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ISSUE 728 | MAY 12 - 18, 2014

ASEAN must tackle South China Sea claims, says Aquino

PHILIPPINE President Benigno Aquino urged fellow Southeast Asian leaders to face up to the threat posed by China's contentious claims to most of the South China Sea as they headed to a regional summit over the weekend.

Manila filed a case at a UN tribunal in March challenging Chinese claims to most of the strategic sea. Mr Aquino said on May 10 he would discuss the case's regional implications with fellow ASEAN leaders meeting in Myanmar on May 10-11.

Even though not all ASEAN members are involved in maritime territorial disputes with China, Mr Aquino said the issue concerned the security of the region as a whole.

"We wish to emphasise, uphold and follow the rule of law in resolving these territorial issues so that the rights of all countries involved will be recognised and respected," Mr Aquino said in a speech at Manila airport.

"This step mirrors our belief that an issue that affects all countries in the region cannot be effectively resolved merely through a dialogue between two countries," he added.

Mr Aquino said the issue concerned the "security" of Southeast Asia.

Myanmar is hosting the two-day meeting amid a flare-up of high-seas tensions between ASEAN members Vietnam and the Philippines and regional superpower China, also one of their main economic partners. – *AFP*

PAGES 3-4

PHOTO: AFP

History made as leaders roll into a capital on show

Nay Pyi Taw began welcoming foreign heads of state on May 10 for the two-day ASEAN Summit – one of the biggest ASEAN events of the year – at which leaders were expected to focus their attention on the South China Sea and speeding up regional integration.

After delays, MPT to ink deal with Japan's KDDI

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is expected to partner with KDDI at the end of May, an official says, following delays to an invitation-only tender conducted last year. BUSINESS 27

FEATURE 14-15

Militia call a shot in the arm for Rakhine armies

Proposal for a "people's militia" to patrol Rakhine's border has given new relevance to Rakhine armed groups.

BUSINESS 27

Bank licences in doubt

The Central Bank says it is unclear if licences will be awarded to foreign banks this year as previously announced.

Page 2

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THE INSIDER: The local lowdown & best of the web

ASEAN warrants security check
Officials in Myanmar have been busy beefing up security ahead of the ASEAN summit, with reports saying the government had received assistance from Interpol to get procedures at Yangon International Airport (which one security analyst had described as "less thorough than the bag inspections at CityMart") up to scratch.

The security presence in the capital will be elevated, adding significantly to Nay Pyi Taw's base population of approximately six people.

Some 11,000 security personnel are reportedly being deployed for the duration of the summit.

Monk rubs locals up the wrong way
A monk in Thailand's Ratchaburi province has been exposed for his rather untoward brand of sexual shamanism, when locals petitioned against him and a video of one of his ceremonies was submitted to the "Network Against Acts that Destroy Kingdom, Religion and Monarchy" (NAADKRM).

> **'...census coverage rate of 99 percent and a response rate of 98 percent.'**
>
> **Figures cited highlighting the success that was the census** taken from the *New Light of Myanmar* last week

Women had been seeking the monk's help to attract their ideal male partners. In order to achieve this, he would take a wooden penis amulet and rub it on their breasts and face.

According to Coconuts Media, the monk charged 312 baht for the honour and operates his business on a 9-5 basis.

"In the video, the monk says 'What are those two lumps?' and the girl said 'Oh, just my boobs,' just like that!" said NAADKRM chair Songkran Atchariyasap.

"Locals have brought the issues to the related organisations, but no action against him was taken", said Songkran, who has demanded The National Office of Buddhism investigate thoroughly.

White Temple wrecked by quake
The shallow magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck northern Thailand last week and set drinks rattling in Yangon has laid waste Chiang Rai's famous White Temple, or Wat Rong Khun – the life's work of Thai artist Chalermchai Kosipipat.

Murals he has spent two decades creating were destroyed when a wall and ceiling collapsed from the tremor and aftershocks. Chalermchai says the temple is "beyond repair", and will be left as is.

"Everything is finished, and I may leave the temple, a world's masterpiece, to remain as it is now for the latter generation to remember," he said.

In brief: Two post-coital street dogs in downtown stuck together for "almost an hour", say eyewitnesses

Next week: Man fumbles way through pronunciation of "Ooredoo"

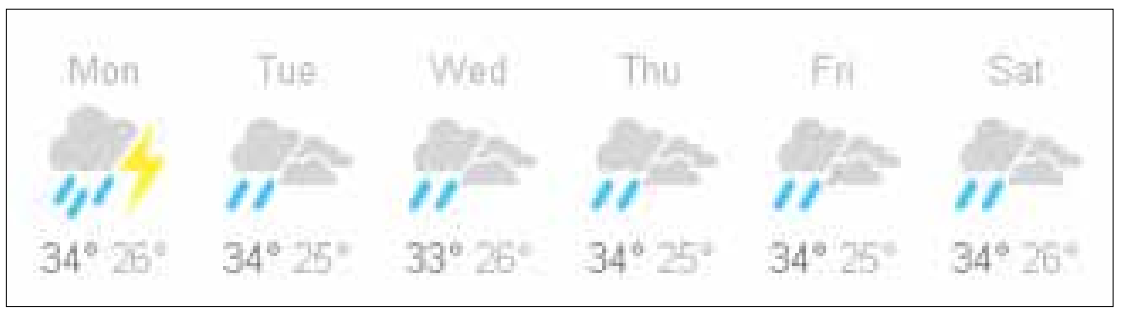
Chan Chan and her daughter from *NOW!* Magazine.
Photo: Pyan Han (ColorMax)

Style Statement NOW!

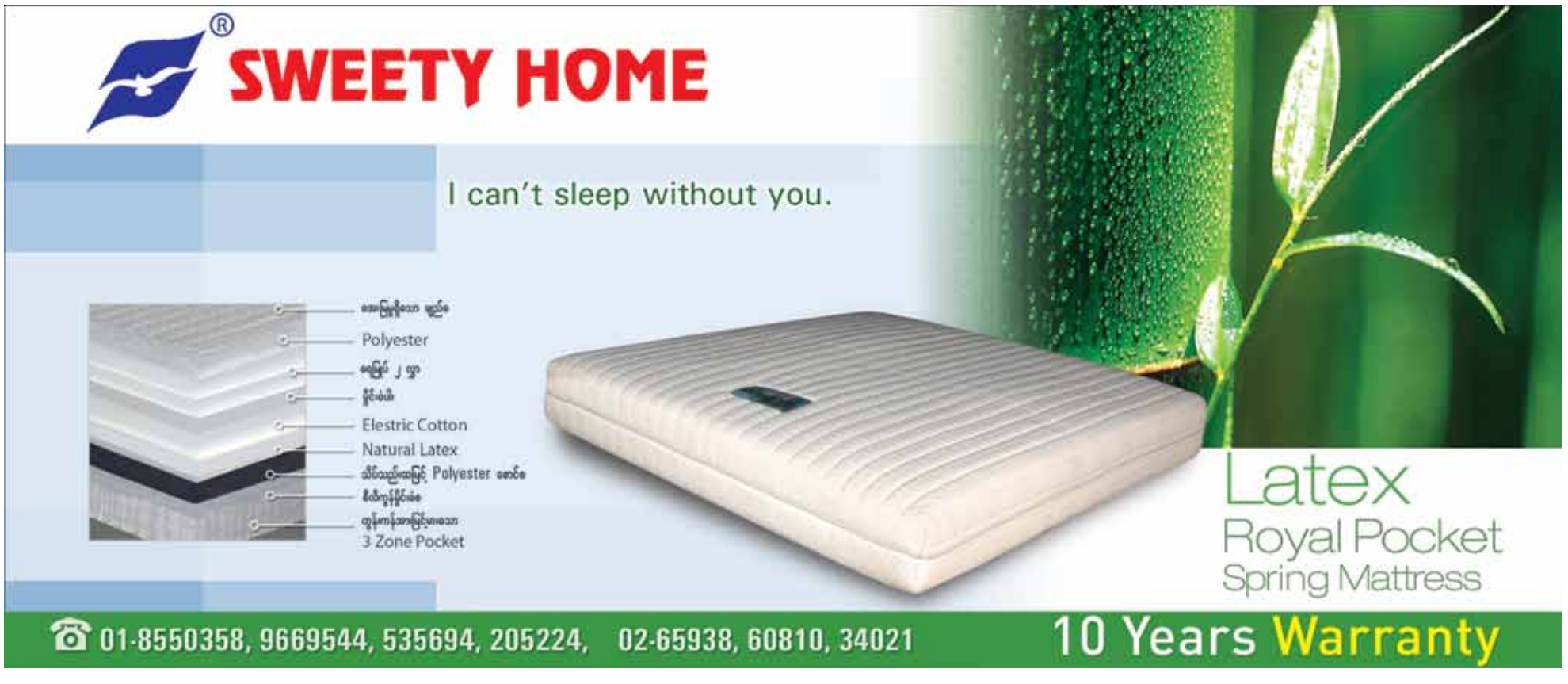
Once was Burma...

Archival material provided by Pansodan Gallery

Ad for *mount kyet tha yae gaung paung* headwear, popular in the 50s, 60s and present-day parliament



Weather forecast: Round-the-clock showers expected, should subside sometime around October.



Deposed Yingluck must respect 'rule of law', says govt

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A GOVERNMENT official says Thailand's former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra must respect the decision of a Constitutional Court that dismissed her for abuse of power on May 7, shortly before she was due to travel to Myanmar for the ASEAN Summit.

"That is rule of law. You have to follow the court's decision finally even if you don't like it," Deputy Information Minister U Ye Htut, a spokesperson for President U Thein Sein, said in a post on Facebook following the decision.

U Ye Htut, who regularly uses the social media site to convey the views of the government, did not respond to a request for further comment.

The Constitutional Court ruled that Ms Shinawatra acted illegally when transferring National Security Council chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011. Nine ministers who were also linked to the transfer were stripped of their positions.

Deputy Premier Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan was appointed Ms Shinawatra's replacement.

Among those found guilty was Minister of Foreign Affairs Surapong Tovichakchaikul, who, along with Ms Shinawatra, was scheduled to attend the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw over the weekend. At press time it was unclear who would represent Thailand at the summit, which took place on May 10-11.

Mr Tovichakchaikul was also unable to attend the January ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Bagan due to unrest in Thailand.

Speaking to reporters at the retreat, U Ye Htut said that the Myanmar government would not comment on the issues in Thailand, citing ASEAN's position on non-interference in the internal affairs of other member nations. He did say, however, that he hoped problems could be resolved through "peaceful discussions".

ASEAN SUMMIT

Govt prepares accord on ASEAN Community ahead of summit

The so-called Nay Pyi Taw Accord will focus on integration – and possibly shift attention from other pressing issues

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MYANMAR is set to unveil an agreement on regional integration – already dubbed the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration – at the weekend's ASEAN Summit in the capital, a government official says.

U Aung Htoo, deputy director general of the ASEAN Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the declaration aims to speed up integration ahead of the planned introduction of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015.

"We will urge increased collaboration [toward the introduction of the] ASEAN Community, which we have all agreed on and aim to implement before 2015. We do not normally make big statements like this … but we think it's important to strengthen the [preparations for the] ASEAN Community," U Aung Htoo said last week.

The ASEAN Community will be comprised of political, economic and cultural pillars, as outlined in the Bali agreement of 2003. The original implementation target of 2020 was brought forward five years in 2007.

'Myanmar will be able to exert some soft diplomacy like Brunei did [in 2013].'

Ko Kyaw Lin Oo
ASEAN People's Forum coordinator

The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration is likely to deflect some attention away from other more thorny issues, including the South China Sea and regional concerns over the treatment of Muslims in Rakhine State.

But observers say it is still a positive development. As ASEAN chair, Myanmar has a significant responsibility to ensure the region is adequately prepared for the launch of the community, said Ko Kyaw Lin Oo, a coordinator of the ASEAN People's Forum.

A worker walks past posters outside the Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw ahead of the ASEAN Summit on May 10-11. Photo: AFP

While the ASEAN Secretariat insists that most countries have achieved around 80 percent of their implementation goals for the community, Ko Kyaw Lin Oo said most countries are not yet ready for the changes the ASEAN Community will bring, particularly for a planned economic liberalisation that would reduce trade barriers. The so-called CLMV countries – Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam – that joined the bloc in the 1990s risk being adversely affected because of their lack of preparedness, he said.

"Member countries are not ready to implement the ASEAN Community, especially the ASEAN Economic Community. Reducing some targets and improving collaboration would [improve preparedness]," he said. "Myanmar's role as chair is really to push forward implementation of the ASEAN Community."

But other high-profile issues will also intrude on the agenda. Government officials were quoted in state media last week as saying that the summit will "touch on" the Korean peninsula and South China Sea disputes.

ASEAN members will also discuss the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which requires ASEAN countries to respect each other's sovereignty and integrity, and uphold the long-standing policy of non-interference in each other's national affairs.

Violence against Muslims in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State, is also likely to be raised despite the objections of the government. Speaking to reporters at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bagan in January, spokesperson U Ye Htut said the violence was an internal issue and would not be discussed formally, although he added that Myanmar may "accept advice that suits our country".

"There were issues occurring between people of different religions in Myanmar in previous years. These problems were solved by the Myanmar government and [Myanmar] people because this was an internal issue for Myanmar," he said.

In a recent interview, however, former ASEAN secretary general of ASEAN Surin Pitsuwan dismissed the government claim that treatment of Myanmar's Muslims is an internal issue, describing it as one of Myanmar's major challenges as it chairs the regional bloc for the first time.

Mr Surin said Myanmar's handling of the Muslim issue was as significant as its management of the South China Sea dispute or the peace process with armed ethnic groups, both of which also have regional dimensions.

"The Rohingya problems are being observed by the whole world. Before I left as secretary general, I mentioned that the Rohingya issue would be a problem for the whole of Southeast Asia. It's a big challenge … We need to wait and see what Myanmar can do in 2014 while it is chair," Mr Surin said. The government refuses to accept the term Rohingya and instead insists on using Bengali.

Ko Kyaw Lin Oo said it would be almost impossible to avoid the Muslim issue because three of the bloc's members – Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei – are majority Muslim. However, he said he was confident Myanmar could manage their concerns, as well as those in the bloc worried about the South China Sea.

"On issues such as the South China Sea and [violence against Muslims], Myanmar won't be as bad as what we saw in Cambodia in 2012" when ASEAN member refused to release a joint statement because of perceived interference from China. "I think Myanmar will be able to exert some soft diplomacy like Brunei did [in 2013]."

The ASEAN Summit is the first major meeting Myanmar is hosting as chair of the regional bloc and will be attended by senior officials from all 10 countries. A second summit in November will also bring together leaders of ASEAN partners, including United States President Barack Obama. The first ASEAN Summit for the year is normally held in April but was delayed this year because of the water festival.

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ASEAN SUMMIT

Myanmar showcases reforms, and capital, at regional meet

Hosting of ASEAN Summit for the first time has brought the country "political dignity", official says

MYANMAR paraded its once-isolated capital to international leaders over the weekend, hosting a landmark summit of Southeast Asia's regional bloc as reforms see the country strut onto the world stage.

Teams of local workers plucked weeds from manicured lawns while police practised security checks on convoys of proxy diplomatic cars in Nay Pyi Taw late on May 9, in last-minute preparations for the arrival of ASEAN leaders ahead of the May 11 meeting.

"We are now fine-tuning, everything is ready," government spokesperson U Ye Htut said.

The summit is the first top-level function held as part of Myanmar's year-long ASEAN chairmanship – a debut for the country, despite its 17-year membership of the bloc, because rights concerns during the period of military rule kept it on the sidelines.

A new quasi-civilian regime that took power in 2011 has thrust the country into the international limelight, with reforms including freeing political prisoners and welcoming opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi into parliament.

Myanmar has taken the ASEAN helm under the slogan "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community".

But its first major diplomatic role is likely to be dominated by regional tensions after tempers flared this week between Beijing and ASEAN members Vietnam and the Philippines over the South China Sea.

Hanoi on May 7 accused Chinese ships of attacking Vietnamese patrol vessels near a controversial oil rig in contested waters.

On the same day, Philippine police said they had seized a Chinese fishing boat elsewhere in the sea.

The sea is crisscrossed by strategically important shipping lanes and vast potential energy reserves.

China, which claims sovereign rights to almost all of the disputed waters, said it was in the right in both cases.

Beijing has long been the largest investor in Myanmar and was a rare ally during the country's years in the diplomatic wilderness under the junta.

But Myanmar should strive not to let its close relationship with China "mar its neutral and even-handed leadership", said Simon Tay, chair of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs thinktank, adding that this would "not be easy".

In 2012, Beijing ally Cambodia caused consternation when it was ASEAN head by refusing to take China to task over its assertive maritime stance.

Myanmar was forced to renounce the rotating ASEAN presidency in 2006 because of the military regime's failure to shift to democracy.

Workers arrange flowers outside the Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw on May 9 ahead of the May 10-11 ASEAN Summit. Photo: AFP

'Both the country and the people are now enjoying a high level of political dignity.'

U Ye Htut
Government spokesperson

But it has skipped ahead of Laos to take the rudder this year, indicating an enthusiasm to showcase its revamped international image in the run-up to crucial 2015 elections that are seen as a key litmus test of reforms.

Myanmar has won praise for its democratising efforts from the international community and has welcomed a series of global leaders, including United States President Barack Obama.

"Both the country and the people are now enjoying a high level of political dignity," U Ye Htut said.

The removal of international embargoes has also raised hopes of an economic boom in the country, left impoverished after decades of mismanagement by the junta.

Foreign firms, drawn by huge natural resources and an estimated 60 million potential consumers, are already dipping their toes into the market.

According to state-run *New Light of Myanmar* last week, foreign investment created 90,000 jobs in the 2013-14 financial year.

Rajiv Biswas, an economist at IHS Global Insight, said the country was "one of the last great frontier market opportunities for many Western firms", but problems including weak governance and poor infrastructure meant it was still a "challenging" business environment.

Nay Pyi Taw bears the signs of the country's evolving aspirations.

The "Abode of Kings" rose out of remote scrubland after a sudden – and costly – decision by the military to shift the capital from Yangon to Myanmar's parched central region in 2005.

Unconstrained by conventional notions of scale or design, the city sprawled across the tropical hinterland in an architectural smorgasbord of vast government buildings and hotels, linked by lonely multi-lane highways.

Once off-limits to not only foreign visitors but also the general public, Nay Pyi Taw last year hosted thousands of visitors for the World Economic Forum on East Asia and the Southeast Asian Games.

Tending flower beds near the ASEAN conference centre, local labourer Ma Aye Aye Aung said the changes in the capital had brought electricity to her village on the fringes of the city – but little else.

"Nay Pyi Taw has improved," the 29-year-old said. "I hope our lives will also improve as the city develops." – *AFP*

ASEAN govts reject youth, civil society reps

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REGIONAL governments are attempting to replace independently selected civil society and youth leaders with state-sanctioned representatives ahead of a meeting on May 11, organisers say.

For the first time, leaders are scheduled to meet civil society and youth leaders selected at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/People's Forum and the ASEAN Youth Forum. The two events were held in Yangon in March.

The two 30-minute meetings are scheduled for May 11, during the two-day ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, and are organised by Myanmar, as chair of the bloc. Two representatives from each country will take part in the youth meeting, while one from each country will join the civil society meeting.

The meetings are designed to give representatives the chance to raise problems that regional youth and civil society leaders face and to submit documentation, such as the ASEAN Declaration drafted at the March forums.

But ASEAN Youth Forum organiser Ko Thet Swe Win said last week that six of the 10 regional governments had tried to substitute independently selected youth representatives with their preferred representatives.

Only Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei accepted the list of youth representatives sent by organisers, Ko Thet Swe Win said.

"This is an important moment in ASEAN history," he said. "But the selected representatives are facing restrictions from their own governments ... [who] are trying to replace them."

Daw May May Pyone, the head of the civil society and people's forum organising committee, confirmed that three countries – Singapore, Cambodia and Malaysia – have rejected the civil society delegates chosen by their peers.

"It is a violation of the rights of civil society. It is a big problem and we will try to ensure that the independently selected representatives take part. We have requested the ASEAN chair not to let governments send their own representatives," she said.

Ko Thet Swe Win said he also had not given up hope of ensuring the proper delegates attended the meeting.

U Aung Htoo, a deputy director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said his ministry had tried to negotiate between regional governments and civil society to resolve the dispute.

He said conflict between civil society and regional governments had occurred at each civil society conference since the first in 2005 and in this context getting agreement from seven of the 10 countries was a "good result".

Myanmar will be represented at the youth dialogue meeting by Ko Kyaw Kyaw Bo, a Kayin youth, and Ma Phawe Yu Mon, an ethnic Kachin.

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TIGER BALM
WORKS WHEREVER IT HURTS.

Growing media industry gets its first code of conduct

Code marks important step forward for a sector in need of increased professionalisation, experts say

SANDAR LWIN

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Journalists surround Minister for Immigration U Khin Yi at a press conference on May 7. Photo: Zarni Phyo

THE Interim Press Council has released the first official code of conduct for journalists and invited people to complain to the council if they believe a media organisation has behaved improperly.

The code of conduct, issued on May 3, applies to all independent media organisations and covers 27 thematic areas, including politics and election reporting, reporting on religion, using leaked or confidential information, protecting sources, relations with government officials, and conflicts of interest.

It applies to all news media organisations and journalists from all print, broadcast and online media.

Press Council member U Thiha Saw, who is also chair of the board of the newly formed Myanmar Journalism Institute, said the code was developed based on extensive consultations with journalists in nine cities across Myanmar.

"This code has been adapted from international codes of conduct to take into account the practical realities of reporting in Myanmar," he said.

The council will now distribute the code to media organisations in English and Myanmar free of charge.

'To have freedom, you also need to take responsibility for your actions.'

U Ko Ko
Press Council member

The code enables individuals to submit a complaint to the council if they believe a journalist or media organisation has contravened the code. The council will arbitrate between the complainant and the media organisation and make a decision on the complaint. It will have the power to order organisations to issue and publish a statement about the complaint, apologise to the complainant, publish a correction, give the complainant right of reply or publish a full ruling from the council.

The code specifies that media organisations must also develop in-house mechanisms for distributing the code of conduct and handling complaints.

Press Council member U Ko Ko said that there was an urgent need to improve standards in the media industry and the code would be an important step toward achieving this. He warned that failing to lift standards would hinder efforts to gain more press freedom.

"To have freedom, you also need to take responsibility for your actions and follow a code of conduct," said U Ko Ko. "Cases that hamper freedom of the press are not only due to the concerns and improper mindset of the authorities but also issues related to the breaching of [journalism ethics]."

U Thet Swe, a Pathein-based reporter from *The Voice Daily*, said the code would help to prevent some of problems that have recently afflicted the industry, including the conviction – and sometimes jailing – of reporters for trespassing, defamation and obstructing civil servants.

"If a journalist works according to the code of conducts, the possibility of [problems] from either the authorities or a source in the article they have written will be reduced," he said.

The council will promote the code of conducts among journalists through journalist associations and media organisations, U Ko Ko said.

"The Myanmar Journalist Association, Myanmar Journalist Network, Myanmar Journalist Union have all adopted this code of conduct and these groups will promote the code among their members," he said.

"The council also plans to meet and discuss the code with media owners."

The code, which was published as a 41-page booklet, was developed under the auspices of the Media Law – enacted in mid-March – with financial and technical support from International Media Support.

Consultation workshops began in January and meetings were held in nine cities with local reporters. The feedback was then used to finalise the draft.

While no organisations have objected to the code, commentator Sithu Aung Myint said there was "some sentiment against it in the industry". "For me, generally I accept it," he said.

But journalists *The Myanmar Times* spoke to last week praised the code. A senior reporter based in Mandalay, who asked not to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media, said he welcomed its introduction.

"Although I didn't take part in the consultation workshop in Mandalay I feel good about the code of conduct."

Nyein Nyein, a reporter at Irrawaddy Media, said she thought the code was developed in line with democratic principles. "[The code] respects the right of the people and define the rights and duties of a journalist. Every journalist should follow it," she said.

The code of conduct on...

Leaked information: Media organisations have a professional responsibility to publish leaked information if it is in the public interest.

Protecting sources: Media organisations have an obligation to protect sources and have to respect that obligation.

National security: During a national state of emergency, the media can omit information that may endanger the life of a person or the safety of the public. The code recognises that this is the choice of the media.

Intellectual property: Media organisations have to follow intellectual property laws but can quote from others' intellectual property with attribution.

Politics: Journalists should not be personally involved in politics. The media has to reflect the political diversity of society.

Privacy: Media organisations can publish information about a person's personal life if they can show doing so is in the public interest. Journalists must get permission to take a recording in a place where a person could reasonably expect privacy. If it is impossible to get permission, journalists can still take a recording but have to refrain from hurting the dignity of others.

Journalism diploma classes to start from July

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STATE-OWNED and private media organisations have jointly founded the country's first independent journalism school, with classes set to begin in July. Thirty-nine media organisations, ranging from military-owned daily paper *Myawady* to former exile media outlets like Democratic Voice of Burma, elected a temporary board of directors for the institute on May 5.

The eight-member board includes representatives for print, broadcast, online, ethnic and community media, as well as woman journalists and two prominent journalist organisations.

The institute's founding work committee said it would ensure that the institute remains independent, despite counting military- and state-owned media organisations among its members.

"All media-related organisations including the state-owned, community and commercial private media, have declared their commitment to the independent Myanmar journalism institute. The MJI will gradually establish the administration, financial system, curriculum, training process and doing research to be independent," the committee said.

The temporary board is headed by U Thiha Saw, a member of the Interim Press Council, while U Soe Myint from *Mizzima* is the vice chair. They are expected to serve about seven months, after which a general assembly will be held to elect a permanent board.

The temporary board will facilitate the development of a curriculum and the opening of a part-time diploma course in July.

The founding members include established print media, such as *The Myanmar Times*, *7Day Daily*, *The Voice Daily* and *Pyithu Khit*, former exile media, including Democratic Voice of Burma and *Mizzima*, broadcast media outlet SkyNet, and ethnic and community media, such as *Chin World*, *Bago Weekly* and Rakhine-based Narinjara. The most notable absentee from the list of founding members is Eleven Media Group, publisher of *Daily Eleven* and *Premier Eleven*.

International organisations, including International Media Support from Denmark, Sweden's FOJO, Germany's Deutsche Welle Akademie, France's Canal France International, the French embassy in Yangon and UNESCO have provided both financial and technical assistance to set up the institute in cooperation with Myanmar's Forever Group.

Govt mulls options on 'missing' census data

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Minister for Immigration U Khin Yi speaks at a press conference in Yangon on May 7. Photo: Zarni Phyo

MINISTRY of Immigration and Population staff said last week they were still considering ways of allowing populations skipped by the national census to be counted, but said no decisions had been made.

Most undercounting occurred in Rakhine State, where entire communities of Muslims were not counted because they insisted on registering as Rohingya, and Kachin State, where enumerators were denied access to areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO).

The census was scheduled to end on April 10 but the government has not ruled out collecting additional data. Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said he plans to meet with representatives of both regions in the coming weeks to discuss possible solutions.

"We haven't got the green light from the KIO so far. We will negotiate with them in Myitkyina and Yangon to get their agreement to take the census," he said at a press conference in Yangon last week.

Speaking at the Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon, General Gun Maw, deputy chief of staff of the KIA, was non-committal on the prospect of allowing the census in rebel-controlled areas, saying only that the government should negotiate with top KIO leaders. Fighting that flared between the KIA and Tatmadaw in April, leaving at least 30 killed or wounded, is thought to have been sparked by Kachin soldiers killing a Tatmadaw officer who was providing security for census enumerators.

In Rakhine State, officials say they are mulling several options to rectify the undercount, including simply sending enumerators to count the missed houses, skipping the communities altogether, or making an estimate based other population information, such as lists of National Registration Card holders.

The latter option would be made more difficult by the fact that the majority of Muslims in northern Rakhine State born after 1990 have never been issued NRC cards.

"We don't have enough information yet to recommend which option to take," said Paul Cheung, co-chair of the International Technical Advisory Board, a body of 15 experts set up to advise on the census. While Mr Cheung noted that simply redoing the census in skipped areas would be the most technically sound solution, he was not sure whether the relevant groups in Rakhine State would allow this to happen.

'Consultations should be broadly inclusive, involving leaders of all the communities.'

William Ryan
UNFPA spokesperson

Several Rohingya civil society members interviewed for this article questioned why United Nations Population Fund and other foreign donors, who provided the majority of funding for the census, are not doing more to fix the situation.

"UNFPA has not recommended any option in advance of this discussion. We have, however, advised the government that consultations should be broadly inclusive, involving leaders of all the communities concerned, and that there should be a clear and explicit consensus before any action is taken," said William Ryan, UNFPA regional communications adviser for Asia and the Pacific.

Daw Khaing Khaing Soe, head of the census technical team at the Ministry of Immigration and Population, said discussions would include leaders of both the Rakhine and Muslim communities.

"We need to do [the negotiations] very carefully … [and make] the process transparent and include everybody on both sides," she said.

Daw Khaing Khaing Soe stressed that the ministry would not agree to any procedure that allowed citizens in Rakhine to self-identify as Rohingya, but said the ministry would have no problem if respondents wanted to leave the ethnicity question blank.

Members of Rohingya civil society, however, say they will not back down from their right to self-identification. "No one [in Rakhine] will agree to write 'Bengali' in the census. We cannot accept that name," said U Aung Win, an activist based in Sittwe.

"People in Rakhine State are very clear: The only thing we have left is our pride. We are not going to accept registering as 'Bengali'," said U Khin Maung Myint, an activist and member of the National Democratic Party for Development, which identifies as Rohingya.

Both men pointed out that the Ministry of Population and UNFPA had been promising for weeks leading up to the census that Muslims would be permitted to identify however they like. "In reality," said U Khin Maung Myint, "it's the exact opposite."

SSA-South warns government over raid on Kengtung office

Raids could constitute a breach of ceasefire terms, Lieutenant General Yawd Serk says in a letter to U Aung Min

EI EI TOE LWIN **TIM MCLAUGHLIN**

TENSIONS between the government and the Restoration Council of Shan State – the political wing of the Shan State Army-South – have escalated following a May 6 raid by government security forces on an RCSS liaison office in Kengtung.

The raid was carried out by Military Affairs Security (MAS) – formerly known as Military Intelligence – together with police and other army officials, and no prior notice was given.

The liaison office was opened with government's permission to manage disputes between the Tatmadaw and SSA-South.

The raid prompted RCSS chief Lieutenant General Yawd Serk to write to the head of the government peace negotiating team, U Aung Min, and warn him that such actions could potentially invalidate a ceasefire agreement reached in December 2011.

"The government has carried out actions that lead to a deterioration of trust and harm the peace process. That's why we ask you [U Aung Min] to deal with these problems as soon as possible," Lt Gen Yawd Serk wrote in the letter. He added that the incident had created "large doubts" about the government's commitment to the peace process.

A Myanmar Peace Center official said U Aung Min had received the RCSS letter but had not replied as of May 9. "I hope U Aung Min can resolve this issue to the satisfaction of the [RCSS]," said peace facilitator U Hla Maung Shwe.

Witnesses told *The Myanmar Times* last week that about 20 military and police officers arrived at office at 4:20pm and searched the premises. At the time, the head of the liaison office, Sai Soe Mong, was at the MAS office because the officer in charge had summoned him.

"They came into the office suddenly holding guns and searched every room. We asked them why they were doing it and they didn't respond, except for one person who said it was according to MAS orders," said Sai Lon Won, a local member of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD). "We couldn't stop them from searching but we took photos and video as evidence … They were there for about 45 minutes and then they left without taking or damaging anything."

Photo: Supplied

Government security forces raid the RCSS office in Kengtung on May 6.

In the letter, the RCSS said it believes the government was searching for information on a village administrator and nine residents from 19 Mile village in Naung Hai village tract who went missing on May 3.

The RCSS said it had not detained anyone and had no connection to their disappearance.

However, it said the Light Infantry Battalion 576 had detained two SSA-South soldiers on April 12 and they had not been released despite RCSS requests.

"Such actions could affect the trust between us. We don't want to blame each other. We want to solve these problems through negotiation … If not, we are afraid it will affect the ceasefire agreement we have signed," Lt Gen Yawd Serk said in the letter.

The RCSS/SSA signed-ceasefire agreement with government on December 11, 2011 and subsequently opened six liaison offices – in Taunggyi, Kengtung, Kholam, Tachilek and Mongton – in Shan State.

The raid comes just days after members of the SNLD and the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party met the RCSS and the SSA-South, as well as the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and its armed wing the Shan State Army-North, to discuss a possible merger that would see the creation of a single Shan political party and army.

During the May 1-3 meeting the sides agreed to create a six-person coordination team to look at the possibilities bringing the factions together. The idea of creating a singular political party and army has long been discussed in the Shan community but has ultimately failed to materialise due to rifts between the groups.

IN BRIEF

Woman arrested for arranging marriages to Chinese men

Police in Mandalay have arrested a woman who allegedly tried to persuade young women to marry Chinese men for money.

The woman, who is married to a Chinese man in Yunnan Province and has a 10-month-old daughter, was arrested by police in late April.

She has been charged under the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, along with her godmother, with whom she was staying when the alleged offence occurred.

Police received a tip-off that the woman had returned to her godmother's house in Mandalay's Aung Myay Thar San township to try and find women to send to China. The police arranged for a young woman to go to her house and pretend she was interested. After a deal was reached to send the young woman to China, police arrested the pair. – *Si Thu Lwin, translation by Khant Lin Oo*

Police to get more speed cameras in bid to cut highway death toll

Highway police have ordered another 20 mobile speed cameras to ramp up efforts to combat reckless driving and reduce accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Highway police already have 14 cameras, which are deployed between the 11-mile, 2-furlong point on the highway and the 352-mile, 7-furlong point.

New figures show this year is likely to be a more deadly 12 months on the highway than 2013, when there were 259 accidents resulting in 113 deaths and 627 people sustaining injuries.

So far this year there have already been 147 accidents, 57 deaths and 261 people injured. This includes 12 deaths on April 12, during the water festival holiday, when an express bus travelling from Taunggyi hit a saloon car and caught fire in Pyu township.

Traffic police say 17 people are killed each day on Myanmar's roads on average, while more than 100 are injured. – *Toe Wai Aung, translation by Khant Lin Oo*

Two men killed in wild Yangon weather

Two men in Yangon Region's Thanlyin township were killed during a thunderstorm on May 8, local police said.

A 57-year-old man in Thae Phyu Chaung village died at about 3:30pm when he heard a clap of thunder during a heavy thunderstorm and had a heart attack.

About 30 minutes later, a 23-year-old man died when he was hit by lightning while sitting inside his hut during the same thunderstorm, police said. – *Toe Wai Aung, translation by Thiri Min Htun*

UNFPA to trial reproductive health products delivery system

The United Nations Population Fund will launch a trial system for the supervised delivery of reproductive health products to healthcare providers across Myanmar.

The system is designed to record, track and manage the procurement and distribution of some 30 essential reproductive health products, UNFPA said in a statement on May 8.

Many gaps in Myanmar's health coverage are related to holes in the supply chain, whereby doctors and health care providers often lack the resources, such as equipment or medicines, to treat patients. The WHO has identified the out-of-pocket expenditure for health products as one of the main barriers to health care accessibility for Myanmar's majority rural-dwelling population.

The trial will begin in 12 townships across four states and regions within the next three months, UNFPA said.

"It is a standardised national logistics operating system that can help locate gaps as well as identify and respond to different regional requirements," said UNFPA Myanmar representative Janet Jackson.

– *Bridget Di Certo*

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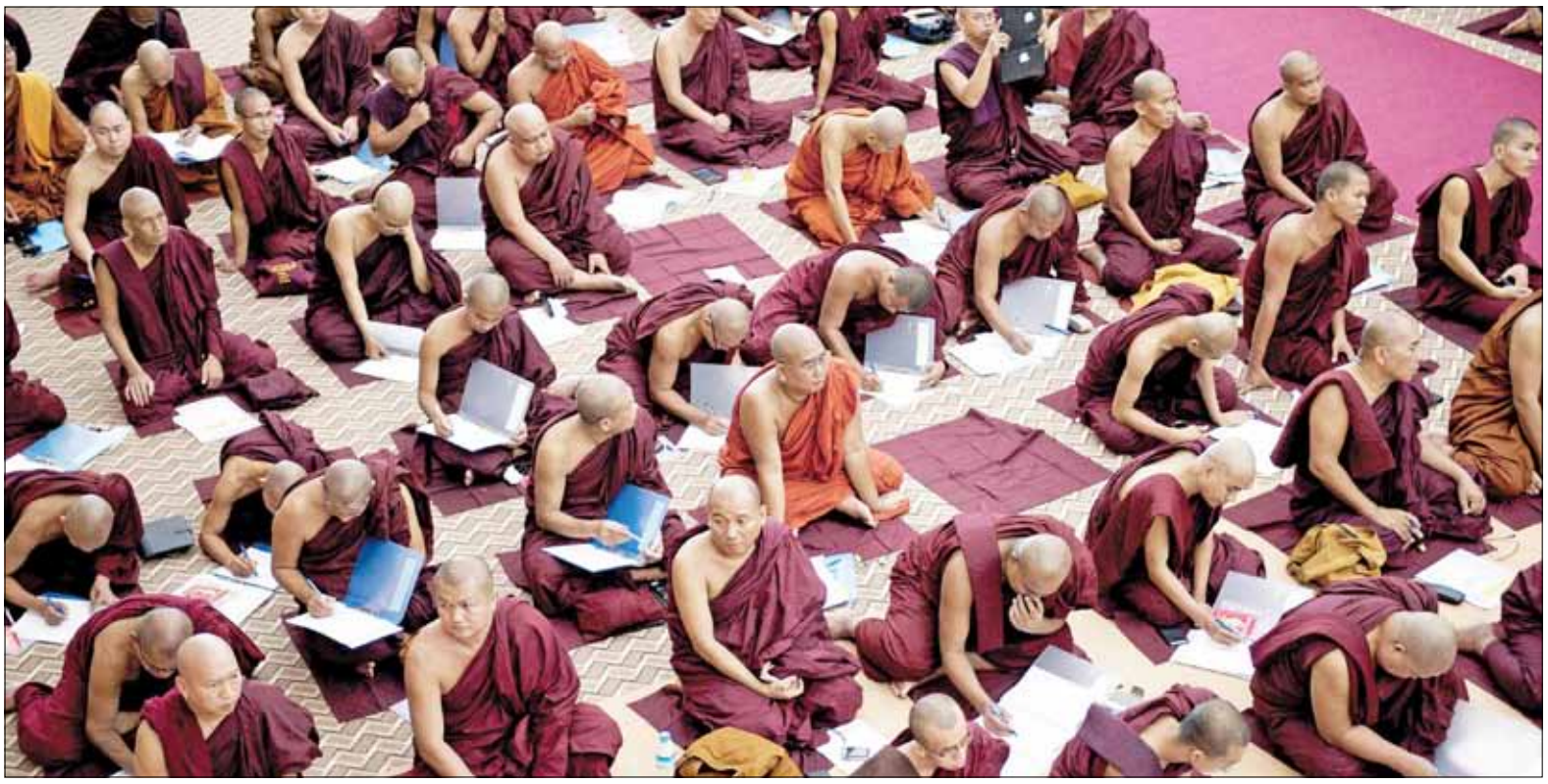

Buddhist monks attend a conference about religious violence on June 13, 2013, at which a draft interfaith marriage law was released. Photo: AFP

Civil society slams 'disgraceful' interfaith marriage law plan

Groups warn that proposed ban on marriage between Buddhist women and men of other faiths could spark conflict

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MORE than 100 civil society organisations have denounced a proposed law that could result in men being imprisoned for up to 10 years if they marry a Buddhist Myanmar woman without converting to Buddhism themselves, warning its introduction would be "a disgraceful act that would invite international ridicule".

The draft version of the interfaith marriage law says Buddhist women may marry only men who are Buddhists, or who legally change their religion to Buddhism. Its critics say the draft law is not in accordance with the objectives of peaceful coexistence for all faiths and the prevention of violent conflict, and that it discriminates against women and indigenous groups. They also accuse the government of trying to divert attention from other issues in advance of the 2015 election.

U Aung Myo Min, executive director of Equality Myanmar, one of the signatories to the statement, told *The Myanmar Times* that the proposed law could lead to further communal violence.

If the law is enacted "relations between people of different religions will be strained, and misunderstandings and hatred will arise", U Aung Myo Min warned.

He said that if the government does not accept their concerns then activists plan to stage peaceful demonstrations.

In the joint statement, 108 groups said the proposed law would be in violation of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that the government acceded to in 1997, as well as the 2008 constitution.

'[The proposed law] discriminates against Myanmar Buddhist women.'

Civil society joint statement

The groups said the proposed law "discriminates against Myanmar Buddhist women, women of other faiths residing in Myanmar and indigenous people" and would hinder "the implementation of national solidarity and current peace building processes".

"[T]he drafting of the interfaith marriage act for the reason of preserving race, religion, culture and traditions, does not respect and acknowledge the reasoning abilities of Myanmar Buddhist women to think rationally and make decisions, and instead restricts and obstructs their freedom of choice to make decisions on issues directly concerned with their lives," they said.

The groups recommended the government instead "work towards a law requiring the compulsory registration of all marriages regardless of race, religion and sex" and setting an "age limit required for the registration of legal marriage of any man or woman". They also called for the speedy introduction of a proposed anti-violence-against-women law.

The interfaith marriage law is being drafted by a 12-member commission set up by President U Thein Sein in March. It will be based on an earlier version drafted by a committee of monks that was submitted together with a petition signed by more than 1 million people in favour of the law, although civil society activists say they are not convinced all of these are genuine.

The commission includes the deputy attorney general, the deputy ministers for religious affairs and immigration and population, the directors general of the departments of historical research and the promotion and propagation of the Sasana, and a legal adviser to the president. Members of the commission could not be reached for comment last week.

The campaign to introduce the law was launched at a meeting of more than 1500 monks in Yangon in June 2013. The monks demanded that a man must be "legally" Buddhist if he wants to marry a Buddhist woman and demanded a 10-year prison sentence for violators. Non-Buddhists would be required to register the change in their religion with the ministry, and would not be able to change their religion again.

U Thawbatha, one of the monks leading the push for the law, said he could not comment on the civil society statement because he had not yet read it. However, he insisted that the monks would not stop their campaign.

"They have the right to say what they like ... We are just planning to develop a law to protect our nationality and religion that does not impact on other nationalities and religions," he said. "I don't think their comments will affect our plan ... We will carry on regardless."

Rakhine will not damage ties with US, insists govt

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THE Myanmar government has dismissed any suggestion that humanitarian problems in Rakhine State are straining its fledgling relationship with the United States, days after Congress slammed the country's treatment of Muslims and other minorities.

U Ye Htut, a deputy minister for information and spokesperson for the government, told *The Myanmar Times* on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit that relations between the countries, which are warming after years of non-engagement, have not been negatively impacted.

"I don't see it as an obstacle," U Ye Htut said.

The statement from Nay Pyi Taw runs counter to the increasing level of concern voiced in Washington. Most recently, the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution calling for Myanmar to end its persecution of the minority Muslim group referred to internationally as Rohingya but by the Myanmar government as Bengali. It is the strongest criticism to date levelled by Congress over the issue.

The resolution, sponsored by James McGovern, a Democrat representative from the state of Massachusetts, was passed with bipartisan support on May 7.

"The government of Burma remains apathetic to the plight of the Rohingya population and has failed to properly investigate the major events of anti-Rohingya violence," Mr McGovern told the House.

"Instead both the Rakhine State and central government continue to impose explicitly racist policies."

The resolution was lauded by rights groups, many of which view US rapprochement with Myanmar as having come too quickly and with little regard for human rights.

"It is high time for the United States to take a firm and unequivocal stand against the march to genocide in Burma and to hold the government of Burma fully accountable," said Tom Andrews, president of United to End Genocide, who is currently visiting Myanmar in response to the resolution.

U Ye Htut said that while he had not yet read the entire text of the resolution he hoped that members of Congress would be able to see "the real situation" in Rakhine State.

"Members of Congress need to understand the Rakhine situation thoroughly, not only listening to the lobbies and some activists in their country," he said.

"We always open the door to people who want to visit that area. They [US politicians] have to take the chance and try to learn the real history of Rakhine State."

U Ye Htut added that US lawmakers were ignoring the complex history of the region.

The resolution is the latest in a series of US moves designed to pressure Myanmar into addressing the humanitarian situation in Rakhine, which has been growing increasingly dire since the expulsion of international aid organisations in late March.

Speaking in Kuala Lumpur on April 27 President Barack Obama said that Myanmar's transition would not succeed if its Muslim population is oppressed.

Military gives back more land in Mandalay

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TWO military regiments have returned more than 575 acres to 64 farmers in Mandalay's Madaya township – in some cases, almost three decades after it was confiscated. The 575 acres is among more than 7432 acres in the region that the military plans to return to the original owners.

The No 95 Infantry Regiment and the No 121 Support & Transport Battalion said they returned the land because they no longer needed it.

More than 575 acres in Yaynandar village was confiscated between 1985 and 1997. It was formally handed back at a ceremony on May 7 and although farmers will have to wait to regain ownership they will be allowed to plant before the rainy season starts.

The head of Pyin Oo Lwin's district administration office said the land was being returned in accordance with the law. "The farmers will get back the land confiscated by the military for state projects because they asked for it to be returned ... according to the procedures and the laws," U Aung Zaw Latt said.

"They will have to wait a while to own their land again. They will have to apply for land ownership and then we will issue ownership documents after analysing all applications."

The farmers said the financial impact of losing their land had caused "a lot of difficulties".

"I thank the authorities because we now have temporary permission to farm on our own farmland," said U Myint Soe, a farmer in his 70s.

The return of the land comes following a parliamentary investigation into land disputes across the country that found hundreds of thousands of acres had been confiscated by the military. While the true number of military land grabs is not known, 565 cases have been forwarded to a land management committee led by Vice President U Nyan Tun.

In February, Deputy Minister for Defence Major General Kyaw Nyunt told parliament that the military planned to return 154,116 acres to the original owners and would not confiscate any more land.

The Mandalay Region administrative office says more than 7432 acres across 10 sites will be given back by the Tatmadaw.

Last month, Mandalay Region's chief minister announced the return of 75 acres of land in Singu township's Nyaung Win village.

– *Translation by Thiri Min Htun*

Muslim leaders announce conference to tackle hate speech

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U Myint Thein speaks at a press conference on May 5. Photo: Zarni Phyo

MUSLIM leaders have announced plans to hold a Union Muslim Congress in coming months in an effort to counter hate speech based on religion. The proposal has already drawn criticism from controversial monk U Wirathu, however, who argued that only Kaman Muslims, who are recognised as an official ethnic group, should be allowed to take part in the event.

Union Muslim Congress organising committee member U Myint Thein said at a press conference last week that the conference would benefit not only Muslims but also other Myanmar citizens. He said it would help to ensure stability by showing that Muslims are firmly behind the "Myanmar national union". Organisers hope it will take place before September.

He said it was important that all people are treated with equality, regardless of their race or religion.

"For example, any person who commits a crime must be punished in accordance with the law. It should not matter what their race or religion is," U Myint Thein said.

High Court lawyer U Ohn Lwin, the general secretary of the Union Muslim Congress organising committee, said the event would also show Muslims' support for reconciliation and the peace process.

"We will be try to hold the Union Muslim Congress with all Islamic people, whether they are Kaman, Pashu, Panthay, Pathi or otherwise," he said.

The organising committee was formed at a meeting of more than 4700 Muslims, including representatives from all states and regions, on May 3 and 4. A central committee of 120 people, a 25-member central working committee and 50-member advisory board were established.

Union Muslim Congress Committee member U Myo Win said organisers would inform government officials, parliamentarians, politicians and other religious and ethnic leaders about the aims of the event so they understand the peaceful aims of the event.

But already it appears some opposition is emerging. U Wirathu, a Mandalay-based monk who has risen to prominence for his fiery anti-Muslim sermons, said the name of the event was "wrong" because the Kaman are the only Muslims recognised as an official ethnic group.

"The focus of this congress is very important," he told *The Myanmar Times*. "But they must first change the name. They are wrong to use the word 'union' as the event can then only be attended by Kaman.

"We warmly welcome the congress if the aim is to ensure peace. However, their activities must not affect the stability of the state."

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ANALYSIS

NLD, 88 up the stakes on constitution

Realisation that parliamentary review process will not lead to desired changes prompted agreement to organise public rallies, petitions

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at a National League for Democracy meeting in March 2013. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

THE National League for Democracy has joined forces with the 88 Generation student movement to drum up public support for changes in the 2008 constitution that would enable NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to become president of Myanmar.

On May 5 they announced the formation of an 11-member joint committee, comprising six NLD and five 88 Generation members, to organise public rallies across the nation and start a large campaign to petition the public for support for constitutional reform. Meetings are planned for May 17 in Yangon and Mandalay.

They will target two contentious provisions of the 2008 Constitution: sections 59(f) and 436. The first lays down eligibility criteria for the presidency that effectively bars Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, while section 436(a) gives the military, which holds 25pc of all hluttaw seats, an effective veto over constitutional change, as it states that amendments need the support of at least 75pc of MPs to be approved.

The alliance is being formed because the constitutional review process in parliament does not appear to be heading in the direction NLD wants, analysts say.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's attempts to launch four-way talks on the matter with President U Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker Thura U Shwe Mann have yet to produce results. Public calls from international leaders, including Prime Minister David Cameron, for changes to the constitution in line with the NLD's aims have also had no visible effect so far.

Meanwhile, a movement opposing the NLD's proposed changes has arisen. Protests calling for no change to section 59(f) have been held in major cities, while a constitutional review tcommittee created by parliament reported in January that it had received a petition containing more than 100,000 signatures opposing changes to sections 59(f) and 436.

Parliament has instructed the constitutional review committee to submit a bill to amend the constitution no later than six months in advance of the elections scheduled for late next year.

To build support for change, the new NLD-88 committee is planning a series of nationwide signature campaigns between May 27 and July 19 to generate public support for amending section 436.

"We choose to launch the campaign on May 27 because it's the anniversary of the 1990 general election. Before that date, we will try to distribute information sheets at the village and township level through our branch offices and the 88 networks," said U Win Htein of the NLD.

'The NLD should pay more attention to building a people-centred party … That would speed up the reform process.'

U Yan Myo Thein
Political commentator

He added that the committee would focus its attention on revising section 436.

But it will also likely seek additional changes. Ko Jimmy of the 88 Generation told *The Myanmar Times* that his organisation wanted to build a genuine federal state. "We decided to cooperate with the NLD to bring about national reconciliation. For now we will try to amend section 436," he said.

However, it is not clear that the 31-member constitutional review committee, which includes 11 members of the ruling USDP and seven serving military personnel, will take any such petition from the public into account. Others question why the NLD and 88 Generation have left ethnic parties out of their campaign.

"The NLD should pay more attention to building a people-centred party. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi should encourage other parties to be strong. That would speed up the reform process," said political analyst U Yan Myo Thein.

He added that the government would change some parts of the constitution before the 2015 election, but not those relating to the role of the Tatmadaw and the eligibility criteria for the presidency.

Sources on the constitutional review committee say military representatives have insisted on retaining the 75pc rule. "They say it is impossible to change it. For them, this is a question of the security of the state," one member said on condition of anonymity.

On the other hand, some analysts fear a refusal to change the constitution could lead to public unrest, putting at risk recent reforms and even prompting a concentration of power in the National Defence and Security Council. The NDSC comprises 11 members, including five serving military personnel.

Author Kyaw Win, a member of the Political, Economic and Legal Affairs Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw, said meaningful constitutional change would require high levels of trust between the major players. He added that military MPs, in whose hands constitutional change rests, fear instability and violence if the constitution is revised.

"They have not built trust yet," he said. "They have to take the time to do it through negotiation."

President U Thein Sein warned in a speech to mark the third anniversary of the union parliament that the Tatmadaw must continue to play its part in the transition to democracy in order to maintain stability.

But NLD member U Win Htein said the party was acting carefully to avoid creating a "political crisis", adding, "We believe we can overcome these challenges."

Shan parties agree on merger but more challenges ahead

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TWO major ethnic parties, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) and the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), have agreed in principle to merge, representatives for the two organisations have told *The Myanmar Times*.

They say the reason for the merger is that both parties reflect the wishes of the Shan people, though merger and policy details remain to be worked out. The parties formed a 10-person committee in Taunggyi, southern Shan State on May 3.

"We don't yet have detailed accord on how and when we will unite," said U Sai Leik, secretary of the SNLD.

SNDP secretary U Sai Hla Kyaw suggested the merger could be a long, drawn-out and difficult process, adding, "You can't rush these things. We need to take time for negotiation."

The SNDP has not responded to a proposal from the SNLD to register the new party, which would be required under law by the Union Election Commission. The commission does not allow mergers, and the parties would likely have to dissolve and form a new body.

This is already causing difficulties, as SNDP members agreed at a January conference not to dissolve the party.

"We have 57 MPs. If the party is dissolved, how can they operate?" U Sai Hla Kyaw said.

Other ethnic groups have considered merging the various parties that represent them in Mon, Chin and Rakhine states, but so far only Rakhine ethnic parties have unified, with the Arakan League for Democracy and the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party forming the Rakhine National Party.

After the 1990 election, the SNLD was dissolved and its leader imprisoned. The party boycotted the 2010 election but has since re-registered.

The SNDP was founded in 2010, winning 57 seats in Shan and Kachin states and Sagaing Region in both national and regional parliaments.

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MCM

IN BRIEF

Woman killed in hit-and-run crash

Police are hunting the driver of a white Toyota Hilux who allegedly ran a red light and caused a three-car pile-up in which a woman died.

The Hilux went through the red light at the intersection of Yadana and Wizayandar roads in South Okkalapa township, hitting a white Nissan station wagon and Suzuki pickup, after which the driver of the Hilux fled the scene.

A female passenger in the Nissan suffered severe head injuries and later died at Thingangyun hospital. Three other people were treated for injuries at the hospital.

Pedestrian dies after bus brake failure

The driver of a Mitsubishi Fuso bus has blamed a brake blowout for a deadly four-car accident that also killed a pedestrian.

The accident occurred on Anawrahta Road in Latha township when the No 62 line bus hit two Toyota Probox taxis that had stopped near a No 157 bus that was dropping off passengers. One female bystander from Kyeemyindaing township suffered severe injuries when she was hit by the Fuso bus and later died in Yangon General Hospital.

Police have charged the 30-year-old driver of the Fuso bus with culpable homicide and rash driving and he faces up to 12 years in jail.

– Toe Wai Aung, translation by Khant Lin Oo

Appeal for aid after Meiktila rebuilding falls behind schedule

SI THU LWIN

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Children sleep in a camp for IDPs in Meiktila. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

REFUGEE camps in Meiktila urgently need tarpaulins to provide shelter during the rainy season for the thousands of people still displaced as a result of deadly communal violence more than a year ago.

According to the United Nations, the government had planned to resettle all of the displaced by the end of April but this deadline was missed because of a lack of funding and construction delays. It now appears unlikely that they will be resettled before the monsoon, which is forecast to arrive in central Myanmar between May 26 and 31.

Community leaders in the relief camps said temporary buildings set up in the camps after the March 2013 violence need to be replaced to protect residents from the wet weather.

Ko Phoe Thar from the Magyigone camp, which houses Buddhist refugees, said the 88 Generation had donated some 5.4-metre by 18m (18 by 60 foot) tarpaulins but more are urgently needed. "That's the thing we need most in the camps right now," he said.

According to the district administration office, about 4000 of the more than 10,000 people whose homes were destroyed in the conflict remain displaced. Three camps for Muslims and two for Buddhists have been set up.

Camp residents say shortages of water toward the end of April have been resolved with assistance from local authorities.

"It was rather difficult for us to get enough water for drinking and washing after Thingyan and there were concerns about safety because toilets were full of sewage but now those problems have been settled," said U Aung Htay, a community leader from a Muslim camp set up in the compound of the Mandalay Region Water Resources Department. The camp is home to about 875 people.

"Right now we urgently need new tarpaulins to change the roof and walls of the dormitories. At the moment we can't sleep when it is raining" because the tarpaulins don't stop the rain, he said.

A 35-year-old man in a Muslim camp set up in the district stadium, which houses 887 people, said many residents were "concerned" about the coming rainy season.

"The tarpaulins in temporary buildings are not good enough for the rainy season," the camp resident said. "The floor of the buildings is not raised above the ground so if there is heavy rain we will have trouble protecting our property. Also, we are worried about our health because the accommodation and toilets are very close to each other."

A member of the committee in charge of building homes for the displaced confirmed that the project was behind schedule. U Khin Than said the committee plans to build 350 houses but so far only 310 are near completion. He said they are waiting for more funds to complete all the houses, after which refugees will be allowed to move in.

As the government's end of April deadline for resettlement approached, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs appealed for funding to shore up the temporary shelters in the camps.

"[A] lack of funding and delays in construction has resulted in a situation where many buildings will not be completed on time and many displaced people are likely to spend another rainy season in camps. Conditions in camps need to be improved as they were only built for short-term use and many facilities are not equipped to withstand another rainy season," it said in its humanitarian bulletin for March, which was issued in late April.

While camp residents receive some support from the authorities and local donors, support has "had to be scaled down due to limited funding", the UN said. "With people likely to remain in camps for the coming months, additional funding for displaced people in the Meiktila area is urgently needed."

– Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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FEAT

Drivers ask for reprieve but abide by Hilux ban

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A LONG-DELAYED ban on Toyota Hilux buses entering the Yangon municipal area has come into force. Officials have been stationed at busy junctions on the outskirts of Yangon to ensure buses comply with the ban, which passengers complain is already pushing up fares.

The ban, which has been proposed because of safety concerns, was due to come into effect on January 1. However, it was delayed to March 31 because of complaints from owners and drivers, and extended again to April 30 following a series of protests.

Hilux bus drivers, conductors and owners protest a ban on entering Yangon's municipal area on March 31.
Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

The extensions were intended to give owners more time to substitute the light trucks for minibuses, but only 130 minibuses have so far been imported to replace the approximately 800 Hilux buses that were on the roads before the substitution program was introduced.

This time, however, the regional government has threatened to take action against workers who take part in protests, bus line staff said. Instead, they are asking for talks to discuss the ban and request its introduction be delayed further.

On May 1 and 2, officials from the Yangon Region Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicles, better known by its Myanmar-language acronym Ma Hta Tha, and other government bodies patrolled four junctions to stop vehicles entering the municipal area.

"We just asked the workers to follow the rules issued by the Yangon Region government. We will wait at four places: Thanlyin, Hlawga, Shwe Pyi Thar and Htaukkyant," said Ma Hta Tha chair U Hla Aung.

"So far the workers have complied with our request."

But passengers said the ban had made travelling from outlying areas inconvenient.

"We don't want to have to keep changing from one bus to another. We just want to take a single bus like before," said Ma Pan Ei Phyu from Hmawbi township.

"Other bus conductors are now demanding extra money because the Hilux buses have been banned," she said.

U Hla Aung said Ma Hta Tha had not received any complaints about buses raising fares but would investigate and take action if necessary. However, Hilux bus owners and workers say a further delay to give them more time to substitute their vehicles for minibuses is the only solution.

"We dare not protest because the township administration office is collecting pledges from the owners not to protest," said U Kin Linn, deputy chair of the Aung Ta Gon group of Hilux operators.

"Now we feel like the government is controlling us with force and we have few options. We are still waiting to decide what to do but the government shouldn't treat us like this," he said.

Hilux owner Ko Kyaw Ko said officials should also consider the impact of the ban on the livelihoods of workers and warned it could even push up commodity prices.

"All workers are in trouble," he said. "We want to meet the Yangon Region government because we know that if we protest the government won't take any notice.

"We want another six or seven months to buy minibuses to replace the Hilux vehicles. Unless this happens, I think the banning of Hilux cars will lead to higher prices for commodities because they will be more expensive to transport."

According to statistics from Ma Hta Tha, Hilux pick-ups used as buses have been involved in 17 accidents from January to the end of April. Nine people were killed and 178 injured in the accidents.

Militia call a shot in the

Rakhine State's ethnic armed groups have been at best fringe players on the polit

BILL O'TOOLE
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Members of the Arakan Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Arakan Liberation Pa

ONE of the most attention-grabbing proposals to emerge from the recent Rakhine National Conference in Kyaukpyu was the call for a "people's militia" that would either partner with or replace state security forces patrolling the border with Bangladesh.

The proposal, backed by several prominent politicians, appears to have given new impetus to a number of armed Rakhine groups, such as the Arakan Army and Arakan Liberation Army, that were until recently virtually powerless in Myanmar's political landscape.

The groups have fought against the Tatmadaw for decades – reportedly even, at times, with a Muslim armed group, the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation – but have only minimal troop numbers and little clout.

They are now firmly flying the Rakhine flag against the perceived Muslim invasion.

"All Rakhine people are concerned about safeguarding the western gate," said U Khin Thu Kha, secretary of the Arakan Liberation Party, the political wing of the ALA. "This is our land, so we should be protecting it."

In an interview with *The Myanmar Times* last week following the April 27-May 1 Rakhine conference, U Khin Thu Kha said most Rakhine Buddhists are suspicious of the state security forces that currently patrol the border. They fear, he said, that these soldiers, who are mostly ethnic Burmese, are not doing enough to stem the flow of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

A security force made up of Rakhine Buddhists would help to reassure the Rakhine population and bring stability to the conflict-torn state, he argued.

How this militia would work in practice remains unclear, however. Currently the ALA has a ceasefire agreement with the Rakhine State government, agreed in April 2012, yet like most armed groups it is not in conformity with the constitution, which states that the Tatmadaw is the sole armed force in the country. The AA, however, has still not reached a ceasefire agreement, and continues to fight with the Kachin Independence Army against the Tatmadaw.

For these reasons, some Rakhine politicians appear reluctant to endorse a proposal put forward by the armed groups. U Aye Maung, chair of the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, said that while he and his party support the idea of a security force by and for Rakhine people, it should be established within the bounds of the current constitution.

120

Estimated combined strength of Arakan Liberation Army and Arakan Army, according to Myanmar Peace Monitor

He dismissed the notion that a Rakhine militia could target Muslim communities, insisting that it would only advance the peace process.

"It's not for violence, it's for peace and stability in Rakhine," he said.

Activists in the Muslim community see the proposal in a different light. They say it is just the latest in a long line of Rakhine groups ratcheting up their anti-Muslim rhetoric to win public support and prominence, but all the more concerning because the ALA and AA are holding arms.

U Khin Maung Myint, a member of the National Democratic Party for Development, which describes itself as a Rohingya political party, said it was only after the violence of 2012 that the group became active in communities in Rakhine State.

"The ALP started popping up after the 2012 incidents. They became more active, because they saw an opportunity," he said.

Founded in the late 1960s, the Arakan Liberation Party has not enjoyed the membership or organisational reach of many other armed groups, a fact that U Khin Thu Kha freely admits. Their most serious military engagements did not even occur in Rakhine State; rather, they took place when their soldiers were being trained in Kayin and Kachin states in the 1970s and 80s.

The ALP's ceasefire agreement with

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TURE

arm for Rakhine armies

tical scene for decades but have started riding a wave of anti-Muslim sentiment

rty, travel on the Kaladan River in this undated photo. Photo: Supplied/ALP

the government in 2012 has allowed its members more freedom to move unarmed within government controlled areas. U Khin Thu Ka agreed that the ALP has grown much more popular in the past two years but said it was simply because its members now have the freedom to visit communities and make their views known.

"For years we've been out in the jungle," he said.

U Aung Win, a Muslim activist in Sittwe, said the new anti-Muslim campaign struck him as especially cynical, given that in the early 1990s the ALP enjoyed close relations with the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, a Muslim armed group that is now defunct in Myanmar.

But U Khin Thu Ka denied there was ever a relationship between the groups. He admitted that certain ALP officers had dealings with RSO officers but said these were never approved by the ALP head office.

While Muslim and Rakhine leaders hold deeply contrasting views on the militia proposal, it remains unclear how it is viewed by another equally important group: the government. The President's Office and members of the government's peace negotiating team could not be reached for comment last week.

U Khin Thu Kha concedes that so far the government negotiators he has spoken to do not seem interested in the idea of a people's militia. However, he remains hopeful that as the ALP increases in prominence it will have more leverage to persuade the government of the proposal's merits.

Perhaps the only point the Rakhine and Muslim people interviewed for this article agree on is that there is a very real chance the proposal could become a reality. U Khin Maung Myint said the central government has done little to rein in extremist elements in Rakhine so he fears that the "people's militia" could well be established at some point.

"We haven't seen the government [crack down on Rakhine extremists]," he said. "All of the Rakhine extremists are feeling that they are [untouchable] … They feel they are the sole owners of Rakhine State."

A monk speaks during the launch of a Buddhist management training course last week. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

Buddhist training addresses conflicts

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FOREIGN and local experts are conducting a two-week training program on Buddhist management at a Buddhist education centre in Sagaing. Among the topics they are teaching are leadership based on Buddhist teaching, the role of Buddhist organisations and Buddhist management methods, while discussions are focusing on Myanmar's communal conflicts.

The course is being held at Sagaing Taungyoe Buddhist Education Centre from May 4 to 17. The centre is covering the travel and living expenses of the 74 students who have been invited to attend, of whom 34 are observers.

Sayadaw U Taw Beet Tha said the visiting scholars include U Kyaing Kyaing Sein from Harvard, presidential adviser U Zaw Oo, members of the Myanmar Peace Center and a professor from Chiang Mai University.

"Other Myanmar experts and monks will also collaborate and teach," U Taw Beet Tha said.

"We invited more students than last year, including members of political parties," he said.

Teacher U Tin Maung Than said the course is "more interesting" this year because students are addressing issues related to Myanmar's communal conflicts. "For example, we discussed the Protection of Race, Religion and Language Act. There was so much discussion from the students that we really did not have enough time," he said.

– Translation by Khant Lin Oo

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CRIME IN BRIEF

Two charged for alleged cattle-smuggling plot

Two men have been charged for allegedly planning to export cattle to Thailand. They were arrested walking three oxen near Maphusu village, between Kayan and Thongwa in eastern Yangon Region, at 4:30am on May 3.

Police said they received a tip-off and after an interrogation the pair admitted they planned to send the oxen to Thailand. A police spokesperson did not specify how the men planned to get the cattle from Yangon to the border.

Three passengers accused of robbing taxi driver

A taxi driver has been robbed of a mobile phone and K237,000 in cash by passengers in North Dagon township. The 35-year-old driver picked up the group of five on Pyay Road in Kamaryut township late on May 3.

At a traffic light near the North Dagon General Administration Department office they asked him to stop the taxi and two women got out. The three men then restrained him and took his money and phone.

Female passenger kicked by bus conductor

Police are searching for a bus conductor who allegedly kicked a woman as she got off a bus near the old Thiri Mingalar Market.

The woman, 24, got on the No 157 bus with a friend at about noon on May 4 after attending an English class.

The bus conductor, 26, became enraged when she asked to get off at a stop that the bus had just passed. The bus stopped again for the woman to alight but as she was leaving the conductor cursed her and kicked her from behind, police said. She suffered an eye injury because her glasses broke when she fell over.

- Toe Wai Aung, translation by Thiri Min Htun

Thingangyun court orders 300 off land after 30-year legal battle

Owners delay planned eviction because of concerns that there were not enough police to ensure security

KYAW PHONE KYAW

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Residents of a 0.762-acre site in Thingangyun township sit in front of their homes. Photo: Zarni Phyo

RESIDENTS of a Thingangyun township ward have vowed to defy a court ruling that ended a three-decade land dispute by ordering their eviction.

Thingangyun Township Court ruled on April 2 that the plot in the township's No 8 ward is owned by siblings U Win Myat, Daw Shwe Paye and U Thant Zin, and gave them permission to evict more than 300 people from the site. The residents live in 63 houses on the 0.762-acre block, in homes as small as 90 square feet.

Township associate judge U Than Lwin signed an order giving the three owners the authority to force them out on April 29 but one of the trio, U Thant Zin, said the planned eviction was called off because there was not enough police to ensure security.

Residents told *The Myanmar Times* it will take more than a court order to remove them.

"I won't move," said Daw San San Myint, who has lived there for 26 years. "I'd rather die here than leave."

They are also taking their fight to the Supreme Court. Twenty-three residents sent a letter of special appeal to Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo on April 22 asking him to overturn the township court's decision.

In the letter, the residents said they had inherited ownership of the land and alleged that the court had misused its authorities in awarding it to the three siblings, causing them great loss.

Resident U Aung Thu Win said that while they have no ownership documents those living on the land have years of receipts showing they paid water, electricity and household taxes.

"I don't want to discuss whether [the complainant] owns the land or not. We are living there and we want land compensation [somewhere else] for the security of our future," he said.

'I won't move ... I'd rather die here than leave.'

Daw San San Myint
Thingangyun resident of 26 years

"If they want to force us to leave, they can do it. But they should consider the fact that we are not rebelling against the government."

But U Thant Zin said he and his siblings are determined to force the residents out.

"We'll get another warrant to remove them in May. They will keep being issued until the people leave," he said.

The dispute has been in the legal system since 1984, U Aung Thu Win said. In 1998, a court ruled that the land was owned by U Mohamad Harshin Ariff before World War II and had passed to his daughter, Daw Ohn Khin. After her death in 2000, it passed to her children, U Win Myat, Daw Shwe Paye and U Thant Zin.

Eviction orders issued by the court in 1998 and 2007 were never enforced and residents say their families have lived on the land since before 1962. For more than two decades, they say, the descendants of U Mohamad Harshin Ariff paid no attention to the site and did not try to assert their ownership.

Australian DVB journalist deported by Magwe officials

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AN Australian journalist working for Democratic Voice of Burma was deported from Myanmar last week, after Magwe immigration authorities deemed him to be in breach of his business visa for covering a protest.

Reporter Angus Watson was covering a press freedom rally in Magwe where attendees called for the release of DVB reporter Zaw Pe, who is serving a one-year sentence for trespass and "disturbing an on-duty civil servant" in 2012.

Director of Immigration for Magwe Region U Tun Wai said that Mr Watson had participated in the protest, and his activities constituted a violation of his business visa.

Speaking to *The Myanmar Times* prior to his departure from Yangon airport on May 8, Mr Watson said he attended the protest in order to file a story for DVB. "I was not protesting. I was covering the rally," he said.

Magwe authorities came to Mr Watson's hotel following the rally and a representative accompanied him on the bus ride back to Yangon. After arriving early on May 8 Mr Watson was taken to the DVB office in Tarmwe township before being moved to an immigration department office in Sanchaung township, where he was held for about four hours as the decision to deport him was finalised.

U Tun Wai said his office had then informed union-level immigration officials in Nay Pyi Taw of their decision to deport him.

When contacted by *The Myanmar Times*, immigration officials in the capital declined to comment on the deportation and said questions on the matter should be directed to the Magwe authorities.

The deportation of the reporter comes amid accusations of a tightening of restrictions on foreign journalists that some believe is linked to coverage of conflict in Rakhine State.

In early February, the Ministry of Information announced that foreign journalists would in future be issued one-month single-entry visas rather than the three months given previously.

The changes also required journalists to give more information when applying for a visa, including details on what they plan to write about and where they will travel.

At a journalism conference in March, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut defended the decision as a necessary "adjustment".

He said the change was not a "rollback" of reforms but was needed because a large number of journalists had overstayed their visas following last year's World Economic Forum and Southeast Asian Games.

"We are just adjusting the policy," U Ye Htut told journalists gathered in Yangon for the East-West Center's International Media Conference.

Jailings show need for Media Law: minister

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THE recent prosecution of five journalists is "bad" for the media industry and occurred because Myanmar still lacks proper media laws, Minister for Information U Aung Kyi says.

Four reporters from *Unity* journal, along with the paper's chief executive officer, are on trial for allegedly revealing state secrets, while a Democratic Voice of Burma reporter recently received a one-year jail term for trespassing.

But U Aung Kyi said his ministry had not been involved in the decision to charge the journalists and he hoped prosecution could be avoided in future cases. He also said those cases already before the courts would be decided fairly in line with the existing laws.

"The aggrieved peoples have prosecuted [the journalists] according to their rights and authority," he said after a ceremony to mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3. "In the future, we will work together [to avoid criminal charges] after the release of the media law [by-law]."

Enacted in March, the Media Law specifies a process for dispute resolution that must be undertaken before cases can reach the courts. The law is not yet in effect because by-laws have not been introduced, and U Aung Kyi said only that the ministry hopes to enact them this year.

U Aung Kyi's comments at the ceremony were criticised by U Toe Zaw Latt, the DVB bureau chief for Myanmar. "I want to know how the court's decision on our reporter was fair," he said. "Does he even know about the DVB reporter's case? ... I can't accept what the minister said – it is meaningless."

Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, wife of *Unity* reporter U Lu Maw Naing, said she was "disappointed" by the minister's speech. "What he said is very different from how the court has acted," she said.

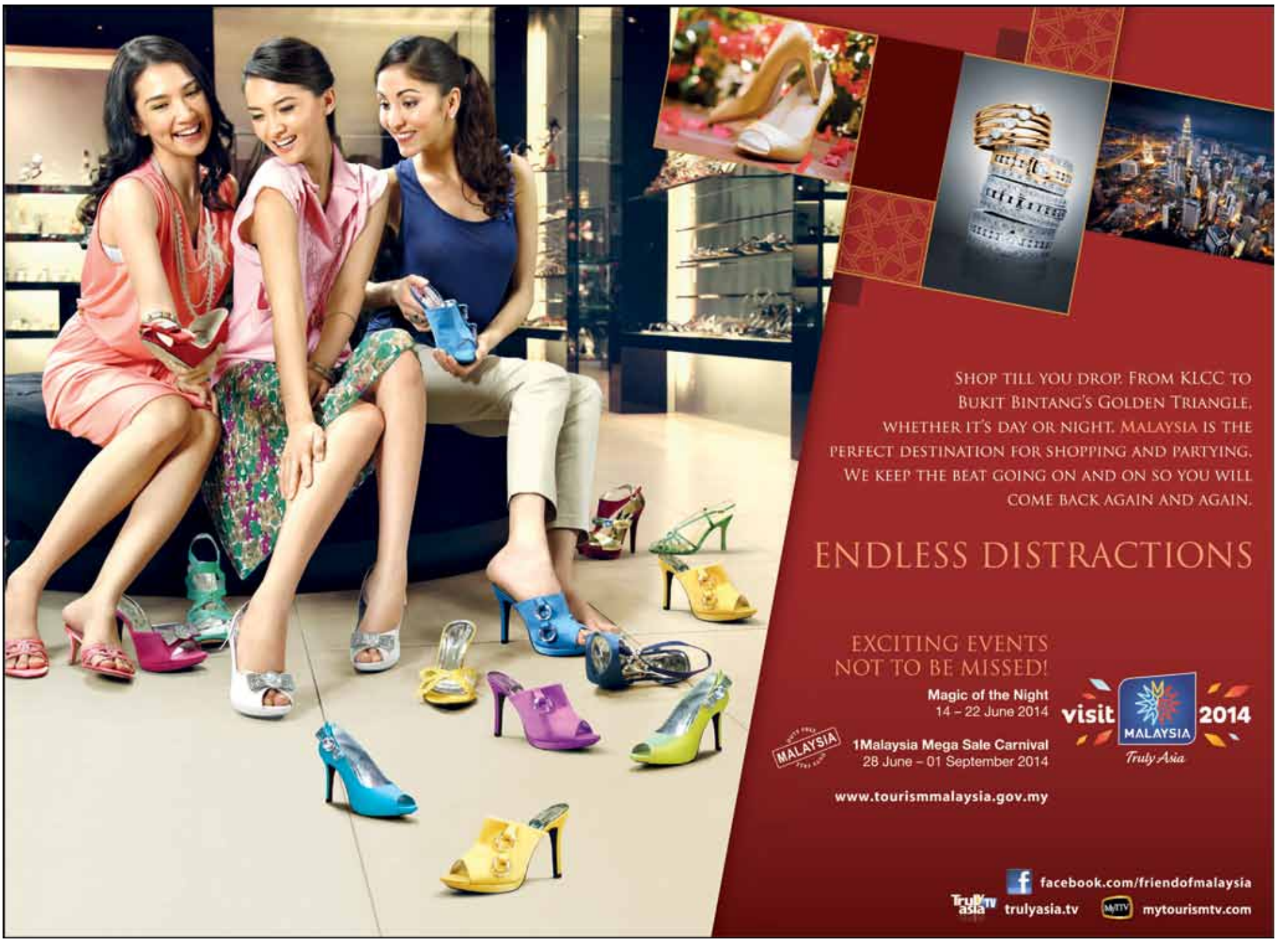
But U Kyaw Min Swe, secretary of the Interim Press Council, said the key to avoiding more lawsuits against journalists in the future was improving the legal knowledge of those working in the media sector.

He said journalists who have been prosecuted are facing charges filed under the Penal Code that in some cases could have been avoided.

"For example, when going to an office for an interview, it is important to ensure journalists adopt appropriate facial expressions, dress and general behaviour," he said.

IN PICTURES

Almost 200 patients have received free eye operations in Nay Pyi Taw thanks to a social welfare foundation. Three doctors provided eye tests and surgical procedures to 188 patients at Zabuthiri hospital from May 5-7 with support from the Zabuthiri Foundation, which was established in 2012. Foundation director U Myo Myint said the service targets elderly monks and laypeople who can't afford the cost of treatment and he hopes to expand to other townships in coming months. – *Pyae Thet Phyo*



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HAIHACO
Gallent Butter Biscuits
235g
Ks. ~~1,500~~ 1,200

HUP SENG
Special Cream Cracker
428g
Ks. ~~1,300~~ 1,200

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5 Power Nutri Dugro 3 Plus/ Dugro 4 Plus
650g
Buy 2 boxes, Get a free Hot & Cold Lunch Box Bag.
Buy 4 boxes, Get a free School Bag.

FERRERO ROCHER
Chocolate T-24
300g
Ks. ~~11,550~~ 10,400

REDONDO
Wafer Stick
-Vanilla/ Chocolate
150g
each/Ks. ~~1,250~~ 1,180

TOP
-Cashew Brittle 240g
-Cashew Nut
-Kernel Salted 300g
-Cashew Nut Salted 500g
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MONDE VOIZ
Cracker Creamy
-Chocolate/ Butter
2 In 1 Cracker & Wafer
Cracker Sandwich Milk
288g
each/Ks. ~~1,350~~ 1,220

YOYO
Jelly
-Grape/ Strawberry
-Assorted Berry Yogurt
80g
each/Ks. ~~750~~ 680

SUNSWEET
Pitted Prune
227g
Ks. ~~2,050~~ 1,850

CHUNGJUNGWON
Roasted Laver
Seasoned Laver
18.4g
Ks. ~~1,300~~ 1,180

DANA
Fine Sugar
800g
Ks. ~~780~~ 700

SUNFLOWER
Jasmine Tea
454g
Ks. ~~7,200~~ 6,700

LIPTON
Yellow Label Tea Bag
100's 200g
Ks. ~~4,850~~ 4,350

MOCCONA
Trio 3 in 1 Coffee Mix
-Gold/ Classic/ Espresso Mocha
Rich & Smooth/ Hazelnut/ Original
Instant
20's 340g/ 27's 459g/ 27's 513g/ 10's 189g
Buy any 2 pkts, Get a free Mug.

BONCAFE
Freeze Dried Instant Coffee Mocca
200g
Ks. ~~10,600~~ 9,550

LACTASOY
Soy Milk Sweetened Original
1000ml
Buy 1 pc, Get a free Lactasoy Sweetened 125ml.

MALEE
100% Fruit Juice
1 Ltr
Buy any 3 pcs, Get a free Malee Bottle.

COCA COLA/ SPRITE / MAX PLUS
Coke/ Zero/ Orange
330ml
Buy Same 5 Tins, Get a free Same Tins.

COCA COLA
Coke Original
1.25ltr
Buy 2 bots, Get a free Glass.

VIVOS
Aloe Vera Drink
1.5Ltr
Ks. ~~1,950~~ 1,750

EVA
Apple Juice Non Alcoholic Sparkling
750ml
Ks. ~~2,980~~ 2,680

YUM YUM
Instant Noodle
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Buy Same 5 pkts @ Save 10% Off.

OTTOGI
Instant Noodle
Jin Ramen Mild
120g
Ks. ~~800~~ 750

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Instant Bean Vermicelli
-Shrimp (Tom Yam/ Suki Soup)
-Spicy Seafood Salad
Buy Same 5 pkts, Get a free Rice Chicken Porridge 30g.

DOUBLE KILIN
Vermicelli
500g
Ks. ~~1,600~~ 1,500

LUCKY/ GOLD POT
Dried Noodle Egg
650g/ 325g/ 245g
Ks. ~~700~~ 620
each/Ks. ~~350~~ 320

SONGHENG
Pickled Green
-Mustard/ with Chilli
Buy 3 pkts, Get a free Three Lady Mackerel.

MALEE
Rambutan In Syrup
-with Pineapple/ Heavy
Longan In Heavy Syrup
Buy 2 pkts, Get a free Bowl.

HOSEN
Whole Mushroom
425g
Ks. ~~1,300~~ 1,180

BEST FOODS
Mayonnaise
220ml
Ks. ~~1,650~~ 1,600

THREE LADY
-Mackerel Chuchee
-Masaman Saba
100g
each/Ks. ~~700~~ 620

SEALECT
Mackerel In Tomato Sauce
155g
Ks. ~~380~~ 350

GOLDEN MOUNTAIN
Soy Sauce Light F(2)
600ml
Ks. ~~950~~ 850

HEINZ
Tomato Ketchup
600g
Ks. ~~1,550~~ 1,400

WINE KYAIK
Chicken Sausage
-1kg
Ks. ~~1,400~~ 1,250
Ks. ~~3,300~~ 2,950

COOK
Sunflower Oil
1Ltr
Ks. ~~2,750~~ 2,650

YANGON
Peanut Oil
1kg
Ks. ~~2,350~~ 2,220

KAN BAW ZA
Paw San Hmwe Rice
5kg
Ks. ~~4,450~~ 4,000

FRESH FOOD

USA ROYAL GALA RED APPLE
(130-180g)
pc/Ks. ~~500~~ 450

THAI DRAGON FRUIT
100g/Ks. ~~340~~ 305

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100g/Ks. ~~245~~ 220

CHINA CARROT
100g/Ks. ~~138~~ 125

LETTUCE ICEBERG
100g/Ks. ~~480~~ 435

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47th STREET ☎ 01-200026, 298746 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	MYAY NI GHONE ☎ 01-510697 (9:00AM to 10:00PM)	JUNCTION MAW TIN ☎ 01-218159 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	AKK (SHOPPING MALL) ☎ 01-8500515 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)
JUNCTION 8 ☎ 01-656778 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	ZAWANA ☎ 01-564532 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	THAMINE ☎ 01-654565 (9:00AM to 10:00PM)	marketplace
FMI CITY ☎ 01-682323 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	SHWE MYA YAR ☎ 01-294863 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	JUNCTION SQUARE ☎ 01-527053 (9:00AM to 9:00PM)	GOLDEN VALLEY ☎ 01-523840~43 (9:00AM to 10:00PM)
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NABISCO
Triscuit 100% WholeGrain Wheat Original Crackers
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Ks. ~~4,150~~ 3,750

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-Wide Bowl 1.2L
Vacuum Flask
-0.5L / 0.8L

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-Food Box (Rect/ Square)
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Ks.1,950 to Ks.10,370
15% Off

FLOWER ROSE
Vacuum Hot & Cold 500ml
Stainless Steel Vacuum Flask

Price range from,
Ks.2,150 to Ks.2,950
10% Off

TECHNOPLAST
Lunch Box
-1000ml/ 1020ml/ 600ml
Water Bottle
-650ml/ 730ml

Price range from,
Ks.1,500 to Ks.1,900

LUCKY BOY
Face Towel (White)
12" x 12" 6's

each/Ks. ~~3,800~~ 3,200

ZEBRA
Food Carrier
-12 x 3/ 10 x 2/
10 x 3/ 10 x 4

Price range from,
Ks.7,700 to Ks.10,300
5% Off

PD
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(16cm/ 18cm/ 20cm)

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Ks. ~~20,300~~ 18,700

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Ks. ~~2,550~~ 2,300

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175g

Ks. ~~1,350~~ 1,220

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Magical Spell Violet
-Impress Whitening
550ml

Ks. ~~3,850~~ 3,450

POPULAR
Bar Soap
-Milk/ Lemon
3's

each/Ks. ~~1,350~~ 1,220

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3.5 x 6.5ft

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Floor Mat (Cross Type)
40 x 60in

each/Ks. ~~1,880~~ 1,700
Ks. ~~3,700~~ 3,350

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each/Ks. ~~2,200~~ 2,000
Ks. ~~1,250~~ 1,100

SNAKE BRAND
Powder Prickly Heat
-Lavender
-Cooling Cool Pink
150g

Ks. ~~1,150~~ 1,050

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(Extra/ White Pore Minimiser/ Anti Acne Mud Foam)
100g/ 50g
-Total White Serum
25ml/ 50ml

Price range from,
Ks.1,120 to Ks.2,880
10% Off

ARIEL
Detergent
-Liquid
3kg

Ks. ~~9,000~~ 8,100

-Powder

Ks. ~~7,450~~ 6,700

SMART
Softener
700ml/ 650ml

each/Ks. ~~450~~ 420

EVA
-Napkin Wing Maxi/ Slim Gel
10's

Ks. ~~1,050~~ 950
Ks. 820 750

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Facial Tissue
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Ks. ~~2,800~~ 2,500

AMBIPUR
Air Freshener
-Gel 180g

each/Ks. ~~2,300~~ 2,050

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each/Ks. ~~3,500~~ 3,150

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Ks. ~~15,700~~ 14,800

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Ks. ~~21,200~~ 19,800

FARFALLA
Single Hot Plate
FHP-ES315

Ks. ~~24,800~~ 23,000

PHILIPS
Coffee Maker
HD-7447

Ks. ~~32,500~~ 31,000

KANGAROO
Rice Cooker
KG-371

Ks. ~~37,000~~ 31,400

PANASONIC
Microwave Oven
NN-SM332M

Ks. ~~83,000~~ 78,800

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Views

The hypocrisy of Brunei's sharia law

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SEXUAL mores are fascinating and infect every aspect of life, both positively and negatively, often in ways that defy rational explanation.

For instance, last month in the Philippines the Supreme Court upheld the validity of a reproductive health law passed by President Benigno Aquino's administration more than a year ago.

The landmark legislation mandates the provision of contraceptives in state clinics and orders schools to provide sex education.

Aquino faced huge opposition to the bill, notably from Catholic bishops, who claimed the law would foster promiscuity and degrade the institution of marriage.

But the president stood firm and against all odds he prevailed against an all-out assault by the rich and mighty clergy in his predominantly Catholic nation.

As a result, there should now be a gratifying reduction in unwanted pregnancies, a drop in population growth and a drop in poverty levels.

Among the law's many other positive aspects is the way its passage has shown that a president can stand up to the church and reduce the insidious influence it has exerted over past governments.

Unfortunately, there has been an equally negative development relating to sexual matters in a nearby neighbour of the Philippines, namely the oil-rich sultanate of Brunei.

On May 1, its absolute ruler, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, introduced Islamic sharia law, which stipulates flogging, amputation of limbs and stoning to death for certain crimes, particularly sexual transgressions.

The most brutal of such punishments are invariably meted out to women who have engaged in amorous activity with a man who is not their husband.

Unsqueamish readers may want to look online for graphic images of females, often young girls, being stoned to death in places like Iraq, Pakistan and Yemen – and apparently soon, Brunei.

They might also read RM MacColl's famous report from Saudi Arabia, titled "Woman Stoned to Death", which appeared in Britain's *Daily Express* in 1958.

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah delivers a speech during a ceremony to mark the introduction of sharia law at Bandar Seri Begawan on April 30. Photo: AFP

MacColl wrote, "The men snarled and shouted as they flung their stones, their faces transformed into masks of sadism ... It took just over an hour before the doctor announced her dead."

What really irks about Hassanal's ploy to cloak himself in Islamic purity by imposing this barbarous and misogynistic law is the rampant hypocrisy it embodies.

He has married thrice, divorced twice – most recently from a woman 33 years his junior. Despite 12 kids at last count, he still tomcats as much as his wayward brother Prince Jefri.

It may be recalled that after naming his luxury yacht *Tits* and calling the lifeboats *Nipple 1* and *Nipple 2*, Jefri ordered nude statues of himself – sporting an erection and engaging a buxom lady in Kama Sutra-like poses.

Meantime, bevvies of Caucasian beauties were flown in to act as sex toys for the sultanate's privileged elite – until one of them, a former Miss USA, launched an embarrassing legal action.

Of course, she and others were paid off and the philandering continued, led by the obscene hypocrite Hassanal and his male cohorts, who claim to be strict Muslims yet treat women with absolute contempt.

Naturally, his newly imposed Islamic penal code will never apply to anyone in the palace, but it will certainly apply to young women who have been raped or lured into an affair outside of wedlock.

Let us hope that, as in Indonesia's Aceh province and Malaysia's Kelantan state, the imposition of sharia in Brunei will be more symbolic than real – or better yet, it may be buried under the worldwide outcry it has provoked.

Already several celebrities, including Richard Branson, Stephen Fry and Ellen DeGeneres, have launched campaigns to boycott Bruneian businesses.

Ideally, a global blacklisting of Royal Brunei Airlines, coupled with an embargo on oil and gas from Royal Dutch Shell, the company that fuels Brunei's wealth, would have the most impact.

Meanwhile, people planning a trip to the troglodyte mini-state should think instead of the Philippines – it's a progressive place and you won't get stoned or whipped for having fun there.

Views

Why smallholder farmers need our help

Leaders of ASEAN nations should ensure that helping small-scale farmers is at the top of the regional bloc's agenda

DANNY MARKS
SHIHAB UDDIN AHAMAD
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A labourer works in a field on the outskirts of Nay Pyi Taw on October 20, 2012. Photo: AFP

AS the leaders of Southeast Asia gather at the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the pertinent issues facing their countries, it is worth remembering that for every five plates of food eaten in the region about four are provided by the region's smallholder farmers. These are farmers who own 3 hectares of land or less and depend mostly on household members for labour. They form the backbone of most Southeast Asian countries' economies.

While there are numerous differences between them, such as crops grown and levels of productivity, income and government support, they share many commonalities. Despite their marginalised status in society, they achieve higher levels of labour productivity than large farms do. In countries which have successfully reduced poverty, such as Thailand and Vietnam, productivity gains by smallholders significantly drove this reduction. However, today many are still snared in poverty and they face a set of common challenges preventing them from escaping this trap.

The biggest problem smallholders face throughout the region is lack of sufficient access to land and high land insecurity, which makes it difficult for them to boost their incomes significantly. Smallholders own a limited amount of land, rent land, or in many cases live on land without legal ownership, thereby making them legally landless.

The number of evictions have grown rapidly in the region during the last two decades as land-grabbing has become larger in scale, legalised and systematised. The amount of land confiscated from smallholders totals millions of hectares in a number of countries. Land-grabbing has been facilitated by national governments changing their land laws to become friendlier to investors. While smallholders have challenged these land seizures through protests, lawsuits and petitions, they have been severely repressed. Although victories so far have been few, smallholders in many places have refused to back down and have become more mobilised and empowered.

In addition, the crop yields of smallholders will be affected by the impacts of climate change, particularly the rise in number and intensity of floods, droughts and heat waves, as well as increases in rain variation. In many places smallholders have limited access to irrigation and struggle to find water to feed their crops if there is insufficient rainfall. They are especially vulnerable due to high levels of debt or little savings, so a season of poor yields can devastate them financially.

Further, smallholders have difficulty accessing regional and global markets. Both international and regional trade has been inhibited by non-tariff barriers (NTBs). A number of products lack required certifications and do not meet food safety standards which would enable them to be exported. For example, Vietnamese poultry is not yet allowed into the European Union and the United States due to these countries' stringent food safety requirements. Smallholders often have limited market information and may lack production technologies needed to meet these standards.

If proper safeguards are not put in place, the ASEAN Economic Community could actually worsen the situation of some smallholders.

Another problem is that farmers struggle to receive a fair price for their products, obtaining only a small percentage of retail prices. Limited processing facilities, poor logistics and shoddy infrastructure limit their products' lifespan and market reach. Smallholders normally have a weak bargaining position in the market. Those in rural areas, particularly remote ones, often have little choice but to sell to traders and cannot dictate the terms of trade. Many smallholders who engage in contract farming with large agribusinesses are also pressured to accept unequal profit and risk sharing in these schemes.

The positive effects of the region's trade liberalisation have been limited for smallholders due to market access problems. Instead, processors, middlemen and exporters have accrued most of the benefits. Moreover, in some cases, trade liberalisation has actually harmed smallholders in the region, such as the dumping of cheap agricultural imports from outside countries, such as Chinese longan and garlic in Thailand.

Preferential trade schemes, such as the Everything but Arms agreement, which enables least-developed countries to export certain goods without duties or quotas to the EU, have been designed to help smallholders. In some cases, however, they have encouraged land-grabbing. For example, in Cambodia companies have cleared over 100,000 hectares, most of it seized from farmers, and built sugar plantations on this land in order to export sugar to the EU.

More challenges are on the horizon. Starting in 2015, countries in the region will together form the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) which, they hope, will enable the region to form a single market and production base and become better integrated in the global economy. However, if proper safeguards are not put in place, the AEC could reify or actually worsen the situation of some smallholders, particularly those in the region's poorest countries.

By eliminating tariffs and NTBs, the AEC removes important tools from lesser developed countries that can be used to strengthen their economies. Further, in order to attract foreign investment, governments of the poorer countries could be discouraged from regulating the behaviour of foreign and multinational companies, which could encourage further land-grabbing, and seek to lower labour costs and environmental standards.

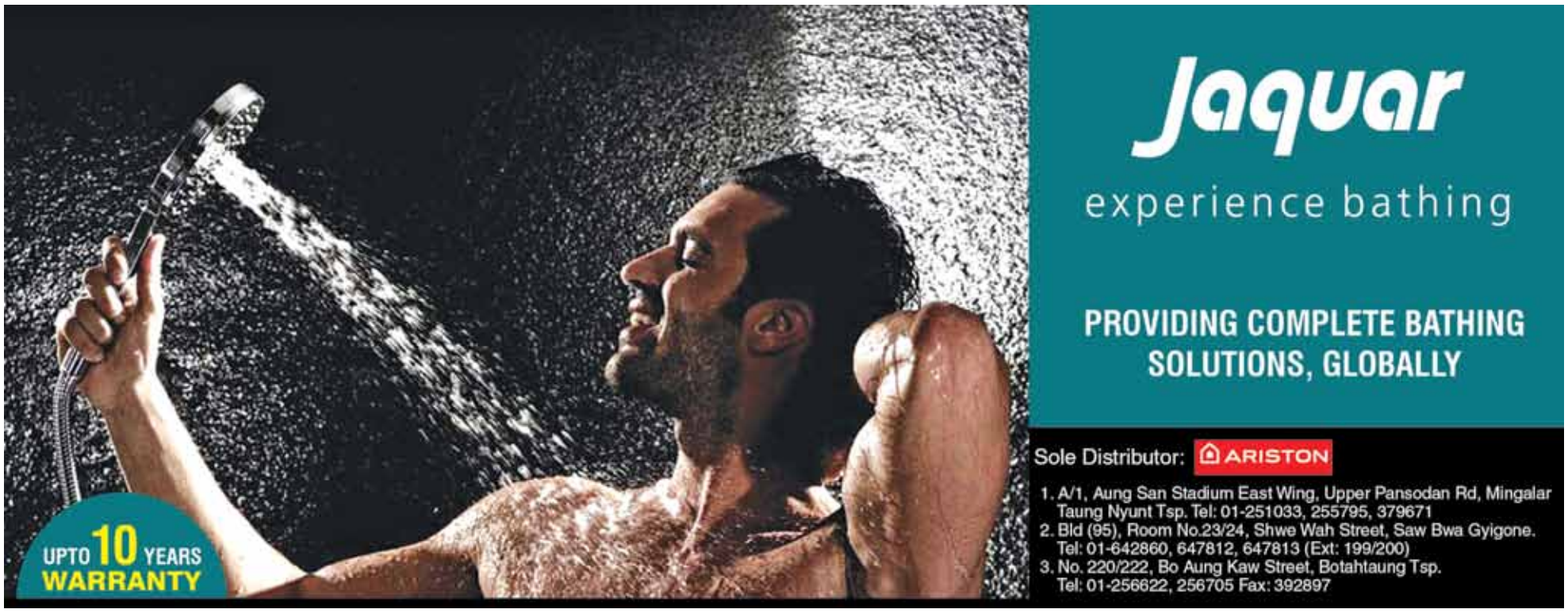
Therefore, ASEAN and its national governments need to do more to help protect smallholders' interests and rights. Foremost, they must not buy into pervasive anti-smallholder mythology and instead realise that in land-constrained countries, which they all are, growth models must be based on the principle of inclusiveness. Past experiences of several countries, including Thailand and Vietnam, suggest that broad-based small-farmer-led agricultural growth rather than large-scale commercial farming has been more successful in boosting farm productivity, alleviating rural poverty and sustaining nationwide growth.

Specifically, ASEAN can help by adopting the Food and Agriculture Organization's guidelines on land tenure that discourage large-scale land acquisitions, harmonising regulatory frameworks and standards regarding food safety and nutrition, and creating an insurance mechanism that pools together collective risks of agricultural production in the region.

Some policies that national governments could implement to help smallholders address these challenges include distributing communal land titles, making information about land concessions available and transparent, expanding the amount of irrigated land, promoting farmer cooperatives, doing more to govern contract farming schemes and including smallholders' opinions during trade negotiations.

One of ASEAN's goals next year is to become a regional community. Strengthening the backbone of this community would be a good first step. When ASEAN leaders meet for the summit, they should make helping smallholders a key agenda item.

Danny Marks is a PhD candidate in Human Geography at the University of Sydney. Shihab Uddin Ahamad is the country director of ActionAid Myanmar. This piece is based on a workshop presentation and panel discussion on ASEAN sustainable agriculture jointly organised by the Food Security Working Group Myanmar and ActionAid on March 20.



Views

The Kachin war goes international

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THE recent outbreak of fighting in Kachin State has made headlines and created concern about the implications for the peace process. On April 29, the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) sent a letter to the Union Peacemaking Work Committee proposing talks in Myitkyina on May 10. In the letter, the KIO said it believes the peace process will progress further if both sides exchange views over the fighting in April. It also proposed a list of organisations that they want to invite to the meeting, which would be the first bilateral talks since October 2013.

In early April, a deputy battalion commander from the Tatmadaw was killed by Kachin Independence Army soldiers. This prompted the government to begin combing the area and fighting broke out. Many were killed and injured when trucks in a Tatmadaw convoy were destroyed by KIA mines. In the end, government troops reoccupied a Chinese border gate and the Bhamo-Momauk-Lewjal and Bhamo-Mansi-Manwein Gyi roads, which the KIO captured in 2011 when the fighting first broke out.

As the fighting was taking place, the KIO deputy chief of staff, Major General Gun Maw, led a delegation to the United States at the invitation of the US State Department and with the approval of the Myanmar government. Maj Gen Gun Maw met US officials, Kachin expatriates and news organisation and discussed the KIO's view on the proposed nationwide ceasefire agreement and the peacemaking process.

Two significant points arose. First, he called on the US to assist the peace process. He also said the KIO is not interested in letting ethnic Burmese political parties, including the National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, cooperate in the peacemaking process.

When fighting resumed in Kachin State, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi announced that she was willing to participate to achieve internal peace. She said, however, she couldn't get involved without the agreement of both sides. To date she has not received an invitation to participate.

At the beginning of the peace process the KIO proposed to invite delegations from China, the United Nations, the US, the United Kingdom and the European Union to observe meetings. Reports said that China refused to accept this proposal. As a result, the government didn't send a formal invitation to Western nations.

The Myanmar Peace Center, meanwhile, suggested that the KIO invite Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as an observer to the October 2013 meeting in Myitkyina. The KIO reportedly refused to accept it but this went largely unreported in local media.

Until now it has been unclear where the KIO stands on these issues. However, all has been revealed by Maj-Gen Gun Maw's US trip. While he requested the US State Department to engage in the peace process, he made clear the KIO's opposition to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's involvement.

In an interview with Voice of America, Maj Gen Gun Maw was asked about a question that Kachin students put to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during a visit to London. They asked her why she never mentioned Kachin refugees in her speeches, and the VOA interviewer wanted to know if this question reflected the way most people in Kachin State feel about her. "Maybe Kachin people do feel this way, but the KIO does not have this attitude because we never think about whether the NLD or other parties are interested in Kachin affairs," Maj Gen Gun Maw responded.

What he is saying, in effect, is that the KIO will manage Kachin affairs on their own, and won't consider the views of any opposition groups or Burmese political parties on the state's affairs.

It is clear from Maj Gen Gun Maw's US trip that the KIO wants to internationalise the conflict with the government. Whether they have considered deeply the implications of this – particularly given China's unwillingness to let the US, UK and EU get involved – is unclear.

It is worth remembering that all Burmese and ethnic groups were oppressed by the military junta for more than 50 years. Like the ethnic armies, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD and other opposition groups strived to bring about change for many years.

While there is no longer a military junta, those who have taken off their military uniforms are attempting to establish a military dynasty to perpetuate their control over the country.

To achieve internal peace and a democratic and federal system of government, we all need to work together – including ethnic armed groups and Burmese political parties. Cooperation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is essential: She is, after all, the leader of the most powerful opposition force in the country.

The question now is, will the KIO recognise this political reality?

– Translation by Zar Zar Soe

KIA soldiers rest near the front line in January 2013. Photo: Kaung Htet

Letter

Dear editor,

Shame on *The Myanmar Times* for repeating the falsehood that Mt Kinabalu is the "highest pinnacle" in Southeast Asia ("In a pocket of rainforest, a chance to spot rare species and help conserve their terrain"). In fact, Myanmar's northern Kachin State is home to a number of higher mountains, including Mt Hkakaborazi, which exceeds Kinabalu in elevation by more than 1780 metres (5874 feet). I would strongly suggest remedial geography lessons for some of your staff.

Ko Phyo Cho

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MCDC pump houses fail to meet city's water demand

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ANYONE over the age of 30 who was raised in Mandalay will not be able to think about water use without remembering the huge wells that could be found throughout the city up until the 1990s.

One such well was located near my grandmother's house in Aung Myay Thar San township, not far from the palace and moat. The mouth of the well was more than 2 metres (6.5 feet) wide, and it was very deep.

As a child in the 1980s, I remember all the neighbourhood residents using the water for drinking, and to take home water for bathing and washing.

Back then, no one worried about water supplies. Although the level went down during the summer months, the supply was never fully depleted. During rainy season, the water reached all the way to the rim and could even be drawn without the need for a bucket and rope.

But these wells started disappearing in the 1990s as the urban area expanded and the water needs of the population changed. Whereas in the past residents never had to think about water usage, the vanishing of the wells was accompanied by increased worries about supplies.

U Tint Lwin, head of the Water and Cleaning Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), said the committee started installing water pump houses and piping systems for public use in 1992.

"Now we have eight water pump houses and a system of tube wells in Mandalay, serving five townships and 70 percent of the city's population. But we still need to create more water resources for the public," he said.

U Tint Lwin also admitted that the majority of the public served by the water pump system and tube wells do not always enjoy perfect supplies.

"People can't always get as much water as they want to use every day, all the time, especially in summer. Also, wards located far from the pump houses sometimes have difficulty getting water," he said.

"One problem is the poor electricity supplies during summer, which makes it hard to operate the water pumps. Also, the tube wells used by the water pumps can dry up in summer, which is also a time that people want to use more water. So, for example, if people can get water for two hours most of the year, they might only get water for one hour in summertime."

When running all eight water pumps at full capacity, MCDC can supply more than 24 million gallons of water a day for a city with an estimated population of 1 million.

Water pumps operate for residents of Chan Mya Tharsi, Chan Aye Thar San, Maha Aung Myay and Aung Myay Thar San townships, while Pyigyitagun is served by a network of tube wells. MCDC waterworks have not yet reached Patheingyi township.

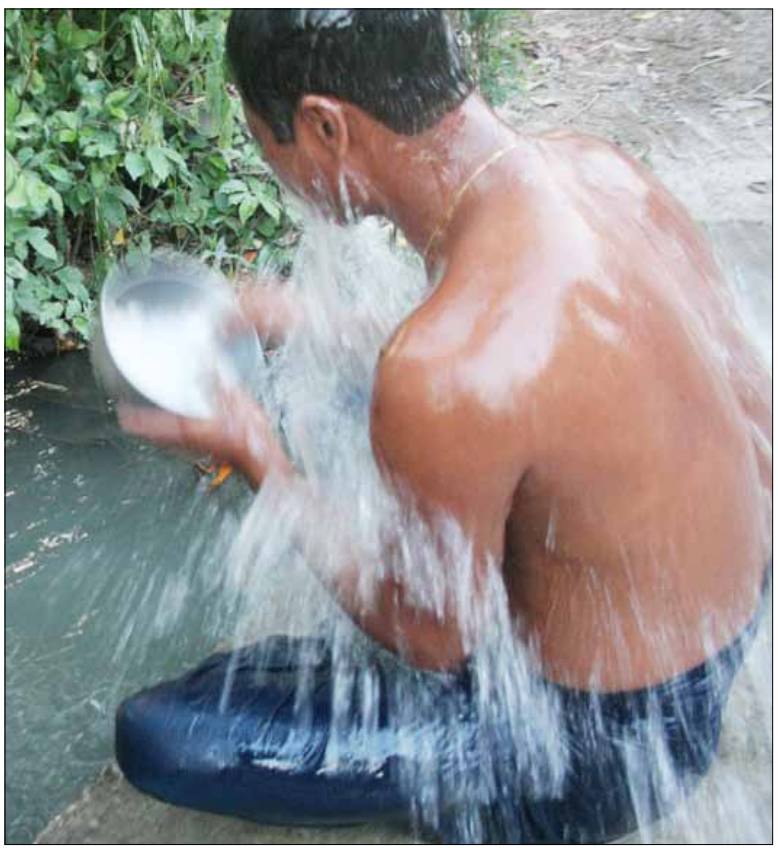
"We're still working to increase water supplies in Mandalay. So far we have created 37 16-inch tube wells, and we are getting help from the Asian Development Bank and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency," U Tint Lwin said.

He said the ADB's US$60 million project will include increasing water supplies and upgrading the city's drainage and sewage systems, while JICA has earmarked $1.8 million for a project to bring increased water supplies to 40pc of Pyigyitagun township.

Meanwhile, residents in many wards of Mandalay continue to face water problems, and some houses are unable to extract water from their taps until after midnight when demand is low.

Daw Sann, 60, from Aung Myay Thar San township, said her MCDC water supply was relatively good because she lived in a low-lying area not far from a water pump house.

"But in summer I still have to wait for the water to come. Now I use the city water for taking baths and washing, but not for drinking," she said. "You can see sediment in the city water, so now I order purified water from outside for drinking."



A man bathes at a street-side drain in Mandalay's Patheingyi township, an area not yet served by city water supplies. Photo: Phyo Wai Kyaw

Experts warn

The widespread, unregulated use of private tube wells in

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Residents of Bago Region carry water to their

WHILE some areas of Myanmar suffer from dwindling water supplies during summer, it is not unusual at this time of year to see water dripping from overflow pipes set outside high-rise buildings in Yangon.

The source of this wasted water is usually tube wells that have been dug underneath the buildings. Many families in the city rely on these individual tube wells, which are often more convenient for accessing water than the Yangon City Development Committee's water distribution system.

But the widespread utilisation of individual wells makes it difficult to monitor and measure water use for sustainability, and experts warned last week that overuse of such resources can result in environmental catastrophe.

Geologist U Soe Thura Tun said excessive use of groundwater can result in water resource depletion, ground subsidence and saltwater intrusion.

"About 20 years ago artesian wells were dug in Yinmarpin township in Sagaing Region. About 10 years later the wells were inundated with saltwater," he said.

"This occurred because the surface water was depleted, and the saltwater stored in the rocks at a deeper level was pushed upward. This kind of effect can occur in Yangon because it is surrounded by the seawater."

U Soe Thura Tun also said there was great potential for ground-sinking to occur in downtown Yangon if too much water was taken from wells, or if groundwater supplies were unable to keep up with demand from a growing population.

"The geology of the soil under Yangon is 'younger alluvium', which is susceptible to ground-sinking. The same type of soil can be also found in western Mandalay."

He said there was no official government body tasked with monitoring ground-sinking in Myanmar, and no one knows whether it might have already occurred in some parts of the country.

"Current groundwater use in the country has not reached critical levels, but the issue should be considered so we can plan for the future," he said.

U Ba Shwe, a retired chief engineer from the Water and Sanitation Department of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, said Myanmar's groundwater resources were ostensibly protected by the Burma Underground Water Act of 1930, but the law is not applied properly these days.

"The British government enacted the Burma Underground Water Act to support sustainable use of groundwater," he said. "They also appointed a water officer to monitor the use of groundwater and to issue licences for groundwater extraction after he checked to make sure it would not damage the environment."

After 1988, with YCDC no longer

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# of groundwater depletion dangers

Yangon could have a negative impact on public health and result in environmental problems such as soil subsidence and saltwater instrusion

homes during a drought in May 2010. Photo: Christopher Davy

able to provide sufficient water supplies to all areas of the city, residents began digging unlicenced, individual tube wells.

"Water officers could not control the situation with their limited authority," U Ba Shwe said.

'Current groundwater use in the country has not reached critical levels, but the issue should be considered so we can plan for the future.'

U Soe Thura Tun
Geologist

He said individual tube wells had a negative impact not only on urban infrastructure but also on the health of city residents.

"There are specific criteria for digging tube wells, including making sure they are far enough from other wells, drainage ditches and septic tanks," he said.

"Water officials check these things, and also test the water for drinkability before issuing a licence. But people who dig individual tube wells skip these steps, and if they drink tainted water for too long it can affect public health."

U Khin Maung Htaey, the chair of the Myanmar Engineering Society's Water Supply and Sanitation Technical Division, said Myanmar does not have its own drinking water quality standards, and contamination can be found in both urban and rural areas.

"Arsenic contamination was found in some tube wells in Ayeyarwady Region, and that kind of water is not suitable for drinking without being treated. High iron content has also been measured in wells in the northern and southern outskirts of Yangon," he said.

However, he added that national drinking water quality standards were being drafted by the government's National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) and were expected to be finished soon.

An August 2013 report by the Asian Development Bank stated that although water resources in Myanmar are generally abundant, localised pollution threatens to render water sources unsuitable for future or downstream uses.

"This threat results from the virtual absence of any form of treatment of domestic or industrial wastewater and the failure to conduct environmental impact assessments for major development projects," the report said.

Experts also warned that current urban planning should include provisions for maintaining groundwater resources and recharging supplies.

U Ba Shwe said it was important to balance "hard" surfaces like roads and pavement with "soft" surfaces such as green areas and lakes.

"The replacement of soft surfaces with hard surfaces has consequences, including damaging groundwater resources because the amount of water taken out increases while the amount recharged decreases," he said.

"Another consequence is an increase in flooding because hard surfaces cannot absorb water like soft surfaces can."

He cited Mahabandoola Park and People's Park as soft surfaces that provide groundwater for the surrounding areas.

"We have seen the green areas of People's Park reduced more and more by development. This is not a good sign for groundwater resources in that area," he said.

Water resource specialist U Tin Maung, who serves as vice president of an expert group under the NWRC, said recharging groundwater was important for the sustainability of water resources.

"Yangon is quite lucky because it receives more than 100 inches [254 centimetres] of rain a year. Kandawgyi and Inya lakes also help recharge the groundwater resources in nearby areas," he said.

"But I worry that areas that get less rainfall, like central Myanmar, might suffer from water shortages because there's less recharge while at the same time growing populations are using more water."

U Tin Maung said the best solution was to enforce a licence application system for digging tube wells, which will help authorities monitor groundwater use throughout the country.

"Urban planners also need to make more space for recharge areas and bodies of water such as lakes," he said.

Dala residents face dwindling water supply

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THE long dry season has taken its toll on water supplies in Dala township, and Yangon City Development Committee is now picking up the slack by distributing fresh water to residents in need.

U Nay Win, an official from YCDC's Engineering Department in Dala, said the project focused on Yaza Thingyan district, where 2568 houses receive water through the committee's water pipe system.

"Only those who own houses are getting regular water supplies through pipes, so on April 30 we installed two water taps on Min Tone Street and on the west side of Yaza Thingyan district where others can get fresh water," he said.

U Nay Win said water is distributed free of charge from 5am to noon each day.

"This water is not meant for houses that already have pipes. It's for members of the public who have no access to water," he said.

Many citizens of Dala depend on the township's 119 drinking water ponds, which collect rainwater but suffer drought every year. The main water distribution base in Yangon pumps water through pipes to 20 of the 24 wards in the township.

U Nay Win said that in areas of the township where there is no pipeline supply and water taps cannot be installed the committee has built brick and cement cisterns that are filled by water trucks.

U Tun Tun Win, a Dala township administrator, said these areas include wards 6, 11/14 and 23, as well as Thanmata Kanchae ward.

"These wards are on the edge of the township, so they do not get regular supplies from the committee. Residents have been requesting us to extend pipes to these areas, and we have made plans to do so," he said.

One resident of Yaza Thingyan district said water supplies were a constant problem during dry season.

"Every year people come from other places to donate water for us, but we haven't seen many donors this year," he said. "The water pipes have not yet reached our area, but the authorities say we will get them soon. We're counting on it."

He said that in Dala's poor districts the water ponds are typically empty for about three months during dry season. "We have an additional water tank in our district donated by an NGO, but it can only be used for washing dishes and clothes. Even this can't be used every day."

Resident Ko Min Sett said the NGO-donated water tank was meant to be used by 10 households.

"But sometimes we have to share the water among 15 households, so each person only gets two buckets a week. We can't tell people from one household not to come and take water," he said.

– Translation by Hein Htet Aung

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Business

Licence fees for liquor shops to rise

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Two wine bottles sit in a box during a crackdown on illegal imports late last year. Photo: Zarni Phyo

RESTAURANTS and shops selling alcohol will face higher annual licencing fees this year from the Ministry of Home Affairs General Administration Department, according to government officials.

U Than Lwin, head of Yangon's Seikkan township General Administration Department, said a proposal has already been sent to parliament, while his department had notified all liquor vendors in the township about the pending change.

"I didn't hear any negative feedback on the proposed change, so we will go ahead," he said.

Current annual fees sit at K100,000 for sellers of locally made alcohol, K500,000 for both imported and locally made varieties, K1.25 million for restaurants, and K2.4 million for local producers to distill, store and distribute products.

U Than Lwin said some of the fees could double this year. The ministry also plans to gradually raise some taxes on alcohol products to reduce overconsumption, as well as conduct further raids on shops illegally selling alcohol in conjunction with the customs department and police force, he added.

Raids against illegal imports were in full force late last year, when many shops stopped selling alcohol after a crackdown, as there were few legal avenues to import alcohol.

The government banned importing alcohol in 1995 to promote local production. To get around the ban, some businesses were known to collaborate with hotels to import additional alcohol products that are then sold to restaurants and retailers, while others simply import through illegal channels.

Though the Ministry of Commerce has announced plans to create legislation to allow distributors to sell foreign-produced spirits, wine and beer, the process has been delayed by some local producers aiming to protect their market, said commerce minister U Win Myint last week.

Members of a Mandalay liquor association have asked to freeze foreign imports, but it is inevitable the market will be opened to foreign alcohol, he said.

"We have to open the market sooner or later as consumers request it," he said.

Local producers say they are working to prepare for more competition from foreign-made brands, but some added the plan to raise licencing fees to produce will affect the bottom line.

Alcohol importer Panda Beverages managing director U Zaw Moe Win said he understands his K2.4 million annual fee will more than double to K5 million this year.

"Local producers will lose out with higher licencing fees," he said.

There are a number of local, small-scale alcohol producers in Myanmar operating with or without a licence, but only a handful of brands such as Dagon and Myanmar beer and High Class and Grand Reserve whisky enjoy widespread market share.

"Many producers have lost by investing in high levels of production and advertising, and we have to compete with suppliers who produce paying taxes," he said. "We are in a difficult situation."

Another retailer who declined to be named said in Dagon Seikkan township the going rate to open an illegal liquor shop is between K10,000 and K20,000 in informal payments a month, depending on the type of licence.

"The shop owner has to pay more when the official demands it," he said. "But owners can sometimes avoid taxes, a habit that reduces the needs of shop owners to pay regular taxes or fees."

Officials from the General Administration Department for Yangon Region claimed to be aware of the problem, adding it had raided some 2000 liquor shops which did not pay the correct fees or taxes since the beginning of the year.

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Lanmadaw residents fret building repairs ahead of rainy season

PROPERTY 34

Tycoons talk tax evasion at award ceremony

BUSINESS 30

Exchange Rates (May 9 close)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Euro	K1321	K1339
Malaysia Ringitt	K296	K299
Singapore Dollar	K769	K771
Thai Baht	K29	K30
US Dollar	K960	K963

Fish producers face export fall

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FISHERY exports have failed to pick up so far this year after falling by more than expected last fiscal year, experts say.

Poor weather, lack of equipment and shuttered fish farms led to a year-on-year decline of well over an expected US$100 million decline in exports.

Consumer interest remains strong, but lower production has led to the decline in exports, said Myanmar Fisheries Federation advisor U Han Tun.

"Not only incomes are falling but also export tonnage," he said.

Fishery exports totaled $536 million for the 2013-14 fiscal year, according to U Han Tun, compared with about $650 million shown by government data for the year before.

China and Thailand are major markets for Myanmar's fish products, but Middle East and United States firms have also placed orders in recent years.

Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association general secretary U Htun Aye said fish farmers should anticipate demand and start producing more fish now. More government support and better techniques could also improve yields.

A fisher scoops out his catch. Photo: Staff

MPT to enter agreement with Japan's KDDI later this month

Long-expected move for state-run telco to partner with a foreign firm comes as competition in the sector heats up ahead of Telenor and Ooredoo's expected launch

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MYANMA Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) aims to sign a partnership agreement with Japanese mobile services provider KDDI Corporation by the end of the month, according to government officials.

KDDI will be the operator of state-owned MPT under the agreement, said U Than Tun Aung, a director from the Ministry's Posts and Telecommunications Department.

"The process has been delayed for many months because so many steps are required to negotiate with MPT, since it is a state-owned business," he said. "The agreement is going to be signed at the end of the month."

MPT is currently Myanmar's sole mobile operator, though the market is expected to become more competitive, as a total of four providers could be operating by the end of the year. Foreign-owned Telenor and Ooredoo are planning launch this year and majority state-owned Yadanarpon Teleport (YTP) is also to be granted a license.

MPT invited France's Orange Group, KDDI, and Singapore's SingTel to begin discussions on partnering in a letter last September, after the three firms lost out on licensing.

While U Aung Maw, the former head of MPT, retired due to health reasons last month, its new managing director U Kyaw Soe Win said that discussions with a future partner were still ongoing.

"We will make an official announcement when the time comes," he said. "We are not hiding anything in this process."

KDDI officials had not returned request for comment as of May 10.

KDDI is Japan's second-largest mobile service provider. It claimed to have generated operating income of 663 billion yen (US$6.5 billion) with operating revenues of 4.3 trillion yen (US$42 billion) for the fiscal year ending in April, according to its annual report.

YTP is also in discussions to attract a foreign partner, YTP CEO U Tin Win said.

The firm registered as a public company in December 2013, but has not yet received a license.

Although Myanmar has had only one mobile service provider, future competitors say the eager to make their mark in the industry.

Telenor Myanmar CEO Petter Furberg told *The Myanmar Times* on May 8 that the firm had assumed there would be four players in the market when they took part in the bidding process last year.

"We love competition and we think it's great for the people in Myanmar that there is competition," he said.

Telenor and Ooredoo were the two successful foreign bidders in a process that began with expressions of interest from 91 foreign firms, including KDDI.

The competition for two licences was held in 2013 as part of government efforts to boost adoption of mobile phone services by Myanmar's population.

For more see on the future of Myanmar's telecoms industry, see pages 2-3 in this week's e-Living special report.

A woman holds an MPT SIM card. Photo: Staff

Central Bank notes caution on foreign banks

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CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar vice governor U Set Aung appeared to back off a previously discussed timetable to allow foreign banks in to operate in Myanmar, declining to confirm plans to allow foreign banks to begin operations in 2014.

Foreign banks will be allowed to offer services in Myanmar eventually but the timeline is still being considered, he said at a Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MFCCI) press conference last week.

"The time when foreign banks will be allowed to begin [operating] is still being processed, so at this time I cannot say anything for sure about that," he said in response to a direct question on whether foreign banks could begin operations in 2014.

About 35 foreign banks – including heavyweights such as Standard Charter, ANZ and Bangkok Bank – have established representative offices in Myanmar, though the offices are allowed to engage in only a limited number of activities.

At the end of 2013, central bank officials had said between five and 10 foreign banks would be permitted to operate in Myanmar in 2014.

U Set Aung said the central bank is keen to ensure local banks are not simply outcompeted by foreign banks.

"The Central Bank of Myanmar will only allow restricted licences for foreign banks, meaning foreign banks will not be allowed to offer retail services," he said. Foreign banks may also be restricted to a small number of branches, which is a regionally accepted practice, he added.

Still, foreign banks will help improve a weak sector of the Myanmar economy, according to U Set Aung.

Some local bankers lauded the central bank's caution towards allowing foreign competition.

CB Bank managing director U Pe Myint claimed he is not too concerned about foreign banks as they will be prevented from participating in many parts of the retail business, and will instead focus on international banking.

Still, some Myanmar businesspeople said foreign banks would on the whole benefit Myanmar, seeing the introduction of foreign banks as an avenue to improve access to capital.

U Hnin Oo, Myanmar Fishery Federation vice president, said that many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have trouble securing long-term loans.

"SMEs are disappointed with the central bank's policy towards foreign banks," he said. "SMEs cannot grow stronger without adequate loans with lower interest rates from foreign banks."

"If local banks could provide adequate loans with proper interest rates to businesses, we wouldn't need foreign banks, but now the government has delayed them," he said. "With this trend, I think the country's economy will hardly be able to progress."

'SMEs cannot grow stronger without adequate loans with lower interest rates from foreign banks.'

U Hnin Oo
Myanmar Fishery Federation

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Myanma Power Spectrum Co., Ltd.

Tun Foundation Bank chair U Thein Tun, second from left, sits in his Yangon offices last week. Photo: Supplied

Tun Foundation Bank upgrades online systems

STAFF WRITERS
newsroom@myanmartimes.com.mm

TUN Foundation Bank signed a deal last week to purchase Oracle's state of the art Flexcube Core Banking system, which provides for internet, smartphone and SMS banking services.

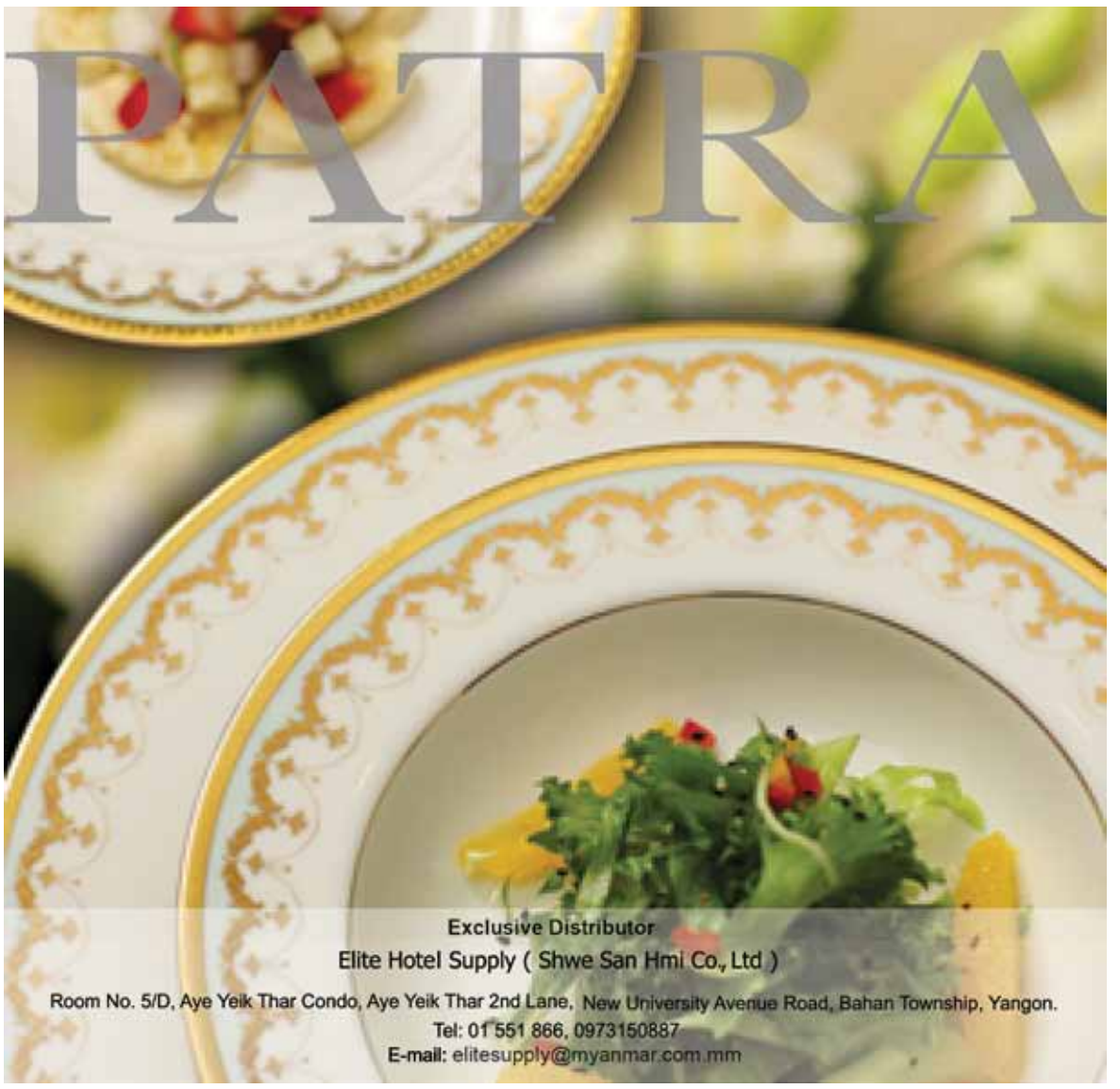
Bank chairman U Thein Tun said the move will put Tun Foundation Bank at the forefront of the Myanmar banking industry as it looks to embrace new technology to support its growing customer base with a full range of products and services.

"This will change the way our customers bank, enabling easy cross-branch banking as well as 24-hour, 7-day-a-week access to their money throughout the country," he said.

The implementation will start immediately, with an eye to formally launching the system at the end of the year, said Tun Foundation consultant Joe Barker-Bennett.

"The key with technology is how you use it and we shall implement international standards of banking practices and procedures to Myanmar," he said. "It is a key part of the Tun Foundation Bank's overall modernisation program."

Privately-owned Tun Foundation Bank opened its doors in 1994 and operates a branch network throughout the country.



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for **Millennium & Copthorne International Limited**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 12th May, 2014

Private sector to gain from mining law changes

AUNG SHIN **TIM MCLAUGHLIN**

PRIVATE industry is set to benefit from proposed amendments in the mining law which is likely to be approved in the upcoming parliamentary sessions, officials say.

The amendments to the 1994 law passed the Amyotha Hluttaw in March after two years' delay and now await a vote in the Pyithu Hluttaw, with proponents saying they're aimed at boosting foreign investment and government revenue in the sector.

U Nay Win Tun, a prominent mining businessperson and chair of Amyotha Hluttaw Mining and Resources Committee, said the government would halve its standard production-sharing portion of 30pc of production to 15pc, while the private firm would increase its share from 70pc to 85pc with the changes.

Both foreign and local firms are able to invest in the sector under the amended law, with maximum different time limits for licences extended depending on the scale of the site.

"The law has been amended to the advantage of all different levels of communities benefiting from mineral resources," said U Nay Win Tun.

"The mining sector will be the main economic activity in our country when the newly amended law is active."

He said that a lack of specific knowledge of the sector among parliament members delayed the amendments.

U Nay Win Tun is the owner of Ruby Dragon Mining, which has at least five mining sites in Shan State.

Department of Mining director general U Win Htein said current foreign investment in the sector is primarily from ASEAN members.

"Now other countries are interesting in our mining sector, but [international investors] don't want the investment if it is not responsible," he said, pointing to the Letpadaung copper mine as a problematic investment.

The amended law is seen as a key piece of legal framework that could usher in sizable new investment in Myanmar's natural resources sector, but has been slow to materialise as other laws like the Foreign Investment Law have made their way through Parliament relatively quickly.

The Ministry of Mines has been preparing to amend the 1994 mining law since 2012, initially targeting an early 2013 introduction.

The delays come despite international efforts to assist the Ministry of Mines. Mineral-rich Australia has been particularly active. In May 2013 a 17-member delegation from the ministry, including Minister U Myint Aung, took a two week tour hosted by AusAID to meet with Australian government officials and view mining operations in New South Wales and Queensland.

Foreign firms from countries including the US, the UK and Australia have visited the mining ministry expressing interest in long-term investment, but experts said the current regulatory regime under the 1994 law made it difficult for foreign firms to enter the sector.

"There is a lack of certainty that foreign investors usually want," Sebastian Pawlita, a partner at Polastri Wint and Partners, a tax and legal advisory firm in Yangon, said of the 1994 law, which he described as "not attractive to investors", in its current form.

He pointed to the need to approach the ministry for permission when moving from one stage in the mining process to the next, such as from exploration into the production phase.

"It adds to the uncertainty because you are never sure what the reply will be," he said.

Mr Pawlita added that there needed to be more clarity surrounding the production-sharing contracts, not only to attract mining and exploration companies to Myanmar but also so that those firms could in turn attract investment.

Hluttaw members say they expect to see a number of benefits from a revamped mining law.

Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt said the main aims with the amendments are to generate more tax income and provide a process to legalise small-scale and illegal miners.

President U Thein Sein presents Shwe Taung managing director U Aung Zaw Naing with an award. Photo: Hsu Hlaing Htun

Tycoons call for an end to tax evasion at award ceremony

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TAX-EVADING entrepreneurs ought to be more public-minded and pay more tax, even though there is often a lack of knowledge about how to do so, several of Myanmar's tycoons said at the President's Excellent Performance Award ceremony.

The President's Excellent Performance Awards were given at a Nay Pyi Taw ceremony to citizens who strive for "the national development and socioeconomic development of the people", including several tycoons who received the award due to their service to Myanmar.

Shwe Taung Development Company managing director U Aung Zaw Naing used his acceptance speech as winner of the 2014 Excellent Performance Award for tax payment to urge tax-evading entrepreneurs to meet their responsibilities and also called for more knowledge about the tax system.

"The government needs to spread knowledge about paying tax, and people must understand how to pay tax," he said.

"In the constitution it is stated that every citizen shall pay tax. Everyone should know the constitution and follow it."

U Tay Za accepts his award. Photo: Hsu Hlaing Htun

U Aung Zaw Naing said there are some weaknesses in the tax system, and systematic improvements over the short- and long-term would benefit revenue generation efforts.

"The state can use revenues for education, health and social spending if people pay tax correctly," he said. "If it can improve these sectors, the state will improve in the long-term. If the country is developed, it will support improvements in the economy."

Kanbawza Banking Company was one of the country's largest taxpayer for the last three years, topping the list for income tax payments for the fiscal year 2013. Its chair U Aung Ko Win received another Excellent Performance Award for tax payment at the ceremony.

"It is not easy to get first prize among the top companies and tycoons. We had to try hard," said Kanbawza Bank chair U Aung Ko Win.

"I'm glad that I received the award because I paid the biggest amount of tax among Myanmar citizens. I'm very proud to be chosen again this year."

U Tay Za's Htoo Foundation won the 2014 National Best Social Welfare Team award after donating more than K1.5 billion to various causes, as well as another K8 billion for natural disaster aid, though Htoo Trading Company did not win an award for tax payment.

– Translation by Thiri Min Htun

Corruption biggest obstacle in business

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CORRUPTION is the largest concern for businesses in Myanmar, according to a survey aimed at addressing the lack of data available on business in Myanmar.

Other important bottlenecks include a lack of skilled labour and technology, with about one in five respondents claiming each was a major obstacle for business, the survey said.

"The three key issues in the survey are not surprisingly across many countries, but Myanmar is just opening up, and the corruption and skilled labor are such important issues moving forward," said Kim NB Ninh, country representative of The Asia Foundation, one of the agencies providing support to the survey.

Half of respondents calculated they paid K500,000 (US$520) or less in extra payments for registration, license or permits, while a dozen respondents said perceived extra payment requirements exceeded K10 million. However, 40 percent of respondents reported not having to pay extra fees.

50%

Respondents making K500,000 or less in extra payments for official services.

Water supply, exchange rates and foreign exchange availability were the least likely to be selected as major obstacles for business, according to the survey.

Over 3000 Myanmar firms were surveyed by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the OECD and UNESCAP, with support from five other agencies.

About one-third of the firms surveyed are in the manufacturing sector, and 97pc of the total is SMEs.

One result that was surprising to many is relative age of many of the companies that were surveyed.

Nearly one-half of the respondents were established over 15 years ago, with less than a sixth being under four years old.

"We see a sudden and upward increase [for Myanmar] but [not many] firms are really being established," said Ms Ninh.

Masato Abe, UNESCAP economic affair officer, said collecting the survey data required asking many sensitive questions, and some were reluctant to respond.

"Almost all at first refuse to answer some questions such as how much money they can make within a month or a year, and revenue and tax related questions were also often too sensitive for them," he said.

Dominik Weidert, a senior advisor at GIZ, one of the supporting agencies, said the survey data is important but more important is working to avoid the obstacles SMEs are facing, to encourage Myanmar's economic growth

See also a related opinion column "Enterprise surveys: a fine example of donor non-cooperation" on page 32.

Mercedes makes its move

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A woman lounges on a Mercedes car at its launch on May 8. Photo: Aye Nyein Win

GERMAN automaker Mercedes-Benz opened its showroom on Yangon's Pyay Road on May 8, as competition in the market heats up.

Customers will be able to purchase vehicles from the firm as well as receive service, with the E-Class models being the first on offer, said company officials at the launch.

"Customers in Myanmar can enjoy the same service as our international customers," said Chin Kee Min, from the firm's local distributor Cycle and Carriage Automobile Myanmar.

"We are importing Mercedes-Benz at the same quality as imports in other countries."

Myanmar's restrictions on importing vehicles have been eased since 2011, with many recently introduced international brands such as Ford, BMW and Mercedes vying for market share against traditionally popular used Japanese vehicles.

Yangon Regional Government chief minister U Myint Swe said loosening restrictions governing imports benefits car consumers.

"Because of allowing car importing, everybody who has enough money can buy cars," he said.

Mercedes' international standard-showroom displays about fifteen different vehicles, with prices sitting between US$72,000 and $348,000 for the top end.

Minister of Commerce U Win Myint said at the launch that he supported the relaxed car import rules introduced by President U Thein Sein's government in 2011.

"Some people say Yangon is facing traffic jams because of too many cars being imported too freely," he said.

"But we will never change our car import policy and we will continue to allow imports and showrooms to open," he added.

Although some say there are too many cars on Yangon's road, U Win Myint said the number is low, with only about seven out of 1000 Myanmar people currently able to afford importing personal cars.

Western Union to launch in Chin State

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WESTERN Union will launch in Chin State shortly, one year after beginning operations in Myanmar, said U Than Lwn, former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The state is the last of Myanmar's 14 states and regions without Western Union's services, after the American firm launched inward money transfers in January of last year.

Chin State has some of the poorest communication and transportation networks in Myanmar.

Western Union will offer its services through a Kanbawza Bank office in the state, with more representatives planned at Kanbawza if the Central Bank of Myanmar approves.

Western Union works through nine domestic banks at about 460 locations.

Nguyen Thi Nhu Ly, regional director for Indochina and Myanmar at Western Union, said part of its business involves Myanmar people abroad.

"Western Union hopes to play a small but key role in connecting the world to Myanmar and creating new possibilities and opportunities," she said.

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Applications will be accepted by before **20th May 2014 at 15:00 pm.**
Only short-listed applicants will be notified on **23rd May 2014, afternoon.**

Please send your application to the following address:

Myanmar Airways International Co. Ltd.
Human Resources Department
08-02 Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon.

May 12, 2014

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Please submit your resume to HR Department, World Vision International - Myanmar or in person to application drop-box at No (18), Shin Saw Pu Rd; Ahlone Township, Sanchaung PO or send to myajobapps@wvi.org not later than **May 26, 2014.** Please visit to www.worldvision.org.mm for more details of World Vision International - Myanmar.

(Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview and World Vision International - Myanmar)

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UNOCHA MYANMAR

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(UNOCHA/YGN/2014/006)

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is seeking the applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancy. Detailed terms of reference/ requirements for vacancy can be requested at the UNOCHA Office. The position below is Fixed Term Appointment for 1 year with possibility of extension.

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~~Requirements~~

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- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Experience in handling of web-based management systems.
- Ability to write clearly and concisely in English and local language(s). Strong computer skills. Proven high-level representation skills, such as speaking at meetings and providing situational analysis. Proven capacity to work effectively in small teams.
- Experience working in a complex settings that requires sound judgment, and operational flexibility.
- Previous experience in a similar capacity with humanitarian agencies, in particular the UN, preferred.
- Fluency in English and Myanmar language. Knowledge in any other local languages will be an asset.

Candidates should clearly indicate the Vacancy Number and Post Title in their applications, and should submit them together with complete duly filled UN-P11 form, bio-data stating personal details, academic qualification and work experience, copy of master degree certificate, and a recent passport sized photograph. Applications should be addressed to:

Admin and HR Unit, UNOCHA Myanmar
Room (211), No (5), Kanbawza Street, Shwe Taung Kyar (2) Ward,
Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar (In front of Pearl Condo)
Closing Date: Friday, 23 May 2014 (COB)

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Interviews will be competency based.

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Heartbeat of the Nation

COMMENT

Enterprise surveys: a fine example of donor non-cooperation

ADAM MCCARTY
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The OECD and ESCAP released the results of a survey of 3,016 Myanmar enterprises last week. Six agencies and donors are listed as "cooperating" with this effort (UMFCCI did the work), and it is interesting to see that the German Hanns Foundation and GIZ are two of them. This is interesting because we, Mekong Economics, are presently implementing another enterprise survey for Deval – the German Institute for Development Evaluation – which is to be a baseline for German development assistance to small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar. Meanwhile, the World Bank is plugging away implementing their "Enterprise Survey". The World Bank "Doing Business" people are also collecting their data. Anybody else?

The OECD/ESCAP survey has some interesting results – some. It is a short survey (maybe 15 questions) and mostly seeking opinions (rather than more objective measurements). Respondents reported that meeting collateral and loan guarantee requirements was their biggest problem to access formal finance – the terms and conditions of loans were much less an issue. This probably relates to weak property ownership papers (e.g. no central registry) and difficulties with foreclosure (if banks cannot seize collateralised assets if you default, then they pile on more conditions and seek other guarantees before lending you the money). Most loans were for less than one year, which is to be expected, and indeed the share of over 1-year loans seems high by regional comparison.

Only 36 percent of the surveyed firms had any bank loans, and 27pc were not using banks at all. "Personal savings" were 71pc of enterprise financial resources, which basically means that firms grow in line with their cash incomes. A curious result was that smaller firms (1 to 4 employees) reported more revenue per worker, but maybe large firms were just more inclined to under-report their revenues.

The firms rated "corruption", "access to skilled labour" and ""political instability" as "very severe obstacles" to doing business – even higher than "access to capital" and "electricity supply". Interestingly, "property rights" and "transport and logistics" were reportedly less severe obstacles.

The problem with such opinion questions, however, is that not all the variables are relevant to all the firms. For example, "transport and logistics" may be terrible, but for many firms it is not important for their business – so no "obstacle". A better approach is to gather hard data about transport and logistics, and to compare the results to other countries.

Over one-quarter of firms reported that they gave their workers over 20 days of paid leave every year (in addition to Myanmar's generous national holidays). If that is a representative result, then it looks like Myanmar is generous in allowing time-off relative to regional countries. But is it representative? They also report that 1,400 of the 3,016 firms had been established 15+ years ago, which seems a very high percentage of old firms. The definition of a "firm", and how the sample was selected were not explained in presentation document, but I suspect it is not a nationally representative sample. That is a problem, because unless you can convince the reader that your data sample is representative (which is not easy to design and implement, by the way), then we need to qualify all conclusions. We cannot say: "73pc of Myanmar firms have bank accounts", but rather: "73pc of sampled firms have bank accounts". The data speaks for the sample, not the country.

> **'The problem with such opinion questions ... is that not all variables are relevant**
>
> **Adam McCarty**
> Australian economist

The ongoing World Bank enterprise survey is certainly a quality endeavor, and strives to be as representative of the country as possible. We are not implementing it in Myanmar, but have done so in China and are doing so in 8 other Asia-Pacific countries. The results are reliable, representative, focus on facts rather than opinions, and the exact same questions can be compared across almost 100 other counties. The Doing Business survey is similar, but it reports general facts (e.g. "cost to send one container" or "days to establish a business") rather than large survey averages (e.g. "average days per month when electricity cuts out"). Both useful and internationally comparable "hard data" and, frankly, donors should consider jumping on to the World Bank survey next time (e.g. contribute to the cost to expand the sample or add questions).

Dr Adam McCarty is an Australian economist who has been living and working in Vietnam since 1991. In 2001, he established Mekong Economics (MKE) Ltd, where he is Chief Economist. Dr McCarty's work and research across the Mekong region has covered microfinance, state enterprise reform, rural development impact evaluations, trade policy, aid effectiveness, and the education sector. Dr McCarty first came to Myanmar in 2008 and has worked on microfinance, poverty targeting, and trade policy. MKE have an office in Yangon, and are a consortium partner on the World Bank NCDD TA project, leading an ADB project in Kayin State and conducted the mid-term review of LIFT. Adam is also Regional Director of MDF, a Dutch-based training organisation (www.mdf.nl).

COMMENT

Expat Basics : Dollar cost averaging

ANDREW WOOD
enquiriesmyanmar@fsplatinum.com

SO far in this series we have discussed pensions and how to start wealth accumulation using the advantage of compound growth. Today we are going to add a third advantage.

This even more powerful factor than compound growth is the dollar cost average marvel; the power of buying low and enjoying subsequent price increases to your advantage. In our everyday lives if the price of rice reduces we will buy more rather than wait for a price increase.

Let's say you buy shares in very similar companies. They will always have different results and their share price will never be the same. So, let us invest US$500 per month in company A and $500 per month in company B. We do this each month for ten years. At the end of the period we have invested $60,000 in each company. The share price in company A steadily grew in a straight line whilst the price of shares in company B reduced but then recovered toward the end of the period.

The share prices over the period are shown in the graph below.

Both companies start and end at the same share price but company B dips during the period and then accelerates back in the second five years. Look at the graph and ask which company will have produced the best return for a regular investment. It may appear that company A would have come out on top. However, you would be incorrect. This is because when the share price in company B reduced you were actually buying more shares than you were in company A. Many investors who eventually see this are then even more surprised when they find out the quantum of the result.

Using a similar but real example, we invested $500 per month in a plan (ABC fund) where prices dipped and then recovered; contrasted to a second plan (XYZ fund) where the same contribution was paid and unit prices rose on a straight line basis. This is very similar to the shares example. In the table to the right you can see the differences in the total number of units purchased

The reality of the 2008 financial crash and subsequent ongoing recovery has advantaged many equity investors. If you are one of these you will see a varying benefit for yourself depending on the history of your own investment at the time of the crash. Some very short sighted expats stopped contributing to their plans and waited until the unit prices rose again. They were foolish, suffering even further rather than taking advantage of the situation.

Various expats often enquire about financial planning, common queries being whether it is too late to refocus or even to get started. The answer is definitely no; it is never too late. The younger you are when you start, the easier it will be, but you can still start a meaningful plan even in your sixties.

There are a number of international savings plans available for expats in Myanmar so contact a financial advisor and get started today.

Questions to the author can be directed to PFS International on +66 2653 1971 or email to enquiriesmyanmar@fsplatinum.com.

	ABC Fund			XYZ Fund		
Year	Amount Invested	Average Unit Price	Units Purchased	Amount Invested	Average Unit Price	Units Purchased
1	$6.000	$9.3168	644.00	$6.000	$10.4627	573.47
2	$6.000	$8.7083	689.00	$6.000	$11.5583	519.11
3	$6.000	$8.8499	677.97	$6.000	$12.7686	469.90
4	$6.000	$9.4661	633.84	$6.000	$14.1056	425.36
5	$6.000	$10.5682	567.74	$6.000	$15.5827	385.04
6	$6.000	$12.0975	495.97	$6.000	$17.2144	348.55
7	$6.000	$14.2634	420.66	$6.000	$19.0170	315.51
8	$6.000	$17.0536	351.83	$6.000	$21.0083	285.60
9	$6.000	$20.3925	294.23	$6.000	$23.2081	258.53
10	$6.000	$25.6500	233.92	$6.000	$25.6500	233.92
Total	$60.000		5,009.16	$60.000		3,814.99

Average annual compound growth:
ABC Fund = 13.86% **XYZ Fund = 9.20%**
Additional value for investment using current dollar cost averaging advantage: $30,630.46

BRIEFS

Fake gems cause slowdown
Gemstone traders in Mandalay's Maha Aung Myae trading centre are claiming an influx of fake gems caused a slowdown in the market last week.

A shortage of genuine products is to blame for some unscrupulous traders using artificial substances to improve the colour of poor quality gems, claimed prominent trader Ko Bo Lin.

"It's hard to tell them apart by eye," he said, adding he thought many of the fake ones originated in Muse, located in Shan State on the Chinese border.

"We are being very cautious when doing transactions these days," he said. "Traders often stop buying if they see fake sellers."

– Kyaw Ko Ko/ Zar Zar Soe

IFC signs advisory deal
International Finance Corporation signed an agreement with Myanmar Oriental Bank to provide advisory services with the aim of expanding trade and related services to small and medium enterprises, it said in a release. The agreement follows on the back of a US$5 million trade finance facility provided to the bank earlier this, it said.

IFC Resident Representative Vikram Kumar said the IFC will provide Myanmar Oriental Bank with recommendations to improve its governance framework and strengthen its products and services, along with expanding Myanmar Oriental's trade financing.

"Myanmar has one of the world's most underdeveloped financial services industries, with domestic credit provided by financial sector at 10.3 percent of GDP as of 2013- the lowest level in Southeast Asia," the release said.

– Staff

Korean hotel breaks ground
THE groundbreaking for Daewoo-Amara Hotel will be held in Yangon on May 12. The 700-room development will be built at 6 ½ mile on Pyay Road.

The development is in collaboration with Daewoo International, which is majority owned by Korean steel conglomerate Posco, and the hotel will be operated by Lotte from Korea.

The firm joins an increasing number of international hoteliers interesting in Myanmar.

– Staff

Property

BUSINESS EDITOR: **Jeremy Mullins | jeremymullins7**@gmail.com

A resident of public housing on Lanmadaw township's Lann Thit Road walks down the stairs. Photo: Kaung Htet

Public housing residents push for work ahead of rainy season

NOE NOE AUNG TIN YADANAR HTUN

RESIDENTS from a public housing settlement in Yangon's Lanmadaw township are growing increasingly frustrated as work by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development (DHSHD) to repair and enlarge their flats fails to get off the ground.

Some of the residents claim to have lived at the Lann Thit Road Public Housing site since its construction 57 years ago.

The 11 buildings, which have four storeys each, are showing signs of their age, with mortar joints falling apart, rainwater seeping through during the rainy season, decaying septic tanks and blocked drain pipes.

"The electric cables are destroyed because of their long lifespan and it is not safe," said one resident Ma Lin Lin.

"The project has been delayed for the last two months ... if possible we want this project to start before this rainy season," said another resident Daw Khin Hla Myint.

Repeated discussions between DHSHD and the residents on how to go ahead with the project ended in disagreement in February.

DHSHD officials say they plan to enlarge each housing block into 12 storeys of higher-standard housing. The residents will get an additional 50 square feet of space in each new flat as well as free car parking.

Officials have offered K600,000 to each resident to cover removal costs as well as K5,400,000 to cover the cost of renting out another flat during the 18-month construction period.

DHSHD officials say they are trying to meet the needs identified by the residents.

"We will give priority to many residents' needs. If they want to build a new one, we will build it. If they don't want us to we won't," U Yu Khine, the director of DHSHD, said.

While most residents agree with the proposed arrangements, a few who say they want to receive official title to their flats continue to oppose it. "They want to get the legal papers for the flat. But DHSHD doesn't give the owner legal papers because this public housing is government housing," said resident U Sein Win.

Some public housing tenants in other projects are thought to have "sold" their flat illegally to another family to live in, who are then unable to prove they have a right to live there.

Diaspora in Singapore to be prime market for condo sales

MYAT NYEIN AYE
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THE developers behind a planned 27-storey luxury Yangon condominium project say they expect Myanmar expats living in Singapore to make up a significant share of their buyers following sales events planned for later this month.

The consortium led by Singapore-based CapitaLand Limited will hold events in the city later this month to promote its 369 apartment 68 Residence development in Yangon's Bahan Township on the corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda and Sayar San Roads.

"We want to launch our condominiums in Singapore for Myanmar people who live in Singapore and international investors, because they will be built to international standards and be an icon in Yangon," said U Aung Kyaw Win, chair of CapitaLand's Myanmar partner United GP Development.

Foreigners are currently not allowed to own property in Myanmar, though a draft version of the condominium law currently under consideration allows foreigners to purchase places on the sixth storey or above – provided foreigners make up less than 40 percent of the building's total occupants.

Singapore is home to a large Myanmar diaspora, with some estimates ranging as high as 150,000. The community may be smaller than Thailand's Myanmar communities, but members are often considered to be more affluent.

Construction on the 68 Residence project is planned to begin in September and wrap up in 2017, with total costs estimated around US$150 million. Of the 369 apartments, 153 will be serviced by The Ascott Company.

The project includes a number of amenities including ground-floor retail outlets, an infinity swimming pool and 444 spaces in a basement carpark.

68 Residence is designed by Malaysia's Zone Architect and construction will be managed by Soil-Build Group from Singapore.

Capital hotels frustrated by ministry recommendations

HSU HLAING TUN
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GOVERNMENT ministries steering visitors to Nay Pyi Taw towards newly built hotels in the state-guesthouse hotel zone is making it difficult for other hotels to attract guests, hoteliers say.

With relatively few tourists traveling to Nay Pyi Taw to take in the sights, most guests arrive for conferences and government meetings, often with little knowledge of where to stay.

It has become common for ministries to recommend guests stay at the 10 newly-opened hotels in Dekkhinathiri township's state-guesthouse hotel zone – particularly ahead of the 24th ASEAN Summit to be held in the capital on May 10 and 11. The capital has two other hotel zones besides the state-guesthouse zone.

'We want ministries to encourage visitors to freely choose their accomodation.'

Hotel Managing Director

"We poured a lot into it," said the managing director of one of the luxury hotels in the state-guesthouse zone, of his recently built hotel.

"Though we haven't completed all the stages, we opened our hotel already under direction from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism," he said.

There are about 80 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw, with most split between hotel zone 1 and 2, but about ten are in the state-guesthouse zone. The state-guesthouse zone is thought to have been developed ahead of this year's ASEAN summits to provide lodging for an expected influx of visitors.

Hotel managers say Nay Pyi Taw hotels need referrals from the ministries to attract guests, unlike similar hotels in Yangon and Mandalay.

Though hotels often aim to provide services at an international level, befitting Nay Pyi Taw's status as the national capital, some say it has been a tough business.

"I assume the market will flourish in the future, though we need to struggle at the beginning," said U Aung Zaw Naing, managing director of Shwe Taung Construction, which owns Junction Hotel in hotel zone 1 as well as a hotel in the state-guesthouse zone.

"We don't have a lot of opportunity to hold business forums because Nay Pyi Taw is not a commercial city."

Another managing director from a hotel in hotel zone 1 said there are currently fewer events being held in his zone due to recommendations from some ministries supporting the state-guesthouse hotels.

"We want ministries to encourage visitors to freely choose their accommodation," he said.

The managing director, who asked to remain nameless for fear of repercussions, said that further price cuts would put his hotel on par with the municipal guesthouses.

– Translation by Zar Zar Soe

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm glad that I received the award because I paid the biggest amount of tax among Myanmar citizens."

— Kanbawza Bank chair U Aung Ko Win

Thailand's protestors dig in for a fight
WORLD 40

Philippines orders its banks to undergo property stress test

THE Philippine central bank is firming up steps to avert a property bubble, including requiring banks to undergo a stress test, deputy governor Nestor Espenilla said.

"Real estate exposure historically has been the trigger of problems in many banking systems. It's quite natural for regulators including BSP to be particularly wary of this," Mr Espenilla said last May 8. "We're implementing a risk-based type supervision," he added, without specifying a timeframe for its introduction.

The central bank is set to introduce a residential property-price index in the first half of the year, Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo had said in March, as record-low borrowing costs spur demand for homes and offices.

Property loans and investments rose 6.8 percent to a record 900.1 billion pesos (US$20 billion) in the second quarter of 2013 from the previous three-month period, the central bank said in November. Property made up 22pc of banks' total loan portfolio, it said. More recent data has not been released.

"The BSP is being pre-emptive in addressing concerns of a potential real-estate bubble," said Michael Wan, an economist at Credit Suisse Group AG. "The impact on property lending will depend on how stringent the stress test will be. I suspect it will be moderate, as they won't come out with a rule that will massively curtail real-estate lending."

'You just can't tell banks to stop real estate lending; it's part of their business model.'

Nestor Espenilla
Central Bank official

Shares in Ayala Land Inc, the nation's largest developer by revenue, have risen about 45pc in the past two years, outpacing a 29pc gain in the benchmark index. Its shares were little changed May 8, while Bank of the Philippine Islands, the largest lender by market value, fell 0.7pc.

Greater oversight in the Philippines comes as China strengthens monitoring of credit extended to real estate developers and after Hong Kong and Singapore took steps to cool property prices. Bangko Sentral caps banks' real-estate lending at 20pc of total outstanding loans, with some exclusions.

The price of land in the financial district of Makati surged 28pc from 2010 to 2013 to the highest level since 1997, according to UK-based Colliers International Plc. The monetary authority is closely monitoring the middle-market segment in residential housing, Mr Espenilla said, while declining to comment on May 8's policy decision.

"Real estate is prone to asset-price inflation," Mr Espenilla said. At the same time, "you just can't tell banks to stop real estate lending; it's part of their business model," he said, adding that the proposed measure is designed primarily to test lenders' ability to withstand a defined stress scenario.

Policy-makers should closely watch the residential market as low interest rates and rising money supply may spur demand, Credit Suisse's Wan said in February.

The central bank in 2012 widened its scope for monitoring the real estate sector. It ordered banks to report loans to developers of low-cost housing, investments in securities to finance real-estate activities, and exposure of banks' trust departments to the property sector.

"Since there's no certainty in the world, you have to have a buffer," Mr Espenilla said of the need for greater vigilance. "Despite your best plans, you should have something to fall back on in case something goes wrong." – *Bloomberg*

HONG KONG

Property moguls on trial in huge graft case

A BLOCKBUSTER corruption trial involving Hong Kong property tycoons Thomas and Raymond Kwok opened last week, with all five defendants pleading innocent to bribery charges.

The brothers, who jointly chair development giant Sun Hung Kai Properties, and Hong Kong's former chief secretary Rafael Hui were arrested in a major swoop by the city's anti-graft watchdog in March 2012.

The Kwoks, aged 62 and 60, were accused of bribing Mr Hui, who once held the second-highest position in the southern Chinese territory's government.

The two brothers, ranked fourth on the Forbes Hong Kong 2014 rich list, and Mr Hui are among five people charged with eight offences related to payments and unsecured loans amounting to HK$34 million (US$4.38 million).

Mr Hui, 66, is accused of misconduct in being "favourably disposed to Sun Hung Kai Properties ... and Thomas Kwok and Raymond Kwok" while in office in return for payments, according to a Department of Justice indictment.

The charges against Mr Hui also relate to rent-free use of luxury apartments and acceptance of unsecured loans, the document said.

All the defendants, who have previously proclaimed their innocence, confirmed their pleas of not guilty when the hearing opened May 8.

Judge Andrew Macrae also issued a warning to the media to confine their reporting to the basic facts of the trial, following criticism from defence counsel on previous coverage of the case.

"I cannot stress this too highly ... There are leading counsel who are following everything you write. Please remain within the boundaries," Mr Macrae said.

The other accused are another Sun Hung Kai director, Thomas Chan, and Francis Kwan, the former non-executive director of New Environmental Energy Holdings, an investment company.

Thomas Kwok, one of the chairs of development giant Sun Hung Kai Properties, arrives at the high court in Hong Kong on May 8, 2014. Photo: AFP

Thomas and Raymond Kwok both smiled as they arrived at court, walking past dozens of photographers who flanked the main entrance, while more than 100 reporters waited inside.

Mr Hui declined to discuss the case as he waited outside the courtroom, but told reporters he was "not feeling relaxed".

The case has shocked Hong Kong, where Sun Hung Kai is the biggest property developer by market capitalisation and owns some of the city's most iconic real estate including its tallest tower, the 118-floor International Commerce Centre.

The Kwoks have estimated family wealth of US$17.5 billion.

Hong Kong is seen as relatively graft-free – it was ranked the joint 15th cleanest country or territory in 2013 by global corruption watchdog Transparency International.

But previous cases have fuelled public suspicions over cosy links between authorities and industry leaders, and the role of the Chinese system of personal connections, or "guanxi" which greases the wheels of business.

Former Hong Kong chief executive Donald Tsang ended his term in disgrace in June 2012 after admitting to accepting gifts from tycoons in the form of trips on luxury yachts and private jets.

And Hong Kong billionaire Joseph Lau was in March found guilty of bribing a former minister in the gambling enclave of Macau in an attempt to purchase a prime development site in the former Portuguese colony.

The Kwok trial, which is expected to last 70 days at the city's High Court, will see a cast of prominent British lawyers in action.

Clare Montgomery, who represented the Swedish government when it requested extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange from Britain, is representing Thomas Kwok, the elder brother.

John Kelsey-Fry, who successfully defended British footballer Steven Gerrard during a court case over a bar brawl in 2009, will represent Raymond. Another London lawyer, Ian Winter, is to represent Thomas Chan. – *AFP*

PHNOM PENH

Cambodian city pushes out

GROWTH in the property sector has been slow in Kandal province's Ta Khmau City, 11 kilometres (6.8 miles) south of Phnom Penh, but that, industry sources say, is unlikely to last due to improvements to National Road 1 and the fact that the Ta Khmau Bridge is now completed.

Van Chanthon, managing director of Town City Company, says Ta Khmau city has developed slowly, but that is expected to change because the Ta Khmau Bridge connects to National Road 1, making it possible to bypass Phnom Penh when travelling to Takeo, Kampot,and Sihanoukville.

"I think that if Ta Khmau becomes a transit point ... it will lead to an increase in travel amenities such as restaurants and hotels," he said.

"Samdech Decho Boulevard and the satellite city [AZ CITY] development in the Choeung Ek area of Ta Khmau take part to pushing forward the development."

Kuy Vat, president and CEO of Vtrust Group, notes that despite substantial increases in property transactions and prices in Phnom Penh, immovable property prices in Ta Khmau have seen increases of just 5 to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, Kim Heang, president of Khmer Real Estate, said land prices in Ta Khmau had seen some movement in the past as a result of the plan to build the Ta Khmau Bridge, which offered better trade connections with southern Cambodia. But he added South Korean, Japanese and American foreign investment had let to little in the concrete developments in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2007-8.

He adds that this had led to a flattening-out of property prices in Ta Khmau City, and even an exodus away from the city into Phnom Penh.

"Even though Ta Khmau City is close to Phnom Penh, people tend to flow into the city because few want to live in the provinces," he says.

This has had a knock-on effect, with prices for rice fields stagnating at around US$7000 to $10,000 per hectare, but with a shortage of buyers.

– *Phnom Penh Post*

ANALYSIS

Why all the electricity blackouts?

AUNG SHIN

koshumgtha@gmail.com

WHY are electricity blackouts occurring so often in these days in Yangon? Many people are asking this question, particularly as some in the city lost power again for as much as six hours on the night of May 8.

Government officials have pledged a 24-hour electricity supply to Myanmar's main commercial city, but a glance through social media last week reveals any number of complaints. People are angry about the city's unstable electricity supply.

New generation projects are constantly being announced, in recent years often supported by the state budget and international funding. Yet still Yangon is unable to meet its demand, particularly during the height of summer. The blackouts just keep coming.

Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB) chief engineer U Yan Linn said there is enough production to cover all of Yangon.

"The main problem behind constant blackouts is our aging power distribution system," he said.

"The aging electricity lines are full to capacity. It's challenging keeping stable transmission and distribution, and the lines are not in good condition."

Yangon's current electricity consumption stands at 1000 megawatts, from about 700 megawatts last year.

U Tin Zaw Htway is just one Botataung Township resident who is fed up with the situation.

"The other day, my electricity went out the whole night," he said. "It happens so often these days."

The Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) is working to rehabilitate the distribution network with the help of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). A survey of the system began in July 2013.

JICA Myanmar official Kuronuma Kenji said overall power generation and demand is increasing, but the distribution network and capacity of power stations are not up to date.

'The main problem behind constant blackouts is our aging power distribution system.'

U Yan Linn
Yangon City Electricty Supply Board

MOEP plans to spend some US$214 million – borrowed from JICA – to improve the network by reducing electricity losses due to transmission and distribution to 5 percent. MOEP is also in discussion with Thailand's National Institute of Development Administration for a similar project.

Although some of these projects are years from completion, often people want a quick fix.

YESB's U Yan Linn said he is under lots of government pressure to improve supply.

"High-ranking government officials want us to fulfill the public's need as soon as possible," he said. "But some types of work cannot be completed in a short time."

The transformers are presently capable of handling about 50pc of Yangon's electricity needs, but they are often pressed to handle 80-90pc of possible generation.

The Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) has also moved to address generation concerns. Last year it signed power purchasing agreement (PPA) with four private companies to generate electricity for Yangon. The four natural gas-fired power plants started production last year, with a feed-in tariff of US3.4 cents a kilowatt hour without fuel costs.

The electricity price increased 40pc starting April 1 after parliamentary approval for the change last year, with a progressive tariff charging higher rates with more use.

A number of international organisations are also involved in rehabilitating Yangon's electricity network, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank Group.

It might be little comfort to Yangon's citizens trying to make it through a hot night with a power outage, but the electricity is being generated – it's getting it to the people that is the problem.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that Mr. Rajveer Sachamahithinant, Thai citizen residing at 1/5 Soi 47, Sukhumvit Road, Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: _

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In respect of: -

"Textiles, Textile piece goods, Batiks and Lungis, International Class 24 and 25."

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U Nyein Kyaw
B.Sc., Dip Engg., R.L., D.B.L.
For TECHNO-SIAM TEXTILE COMPANY LIMITED
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Tes: (951) 9662866
E-mail: nyeinkyaw@rajahtann.com
Date: 12th May, 2014

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, a company incorporated in Germany, of Henkelstrasse 67, 40589 Dusseldorf, Germany, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

SYOSS

Reg. No. 15178/2013

in respect of "**Class 03**: Soaps; perfumeries; cosmetics; essential oils; hair lotions; preparations for caring, cleaning, tinting, coloring, bleaching, setting, fixing, waving and styling of hair; dentifrices".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Henkel AG & Co. KGaA**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 12 May 2014

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NOTICE is hereby given that **Intercontinental Great Brands LLC** a company organized under the laws of United States of America and having its principal office at 100 Deforest Avenue, East Hanover, New Jersey 07936, United States of America is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:-

belVita

(Reg: No. IV/10016/2013)

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U Kyi Win Associate
for **Intercontinental Great Brands LLC**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 12th May, 2014

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY YANGON

JOB VACANCY

The Australian Embassy in Yangon is a medium sized diplomatic agency representing the Australian Government in Myanmar. It is staffed by employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Australian Trade Commission and the Department of Defence. The Australian Embassy is seeking applications for the following position:

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR - EDUCATION

The Senior Policy Advisor - Education is responsible for providing high-level policy and program advice to support the implementation of the Australian Government's aid assistance to the people of Myanmar.

The successful applicant will have an excellent opportunity to work with an established organisation offering the opportunity to progress their skills and work experience.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

The appointee will have the following qualifications and experience:

Essential

1. Relevant qualification in education or related discipline, preferably at postgraduate level, or equivalent experience in education policy, education management and programming in development contexts.
2. Extensive international development experience in the education sector,
3. Proven technical skills in one or more fields of education such as education policy, education management, education economics, education systems strengthening, education finance, program evaluation and/or education sector planning.
4. Extensive experience in Southeast Asia in an advisory capacity in a public service environment, providing strategic support and quality assurance to education sector activities.
5. Substantial international experience in supporting transition processes to sector approaches in education, and education sector development and reform.
6. Demonstrated ability to conceptualise and think strategically in a dynamic environment.
7. Proven ability to cultivate productive and collegial working relationships with a range of internal and external stakeholders, and communicate in fluent English and with influence in a wide range of contexts.

Selection criteria and duty statement can be obtained from the Australian Embassy, 88 Strand Road, or downloaded from the Embassy website at: http://www.myanmar.embassy.gov.au.

Please submit your detailed CV, two written references, and statement of claims to the Australian Embassy, 88 Strand Road, Yangon, Myanmar, or by e-mail to: dfataap.recruitment.yangon@ausaid.gov.au. Please clearly identify the position for which you apply in the e-mail subject line or on the envelope. Envelopes should be addressed for the attention of The Recruiter – Australian Aid Program.

The closing date: **4PM (Yangon time) 16 May 2014**.

Note:

1. All DFAT employees demonstrate a commitment to the Code of Conduct and Values, as well as to workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and employee participation principles and have appropriate cross-cultural sensitivities.

2. The Australian Embassy does not discriminate in regards to race, ethnicity, gender and age.

UNOPS

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

Sr.	Title and level	Duty Station	Position	Deadline
1.	Health Systems Strengthening Project Analyst (LICA-5)	Yangon	National	14-May-2014
2.	Senior Liaison Officer(LICA-7)	Yangon	National	20-May-2014
3.	Programme Associate (LICA-4)	Yangon	National	22-May-2014
4.	Finance Assistant (LICA-3)	Yangon	National	31 May 2014

The benefit package for the above positions includes an attractive remuneration, 30 days annual leave and 10 holidays per year, medical insurance, learning and development opportunities and a challenging work environment with 250 national and international colleagues.

All applications must be made through the UNOPS E-recruitment System. Please go to https://gprs.unops.org and click on the post that you are interested in applying for. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact UNOPS directly on the numbers below.

For any quires please do not hesitate to contact UNOPS at 95 1 657 281-7 Ext: 147

British Embassy Yangon

Job Vacancy

The British Embassy is currently looking to recruit a highly motivated and energetic individual to join our team as a Personal Assistant to the Ambassador.

For more information and details on how to apply, please visit the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-rangoon/about/recruitment

Deadline for submission of applications will be on 19 May 2014.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Italian Embassy in Yangon, Office for Development Co-operation, is seeking candidates for 1 fixed term position as: "Accounting Assistant."

The full notice of vacancy, along with all relevant information and application form, are available at the Embassy and can also be downloaded from its web site: **www.ambyangon.esteri.it**

Applications must be submitted in writing, by May 27th,2014 at 24.00, to: Embassy of the Italian Republic, 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by e-mail to: **archivio.yangon@esteri.it**

Applicants shall meet the following requirements: being at least 18 years old; being in good health; holding a high-school equivalent degree; having the legal permit to work in Myanmar. Furthermore, fluency in English and Myanmar languages, both spoken and written, is requested. Knowledge of Italian will be considered as preferential asset.

Candidates fulfilling the above requirements and admitted to the interview might be requested to provide further documentation.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION - ECHO

Yangon - Myanmar

Vacancy Announcement – Programme Assistant (1) Post

The European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), funds relief operations for victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. For humanitarian aid, the Commission works with about 200 operational partners, including United Nations agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent movement and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Aid is channelled impartially, straight to victims, regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.

ECHO Office in Yangon recruits **ONE Programme Assistant** for an initial period of one year.

The following requirements must be fulfilled by the candidate:

- A relevant university degree or equivalent professional experience
- Minimum 5 years of relevant experience at national or international level in supporting programme / project operations, including at least 2 years of experience with NGO, donor or (inter)national organisation
- Solid knowledge of the humanitarian aid context in Myanmar
- Good knowledge of international humanitarian organizations
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills in Myanmar and English
- Able to work under pressure and tight deadlines

In addition, applicants must have the following experience and qualifications:

- Practical experience in project/programme management; analysing, monitoring, reporting and evaluating
- Willing and fit to carry out regular missions across the country
- Sound judgment, flexibility and adaptability, cultural sensitivity and effective team participation

Applications including cover letter, detailed CV, copies of academic and employment certificates of the interested candidates should be sent to :

European Commission DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) Myanmar
No. 51 Shwe Taung Gyar Road, Golden Valley Ward 2,
Bahan Township- Yangon – Myanmar

Application should be marked **REF: Programme Assistant - ECHO Myanmar** to be clearly indicated on the envelope, must be sent by mail or hand delivered and received in ECHO office not later than **23 May 2014.**

Only the short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Any form of canvassing, soliciting or influencing will be treated as a disqualification.

promote your vacancy here!
email us:
ads.myanmartimes@gmail.com
chantha.mcm@gmail.com

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Provimi Holding B.V., a Company incorporated and existing under the laws of Netherlands, and having its registered office at Veerlaan 17-23, 3072 AN Rotterdam, Netherlands, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:

PROMOTE

Reg. No. IV/15176/2013 (7 January 2014)

The above trademark is used in respect of "Medicated feed or supplements for animals " in **Class 5** and

"Animal feed " in **Class 31.**

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

For **Provimi Holding B.V.,**
U Soe Phone Myint
Advocate
BM Myanmar Legal Services Limited (Baker & McKenzie)
1203, 12th Floor, Sakura Tower,
339 Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated: 12 May 2014

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **BEIQI FOTON MOTOR CO., LTD** a company organized under the laws of France and having its principal office at Laoniuwan Village North, Shayang Road, Shahe Town, Changping District, Beijing 102206, China is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:-

Tunland
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AUV
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MYANMAR TIMES
ADVERTISING HOT LINE
392 676, 392 928, 253 642

YCDC in dark on e-waste

KYAW PHONE KYAW
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Photo: Kaung Htet

CHANGES are afoot in the waste collection business but municipal officials say Yangon City Development Committee has no plans to introduce a policy for electronic waste, including old and disused televisions, mobile phones and refrigerators.

And while other countries have introduced plans to deal with the growing problem of e-waste – such as recycling standards – YCDC has no immediate plans to follow suit, said an official from the committee's Pollution Control and Cleansing Department.

The comments come as YCDC moves to privatise waste collection and transportation through a tender that closed on April 30. It has also given two companies permission to build waste-to-energy projects but as *The Myanmar Times* reported in March the committee has not issued any instructions on how to handle the 60 tonnes of residual ash a day left behind by two incinerators to be built in North Dagon. While ash from organic matter is harmless, it can be dangerous if the waste contains heavy metals.

E-waste, which also includes computers and other electronic equipment, often contains toxic material like mercury and lead. Incorrect disposal of these electronic products can be harmful to humans and the environment.

Some aspects of e-waste may be dealt with under a forthcoming municipal law that the official said will be sent to the Yangon Region Hluttaw this year. The law may contain regulations for the disposal of batteries, electronic circuits and electronic devices but does not address e-waste specially, he said.

A report published by the United Nations University in 2012 estimated Myanmar's total e-waste at 52.06 metric kilotons but the YCDC official said the committee does not have specific data for Yangon.

To date, e-waste has almost been a non-issue because of the culture of repairing rather than replacing electronic devices, he said, adding that people will often hold on to broken devices rather than throw them away

"There is very little e-waste … The culture here is that they save old electronic devices even when they are too old to use. They rarely, if ever, throw them out."

But others insist that YCDC and other government bodies should start preparing for when this culture changes.

"The hazards of e-waste are not a problem yet because Myanmar people use few cell phones and they reuse old electronic devices," said U Khin Maung Nyo, who holds a doctorate in chemistry and conducts training for NGOs. "But it may become a problem in the next two decades."

Environmental NGOs are adamant that a policy is needed.

"Myanmar doesn't even have good system for disposing of ordinary waste, let alone e-waste," said U Win Myo Thu, managing director of the NGO EcoDev. "They told me that for e-waste they will dispose of it by burying it in a hole in the ground and covering it with earth. This is not the right disposal method and better plans need to be made."

There are already indications that Myanmar's recycle and reuse culture is changing because of its growing wealth and the proliferation of cheap imports from abroad.

U Khin Maung Myint, who runs a small business repairing and selling electronic items, said he used to earn a living removing circuits and conductors from electronic goods and selling them by weight to recyclers, who would then extract the metals from them.

"That market simply does not exist anymore," he said. "So I repair devices and resell them but business is not very good [because people want to buy new items instead]. I can see that one day many of the things we are repairing will be worthless – basically just garbage."

Ooredoo announces successful test of new 3G network

AUNG KYAW NYUNT
aungkyawnyunt28@gmail.com

OOREDOO Myanmar announced on May 7 that it had successfully tested the first mobile calls to and from its network and that of the other new mobile operator, Telenor.

Ooredoo CEO Ross Cormack said, "It is important that operators do collaborate to enable total connectivity and choice for customers. We hope to be able to progress our work in connecting to the existing MPT (Myanmar Post and Telecommunication) network in the near future." Ooredoo is rolling out a next-generation 3G network to provide users with improved data and fast internet services.

On May 3, Ooredoo Myanmar combined with Rocket Internet Company to join for development of e-commerce and other digital services. "We are pleased to have entered into a partnership with Rocket and look forward to harnessing their knowledge and experience" said Mr Cormack.

Asia Internet Holding will cover 15 markets in Asia, including Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines and Australia, with ventures ranging from online retail and marketplaces to payment services.

Ooredoo CEO Ross McCormick. Photo: Staff

Science & Technology

Gadget Reviews

by Myo Satt

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Your Sony Xperia Z handset will be beautiful with this cover. Available in two types: silicon and soft.
K11,400 for Soft case
K7800 for Silicon case

Silicon case

iPad Mini Silicon Case
This is simple but effective cover for your handphone. Available in three colours.
K22,200

Soft Leather Cover/Stand For iPad
This leather cover can be used for iPad or tablets of comparable size. Can also be used as a stand as well.
K49,200

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This case designed for iPad Air is made with real leather. The design is beautiful and it is perfectly durable because of its strong and tidy stitching. Available in black or white.
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Soft Leather Cover (360 degrees) For iPad Air
Same as the one above, but the leather is suede.
K40,800

Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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World

WORLD EDITOR: **Fiona MacGregor**

BANGKOK

Thailand's protesters launch 'final fight' as government clings on

THAI protesters vowed on May 9 to topple a government that is on the ropes after its leader was dismissed.

Several thousand protesters left their main encampment in a park in the city's commercial district as their firebrand leader Suthep Thaugsuban issued a rallying cry for them to establish a parallel government.

They vowed to besiege television stations and police positions.

"We will regain our sovereign power and set up a people's government and a people's legislative council," Mr Suthep said before leading a march to Government House, which has been targeted by protesters for months.

"We will march on all television stations ...We ask city residents to surround police cars and police headquarters to stop them from hurting our people," he added.

Mr Suthep is known for his hyperbolic statements and, with the government weakened but still standing, the call for a unilateral administration appears to lack any legal ground.

Although buffeted by the removal of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on May 7 by the Constitutional Court on abuse of power charges, the current Puea Thai administration has staggered on.

It has appointed Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan as its new premier and won a reprieve on May 8 as the kingdom's anti-graft panel stepped back from hauling more cabinet members into a separate indictment against Ms Yingluck over a costly rice subsidy scheme.

There were fears the agency could have moved against the remainder of the government to complete a "judicial coup" and create a power vacuum that could have been filled by an appointed leader.

Hundreds of police were deployed to manage the May 9 protests, as fears simmered of street clashes between rival groups. Police said some 4500 anti-government protesters were marching from their encampment at Bangkok's Lumpini Park.

Thailand's pro-government Red Shirts were planning to rally on May 9 in a Bangkok suburb, raising the risky prospect of the two protest groups being on the city's streets at the same time.

At least 25 people have died and hundreds more have been wounded in gun and grenade attacks linked to six months of anti-government protests.

Both sides have armed hardcore supporters. Thailand's recent history has been scarred by bouts of political violence.

Scores of people died in a military crackdown on Red Shirts occupying Bangkok's commercial centre in 2010.

Thailand has been bitterly divided since 2006 when Ms Yingluck's billionaire brother Thaksin was ousted in a a military coup.

Three Thaksin-aligned premiers have since been removed by the nation's courts, sparking accusations that the judiciary is in cahoots with the anti-government protesters, who are drawn from the Bangkok establishment and royalist south.

They vilify the Shinawatras who they accuse of fostering massive corruption and draining the kingdom's coffers to sweeten Mr Thaksin's rural electoral base in the poor but populous north and northeast.

The opposition also accuse Mr Thaksin of undermining the nation's beloved but ailing king.

Mr Thaksin lives overseas to avoid jail for corruption convictions he contends were politically motivated, but still draws loyalty from his rural heartlands who have voted his parties into power in every election since 2001. – *AFP*

WHAT NEXT FOR THAILAND? P.43

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Dated: 12th May, 2014

IN PICTURES

A mosque is pictured through shattered glass in the old city of Homs centre. The withdrawal followed a deal with the government. The re their key cities for nearly two years. *Photo: AFP*

DONETSK

Ukraine rebels snub Puti prepare to go to polls over

PRO-MOSCOW rebels fighting in east Ukraine have vowed to press on with disputed independence referendums, defying a call from President Vladimir Putin to postpone the vote in a bid to ease tensions.

"The vote will happen on May 11," the leader of the self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, declared to reporters on May 8.

There were fears that Ukraine could still erupt in fresh violence when both it and Russia celebrated the Soviet victory in World War II on May 9.

There were some reports that Mr Putin could make a triumphant entry into Crimea, which was annexed by Russia from Ukraine in March.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced her concern to Mr Putin about this possibility, her Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on May 8. "He left the answer open about whether he would personally attend."

The Cold War-style tension was ratcheted up another notch as Russia conducted military drills, including test-firing ballistic missiles, and said Ukraine would now have to prepay for its crucial gas imports.

Mr Pushilin said on May 8, to applause from members of the "republic's" ruling council, that "the people's desire to hold the referendum is becoming even greater".

People in the restive eastern region were being called on to answer one simple question on May 11: "Do you support the declaration of independence by the Donetsk People's Republic?"

Insurgents in the other main rebel-held towns of Slavyansk and Lugansk also declared they would hold a plebiscite.

'[A referendum] could have no demoratic legitimacy and would only further worsen the sitution.'

EU statement

The European Union, whose foreign ministers were due to meet on May 12 to consider further sanctions against Russia, said the referendums "could have no democratic legitimacy and would only further worsen the situation".

The referendum move dashed hopes of diffusing the crisis after Mr Putin made a surprise call on May 7 to the rebels to postpone their plebiscites.

In a stunning about-face, the Kremlin strongman also backed a presidential election planned by Kiev's interim leaders on May 25 that Moscow had only recently described as "absurd".

Mr Putin had previously said that Kiev must cease its military operations in the east in return for Moscow's backing of the May 25 election.

But on May 8, Kiev vowed to press forward with what it calls an "anti-terrorist" operation against insurgents holding a dozen or so towns and cities in the east.

"The counterterrorist operation will go on regardless of any decisions by any subversive or terrorist groups in the Donetsk region," Andriy Parubiy, secretary of Ukraine's national security and defence council, told reporters.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said in a speech marking the Soviet victory against Nazi Germany that the former Soviet republic was facing "a real albeit undeclared war".

Mr Putin had also said on May 7, after his meeting with OSCE chair and Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, that Russia had withdrawn its estimated 40,000 troops from the

After PM ousted: what's next for crisis-hit Thailand?

WORLD 43

Crashed drone "evidence" of North Korean incursions

WORLD 46

International condemnation over S. China Sea spat

WORLD 48

s in Syria on May 8, as rebel fighters pulled out of the city
bels had held out under tight siege in what had been one of

n's warnings and independence

Ukrainian border.

But NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters in Warsaw he had yet to see "any indications" that Russia had actually done so.

As diplomatic efforts intensified to defuse the worst crisis between Moscow and the West since the Cold War, the secretary general of the OSCE flew into Kiev to continue mediation.

Mr Putin's surprise proposals sparked mixed reactions from a sceptical West.

German Foreign Minister Steinmeier welcomed the "constructive tone" of Mr Putin's comments.

But the Ukrainian foreign ministry issued a statement saying Mr Putin's call to push back the referendums was "just a mockery and by no means a sign of goodwill" because the votes were illegal.

Ukraine has lost 14 troops and three helicopter gunships with 66 servicemen injured in the assault on the rebels. The fighting has also claimed the lives of more than 30 on the insurgent side.

The majority of the fighting has taken place around the town of Slavyansk.

Clashes that resulted in a horrific inferno in the southern port city of Odessa earlier this month claimed another 42 lives, most of them pro-Russian activists, pushing the death toll over the past week to nearly 90.

The violence has prompted many Western politicians to warn that the country of 46 million people is slipping toward a civil war that would imperil peace in Europe.

The unrest also shattered a peace deal struck in Geneva on April 17 that called for the insurgents to lay down their arms.

But politicians have stressed that diplomacy is still the preferred way to solve the crisis and Mr Putin has accepted an invitation from French President Francois Hollande to attend D-Day celebrations in June.

US President Barack Obama, who will not meet Mr Putin one-on-one at the commemoration, vowed to step up his sanctions against whole areas of the recession-threatened Russian economy.

Germany, and Europe as a whole, face the prospect of imminent energy shortages after Russia ordered crisis-hit Ukraine to pay up-front for all its natural gas deliveries.

The largely anticipated announcement imperils supplies to a large swathe of the European Union because nearly 15 percent of all Russian gas consumed by the 28-nation bloc transits through Ukraine. – *AFP*

ABUJA

Foreign support in hunt for Nigeria's kidnapped girl marks 'end of terror'

NIGERIA'S president has said that Boko Haram's mass abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls will mark a turning point in the battle against the Islamist group as world powers joined the search to rescue the hostages.

President Goodluck Jonathan's administration has struggled to contain Boko Haram's bloody five-year uprising, and experts have questioned whether Nigeria can end the violence without help.

"I believe that the kidnap of these girls will be the beginning of the end of terror in Nigeria," Mr Jonathan told delegates at the World Economic Forum on May 8, thanking Britain, China, France and the United States for their offers of help to rescue the hostages.

The four world powers have pledged varying levels of assistance to track down the girls whose April 14 mass abduction from a school in Chibok in northeastern Borno state has sparked global outrage.

Mr Jonathan's comments echoed those of US President Barack Obama earlier in the week.

Mr Obama said the Chibok kidnappings "may be the event that helps to mobilise the entire international community to finally do something against this horrendous organisation".

The abductions have also led to a growing social media campaign with the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls joined by public figures and celebrities.

"Our prayers are with the missing Nigerian girls and their families. It's time to #BringBackOurGirls," wrote US First Lady Michelle Obama under a picture retweeted more than 48,000 times.

US actress Angelina Jolie on May 8 blamed a "culture of impunity" for the kidnapping, adding that the world had to "make sure this stops happening and that this is not something that people feel they can get away with...".

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan
Photo: AFP

Most of the insurgents' recent attacks have targeted the remote and impoverished northeast, but two car bombings on the outskirts of the capital Abuja in the last month underscored the grave threat the Islamists pose.

Mr Jonathan had hoped that the World Economic Forum would highlight Nigeria's economic progress and its recent emergence as Africa's top economy, but headlines have remained focused on Boko Haram.

Nigeria has typically resisted security cooperation with the West, which analysts say has hampered efforts against the militants who have killed thousands since 2009.

"In the past, the Nigerians have been reluctant to accept US assistance, particularly in areas having to do with security," said John Campbell, former US ambassador to Nigeria.

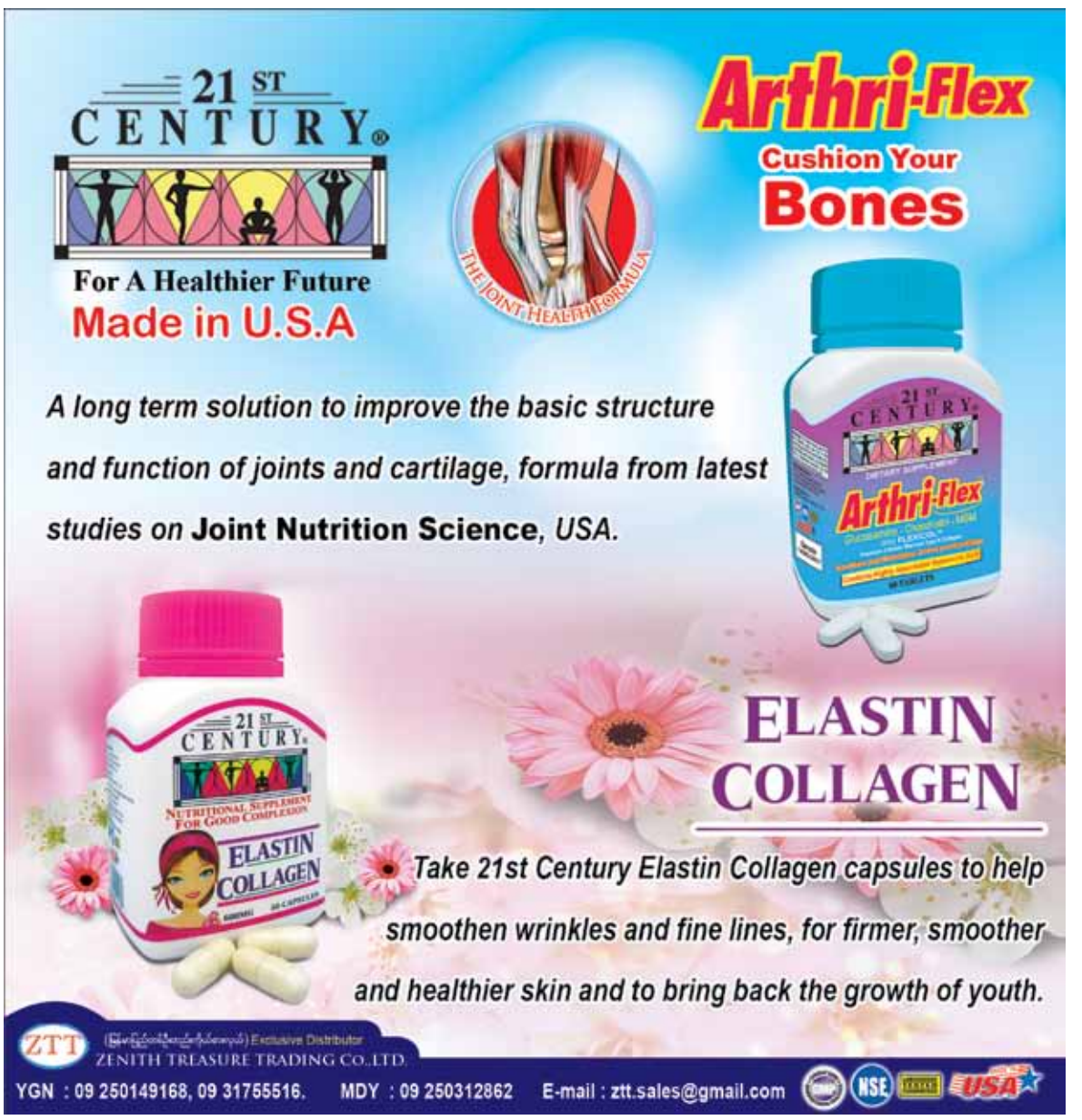
Some have voiced hope that collaborating on the hostage rescue may improve Nigeria's broader capacity to defeat Boko Haram.

Washington plans to send a team of military personnel as well as specialists from the Justice Department and the FBI, US officials said.

Britain said it will send experts in planning and coordination, France has offered a specialist team, while China said it would provide intelligence support and relevant satellite imagery.

UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon also spoke with Mr Jonathan on the phone and assured him of the organisation's readiness to help Nigeria in the rescue of the girls.

The US and community leaders in Chibok have expressed concern that many of the 223 girls being held by Boko Haram may have been trafficked across the border into neighbouring Chad and Cameroon. – *AFP*



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An anti-government protester holds a national flag during a march in Bangkok on May 8. Thai protesters who have massed on Bangkok's streets for six months have vowed they will appoint a new government following the removal of Premier Yingluck Shinawatra by a court. Photo: AFP

BANGKOK

What's next for Thailand's leadership?

FOLLOWING the removal of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from power after a court decision on May 7, Thailand became mired in further political uncertainty after an anti-graft body ruled she should face impeachment proceedings.

Here are three possible steps ahead: from an unlikely deal between Thailand's bitterly divided political camps to a military coup.

Scenario 1: Will Ms Yingluck be banned from politics?

Ms Yingluck, deposed on May 7 by the Constitutional Court, could theoretically return as prime minister if her Puea Thai party won elections slated for July 20.

But a huge question mark looms over this after a Thai anti-graft panel ruled the following day that she should face impeachment proceedings in the upper house of parliament – a move that could see her banned from politics for five years.

That would deal a heavy blow to her and her billionaire family but would not necessarily see the ruling Puea Thai party shed voters if new polls are successfully held.

To Puea Thai's relief, the graft panel said it would not extend its probe to the rest of the caretaker cabinet, a move that would have sent the kingdom spinning into an even deeper crisis.

The battered administration is hoping to hold out for new elections. Parties led by or aligned to Thaksin, Ms Yingluck's billionaire elder brother, have won every poll since 2001.

Scenario 2: Could there be a military coup?

In the event of violent clashes on the streets or widespread action by the pro-government Red Shirts in their rural strongholds, the army could step in.

This would be nothing out of the ordinary for a nation that has had 18 successful or attempted coups since 1932.

Thailand's army has declined to make such a move during the last six months of chaotic protests, even as political violence has at times threatened to spiral out off control.

But powerful army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha has declined to rule out a coup, in December saying "anything can happen".

Red Shirt chairman Jatuporn Prompan said on May 8 that he feared a coup was "unavoidable".

The anti-government protesters are backed by the traditional elite and many royalist southerners, who view the last 13 years of political dominance by the Shinawatra family as a threat to the monarchy.

Scenario 3: Could both sides agree on a 'neutral' prime minister?

In the final scenario, Puea Thai and the opposition could agree to nominate a "neutral" prime minister belonging to neither side.

Interim Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan could "ultimately resign as part of an elite compromise in preparation for reforms before elections", suggested Paul Chambers of the Institute of South East Asian Affairs at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand.

Analysts have agonised in recent weeks over a suitable compromise premier, but have failed to come up with any plausible candidates.

With the two sides bitterly divided, this remains the least likely scenario.

Scenting victory, anti-government protesters refuse to budge on their insistence that the government be replaced with an unelected "people's council" with an appointed prime minister at its head.

The ruling party says the result of the last election should be respected, believing it can continue to win at the ballot box.

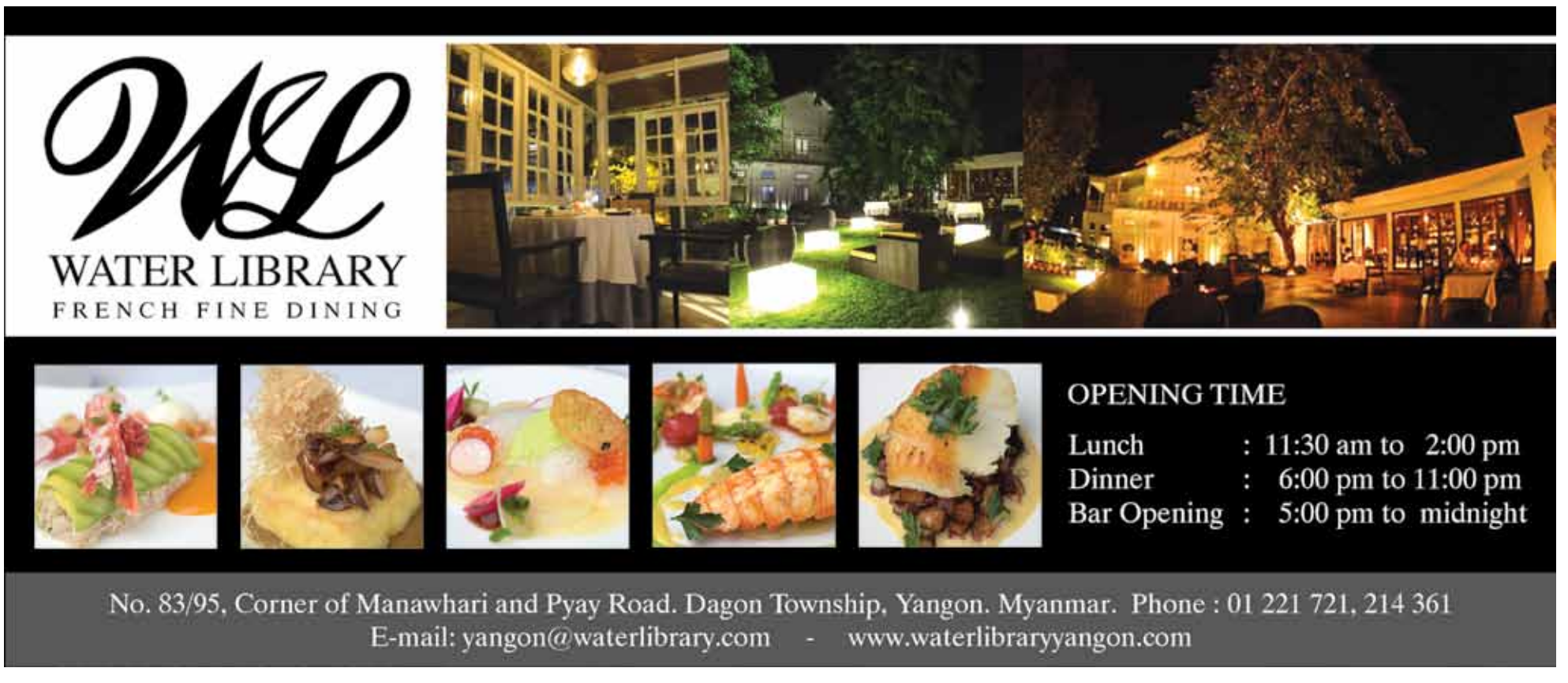
Thitinan Pongsudhirak, director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, said some form of compromise was needed to bring the crisis to an end.

"In order to keep what they have, the established centres of power will have to make some concessions," he said.

On their side, he added, the Red Shirts must accept that Mr Thaksin, adored by the rural poor for his populist policies before he too was deposed, but reviled by the opposition, is "not the answer for Thailand".

"If they can both realise that, then somehow we can navigate a way forward," he said.

–AFP



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P. O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 12 May 2014

BEIJING

Chinese journalist Gao Yu addresses a press conference in Hong Kong on February 5, 2007. China has detained the prominent former journalist, now age 70, for leaking "state secrets". Photo: AFP

Press 'hero' held over 'state secret' allegations

A PROMINENT former journalist has been detained for leaking "state secrets" in China.

The arrest comes amid a series of moves to silence critics of the ruling Communist Party ahead of June's 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Gao Yu, 70, was "criminally detained on suspicion of providing state secrets to sources outside China", the Beijing public security department said in a message on its verified microblog on May 8.

Ms Gao, the former deputy editor-in-chief of the magazine *Economics Weekly*, is a well-known journalist who was named one of the International Press Institute's 50 "world press freedom heroes" in 2000.

Her political writings have seen her jailed in the past. In 1993, she was sentenced to six years in prison on a similar "state secrets" charge.

She was paraded on May 8 on state-run China Central Television, in the latest instance of authorities publicly shaming influential critics of Beijing with televised confessions.

It showed her being escorted down a hallway and interrogated by two uniformed police officers.

"I believe what I have done has touched on legal issues and has endangered the country's interests," said Ms Gao, whose face was obscured on the broadcast.

"What I have done was a big mistake. I earnestly and sincerely have learned a lesson from this experience and admit my guilt," she said.

Ms Gao had been missing for the past two weeks, and her associates became alarmed when she did not show up at a private Tiananmen-related gathering she had been scheduled to attend.

According to the official news agency Xinhua, Ms Gao was held on April 24 on suspicion of having sent a copy of a "highly confidential" document to an overseas website last June.

Police seized "substantial evidence" from her home and Ms Gao has "expressed deep remorse about what she did", Xinhua said, adding that she was "willing to accept punishment from the law".

The Xinhua report did not name the document that Ms Gao is alleged to have leaked.

But Ms Gao has written previously on "Document No. 9", a Communist Party internal communique calling for a harsh crackdown on dissent and warning against "perils" such as multi-party democracy and universal values.

The document circulated early last year and its full text was published by a Hong Kong-based magazine last August.

Ms Gao's detention comes amid a crackdown on academics, rights activists and other Communist Party critics ahead of the sensitive June 4 anniversary.

Pu Zhiqiang, one of China's most celebrated human rights lawyers, was arrested on May 6 "over charges of creating disturbances", his lawyer told AFP, and campaigners say others have also been held.

The US is "deeply concerned" over the reports and has called for their immediate release, State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said on May 7.

Sophie Richardson, China director for Human Rights Watch, said that the recent charges and detentions of activists "lay bare just how little the Chinese government's attitudes towards human rights have changed since 1989".

"A stable society is one in which peaceful discussions of history and accountability are tolerated not crushed or criminalised," she said in a statement.

Campaign groups have also expressed alarm over the rise in televised "confessions" in China, which often take place before the accused is granted a trial or access to a lawyer and appear to be an attempt to deter others.

In October, Chinese journalist Chen Yongzhou appeared on CCTV wearing prison clothes and apologised for a series of articles criticising a partly state-owned firm.

Chinese-American investor Charles Xue, who regularly posted critiques of the Chinese government to his 12 million microblog followers, confessed on CCTV that he had used microblogging to "gratify my vanity".

Mr Xue was arrested last August on charges of soliciting prostitutes and was released on bail last month pending trial. – *AFP*

SINGAPORE

Migrant rioter sentenced to caning

AN Indian construction worker has been sentenced to 30 months in jail and three strokes of the cane by a Singapore court for his role in a rare riot in the city-state.

Ramalingam Sakthivel, 33, sentenced on May 8, had pleaded guilty to taking part in a street rampage last December that left 39 people injured including police and 25 vehicles destroyed.

In the incident, an estimated 400 migrant labourers from South Asia enjoying a Sunday off work erupted in anger after an Indian worker was crushed to death under a bus in Singapore's congested Little India district.

It was one of Singapore's worst outbreaks of violence since the 1960s, and brought into sharp focus the way the wealthy city-state manages its nearly 1 million low-paid foreign workers.

"The accused was no meek follower, he rallied others to join him and pursued a course of conduct that showed him to be unfazed of the risk to his own life and limb," Deputy Presiding Judge Jennifer Marie said in a written judgement.

According to court documents, Mr Ramalingam attacked police officers on the scene by throwing pieces of concrete and beer bottles.

He then rallied a group of rioters to assist him in flipping over a police vehicle.

Mr Ramalingam also used a pole to repeatedly strike an ambulance in which several officers and paramedics were taking cover.

He was also sentenced to 27 months in jail for setting fire to the bus that knocked down and killed the worker. The sentences are to be served concurrently.

Singapore imposes caning with a rattan pole for serious crimes. The punishment entails being struck on the back of the thigh below the buttocks, which can split the skin and leave lasting scars.

Courts are allowed to order up to 24 strokes of the cane for the worst offences such as rape.

More than 50 workers were quickly deported after the riot while 25 Indian nationals are either serving jail sentences or awaiting trial in connection with the violence.

Foreigners who are convicted of criminal offences are typically deported once they have completed their sentences.

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SEOUL

Crashed drone 'proves' North Korea incursions into South

SOUTH Korea's Defence Ministry said on May 8 that it had "smoking gun" proof that three crashed drones recovered in recent months had all been flown from North Korea.

Ministry spokesperson Kim Min-Seok said a joint investigation with US experts of recovered data from the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) showed they had been pre-programmed to fly over South Korean military installations and then return to the North.

"By analysing the data, the joint investigation team has secured the smoking gun: clear, scientific evidence that all three UAVs originated from North Korea," Kim said.

"This is a clear military provocation," he added.

The drones were recovered in three different locations in the South near the inter-Korean land-and-sea border between March 24 and April 6.

One crashed due to an engine problem, while the other two ran out of fuel.

"All three had been programmed to fly over our military facilities," Mr Kim said, describing the drone incursions as "a new type" of military threat that required a "stern" response.

In a separate briefing with foreign journalists, Vice Defence Minister Baek Seung-Joo said the drones were unsophisticated UAVs with no live ground-control system and rudimentary programming systems.

"However, there is always the possibility that the North might use them for attacks after arming them with high explosives, considering its irrational and reckless tendency for provocative acts," Mr Baek said.

North Korea has flatly denied any connection with the drones and accused Seoul of fabricating a link in order to smear Pyongyang.

All three UAVs were equipped with cameras and had taken pictures of border areas and the capital Seoul, including the presidential palace.

A photo released by South Korea's Defence Ministry in Seoul on April 2 shows a crashed drone found on March 24, in Paju, north of Seoul. Photo: AFP

North Korea had displayed a set of what looked like very basic drones during a huge military parade held in Pyongyang last July to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

And in March last year, state media reported leader Kim Jong-Un overseeing a military drill using "super-precision drone planes".

Video footage of the exercise broadcast on state television showed what resembled air force target drones being flown into a mountainside and exploding.

The South Korean defence ministry said the North had an estimated 300 drones of various types, and said it planned to acquire low-altitude surveillance radar to counter their threat.

There is evidence to suggest the North Korean models were based on a Chinese-made UAV, and the ministry said Beijing had been asked to check into a possible link between the Chinese manufacturer and Pyongyang.

The data recovered from the crashed vehicles showed they had all been flown from different locations, between 5 and 30 kilometres (3 and 18 miles) inside the North Korean side of the border. – *AFP*

SEOUL

Ferry chief held ahead of criminal charges

THE head of the maritime company that owns the South Korean ferry that sank with the loss of around 300 lives last month was detained on May 8 ahead of formal manslaughter charges.

Prosecutors said Kim Han-Sik, chief executive of Chonghaejin Marine Co. was taken into custody at his home and would be formally arraigned later in the day.

"Kim faces various charges including manslaughter and violating maritime law," senior prosecutor Yang Jung-Jin said.

The charges stem from allegations that Mr Kim was involved in, or turned a blind eye to, the overloading of the 6825-tonne ferry's cargo consignment, seen as a major contributing factor to its capsize.

Handcuffed and wearing a cap and surgical mask that hid his face, Mr Kim was paraded before TV cameras after he was detained.

"I apologise to the victims and the families," he said.

He then refused to answer further questions from reporters, staying silent with his head bowed.

The captain of the Sewol ferry has already been arrested along with 14 crew members and four lower-ranking Chonghaejin Marine officials.

35

Number of people still unaccounted for following the sinking of the Sewol.

The ferry had 476 people on board when it sank April 16 after listing sharply to one side and then rolling over.

Initial investigations suggest it was carrying up to three times its safe cargo capacity.

The confirmed death toll stood at 269 on May 8, with 35 people still unaccounted for.

Spokesperson for the federal disaster force, Ko Myung-Sok, said operations to recover the remaining bodies had been repeatedly suspended because of the conditions, with powerful currents a constant danger for the dive teams.

"So far, 24 divers have been treated for injuries and decompression sickness," Mr Ko said.

The death of a diver on May 6 has fuelled debate as to how long the recovery operation should continue.

The deciding factor so far has been the sensitivities of the relatives of those still unaccounted for.

The coastguard has promised that the giant floating cranes to be used in the salvage operation will only be brought in once all the bodies trapped in the submerged ship have been retrieved.

But with some bodies being recovered several kilometres away from the disaster site over the past week, it is unclear just how many remain trapped.

Dozens of parents of high school students killed in the disaster camped out near the presidential Blue House in Seoul on May 9, demanding a meeting with President Park Geun-Hye.

The familes are seeking explanations for perceived delays in the initial rescue effort, and for those responsible to be punished. – *AFP*

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TOKYO

Fears rise after S China Sea ship clash

JAPAN has said it is "deeply worried" by China's behaviour in a spat with Vietnam over contested waters, and urged Beijing to rein in its "provocative" actions.

The comment on May 8 came after Hanoi said Chinese vessels rammed its patrol ships and turned water cannon on them near a controversial drilling rig in a disputed patch of the South China Sea.

Japan and China are engaged in a face off in their own territorial row over a small island grouping in the East China Sea and amid claims that Beijing is becoming increasingly assertive.

"We have strong concerns as there is information that many Vietnamese vessels were damaged and some people were injured," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters in Tokyo.

"We are deeply worried as regional tensions have risen with China unilaterally starting rigging activities in disputed waters" in the South China Sea, the top government spokesperson said.

"We recognise this incident is part of China's unilateral and provocative maritime activities," he said.

Mr Suga said China should explain to Vietnam and the international community the basis on which it was acting and added Japan strongly wants China to refrain from provocative moves and "act in a self-restrained manner".

Hanoi said on May 7 that Chinese ships protecting a deep-water drilling rig in disputed waters had used water cannon to attack Vietnamese patrol vessels and had repeatedly rammed them, injuring six people.

Tensions between the communist neighbours have risen sharply since Beijing unilaterally announced last week it would relocate the rig, a move the United States has described as "provocative".

Vietnam deployed patrol vessels after the China Maritime Safety Administration issued a navigational warning on its website saying it would be drilling close to the Paracel Islands, which are controlled by China but claimed by Vietnam.

The two countries, which fought a brief border war in 1979, have been locked in a longstanding territorial dispute over the waters, and frequently trade diplomatic barbs over oil exploration, fishing rights and the ownership of the Spratly and Paracel Islands.

China claims sovereign rights to almost the whole of the South China Sea, leading to disagreements with other countries that surround the sea, chiefly with the Philippines, which has proved willing to stand up for itself.

Beijing's dispute with Japan is one of the more volatile flashpoints in regional relations, with both sides deploying paramilitary vessels – backed at a distance by naval ships – to the contested Senkaku islands, which China calls the Diaoyus.

The disputes have given common cause to Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam, with Manila particularly welcoming of Tokyo's moves to toughen up its defence stance, which it sees as offering a counterbalance to growing Chinese power. – *AFP*

A China Coast Guard ship (left) uses a water cannon on a Vietnamese ship in disputed waters in the South China Sea. The photo taken on May 4 was released by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry after a similar incident on May 7. Photo: AFP

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TACLOBAN

Super typhoon damage will take 'years' to fix amid slow recovery

REGIONS of the Philippines laid waste by Super Typhoon Haiyan are showing signs of recovery six months later but years of work lie ahead, aid officials said on May 7.

In the central city of Tacloban, which bore the brunt of the most powerful typhoon ever to hit land, streets are free of debris and the stench of rotting flesh has disappeared.

But thousands still live in evacuation centres, worried about their future.

"The challenges are indeed great. They are also surmountable," UN resident and humanitarian coordinator for the Philippines Klaus Beck told a news conference in Tacloban.

"Rebuilding livelihoods is an enormous challenge."

'We are seeing the emergence of mental health problems in the community.'

Julie Hall
World Health Organisation

Farmer Marcelo Silvano, 66, who saw half his coconut farm wiped out in the nearby town of Tolosa, said extra jobs are needed.

"There are so many of us who cannot find work. All I can do is plant root crops and vegetables for home consumption. I am even short of farm tools," he said.

The storm which struck last November 8 left 6293 dead, 1061 missing and about 4.1 million people displaced, Red Cross figures showed.

It caused massive damage to homes, businesses, schools and roads, with power, water and all essential services in an area the size of Portugal cut off. An international humanitarian effort has helped millions get back on their feet.

Water and electrical services have been restored in many areas and businesses are reopening. After a brief surge in looting just after the storm, police have returned to the streets.

"I can say without mental reservation that we are right on track," the head of the government reconstruction efforts, Panfilo Lacson, declared on May 7 in Manila.

Mr Lacson and UN officials both noted that despite the widespread destruction, caused mainly by tsunami-like giant waves, there had been no epidemics, no famine and no long-term collapse of law and order.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said in a report that 600,000 hectares (1.48 million acres) of farmland and 33 million coconut trees, which are vital to local livelihoods in one of the country's poorest areas, had been destroyed.

Seeds, fertiliser, farm tools and alternative livelihood help had allowed about 80,000 families to bring in their first harvests since the typhoon, it added.

The effort has shifted towards long-term recovery but the challenges are still serious.

Ned Olney of Save the Children said only half of hospitals and clinics in affected areas are back in operation and many are functioning under tents without vital medical equipment.

Many of the displaced are still huddling under makeshift shelters, which means they would be even more vulnerable when the typhoon season begins next month, he warned.

The coastline of Tacloban City on May 7 still bears the scars left by Super Typhoon Haiyan which hit the central Philippine city six months ago. Photo: AFP

"If we have another medium-sized typhoon hitting these areas, we'll essentially be knocked back to where we were six months ago," Mr Olney told reporters.

UNDP administrator Helen Clark said in a report that full recovery could take a decade or more, and need more than just rebuilding physical structures.

World Health Organisation country representative Julie Hall said other health concerns were now coming to the fore.

"Six months after the event, we are seeing the emergence of mental health problems in communities with people coming to terms with the enormity of their loss, whether of loved ones, homes or livelihoods," she said.

Safe and clean facilities were needed for the 70,000 births expected in the next three months, as well as for people with existing diseases like diabetes, cancer and tuberculosis, she said.

"Building back better" has become the slogan of the government -- an attempt to make devastated areas less vulnerable to new disasters.

But this means the government must build almost 217,000 new homes for people resettled from coastal areas and riverbanks where they were vulnerable to typhoons and flash floods, Mr Lacson said.

Finding safer sites has proved difficult as much available land is isolated and rugged.

Some people like fishermen oppose moves taking them far from their jobs. But Mr Lacson said they could not remain, warning "where will we find our countrymen if there is another storm?"

Fisherman Losanto Castillo, 55, said he was grateful to the government for giving him a new fishing boat.

"But how can I have a good catch when the waters are polluted and still filled with garbage from all the objects that got washed out to sea?" he asked.

OSLO

Dalai Lama lets Norway snub pass

THE Dalai Lama has said he held no grudges against Norway's government after they decided not to meet him on his trip to Oslo in order to avoid further damaging already fragile relations with China.

"Of course, if leaders like President Obama want to meet, I am glad, but I do not want to create any inconvenience for anyone," the spiritual leader said as he marked the 25th anniversary of his Nobel Peace Prize.

Arguing that his real goal was to meet people not their leaders, the Dalai Lama said: "There is no reason to be disappointed. The more accusations from the Chinese government, the more popularity for me."

The Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 in recognition of his non-violent campaign to end China's rule of his homeland.

He was invited to Norway by pro-Tibetan groups.

The country's minister for foreign affairs, Boerge Brende, said the government's decision not to meet the Tibetan leader was taken with regard to "the absolutely extraordinary situation between China and Norway" which have not had "any real political contact" for several years.

Following the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 to Chinese dissident Liu Xiabobo, who the authorities consider a "criminal", Beijing stopped all high-level contact with Norway, though trade has flourished between the two countries.

Hua Chunying, spokeswoman for the Chinese foreign ministry, said on it was watching the actions of the Norwegian government "closely".

"We hope that Norway can really respect China's core concerns... and take concrete actions for the improvement of our bilateral ties.". – *AFP*

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Date: 12th May, 2014

GET YOUR FINGERS ON IT

the pulse

In Pyin Oo Lwin, a historian retraces the colonial past and discovers tourist pleasures old and new

AMAURY LORIN

IT'S difficult not to dream of coolness during these days of suffocating heat in Lower Myanmar before the first rains of the monsoon. You might escape to Pyin Oo Lwin, a pre-colonial town whose name means "a pleasant hilltop meadow". The town sits 67 kilometres (42 miles) northeast of Mandalay at 1070 metres (3510 feet) above sea level and was founded in 1896 by the British as Maymyo – "May's Town", a tribute to British Colonel May, a commander of the Fifth Bengal Infantry Regiment who commanded a garrison there in 1886. The summer capital of British Burma stands as one of the many legacies of British colonialism, and its appeal endures among tourists.

In the 1920s when Eric Blair (George Orwell) was a British Officer for five years in Burma (see MTE 725, April 14-20, 2014), he made Maymyo his retreat. He drew parallels between the Alpines evoked in Thomas Mann's masterpiece *The Magic Mountain* (1924) and the Burmese station invented by the British. He later wrote in *Homage to Catalonia* (1938), "In stepping out of the carriage, you step into a different hemisphere. Suddenly you are breathing cool sweet air that might be that of England, and all around you are green grass, bracken, fir trees and hill-women with pink cheeks selling baskets of strawberries." Did Maymyo disappear or can we still discover traces of a lost imperial world in Pyin Oo Lwin?

Slowly discovering the peaceful town on a bicycle is the best option. But don't forget a frontal lamp: Most of the streets are very dark at night. The town centre appears of limited interest at first sight, apart from the funny Purcell Tower (1936), a clock tower reminiscent of London's Big Ben with its bells chiming every 15 minutes.

The most magnificent British-era country houses, surrounded by luxuriant gardens, line the broad and tree-shaded Circular Road. Half-timbered Victorian-Tudor cottages and gabled Gothic villas count among other European architectural imports. Hotels dating from the British period proudly show dusty black pianos in their entrance halls. They still have – one hopes – "electric light, fans and bells". At the heart of the historic district stands an essential symbol of the colonial era: the red-brick All Saints' Anglican Church, built in 1912.

Nostalgia for a bygone imperial era is not, however, the only interest of Pyin Oo Lwin today. A full day at the 176-hectare National Kandawgyi Gardens was the highlight of our visit. The garden offers a restful respite, especially with children. Enjoy perfect green lawns facing an ornamental pond, a swimming pool, a restaurant, a butterfly museum, an orchid garden and an aviary. Many Myanmar tourists and families come from all over the country to visit the gardens, often in groups and especially during the weekends, holidays and festivals.

Why was a hill station founded in this place? We can read in the 1901 *Gazetteer of Upper Burma and the Shan States*, "There is abundant room for house-sites, and considerable level spaces occur. The plateau has now been cleared of the denser jungle, and the low hills that encircle it are covered with picturesque thin oak forest, over an undergrowth of bracken fern." Bamboo and teak were then abundant, and experiments with pine seemed to be promising.

Beth Ellis' *An English Girl's First Impressions of Burmah* (1899) is probably one of the most complete accounts of daily life in Maymyo in the late 1890s. Visiting her sister there, she rode into the hills on an obstinate pony, "grasping in one hand the pummel and in the other [her] large green sun umbrella, for the sun was terribly hot". Four-wheeled wooden carriages, still in use by tourists today, were introduced by the British and competed with the traditional Myanmar two-wheeled wagon.

Shan women, "like emerged from the jungle", sold (and still do) buckets of fresh flowers, noted the young wonder-filled writer. Horticulture continues to be an important industry around Pyin Oo Lwin, providing most of the flowers for Yangon hotels.

In the 19th century, colonial settlers tried to establish sanitaria in Southeast Asia where Europeans could recover from the heat and tropical diseases without having to return home, and Maymyo was part of this effort. However, it had soon assumed an importance that far exceeded its initial therapeutic attraction.

The British expatriate elite came for seasonal relief not only from the physical toll of the harsh climate but from the social and psychological toll of an exotic and sometimes disconcerting culture. In Maymyo they tried to establish exclusive (but also claustrophobic) communities of their own kind in a setting of their own design. The town was built to "look British" in a desperate attempt at creating an artificial "home" in the tropics.

At the same time, the British constructed political headquarters and military cantonments there. Thus, despite its reputation as an isolated retreat, Maymyo was profoundly implicated in the British imperial rule of Burma and as a place of the "colonial encounter" between the coloniser and the colonised. Indeed, the daily coexistence there between the "whites" and the "natives" as they were called generated many interactions in every field, including intimate, with a few British-Burmese affairs during the holiday season discreetly reported in most accounts.

Seeking to restore their "Britishness" in Maymyo, the British could reexamine and even refashion themselves in their sometimes difficult roles as agents of imperial power. Most accounts report their pressing need to freely share their experiences, successes and disappointments in Burma among each other, thousands of miles away from London.

The colonial origin of the town soon found its detractors. As confessed in his autobiography *Into Hidden Burma* (1953), Maurice Collis, a British officer with extensive knowledge of Burma, disdained Maymyo as a symbol of the British colonial society in the Burma of the 1920s. He much preferred the authenticity of Kalaw in southern Shan State: "Almost any other Civilian in my position at Mandalay, with a few days' leave […], would have slipped up to Maymyo close by, called on the Lieutenant-Governor and the heads of the departments who were all in their hot weather quarters [there], made himself pleasant to their wives, stood drinks at the club bar, asked senior officers for their advice, and, if he did not play polo and tennis, at least have played bridge with the right people."

Maymyo actually served both as a place of refuge and as a place for surveillance. There the British endeavoured to engage with, and to disengage from, the dominion they ruled: This paradox gives the hill station its special significance. The distance from the bustling world of Rangoon (450km, which is to say 24 hours in 1900) did not divorce the British who frequented the station from the growing concerns of the Raj, though that was often their desire.

On the one hand, it was where the British went to play, as they might have at home in Bath or Brighton. Ambitious bureaucrats, rakish officers and bored housewives engaged in endless parties and gossip in the high-ceilinged rooms of the British Club (the elegant Candacraig/Thiri Myaing

Empire of Hills

The Candacraig/Thiri Myaing Hotel in Pyin Oo Lwin was formerly the British Club (1904). Photo: Amaury Lorin

Hotel), built in 1904 and recently restored. An endless calendar of social activities filled the daily routine of residents. A reputation for athleticism was also established in Maymyo, a healthy place to live, with a polo ground, golf and tennis courts, and a gymkhana for other sports soon built. The Pyin Oo Lwin 18-hole golf club is still one of the best in Myanmar today.

On the other hand, the British, seeking to restore their "Britishness" in Maymyo, could reexamine and even refashion themselves in their sometimes difficult roles as agents of imperial power. Most accounts report the pressing need of the British on holiday to freely share their experiences, successes and disappointments in Burma among each other, thousands of miles away from London. But even so, they were not discharged from their colonial service there: There was no relief, even in the cool heights, from the heavy rule of the Raj and the close surveillance of its inhabitants, especially in the context of rising Burmese discontent awaking into rebellion in the 1930s.

Maymyo was one of many European hill stations in Southeast Asia: The full list built under the British Raj includes Darjeeling, Simla and Nainital in India on the edge of the Himalayas, worldwide known for their tea plantations. Hill stations soon became a matter of sharp rivalry – among many other ones – between European colonial empires in Southeast Asia: Bandung, where the famous first Asian-African Conference took place in 1955, was notably founded by the Dutch from 1810 in Java (Indonesia); and Dalat by the envious French from 1898 in Annam (southern Vietnam). The tigers are long gone, but Maymyo has probably changed less than any other Southeast Asian hill station.

Later, the imperial competition turned unexpectedly to the archeological field: Bagan (British Burma), Borobodur (Dutch Java) and Angkor (French Cambodia) – the three most prestigious sites of Buddhist pilgrimage in Southeast Asia. That's a story for a future issue.

Amaury Lorin is a French Yangon-based historian, journalist and consultant. He is the author of *Nouvelle histoire des colonisations européennes XIXe-XXe siècles* **(France University Press, 2013) and the founder of Myanmar Challenge.**

Getting there
Cheap buses, pick-ups and collective taxis regularly depart Mandalay for Pyin Oo Lwin (a 67km, 2-hour drive). If you have time, the Mandalay-Lashio slow train – the line was built at the beginning of the 20th century – stops at Pyin Oo Lwin station for an hour and a half (US$3, 4 hours). It is definitely the most picturesque option.

Where to stay
Kandawgyi Hill Resort, on Nandar Road near National Kandawgyi Gardens in the southern part of the town, offers 15 bedrooms all in large and well-equipped private bungalows around a house dating from the British period (1921). There's a charming terrace, veranda and a garden sloping down to the lake ($65/night for a double room). Cheaper but charmless rooms can be found near the Purcell Tower in the town centre (around $15/person/night).

Where to eat
Pan Taw Win, on Circular Road, serves wonderful local products in a lovely garden: coffee especially ground for you, marmalades and freshly squeezed fruit juices, gorgeous little strawberries and a selection of home-made cakes.

Golden Triangle Café, on the main Mandalay-Lashio Road, offers excellent coffee, fresh breads and pastries, and a variety of Western and Asian lunch and dinner options in a spacious and comfortably appointed interior reminiscent of an alpine lodge.

Hlaing Café, a Nepalese teashop open 7am-7pm at 85 Gorkha Road (near Golden Triangle), offers inexpensive light meals and snacks of nan bread, chapati or puri with curry or yoghurt. Also try the Italian-style nan "pizza".

Where to go
National Kandawgyi Gardens. Open 8am-6pm. Adult foreigners US$5. Children under 12 years $2.

Near town centre. Photo: Whitney Light

Our journey begins here.

Our partners have taken the first step with the launch of the official Mercedes-Benz showroom. "The best or nothing" can now be fully experienced here in Yangon. From the management and staff of Daimler South East Asia Pte. Ltd., we would like to congratulate Cycle & Carriage Automobile Myanmar on this historic milestone. Here's to achieving many more milestones down the road together. **www.mercedes-benz.com.mm**

Mercedes-Benz

The best or nothing.

Photo essay

Dhaka: City of movement

ZARNI PHYO
zarni94@gmail.com

WHEN you step into Dhaka, what you feel is the crazy traffic. The city's roads are a river of vehicles, from giant trucks to wobbly rickshaws, all fighting for the same space. Next you feel the density. Dhaka holds 20 million people. It is always crowded. Then comes the smell from the Buriganga River. With a single breath you know how terrible are its contents. Nonetheless, Dhaka attracts me. I let myself go with the flow of the people, squeeze myself into the little CNG three-wheelers, listen to the bells of the rickshaw and gaze at the boatmen and workers on the banks of the black-water river.

Photos shot in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during a photography editing course hosted by the Pathshala South Asian Media Institute as part of the International Reporting Workshop 2014. The course took place April 1-5, including a final public presentation event. Photos: Zarni Phyo

Pressing questions with director Kyi Soe Tun

An interview with a celebrated filmmaker, talk-show host and mentor of a new generation

ZON PANN PWINT
zonpann08@gmail.com

KYI Soe Tun, 69, spends nine hours a day at work. His office is lined with shelves packed with international films on DVD. A large wood desk is covered in books, and Myanmar Academy Award statues decorate the room.

Working his way from part of a blue-collar film crew to respected director over 30 years, he has earned five Academy Awards: Best Director for *Doe* (1989), *Thu Khun Ma Khan Pi* (*Never Be Slaved)* (1997), *Going Upstream* (2002) and *Hexagon* (2005); and Best Screenplay also for *Hexagon*. His 1997s historical film, *Never Be Slaved*, based on the best-selling novel by Teikkatho Phone Naing, cemented his reputation as a quality filmmaker who takes his time, regardless of money.

He is also known for his knowledge of film. On MRTV 4's *Movie Talk*, he has chatted about films, actors and directors from the silent era to the present every week since 2009.

He also loves to read and write. His 2011 compilation of short stories *Maung Kyaut Khae and Other Short Stories* earned him the Dr Tin Shwe Award for Literature.

In 2011, at the age of 66, his life took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He went to Singapore for treatment, and soon after he returned to Yangon he put all his efforts into teaching the art of filmmaking. He joined Laurel Art Academy as president in January 2012 when the school was founded by Daw Thidar Linn.

On April 28, the veteran director spoke with *The Myanmar Times* at his office in Pearl Condo, Bahan.

How did you feel when you received your cancer diagnoses?
I wasn't too shocked. When I knew I have stomach cancer, I kept my cool in the clinic and I contemplated what to do next.

How did you cope with the disease?
I take regular exercise and often visit the meditation centre. At the time, I didn't fear death because I assured myself that I haven't troubled anyone and I haven't ruined anyone's life. It helped me to accept death.

Have you become more religiously devout?
After the illness, I started contemplating "the inevitable". In Buddhism, we are taught to accept the facts of life. We are born and we die. We gain and lose. [We] have happiness and suffering.

How long did treatment take?
I stayed in hospital for 18 days. I was unlucky. The cut was slow to heal up after an operation. I lost 45 pounds. Though my wife and daughter pretended to be calm, they cried with the thought of losing me. But being able to accept death and suffering seemed to relieve me. The warmth and care of the family is also important.

How did your illness affect your work?
I was filming the last part of the life history of Venerable Minkon Sayadaw. The film was made years ago. Filming lasted for two years. The 100th anniversary of [Minkon's birth] came in 2011 and I filmed the celebration to polish my film. I finished it first, then I went to Singapore.

Did it take long? How important was it to finish?
It took about five days. The film was shot on location in Pyin Oo Lwin. I immediately went there to film. I was afraid that my film would remain incomplete because of something bad happening to my life.

Will you make films again?
I haven't made films since I returned home, but I have been filming short documentaries with my trainees based on stories of real-life events [that were] broadcast on the radio in the past. When I was young, I used to listen to the stories. The truth is stranger than fiction. Some extraordinary stories about ordinary people and relationships are still etched on my heart. I want to make documentaries based on these stories. These days, I work harder to indulge my passion because I know I don't have much time.

Why did you join Laurel Art Academy soon after you recovered from the illness?
Laurel Art Academy was founded in January 2012. We had been planning to open a film school a year before. In Myanmar, young talents don't have proper instructors who can walk them through, and some young directors run before they can walk. The school also gives me a chance to share my experiences.

> 'Since I was a child, I enjoyed films. Later, I found that filmmaking showed me my unconscious desires.'
>
> **Kyi Soe Tun**
> Filmmaker

What is your vision for the academy?
I want young directors to be better than me.

Why did you launch *Movie Talk*?
Five years ago, Win Maw from MRTV 4 requested a program on his channel. I wanted to launch a movie program in which I talk about old films, actresses and actors from my time. The industry is weak in archiving old film footage from the early days to the present and writing record books about the remarkable careers of old filmmakers, actors and actresses. Until now, no one has produced a book about history of Myanmar film, and old film footage has suffered damage by poor preservation in the Film Archive. Therefore, I want to fill the gap by relating what I have learned from my senior directors, what I have experienced in the film industry and how the actors and actresses played their roles in the films I made and in other films I have seen.

What have been the most interesting moments on the show?
I usually choose to talk about a film star a week after she has passed away. The talk is timed to coincide with the situation. For example, I talked about the life and career of famous actress Kyi Kyi Htay days after she died.

Who were your favourite actors and actress?
One of my favourite actresses is Kyi Kyi Htay [the first Academy Award winning actress]. She was undoubtedly the acting genius of her age. She started to perform on the stage at the age of six and she rose to fame in her first film, 1952's *Chit Thet Wai*, after she was brought on as a substitute because the famous actress May Shin was busy. I like her because she acted well whatever character the director requested. She could make us feel sympathy, love and joy.

I like many film stars from the past. At that time filming was their only work. Today, film stars have many diversions. For example, they work for advertising.

Which directors had the most influence on you?
One of my hobbies is watching movies. Since I was child, I enjoyed silent films and sound films. I usually watch a film more than half a dozen times if I love it. Later, I found that filmmaking showed me my unconscious desires. Six-time Academy Award-winning directors Thu Kha and Maung Tin Maung unconsciously influenced me. They were geniuses who made films able to capture the viewers' hearts and provoke our thoughts.

How is the Burmese film industry changing?
Filmmakers' direction has turned to mystic and magic films. They've lost ambition to do something good for the planet and for the audience. They try to attract and satisfy the audience. Whatever you do, your works must bring something good to the world and the people. I've come to learn the worst points of films. For example, pornographic movies spoil the young people. I think films are not worthy if they only give pleasure.

What's On

MAY 12 - 18

Got an event?
List it in What's On!
Email: **whatsonmt**@gmail.com

ART

MAY 11 "&Proud" LGBT photo exhibition opening. Show continues **MAY 11-13**, 12-5pm. Yangon Witness Documentary Art Space, 3rd floor, 4A Parami Road, Mayangone 2pm

FILM

Start times at Mingalar (1, 2), **Thwin, Shae Shaung (1, 2)** and **Nay Pyi Taw cinemas** are 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.
Start times at Junction Square and Maw Tin are 10am, 1pm and 4pm daily and 7pm and 9:30pm on Friday and Saturday.
Start times at Mingalar San Pyan are 10am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm and 9:30pm.
Nay Pyi Taw Cinema, near Sule Pagoda
Make Me Shudder 2 3D. Directed by Poj Apirut. A Thai horror-comedy involving a gang of university students and paranormal events.
Mingalar 2 Cinema, at Dagon Center 2, Myae Ni Gone, Sanchaung
Rio 2. Directed by Carlos Saldanha. In this animated feature, Blu, Jewel and their three kids hurtle from Rio to the Amazon where Blu struggles to fit in and must face his adversaries.
Shae Shaung Cinema 1, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada
The Amazing Spider Man 2 3D. Directed by Mark Webb. Peter Parker faces Electro and Harry Osborn returns.
Shae Shaung Cinema 2, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada
Captain America 3D. Directed by Joe Johnston. The superhero struggles to expose a massive conspiracy and winds up facing a formidable enemy, the Winter Soldier.
Junction Square Cineplex, Kamaryut
The Amazing Spider Man 2 3D.
Junction Maw Tin Cineplex, Lanmadaw
The Amazing Spider Man 2 3D.
Mingalar San Pyan Cineplex, Phone Gyi Street and Anawrahta, Lanmadaw
The Amazing Spider Man 2 3D.
Make Me Shudder 2 3D.

MUSIC

MAY 12 Live blues. Mojo Bar, 135 Inya Road, Bahan 8:30-11:30pm

MISC

MAY 16 "Oasis in the City" Kokine Bar & Restaurant opening with live music. Reservations recommended. Call 09 4210 60505. 34 Sayar San Lane, Bahan

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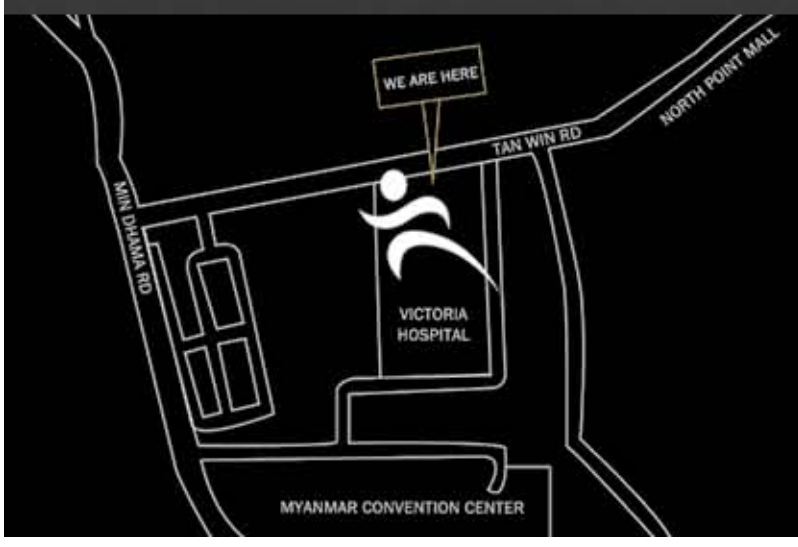

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Living well in Myanmar

When 'health screening' does more harm than good

CHRISTOPH GELSDORF, MD

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LAST month a 32-year-old woman came to my clinic in Yangon after having purchased a "health screening package" at a local private hospital. The package included blood tests for everything from cholesterol, liver function and kidney function to cancer markers and uric acid. It covered imaging tests including a chest x-ray, mammogram, abdominal ultrasound and a bone DEXA, as well as a urine exam and electrocardiogram.

If you're wondering why a 32-year-old needs all of these tests then you're asking exactly the right question. Patients purchase these packages under the assumption that they are doing something good for their health. It's natural to think, "I'm just going to get everything checked out to make sure I'm alright."

Meanwhile hospitals and health companies are happy to sell a profitable pre-packaged medical product. A broad range of tests are conducted over a few hours and the results are bundled into a booklet with recommendations for further evaluation and treatment. Income is not only generated during the initial health screen, but also through the further tests, consultations and treatments that likely follow.

The problem with this approach to screening lies in the concept of the "false positive". For any given disease, the lower the percentage of people affected in a certain demographic group, the greater the chance that a screening test will incorrectly show someone in that group to have that disease. There is no screening test that is 100 percent accurate, so when we screen people at low risk of a disease we are more likely to see a positive result that is in fact false. In statistics we call this phenomenon "specificity".

By way of example, let's assume that on average one in 1000 cars have a broken ignition that will cause the car to explode. Perhaps the diagnostic test we use to find that exploding ignition is 90pc "specific". That means that 10pc of the time, the test results in a false positive: The test concludes that the ignition will explode when, in truth, the broken ignition will only do something not dangerous (like not start the car or make a funny noise). If we know that 999 of the cars don't have exploding ignitions, then this test has wrongly identified the problem in 100 cars, causing their owners to unnecessarily buy a new car.

The consequences are of course much higher in human health. Readers of this column will remember last month's discussion on breast cancer screening and the risks of offering mammograms to women under 50 years old. Providing a mammogram to the average women in her 30s – such as through the screening package purchased by my patient – could be considered medically unethical since any findings identified as cancer are exceedingly likely to be false positives.

Unfortunately, my patient's mammogram identified a mass in her breast. Because of her young age and because she has no other risk factors for breast cancer, this mass is almost certainly benign and any immediate intervention is unnecessary.

However, because she had a "positive" mammogram, the hospital automatically referred her to a breast surgeon who gave her the option of surgical removal under general anaesthesia. In this way, inappropriate screening in the name of a "medical check-up" sold by the hospital nearly put my patient in the operating room for unnecessary treatment.

This wasn't the only harmful outcome of her screening package. Her blood test showed mildly elevated cholesterol, and as a computer-generated automatic reflex, given to her in the form of a paper print-out, came a recommendation to start a cholesterol-lowering medicine. Initiating a new heart medicine in any patient should never be done based on lab work alone but rather on a comprehensive risk assessment. So her health package also caused harm by introducing a long-term medicine that was unnecessary and has negative side effects.

False positives could easily have been generated by the majority of the other tests she received: DEXA is for women at least age 65. Chest x-rays and abdominal ultrasounds are never needed in a patient without symptoms. Testing for uric acid is meaningless unless a person has gout. Cancer markers are useful only for people with some indication that they might have cancer. An EKG is never required for a patient without heart symptoms. A urine test is useful only if a person has urinary symptoms or is pregnant.

These health screening packages are not unique to Myanmar. They are sold at fancy hospitals across Southeast Asia and to a lesser extent at high-end clinical facilities in the United States and UK where they are branded as "Executive Health Screens" or "Preventative Medical Screenings". Many people living in Yangon who fly to Bangkok or Singapore to buy a check-up may actually be putting themselves in harm's way rather than protecting their health.

From a public health perspective, generating false positives at best causes excessive anxiety for people that are extremely unlikely to be sick, and at its worst can be physically dangerous. Furthermore, as unnecessary investigations are ordered, it compounds the financial burden of healthcare for both the individual and the society. It's a fact worth considering in Myanmar's current debate over how to eventually provide universal health coverage.

Christoph Gelsdorf is an American Board of Family Medicine physician who has a health clinic in Yangon (www.gelsdorfMD.com). He is a member of the GP Society of the Myanmar Medical Association. Reader inquiries are welcomed.

Around the world

1

PARIS

Chinese police to help patrol Paris streets

Chinese police will help patrol tourist destinations in Paris this summer after a rise in muggings and attacks on Chinese tourists, a source in France's interior ministry said on May 6.

More than one million Chinese visitors come to France every year and there have been concerns over a number of muggings and attacks against them.

In March last year, a group of 23 Chinese visitors were robbed in a restaurant shortly after they landed at Paris's Charles De Gaulle airport.

The ministry source said the Chinese police would help their French counterparts in Paris tourist spots but declined to give numbers.

LOS ANGELES

Oscar-winner Sally Field gets Hollywood star

Oscar-winning US actress Sally Field got a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame on May 5, more than three decades after she earned her first Academy Award.

The 67-year-old joked about her roller-coaster five-decade career, including her Oscar-winning performances in 1979's *Norma Rae* and 1984's *Places in the Heart*.

"I've ridden the highs, and tried to learn from the lows," she said on Hollywood Boulevard, where her star is the 2524th on the famous stretch of sidewalk perused by millions of tourists every year.

"I've done a love scene with a pelican. But then I've also done a love scene with Paul Newman," she said.

Field, who was nominated for an Oscar last year for Steven Spielberg's historical drama *Lincoln*, appears in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, which has just topped the North American box office on its debut weekend.

2

3

COPENHAGEN

Bearded Eurovision drag queen draws controversy

Austria's bearded drag queen Conchita Wurst hogged the limelight ahead of the Eurovision Song Contest final on May 10, but things have gotten hairy for her among socially conservative Europeans, including some gays.

"I created this bearded lady to show the world that you can do whatever you want," said Wurst, the drag persona of 25-year-old Austrian singer Tom Neuwirth, at a recent press conference in Copenhagen.

"If you're not hurting anyone you can do whatever you like with your life and, it's so cheesy, but we've only got one," she added.

Few pundits believe Wurst, with her James Bond theme-like ballad "Rise Like a Phoenix", will take the Eurovision crown. However, comments by Armenian Eurovision hopeful Aram MP3 that Wurst's lifestyle was "not natural" have boosted her profile, even though the stand-up comedian later claimed he was joking.

There have also been petitions to have her removed from the competition in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, where a law banning "gay propaganda" was signed by President Vladimir Putin last year.

NEW YORK

Picasso painting fetches $31 million in NY auction

Pablo Picasso's 1932 oil painting Le Sauvetage sold at auction for more than US$31 million on May 7 after a bidding war at Sotheby's in New York which saw it surge past its estimated pre-sale price.

The surrealist master's enigmatic work – which was last sold a decade ago – went under the hammer for $31.525 million following frenzied bidding over several minutes.

The painting had been expected to fetch between $14 million and $18 million.

The painting was part of 14 Picasso works offered by Sotheby's as part of its auction of Impressionist and Modern Art.

In total, eight lots were sold for an aggregate $62.088 million. – *AFP*

4

Celebrities attend the "Charles James: Beyond Fashion" Costume Institute Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 5 in New York City.
1 Sarah Jessica Parker
2 Katie Holmes
3 Ivanka Trump
4 Reese Witherspoon
Photos: Dimitrios Kambouris/Getty Images/AFP

Dinner's a snap with bibimbap

food

Prawns in bibimbap sauce. Photo: Phyo

PHYO ARBIDANS
phyo.arbidans@gmail.com

KOREAN cuisine inspired my cooking this week. I love bibimbap, a specialty consisting of rice and sweet and spicy chilli sauce. The roasted sesame oil in this recipe for the sauce gives it a nice aroma.

I like to make bibimbap sauce at home as it's handy to eat with noodles, rice and veggies. Sometimes I use it as a marinade. Here I have used the chilli sauce to make a prawn stir-fry.

You can use grape tomatoes and school prawns as alternatives.

Tip: After making the chilli sauce, put it in an airtight jar and it will keep up to a week.

PRAWNS IN BIBIMBAP SAUCE
Serves 6

- 6 big prawns
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 2 onions
- 3 tomatoes
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil

FOR THE HOMEMADE SAUCE
- 1 ½ tbsp Korean red chilli paste
- 1 tbsp Kikkoman soy sauce
- 1 ½ tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 ½ tbsp water

Remove the prawn heads and shells. Reserve the heads. Wash and dry them well.

To make the sauce, add all the sauce ingredients to a glass bowl and stir until the sugar and chilli paste dissolves.

Wash the prawn heads gently in water. Take off the shells and discard the dirty bits. Fry in a non-stick pan with 1 tsp of vegetable oil on low heat. When the water evaporates, a pinkish oil will come out. Remove from heat and keep separate.

Dice the onion and tomatoes roughly. Crush the garlic.

Add oil to a wok and heat on high. Saute the onions until they are translucent. Add the tomatoes and fry for a few minutes. When the skins wilt and the water evaporates, add the garlic. Fry for 1 minute.

Add the prawn-head paste, chilli sauce and prawns. Make sure the prawns are coated well with the paste. Add ¼ cup of water and turn down the heat. Simmer for 5 minutes until the mixture is a bit soupy. Add salt to taste.

Serve with steamed rice.

MUSHROOMS IN BIBIMBAP SAUCE
Serves 6

- 500g mushrooms, any kind
- 1 clove of garlic
- 2 tbsp homemade bibimbap sauce
- 1 ½ tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 ½ tbsp sesame oil

Wash the mushrooms and drain well. Halve them if they are small or cut into bite-size pieces.

Add oil to a wok and heat on high. Add the mushrooms and stir-fry. When they are tender and the water has evaporated, add the chilli sauce and garlic. Keep frying until you can smell the garlic.

Serve warm.

Restaurant Preview

Shan cuisine shines at downtown nook

Photo: Thiri Lu

Nam Kham Family Shan Restaurant

132 37th Street, middle block, Kyauktada, Yangon

ZON PANN PWINT
zonpann08@gmail.com

ALMOST no restaurant is free from flaw. If a restaurant serves good food, the service may be slow. Where the staff is very friendly and always ready to indulge the customers' needs, the food may be less than stellar.

But in downtown Yangon there is a nearly perfect Shan restaurant serving beef-ball noodle soup and seasonal Shan meals at a reasonable price. The family members who own the restaurant treat their customers like family, and the taste of the noodle soup is perfect.

Located in the ground floor of a high-rise building, Nam Kham Family Shan Restaurant is a modest, no-AC shop divided into two separate rooms with separate entranceways. Both have about five dining tables each.

The restaurant has been offering Shan cuisine for 19 years on this street. The beef-ball noodle soup is a specialty, and among the other culinary offerings is a Shan traditional meal course consisting of meat dishes with salads and other vegetables, ranging in price from K1500 to K2300.

My friend and I ordered the beef-ball noodle soup, which is unusually good here with delicate meatballs and soft noodles. It was served within 10 minutes of ordering and has a lemongrass aroma and a light and sour flavour that balances the heaviness of the beef. Diners can also opt for pork balls or beef organs instead of beef balls.

"It is very difficult to prepare beef balls that are soft and nice to chew," said Naw Kham, owner of the restaurant. "I have to wake up early each morning to get 'sheltered meat' [the lower part of the cow] at the market. The meat has to be freshly cut that morning and protected from getting soaked in water before the meat is ground, otherwise I have to throw it away," he said.

A bowl of beef ball noodle soup costs K2000. After the soup, we drank Shan green tea that makes the ideal accompaniment for this dish.

Though this Shan ethnic restaurant doesn't offer any atmospheric music or decor to reveal its identity or ambience, just the healthy, hygienic and tasty food will prove the character of real Shan cuisine.

Restaurant Rating
★★★★☆

Food	9
Atmosphere	7
X factor	7
Service	8
Value for money	8

Myo Thein Electronics' Lucky Cards Campaign

Sandar Nwe, Yin Myo Thant and Htar Htar Win

Thuzar Win

On May 5, the electronics and appliances distributor hosted a "Lucky Cards Campaign" at Cafe City on 66th Street in Mandalay. More than 40 invited customers, media and family members attended. Prizes included a Toyota Passo, a light truck, five motorbikes, five refrigerators, five washing machines, and 10 74cm LED TVs.

Swe Swe Aung, Zin Mar Myint and Khin Mar Zin

Myo Thein and Tin Tin Swe

Win Hlaing Tun and Nyein Chan

PHOTOS: KYAY MOHN WIN

Setra lucky draw

Zar Zar Htet

Ma Sandar

Ko Moe Gyi

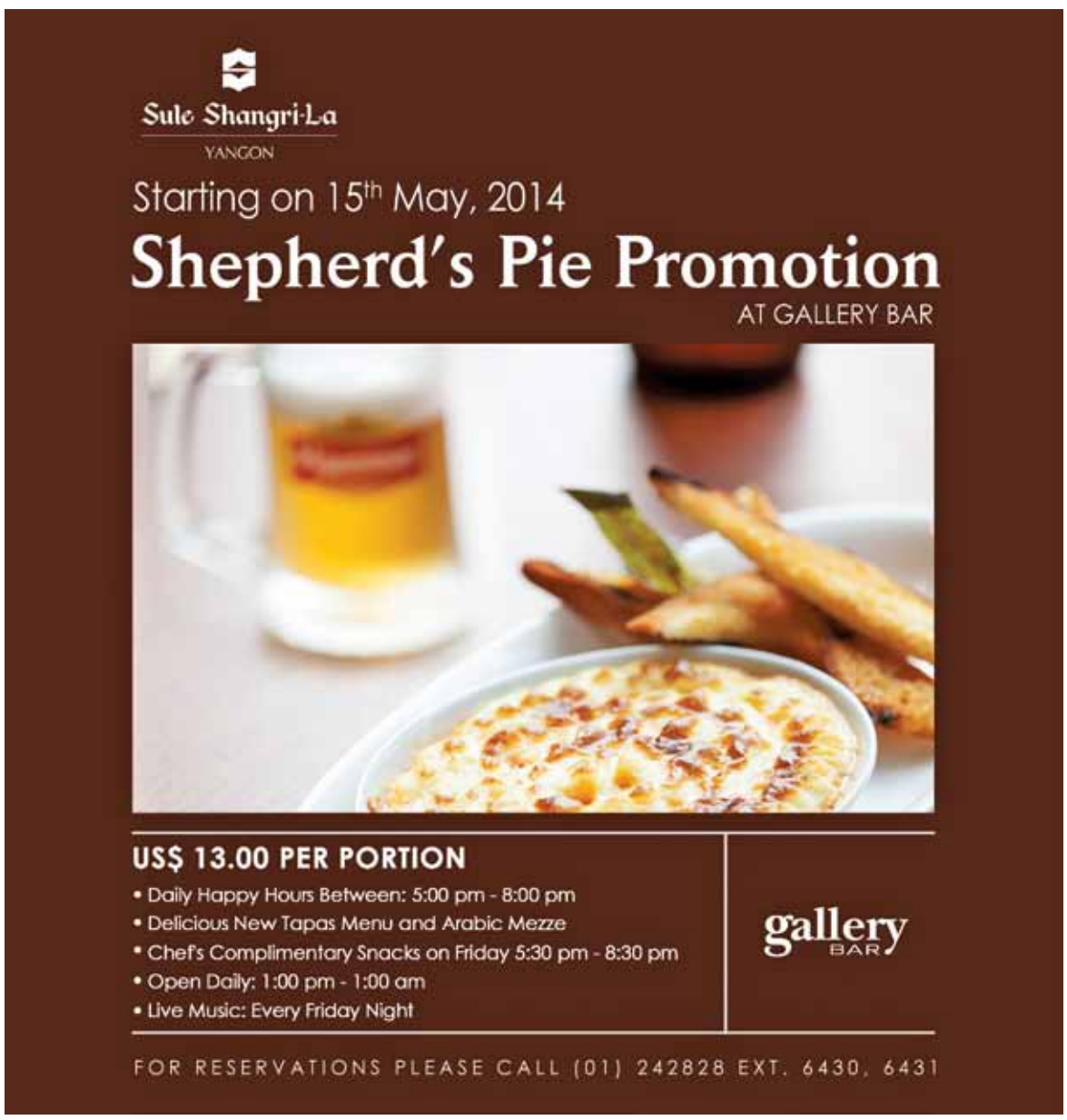
Mar Mar San

Khin Mar San

On May 3, Setra digital scales company hosted a lucky draw ceremony at Mandalay's MCDC Hall. The event drew more than 100 people, and two people won gold medallions.

May Thandar Khine, Moe Arkar and Thun Wati

Photos: Si Thu Lwin



United Auto showroom opening

Lee Wai Kit, Myint Mg Tun and See Bert

Nang Thiri Maw

Nang Yamone Phoo

On May 8, about 100 people celebrated the grand opening of the United Auto Car Service Center on 86 Street between 9th and 10th streets in Mandalay's Aung Myay Thar San township. The service centre's shareholders cut the inauguration ribbon.

PHOTOS: SI THU LWIN

Ko Han Thi

Saw Moe Z

Yangon Dragons vs Hanoi Dragons

Manisha and Sandar

On May 3, a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the cricket pitch of Pun Hlaing Golf Estate became the site of the first rugby game ever in Myanmar. The Yangon Dragons, defeated by the experienced Hanoi Dragons (21-10), offered a very exciting game to their many fans. Beers and BBQ capped the very friendly and familial day.

Photos:
ima/Emmanuel Maillard
imaphotodesign@gmail.com

JAM IT! Acoustic

Kaiza Tin Moong

One way

Ye Ngwe Soe

On May 3, Jam It! invited five bands to Mahabandoola Park for a memorable open-air acoustic performance. It was a big success for this local movement aiming to promote art and music from the underground scene: Several hundred people, mostly locals, discovered new talents and enjoyed bouncing to rock riffs and rap beats.

Myanmar Youth Professional Club forum

Miheshi, Phone Latyar, Htet Aun Shine and Cho May Than

Jinwook Kim

Nyein

Tim Aye Hardy

Wint Wint

Sao Ohn Hseng

Stephen Kyaw

Around 100 young professionals interested in expanding their professional and personal networks joined the Myanmar Youth Professional Club's first forum at Hotel Grand United on May 7. Guest speaker Austin Thein, founder and editor in chief of the newly born Myanmar fashion and lifestyle magazine, *Posh*, spoke about his exciting first steps in the magazine industry.

Ko Ko Myo

Khin Moe Myint

Khine Lin and Thant Zin Naing

Michael Myo Swe

Women entrepreneurs networking night

Stephanie and Anh

Meg and Su Hlaing Aye

Ingyin Hla Myint, Samantha Thu and Khant Khant Kyaw

Thuc Minh

On May 7, Project Hub hosted a networking night for women entrepreneurs, and over 30 female professionals gathered to discuss business creation. The Hub's new program, Project W, will provide 10 selected entrepreneurs with mentors, office space, workshops and up to US$5000 in seed funding.

1st Myanmar Bartenders' Competition 2014

Myanmar Restaurant Assoc(MRA) will be holding the 1st Myanmar Bartenders' Competition on June 3rd and 4th 2014 at "DJ's BAR" in the compound of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. The prizes are for the winner Kyats 500,000, 2nd place winner Kyats 300,000 and 3rd place winner Kyats 200,000 plus Certificates and gifts. The first two winners will be eligible to compete in the Final 11th AHRA / ASEAN BARTENDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 to be held on June 2 in Yangon, Myanmar Convention Centre also. The 3rd place winner will be a reserve for the Championship. Please obtain the Application forms from the following places as well as by downloading from www.myanmar-restaurantassociation.com

1.Monsoon Restaurant & Bar, No.85/87, Theinbyu Road, Bohtahtaung T/S, Yangon
2.Padonmar Restaurant, No.105-107, Kha Yay Pin Road, Dagon T/S, Yangon
3.Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA), No.40/42, 5th Floor, Bo Soon Pat Street, Pabedan T/S, Yangon
Tel : 09 250087536, 09 73192200, 09 5000164, 09 5183545
Email : mraorg2011@gmail.com, nyinyi2006@gmail.com, hanthi.hts@gmail.com

Application Closing Date is May 20, 2014.

Main Sponsors MONIN — ULTIMATE TASTE — ULTIMATE CREATIVITY · QP Quarto Products

Event Sponsor DJ'S BAR

DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A1	1,2,3,4,5	7:30	8:30
Y5 777	1,2,3,4,6	7:45	8:25
FMI A1	6	8:00	9:00
FMI B1	1,2,3,4,5	11:30	12:30
FMI A1	7	15:30	16:30
FMI C1	1,2,3,4,5	16:45	17:45

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A2	1,2,3,4,5	8:50	9:50
FMI A2	6	10:00	11:00
FMI B2	1,2,3,4,5	13:00	14:00
FMI A2	7	17:00	18:00
Y5 778	1,2,3,4,6	17:30	18:10
FMI C2	1,2,3,4,5	18:05	19:05

YANGON TO MANDALAY

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 233	1,6	6:00	7:25
YJ 211	5,7	6:00	7:25
YJ 201	2,3,4	6:00	7:25
K7 282	Daily	6:30	8:40
YH 917	Daily	6:10	8:30
Y5 234	Daily	6:15	7:30
6T 401	Daily	6:20	8:25
W9 201	Daily	7:30	8:55
K7 266	Daily	8:00	10:05
K7 642	Daily	8:30	12:20
8M 6603	2,4,7	9:00	10:10
K7 844	Daily	11:00	14:10
YH 727	1	11:00	13:10
YH 737	3,5,7	11:00	13:10
YH 729	4,6	11:00	14:00
YH 729	2	11:00	16:40
W9 251	2,5	11:15	12:40
K7 226	2,4,6	13:00	14:25
6T 501	Daily	14:30	16:30
YH 731	1,2,3,5,6,7	14:30	16:40
W9 129	Daily	15:00	16:55

MANDALAY TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
Y5 233	Daily	8:10	9:25
YH 918	Daily	8:30	10:25
6T 402	Daily	8:45	10:45
W9 201	Daily	9:10	11:05
W9 144	Daily	9:20	10:45
Y5 132	3,5,6,7	9:30	10:30
K7 267	Daily	10:20	12:25
K7 823	2,4,7	11:25	14:25
YH 546	1,2,3,4,5,7	13:30	16:05
K7 643	Daily	12:35	16:25
YJ 203	2	13:55	15:20
YJ 235	6	15:20	16:45
YJ 235	1	15:45	17:10
W9 120	1,3,6	16:30	17:55
YH 728	1	16:30	17:55
YH 732	1,2,3,5,6,7	16:40	18:45
K7 227	2,4,7	16:50	18:15
6T 502	Daily	16:50	18:55
YH 730	2	16:40	18:05
YJ 204	4	16:55	18:20
W9 129	Daily	17:10	18:35
YH 738	3,5,7	17:10	18:35
W9 211	Daily	17:10	19:15
8M 6604	2,4,7	17:20	18:30
YH 730	4,6	17:45	19:10
YJ 213	7	19:05	20:30

YANGON TO NYAUNG U

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 917	Daily	6:10	7:45
W9 141	Daily	6:15	7:35
6T 401	Daily	6:20	7:40
K7 282	Daily	6:30	7:50
W9 143	Daily	7:15	8:35
6T 501	Daily	14:30	17:20
YH 731	1,2,3,5,6,7	14:30	17:25
W9 211	Daily	15:30	17:40

NYAUNG U TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 918	Daily	7:45	10:25
W9 141	Daily	7:50	10:40
6T 401	Daily	7:55	10:45
W9 144	Daily	8:50	10:10
K7 283	Daily	10:40	12:00
YH 732	1,2,3,5,6,7	17:25	18:45
6T 502	Daily	17:35	18:55
W9 211	Daily	17:55	19:15

YANGON TO MYITKYINA

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 201	2	6:00	8:50
YJ 211	5,7	6:00	8:50
YJ 233	1,6	6:00	8:50
YH 826	2,6	7:00	9:40
K7 642	Daily	8:30	10:50
W9 251	2,5	11:15	14:10
YH 826	4	14:00	16:40

MYITKYINA TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 827	2,6	9:40	11:05
K7 643	Daily	14:05	16:25
YJ 203	4	15:15	18:20
W9 252	2,5	16:05	19:00
YH 827	4	16:40	19:05

YANGON TO HEHO

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 201	3	6:00	11:00
YJ 201	2	6:00	12:55
YJ 201	4	6:00	13:05
YJ 211	5,7	6:00	14:35
YJ 233	1	6:00	14:45
YH 917	Daily	6:10	9:15
W9 141	Daily	6:15	8:20
6T 401	Daily	6:20	9:20
K7 282	Daily	6:30	9:30
W9 201	Daily	7:30	9:40
K7 828	1,3,5	7:30	8:45
K7 822	2,4,7	7:30	10:20
K7 266	Daily	8:00	9:15
K7 844	Daily	11:00	15:00
W9 203	Daily	11:00	12:10
YH 737	3,5,7	11:00	12:25
YH 727	1	11:00	12:25
W9 119	1,3,6	11:15	12:25
6T 501	Daily	14:30	15:40
YH 731	1,2,3,5,6,7	14:30	15:55
W9 129	Daily	15:00	16:10

HEHO TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 141	Daily	8:35	10:40
YH 918	Daily	9:15	10:25
6T 402	1,2,3,4,5,7	9:35	10:45
K7 283	Daily	9:45	12:00
W9 201	Daily	9:55	11:05
K7 267	Daily	11:10	12:25
W9 204	Daily	12:25	13:35
YJ 203	2	13:10	15:20
K7 829	1,3,5	13:50	15:05
YJ 213	7	14:50	20:30
YJ 203	3,4	14:55	16:05
K7 845	Daily	15:15	18:10
W9 120	1,3,6	15:45	17:55
YJ 235	1	15:00	17:10
YH 728	1	15:45	17:55
6T 501	Daily	15:55	18:55
YH 732	1,2,3,5,6,7	15:55	18:45
YH 738	3,5,7	16:25	18:35
W9 129	Daily	16:25	18:35

YANGON TO SIT T WE

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 607	1	11:15	12:40
6T 613	2,3,4,6,7	11:15	12:40
6T 605	5	11:15	13:15
K7 422	Daily	13:30	15:25

SIT T WE TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 614	2,3,4,6,7	13:00	14:25
6T 608	1	13:00	15:00
6T 606	5	13:35	15:00
K7 423	Daily	15:40	17:00

YANGON TO MYEIK

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 633	1,3,4,5,7	7:00	9:15
K7 319	Daily	7:00	9:05
6T 707	Daily	7:45	9:45

MYEIK TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 634	1,3,4,5,7	11:25	13:25
K7 320	Daily	11:30	13:35
6T 708	Daily	12:10	14:10

YANGON TO THANDWE

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 141	Daily	6:15	9:35
6T 605	5	11:15	12:10
6T 607	1	11:15	13:50
K7 422	Daily	13:30	14:25

THANDWE TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 605	5	12:25	15:00
6T 608	1	14:05	15:00
K7 422	Daily	14:40	17:00

YANGON TO DAWEI

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 707	Daily	7:45	8:55
YH 633	1,3,4,5,7	7:00	8:25

DAWEI TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 708	Daily	13:00	14:10
YH 634	1,3,4,5,7	12:15	13:25

YANGON TO LARSHIO

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 201	3	6:00	12:20
YJ 211	5,7	6:00	13:30
YH 729	2,4,6	11:00	13:00

LARSHIO TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 730	2	15:40	18:05
YH 730	4,6	16:45	19:10
YJ 213	7	13:45	16:00
YJ 202	3	12:20	16:05
YJ 213	5	13:45	16:00

YANGON TO PUTAO

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 233	1,6	6:00	9:45

PUTAO TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 234	6	10:00	16:45
YJ 234	1	10:00	17:10

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 9607	4,7	14:20	16:10

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON

Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 9608	4,7	17:20	18:10

Domestic Airlines

Air Bagan Ltd. (W9)
Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

Air KBZ (K7)
Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport),
Fax: 372983, Hot Line: 373766

Air Mandalay (6T)
Tel : (Head Office) 501520, 525488,
Fax: 525937. Airport: 533222~3, 09-73152853.
Fax: 533223.

Asian Wings (YJ)
Tel: 951 515261~264, 512140, 512473, 512640.
Fax: 951 532333, 516654

Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5)
Tel: 95 9 400446999, 95 9 400447999,
Fax: 01 860 4051

Yangon Airways(YH)
Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264,
Fax: 652 533.

FMI Air Charter - Sales & Reservations
Tel: (95-1) 240363, 240373 / (+95-9) 421146545

Domestic

- 6T = Air Mandalay
- W9 = Air Bagan
- YJ = Asian Wings
- K7 = AIR KBZ
- YH = Yangon Airways
- FMI = FMI AIR Charter
- Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines

Subject to change without notice

Day
1 = Monday
2 = Tuesday
3 = Wednesday
4 = Thursday
5 = Friday
6 = Saturday
7 = Sunday

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 706	Daily	6:15	8:30
8M 335	Daily	7:40	9:25
TG 304	Daily	9:50	11:45
PG 702	Daily	10:30	12:25
TG 302	Daily	14:55	16:40
PG 708	Daily	15:20	17:15
8M 331	Daily	16:30	18:15
PG 704	Daily	18:25	20:20
TG 306	Daily	19:45	21:35

YANGON TO DON MUENG

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4231	Daily	8:00	9:45
FD 2752	Daily	8:30	10:20
FD 2756	Daily	12:15	14:05
FD 2754	Daily	17:50	19:35
FD 2758	Daily	21:30	23:15
DD 4239	Daily	21:00	22:55

YANGON TO SINGAPORE

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MI 509	1,2,6,7	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
3K 586	2,4,6	11:20	15:50
TR 2827	1,6,7	15:10	19:35
3K 588	1,3,4,6	19:15	23:45

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 501	1,3,5,6	8:55	12:55
AK 1425	Daily	8:30	12:50
MH 741	Daily	12:15	16:30
8M 9506	Daily	12:15	16:30
8M 9508	Daily	15:45	20:05
MH 743	Daily	15:45	20:05
AK 1421	Daily	16:45	21:00

YANGON TO BEIJING

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 716	3,7	23:50	0550+1

YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 711	2,4,7	8:40	13:15
CZ 3056	3,6	11:25	16:15
CZ 3056	1,5	17:30	22:15

YANGON TO TAIPEI

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CI 7916	1,2,3,5,6	10:50	16:15

YANGON TO KUNMING

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 906	Daily	12:15	15:55
MU 2012	3	12:20	18:20
MU 2032	1,2,4,5,6,7	14:50	18:20

YANGON TO HANOI

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 956	1,3,5,6,7	19:10	21:30

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH CITY

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 942	2,4,7	14:25	17:15

YANGON TO DOHA

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
QR 919	1,4,6	7:40	11:10

YANGON TO PHNOM PENH

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 403	3,6	16:50	19:15

YANGON TO SEOUL

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
0Z 770	4,7	0:35	9:10
KE 472	2,3,4	23:35	8:05+1

YANGON TO HONG KONG

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KA 251	1,2,4,6	01:10	05:45

YANGON TO TOKYO

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
NH 914	Daily	21:45	06:50+1

YANGON TO SIEM REAP

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 401	1,3,6	8:35	10:45

YANGON TO GAYA

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 601	3,5,6	7:00	8:20

YANGON TO DHAKA

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
BG 061	1,4	19:45	21:00

YANGON TO INCHEON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 7702	Daily	23:35	8:05
8M7502	4,7	0:35	9:10

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 710	Daily	14:05	16:30

MANDALAY TO SINGAPORE

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
Y5 233	Daily	8:05	14:40

MANDALAY TO DON MUENG

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
FD 2761	Daily	12:45	15:00

MANDALAY TO KUNMING

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2030	Daily	14:40	17:30

MANDALAY TO GAYA

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 603	4	11:10	12:15

NAYPYIDAW TO BANGKOK

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 722	1,2,3,4,5	19:30	22:30

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
TG 303	Daily	7:55	8:50
PG 701	Daily	8:50	9:40
8M 336	Daily	10:40	11:25
TG 301	Daily	13:00	13:55
PG 707	Daily	13:40	14:30
PG 703	Daily	16:45	17:35
TG 305	Daily	17:50	18:45
8M 332	Daily	19:15	20:00
PG 705	Daily	20:00	21:30

DON MUENG TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4230	Daily	6:30	7:15
FD 2751	Daily	7:15	8:00
FD 2755	Daily	11:10	11:45
FD 2753	Daily	16:35	17:20
FD 2757	Daily	20:15	20:55
DD 4238	Daily	19:25	20:15

SINGAPORE TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
SQ 998	Daily	7:55	9:20
3K 585	1,3,4,6	9:10	10:45
TR 2826	1,6,7	13:10	14:30
8M 232	Daily	13:25	14:50
MI 518	Daily	14:20	15:45
TR 2826	2,3,4,5	15:00	16:30
Y5 234	Daily	15:35	17:05
3K 587	2,5	17:05	18:35
MI 520	5,7	22:10	23:35

BEIJING TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 905	3,5,7	19:30	22:50

KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
AK 1426	Daily	6:55	8:00
MH 740	Daily	10:05	11:15
8M 9505	Daily	10:05	11:15
8M 502	1,2,3,5,6	12:50	13:50
8M 9507	Daily	13:30	14:40
MH 742	Daily	13:50	15:00
AK 1420	Daily	15:05	16:15

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CZ 3055	3,6	8:40	10:25
CZ 3055	1,5	14:40	16:30
8M 712	2,4,7	14:15	15:50

TAIPEI TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CI 7915	1,2,3,5,6	7:00	9:55

KUNMING TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2011	3	8:25	11:40
CA 905	Daily	10:45	11:15
MU 2031	1,2,4,5,6,7	13:30	14:00

HANOI TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 957	1,3,5,6,7	16:50	18:10

HO CHI MINH CITY TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 943	2,4,7	11:40	13:25

DOHA TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
QR 918	Daily	20:30	6:15+1

GAYA TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 602	3,5,6	9:20	12:30

PHNOM PENH TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 404	3,6	20:15	21:40

SEOUL TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KE 471	2,3,4	18:45	22:35
0Z 769	3,6	19:50	23:45

TOKYO TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
NH 913	Daily	11:00	15:40

HONG KONG TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KA 250	1,3,5,7	21:45	23:30

DHAKA TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
BG 060	1,4	16:30	18:45

INCHEON TO YANGON

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 7701	Daily	18:45	22:35
8M 7501	3,6	19:50	23:25

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 709	Daily	12:00	13:20

DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
FD 2760	Daily	10:50	12:15

KUNMING TO MANDALAY

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2029	Daily	13:55	13:50

GAYA TO MANDALAY

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 604	4	13:15	16:20

BANGKOK TO NAYPYIDAW

Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 721	1,2,3,4,5	17:00	19:00

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: 01 860 4051

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: 379845, 379843, 379831, Fax: 379730

Biman Bangladesh Airlines (BG)
Tel: 371867~68, Fax: 371869.

Nok Airline (DD)
Tel: 255050, 255021, Fax: 255051

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
DD = Nok Airline
AI = Air India
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Subject to change without notice

Day
1 = Monday
2 = Tuesday
3 = Wednesday
4 = Thursday
5 = Friday
6 = Saturday
7 = Sunday

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS

MAY 12 - 18, 2014

AQUARIUS | Jan 20 – Feb 18

See the intangible in the tangible. The more you practice this, the deeper you will understand your actions and reactions and their influence on relationships. Find a way to move beyond your grief, guilt and powerlessness toward active dreaming and creation. Make a decision to serve wherever you go, and whenever you can enjoy the pleasure of reciprocity and devotion.

PISCES | Feb 19 – March 20

Destiny sometimes produces supernatural power for the brave in the wake of enlightenment. You cannot shape destiny, unless you know the value of yourself with no attachments. Challenging yourself can change everything according to your creative power and intellect. Make no arguments to prove your integrity, but keep your morals strong. Love knows nothing about class.

ARIES | Mar 21 – Apr 19

The very act of making a commitment calls forth support. You cannot do something well unless you connect your five senses with intellectual power and wisdom. You must stop yourself from pursuing unwholesome emotional desires. Recharge yourself daily and don't spin your words. The heart must be felt with the help of the head.

TAURUS | Apr 20 – May 20

Treat yourself with respect. A divine perfection within yourself will show through wisdom and the power to keep your integrity high. Envelop yourself in peace. Your objectives ought to be to change your way of thinking and framing the beauty of world. An honourable life is based on optimism, which will allow you to organise yourself before long.

GEMINI | May 21 – June 20

Don't feel certain of anything but your intellectual focus. Know that no mortal man has ever served all his passions and all his best interests at the same time. If you say nothing about your responsibility, you will have no idea what risks to take. No human can give order to love. Love is a pretty observation to make heart-to-heart. Value your relationship.

CANCER | June 21 – July 22

Maintaining and exceeding standards is an ongoing process involving everyone. Always be on the lookout for chances to learn valuable lessons. Think carefully about the best way to behave in every situation, and concentrate on getting things done properly. Know that all decisions involve a series of other decisions. Love is one of the vital parts of life. Add value to yours.

LEO | July 23 – Aug 22

Determination will change your destiny for the better. The business in your hands may become easy and successful according to your management skills and sharp decisions. Try to create a positive atmosphere free from rigidity to refresh your mindset in the cool silence of nature. Never keep work simply because you do it better. No deal is better than the people you are dealing with.

VIRGO | Aug 23 – Sept 22

Life is heredity plus environment, so you must always take care of your manner in relationships. Never underestimate the impact of the law of unexpected consequences. Your mindful observation will help to classify the value of communications, and you will be able to see the changes of character among your peers. Don't act your age, but get action according to your age.

LIBRA | Sept 23 – Oct 22

Making no decision is a decision in itself, and possibly a fateful one. You should seek guidance from a trusted colleague or superior, then decide on the best course of action to change your way of life and upgrade your social compatibility. Power abdicates itself only under the stress of counter-power. Your mind must be free from any disturbance to find empowerment.

SCORPIO | Oct 23 – Nov 21

You can reshape your relationships and the rest of your life when you alter your conversation space and move more of your consciousness into conscientiousness. Ignorance that is suited or unsuited is the most upsetting fact of human life. Looking down on others will only make you look pretty and stupid. Clear perspective in relationships ensures a golden long-term result.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 22 – Dec 21

Declare your level of commitment to creating your future. Know that every second presents you with an opportunity to choose your conversations. Seek to turn the impossible into a target that you can achieve. Expect setbacks and always have contingency plans fully prepared. Encourage competition between ideas and thoughts, not individuals. Know that rules of law always change according to need.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 – Jan 19

All endings and all beginnings are already related. Bring your thoughts, feeling, words and actions into alignment with your intellectual knowledge and wisdom to see the full meaning of life. Your actions must be constructive, and you should be the architect of your world before you say goodbye to all.

AUNG MYIN KYAW
4th Floor, 113, Thamain Bayan Road, Tarmwe township, Yangon.
Tel: 09-731-35632, Email: williameastel@gmail.com

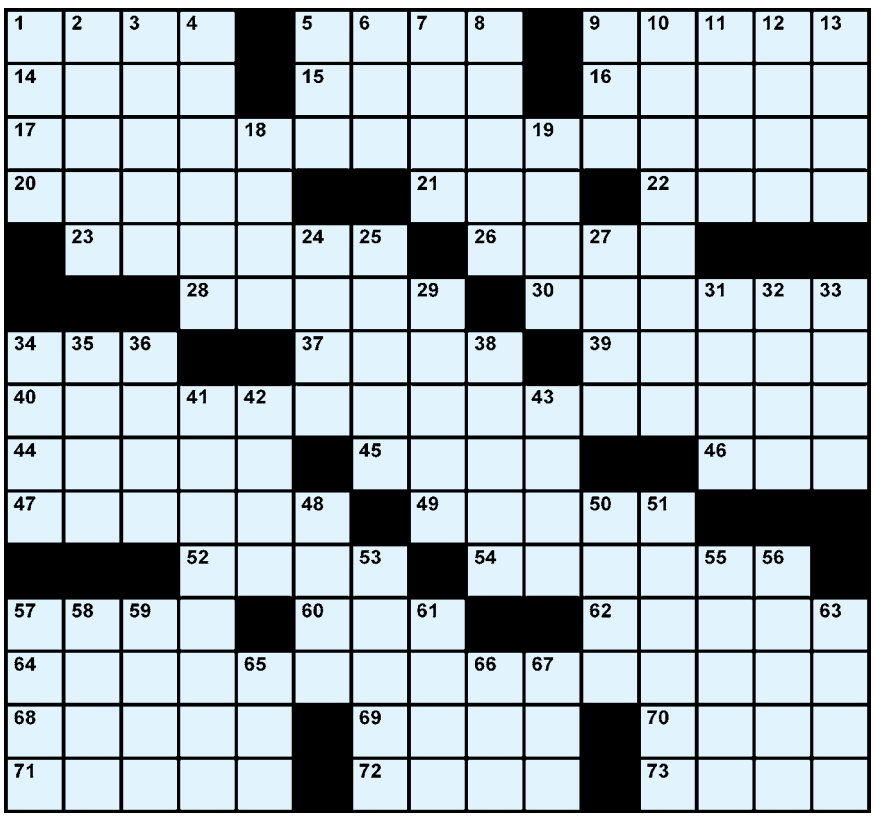
Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

PO BOYS *By Richard Auer*

ACROSS
1 Theater section
5 Messy one
9 "Time is money," e.g.
14 One who raised Cain
15 South American nation
16 More urgent
17 Rural road sign?
20 Prefix with "type"
21 Big-eared equine
22 Charlie Brown cry
23 Haunted-house resident
26 Tiny pond plant
28 Faux chocolate
30 Kind of show or band
34 Sphere
37 Washingtons in the wallet
39 Without accompanists
40 Where ballots are cast
44 Small ornamental cases
45 Tailor's junction
46 Tightrope-walker's safeguard
47 With conviction
49 Use a dragnet
52 Tourney rank
54 Gather and bind grain
57 Give off, as light
60 Private eye, slangily
62 Sir, in Africa
64 Refugee's request
68 Like some Disney musicals
69 Certain gem
70 Continental dollar
71 Vampire killer
72 Tranquility exercise
73 Foul smell

DOWN
1 Reindeer-herding Finn
2 Aromas
3 Rapid courtly dance
4 Ipecac, e.g.
5 Aromatherapy setting
6 Voided tennis play
7 Whale like Willy
8 Bodily sac
9 Televised spots
10 Prime Minister before Gladstone
11 Delivery from the fat lady
12 Chap
13 Bits of work
18 Mrs. Dithers of the comics
19 Christiania, nowadays
24 Collar straightener
25 Ice picker-uppers
27 No-see-um
29 Assailed on all sides
31 Cow's hurdle, in rhyme
32 "Green Gables" girl
33 Cardinal's quarters
34 "Speak your piece" piece
35 Learning by repetition
36 Word with "moon" or "ribbon"
38 Constellation components
41 Compact item
42 Land surrounded by water
43 Asian domestic
48 Hairy humanoid
50 Spiders' creations
51 Barrister
53 Duck that's not a duck
55 Hold in high regard
56 Accustom to hardship (Var.)
57 Poetry on a grand theme
58 Helena is its cap.
59 Pelvic bones
61 Mafia muck-a-muck
63 Out of control
65 Plumbing fitting
66 Drop back
67 Chicken ___ king



SUDOKU PACIFIC

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	1			5	6			2
	5		8	7			4	
4					3		7	
				2		6		1
	2						5	
9		6		4				
	6		9					5
	3			8	7		6	
8			6	1			3	

5/15

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

DILBERT

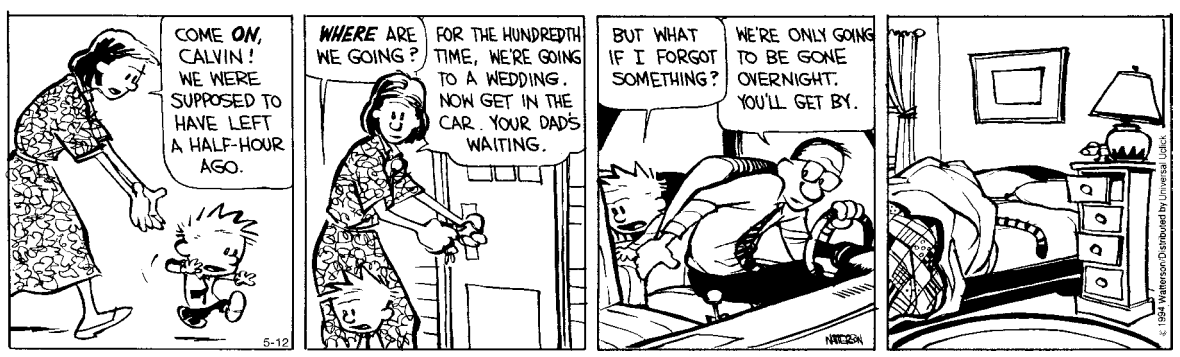
BY SCOTT ADAMS

PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



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.

DAVID BRENNER (1936-2014) **Solution: 13 letters**

H U M O R E N I G H T L I F E
O R O B E T A L A U G H T E R
N C O D S A C A A W A R D S O
O O A T S U I C K L A T D A H
R L E T C D R I R D S N I P T
S E A W A A E P I M V H R U U
K R A R R R M O E T P O E N A
O E U I E G A T S L I S C C C
O K S T O U R O E R I T T H H
B A T E H O D D E U A T O L I
O M A R M Y A G O L A N R I L
I M N E N L N L L Y M M E N D
D L D N I I C A W F A T H E R
U I U H S K E T C H G I G S E
A F P S I R R O N L P O B H N

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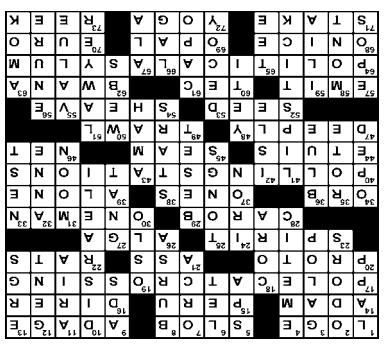
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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The tea break page is being re-formatted in readiness for our move to a daily cycle. It may look something like this in the future.
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QUICK GUIDE

FAX : 951-254158
EMAIL : CLASSIFIED.MCM@GMAIL.COM
WWW.MMTIMES.COM

The Essentials

EMBASSIES

Australia 88, Strand Road, Yangon. Tel : 251810, 251797, 251798.

Bangladesh 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. Tel: 515275, 526144, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

Brazil 56, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 507225, 507251. email: Administ.yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

Brunei 17, Kanbawza Avenue, Golden Velly (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 566985, 503978. email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

Cambodia 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 549609, 540964. email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

China 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 221280, 221281.

Danmark, No.7, Pyi Thu St, Pyay Rd, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 01 – 9669520 - 17.

Egypt 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 222886, 222887, Egyptembassy86@gmail.com

France 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 212178, 212520, email: ambaf rance.rangoun@ diplomatie.fr

Germany 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 548951, 548952, email: info@rangun.diplo.de

India 545-547, Merchant St, Yangon. Tel: 391219, 388412, email: indiaembassy @mptmail.net.mm

Indonesia 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Rd, Yangon. Tel: 254465, 254469, email: kukygn @indonesia.com.mm

Israel 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

Italy 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. Tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang.mail@ esteri.it

Japan 100, Natmauk Rd, Yangon. Tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

Kuwait 62-B, Shwe Taung Kyar St, Bahan Tsp. Tel : 01-230-9542, 230-9543. Fax : 01-230-5836.

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, email: mwkyangon@mptmail.net.mm

Nepal 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. Tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb@mptmail.net.mm

Norway, No.7, Pyi Thu St, Pyay Rd, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp,Yangon. Tel: 01 – 9669520 - 17 Fax – 01- 9669516

New Zealand No. 43/C, Inya Myaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 01-2306046-9 Fax : 01-2305805

Netherlands Diplomatic Mission No. 43/C, Inya Myaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 01-2305805

North Korea 77C, Shin Saw Pu Rd, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 512642, 510205

Pakistan A-4, diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Rd, Yangon. Tel: 222881 (Chancery Exchange)

Philippines 50, Sayasan Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 558149-151,Email: p.e. yangon@gmail.com

Russian 38, Sagawa Rd, Yangon. Tel: 241955, 254161,

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung. Tel : 01-536153, 516952.

Serbia No. 114-A, Inya Rd, P.O.Box No. 943, Yangon. Tel: 515282, 515283, email: serbemb@ yangon.net.mm

Singapore 238, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 559001, email: singemb_ygn@_sgmfa. gov.sg

South Korea 97 University Avenue, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 527142-4, 515190, fax: 513286, email: myanmar@mofat.go.kr

Sri Lanka 34 Taw Win Road, Yangon. Tel: 222812,

Switzerland No 11, Kabaung Lane, 5 ½ mile, Pyay Rd, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 534754, 507089.

Thailand 94 Pyay Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 226721, 226728, 226824

Turkish Embassy 19AB, Kan Yeik Thar St, Mayangone Tsp,Yangon. Tel : 662992, Fax : 661365

United Kingdom 80 Strand Rd, Yangon. Tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438,

United States of America 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 536509, 535756, Fax: 650306

Vietnam Bldg-72, Thanlwin Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 511305

UNITED NATIONS

ILO Liaison 1-A, Kanbae (Thitsar Rd), Yankin Tsp, Tel : 01-566538, 566539

IOM 318 (A) Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon.Tel – 01-210588, 09 73236679, 0973236680, Email- iomyangon@iom.int

UNAIDS 137/1, Thaw Wun Rd, Kamayut Tsp. Tel : 534498, 504832

UNDCP 11-A, Malikha St, Mayangone tsp. Tel: 666903, 664539.

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.

UNIAP Rm: 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. Tel: 254852, 254853.

UNIC 6, Natmauk St., Bahan, tel: 52910~19

UNICEF 14~15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, Kyauktada. Tel: 375527~32, unicef.yangon@unicef. org,

UNODC 11-A, Malikha Rd., Ward 7, Mayangone. tel: 01-9666903, 9660556, 9660538, 9660398. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org

UNOPS 120/0, Pyi Thu Lane, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp. Tel: 951-657281~7. Fax: 657279.

UNRC 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE Tel: 542911~19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator),

WFP 5 Kan Baw Za St, Shwe Taung Kyar, (Golden Valley), Bahan Tsp. Tel : 2305971~6

WHO No. 2, Pyay Rd, 7 Mile, Mayangone Tsp, Tel : 650405-6, 650416, 654386-90.

ASEAN Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Tsp. Tel: 225258.

FAO Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673.

For more information about these listings, Please Contact - **classified.mcm@gmail.com**

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance ☎tel: 295133.
Fire ☎tel: 191, 252011, 252022.
Police emergency ☎tel: 199.
Police headquarters ☎tel: 282541, 284764.
Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368
Traffic Control Branch ☎tel:298651
Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.
Immigration ☎tel: 286434.
Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390
Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605
Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.
Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.
Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.
Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.
Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.
Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.
Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

ELECTRICITY

Power Station ☎tel:414235

POST OFFICE

General Post Office
39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

YANGON PORT

Shipping (Coastal vessels) ☎tel: 382722

RAILWAYS

Railways information
☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.

General Listing

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS

Asia Plaza Hotel YANGON
No. 277, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Corner of 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : (951) 391070, 391071. Reservation@391070 (Ext) 1910, 106. Fax : (951) 391375. Email : hotelasiaplaza@gmail.com

Avenue 64 Hotel
No. 64 (G), Kyitewine Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 09-8631392, 01 656913-9

Chatrium Hotel
40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe. tel: 544500. fax: 544400.

Clover Hotel City Center
No. 217, 32nd Street (Upper Block), Pabedan Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 377720, Fax : 377722 www.clovercitycenter.asia

Clover Hotel City Center Plus
No. 229, 32nd Street (Upper Block), Pabedan Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 377975, Fax : 377974 www.clovercitycenterplus.asia

Confort Inn
4, Shweli Rd, Bet: Inya Rd & U Wisara Rd, Kamaryut, tel: 525781, 526872

Eden Palace Hotel
No. (356/366), Kyaikkasan Rd, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 542826, Fax: 545650 Email: reservation@edenpalacehotel.com

GRAND PALACE HOTEL
M-22, Shwe Htee Housing, Thamine Station St., Near the Bayint Naung Point, Mayangone Tsp., Yangon Tel : 522763, 522744, 667557. Fax : (95-1) 652174 E-mail : grandpalace@myanmar.com.mm

GREEN HILL HOTEL
No. 12, Pho Sein Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon Tel : (95-1) 209299, 209300, 209343, 209345, 209346 Fax : (95-1) 209344 E-mail : greenhill@myanmar.com.mm

Hotel Yangon
91/93, 8th Mile Junction, Tel : 01-667708, 667688.

Inya Lake Resort Hotel
37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

MGM Hotel No (160), Warden Street, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. +95-1-212454~9. www. hotel-mgm.com

MiCasa Hotel Apartments
17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. tel: 650933. fax: 650960.

PANDA hotel
No. 205, Corner of Wadan Street & Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon. Myanmar. Tel: (95-1) 212850 ~ 3, 229358 ~ 61, Fax: (95-1) 212854. info@myanmarpandahotel.com http://www.myanmarpandahotel.com

PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 250388. fax: 252478. email: enquiry.prygn@parkroyalhotels.com parkroyalhotels. com.

Royal White Elephant Hotel
No-11, Kan Street, Hlaing Tsp. Yangon, Myanmar. (+95-1) 500822, 503986. www.rwehotel.com

Sakura Residence
9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

Savoy Hotel
129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp. tel: 526289, 526298,

Sedona Hotel
Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

Strand Hotel
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Same as Rinnai Gas Cooker and Cooker Hood
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travel.evisa@gmail.com

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BY MAIL : 379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

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General

Education

STUDY GUIDE KG. to Primary 6 (international school) Tr . Hnin Ph . 09-4200-87050

HOME Tuition & Guide: For Pre-KG, Primary and Secondary Level. Specialized in Maths & Biology, Tr. Daw Khin Swe Win (B.E.H.S Thuwunna) Rtd. Ph: 09-730-99679.

IGCSE (all subjects) For IGCSE students sitting in May 2014 (or) Oct/Nov 2014 (or) Jan 2015, an international school graduate who passed with all distinctions in GCE O level and who has been producing students with highest possible marks, some obtain all distinctions with the help of co-teacher. The teachers have 12 years of teaching experience & the students can successfully sit for the exam after preparing with us. Ph: 09-513-9298, 09-732-55281

HOME TEACHING, KG - to - Primary 6 (International schools). Ph: 09-4200-87050

INTERNATIONAL Montessori Myanmar (English Education Center) Accredited by IMC Bangkok (Since 1991). Our Montessori curriculum includes: Practical Life Exercises, Sensorial Training, Language Development, Mathematics, Cultural Studies, Botany & Zoology, History, Creative Art, Music and Movement, Cooking, Physical Development, Social & Emotional Development. Learning through play. 55(B), Po Sein Rd, Bahan, Yangon. Tel: 546097, 546761. Email: imm.myn@gmail.com

Expert Services

USA to Yangon Online Shop : If you want to buy Handbag, Clothes, Make-up, Perfume, Phone & iPad, Electronics, Vitamins, Car Parts, Starbucks coffee bean, whatever from USA, we are ready to assist you. You can visit our Facebook Page for Great Sales Events, status update for your choice. Single party or other Online shopping services are warmly welcome to contact us. We will arrange for you with special service charges. There are 2 deliveries in every month. We can provide original invoice from USA. Pls call 09-2505-34703 for more detail.

EFFECTIVE ENGLISH Marketing Do you want to produce an effective marketing or advertising campaign in English but lack the English skills and marketing ideas to do so. I can help you to achieve this. I have a background in successful English marketing and advertising, including the internet, in the United Kingdom. I will work with you so that your company produces eye-catching marketing & advertising that attracts customer's attention. The result being increased sales. I can also help you design marketing strategies for reaching new customers. For more details contact us either by email: Kensington.yangon@gmail.com or Ph: 09-2507-90200

For Rent

CAR : suzuki splash (blue), year : 2012, mileage : 25,000 km, excellent condition. fee: $300~400 / month, no driver, only car. I am real owner, pls contact directly.ryankimaceyangon79@gmail.com Ph: 09-4313-2872

Language

FOR FOREIGNERS - We do teach Myanmar language 4 skills by (Teacher Tun). Available home tution or group class. Basic - 3 Months, Intermediate - 3 Months, Advanced - 3 Months. English Language : For adults & young learners, We do teach 4 skills face to face or gruop teaching. Available home tution or group class. Contact us : 09-4211-47821, 01-243420.

CHINESE (Mandarin) teacher here in Yangon, Myanmar. I have over 6 years teaching in Singapore. Pls do not hesitate to contact me for an evaluation. I'm a professional teacher who will help you improve your speaking, reading and writing skills. I use Singaporean text books and Chinese speaking/conversation books for teaching speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin. I'm available Monday-Saturday with a flexible schedule. I also teach Myanmar language & Text books to Foreigner. For more details please call the number below. If I don't answer please send me a sms and I will get back to you as soon as possible. May : 095 9-516-2988

LANGUAGE Proficiency : Effective & Scientific way. Tutor, Translator, Interperter (Such languages : Hindi, Sanskrit, Bengali, Nepali, English & Myanmar) R.S.Verma.B.Sc.,(Bot), Yangon. (UFL-English), Yangon. Email:rsverma.myanmar@gmail.com. Ph: 09-73042604.

SPEAKING Class (Myanmar, English, Chinese, Japanese). For foreigners - We do teach Myanmar Language 4 skills by (Teacher Tun). Available home tuition or group class. Basic Class - 3 Months. Intermediate Class - 3 Months. Advanced Class - 3 Months. English Language - For adults and young learners. We do teach 4 skills face to face group teaching. Available home tuition or group class. Chinese Language - For all grades & classes. (Taiwan Teacher Mr. Lin) teach 4 skills to be native speaker. Intend to go abroad to study or work students can contact us. Basic Class - 3 Months, Intermediate Class - 4 Months, Advanced Class - 6 Months, Super Advanced Class - 6 Months. We do service. Japanese Language - For all students who want to go to JAPAN for Work or study. We do teach 4 skills and practice very well. Contact us - 09-4211-47821, 01-243420.

ENGLISH for any age. I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in English as a Second Language from the USA and also have experience teaching adults English as well. If you want to improve your English skills for any variety of purposes email me and we will arrange a meeting. During the first meeting we will discuss your goals and objectives for learning English and develop a curriculum custom-tailored to your goals. Justin: jhemming@nmsi.org

GERMAN native teacher available for private individual courses or small groups. All levels possible. House calls on request. Call 09-421012160 for more information!

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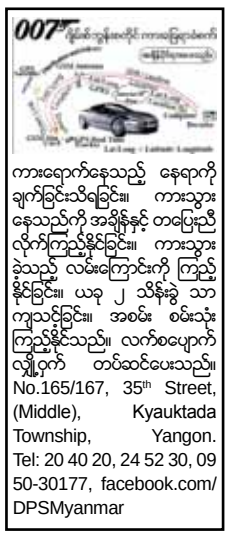

ကားရောက်နေသည့် နေရောကို ချက်ခြင်းသိရခြင်း။ ကားသွား နေသည်ကို အချိန်နှင့် တပြေးညီ လိုက်ကြည့်နိုင်ခြင်း။ ကားသွား ခဲ့သည့် လမ်းကြောင်းကို ကြည့် နိုင်ခြင်း။ ယခု ၂ သိန်းခွဲ သာ ကျသင့်ခြင်း။ အစမ်း စမ်းသုံး ကြည့်နိုင်သည်။ လက်စပျောက် လျှို့ဝှက် တပ်ဆင်ပေးသည်။
No.165/167, 35th Street, (Middle), Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel: 20 40 20, 24 52 30, 09 50-30177, facebook.com/DPSMyanmar

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Public Notices

1ST MYANMAR Bartenders' Competition 2014 Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA) will be holding the 1st Myanmar Bartenders' Competition on June 3rd and 4th 2014 at "DJ's BAR" in the compound of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. The prizes are for the winner Kyats 500,000, 2nd place winner Kyats 300,000 and 3rd place winner Kyats 200,000 plus Certificates and gifts. The first two winners will be eligible to compete in the Final 11th AHRA / ASEAN BARTENDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 to be held on June 2 in Yangon, Myanmar Convention Centre also. The 3rd place winner will be a reserve for the Championship. Pls obtain the Application forms from the following places as well as by downloading From www.myanmar-restaurantassociation.com, (1). Monsoon Restaurant & Bar :85/87, Theinbyu Rd, Bohtahtaung, (2). Padonmar Restaurant : 105-107, Kha Yay Pin Rd, Dagon, (3).Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA) : 40/42, 5th Flr, Bo Sun Pat St, Pabedan, Yangon, Tel: 09-2500-87536, 09-731-92200, 09-500-0164, 09-518-3545, Email : mraorg2011@gmail.com, nyinyi2006@gmail.com, hanthi.hts@gmail.com, Application Closing Date is May 20, 2014.

WOULD you like to kill Two birds with One stone? If so conduct your meeting at Mary Chapman School for the Deaf "Holding a meeting means donating the Deaf children" Rooms available: (1).Air con room for 25 person per day kyats50,000/(fifty thousand) (2).Air con room for 50 person per day kyats80,000/(eighty thousand) (3).Hall for 100 person above per day kyats100,000/(one hundred thousand) Reservation please! Mary Chapman School for the Deaf : No. 2, Thantaman St, (Near American center), Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 01-221872, 01-218342, 01-218343. "Those who see what God sees… find ways to help the HELPESS"

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Property

Rent/Sale

49TH ST, middle block, 6th Flr, 1500 Sqft, 25 x 60, 1 MBR with Bath Tub, western toilet, 1BR, Teak wood floor, Hot & Cold shower, Bath tub, 4 Air con, Laundry room, Tilling floor Kitchen, Fully finished, Very comfort walk up stair, Nice and Clean excellence location in Yangon. Call us - 09-507-6675, 09-2500-13963, 09-503-9498.

Housing for Rent

DAGON SEIK KAN, Yuzana Garden city, 2 bed rooms, 4th floor, B block, # 1 road, 150 lkhs, please contact 09-4480-45381 , 09-4210-4486, 09-2500-78808

(1).Near Park Royal hotel , Bo Yar Nyunt St, 800Sqft, 2 flat, 3 SR fully furnish,1600 USD (2). Near Sakura tower, 1250 Sqft , with lift, 1 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish , 2100 USD. (3).Pansodan St, near Ruby Mart, 1250 Sqft, 1 SR, part of furnish, 1600 USD. (4).China town , 1500 Sqft, 1 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, 3500 USD. (5). Near Union bar, Strand Rd, 1200 sqft, 1 MBR, 2 SR, 2500 USD. (6)Near Indian Embassy, 1300 Sqft, 2 MBR, 1 SR, fully furnish, 2500 USD. 09-4921-4276, 09-4211-77105

(1).Near MICP park, 3000 Sqft, 1 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish , 4500 USD. (2).9 Mile Ocean condo , 1800 Sqft, 1 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, 2500 USD. (3). Near Hle Tan center, 2000 Sqft, 2 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, 2000 USD.(4). Near Taw Win center, 1250 Sqft, 2 Flat , 1 MBR, 2 SR, 2500 USD. (5).Golden Valley, 2 RC, 6500 Sqft, 2 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, 5000 USD. (6).Yankin housing, 7500 Sqft, 7 MBR,2 SR, fully furnish 12000 USD. (7). Parami Rd, 1 RC, 5600 Sqft, near MICP Park, 1 MBR, 2 SR, 6000 USD. (8).7 Mile , 2 RC, 7500 Sqft, 2 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, 6000 USD. (9). Yankin center, 1250 Sqft, 1 MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish , 2500 USD. Ph: 09-4921-4276, 09-4211- 77105

KAMAYUT, 25×55 newly condo with fully funished to let in Hledan Centre at Hledan Junction. No need to pay monthly service charges(not including electricity and water) and a free fixed car parking for one. 25lakhs or 2500$ per month. contact 09-732-05178

CLASSIC STRAND Condo, 3 bed 2 bath, modern design/decor, wide open layout, 1550 square feet, 8th floor corner unit river view. $3600/month. Strand Road, 5min walk to Hilton/Center Point offices. jasonwongjp@gmail.com, 09-4211-02223

CLASSIC STRAND Condo, 2200 sqft commercial/residence for sale or rent. 3rd floor, wide open layout, 14 foot ceilings. Gym, cafe, facilities. Prime downtown location, close to strand hotel/union bar. jasonwongjp@gmail.com 09-4211-02223

CENTRAL CITY Residence minutes from Park Royal, marble/hardwood premium fittings, modern design. 4 rooms 3 bathroom (2 master w/ attached bath) 1955sqft Starting from $3800/month unfurnished. jasonwongjp@gmail.com, 09421102223

PYAE Wa Condo, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Tsp. Room Space - 2200sqft, including 1MBR, 2BR, living room, dining room & kitchen room each. Facilities-Lift, 24hr (security, electricity & water supply), Satellite, Phone, Wi-Fi Furniture - fully decorated & furnished. All Furniture Included. Location-only 3 and 5 min drive to Sedona Hotel and Inya Lake Hotel respectively. (USD-3400 per month). Contact Person: SoeMoe@Steve. Mobile Ph :09-4200-33959, 09-3128-6535

Housing for Sale

RUBBER Lands for Sales (1) Between Bago Hantharwaddy Airport and Main Rd. Rubber Lands - 300 Acres (including rubber plants aged 5 years) (2) Near Bago Hantharwaddy Airport Rubber Lands - 60 Acres (including Required Official Documents) Contact - 09-2540-88487, 09-4523-36822

CLASSIC STRAND Condo, 2200 sq ft commercial/residence for sale. 3rd floor, wide open layout, 14 foot ceilings. Gym, cafe, facilities. Prime downtown location, close to strand hotel/union bar. Great value psf jasonwongjp@gmail.com 09-4211-02223

CHAUNG THA (Near Pathein) , Brick 25' x 50' on 40' x 70' of Land, with well, 300 gallon water tank, Septic tank, Solar power, 200m from beach, 500m from village, 390 Lakhs/ US$ 39000. Call 09-4250-10128, Email: howww@gmail.com, akhinmoeato@gmail.com.

Rent For Model Building

Beside of 6 lane Bayintnaung Bridge Main Road, In Front of FMI City, corner of Pan Hlaing Gold Club Road, 4 storey with Ascalator, Life, Meetin Room, Ball Room (300 Person) Floor area 140000 sqft, including 250 car park, Roof Salad floor for Telecom Radio Station and Satellite Tower accept, Telecom Co., Ltd, Petroleum Co. Ltd, Shopping Mall, Electric Mall open good location, Available Rent for office
contact to - **09 250115860, 09 250115822**

Employment

UN Positions

(1)**WASH Engineer** 1 post (2)**EOC Officer** 1 post (3)**Project Officer** 1 post (4)**Field Assistant** 1 post Application process: Pls send your application letter, CV and related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) Yazatingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Ormrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com For more information & application, pls visit to www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org Please mention "Position Title" in subject if you apply.

Local Positions

GO GO UP Co., Ltd is seeking (1) **Travel Operation Manager** 1 post : Well versed in CRS used in the industry like abacus, Amadeus, Established network of contacts with domestic hotels, airlines, transport and tour operators, Experience with setting up a tour agency preferred, Independent, hands-on and self-motivated team player, Knowledgeable and passionate about travel industry with excellent customer service, Must be able to speak/read/write English fluently, 3 years of experience in established travel agency, managerial experience would have an advantage, Able to work on weekends and holidays when needed. (2) **Reservation Executive :** Good English language skill, Experience in reservation/ tour work, Able to handle group and individual reservation, Highly motivated, resourceful, open minded and trust worthy, Preferable degree or diploma related to the post, 2 years experience with reservation department. Pls submit a detailed updated CV with a recent passport photo via online gogoupmm@gmail.com

AMD, the leading & prospective company is seeking (1)**Sales Executive / Sales Engineer** (Medical) -M/F 10 posts : Any graduate, Sciences Degree is preferable, Age 22 ~ 30, Able to travel(2) **Engineer** (Water Treatment) - M/F 10 posts : ME/BE/ B.Tech (Mechanical/Electrical/ Mechantronic), Age 25 ~ 35, Able to travel (3) **Receptionist/Office Secretary** - F 3 posts : Any graduat, Age 20 ~ 30. For all posts : Computer knowledge, Microsoft office applications, Good spoken & written English, 1 year experience. Pls bring CV with recent photo, NRC copy & relevant documents to 39/B, Thazin lane, Ahlone (Opposite to Central Women Hospital). Ph: 218437, 218438. Email:amd@yangon.net.mm/ amdstaff@optusnet.com.au

HORIZON Int'l School is seeking (1).**Teacher** - For Primary School: Myanmar language, Music, PE. For Secondary School: Myanmar language, Music, PE, ICT. For High School: Mathematics, Economics. For Kinder gartens: swimming. Requirements : 4 years experience, Strong Classroom Management skills (2).**Kindergarten Assistant Teachers / Lab Assistant** - F 3 posts : Age 20 ~ 25, University graduate, Proficient in English, Computer & Microsoft Office literacy, (3).**Supervisor** - M 2 posts: Age 25 ~ 40, Passed matriculation examination, Good command of English, Pleasant & helpful skills, Can work under pressure, Must have supervisory skill &and five years experience. Pls submit a cover letter, a resume/CV, a copy of relevant diploma (certificate) & a current photo to the Recruitment team at recruitment@horizonmyanmar.com or to Horizon Po Sein Campus, Po Sein Rd 25, Bahan, Yangon on/ before May 30, 2014. Ph: 543-926, 551-795.

EXECUTIVE Personal Assistant to CEO (Manager Level) USD 500- 700 : Must have experience in foreign/JV company, Professional, tactful and discreet, with ability to communicate effectively to all levels within the organization, Ability to handle daily traffic email and to prioritize list of those reply that have to be made by CEO personally, Must have widely knowledge about Engineering based operation, supporting and trading sectors, Must have excellent skills in English & Microsoft Package, Able to work under pressure, Candidate must be over 30. Please send your CV and a cover letter, including your salary expectations, to Email-thelondoner007@gmail.com.

GENERAL MANAGER : Any graduate with higher Degree of MBA in management field preferable M/F Age 35 ~ 40 years. 5 years experience. Fluent in English. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Able to plan & implement the good marketing strategies & able to achieve sales targets. Computer literate. (2) **Admin Manager** - Any degree with diploma/ certificate in HR & Administration Management in business administration. Age 25 - 35. 4 ~ 5 years of experience. Good knowledge in HR policies, practices & organization development. Computer proficiency. Good in English. (3) **Personal Assistant :** Age 20 ~ 25 years, Using a variety of software packages, such as Microsoft Word, Outlook, Power point, Excel, Access, etc., to produce correspondence and documents and maintain presentations, records, spreadsheets & databases; devising and maintaining office systems; booking rooms and conference facilities; using content management systems to maintain and update websites and internal databases; attending meetings, taking minutes and keeping notes; managing and maintaining budgets, as well as invoicing; liaising with staff in other departments & with external contacts; ordering and maintaining stationery & equipment; sorting and distributing incoming post and organizing and sending outgoing post; liaising with colleagues and external contacts to book travel & accommodation; No 172, Anawrahta Rd, Kyauktada Tsp. Ph: 389277.

AMARA GROUP Co., Ltd, are currently looking for (1)**Finance Manger**- 5 years experience : 1 post, (2)**Chief Accountant** - 5 years experience : 1 post, (3) **HR Manger** - 5 years experience : 1 post, (4) **Purchaser** - 2 years experience : 1 post,(5) **Personal Manager** - 5 years experience : 1 post, (6)**Sales & Marketing** - 2 years experience 4 posts, (7) **Admin Officer** - 2 years experience - 1 post, Be part of a young dynamic team & contribute to the hotels success with your expertise & experience. We look forward receiving your CV in English to amaragroup.mmw@gmail.com. Ph: 663347, 652191.

MYANMAR FIBER Optic Communication Network Co., Ltd (MFOCN) is seeking **account Manager** : Act as a lead point of contact to your specific customers, build & maintain strong & long term customer relations; ensure timely solutions to customers; communicate smoothly with the internal & external stakeholders; forecast & track key account metrics. Qualifications : BA/BS degree or equivalent; be passionate, proactive, with high team work spirit; 2+years of account management; strong listening, negotiation & presentation abilities; proven abilities to manage multiple tasks at the same time; attention to detaills. Add : FG-54, Song Hnin Thazin Rd, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar. Yangon. Ms Yin Yin: 09-4026-17058.

PARKWAY Cancer Centre is seeking(1) **Medical Doctor** - F 1 post : M.B,B.S Graduate with SA MA registration, 2 years experience in medical field, (2)**Accountant** F 1 post : A degree from university preferably accounting & marketing background. LCCI level 3 , Age above 35, For all posts : Good communication in English, 2 years experience, Able to use computer, internet and Microsoft application with excellent skills. We welcome the candidates who are trust worthy, self-motivated & outstanding, willing to learn and able to focus on work, be polite & hospitality, able to communicate in courteous manners and must have positive working attitude. Pls submit CV with recent photocopy of relevant certificates & documents, describe working experience from graduation till present and expected salary. Ps submit CV with relevant certificates, documents, recommendation letter attach and documents, & expected salary. Parkway Cancer Centre Rm G-07, G Flr, Diamond Center, Pyay Rd, Kamayut. Tel : 532-438, 532-447, 09-513-6584

WE ARE looking for (1) **AdminExecutive**:2years relevant experiences, Provides admin support to MD, Have good organizational skill with the ability to problem solve, pay attention to detail and deliver work to a high standard, Excellent interpersonal skills with a good command in both spoken & written English. (2)**Operations Manager** : 2 years relevant working experiences in the tourism & car rental industry, Fluent in English, Oversee the day to day operations of the transport department, Must have good people management skills, Must ensure that all vehicles are properly maintained and serviced. Pls state your expected salary and email resume to : naychi-mgt@myanmar.com.mm

MEDIA & Advertising Agency, looking for an aggressive and outgoing Female **Marketing Services Manager** : 2 years similar working experiences, Must be fluent in both spoken & written English, Responsible for marketing the company's services, Must be able to organize and manage events independently, Must love meeting new people and must be able to maintain excellent customer services to key client contacts. Interested candidates, please state expected salary & email resume to naychi-mgt@myanmar.com.mm

URGENTLY Needed (1) **Office Staff / Computer Operator** - M/F 2 post : good in English, can type Myanmar/ English, Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Photo shop, Internet, Email, Facebook (2) **Marketing Staff** - M/F 2 post : Full Time job. Part time applicant also welcome. Pls send CV to successpoint.mm@gmail.com, 09-503-7621

F&N FOODS Pte., Ltd (Yangon Branch Office) is currently seeking **Office Manager** - 1 post, **Marketing Services Manager** - 1 post, **Supply Chain Manager** - 1 post, **Brand Manager/ Executive** - 3 posts, **Trade Marketing Executive** - 2 posts, **Route to Market Development Executive** - 2 posts. Pls apply with full CV/Resume indicating expected salary, position of interest, qualifications, educational background and recent photo not later than (10.5.14). For all posts : Good command in English & computer skill. Only short list candidate will be notified by phone for interview. Pls submit to 39, Aung Theikdi Avenue, (1) Lane, Ward (3), Mayangon, Yangon. Tel: 01-522674 (or) Email: 100plusmyanmar@gmail.com

PAN ASIA Majestic Eagle ltd is in the commencement of telecommunication network deployment in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and builds telecommunication towers. Our company is now seeking the following talented Civil Engineers for serving our expansion plan; **Site Engineer** - 15 posts. Deadline for Application : Open until filled. Duties & Responsibilities : Undertake technical & feasibility studies including site investigation, Check and monitor the assigned tasks, Resolving design & development problems, Ensuring project runs smoothly and structures are completed on time. Qualifications : Must be GTC, B.Tech or BE specialized in Civil Engineering, Age above 22 years, Work away from home for periods of time, frequent visits to sites, Must take accountability, Possess management & team building skills, Be able to communicate in the English. Pls submit an Application, CV with current & expected salary, NRC copy, labour registration copy & recent photo as soon as possible to hr@panasiatower.net, sandar.htun@panasiatower.net.

JOB VACANCIES

DAEWOO INTERNATIONAL — SHWE

As a leading global company, Daewoo International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) is seeking an energetic, reliable and qualified person to fill a position for its ongoing operations of Oil & Gas Industry in Myanmar.

QA/QC Engineer (1 post)
(Quality Assurance & Quality Control Engineer)
- Engineering degree(s)
- Minimum 10 years professional experience in a relevant field
- Solid knowledge and understanding of Quality Assurance & Quality Control
- Strong willingness to learn from working environment and support colleagues

Aviation Coordinator (1 post)
- University Graduate (prefer Aero Engineering)or related discipline
- Minimum 3 years professional experience in a relevant field
- Solid knowledge and understanding of rules and regulations of aviation service
- Knowledge of technical and operational aviation within the offshore industry
- Preferably has HUET or BOSIET certification

Aviation Assistant (1 post)
- University Graduate in language or business discipline
- Minimum 1 year professional experience in a foreign or local company in multinational business culture
- Preferable basic knowledge and understanding of rules and regulations of aviation service

Assistant Contract Engineer (1 post)
- University Graduate (prefer Law, Engineering or Business)
- Preferable experience in a relevant field
- Background knowledge of contract management or project management or procurement
- Preferable knowledge in Oil & Gas Industry

Accounts (3 posts)
- University degree in finance and accounting or equivalent;
- CPA, ACCA or CAT holder
- Preferable experience in computerized accounting system (especially SAP),
- Accountant (2 posts) : Minimum of 3 years professional experience
- Accountant (Tax) (1 post) : Minimum of 3 years professional experience, Working experience of Myanmar Tax accounting will be given preference, Solid knowledge and understanding of Myanmar Tax Law

Assistant Cost Controller (1 post)
(2 years contract term and extendable)
- University Graduate in finance and accounting or equivalent
- Minimum 1 year experience (prefer in Oil & Gas industry)
- Able to use computerized accounting ERP system (SAP)
- Previous working experience in similar position will be given preference

All the positions are required proficiency in English language and Computer MS Office Suite.

Application closing date is 28th May 2014

Interested persons who meet the above mentioned qualifications are invited to submit their CV, application letter, recent photo and copies of academic transcripts to the following address:

HR & Admin Department
Daewoo International Corporation (Myanmar E&P)
International Business Center
No. 88, Pyay Road, 6½ Miles, Hlaing Township, Yangon.
Or e-mail to **hr.recruitment@daewooenp.com**

Vacancy Announcement

Yangon International School (YIS) is looking for candidates for the following positions.

(1) Secretary to Principal (M/F)

Bachelor degree or higher and minimum 2 years of relevant experience or administrative work. Good command of both written and oral English and Myanmar languages and ability to translate English materials to Myanmar and vice versa, service minded, ability to work in team, flexible, excellent computer skills, and ability to manage several tasks simultaneously.

(2) Director for Maintenance and Facility (M/F)

Bachelor degree or higher and minimum 4 years of relevant experience. Previous knowledge of facility management, procurement and maintenance coordination. Good command of both English and Myanmar languages, good interpersonal skills with self-motivation, good computer skills, service minded, ability to work in team, lead others to get things done efficiently, and manage several tasks simultaneously.
Remunerations for successful candidates will be competitive.

Applicants are requested to send a **CV and a brief cover letter by May 20, 2014** explaining their interest in the position via email to **twphyo@yismyanmar.com** or to the following address:
YIS, 117, Thumingalar Lannmagyi, Thumingalar Housing, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Phone: 01 578171, 09420163769. Website : yismyanmar.com
We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for personal interview.

PADECO

PADECO Co., Ltd., a Japan-based consulting firm is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the following positions for a primary education project in Myanmar:

General Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Background in education
- Passion and dedication for better education for Myanmar's children
- Reliability and excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Basic computer proficiency

No.	Position	Language Proficiency Requirements
1.	Curriculum Officer – Mathematics	English
2.	Curriculum Officer – Science	English
3.	Curriculum Officer – Myanmar Language	Japanese
4.	Curriculum Officer – English	English
5.	Curriculum Officer – Social Studies	English
6.	Curriculum Officer – Physical Education & Agriculture	Japanese
7.	Curriculum Officer – Art & Music Education	Japanese
8.	Teacher Education Officer	English
9.	Communication Officer	English
10.	Project Secretary – Logistics	English
11.	Project Secretary – IT and Administration	English
12.	Training Monitoring Officer (medium-term)	English
13.	Classroom Monitoring Officer (short-term)	English
14.	Training Support Staff	English
15.	Translator (Myanmar – English)	English
16.	Translator (Myanmar – Japanese)	Japanese
17.	Interpreter (Myanmar – Japanese) (short-term)	Japanese
18.	Typist (short-term)	English

All positions are based in Yangon.
Please send a cover letter and your updated resume to hmiyahara@padeco.co.jp, with the email title stating the position and your full name.
Applications will be accepted until 19 May or until the positions are filled.
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for interviews.

RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil no war zone: sports minister

BRAZILIAN sports minister Aldo Rebelo admitted May 6 the World Cup faced "serious" security problems – but said the country was not a war zone like Iraq or Afghanistan.

Riots rocked Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana Beach district last month and fears about safety for thousands of football fans visiting Brazil were heightened on May 2 by the fatal shooting of a man during a clash with police close to the England team hotel in the city.

"We all have our tragedies and challenges, serious problems relating to security," said Rebelo as he embarked on a spirited defense of Brazil, which is racing to be ready to host the World Cup from June 12 and has had to deal with years of negative press headlines.

But calling for perspective, he said, "I don't think the English will confront greater threats in Manaus than in the Iraqi provinces or Afghanistan, where they recently lost hundreds of young soldiers."

He did though concede that in Rio in particular, which hosts seven games including the final on July 13, there is "day-to-day civil violence ... but we are taking precautions".

That includes drafting a huge security force of 150,000 police and 20,000 private security agents for a tournament expected to attract some 3 million Brazilians and 600,000 foreign tourists.

Rio authorities deployed 2,000 more police last week – earlier than scheduled – after the clashes between military police and residents of a slum just a short walk from the Copacabana Beach tourist drag.

Copacabana will host Rio's "fan fest" parties during the World Cup for ticketless supporters staying in a city whose huge slums are havens of gang violence and drug trafficking which police are struggling to contain.

Rebelo also took aim at the British tabloid media for stories about crime in Manaus – where England open their tournament campaign against Italy on June 14.

One report last year headlined "Murderous Manaus" described the city as "one of the deadliest places on earth" with a homicide rate of three murders per day – triple that of Rio.

England coach Roy Hodgson admitted his team had wanted to avoid the venue, not least for its energy-sapping Amazon heat.

"The English got used to hot temperatures during the colonial era – and the Iraq war," Rebelo said in a not-so-subtle dig.

While saluting Brazil's "firm links with Britain", he could not resist an additional barb.

Noting the northeastern coastal city of Recife hosts a British cemetery, a relic of a sea-faring colonial power's historic tropical adventures, he said, "I don't think its population will rise because of the World Cup!"

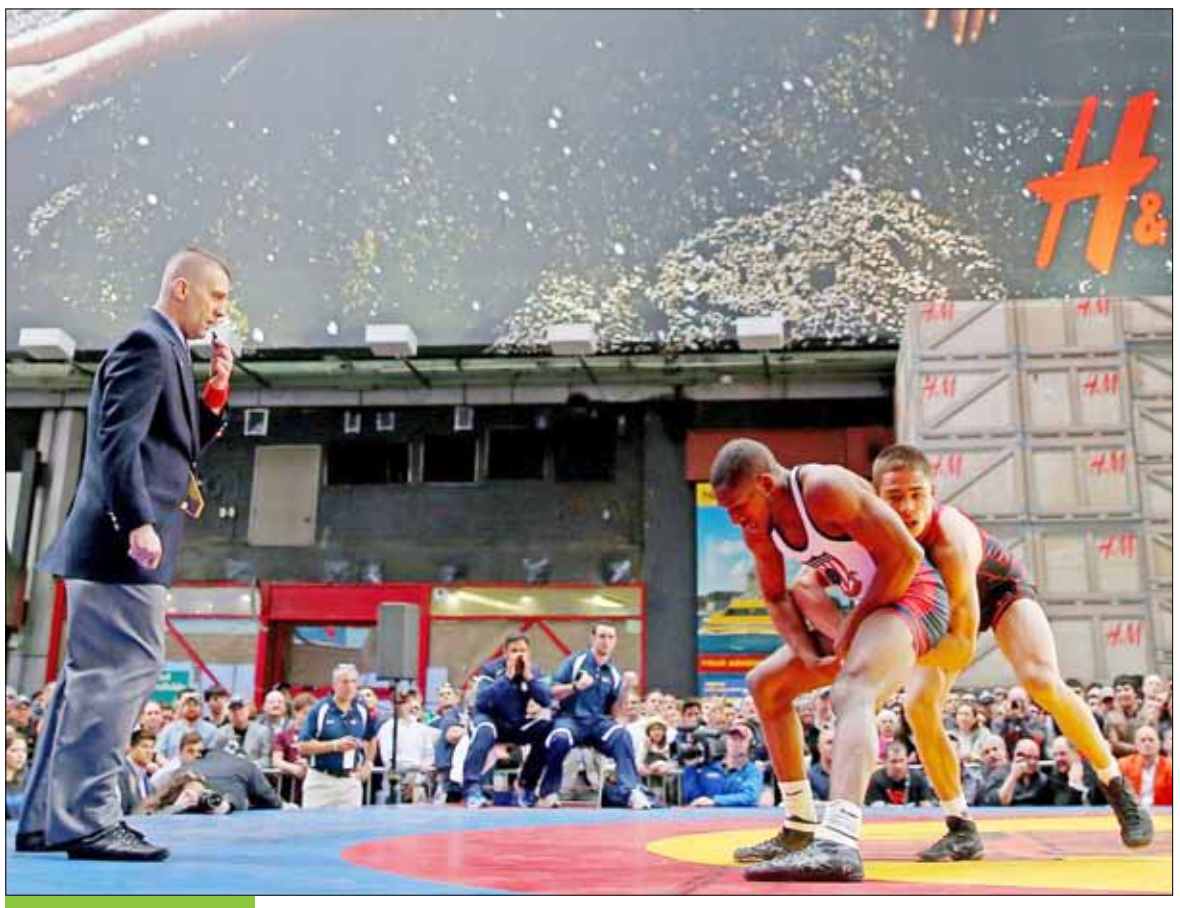
Rebelo said violence had rocked several sporting events around the world in the past, citing the Munich Olympics massacre and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing, as well as suicide bombings in the lead-up to the Sochi Olympics in February.

France also got the Rebelo treatment for "frequent problems in the metro" in Paris – while social problems sometimes had seen its suburbs erupt "in flames".

Promising "modern, sophisticated" security for the World Cup, Rebelo said Brazil would cope with popular protests expected to occur during the event – some Brazilians have slammed corruption and the Cup costs, estimated at more than US$11 billion.

"Brazil has constitutional protection for demonstrations but the law prohibits violent protests," he warned.

"We will do everything to protect the population. We have our deficiencies but will tackle the problems and overcome them." – *AFP*



IN PICTURES

Battle in the Big Apple: Nahshon Garrett of the USA and Georgi Vangelov of Bulgaria compete during the Beat the Streets Wrestling Exhibition in Times Square on May 7 in New York City. *Photo: AFP*

NEW YORK

Shelly Sterling wants to keep Clippers: report

SHELLY Sterling says she wants to maintain ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers, even though the league is seeking to oust her husband from the team he has owned since 1981.

Clippers co-owner Shelly Sterling told the *Los Angeles Times* on May 7 that she believes she has a legal right to run the team and that the sanctions levelled against her husband, Donald Sterling, don't apply to her.

Shelly Sterling also said she has hired a lawyer to help her with the control bid.

The Clippers are held in a family trust which Shelly Sterling shares 50-50 with her husband, the *Times* said. In the event one dies, the surviving spouse gets the other share.

Donald Sterling has owned the team for 33 years and in that time its value has skyrocketed from the US$12.5 million he initially paid for it. Some experts say the team might be worth up to $1 billion now.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling, the longest-tenured NBA team owner, for life after racist remarks he made in a private conversation with a girlfriend were made public.

The comments, first released by celebrity website TMZ, included Sterling saying he didn't want his girlfriend bringing black people to Clippers games.

A firestorm of outrage followed, and Silver banned Donald Sterling and fined the 80-year-old real estate mogul $2.5 million dollars, the maximum allowed under league rules.

NBA owners also started the process of setting up a vote to strip the team from Sterling, a move that could push him to sell the Clippers. Donald Sterling has yet to comment on the leaked tapes but some are expecting him to try and take the NBA to court in a legal fight that could be bitter and lengthy.

Shelly Sterling's continued presence in the organisation could prove problematic for the league because, like her husband, she has been accused of making racists comments in earlier lawsuits connected to the family's real estate business, the *Times* said.

One former Sterling property manager accused Shelly Sterling in a deposition about a decade ago of instructing her not to rent to people that belonged to specific racial groups.

Meanwhile, NBA officials met to discuss the league's bid to strip Donald Sterling of his team on May 7 but have not settled on a timeline for action.

A statement by NBA executive vice president Mike Bass said members of the league's Advisory/Finance committee had spoken again in a conference call.

"The Committee reviewed the status of the search for a new CEO of the Los Angeles Clippers, was updated on meetings held this week between NBA Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum and Clippers employees, and addressed the process and timing regarding the termination of Mr Sterling's ownership of the team," Bass said.

A further meeting will take place this week. – *AFP*

CLERMONT-FERRAND

Female coach hailed as landmark

FRENCH second division club Clermont on May 7 named Portugal's Helena Costa as coach, making her the highest-level woman running a men's team in a major European championship.

Costa, 36, is known in her home country as "Mourinho in a skirt" and has established a reputation as coach of the women's national sides in Qatar and Iran.

She learned the managerial trade with Benfica in Portugal and has worked as a scout for top clubs like Scottish champions Celtic.

"This nomination will allow Clermont Foot 63 to enter a new era," said a club statement announcing the appointment.

Clermont Foot are 14th in the French second division with two matches to play. Current coach Regis Brouard will leave at the end of this season.

Clermont president Claude Michy said he had wanted to make a "landmark" choice and that based on her CV Costa should be coaching a Champions League team.

But he added that he has already warned Costa that he is a "macho".

"It's the first thing I told her. The choice was complicated in my mind," Michy told AFP.

"Football people are surprised but there are lots of women leaders in business and politics. In Germany the chancellor is a women. You have to be provocative sometimes," said Michy, a businessman.

Before Costa's appointment, Carolina Morace was the most notable woman coach in the key European leagues. Morace was manager at Italian Serie C1 side Viterbese for just two matches in 1999, quitting because of the media pressure.

Vanessa Mangsen, 30, has been coach of Swedish fourth division side IFK Holmsund since February. The club announced on its Facebook page that it wanted a woman coach.

The historic move in naming a woman boss vaulted Clermont out of their relative obscurity.

"Bravo Clermont Foot for understanding that giving a place to women is the future of professional football," commented France's Women's Rights Minister Najat Belkacem on Twitter.

"We would like to congratulate Helena sincerely on taking up this new role," said a Celtic spokesperson.

Clermont supporters were delighted by the move.

"It surprised us when we read the club statement. But once we got over it we all believe that it is a good thing," said Veronique Soulier, president of the Clermont Foot Supporters Club.

"The boys in the team can be difficult to manage. They can be quite sensitive. That is what the other coaches have told us. With a woman in charge maybe they will be less demanding," said Soulier, herself a rare woman head of a supporters' club in France.

Costa took her first Portuguese Football Federation coaching course at the age of 21, coming first out of 120 mainly male participants.

She also has a UEFA coaching qualification and passed degrees in sports science.

After helping Benfica's youth team to second place in the national championship in 2005 she was briefly coach at amateur side Cheleiros and guided them to the Lisbon regional championship.

Costa took over the Qatar women's team in 2010 and moved to Iran's women's side in 2012. She left Iran in September last year. – *AFP*

Football coach Helena Costa in action on May 26, 2012. Photo: AFP

NEW YORK

Durant named NBA's Most Valuable Player

OKLAHOMA City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, the NBA's top scorer for the fourth time in five seasons, was named the league's Most Valuable Player for the 2013-14 campaign on May 6.

It's the first MVP award for the Thunder superstar and the first for the franchise, which began as the Seattle Supersonics before moving to the American heartland.

Durant received 1232 points in balloting for the honour. That included 119 first-place votes from a panel of 124 voters that consisted of sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada as well as an NBA.com MVP fan vote.

"It's just a surreal feeling," Durant said. "I never thought I could make it through college to the NBA and be standing here as the NBA Most Valuable Player.

"I failed so many times and got back up. I went through the toughest times but I'm still standing."

Durant recalled his youth when his mother Wanda struggled to feed him, his sister and two brothers as they moved from apartment to apartment in suburban Washington.

"You sacrificed for us," Durant told his mother. "You are the real MVP."

Durant, wiping away tears at times and his voice choking on many others, thanked teammates as he recalled personal moments of encouragement and acts of support.

"I don't know why I'm crying so much, man," said Durant. "I go home and think about that stuff. When you have people behind you, you can do anything. I love all you guys. This is our trophy.

"You made me believe in myself. You made me a better player and a better person. You all mean so much to me. I could walk in and see [you smile] and that could change my day."

Miami's LeBron James, winner of the last two MVP awards and four of the last five, finished second in the voting with 891 points and six first-place ballots.

"Much respect to him. He deserves it," James said of Durant. "He had a big-time MVP season."

Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was third with 434 points and Chicago's Joakim Noah was fourth on 322.

Durant, 25, averaged a career-best 32.0 points per game and averaged a career-high 5.5 assists and 7.4 rebounds a game. Only Michael Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain and Elgin Baylor had such high marks in each category in a single NBA season.

"If I wanted the MVP, I had to go take it," Durant said. "This is the year I did that."

32

Average points per game for Kevin Durant during the 2013-14 season

Marc Gasol (33) of the Memphis Grizzlies drives to the basket against Kevin Durant (35) of the Oklahoma City Thunder on May 1 in Memphis, Tennessee. Photo: AFP

With four career season scoring titles, Durant matched Allen Iverson and George Gervin for third on the all-time list, trailing only Jordan's 10 and seven by Chamberlain.

To younger and newer Thunder players, Durant said, "You guys make me so much better without knowing it. I know I set an example. I know I say words I'm not supposed to say. When I need you, you give me that extra push.

"I'm not always the best leader, the best player. Just as much as you think I'm making you better, you elevate my game."

Durant gave his highest praise to Russell Westbrook, holding his MVP trophy and telling him, "You have a big piece of this. You are an MVP-caliber player."

Durant shot better than 50 percent for a second consecutive season and 39.1 percent from three-point range. His 703 free throws made from 805 attempted were both league highs, giving him an 87.3 percent success rate from the line.

"He strived to be the best player he could possibly be and he has done it with such a pure heart that it inspires his coaches and teammates alike," said Thunder coach Scott Brooks.

"He is as humble a superstar as you will ever run across."

Durant led Oklahoma City to 59 regular-season victories and the second seed in the Western Conference behind San Antonio, even though star teammate Westbrook missed almost half the season.

"The thing that made him the Most Valuable Player for us this season was to step up when we were without Russell ... [they recognise] that it was best for him to step back a little bit and let the team function at its full capacity," Thunder general manager Sam Presti said.

During the regular season, Durant put together a streak of 41 games in a row with 25 points or more, surpassing Jordan's 40-game run for the third-longest such streak in NBA history.

And he came through when it mattered, leading all players this season in "clutch points" – points scored in the final five minutes of a game when five points or less separated the contestants. – *AFP*

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Sport

Brazil no war zone: concerns over violence ahead of World Cup

SPORT 70

SINGAPORE

Agassi picks Nadal over Federer as all-time best player

ANDRE Agassi has picked Rafael Nadal ahead of Grand Slam record-holder Roger Federer when asked to choose the best player in tennis history, a report said on May 8.

The American, putting a new slant on one of the sport's great debates, said he prefers Nadal because the Spaniard has thrived in an ultra-competitive "golden age of tennis".

17

Number of Grand Slam titles held by Roger Federer

"I'd put Nadal number one, Federer number two," the eight-time Grand Slam-winner told Singapore's *Straits Times* in an interview.

"Federer separated himself from the field for four years. He separated himself from [Andy] Roddick and [Lleyton] Hewitt," Agassi added.

"Nadal had to deal with Federer, [Novak] Djokovic, [Andy] Murray in the golden age of tennis. He has done what he has done and he's not done yet."

Conventional wisdom ranks Federer ahead of Nadal, as the Swiss holds a record 17 Grand Slam titles against 13 for the current world number one.

But Nadal has a convincing 23-10 head-to-head record against Federer and is one Australian Open victory away from becoming only the third man to win all four Grand Slam titles twice.

"He has won multiple [majors], every single one [more than once] except the Australian Open – and give him another year on that," Agassi said.

"It's just remarkable to me what he has done, and he has done it all during Federer's prime."

Agassi added that he did not discount Australia's Rod Laver, two-time winner of the calendar-year Grand Slam, when rating the greatest player of all time.

And he confirmed he would play in the Singapore leg of the inaugural International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) after the dates were rejigged to avoid Thanksgiving – as long as the event goes ahead.

"It seems like it's all happening. I just can't make any promises I can't control. What I can't control [is] if [the event] really exists or not," he said.

"But if it's happening, I'm absolutely going to be there and I will spend time leading up [to the event] playing."

Agassi had initially balked at playing on Thanksgiving weekend, but Singapore is now due to host the IPTL December 2-4, according to the report.

Despite a player draft in March, some details of the made-for-TV, four-stop competition remain murky. – *AFP*

Spanish player Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Juan Monaco during their men's singles second-round tennis match of the Madrid Masters. Photo: AFP

SINGAPORE

Asian Tour chief says good times will return

BETTER times are around the corner for regional golf after a lull in fortunes left some players struggling to make a living, Asian Tour CEO Mike Kerr says.

Kerr called it a "challenging" time for Asian golf with sponsors hard to find and only seven confirmed stroke play events on this year's Asian Tour schedule so far.

But he said the Asian Tour was about to announce another four tournaments for the coming months and hoped to have a total of 25 by the end of the year, the same as last season.

Kerr's comments came after golfers at last week's Championship in Singapore voiced unhappiness at a lack of playing opportunities.

"I can understand some of the frustrations that they may have at this point," Kerr said at the Asian Tour's headquarters in Singapore on May 7.

"There have been some external factors that have meant that maybe our ability to announce events has been somewhat restricted.

"But I think come the end of the year, we're going to have a similar number of tournaments [to last year], if not more, in what is a fairly tough year."

Kerr said uncertainty over elections in India and also political unrest in Thailand, both key countries for the Asian Tour, had hit attempts to organise tournaments this year.

But he conceded that with playing opportunities staying flat for at least the short-term, some golfers in the region may be forced out of the game.

"This is just like any other sport and indeed any other profession, where those who are successful continue, and continue to grow and rise to the top," he said.

"All I can continue to do is to help to steer the organisation ... and deliver more and more opportunities for the players to earn money. But I can't come inside the ropes and tell them what club to hit."

Felipe Aguilar of Chile hits a shot during the final round Asian Tour Championship golf tournament at Laguna National in Singapore on May 4. Photo: AFP

After a boom period for the Asian Tour schedule, growth has petered out, hit by leaner economic times and more competition following the arrival of the rival OneAsia tour in 2009.

The region's flagship events have suffered with the Singapore Open, once touted as "Asia's major", sidelined and the Hong Kong Open also without a title sponsor.

Last week's Championship was transplanted from South Korea to Singapore at the last minute after also losing its main backer, Ballantine's, after a run of six editions.

At the US$1.5 million tournament, Singaporean veteran Mardan Mamat said there were concerns among players over their ability to make a living in the current climate.

"I think most of the players are not very happy with the schedule of the Asian Tour," said the father of five, whose prize money for the year stands at just over $4000.

"You need to play good at these big events otherwise you won't make much income. You play a $300,000 tournament, you need to finish top-five to make any money," he added.

Australia's Matthew Griffin, who won a high-profile 2012 court ruling which forced the Asian Tour to let its players compete on OneAsia, said surviving on tour was increasingly hard.

"It is tough, especially as the competition level's so high now that when you enter $300,000-$400,000 events it's not easy to just finish in the top 10 and make good amounts of money," he said. "So you need the bigger events to be able to survive."

Kerr said he would meet players next week and try to address their concerns.

But in a sign of the changing landscape, he also said he couldn't rule out a potential alliance with OneAsia – something which he had previously dismissed.

"I don't think that anything is off the table. I think there are two fundamental issues: one is TV rights and the other is structure," he said.

"One way or the other, there is going to be consolidation in the Asian market ... But that doesn't necessarily mean that Coke and Pepsi have to jump into bed together," he added. – *AFP*