Manager** - M/F 1 Post : Any graduate, 3 years experience, Can arrange message/ newsletters in web site, face book, Good computer skill, High proficiency in English language skill. Pls submit CV with recent photo, relevant document, the copy of N.R.C card and Police Recommendation to 27, Inya Myaing Rd, Bahan, Ph: 502-901, 502-902. Email- admin@adventuremyanmar.com within two weeks.

IT / TELECOM Engineers : University graduate in Engineering (Electronics, Computer Science) or IT related professional certificate holders, 1 year in IT and Telecommunication field, Age under 35, Able to travel within the country, Good spoken & written English, Ability to work under pressure & work independently or team work, Fresh graduates who have the confidence to perform are also welcomed. Submit CV to 344, Mahabandoola Rd, between 39th & 40th St. Ph : 01-389657 or email: cntmobileshop@gmail.com

DIGNITAS BUSINESS Limousines is seeking: (1) **Accounts Clerk** - Able to communicate in English, has knowledge of basic book keeping & handles collection from clients. Needs to know Excel. Salary is negotiable, depending on working experiences & qualifications. (2) **Operations Manager** - To manage team of drivers & oversee day to day operations of the company. English speaking and computer literate. Salary is negotiable. Call: 09-4201-65678 (Myanmar) or 09-4200-15888 (English) to make appointment, 9am to 5pm. Bring along Photo, ID Photocopy, Certificates Copy for interview.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT - Job ID: 6 : Must have B.Sc or equivalent, 2 years experience in sales, customer service or IT field; travel & hospitality experience preferred, Excellent written & verbal communication skills; fluent English preferred, Highly motivated individual with ability to thrive in fast paced environment, Able to use computer & learn new software with training; Excel experience preferred, Must possess superb telephone etiquette, Frontiir Co Ltd 5G Moe Kaung Rd, MyaKanThar Garden Homes, Hlaing, Yangon. Ph: 681762 Email : contact@frontiir.com www.frontiir.com

CREDERA GROUP is looking for a **Project Manager** to join its growing Myanmar Team in its downtown Yangon office: English & Myanmar written & spoken, Ability to Liaison with Senior Corporate & Government stake holders, Basic PC Competence (Email, Microsoft Office), 5+ year work experience in Myanmar is Recommend, Flexi bility to travel internally Myanmar, Entrepreneurial Thinking. Pls send resumes/ CV's (maximum 2 pages) at govind@credragroup.com www.credragroup.com.

BRIEFS

Bangkok

Thai boy 'dumped as Chelsea mascot for PM's son', says father

A father in Thailand has claimed that his son was dumped as a mascot for Chelsea's game in Bangkok and replaced by the prime minister's son, a report said on July 17.

Nine-year-old Noppadol Sudlapha was in line to walk out with the Chelsea players for Wednesday's friendly and had already gone through pre-match rehearsals, his father Kriangyos told the *Bangkok Post*.

But Noppadol and several other children were told that they had been taken off the list of mascots in favour of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's son and the children of five other cabinet ministers.

Hanoi

Vietnamese fan chases Arsenal bus for five miles

A Vietnamese football fan dubbed the "Running Man" chased Arsenal's team bus five miles through the streets of Hanoi before finally being invited on board to meet his heroes, the club's website said on July 16.

Footage on the site shows players cheering and chanting "Sign him up, sign him up" as the young man wearing an Arsenal shirt and white trainers runs alongside the bus through the Vietnamese capital.

The man, who was not named, was eventually invited aboard to pose for photographs with the Arsenal squad and have his shirt signed by manager Arsene Wenger.

Perth

Wimbledon champ Bartoli to play Hopman Cup

Newly crowned Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli will team with the popular Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for France to open their 2014 season at the Hopman Cup in Perth.

Bartoli blitzed the field at the All England Club to win her first Grand Slam title and will be making her second appearance at the mixed team tournament from December 28 to January 4.

Berlin

Adidas suspends Gay sponsorship over failed drug test

Adidas on July 15 said that it had suspended its sponsorship of Tyson Gay, after the US sprinter tested positive for a banned substance.

The German company said in a statement that it was "shocked" at revelations that he failed a drugs test but was implementing the terms of his deal.

Gay, 30, is one of the four fastest men in history and has a personal best of 9.69 seconds for the 100m and 19.58 seconds for the 200m.

On July 14, he confirmed that he had been informed that he had tested positive for a banned stimulant at the US National Trials in June.



Tyson Gay. Photo: AFP

SYDNEY

Arthur sues Cricket Australia

Former coach alleges racial discrimination in recent sacking

AUSTRALIA'S first foreign-born coach Mickey Arthur on July 17 confirmed he was suing Cricket Australia for racial discrimination after being dumped from the job, while blasting the leaking of explosive case details to the media.

The South African was axed just 16 days before the first Test against Ashes-holders England at Trent Bridge this month and replaced by former Australia batsman Darren Lehmann.

His Australian-based lawyers said proceedings were filed with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) "on a number of grounds for being sacked and scapegoated".

"The grounds include racial discrimination," Harmers Workplace Lawyers and Arthur said in a statement.

Reports said Arthur, fired two years before his contract was due to expire, was seeking up to A\$4 million (US\$3.69 million) in compensation, claiming he was discriminated against because he was South African and "didn't understand the Australian way".

According to Australian broadcaster Channel Seven, the legal documents reveal a major feud in the team between captain Michael Clarke and former vice captain Shane Watson.

Clarke allegedly described the role of Watson and his faction as a "cancer" with Arthur calling himself the "meat in the sandwich" between the conflicting camps.

Arthur also reportedly claimed it was Watson who informed him of a nightclub incident in Birmingham, when David Warner punched England's Joe Root during the Champions Trophy last month.

Arthur said he was upset the details had been leaked as he



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II meets the Australian cricket squad at Lord's cricket ground in London on July 18. Photo: AFP

wanted the matter to be kept quiet.

"I am extremely upset and disappointed that confidential documents appear to have been given by others to the media," he said.

"The matters raised in my application to the FWC concerning issues within the Australian cricket team are very sensitive, which is why I was at pains to keep them confidential, especially at this time."

Cricket Australia said it was "dis-

appointed that it's come to this".

When he was sacked, amid claims that discipline and standards had fallen, Arthur went quietly, admitting he had been "shocked and shattered" and had no idea he was about to lose his job.

He refused to blame the players and acted with good grace at a hastily-convened press conference to announce his departure.

Arthur flew back to Australia

from England immediately after the decision, learning in transit that his mother had died.

Clarke shrugged off suggestions of internal dissent during Arthur's short tenure and said harmony in the team was never better with Lehmann now in charge.

A confidential conciliation between Arthur and Cricket Australia has been scheduled for this week, his lawyers said. - AFP

YANGON

Mandalay Academy U15s look to benefit from scheduling mistake

AUNG SI HEIN

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A LAST minute match postponement will likely mean three free points for Mandalay Academy's U15 team as they fight for the inaugural FAM-Frenz U15 ASEAN Champions Trophy.

The scheduling error arose when Laos Toyota FC, who are also participating in the Swiss Cup, were unable to make their match against Mandalay Academy, slated for July 6.

At their request, the match was delayed to July 10, and again to July 16, but Laos Toyota were still unable to attend.

"Laos are requesting further postponement. It seems the game has to be dropped. If they don't show up to play, we will automatically earn three points. The remaining three games are very important for us to go to the next stage. Though we are behind Malaysia B and

Indonesia, we still have hope because our young players are better and better after each game," Mandalay Academy's manager Win Thu Moe told *The Myanmar Times*.

There are 12 teams competing in the regional tournament. Mandalay is in Group B along with Frenz Indonesia, Lao Toyota Academy, Brunei U15s, Philippines U15s and Frenz Malaysia B.

Group A consists of Frenz Malaysia A, Singapore NFA, Thailand Chonburi Academy, Timor Leste U15s and Crown and PVF Academy.

Mandalay Academy have accumulated a total of 9 points through seven matches but the team will have a difficult time catching Frenz Indonesia, which have 20 points and Malaysia B, with 16 points. Both have played eight matches.

Mandalay are scheduled to face both PVF Academy and Philippines U15s away later this month. The two legs of the final stage are to be played August 24 and September 1.



IN PICTURES

Elegance in yellow: Britain's Christopher Froome rides in the 172.5km 18th stage of the Tour de France cycling race on July 18.
Photo: AFP

German Business Class at it's Best

Coming soon to Myanmar



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Sport

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SPORT 58

LONDON

MFF's big night out

KYAW ZIN HLAING

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YANGON United midfielder Kyi Lin and women's national team captain Khin Marlar Tun walked away on with top honours from the Myanmar Football Federation's Awards on July 12.

Kyi Lin, who has been linked recently to trade talks with the Malaysian Super League, was awarded Myanmar National League Player of the Year for 2012. Khin Marlar Tun was honoured as the Best Female Player.

Finishing behind Kyi Lin was Yatanarpon United FC goalkeeper Thiha Sithu, who finished in second place, and Kanbawza striker Nunez, who rounded out the top three.

In the team categories the Myanmar women's national team and Myanmar women's U19 team were both recognised for their achievements last season.

In the domestic league, reigning Myanmar National League champions Yangon United, Myanmar Football Federation Digicel Cup Champions Ayeyarwady United FC and Youth Knockout Champions Zeyar Shwe Myay were all honoured.



Kyi Lin. Photo: Zaw Zin Hlaing

Jose Mourinho speaks at a press conference on July 16 in Bangkok
Photo: AFP

KUALA LUMPUR

Mourinho issues World Cup warning

JOSE Mourinho on July 18 warned that players who aren't automatic picks for their clubs could miss out on the World Cup in Brazil next year.

The Chelsea boss issued the warning just after Manchester United rejected a bid from the Blues for 27-year-old Wayne Rooney, who has been told by new manager David Moyes that Robin van Persie is the club's first-choice striker.

"Normally for a player to be selected to play for his country, the player must be a first choice player in the club," Mourinho told reporters in Malaysia during Chelsea's brand-boosting tour in Asia.

"So any player that wants to go to the World Cup ... if they are second choice in their club they are in trouble. They are in trouble," he warned.

Earlier some 100 fans gathered outside the team's hotel to welcome the players on their arrival from Bangkok.

The Blues-adoring supporters held up a "Welcome" banner and yelled: "We love you Chelsea."

Chelsea will play Malaysia's national selection on July 21 before heading to Jakarta.

A Chelsea official told reporters before the press conference that 50-year-old Mourinho would not answer any questions related to a failed bid for Rooney.

The England forward has two years left on his contract with Manchester United but has been pushing for a move. Dutch striker van

Persie is seen as United's first choice striker.

During the conference Mourinho said that with the World Cup a year away, a player picked regularly for his team would obviously stand a better chance of representing his country in the Brazil World Cup.

"He must play very regular for the club and that is the big motivation if they are thinking about the World Cup," he said.

Mourinho has previously stated that striker Rooney was Chelsea's only remaining summer transfer target for the club.

News reports had stated that Rooney wanted to leave Old Trafford this summer, identifying Chelsea as the club he wants to join, due to a lack of pitch-time at United last season.

The England international, who has been the subject of an inquiry from Arsenal, believes he is at the peak of his career and is unwilling to become a back-up player, particularly in a World Cup year. — AFP

'If they are a second choice in their club they are in trouble.'

Jose Mourinho
Chelsea manager

BRIEFS

Warsaw

Radwanska dropped by Catholic youth over nude spread

World number four Agnieszka Radwanska has been dropped by a Catholic youth movement in her native Poland for posing nude in the "Body Issue" of *ESPN Magazine*.

Radwanska, 24, is photographed in profile without a stitch on, sitting in a lawn chair next to a pool filled with tennis balls.

The nude has proven too much for a Catholic group known as *Krucjata Mlodych* (Youth Crusade). They dropped Radwanska last week for what they said was "immoral behaviour" in the ESPN spread.

London

Dunne deal as QPR sign former Villa star

Championship promotion favourites QPR bolstered their squad by signing of former Aston Villa defender Richard Dunne on a free transfer on July 15.

Dunne was released by Villa at the end of last season, and the Republic of Ireland international has agreed to drop down a division after signing a one-year contract with QPR.

The 33-year-old centreback is Harry Redknapp's second pre-season signing following the capture of Newcastle right-back Danny Simpson.

Yangon

Tug-of-war athletes train for six-nation tournament

The 1st Region and States Tug-of-War competition was held July 14 to 18 at Thuwana Indoor Stadium in Yangon to select athletes for an upcoming six-nation tournament in November.

Athletes from eleven men's teams and nine women's tug teams competed for spots on the four teams that will compete in Nay Pyi Taw in November. There will be two male teams and two female teams competing.

"We are selecting athletes to form national men and women teams. This sport will also be contested at the 28th SEA Games which will be hosted by Singapore. A Singaporean coach will train the Myanmar national teams," said secretary of the Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation, Daw Ohnmar Than. — Kyaw Zin Hlaing

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