





IN PICTURES

Thilawa welcomes latest in string of naval visitors

PHOTO: AFP

Crew members of the Chinese Navy stand guard on the deck of Chinese PLA Navy ship *Zheng He* as it docks at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) port on the outskirts of Yangon on May 23. Two Chinese PLA Navy

ships - Zheng He and Wei Fang - arrived on May 23 on a five-day friendship visit to Myanmar.

Govt, ethnic groups agree on second ceasefire draft

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Farmers threaten to sue MEC over land

Farmers in Kanbalu township say they will not back down in their fight against Myanmar Economic Corp.

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The Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team and Union Peace-Making Work Committee praise their latest round of talks in Yangon as "open and friendly". NEWS 3

Banking plan unvieled

The Ministry of Finance roadmap calls for 30 percent of the population to be banked by the year 2020.



Page 2 THE INSIDER: The local lowdown & best of the web

Angry Birds go boom

In a warning posted on the digital Pegu Club that is the Yangon Expat Connection Google group, people are being urged to exercise caution with balloons bought from street vendors after a scientifically minded parent's tests found one to be inflated with what seems likely to be hydrogen, rather than the traditional and non-flammable helium.

This isn't the first time reports of hydrogen being used have surfaced, and it probably makes sense given it is much cheaper than helium.

While the obvious concern is children's safety and the possibility of causing a small explosion, it also sucks the fun out of inhalation. Be alert, but not alarmed.

Thrillseeking monks

Prominent Thai monk Phra Thep Warositthajarn of Chiang Mai's famous Wat Phra That Doi Suthep monastery came under heavy 'The people's grievances and complaints can be aired openly in the hluttaw and we have a system of the right to free speech and to demonstrate'

Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Wai Lwin tells media in Nay Pyi Taw on May 20 why Myanmar is unlikely to fall into a situation such as that currently unfolding in Thailand criticism last week, when pictures emerged of the abbott and several of his cohorts enjoying the Revenge of the Mummy ride at Universal Studios in California in 2012.

"This photo was taken a long time ago, and the abbot has received a warning from the higher monks not to repeat the action because Buddhists might find it inappropriate," Narong Songarom, the director of the Chiang Mai Office of Buddhism told Thai media.

Despite this apparent reprimand, Narong downplayed the incident. "Everyone has made mistakes. Personally, I think monks on a plane and monks on a roller coaster are no different. We should not be biased, and this is not even a severe offence," he told Thairath and NationTV.

Which is good to hear, because that clarifies some lingering questions I had about the time I saw a group of novices and nuns riding the Ghost Train at Happy World.

It's all relative...

UNICEF moved to defend itself last week after a report from *The Irrawaddy* revealed the agency's rental arrangement sees them paying somewhere in the vicinity of US\$90,000 per month for their Yangon premises to the family of former regime minister General Nyunt Tin.

A statement issued by UNICEF confirmed the property costs \$87,000 per month, conceding the figure, though "steep", is fixed for seven years at a competitive commercial price given the tough market. And the sad part is, that's probably pretty accurate.

With regular privately held Yangon property prices ever on the up-and-up, a limit to the number of buildings sufficient in size to house major INGOs – not to mention the added complication (one would imagine) of having to secure clearance from authorities in order to run an operation such as UNICEF – a landlord who was not in some way affiliated with the former regime is probably difficult to find, if not entirely unlikely.

This is something that, even with sincere efforts, would take a long

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online editor Kayleigh Long



Hnin Yamone Oo from *NOW*! Magazine. *Photo: Htet Aung Kyaw (Studio HAK)*

time to dismantle. Here's hoping it takes less than seven years.

In brief:

Yangon-based food delivery service business model "fatally flawed", relies on people actually being able to load menus on website Next week:

True impact of selfie-taking on Myanmar office productivity "inestimable", claims think tank

Experts warn of neo-colonial fetishisation after yet another Orwell story runs in foreign press



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Movie poster estimated to be from the 60s or 70s. Title unknown.



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Government, NCCT okay second ceasefire draft



A SECOND draft of a ceasefire text was completed following three days of discussions between the government peace negotiation team and the representatives of armed ethic groups, which ended on May 23 in Yangon, as the two sides work toward a nationwide ceasefire officials hope could be completed soon.

A joint statement issued by the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and the government's Union Peace-Making Work Committee (UPWC), hailed the most recent round of talks as both "open and friendly".

This second draft was based on an initial draft the two sides approved during the first round of talks in Yangon in held in early April.

While representatives of the government and ethnic armed groups were happy with completing the draft they said there were still points that would need to be discussed among leaders from both sides before the two meet again. The groups have agreed for their next meeting to take place in June.

Lieutenant-General Thet Naing Win said that the government hoped to finalise the single text ceasefire draft at this June meeting, but also said that the government side will be prepared to negotiate if some of their submissions to the draft were not accepted.



Colonel Khun Okkar, a member of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team. speaks to reporters on May 22 in Yangon. Photo: Yu Yu

The government's chief peace negotiator, U Aung Min, said all the submissions from both sides [government and ethnic] could be discussed in the nationwide ceasefire draft before it is finalised.

Once the ceasefire is signed, the groups will move towards a political dialogue, which will include some of the most contentious issues between the sides, including a military code of conduct and relocation troops from ethic areas, according to Phado Saw Kwal Htoo Win, leader of the NCCT.

Looking forward, U Hla Maung Shwe, senior advisor of Myanmar Peace Center, said that it would be important for a political dialogue to begin in a timely manner after the ceasefire is signed.

Interfaith marriage law backers counter CSOs

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THE committee for the Protection of Nationality and Religion (Mabatha) has said that their records show that only 40 Buddhist women have ever changed their religion after getting married to men from other faiths.

U Ayeit Paing, one of the committee's executive members, revealed the figure at a press conference designed to counter opposition from civil society groups to the proposed inter-faith marriage bill.

Muslims, Christians and men of other minority faiths could face up to a decade in prison for marrying Buddhist women if the bill is passed.

As it stands the bill would also require men to seek permission in writing from a Buddhist bride's parents before marriage.

The committee, which is closely linked to the Buddhist nationalist 969 movement, insists the bill will protect both Buddhism and Burmese culture.

U Aye Paing said there were more unrecorded cases of women being forced to change their religion but, when asked, was unable to provide any evidence to back up the claim.

"After the Mabatha was established and we had a connection to the whole country, we had problems to solve daily for those who are abused by other religions," he said.

At the press conference large posters presented claims that Buddhist women had been raped by men from other religions, some of them suffering abortions and a few dying afterwards. The religious committee is also pushing for a law to be enacted that would prohibit a citizen changing faith and another that would enforce monogamy.

It has successfully petitioned the government which has founded a commission of 12 people tasked with drafting bills to put before parliament.

Members include the government's deputy chief lawyer, two deputy ministers and the leader of the legal advisory team of President U Thein Sein.

Details on the draft bills have not vet been made public, but civil society groups are closely following their development.

Some of them say they suspect the bills are designed to garner Buddhist nationalist votes in the run-up to the election next year.

One monk from the religious committee told The Myanmar Times he also wants to see a new law enabling monks to vote.

'We can't vote in the election while the holders of the illegal national registration card can do. The monks are from generations of the 135 native ethnic groups of Myanmar. I'm not arguing for monks to establish political parties though," said U Parmaukkha.

White cards are also held by some Muslim Rohingyas in Rakhine State who are not granted citizenship in Myanmar under the 1982 Citizenship Law.

"If the football match that is playing is Myanmar v Bangladesh, the white-card-holding people will support Bangladesh. The people who aren't patriotic can vote in elections while patriotic people like us can't. It's unfair," Parmaukkha said.



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Committee agrees to amend section 436

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HOTEL

A PARLIAMENTARY committee has agreed in principle to amend the provision of the 2008 constitution that stipulates that the approval of at least 75 percent of Hluttaw members is required to approve an amendment to the constitution.

The provision, known as section 436, is seen as crucial to maintaining the influence of the armed forces in politics, as well as preventing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming president.

The agreement to amend section 436 came on May 19, after Hluttaw speaker Thura U Shwe Mann reportedly set out the basic principles concerned, according to committee members

"We reached a decision to amend it after two or three hours of discussion. But we haven't vet discussed how to amend it," said one member.

The 31-member committee is under instructions from President U Thein Sein to submit proposals for constitutional amendment six months before elections, which are scheduled for next year. It comprises 14 representatives from the governing Union Solidarity

RESTAURANT 😂 CATERING

and Development Party and seven representatives of the Tatmadaw, the remaining members being drawn from the National League for Democracy and other opposition parties.

"USDP seems to favour [reducing the Tatmadaw representation in parliament] to two thirds. I'm not aware of the desire of the Tatmadaw. They may accept the amendment. If not, we can't amend the other sections. There will be nothing else for the committee to do," said one committee member.

The committee will continue to review possible amendments until May 28. - Translation by Thiri Min Htun



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4 News

Reactions vary to Daw Suu's challenge



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MILITARY members of parliament have dismissed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's suggestion that they lack the bravery to withdraw from politics and her challenge for them to do so has been met with mixed reactions.

"If we are not brave, we would not serve in the army," Lieutenant Colonel Ngwe Soe, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative, told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

But Lieutenant General Ngwe Soe declined to comment further on the substance of the opposition leader's complaint: that the army had no place in democratic politics.

When Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the Tatmadaw representatives to take off their uniforms and come out fighting like civilians, she intended to strike a nerve. But taunts may not be enough.

Throughout the country, a campaign launched by the National League for Democracy, with backing from the 88 Generation Students, is trawling for signatures on a petition to amend the 2008 constitution. After a rally to kick off the effort was held at Yangon's Bo Sein Hman stadium on May 17, another took place the following day in Mandalay.

The goal is to amend section 436 of the constitution, which requires that amendments to it enjoy the support of 75 percent of Hluttaw members.

The army's occupation of 25pc of Hluttaw seats would seem to guarantee that no amendment will be permitted that does not have Tatmadaw support. Unless that provision is amended, there can be no amendment of the second-most controversial provision, section 59(f), which bars Daw



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to members of the National League for Democracy on May 17 in Yanogn. Photo: Staff

Aung San Suu Kyi from holding the office of president.

Lt Gen Ngwe Soe said, "The soldiers in hluttaw are doing their duty. We have become engaged in politics after leaving the military, as she said. We don't control the hluttaw, but discuss issues with other MPs. Those are our orders."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the Yangon rally that the 2008 constitution, particularly its section 436, split the Tatmadaw from the people by granting the armed forces special privileges. Allowing the amendment of the section would, she said, elevate the dignity of the military.

The NLD leader said the Tatmadaw's responsibility was to protect the country, not to rule it. Invoking the memory of her father, General Aung San, she said former soldiers could enter politics if they showed wisdom, courage, self-confidence and a spirit of goodwill.

"If an officer wants to engage in politics he should leave the military. A man of self-confidence no longer requires the support of any group or power," she said, calling on the Tatmadaw to return to barracks for the sake of its own dignity.

"Do not confuse the will of the people with your own wishes in the hluttaw," she said, adding that if the group in power for 50 years, the military, had been unable to carry out its mandate, it was time to bestow the mandate elsewhere.

Developing the argument further the next day in Mandalay, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi challenged Tatmadaw MPs to work with other hluttaw members to amend the constitution.

"I urge the Tatmadaw to prove that

they don't like power," she said. Reactions to her challenges have varied.

"Some people agree with her comments on the Tatmadaw in the rallies, while others believe her challenge could lead to difficulties in national reconciliation. I don't think her comments are too strong. I think she is speaking the truth. She seems not to want confrontation. I don't think we will see a repeat of the events of 1988," said U Banyar Aung Moe of the All Mon Region Democracy Party.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Phone Myint Aung said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's effort to amend section 436 was legitimate, but that it would not be easy the change the Tatmadaw's mind.

U Phone Myint Aung, of the National Democratic Force Party, doubted her tactics.

"She will receive applause, and possibly even some support within the Tatmadaw. But there is very little probability that her approach will work," he said.

"A tone of command is not appropriate at the moment. Although other MPs will agree to amend section 436, military MPs will have to follow orders. It is not sure yet what they will do if it comes to a vote."

He added, "A coup cannot be ruled out – look at Thailand. But Myanmar will not accept a coup. In 1988, the Tatmadaw took power outside the law. Now it will use the law because the law was enacted for that purpose. If turbulence erupts in Yangon or elsewhere, the military could stage a coup."

Military MP Colonel Myint Ko Ko appeared to welcome the challenge.

"We can get involved in politics whether we are in hluttaw or not," he said.

"It's up to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi whether or not she wants a confrontation."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

Farmers threaten to sue MEC

FARMERS in Kanbalu township, Sagaing Region, said on May 14 they would sue the military-backed Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) if they were not paid compensation they have demanded for their seized farmlands.

The 183 farmers, from Htan Ta Pin, Chaung Kan, Pyin Taw, Poppa and Tha Lae Oo villages in Kanbalu township, say the MEC confiscated more than 1000 acres of farmland in 1999 to develop a sugar refinery. MEC records indicate the seizure of 888.13 acres, officials from the group said.

The farmers said MEC extended a sugarcane plantation on the site in 2002.

MEC rented out leftover lands from the refinery project to some farmers from 1999 to 2012 at 10 baskets an acre for paddy or four baskets an acre for rice, said a farmer, U Kyaw Thein. "Our farmlands were seized by MEC in 1999. But we were paid unreasonable compensation at K2000 an acre at that time," said another farmer, Ko Tin Tun Aung.

The farmers are demanding K1 million an acre, with crop compensation at K100,000 a year since the seizure. But they say they have made this demand six times already without response, and are prepared to go to court for redress.

"We will send a notification to the factory soon concerning our litigation. If they don't reply, we will start to bring a case against them in the next two months, and will hold a protest if necessary," said U Kyaw Thein.

MEC sugar refinery did not respond to requests for comment.

– Mg Zaw and Kyaw Ko Ko, Translation by Zar Zar Soe

'Myanmar Times' chief photographer shortlisted for SOPA award

THE Myanmar Times chief photographer, Kaung Htet, has been named as a finalist for a prestigious Society of Publishers in Asia's award for his coverage of a controversial copper mine project in Sagaing Region and the aftermath of a Tatmadaw assault on villages in Kachin State.

The two sets of photographs were both shortlisted for the Excellence in News Photography award in Category B, designated for newspapers that circulate in one or two countries.

Kaung Htet and fellow photographer Ko Taik won last year's photography award for their photos of the International Day of Peace protest march in Yangon in September 2012. "The shortlisting of *The Myanmar Times* for the third year in a row is testament to the quality and consistency of our newsroom," said Thomas Kean, *Myanmar Times* editor.

"It also confirms that Kaung Htet is one of the best photographers in the country – if not the best."

Kaung Htet's "Mansi offensive" series documented the destruction of Mung Ding Pa and Nam Lim Pa villages and the flight of residents after intense fighting between the Kachin Independence Army and the Tatmadaw in October 2013.

His "Letpadaung fury" photographs followed National League for Democracy chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's March 2013 trip to the Letpadaung mining site. Her recommendation that the project continue despite protests from the communities around the mine sparked a rare showing of anger and outrage towards the opposition leader.

Kaung Htet joined *The Myanmar Times* in 2010. He became director of the photography department in 2011.

His photographs of Myanmar have appeared in numerous publications including *The Guardian* and *Times of London*.

The winners will be announced June 11 at the awards ceremony in Hong Kong. – *Staff Writers*





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Elephant caravan hopes to raise awareness

Organisers of a 300 kilometre elephant trek and festival planned for next year hope the events will bring greater attention to the animals

FIONA MACGREGOR

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A SPECTACULAR festival featuring a 300 kilometre (185 mile) elephant caravan and a major light and music show with performances from global and local artists is set to take place in Myanmar next year.

The Myanmar Elephant Festival 2015 aims to highlight the role of the Asian elephant in Myanmar's cultural and environmental heritage and boost eco-tourism, organisers say.

The festival is a joint project between conservation organisation ElefantAsia and internationally-acclaimed arts director Philippe Bouler, the man behind the hugely successful Hue festival in Vietnam. It will see the caravan of elephants make a month-long journey through Myanmar before reaching Yangon.

The event is set to conclude with a series of 3D light and animation show telling the story of Myanmar's elephants to be created by Alleumers d'Images whose projections onto landmark buildings across the world draw crowds of tens of thousands.

"After India, Myanmar has the second-largest population of elephants in Asia, but the Asian elephant is on the brink of extinction," said Sebastien Duffillot of Elefantasia, speaking in Yangon on May 23.

"The caravan and festival are about trying to keep up awareness of the animal and raise visibility and support for the animal," he added.

Mr Duffillot said the event will be a celebration for the whole of Myanmar, with the elephant being a cultural symbol that transcends political and ethnic differences.

"Elephants are part of Myanmar's common natural and cultural heritage. They are without borders, and not belonging to one ethnic group. Symbolically they are incredibly culturally and historically significant across the whole country," he said.

Mr Duffillot, who organised a similar caravan in Laos 12 years ago that led to the establishment of an annual elephant festival there, said elephants also represented closer ties in the developing ASEAN community and better cross-border connections.

"The first impact the Laos caravan had was the reaction of people in the local communities as we reached their villages, but it also raised awareness in the local media and the government took notice of that. So it was good for the species and a good way to bring it to the front of the stage," he said.

Following the first elephant festival in Laos the government returned to using the country's old name, "Land of a Million Elephants", said Mr Duffillot. The phrase had fallen out of favour with the communist regime because of its previous association with the monarchy, and its revival has helped to increase tourism, he added.



Elephants make a river crossing in the 2009 Elefantasia caravan in Laos. Photo: Chris Bryan

"This festival will help raise awareness of Myanmar's elephants across the world, and the important role they can play in developing conservation tourism," he said.

Mr Bouler, who has organised major arts events in 55 countries, said he hoped the festival will become a biennial celebration of Myanmar's elephants that will draw local and foreign people alike.

"The story of the elephant is extraordinary and my job is about opening windows [on that story]. Artists from France and elsewhere will come and create work with Burmese musicians and something amazing will happen."

Mr Bouler said the Hue festival, which he first became involved with 15 years ago, now draws over 2

'Keeping an elephant comes at a cost and if there is no longer work for them, then they face an extremely uncertain future.'

Sebastien Duffillot Elefantasia

million visitors and that Alleumeurs d'Image shows at the Reunification Palace in Ho Chi Minh last year had attracted over 300,000 people. "My aim is that everyone in Yan-

gon will be able to come and see this event," he said.

The festival team is currently identifying which of Yangon's historical buildings will make the best backdrop for the show.

After they choose the location an exact replica of the building will be made to scale for the artists to design the show around, said Mr Bouler.

"Once the light show has been created it can be shown over and over again and I would hope to have several showings every evening over three or four days during the festival," added Mr Bouler.

But he stressed that while the light show design work would take place in France the overall event would be intrinsically Myanamar.

"The work will be a collaboration between international and Myanmar artists and performers, but the event will be entirely Myanmar in its essence," he added.

While the elephant plays an important role in Myanmar's cultural and environmental heritage, the animal is under serious threat here.

Deforestation, which has destroyed much of the elephant's natural habitat, has left the country's estimated 4000 wild elephants vulnerable to poachers and created an



increase in human elephant conflict as the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements as they seek food.

Recent restrictions on the logging industry also threatens the future of Myanmar's registered working elephant population of just over 6500, said Mr Duffillot.

"Keeping an elephant comes at a cost and if there is no longer work for them, then they face an extremely uncertain future," he said. what's left of the forest or that they will be illegally exported to China or Thailand to work in tourism, or circuses," he added.

However, while the risks faced by Myanmar's elephants are unquestionably serious, the caravan and festival will be about celebration, the organisers insist.

"The aim is to create a world-class event focussing on elephants and traditional and contemporary culture that will leave a lasting impression

estimated 4000 wild elephants vulnerable to poachers and created an ging elephants will just be let loose in Duffillot. on everyone who sees it," said Mr



Seven charged in mine kidnapping case



TIM MCLAUGHLIN EI EI TOE LWIN

CHARGES have been filed against seven people suspected to be responsible for the kidnapping of two Chinese contract workers at the controversial Letpadaung copper mine in Sagaing Region.

Dong Yunfei, administrative manager at Myanmar Wanbao Mining said they filed a lawsuit at Myoma Police Station in Sar Lin Gyi township on May 18.

"Everyone who breaks the law should be punished. If they are not punished, others will act like they did. Though Myanmar is making democratic reforms, we can't act carelessly and do what we want to do in a democratic country. We need to obey the law," he said.

The contractors were abducted along with a Myanmar colleague on May 18 by members of the Yangon Public Service Network, an activist group opposed to the mine's expansion.

The three were taken while conducting surveying work for Myanmar Wanbao Mining near the group's Letpadaung copper mine project.

The Myanmar national, identified by Wanbao as Ko Khin Aung Moe, 21, was released on the night of May 18. The following morning, Wanbao issued a plea for the release of the



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at the Letpadaung copper mine last year. Photo: Kaung Htet

other two workers, Lu Yuanhao, 23, and Miu Jie, 23.

"Wanbao vehemently condemns this unprovoked attack on our colleagues," a statement issued by the company said.

On May 19, Wanbao said that the contractors had been released and returned to the company's office at about 7:15pm. The statement said

they were in "good shape" upon their return.

Members of the Yangon Public Service Network have been some of the most vocal opponents of the Letpadaung Mine and have called for the project to be halted.

Ko Han Win Aung, an activist from Yangon Public Service Network, disputed Wanbao's version of events. "In reality, the villagers just enquired why they were doing land measurements on those lands owned by those who didn't take compensations from the company. The villagers just brought them to the local primary school to talk about it," he said. Last year, prominent Yangon

Public Service Network activist U Aung Soe was arrested for ploughing confiscated land at the site as part of a protest against land confiscations. He was sentenced to 11 years in jail.

Wanbao said in a statement that the captors originally called for U Aung Soe to be freed in exchange for the release of the hostages, but later withdrew the offer and instead called for the mine to be halted and the removal of fencing recently erected near the site.

The copper mine – a joint-venture between Wanbao Mining from China and army-run Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (UME-HL) – has been the site of fierce tension since late November 2012, when security forces led a violent crackdown on protesters unhappy with the mine's expansion plans.

Work at the site was halted, but restarted last year after a new contract between the invested parties was signed following a recommendation from the Letpadaung Investigation Commission headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is undergoing expansion that is expected to take about three years. It will enable annual production at the mine to increase from 40,000 tonnes of copper to 100,000.

Despite extensive efforts to rehabilitate its image, including promising to put 2 percent of its profits into area corporate social responsibility works, Wanbao continues to be a lightning rod for criticism. Most recently, local workers at the project protested over pay and conditions, which they said were vastly inferior to those enjoyed by their Chinese colleagues.



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MYANMARTIMES Managing Director, Editor-in-Chief MTE & MTM Ross Dunklev **State Secrets Act case**

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THE Pakokku District Court has ruled that the CEO and four reporters from Unity journal violated the State Secrets Act after publishing a story about an alleged chemical weapons factory in Pauk township, Magwe Region.

U Tin San and the four reporters were arrested on February 1 for allegedly breaching the 1923 Burma State Secrets Act. In its January 23 and January 30

issues the journal published a series of investigative reports alleging that the military had seized more than 3000 acres of farmland in Pauk Township and constructed a chemical weapons factory on the site.

In his ruling, judge U Maung Maung Htay said U Tin San breached Section 3(1)(A)/9 of the law, and that two of his reporters, U Sithu Soe and U Yazar Oo, had approached the No 24 Defence Equipment Factory, which is designated as a national security area.

"U Tin San, seen as the man in charge, featured the news with the intent to harm state security and the national interest," the judge said.

The court also decided that U Sithu Soe, U Yaza Oo and U Paing Thet Kyaw, who took photos of the scene, as well as U Lu Maw Naing, who wrote the news article, also violated Section 3(1)(A)/9. The lawyer for CEO U Tin San said

his team was preparing their response for hearings on May 26 and 27.

"We will question the defence witnesses, and the accused have the right to a defence," U Kyaw Linn said.

Daw Lwin Lwin Myint, the wife of reporter U Lu Maw Naing, said it 2 220 Caun

A reader holds the May 22 edition of Unity Journal. Photo: Zarni Phyo

was officials from the factory who had

announced that the site was out of

U Thein Sein did not announce the

statement that the factory was a

banned place ... The place was an-

nounced [as off-limits] by the head of

the administration department for the

No. 24 Defence Equipment Factory.

So, the CEO and four reporters were in

breach of the department's rule," Daw

Secretary, U Than Htay, said he didn't

accept the court's decision, adding

that the government should announce

The Myanmar Journalist Network's

Lwin Lwin Myint said.

'My lawyer said that President

bounds not the central government.

which specific actions violated the State Secrets Act.

U Thiha Saw, a member of the Myanmar Press Council, wouldn't comment on the court's decision but said the judiciary's rulings should be fair.

On May 22, Unity ran an all-black front page with a pair of handcuffed hands in protest of the ruling.

The accused are putting forward seven defence witnesses including U Than Htut Aung, CEO of the Eleven Media Group, who will be cross-examined at the next hearing.

U Than Htut Aung told The Myanmar Times that the Unity employees were simply doing the work of a reporter Unity Weekly's claim that the site houses a chemical weapons factory

has not been independently verified. One US-based NGO, the James Martin Non-Proliferation Centre. which works to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction, has examined commercial satellite imagery taken of the site.

In an article on its website it has concluded, "It is not possible to determine whether the facility is a chemical weapons site, but the facility's size, layout and location are not consistent with a 'standard ordinance factory."

Attack on border fuels growing concern

The killing of four police officers on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border highlights increased violence in the region

O'TOOLE combat positions along the Kaladan

botoole12@gmail.com

A STATE media report that armed gunmen attacked a police camp along the Bangladesh border last week killing four officers has highlighted the growing violence in the already restive region.

BILL

Few details of the May 18 incident,

still active in the border area. Speaking to The Myanmar Times, U Khin Thu Kha, secretary of the Arakan Liberation Party, claimed the armed wing of his party regularly see RSO members stationed in

'Illicit economies thrive in such environments

River.

According to Saiful Huq Omi, a Bangladeshi journalist who has reported extensively from the border areas, since Rohingya Muslims began fleeing across the border en masse after the anti-Muslim riots of 2012 the border has become a hotbed of criminal activity, as human traffickers and other smugglers see an opportunity for profit.

'Now you see more and more people getting involved in robbery, smuggling and hijacking. It's getting to be huge," he told The Myanmar Times over the phone from Bangla-

In addition, the Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Muhammad Shahidul Haque told Bangladeshi media on May 21 that he had sent a letter to Nay Pyi Taw proposing a bilateral security dialogue to discuss "the problems in the bordering area".

"An increased militarisation of this border, by both countries, seems to be a likely consequence of this existing insecurity," said Mr Eligh from UNDOC.

Securing the border has long been a controversial topic between



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which occurred near Maungdaw, are available due to severely restricted access to the region. Those that have surfaced have come from the government.

"We can't confirm [many details] ... We can only say it was an armed group," said U Win Myaing, a spokesman for the Rakhine State government in Sittwe.

He added that a variety of smugglers and other armed groups are active in the area.

Both Eleven Media and The Bangkok Post reported that as many as 40 members of the Muslim armed group known as the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) were behind the attack.

While many security experts believe the RSO has been largely defunct since the 1990s, some Rakhine nationalist groups claim the army is

of conflict and

strife, particularly where rule of law

institutions are

weakened or nonexistent.

Regardless of the gunmen's group affiliation, observers of the area say the incident and other recent attacks on security forces are indicative of a border that is growing more lawless and violent by the day.

desh

Jason Eligh, the Myanmar country manager for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UN-DOC), agreed.

"Illicit economies thrive in such environments of conflict and strife, particularly where rule of law institutions are weakened or non-existent," said Mr Eligh.

"As a result, the trafficking of drugs, arms and people across the Myanmar-Bangladesh border is a serious and growing concern, as is the movement of illicit armed groups."

Neither the Ministry of Border Affairs nor Bangladesh's Embassy in Yangon could be reached for comment.

However, both sides have increased the number of troops along the shared border in the last few months.

Myanmar and Bangladesh, usually characterised by little to no cooperation between the two governments.

Relations have been particularly strained since efforts to repatriate Rohingya from Bangladesh to Myanmar stalled in 2005. Large numbers of Rohingya fled Myanmar for Bangladesh in 1978 and again in 1991-92. Mr Haque said that the two countries had reached an in-principle agreement to restart the program 2013, but it has not materialised.

Both Mr Omi and Mr Eligh said the ongoing and increasing persecution of Rohingya Muslims is now making these longstanding problems even worse.

"This instability and violence is contributing to a sustained deterioration in human security in [Northern] Rakhine," Mr Eligh said.

Jason Eligh UNODC country manager

www.mmtimes.com

News 9

Singapore Airlines plane veers off Yangon runway

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A SINGAPORE Airlines plane skidded off the runway on touching down during heavy rain at Myanmar's Yangon International Airport, but no injuries were reported, the carrier said on May 22. The Airbus A330 plane "encountered heavy rain and veered slightly off the runway on landing" at 10:05am Yangon time (0335 GMT) on May 21, before it was steered safely back, the airline said.

"The aircraft was towed to the gate and customers disembarked normally," the airline said in a statement, adding that a replacement plane was sent to Yangon for the return flight.

The plane, flight SQ998 on a daily route to Myanmar, was carrying 265 passengers and crew, the airline told AFP.

"It was the hardest landing I've ever experienced," Singapore Manpower Minister Tan Chuan-Jin, who was on board the aircraft, said in a Facebook post.

"Which is why we should follow instructions and be properly strapped in. The SIA crew was very professional and reassuring despite the situation," said Mr Tan, who was in Myanmar to attend a meeting of Southeast Asian labour ministers.

U Win Swe Htun, deputy director general of the DCA, told *The Myanmar Times* on May 22 that the

Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore had arrived to investigate the incident and that he could not comment on the proceedings.

It was not the first incident involving an SIA plane this year.

On May 9, a SIA Airbus A380 superjumbo en route to Hong Kong was forced to turn back to Singapore after pilots received a warning about a problem with a cargo door.

In January, one of the airline's A380 fleet was forced to make an emergency landing in Azerbaijan after suffering a

'It was the hardest landing I've ever experienced.'

Tan Chuan-Jin Singapore Manpower Minister

drop in cabin pressure.

The flag-carrier subsequently said its investigation into the incident focused on a main deck door that appeared to have suffered a leak.

Singapore Airlines has 19 A380s with five others on order, operating on routes from Singapore to various destinations including Hong Kong, Frankfurt, London and Los Angeles. – with AFP



A Myanmar woman takes a can of Coca-Cola from a shelf at a supermarket in Yangon on September, 2012. Photo: AFP

Ball Corp to open \$40m production line



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BEVERAGE container producer Ball Corporation is set to break ground on a production facility in Myanmar later this summer hoping to capitalise on the country's growing drink manufacturing sector.

The one-line plant located outside of Yangon is scheduled to be operational by mid-2015. The investment will be around US\$40 million, a spokesperson for the company told *The Myanmar Times*. The local company that will work with Ball on the project has not been announced. "The demand for beverage containers in Southeast Asia is expected to continue to grow significantly over the coming years," said John Hayes, Ball's chair and CEO, who described Myanmar as a "high potential" market in a statement released by the company.

The facility will produce containers for Coca-Cola Pinya Beverages, which opened a bottling factory in June of last year, as well as local and international beverage producers, though which ones were not specified.

The announcement comes as international soft drink and beer manufacturers continue to ramp up Myanmar operations looking to compete with local brands that have long dominated the largely closed market.

In March PepsiCo opened its

first bottling plant in Myanmar since it pulled out of the country in 1997.

Danish brewer Carlsberg broke ground on a production facility north of Yangon in Bago Region in October 2013 after signing a joint venture with Myanmar Golden Star (MGS) in February. The brewery is slated to open this year.

Carlsberg was followed in May by Dutch rival Heineken, which is constructing its own \$60 million brewery, also aiming for an opening later this year.

The Broomfield, Colorado-based Ball Corporation was most recently active in Southeast Asian in 2011 when it signed a joint venture with Thai Beverage Can Limited to construct a beverage can manufacturing plant in Vietnam. The plant began production in 2012.



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Government moves to clarify media law

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PUBLISHERS have welcomed efforts by the government to define hate speech and language detrimental to state security in an attempt to clarify the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Law passed last March.

The government is working with publishing and media representatives on definitions of offensive language, which can be banned by the courts, as part of the follow-up to the passage of the law.

The definitions would be contained in a by-law now being drafted by the Ministry of Information.

In a meeting with media and publishing organisations on drafting the

'We will stipulate in the by-law the factors that should be considered in defining such speech.'

U Ye Htut Deputy Minister of Information

by-law, the Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut said it was difficult to pinpoint speech detrimental to state security and hate speech because the original law did not define them, and warned that there was a risk of exceeding the original law.

According to section 8 of the law, a person or organisation can apply to the court to ban hate speech, speech detrimental to state security, the rule of law, public order and citizens' rights, or language that is offensive because of references to sex or gambling.

Although the ministry did not try to define these clauses, responding to the critics and advice from international consultants it will now try to identify factors to be considered in defining offensive speech, said the deputy minister.

"Critics say there could be bias in defining these categories of speech, but international consultants also say the laws in their countries usually include the ways judges and complainants should understand those clauses," he said.

"We will stipulate in the by-law the factors that should be considered in defining such speech," he said, adding that the Attorney General's Office might not agree to any stipulation that appeared to go beyond the original legislation. The approval of Pyidaungsu Hlut-

taw, which ensures that by-laws enacted by the Union government are in line with the original legislation, would also be required.

Some of the factors being proposed for inclusion in the by-law are the stature of the publication in question, the target audience, the influence of the concerned person, the possible hidden purpose of the publication, the level of seriousness of the alleged offence, the level of attention generated by the publication and the conditions necessary to ban or not.

The Publishers' Association said it welcomed the ministry's attempts to define offensive speech and would submit further suggestions. "We will send feedback to the ministry after thoroughly considering the outline factors suggested by the ministry," U Myo Aung, chair of the Publishers' Association, said at the meeting.



UNOCHA MYANMAR VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (UNOCHA/YGN/2014/008)

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Repeal outdated samesex law, say activists



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ACTIVISTS are urging the government to abolish a colonial-era law which bans same-sex relationships and makes Myanmar one of only 41 countries in the world where homosexual activity remains criminalised.

On May 17 members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community (LGBT) called for Section 377 be repealed as they assembled in Yangon's People Square for the International Day Against Homophobia.

"Homosexuality is seriously restricted in some countries, although powerful countries like the United States and UK accept the LGBT community. We also hope Myanmar will reduce the restrictions and abolish the law," said U Aung Myo Min, executive director of human rights NGO Equality Myanmar.

Members of the LGBT community say that section 377 encourages homophobia and is an abuse of the right to express one's own sexuality.

U Kyaw Hoe, a legal expert, said that Myanmar should follow India's example and repeal the colonial-era law, which he said has stayed on the books despite changes in society.

"It takes time to pass laws and they always lag after some issues happen in society. It will also take time to abolish the law when it is not relevant to the situation," he said.

While the fight to repeal section 377 continues, activists are also urging civil society organisations and media in the meantime to raise awareness through campaigns against homophobia.

Daw Swe Zin Htike, a former actress and now a human rights activist, said the entertainment industry and the media are in a position to educate and inform society about gay rights.

She said Myanmar's film association has a long tradition of portraying gays as ridiculous characters which has damaged their position in society.

"We have lived in an insecure and unsafe situation for many years. We were afraid to speak out and make new changes though we knew that devaluing gay dignity was not the right way. But now it is a blessing that we see some changes, and it is important to go forward," she said.

A same-sex couple holds hands in Yangon. Photo: Boothee

Prominent activist and blogger Ko Nay Phone Latt said it was first necessary to educate people on the broader concept of human rights before addressing LGBT rights.

"People don't understand the meaning of human rights. They think rights are for the majority and neglect minorities," Ko Nay Phone Latt said.

He added that discrimination

encourages hate speech and physical violence. A UNAIDS spokesperson at the

event said discrimination against the LGBT community remained a critical issue. HIV-positive gay men, the spokesperson said, are frequently too scared to come forward and get treated for the virus.

However, the spokesperson noted some progress had been made now that local media were able to openly report on and discuss LGBT issues.

"It is impossible to neglect the LGBT [community] because they are a part of society. They are not a problem," U Aung Myo Min said.



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Vietnam and China lock horns over SCS

VIETNAMESE and Chinese officials have locked horns over a maritime dispute that sparked deadly rioting in Vietnam, with Hanoi's defence minister on May 20 saying the neighbours have yet to reach any agreement.

Tensions remain high in the region after an eruption of anti-China rage in Vietnam over Beijing's controversial plans to drill for oil in contested waters, in which angry mobs last week attacked hundreds of foreign-owned businesses, killing two Chinese nationals.

China responded by evacuating thousands of its citizens from Vietnam, as relations between the neighbours sank to their lowest levels in decades

Vietnamese defence minister Phung Quang Thanh said the two sides had discussed the placement of the giant rig in the disputed territory and stressed the need for a "peaceful resolution" to the row during meetings.

"We still have different point of views," he told reporters during meetings of Association of Southeast Asian Nations defence ministers in Nay Pyi Taw, which were also attended by China.

Informal ministerial talks were



A China Coast Guard ship (L) blocks the way of a Vietnam Coast Guard ship near to the site of a Chinese drilling oil rig being installed at the disputed water in the South China Sea off Vietnam. Photo: AFF

dominated by the South China Sea, which is also claimed in part by ASE-AN members the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia as well as Taiwan.

Last week leaders of the 10-nation bloc presented a rare united front by expressing "serious concern" over disputes in the waters, which are home to key shipping lanes and thought to contain vast energy reserves.

Washington has also warned about the potential for tensions to escalate.

ASEAN defence ministers had a "frank and candid exchange of views on regional and international security", according to a statement released on May 18 after the meeting.

Myanmar Defence Minister Wai Lwin told reporters that talks between Vietnam, China and the Philippines were "constructive".

"Vietnamese authorities understand that the situation can affect their economy," he said, adding that Mr Thanh had insisted that "they can control the situation".

Fearing an impact on vital foreign investment, Vietnamese authorities deployed hundreds of security personnel in the streets leading to the sprawling Chinese embassy in Hanoi on May 11, restricting access to the neighbourhood and other suspected protest sites.

The authoritarian communist regime usually limits expression of public discontent.

But the violence and scope of the riots that left some 140 people injured and spread across dozens of provinces, appeared to have taken the country by surprise.

Dozens of Chinese and Vietnamese vessels have engaged in repeated skirmishes near the rig, including reported rammings and the use of water cannon. - AFP

Flood prevention measures cause traffic back-ups

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A PROJECT to construct culverts, meant to help drain excess rain from roadways and sidewalks, is causing a traffic nightmare for residents in Dagon township who say the soil being excavated is blocking roads and causing flooding.

Over 2800 culverts are being built in North Dagon, South Dagon and East Dagon to prevent flooding during rainy season. But with rains starting earlier than anticipated residents are finding travelling the streets increasingly difficult

"Culverts being built in all the streets, so all the streets are blocked and we cannot drive. Even walking is not OK," said North Dagon resident Daw Khin Khin Lay.

"If box culvert construction is going on in the road, traffic is more. If box culverts are being built in the sidewalk, we cannot walk. All of the streets are very muddy and flooded. It is dangerous for the residents,

Another resident, U Than Htun, said that the projects should have been finished before the start of rainy season. He said he feared for the safety of the elderly townspeople and pregnant women who had to walk through the dangerous conditions.

Yangon City Development Committee official U San Aung said that construction varied from site to site and that residents with issues should take them directly to the companies that are carrying out the work

The project is being undertaken by the Flood Prevention Committee, which was formed by the President's Office in February.

It is comprised of members from five government organisations, Yangon City Development Committee, Irrigation Department, Water Resources and Rivers Development Department, Department of Human Settlement, and Housing Development and Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA).

Twenty companies from MCEA are in charge of construction. The project is set to run from February 1 to May 31.

"We manage and check in on the work process. We have discussed candidly with the companies about the work and finishing the building on time," said a Flood Prevention Committee official.

U Thar Aye, vice president of MCEA, said that he was confident that the project would be completed on time despite heavy rain.

An official from May Yu Land Construction company, responsible for construction of culverts in parts of East Dagon admitted that while rain had cause some delays and forced works to pump sites before working after heavy rainfall, that the culverts they were building were likely to be finished on time.

AirAsia.com

IN BRIEF

Chinese man dies in factory accident

A Chinese mechanic has been crushed to death while repairing a machine at a chicken canning factory in Yangon's Hmawbi township on May 19.

Yu Qiang, 31, died after being crushed in the machine at about 12:30pm, according to Myaung Takar police station.

Car found carrying illegal timber after accident

A car involved in an accident in Hmawbi was found to be carrying illegally cut timber, police say.

The Super Custom was travelling at high speed when it hit a Toyota Corolla at about 4:45am on May 18, after which four people, including the driver, fled from the Super Custom.

Police investigated the car and found 685 doors made from teak. They have filed charges under section 43(a) of the Forest Act.

– Toe Wai Aung, translation by Khant Lin Oo

Carjacking suspect assaulted police officer

A taxi was stolen in Bahan township on May 21 after the driver was violently assaulted.

Taxi driver Ko Soe Moe was

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assaulted at around 1:15pm by Soe Pyae Mon, 28, before he stole Ko Soe Moe's taxi and fled the scene.

Ko Soe Moe followed in a separate taxi. Soe Pvae Mon crashed at the Inya Road and University Avenue intersection in Kamaryut township. He was then approached by traffic police officers who he attacked.

He punched Lance Corporal Kyaw Thet Aung before being apprehended and transferred to the local police station where he was charged for his crimes.

He has been charged with theft and harming a civil servant. He was believed to be drunk at the time when his crimes were committed.

– Toe Wai Aung, translation by Zar Zar Soe

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Constitution based on a lie: Daw Suu

Military MPs must support changes to the constitution this year "if they really love their country", NLD leader tells Mandalay crowd



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DAW Aung San Suu Kyi has urged military lawmakers to "face the truth" about the 2008 constitution – that it based on a lie, because the military failed to honour the results of the 1990 election. Speaking at a rally in Mandalay on May 18, she called on military MPs to support changes to the constitution that would make it more democratic – and remove the military's veto over future amendments.

"The current constitution is a law without dignity. It was written by breaking a promise given to people. How can we believe in a law that

'We want to focus on winning democracy, rather than winning an election.'

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

is based on failing to keep a promise?" Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told thousands of supporters at the rally, which was held jointly with the 88 Generation student group at Chan Mya Tharsi township's Aung Pin Le stadium.

"The government said it is on the way to democracy but I think it is lying. It is necessary to amend the 2008 constitution to be able to hold a fair election in 2015. Now everyone is just focused on winning the 2015 election. We want to focus on winning democracy, rather than winning an election," she said.

After the Tatmadaw retook power in 1988, it promised to hold elections and draft a new constitution. Even though the NLD won the 1990 elections, the Tatmadaw held on to power and enacted a constitution drafted by people selected by the military government, she said.

The only way for the military to regain the dignity it has lost in recent decades is to give up power, she insisted.

"You are soldiers, so face the truth bravely. Facing the truth rather than facing the weaponless people with guns in your hands is the bravest and the most dignified thing you could do," she said. "All soldiers [should] participate in amending the constitution in the hluttaw this



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at a constitution amendment rally in Mandalay on May 18. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

year if they really love their country, really respect people, are really brave and far-sighted." The joint NLD-88 campaign was launched in Yangon on May 17 and is designed to build public support for

constitutional change, particularly removing the military's veto powers contained in section 436.

Three days prior to the Mandalay event, President U Thein Sein warned that the campaign could cause rioting, instability and "suffering". He also described the constitutional amendment process as an "internal affair" that should be resolved "within the legal framework and without having our country's sovereignty encroached upon".

In February, parliament formed a 31-member Constitutional Amendment Implementation Committee to draft an amendment bill to submit to parliament no later than six months before the 2015 election.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party has two seats on the committee, called on members of the public to lobby their representatives to support meaningful constitutional change.

"The results of that committee are very important. We must wait and see if it can really implement the desire of the people," she said.

"I would like to urge everyone to ask their MPs whether they support amending the constitution in the hluttaw. If they do not answer your question clearly, I don't think they really represent the people."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

UNICEF confirms 'steep' rent

THE United Nations children's agency said "spiralling" Myanmar rents had put humanitarian budgets under pressure on May 22 as it confirmed it pays nearly US\$90,000 a month for its Yangon office.

UNICEF defended its spending and said real estate prices had risen steeply in the last three years, in a statement issued in response to media scrutiny of the Myanmar office's rental rate.

"Escalating costs have meant new challenges in meeting the needs of the population," said Myanmar representative Bertrand Bainvel in the release.

"In particular spiralling real estate prices in Yangon have put a strain on UNICEF resources as UNICEF's rents have nearly doubled in the past three years."

Responding to a report by the Irrawaddy news website that UNICEF had rented its offices from former junta-era agriculture minister Nyunt Tin, Mr Bainvel said a member of the landlady's family was "once a member of the previous military regime".

But he said the official was not subject to criminal charges or international sanctions.

Mr Bainvel confirmed that the organisation was paying a "steep" \$87,000 per month for its compound in a leafy upmarket suburb of Yangon, fixed for seven years.

He said this was after an "extensive" search for other options after UNICEF was asked to vacate a prominent downtown hotel where the group had been paying \$45,000 a month for 130 staff.

Mr Bainvel added that other international agencies had to pay "considerably more" per square foot for their offices.

Property prices in Yangon have

soared as demand vastly outstripped supply since the country began opening to the world.

Dramatic reforms since 2011 under a quasi-civilian government led by President Thein Sein, a former general, has spurred the removal of most Western sanctions and lured foreign businesses.

Aid groups have also sought to increase their presence as a response to the changes.

Sources in the UN and the property market say several UN offices in the city have rents of tens of thousands of dollars a month, including a large complex housing the World Health Organisation.

Former junta figures and business cronies have a dominant role in Yangon real estate because of the wealth they accumulated due to their regime connections and property agents say it is difficult not to rent from them. – AFP



IN PICTURES

Delegates take pictures of (L to R) Philippine President Benigno Aquino, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen tan Dung and Vice President of Myanmar U Nyan Tun during the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Manila on May 22.

PHOTO: AFP



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Meth seizures at record high in Asia

STRONG and growing demand for drugs in Asia is driving up global production of methamphetamine, with seizures in the region tripling in five years to record levels, a UN body said on May 20.

Both the use and the production of the drug is increasing, in line with the expanding economy of the world's most populous continent, leading to growing social problems and higher healthcare bills.

Methamphetamine, also called "meth" and "ice", is an extremely addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.

Chronic use can lead to mood disturbances, violent behaviour and symptoms of psychosis such as paranoia and hallucinations.

To compile the latest report, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) grouped together methamphetamine, amphetamine and other similar chemicals as "amphetamine-type stimulants" or ATS.

It excluded so-called "ecstasy" drugs, which are usually reported separately in drug surveys.

"Over the years, methamphetamine seizures have been predominantly reported in East and Southeast Asia. in countries such as China, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand," the Office said ahead of the report's launch in Tokyo.

Asia has long been the world's largest market for methamphetamine and drug dealers are targeting its rapid

Drug seizures in Asia

Amphetamine-type stimulants



economic success, the UN body said.

Roughly a third of the estimated US\$90 billion illegal economy in Asia comes from drugs, said Jeremy Douglas, UNODC regional representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

"It originated as a drug that was taken by poor people, traditionally workers. That migrated into youth culture over a decade ago," he said. "More recently, that has evolved into a growing prosperous youth culture.

You have rising incomes occurring across the region. You have large, large youth population. So you have natural growth of the market" which has attracted criminals from around the world, Mr Douglas said.

'It originated as a drug that was taken by poor people, traditionally workers. That migrated into youth culture over a decade ago.'

long distances, the report said, and the routes being used by drug sellers are becoming increasingly well-trodden.

These are notably from Mexico, the Middle East, South and West Asia and West Africa to Japan and other lucrative markets in East and Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Ironically, the factors that are starting to boost living standards in Asia greater regional integration resulting in improved trade - are also accelerating the spread of the drug.

Closer ties among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have increased the region's flow of people and goods, including drugs.

Criminal groups are increasingly opening drug factories in the region. They are known to provide cheap products when trying to cultivate a new market and to raise prices once new customers are addicted.

Southeast Asian states and other countries most affected by the crisis often have very little capacity to stop the crimes, Mr Douglas said.

The continued spread of methamphetamine across Asia also poses a growing challenge to justice systems and health providers in societies with large youthful populations, UNODC said. - AFP



Justice Tettey (right), chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section at the UNODC talks at a press conference at the Foreign Press Center in Tokyo May 20. Photo: AFP



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News 13

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Seizures of ATS-related drugs tripled in Asia to at least 36 tonnes per year in the five years to 2012, the Office said.

China has had particularly severe problems, it said. Chinese authorities seized 6 tonnes of methamphetamine in 2008

That figure soared to more than 16 tonnes in 2012, accounting for about 45 percent of total methamphetamine seizures for Asia that year, the UNODC said

Thailand has also seen its highest levels of seizures of methamphetamine pills and the drug in its crystalline state in past five years, said the report.

Growing ATS use was accompanied by expanding regional production, with large bases seen in China, Myanmar and the Philippines, the UN body said. The drug is often trafficked for

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14 News



Minister for Defence Lieutenant General Wai Lwin (centre) speaks at a press conference following the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting on May 20. Photo: Pyae Thet Phyo

Defence ministers honour Lao counterpart after crash

PYAE THET PHYO

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A PLANE crash in Laos that killed five senior government officials has overshadowed a regional meeting of defence ministers in Nay Pyi Taw. Lao Minister for Defence Lieutenant General Douangchay Phichit was among the 20 people thought to have died in the crash on May 18.

Laos was not represented at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on May 19-20. Attendees issued a statement expressing their "deepest sympathies" over the deaths.

"It is a big loss not only for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Lao National Defence but also for the

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting," they said.

They also observed a minute's silence on May 20 for Lt Gen Phichit, who had attended the regional defence meetings since they were launched in 2006.

The Lao delegation was believed to be travelling to an official ceremony in the northeastern province of Xiangkhouang on an air force jet manufactured by Ukraine's Antonov. The cause of the crash remains unclear.

At last week's meeting regional defence ministers agreed on a threevear workplan through to 2016 that will include discussions on forming direct communication links between

the defence ministers and holding meetings with defence ministers from ASEAN partner countries.

Minister for Defence Lieutenant General Wai Lwin said at a press conference on May 20 that the ministers had "open" discussions on regional security and stability, and ways of furthering cooperation.

They also signed a declaration titled "Defence Cooperation toward a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community".

'In the joint declaration, we reaffirmed our desire to strengthen defence cooperation to support the emergence of the ASEAN Community in 2015," Lt Gen Wai Lwin said. - With AFP, translation by Thiri Min Htun

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EU, govt 'take stock' at human rights dialogue



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HIGH-LEVEL officials from the European Union and the Union Government met in Nay Pyi Taw last week for the first meeting under a Human Rights Dialogue program. While some activists have criticised the dialogue for not containing timelines for reaching human rights targets, the EU says it is "a clear sign" of the government's willingness to address the issues.

The dialogue is expected to cover a range of human rights issues through regular meetings and an annual summit. EU special representative for human rights Stavros Lambrinidis and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw attended the first meeting on May 20, at which they "took stock" of the current human rights situation.

"They covered major issues of concern for human rights, in particular political prisoners, freedom of expression, hate speech, economic, social and cultural rights, land rights, business and human rights, labour rights

and non-discrimination. The situation in Rakhine State was also discussed," the EU said in a statement.

Colin Steinbach, a political officer with the EU in Yangon, said that the EU has been raising many of these issues for decades but the new dialogue represents a "step change" in the EU's strategy.

"It is the first time that high-level talks will be held within a purely dedicated forum exchanging information on human rights, raising issues of concern and discussing ways to address them," Mr Steinbach said. "The agreement to hold such talks in the first place is a clear sign of a more open attitude than in years past."

However, several human rights groups have criticised the EU for not pushing the government hard enough on rights issues, particularly the lack of any timeframe for achieving the dialogue's targets. Some suggest that the bloc is prioritising bilateral trade agreements instead.

"It is vital to have dialogue on human rights, but it must be the right kind of dialogue. The point of dialogue must be to achieve concrete change, but the EU tends to see the process of dialogue in itself as success," said Mark Farmaner, head of Burma Campaign UK.



IN PICTURES

PHOTO: SI THU LWIN

Four artists from Bagan showed off the natural beauty of their native region last week with a five-day exhibition of watercolour works. The show was held from May 17 to 21 at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery, located at the foot of historic Mandalay Hill, and featured 76 pieces from Hla Han, Maung Thiha, Lin Min Phyo and Soe Than. – *Si Thu Lwin, translation by Thiri Min Htun*

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Wundwin's weaving industry in spotlight over pollution from dyes

KHIN SU WAI

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THE waters of Wundwin, the centre of Myanmar's traditional weaving industry, are to be cleansed. Last week the Mandalay Environmental Conservation Department proposed three solutions to clean up the waters polluted by fabric dyes.

The clean-up effort is also to be reinforced by stricter penalties against companies that pollute the water.

The various proposals were outlined at a meeting on May 2 on practical technological assistance for removing the pollution, which threatens surrounding farmlands in Wundwin township, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Mandalay.

There are about 600 garment factories in Wundwin, the centre of

production of Myanmar traditional wear, each using 10 or 12 looms. The township is home to about 70 percent of the country's production.

"The basic colour of the fabric is black, so we have to dye it to the colour of choice. Dyeing is done according to a traditional formula, involving boiling the fabric, beating it manually and soaking it in cold water. It wastes gallons of water," said Wundwin businessman U Win Maung.

The solutions proposed involved treating the polluted water with alum before passing it through a series of pools, or physically transporting the water to a processing factory for cleansing. The first two are for relatively small volumes of water, and the third is said to be very expensive.

The companies involved have



A man holds fabric that has just been dyed at a workshop in Wundwin township. Photo: Khin Su Wai



600

Approximate number of fabric workshops in Wundwin, the centre of Myanmar's weaving industry

U Kyaw Aung Moe, head of the Mandalay Region conservation department, said that the clean-up effort had begun in March when monitoring of the Wundwin township waters showed long-term pollution, and a team was formed to research water pollution, soil erosion and the threat to public health, and to prepare a solution.

U Kyi Aung, deputy chair of the Wundwin loom industry association, which has 119 members, said all workshops used dyes "carelessly" and the polluted water was draining into nearby farmland.

"We have two options – to build a single dyeing factory that could easily be monitored, or use Paleik threads and textile factory to dye our threads," he said.

Daw Thet Thet Zin, deputy minister for environmental conservation and forestry, told the May 2 meeting that section 74 of the environmental law provided for penalties for companies found to have damaged the environment.





A diver takes notes during a recent dive survey in the Myeik archipelago as part of

Myeik marine prompt calls fo



newsroom@mmtimes.com

PRISTINE coral reefs and previously unknown species of sea life have been discovered around the Myeik Archipelago, prompting renewed calls for the creation of Myanmar's first coral protection zone.

A team of scientists from Flora and Fauna International (FFI), working alongside internationally renowned marine experts, recorded hundreds of species around the 800-island archipelago, including at least four new forms of coral, as well as several invertebrates and fish.

They also found that much of the region was less damaged by blastfishing and illegal trawling than predicted.

"These are virgin areas that no one has surveyed before," said U Zau Lunn, a marine coordinator with FFI. "There are many new species."

Other notable discoveries included barramundi cod, ornate ghost pipe fish and species of coral present in Africa and East Asia that have never been recorded in Myanmar waters before.

FFI is now in talks with the government and local community representatives about how best to protect the area, which is also on a list of proposed World Heritage Sites.

"There are no protected areas of coral in Myanmar. That's our big mission," said Frank Momberg, FFI pronortherly reefs revealed areas with "staggering" levels of hard-coral cover, according to FFI.

"After the first year of doom and gloom, finally we found these treasures," said Mr Momberg.

The team discovered some reefs had up to 80 percent hard-coral coverage, which means they can be classified as "excellent" according to global standards.

The scientists also said they were surprised to discover coral growing even in areas where water visibility was very low.

The archipelago's position between the Pacific and Indian oceans means it is a unique "transition" habitat with marine life from both waters, Mr Momberg said.

The discovery has been hailed by researchers and the Department of Fisheries as an opportunity for Myanmar to develop diving tourism, which, while popular in neighbouring countries, is not currently offered here.

'There are no protected areas of coral in Myanmar. That's our big mission.'

Frank Momberg Flora and Fauna International

Additionally, just a handful of tourists

gram director for Myanmar.

"We would aim to get the [marine] park gazetted before the next election," he added.

Myanmar currently has the lowest rate of marine protected areas in Southeast Asia, according to FFI, and is facing international pressure to step up its ocean conservation efforts. But enforcement of rules is likely to be more of a challenge than establishing marine parks, conservationists say.

"Getting legal protection is not such a problem, but getting the budget [for effective enforcement] will be a bigger challenge," Mr Momberg said. During the initial months of the survey, now in its second year, the researchers noted significant damage to reefs in the southern islands, particularly those closer to shore. However, recent explorations of the more make it to the Myeik Archipelago each year, most of whom travel on expensive live-aboard boats.

"Coral conservation is very important for fish and the aquatic environment, and also for diving tourism which is important for the local community," said U Lau Zunn. "In Thailand and Indonesia diving tourism is well developed, but in Myanmar we haven't known where the good dive sites are, or how to protect them."

He stressed the need to ensure tourism development is done in a sustainable manner.

"Well-managed diving tourism can generate income locally and benefit the reef. The danger is that large-scale hotels create pollution and waste that would destroy the coral."

The waters around the archipelago provide the main source of living for the local Moken communities.



a Flora and Fauna International project. Photo: FFI/Lawrence Davis

survey results r protection

However, the Moken - also known as the Salon, or sea gypsies - have become increasingly reliant on damaging dynamite fishing in recent decades. FFI is keen to work alongside the community to gain their support in protecting the reef.

"It is not difficult to change behaviour and [develop] locally managed marine areas," said Mr Momberg.

He added that once areas have been protected for several years local fishermen will see a "spill-over" of fish from the sanctuary into non-protected areas, which can boost yields.

Two proposed community marine management projects in the archipelago - one on Ross Island and the other on Langan Island - are set to be up and running by the end of the year. and training initiatives have already taken place.

But blast fishing is not the only risk to the reefs, Mr Momberg said. The archipelago is also subject to illegal

trawling, which can cause severe damage to sea beds.

U Mya Than Tun, a deputy director at the Department of Fisheries, said he welcomed the creation of a protected area around the archipelago to help marine conservation and allow the development of diving ecotourism in Myanmar. However, he said it would require a high level of cooperation between the national and regional governments, businesses and local residents.

"The Ministry [of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development] would like to prevent [further damage] to coral resources by developing a protected area in this region," he said. "We know some coral resources have been destroyed by local fishermen and [bigger fishing] businesses.

"A protected area would help end this type of destruction but it is difficult to do [in practice]." - Additional reporting by Shwe Yee Saw Myint

At war on the streets

Eratic city bus drivers are putting everyone on the road at risk

COMMENT

STUART DEED stuart.deed@gmail.com

DEADLY sardine cans from hell that's the best way that I can think of to describe the buses in Yangon.

The city is developing at breakneck pace: New buildings are going up everywhere, new businesses are starting up in every direction and new or newer cars continue to flood onto the roads. But the city's buses remain a constant: an ugly reminder of a socialist era when people had to keep machinery running, no matter how old or unsafe it was.

Then, as now, the city's workers still had to get to work but it was an easier situation to comprehend when most of the cars were similarly decrepit and imports almost nonexistent.

For somebody working in the outskirts and commuting to the downtown area I'd guess the need to earn money to buy food only marginally justifies the daily torture of cramming into an old bus - or several - for a long, hair-raising drive to work.

Something has to be done soon. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency is working on a master plan to upgrade the Yangon Circle Line, which will help, but for the people living away from the railway line the bus is the only option. And with rental prices in inner-city areas beyond the reach of many low-level employees, a lengthy commute is the only option.

For women the situation is particularly acute and has led to several campaigns to combat very public sexual assault, including the use of whistles to deter wandering hands.

But everybody on the bus has to bear the real risk of being pickpocketed, being squashed against other passengers, sitting on bare metal

seats and being shoved about by delinquent conductors. Years ago two conductors put a Myanmar Times reporter in hospital by whacking him on the head with an iron bar after he'd dared to talk back to them. An expat employee was also punched in the head and tossed out of a bus by conductors when he angrily told a driver to slow down.

My favourite scenario is seeing a bus drive on the wrong side of the road before an intersection - stopping to let more passengers on or off in the middle of traffic - before cutting across the lanes to the far right, where they ought to have been in the first place.

Even when I'm seeing red and stupidly trying to block the re-entry I can see that buses could or perhaps have a right of way - they are carrying scores of people, while my car carries at most four, in positive luxury compared to bus passengers.

Ordinarily a bus lane would be a viable solution but in many places in Yangon there's no room. And it still wouldn't stop drivers from racing each other.

The situation puts passengers in danger on every passage because drivers racing each other for fares encourages dangerous driving everywhere the buses go.

Even in heavily policed bus stops downtown you see buses cutting off two or more lanes to block another bus behind while they pick up passengers. Later, the driver behind will try to overtake, leading to situations where two or more buses will careen down the road, two or even three abreast. Sometimes I feel like I'm watching a post-apocalyptic movie something like a Mad Max flick - unfolding before my eyes.

What will it take for Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) or the Yangon Motor Vehicle Supervisory Board, better known by its colloquial acronym Ma-Hta-Tha, to either force bus owners to follow the law or set up a public transport company to run the buses?

My guess is that it will take a massive tragedy - something so awful it will force the public and decisionmakers to take action.

What would I do?

To me, the best option is to co-opt bus company owners and invite them to join a new public transport company, with the horrifying premise that it be a public company as well.

The first step would be to scrap the old sardine cans and replace them with newer buses. Then the new buses can be put on the main lines with drivers and conductors paid a reasonable salary, with no commissions paid for extra fares. Smaller lines could be run under the same model or auctioned off to existing operators, with the licence renewed every year to encourage companies to offer consistent service.

Under this model Ma-Hta-Tha could operate as a regulator - fining drivers for violations and ensuring buses meet minimum safety requirement but also investing in training facilities to improve driver skills.

If the public company model is too expensive then I'd like to hope that the Ministry of Transport would be capable of running this operation, drawing funds by charging a fee from car owners renewing their licences and a larger tax from newly registered vehicles.

Stuart Deed, formerly business editor at The Myanmar Times, has lived in Yangon since 2006. He now works as director of operations for local realty firm Myanmar Real Estate.

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Views

People power misses the mark

ARLIER this month, a rally to show support for constitutional amendments and collect signatures for a petition was held at Maubin in Ayeyarwady Region. Organised by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, it was strongly supported by the public and drew thousands of people. The National League for Democracy (NLD) and the 88 Generation kicked off a nationwide campaign with events in Yangon and Mandalay on May 17-18, with events to be held in other cities. The focus is the need to amend section 436 of the constitution, which gives the military a veto on constitutional change. Future events are likely to draw similar crowds. But is the campaign likely to succeed?

In Maubin, the very accomplished speeches of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and 88 leader Ko Ko Gyi on section 436 drew rapturous applause. The NLD leader argued that the military should give up the privileges it receives in the 2008 constitution, particularly the status afforded to the commander-in-chief. "In a democratic system, we should all be equal. The desire of public must be the highest power and a president elected by the public should have the highest authority. It is totally against democracy for a group or organisation to be awarded the highest authority. I hope everyone understands it," she said. drawing a large round of applause.

Truth be told, if we got rid of the undemocratic sections of the 2008 constitution there would be nothing left between its green covers. It is not wrong to say that the constitution was drafted with the aim of founding a military dynasty. Despite the existing one being completely contrary to democratic norms, nobody is asking to rewrite it. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, other opposition leaders and ethnic armed groups are only proposing changes. President U Thein Sein, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and other leaders of the Union Solidarity and Development Party have also expressed support for making amendments so that it is appropriate for Myanmar's current conditions.

The major difference of opinion is in how they want to change it. The president and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing have already clearly stated that it should be changed in accordance with section 436.

This section stipulates that the



People attend a rally on constitutional change organised by the NLD and the 88 Generation in Yangon on May 17. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

constitution "shall be amended with prior approval of more than 75 percent of all the representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw" – and in some cases approval at a national referendum. As the constitution gives the military 25pc of seats, it can only be amended with approval of Tatmadaw MPs. Both the president and the commander-in-chief argue this is the right way to amend it.

However, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD and the 88 Generation are pushing for a completely different process

Previous efforts to pressure the military to undertake political reforms failed to bear any fruit. and outcome. She wants the military to come under the control of a civilian administration and for the privileges of the commander-in-chief and military to be withdrawn. Though she didn't say it openly, she wants the military to go back to barracks and stay out of politics.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely to succeed. Myanmar's current political situation has been crafted by the military leaders from a position of control. Previous efforts to pressure them to undertake political reforms failed to bear any fruit.

Previous efforts at negotiation also failed. However, now there are better prospects for a less confrontational approach. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has



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much more freedom than ever before, and a largely free press to broadcast her message. It's strange that nobody has publicly pointed out to her that the campaign will almost certainly fail. Some argue it is a means of pressuring the military to engage in political dialogue. However, based on previous experience, it will, if anything, make the military more reluctant to talk.

There is a constitutional review process being undertaken by parliament, and changes are likely before the 2015 election. Keeping the military onside will be essential for making the most of this opportunity. At this point, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be well advised to change tack and bring the military to the negotiating table by laying out a clear proposal for constitutional change – before it is too late.

- Translation by Zar Zar Soe







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Vietnam catches the fateful casino pox



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THERE was once a silly love song called "My baby does the hanky panky". At the time I wished mine did, but she just loved to gamble.

It's hard to fathom why anyone likes to sit in kitschy, neon-lit caverns for hours on end, nursing expensive drinks and listening to the inane banter of deadheads – while losing money.

Almost everyone loses; except the casino owners, although recent financial reports indicate that their revenue growth has tailed off.

The only ones really reaping consistent monetary rewards are the governments that license and tax gambling enterprises.

Naturally, when their economies start to dip, as after the 1997 financial crisis and the 2008 banking crash, they turn to casinos as a means to top up the coffers.

In places like Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines, which already have several casinos, they encourage expanded operations.

In Singapore and Vietnam, which formerly castigated casinos as dens of iniquity and hotbeds of organised crime, they have done a prompt about-face – not difficult for politicians, of course. They now tout casinos as revenue-generators that can pay for socially beneficial programs, which naturally will bolster the government's popularity and help it stay in power. And while the criminal side and other bad stuff cannot be completely eliminated, local citizens can be protected by curtailing their access to gambling centres.

So, three years ago, Singapore went ahead and opened two gargantuan gambling palaces, Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa. Soon after, Vietnam followed suit with multi-billion dollar casino resorts at Ho Tram and South Hoi An, plus dozens of smaller ones from Phu Quoc in the south to Lao Cai on the Chinese border.

And just as Singapore has relaxed its rules for domestic punters, so Vietnam's National Assembly is currently re-evaluating laws banning locals from entering casinos.

In doing so, Hanoi's assemblymen would be wise to note how the advent of casinos has damaged Singapore's once cherished image as a squeaky clean, crime-free and unblemished society.

Yes, it was all a myth, but it was a brilliantly conceived myth whereby the world was led to believe that gambling, drugs, prostitution, extortion and money-laundering did not exist in Singapore.

Not anymore. You don't need to be Dick Tracy to spot the young hookers lining up at Changi immigration and later sashaying out of the Marina Bay and Harbourfront MRT stations. Nor do you need to be Keith Richards to sniff the sweet musky odour of marijuana outside the nearby pubs and clubs.

As if replicating Singapore's ongoing difficulties were not bad enough, Hanoi's plan to generate oodles of dosh from its burgeoning casinos has suddenly hit a major stumbling block.

The vast majority of punters at Vietnam's casinos are from mainland China, which does not permit casinos within its own borders.

Unfortunately, after Beijing's decision this month to send an offshore oil rig into waters claimed by Hanoi, the latent hostility of Vietnamese toward their northern neighbours erupted in lethal violence. As a result, very few Chinese are now going to travel to Vietnam and risk being reviled and even attacked. So Hanoi's heavy investment in casinos now looks like a very bad bet, which will bring all the social ill-effects while reaping little revenue.

The regime would have been far better sticking with conventional hanky panky, of which there is never a shortage in Vietnam.

Playing 'Angolan ten

Returning exiles who have becomed involved with the peace effort have grappled



newsroom@mmtimes.com

YOU probably wouldn't believe me if I described the Myanmar Peace Center's role in the peace process as like playing Angolan tennis.

You'd probably be puzzled. The centre's focus is peacemaking and its role to work with all stakeholders in an inclusive manner. What has that got to do with tennis, let alone tennis from Angola? But, rest assured, the centre does play Angolan tennis. It is a description of what we do, or a major part of what the centre has engaged in from the very outset. Just give me the chance to explain.

The peace process in Myanmar began a few months after President U Thein Sein came to power in 2011. By January 2012, his government had already signed two crucial ceasefire agreements: one with the Restoration Council of Shan State – the political wing of the Shan State Army-South (RCSS-SSA) – and the other with the Karen National Union, or KNU.

I believe these two agreements helped the government realise that durable peace could be achieved in Myanmar at long last. But there were two government negotiating teams and they needed to be reorganised into a single outfit to ensure the government's efforts were effective. Put differently, the peace process needed to be formalised. Thus, two union-level committees – the Union Peace Central Committee – were established to spearhead the peace process.

The leader of the second peace team, then-Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, was tasked with leading the negotiations. Furthermore, a unique peacebuilding organisation called the Myanmar Peace Center, or MPC, was formed by a presidential decree in October 2012 to help the government negotiate with ethnic armed groups.

It was well-conceived – indeed, one could call it visionary.



<complex-block><text>

Minister for the President's Office U Aung Min shakes hands with an EU official at the

Having been in the government for a number of years, U Aung Min knew only too well that its bureaucracy was slow and cumbersome. He knew he would have to respond quickly to the needs of the peace process. In order to accomplish his mission, the MPC had to be an organisation that would provide a "one-stop service" for negotiations, logistics, technical advice, security, peacebuilding, outreach and all other elements necessary in a peace process.

The president provided his chief negotiator, U Aung Min – now minister for the President's Office 4 – with four buildings on Shweli Road in Kamaryut township that were once occupied by deputy ministers as an endowment for peace. A government team comprising 13 ministers and high-ranking military officers was also established to spearhead the negotiations. U Aung Min was appointed chair of the MPC.

To complete the formation of the MPC, U Aung Min invited exiles and former rebels like me, and academics who were teaching overseas, to come and work for peace in Myanmar – the opportunity of a lifetime. We had been involved with the peace process while still in exile before we were formally invited and before the peace process was formalised. We teamed up with academics and practitioners within the country who were already an integral

And as the peace process gained momentum and the MPC became the venue where peace negotiations took place, questions began to arise. "Who do we work for?" "Are we working for the government?" "Have the exiles like us sold ourselves out to the government?" "Shouldn't an organisation like MPC work for everyone, rather than the government?"

These questions have come not only from foreign visitors but also from the media, political activists and friends. And we struggled to answer them for a time.

One does not have to be a genius to figure out who we are for or with. Of course, it is the government of Myanmar. But being independently minded people, we want to maintain our independence and integrity, even when working for the government.

In our eyes, this is easily achieved because we are not authorised to make decisions; we merely act as a secretariat for the government and provide input so that it can make well-informed and timely decisions to advance the peace

We seized this opportunity with clear conviction that it was now or never for achieving peace in Myanmar.



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part of U Aung Min's peace team.

Several of us who have worked with ethnic armed groups, witnessed armed conflict, and studied civil wars and peacebuilding overseas immediately seized this opportunity. We seized it with clear conviction that it was now or never for achieving peace in Myanmar.

From the very outset, it was going to be an incredible partnership between all of us – the outsiders – and the government. But we could not foresee the outcome; we were just glad to be of service for peace and for our homeland.

And we were glad that we could build trust between former enemies – the government and those like us on the other side. It can be considered the start of a reconciliation process. The MPC itself is an indication that reconciliation is possible if people from across the divide work together for a common objective. process. We can be open and critical in our work. In many ways we are lucky that we are working with a very progressive minister like U Aung Min.

We also have to work for everyone, however, as peace is for all sides. In a divided society like ours, this is not always apparent. For many, peace is still a matter of us and them.

So for a long time we struggled to find the right word or phrase as to who we are and what we do. One senior director often explained to the visitors that we are "insiders" but "act

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Views

nis' for peace

with their role and perceived support for the government



Myanmar Peace Center. Photo: Boothee

impartially". There were other explanations - but none of them satisfied the visitors and none of them adequately described what we are.

Then we had a visit of Young Global Leaders who were in town for the World Economic Forum in June 2013. After a few hours of discussion, the same question emerged, "Who are you?" And we gave them lengthy explanations. Following our attempt to clarify who we are, a Young Global Leader delegate from Ivory Coast said, "Then you are playing Angolan tennis." He then described to us what he

meant. It depicts a situation in which a tennis match is yet to start. The players are on the court and there are umpires. linespeople and spectators waiting for the game to begin. But no one starts the game. Then someone walks onto the court, picks up the ball and hits it over the net to the other side. The players in the opposite team do not respond; they do not even swing their racquets. The same person who initially hit the ball then goes to the other side of the net and hits the ball back, as if playing all by himself. He does this a few times and then one of the real players begins to get interested and starts taking part. Others follow his lead. Suddenly the game begins and the spectators begin to cheer.

In the two and half years since the peace process began, the MPC and the government have held more than 270 meetings with various ethnic armed groups. U Aung Min, his peace ministers and the MPC have played many games of Angolan tennis and engaged in numerous activities that go beyond normal peacemaking. Without these, peace would still remain a pipe dream. There are also many other peace advocates who have contributed to peace in the same way we have.

Others might present arguments against my portrayal of the MPCs role. But all of us at the centre believe that everyone should engage in some Angolan tennis. We believe it is crucial for everyone to play, because at the end of the day peace for the government must also mean peace for ethnic armed groups and the citizens of Myanmar. The only alternative is war.

Aung Naing Oo is associate director of the Peace Dialogue Program at the Myanmar Peace Center.

Don't forget the plight of our young domestic workers

LIAN KUAL SANG naolian@gmail.com

WE'VE all read or heard it before: the news item that begins with the words "Workers demand better pay and working conditions".

Mostly it is factory workers in Yangon or Mandalay. The government and factory owners have worked hard to find ways to resolve the demands and get businesses operating again. Quite often the workers get most or all of what they have asked for.

However, there is one group that you will not see demanding better pay and conditions, although they, more than perhaps anyone, deserve it. I'm talking about Myanmar's domestic workers, who have been overlooked for years in the discussion about labour rights.

I think many of us were shocked and dismaved when news emerged that a domestic worker - a young girl from Myanmar - was physically abused in Thailand. Many took to social media to demand justice for her. Officials from the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok and a Thai law enforcement team pursued the offenders and took care of the girl. Unfortunately, it is a response we rarely see when the victim is in our own country. The truth is, I was prompted to write this piece when I read that a young girl had been severely mistreated by her employers in Pathein.

The majority of domestic workers are either children or young girls in their teens. Ideally, they should be in school instead of working. Most come from rural areas, as far away as Sagaing Region and Rakhine and Chin states. They have to leave their families and live with and work for people they've never met before in Myanmar's larger cities.

These are not orphans. Most domestic workers have both parents and come from loving families. I'm sure you can imagine how heartbreaking it must be for parents to send their young children away in these circumstances, and they obviously do it out of necessity. The children are able to send the meagre money they earn back home to pay for a sibling's school fees, help their family buy food, enable someone to get medical treatment or pay down family debts.

The only time we hear about domestic workers is when one has been severely mistreated by their employer. But just as tragic is how they are

Having a domestic helper was once considered a luxury. For many, it is now a necessity. So why can't we show at least a little gratitude?

often not treated as fellow human beings. They work long hours, are fed poorly and when they are injured or sick they are as likely to be sacked as

ever. Due to changes in our society, particularly in urban areas, in many families both the husband and wife have jobs outside the home. As a result there is less time to look after the kids and elderly, cook, clean, do the dishes, and wash and iron the clothes. Enter the domestic worker, who basically on work and chase our dreams.

Some years back, having a domestic helper at home was considered a luxury. For many, it is now a necessity. Many families would simply not function without them. So why can't we show at least a little gratitude?

We complain about our own working conditions when we are not given sick leave or are asked to work overtime. Yet we are unhappy when a domestic helper gets sick, and are reluctant to let her have a rest or take a day off from her duties. The people in Myanmar are known for being kind, friendly and generous. Why do we not show it to our domestic workers?

I am not blind to the fact that domestic workers have come to go to work and are being paid for that work. What I am saying is that they should be treated with a basic level of respect. Currently the issue is rarely raised in the media, and there is little action from government or local and international non-government organisations. A good place to start would be for government agencies to acknowledge the problem and introduce some regulation for this work. That regulation should be based on the premises of children's and human rights frameworks.

Because of their endeavours, domestic workers are often able to send money back to their families. What we tend to forget is the contribution those girls make to the family of their employer. I hope that by acknowledging their contribution and understanding the reasons why they have been forced into domestic work we will all become a little kinder to them in the future.

Lian Kual Sang is a freelance business consultant and entrepreneur from Yangon. He is a full-time doctoral student in Australia





helped to get medical treatment. And they are more in demand than

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Business

Farmers ponder future as labour flees

The economic draw of the big cities is siphoning off rural labourers, which farmers say may be replaced by increased mechanisation



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KO Htay Lwin, like 70 percent of Myanmar's working population, was employed in agriculture. He earned K3500 a day as a labourer in the fields around Bogalay village in Ayeyarwady Region, tending the rice crops that feed Myanmar and make up a substantial portion of its economy.

But Ko Htay Lwin left behind the paddy fields for Yangon's construction sites. Agricultural work is notoriously seasonal, and it could be months between employment stints in the fields, but work in Yangon's booming construction sector brings higher and steadier pay.

"I don't want to go back to my village to make money," he said. "I now earn K5500 a day in Yangon, but my wife also has a job earning K4000 at the same site."

Ko Htay Lwin is one of a growing number of farm labourers giving up on life in the regions for the draw of the big city. And as Myanmar's economy booms, more and more people are drawn by Yangon's higher salaries, leaving the agricultural industry short of experienced workers.

U Thein Aung owns 50 farmed acres in Danuphyu town in Ayerwady Region. He said the exodus by labourers from his town has increased in scale over the last few years.

"In 2012, maybe 25 percent of farm labourers moved to another area, but by 2013 half of farm labourers had disappeared," he said. "Since the beginning of 2014, I'd say 75 percent are gone."

"Farmers with their own land are getting further into debt. How can they find labourers to hire?" he said.

U Thein Aung raised his wages from K70,000 to K100,000 per month over the last two years, but still is having trouble finding labour.

"During the beginning of the growing season, farmers had to make do with fewer labourers. But when it's time for paddy transport and harvesting, it's very hard to find the right amount of labour," he said.

Farmers have faced labour shortages since 2011, but it has accelerated this year, according to U Thein Aung, chair of the Freedom Farmers League, which claims 400,000 members in Ayerwaddy, Bago, Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Cyclone Nargis in 2008 caused devastation in Myanmar's prime rice growing regions, heavily disrupting farmers and placing downward pressure on wages as farmers struggled to cut costs and rebuild their businesses, he said.

Many labourers were unable to survive on the small wages provided by farmers, and consequently left for urban areas and potentially more lucrative jobs as vendors or construction workers, particularly as economic activity sped up in the cities following the reforms of President U Thein Sein.

Up to 3 million Myanmar people also left for neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Malaysia.

Farmers say they are adapting to new labour realities, and are looking for solutions to these shortages.

U Soe Tun, secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and chair of the Myanmar Farmer Association (MFA), said he thinks increased mechanisation can take over for the labour shortage.

Although more use of machines like tractors and combine harvesters can

THOUSAND



Wages Ko Htay Lwin says he earns working construction in Yangon, compared to K3500 as a farm labourer

Farmers drive tractors in front of a man using traditional oxen for farming. Photo: Staff

boost rice farming, there are a number of hurdles.

"The main requirement to make mechanised farming a success is financing," he said. "At present there's no organisation providing proper support to farmers to buy machinery. But farm labour shortages are becoming a bigger problem for the country."

An MFA survey showed that 80pc of Myanmar farmers have small-scale tractors at a cost between K550,000 and K2 million. But they are lacking combine harvests, used in harvesting and threshing, which can significantly reduce the amount of labour. Combines often sell for a minimum of K25 million, however.

Many farmers have made the move to mechanisation by selling their cattle and oxen. With one animal fetching K1 million, a sale of a cow or oxen is often enough to buy a cheaper tractor and settle debt. Although tractors are relatively cheap, it would take selling 25 cattle or oxen to purchase a combine, meaning a different method of financing combines is generally required.

The MRF and MFA will set up 18 farm machinery centres in the country as part of its plan to increase mechanisation, but U Soe Tun said the centres alone will not be enough to affect nationwide change.

"We need effort from concerned stakeholders like the government to make mechanised farming a success," he said. Although U Soe Tun has no doubt the future of Myanmar's farming is mechanised, he said he does not know how long it will take to achieve.

Women also traditionally make up a large labour pool in rural areas, though they are increasingly finding urban work in factory jobs and the garment sector.

"Farmers are seriously suffering from a labour shortage," said U Soe Tun.

U Thein Aung said farmers are looking for adequate, long-term lending and low interest rates to buy machinery. Current rates are often too high and terms too short to enable equipment purchases.

A number of attempts to push for mechanised farming took place in the past, though they were not entirely successful for a number of reasons.

U Soe Tun said that as long as labour was abundant there were few reasons to mechanise. "Labour is becoming rare and expensive, and cattle became scarce after Nargis. Farmers need more machinery, and that requires adequate financial support to be successful."

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| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|------------------|--------|---------|
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| Malaysia Ringitt | K294 | K300 |
| Singapore Dollar | K762 | K772 |
| Thai Baht | K29.75 | K29.95 |
| US Dollar | K960 | K968 |
| | | |

Building up a banked people



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THE vast unbanked populations of Myanmar deserves to be able to access financial services, according to experts.

Although less than 5 percent of the population currently has bank accounts, a roadmap developed under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance is calling for banked rates of over 30pc by 2020.

Deputy Minister of Finance U Maung Maung Thein said that while the goal is to provide access to financial services and insurance to everyone in Myanmar, there are logical supply and demand barriers.

Speaking at a May 22-23 Financial Inclusion Roadmap Conference in Nay Pyi Taw, he said more needs to be done to extend banking, with 2.6 billion worldwide with no banking access and 5.9 million in Myanmar with access only to unregulated financial services.

A FinScope survey in May 2013 shows that less than 5 percent of Myanmar's adults have a bank account, though the income of people with bank accounts is on average 2.1 times that of the unbanked.

"We can call the people of Myanmar cash lovers, as only about 4.8 percent have bank accounts, while 91.5pc of the US and 75pc of Thailand are using bank accounts," said Hennie Bester, director of non-profit Centre for Financial Regulation and Inclusion (Cenfri).

Some 62pc of surveyed adults had no savings, with 17pc saying they saved through storing gold and other valuables in secret places.

Many Myanmar people are reluctant to save in banks and instead purchase jewellery and gold to store value. Mr Bester said this limits the opportunity for banks in turn to lend money and fuel economic development.

"It's really important to have savings from some and loans to others to provide investment and create job opportunities," he said.

Savings are particularly limited for those with low income. Some 27pc of survey respondents earned no income and relied on someone else, while 30pc earned income through farming, 5pc as full time farm workers, 11pc through informal business, and only about 40pc earned regular income.

Myanma Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise general manager U Win Aung said a roadmap being put together under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance aims to create an action plan for extending financial services to the unbanked.

The aim is to increase banking rates to between 30 and 40pc of the population by 2020. Easing borrowing and credit restrictions for the unbanked is the main priority, particularly as up to 59pc of lending currently comes from local informal money lenders.

The roadmap focuses on a number of areas including increasing electronic options, providing more low-cost savings vehicles, extending the availability of savings accounts, promoting agricultural credit, increasing unsecured credit, growing the insurance market and providing insurance for credit extensions and agricultural producers.

Part of the plan to promote financial services is to protect deposits through a strong legal framework, Central Bank of Myanmar monetary management department director general Daw Sandar Oo told The Myanmar Times.



IN PICTURES

A surveyor works at Thilawa SEZ. Three Japanese firms – Mitsubishi, Marubeni and Sumitomo Corporations - began sales of leasehold rights for the SEZ in Japan on May 19, according to a press release. Thilawa SEZ is 51 percent owned by Myanmar and 49pc by Japan, and its Class A area is set for a 2015 completion. *Photo:* Zarni Phyo

Capital Diamond Star Group receives honour from World Economic Forum

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MYAT NOE 00

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DOMESTIC conglomerate Capital Diamond Star Group (CDSG) is one of the first Myanmar companies to be chosen as a Global Growth Company by the World Economic Forum (WEF), according to David Aikman, head of new champions at the WEF.

Firms are selected based on their leadership potential in the global economy, with criteria evaluating the firm's market position, leadership, business model and growth rates, a WEF statement said.

"Capital Diamond Star Group is a

dynamic group with clear potential to shape the future in its relevant business sectors," Mr Aikman said in the statement

The group operates 13 Myanmar business entities in a variety of sectors, including a number of well-known brands.

It operates two Capital Hypermarts, in Yangon and in Nay Pyi Taw – Gems Garden Condominium, Capital Life insurance, and is involved in the sale of a variety of products including rice, maize, Premier coffee, Diamond Star flour, and Ford vehicles. The firm also claims more than 5500 employees.

Capital Diamond Star Group chief

financial officer Lim Chong Chong said inclusion in the selective group will assist the firm with achieving its long-term vision to be a major regional enterprise.

"It will support our aim to be the preferred business partner of choice among foreign companies seeking opportunities in Myanmar," he said.

Headed by prominent businessman U Ko Ko Gyi, the firm said it is now part of a select community of companies honoured by the WEF, including 360 members from 70 countries.

Myanmar's Caterpillar dealer Myan Shwe Pyi Tractors was also selected to join the group.



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Tower firms race for mobile coverage



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A MASSIVE rollout of telecoms infrastructure has begun ahead of the anticipated launch of mobile phone service by Ooredoo and Telenor later this year.

Both foreign mobile operators agreed to coverage targets and timetables as part of the licensing process, and both have turned to independent companies to construct the towers that will hold their equipment and provide coverage.

Tower company representatives say that while much of the technology itself is not new, there are unique challenges from the scale of the build and working with Myanmar's regulatory process.

"The little difference here is we're trying to build more towers more quickly than any company has ever attempted," said William Pollack, a senior official at independent tower company Apollo Towers Myanmar.

Telenor has selected Apollo as one of its tower companies, with an initial agreement to build and operate 1001 separate towers. Apollo must secure property leases for the site, receive government approval for its construction, and then build the tower. While the operator puts and runs its own equipment on the structure, Apollo is also re-

'This is a bellwether for the opening of the country.'

William Pollack Apollo Towers

sponsible for powering the site and its continued upkeep. All of Apollo's towers are designed

to hold more than one operator's equipment. Although the firm has signed an agreement with Telenor, it expects to host equipment from other operators as well as firms not providing cell coverage but using other technologies.

Constructing towers is not cheap. Apollo pegs one tower at about US\$100,000, though this can be lower if it is hosted on top of a building. With thousands of towers to be built in Myanmar, costs add up quickly.

Mark Robinson, senior consultant at Herbert Smith Freehills legal firm, said that separating tower firms and operators allows them to concentrate on their strengths – tower companies can focus on securing leases and building towers, and mobile operators can focus on gaining subscribers.

Myanmar's operators have also promised tower sharing with their competitors. Industry insiders say there will likely be little sharing at first, but it will pick up as coverage expands.

Mr Robinson said that it is important for mobile operators to be the first providing coverage in a given area.

"Even if you're a bit behind your competitor on a rollout, you can be a mile behind in terms of business," he said. Mobile users are often reluctant to change to a new service provider, and it can take months or years to make up lost ground if a firm enters an area late.

Telenor Myanmar CEO Petter Furberg said earlier this month that Telenor's partners are investing in towers, with Telenor in turn paying monthly rental fees for the services.

"The model is changing from being heavy CAPEX [capital expenditure] up front to being long-term OPEX [operational expenditure] heavy," he said.

"That means that the overall profitability of a mobile investment doesn't necessarily change, but the profile of



how cash flows are developing is different from the first time Telenor came to Asia in 1996."

In addition to Apollo, Telenor has also signed an agreement with Irrawaddy Green Technology.

Although tower rollouts have been completed in many countries around the world, Mr Pollack said there are some challenges in Myanmar.

Receiving local approval to construct the towers is currently a constraint. While Apollo has a national licence to operate, they also need local permissions for each individual tower, which can take time.

"Those boards are being very careful – as they should be – to make sure we've done all our homework," said Mr Pollock. "They need to know what we're putting on top of the building and that the building's not going to fall down." "They're asking for lots and lots of

information. It's not progressing, in some areas, quite as quickly as we'd hoped ... but it is happening, and you're going to see steel going up. And it's happening with the proper permissions in place."

In an email to *The Myanmar Times* earlier this month, Ooredoo CEO Ross Cormack said land registration and obtaining permits are the "the biggest challenge" to building towers, though added the firm was receiving support and confident of reaching its goals.

The government has also moved to ensure the legal framework is in place to allow tower companies.

Myanmar's tower companies are able to get a separate Network Facility Service Class licence to operate under the October 2013 Telecoms Law, which is distinct from other types of licences granted to others in the industry, according to Mr Robinson. The rules governing the sector have also mostly been finalised.

Apollo's Mr Pollack said there is a lot riding on the construction of towers and the start of service. Not only will mobile service improve in Myanmar, but the country is also sending a signal that is a reasonable place for international companies to invest.

"This is a bellwether for the opening of the country," he said.

"It takes two to tango. This is both the country saying, 'We're open for business in a very tangible way,' and companies saying, 'Okay, we're willing to come here.'"

Who's building the towers?

Apollo Towers

Engaged in construction, management and leasing of telecoms infrastructure to Myanmar operators, Apollo Towers has signed an agreement with Telenor to build 1001 towers. The Singapore company is chaired by former Orange CEO Sanjiv Ahuja. The firm also received a US\$40 million investment from American firm TPG Capital in April, though most of the funding comes from the chair and company.

Irrawaddy Green Technology

A joint venture between Indian tower firm Quippo Telecom and Middle Eastern firm Golden Towers, Irawaddy Green Technology plans to build and manage 2000 towers for Telenor, according to an interview by a company official with industry website Teleanalysis.com.

Pan Asia Towers

A licenced firm in Myanmar, Pan Asia

Towers' shareholders began in the tower business 25 years ago, operating in international markets including Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and the US.

They have provided shared infrastructure for mobile telecommunications operators, including implementing over 25,000 telecommunication tower sites worldwide.

Pan Asia is currently rolling out in Myanmar as an independent tower company.

Myanmar Tower Company

A joint venture between Digicel Group and Yoma Strategic Holdings, the firm entered an agreement with Ooredoo to build and lease towers in December 2013, according to a press release. Digicel, which claims to be the largest operator in the Caribbean, was one of 91 initial bidders for a Myanmar operator licence, while Yoma is a Singaporelisted, Myanmar-focused firm chaired by prominent entrepreneur Serge Pun.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT)

Earlier this month MPT officials said they had selected Japanese firm KDDI as their joint venture partner. Industry insiders say they expect MPT to expand their own coverage to counter the foreign competition.





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IFC looks at financing burgeoning tower sector

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THE International Finance Corporation (IFC) intends to invest in Myanmar's mobile tower industry, keen on the economic and financial benefits the sector will bring to the country, according to IFC resident representative Vikram Kumar.

While improved mobile connectivity will generate additional business activity, there are also direct advantages for Myanmar firms.

"There's a huge spill-over effect from tower companies," he said. "They contract local construction companies who contract local supply companies who hire locally."

Mr Kumar said the IFC is in discussions with tower companies about supporting their investments plans over the medium term. The IFC is also keen to see a local Myanmar tower company, possibly in the next round of tower building expected next year, he said.

'It's important to make sure no shortage of capital holds back development.'

Vikram Kumar International Finance Corporation

"It's important to make sure no shortage of capital holds back development. The World Bank Group is fully committed that nothing holds back telecoms," he said.

"Commercial banks are uncomfortable with Myanmar risk, especially when it comes to long term project financing," he said.

To counter this, tower companies today envisage structuring their borrowing in a manner allowing commercial banks to get repaid outside the country, while at the same time being able to utilise the funds to pay for local expenses like labour and cement.

The IFC does not compete with commercial banks, and over the coming years, would like to promote more long term on-shore financing in Myanmar, where commercial lenders become more comfortable taking on Myanmar risk, he said. Mr Kumar said it would ultimately

be up to private firms to decide how to arrange their financing.

Edwin Vanderbruggen, a partner

Moving the online motor market forward

AYE NYEIN WIN

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INTERNET firms are attempting to promote online car sales in Myanmar, though some say consumers are slow to take up online vehicle retailing.

With new brands and models entering Myanmar every day, proponents of an online auto marketplace say it allows for customers to conveniently browse a wide range of vehicles.

"The main advantages for an online car market are the multiple brands on offer and making sure the correct documents are available for customers," said Erwin Sikma, managing director of Rocket Internet Myanmar, the Germany-based firm beind several Myanmar websites, including motors.com.mm.

Mr Sikma pointed to strong growth in the domestic car market expected over the next few years as a reason for optimism for the market.

Motors.com.mm is one of five Rocket Internet websites in Myanmar. Established in Myanmar in 2012, the website lists over 5000 units, claiming 70 percent of showrooms and dealers list their vehicles on the website. The firm also plans to extend to Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw showrooms.

The business allows customers to

search vehicles and see the photos online without a need to visit multiple showroom. If interested, they can then contact the showroom through the website to buy the car.

Although much of the world has increasingly turned to online buying and selling, car dealers say it has been slow establishing the country's online marketplace.

Shwe Ba Ho Auto official Ko Nyi Nyi Zaw said he has been showing cars from the firm on the website for several years, but with little online sales success.

Although cusfrom tomers around the country have contacted him by phone after visthe iting website, he has not vet sold cars to buy ers who explicitly say they found him

through the website. to However, he said that some customers may have found his cars online and not informed him. "In my opinion, the online car mar-

ket is not yet well developed," he said. U Kyaw Nyunt from Thiri Mingalar

car dealers said a common complaint was that online car prices are being marked up in Myanmar with the hopes that online buyers would spend more, resulting in perceptions that online cars are more expensive than at sales lots and showrooms – the opposite situation to much of the world.

Still, officials from motors.com.mm said there is a large opportunity to grow online sales, as e-commerce takes hold in Myanmar.

The site is seeing increased traffic and the online future looks strong. With expected improvements to Myanmar's internet connections and penetration rates, the opportunity to shop online will continue to grow, according to motors.

com.mm country manager Sascha Wolk. – Photo: Mr Sascha Wolk speaks at a press conference. By Zarni Phyo

State firm seeks foreign fuel partner

MYANMAR Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) has invited expressions of interest for a joint venture partner in the domestic jet fuel business.

MPPE is the sole distributor of jet fuel in Myanmar, but would like to improve its capacity, said U Myint Zaw, an MPPE director.

"Importing, sale and distribution of jet fuel needs to be updated. We are presently not capable of doing this business in accordance with international standards. We also have to update the service of this business," he said

"This tender is the very first stage of reforming the MPPE. The next step will be setting up a joint-venture partnership with a selected foreign company," he added.

Under the rules governing the tender, the joint venture firm will still be majority-owned by MPPE. Myanmar's government is in the process of privatising many state-owned enterprises. VDB Loi law firm will handle the joint venture process.

The joint venture will focus on Yangon airport first, before expanding to 10 more airports, according to a document outlining the tender posted to the Ministry of Energy's website.

U Myint Zaw would not provide any details about MPPE's revenue.

(One Way)

- Aung Shin

GOLDEN MYANMAR AIRLINES

First Anniversary for Mandalay-Yangon-Singapore Trip

Yangon-Singapore USD

Ticket Sales Period :From May 15, 2014 to June 15, 2014Travel Period :From May 15, 2014 to September 30, 2014

at legal advisory firm VDB Loi, earlier this month said there was no legal reason why international commercial banks and institutions could not provide financing immediately. While few financing deals have yet been implemented in Myanmar, he said several are currently in preparation.

"The laws are in place to do this, but the process is untested which is what has deterred lenders up to now," he said.

"[But] for the right project, we are seeing a keen interest from commercial lenders in real estate, infrastructure and power. The legal framework has been updated in 2013, and the government is generally speaking very cooperative in facilitating foreign investment." Updating Myanmar's bilateral and multilateral investment treaties could help to encourage commercial lending from abroad, he said.

Golden Myanmar Airlines fly twice a day (Morning & Evening) for Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon Trip Competition Competitio

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Phone: 372416

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Dated: 26th May, 2014

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28 **Business**

The Fine Print

Legal & tax insight

Investing in Myanmar's growing power sector

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FOREIGN investment in Myanmar's power sector is still comparatively small, but is expected to grow against the background of significant undersupply of electricity. It is understood that several measures are in the pipeline to increase investors' confidence and their ability to make reliable financial forecasts from an early stage.

Prospective producers of electricity have to negotiate a power purchase agreement with Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. There is presently no standard agreement. As the power purchase agreement is negotiated at a relatively late stage of the investment procedure, the investor goes without reliable data at first. It is, however, expected that an official template with standard terms and conditions will be published this year, injecting more predictability into the system.

Foreign companies can participate in Myanmar's power sector in several ways. They can, for example, sell a turnkey power plant to the Ministry of Electric Power. This has the advantage that the investor is not bothered with the price of electricity, can make an early exit and does not have to worry about the risks and commitments of operating

power plants.

Similarly, companies that only sell equipment or provide services have a comparatively small risk profile. They are usually not required to incorporate a company within Myanmar and usually do not need an MIC permit.

When negotiating agreements with the Ministry of Electric Power, its departments or enterprises, foreign investors have to bear in mind that these agreements have to be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office.

The amount of time required depends on how complicated and novel the agreement is. If the investor is happy to accept a template that the government has already used in past transactions, the review should be done with quickly, if it is not dispensed with altogether. However, these templates may not be as accurate as the foreign investor may wish the contract to be.

Foreign investors should be careful with tax clauses. They are often not drawn up by experts from the Ministry of Finance, but by officers from the Ministry of Electric Power who may not have a thorough understanding of Myanmar's tax laws.

Foreign investors cannot rely on a tax clause that provides for more advantages than what is in the law. They are well-advised to consult with a tax expert in Myanmar in order to avoid expensive and unpleasant surprises later. At the very least, the contract should be reviewed by the tax department of the investor's headquarters.

As such, Myanmar tax laws are not radically different from those in other jurisdictions, so if your tax department finds a clause strange or difficult to understand, this is a cause for alarm.

Foreign investors with an appetite for more risk and commitment may set up a power plant in order to operate it. This may be a BOT project – either with or without a local joint venture partner – or a joint venture with one of the state-owned enterprises under the Ministry of Electric Power.

As a general rule, the investor first has to submit an expression of interest, sign a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry and complete a feasibility study. Thereafter, the framework agreement and other contracts such as the power purchase agreement and the lease agreement are negotiated. The investor furthermore has to submit an application for an MIC permit through the ministry and incorporate the project company in Myanmar.

Nowadays, Myanmar power projects are usually awarded out of a tender procedure.

Sebastian Pawlita and Zin Myo Aung are consultants with Polastri Wint & Partners Legal & Tax Advisors.

Ooredoo places first Mandalay test call

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MOBILE operator Ooredoo has successfully made its first test call in Mandalay on its 3G network.

The call between two handsets using an Ooredoo SIM card was made in front of the media on May 19 and, although they did not attempt a video call at the event, that will also be available to customers, Ooredoo said. "We successfully tested a 3G mo-

"We successfully tested a 3G mobile call in Mandalay. Although the construction of mobile networking in Mandalay hasn't been accomplished so far, it will be finished very soon," said John Farhat, Ooredoo's chief technology and information officer.

"We have planned to erect hundreds of mobile towers in the coming years in Mandalay, but we need the help of regional government, enterprises and locals. The more help we get, the quicker we can do it," he added.

Mr Farhat confirmed Ooredoo is discussing with Myanma Posts and

Telecommunications (MPT) whether customers will face additional charges when they call an MPT line from an Ooredoo phone.

Ooredoo successfully tested its network in Yangon in April, and also has plans to make test calls in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ooredoo has not publicly revealed a date for its service launch, but it is expected in the coming months. They received their licence at the end of January 2014.

– Translation by Thiri Min Htun



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U Kyi Win Associates for **SCOOT PTE. LTD.** P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon. Phone: 372416

Dated: 26th May, 2014



BEIJING

Death the verdict for Chinese tycoon in graft case

A CHINESE court convicted a mining billionaire said to have links with former security tsar Zhou Yongkang of murder and sentenced him to death on May 23.

Liu Han led private company Hanlong, which once launched a billiondollar bid for an Australian firm. He and his brother Liu Wei were found guilty of "organising and leading a mafia-style group", murder and other crimes, the Xianning Intermediate People's Court said.

They and three accomplices were sentenced to death.

The Liu brothers' gang, based in the southwestern province of Sichuan, killed eight people and wounded many others over nearly 20 years, the court said in a posting on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo.

"Liu Han and Liu Wei had extremely malicious intentions, their acts were exceptionally atrocious, their social influences were extremely vile and their crimes and the consequences were extremely serious," it said. "They should be severely punished according to the law."

'Liu Han and Liu Wei had extremely malicious intentions ... they should be severely punished.'

Court posting on Sina Weibo

Another 31 accused were given penalties ranging from suspended death sentences to three years in jail, state media said.

Sichuan is one of the power bases of Zhou Yongkang, who once enjoyed vast power as China's security chief but is now at the centre of rumours about a corruption investigation. He has not been seen in public for months.

The influential business magazine Caixin has reported that Liu Han once had dealings with a businessman believed to be Mr Zhou's son. State media have also hinted that the gang had connections to central government officials.

The verdicts suggest officials are building a case against Zhou Yongkang, said Zhang Ming, a political scientist at Renmin University in Beijing.

Senior party leaders "don't want to punish Zhou Yongkang as a political



IT is easy to talk about developing Myanmar's SMEs. After all, everyone wants to support the little guy. There is also a clear economic case to developing a more robust SME sector, with some 69 percent of Myanmar's domestic business being generated by SMEs.

President U Thein Sein promoted further development for the SME sector during his opening address at the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nav Pvi Taw on May 11, stressing its importance for the country and calling for the establishment of the ASEAN SME Development Fund as outlined in the ASEAN Economic Community blueprint. But there were few concrete details about how to achieve a more robust SME sector.

As 2014's ASEAN chair, Myanmar has an opportunity to tackle issues preventing further SME development, which is an important issue for all ASE-AN member countries. SMEs account for more than 96 percent of enterprises across the regional bloc, and between 50 and 85pc of domestic employment across the 10 ASEAN members, according to the bloc's website.

There are few other sectors with so much potential to directly raise living standards for Myanmar's people, yet with SMEs encompassing such a wide range of activities it is often difficult to nail down exact actions that need to be taken.

COMMENT

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development (MNPED) deputy director general U Than Htut said getting a grasp of the sector is difficult. The ministry is planning to conduct a survey of SMEs to fix some existing data gaps, and ultimately improve decision-making.

"We are prepared to boost the private sector and basic infrastructure for SME development," said MNPED deputv minister Daw Lai Lai Thein.

SME representatives say access to capital is one of the main concerns. Myanmar has only one dedicated bank for SME lending, state-run Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB). One bank alone is not enough to solve access to capital problems.

Myanmar's microfinance industry is also in comparatively early stages of development. While it has the potential to provide large amounts of future financing, too many people still turn to unregulated, informal village money-lenders.

U Zaw Min Win, chair of the Myanmar Industries Association, said previously that bank restrictions on what constitutes collateral and low lending



limits also stymied SME development.

Although many SMEs are clamouring for more capital, it is also not clear that smaller firms have the capacity to make use of capital for cutting-edge technology. It is an increasingly globalised world, brought in no small part by ASEAN's plan to lower trade barriers by the end of 2015 as part of its Economic Community. Myanmar's SMEs will face more foreign competition using advanced techniques, and it is important the country can respond.

"We often can't use modern techniques because it's too expensive for our businesses," said U Myint Soe, chair of the Myanmar Garment Association.

"But we have to fight competition on the regional market, particularly with quality control and market acess," he said.

Statistics from the Central Department of SME Development show there are about 100,000 registered, though many more have not registered, and the number is likely around 300,000. Given their importance to Myanmar and the rest of ASEAN, President U Thein Sein is right to prioritise SMEs. The devil, naturally, is in the details.



case, but as a corruption case. Although it could be hard to find evidence against him," he added.

Scores of people with connections to Mr Zhou have reportedly been detained in recent months, though it is uncertain if he will face trial.

The Beijing News previously quoted a friend of Liu Han as saying that he spent "huge amount of money" to get to know a "leader" in 2001 and from then "rapidly expanded his business to other provinces and foreign countries".

Mr Zhou was the party boss of Sichuan from 1999 to 2002 before he was promoted to China's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee.

If the investigation into him is confirmed, it would mark the first time in decades that such a high-ranking figure has been targeted in a formal inquiry, a move that would send shockwaves through China's political elite. - AFP

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COMMENT

Inclusion promoted with community development

AXEL VAN TROTSENBURG

IN the last few years Myanmar has embarked on an exciting and yet challenging transition of its political, economic and social systems. The international community, including the World Bank Group, has been keen to support the country in this new phase of history.

Much progress has been made but major challenges remain in lifting millions of people out of poverty and creating an inclusive, participatory society. The economy has been doing relatively well, but further transformation will be needed to create the growth and job opportunities to allow all people in Myanmar to fully participate in a dynamic economy.

When one visits Yangon and the other major cities, one gets a sense of the changes that are happening. But what about people living out of the public eye and outside of the media coverage?

This month I visited Chin State, a sparsely populated, very remote area about 650 kilometres (400 miles) northwest of Yangon. It is the poorest state in Myanmar, with a poverty rate of more than 70 percent. It took a sixhour drive from Bagan Nyaung Oo Airport to reach Kanpetlet Township. The purpose of my visit was to see firsthand how several of the poorest villages are implementing a community-driven development (CDD) program launched one-and-a-half years ago, with US\$80 million in World Bank funding. The goal of this program is to support projects identified by the communities to improve their lives, including repairing schools, water supply systems and roads, as well as installing solar lights in public buildings and streets. The strength of the program is that it puts citizens at the center of decision-making. This empowerment encourages active participation by citizens. Implemen-

tation is completely transparent and participatory, with full accountability ensured.

The amazing and very encouraging news is that this approach is working. People have been longing to shape their lives in these poor communities and this project is showing that they are actively seizing the opportunity. One village elder told me that this was the first time in his entire life he was able to say what was important for him and his community. For the first time, he feels he has a voice in his community's future.

The village elder and others like him are providing the first evidence of the positive impact of the national CDD program in Chin State. Altogether, several hundred people in the villages surrounding Kanpelet township are among the first to participate in this community-driven development project. In going through the process of selecting the right project, there were meetings to discuss the many competing demands. In the end, the men and women of affected villages decided to build what would improve their daily lives the most: a foot path, allowing them to make a

shortcut to town; a water supply system; and a new roof for a dilapidated primary school. When I visited these villages, I saw impressive proof of the real benefits that community-driven development projects can bring to one of the poorest areas of the country. People are investing in their future and changing their lives for the better.

The challenge now is how to quickly scale up this approach, so that many more poor communities can shape their own future with a little help from outside the community. The objective is to support CDD projects in 15 poor rural townships - one in each of the 14 states and regions, plus the Union Territory - benefitting 3000 villages, which are home to approximately 2.5 million people in Myanmar. This empowerment process will not only be key to shaping the prospects of these poor communities but it will be important in helping Myanmar develop its most important resource, its human capital.

Axel van Trotsenburg is vice president for East Asia and the Pacific Region at the World Bank



The intricacies of expat medical insurance

COMMENT

ANDREW WOOD

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LAST week we looked at arranging medical insurance for yourself and your family while you are resident in Myanmar. Currently this is available only via international companies who will cover you in various areas around the world. Thus such insurance gives you true international cover and can be arranged by professional advisors in Myanmar.

One of the key aspects of these international products is that they will offer medical evacuation to the nearest place where treatment is available if the facilities in Myanmar or another country are inadequate for the complaint.

It is a well-known fact that, although there are some very capable medical facilities and personnel in the country, these are unable to cope with some issues and may require medical evacuation to places like Bangkok or Singapore.

It is not just a question of getting to another place but making the necessary arrangements to ensure transport is available and equipped for the patient, permits are secured for air travel on an air ambulance, reception at the destination, transport is arranged to the airport in Myanmar and from the airport at the destination. The hospital also needs to be ready for you. While these are obvious details, when you are faced with an emergency situation it will be an arduous task to take care of all this for a stranger to such processes.

One of the questions I am often asked is how the system works for claims. Some expats are concerned that there might be a substantial bill coming, and they have to foot this before they are reimbursed. The situation often differs depending on circumstances.

If you find yourself in a position where you require a scheduled operation and have time to plan for this then a pre-authorisation may be obtained from the insurance company to pay the hospital directly. This means you will not have to pay any cash, except the deductible on your claim, if there is one.

Insurers also issue membership cards so that medical staff can contact

Su.

insurers in the case of an emergency where you are admitted unexpectedly. Hospitals in places like Bangkok have insurance departments whose sole job is to ensure that their patients' claims are catered for.

In Myanmar this is likely quite a long way off yet. Eventually this will become an automatic facility but for now each claim needs to be dealt with individually. International insurers are certainly approaching local hospitals to start these "direct billing" facilities.

One of the common issues which seems to affect expats is getting the right coverage. There are a number of insurance companies who are prepared to cover expats in Myanmar all offering different types of policy.

Do not be fooled by the thought that each company offers exactly the same thing for differing prices. There are a variety of schemes available on the market with different pricing structures.

Some of the cheaper policies may impose lower overall limits of cover. Typical insurance ranges from US\$500,000 to \$2m per annum. You will also run across the odd scheme which looks very cost-economical by comparison. But these may state that the maximum they will pay for each procedure is limited to their specified upper limit. This is often well below the actual cost and you can end up paying for much of the treatment yourself.

As a guide the best type of cover to seek is one which states 100 percent reimbursement for all medical, surgical, anaesthetist and necessary hospital expenses with a decent overall limit. As a guide the limit is good at \$1m plus. If you needed multiple surgeries or a major organ transplant a limit of this magnitude becomes relevant.

Seek advice from a professional who can advise you on the different terms and conditions and why each insurance product is different from the next. By doing this you will ensure that you are making the best possible choice.

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

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About DFAT and DFID

The Australian Government Aid Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) are responsible for managing Australia's and the UK's overseas aid programmes respectively. DFAT and DFID's work contributes to a global commitment to achieve eight 'Millennium Development Goals' to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- Achieve universal primary education;
- Promote gender equity and empower women;
- Reduce child mortality;
- Improve maternal health;
- Combat HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability; and
- Develop a global partnership for development.

DFAT and DFID work in close partnership with foreign government officials, international and multilateral organisations, the private sector, non-government and community organisations, and civil society.

Australian Government's Myanmar Program

The DFAT Yangon team administering the Australian Aid Program is headed by a Counsellor and comprises a mix of Australian-based and locally engaged staff, working in a close team environment. Focus of the program is on health, education, and sustainable economic development in rural areas. The office in Yangon is located at the Australian Embassy. The Australian Aid Program and the UK's Department for International Development operate a Joint Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw. The liaison officer is based in this office in Nay Pyi Taw, but may occasionally be required to travel to Yangon.

DFID's Burma Programme

The DFID Burma team, headed in Yangon and supported by staff in Bangkok and Hanoi, deliver a rapidly expanding aid programme in one of the most interesting and challenging country contexts. We support work on civil society, education, health, growth and livelihoods, and conflict within Burma, as well as supporting refugees on the Myanmar / Thailand border

LIAISON OFFICER – Nay Pyi Taw Temporary Contract – Minimum 6 months

The Liaison Officer will be based in Nay Pyi Taw and provide administrative and logistical support to the Joint Liaison Office located in the Thingaha Hotel. The specific responsibilities of the position include the following

- Liaison between DFAT and DFID and the Myanmar Government
- 2. Management of the Administrative Assistant and oversight of logistical management of the Nay Pyi Taw office

In undertaking these responsibilities the Liaison Officer may carry out the following tasks:

- 1. Liaise and maintain strong relations with government stakeholders, including developing an understanding of government systems, requirements and processes;
- Analysis of key government policy on development issues and the business of Parliament, report key messages to DFAT and DFID, and translate as necessary; 2.
- 3. Liaise and maintain strong relations with other donors and implementing partners;
- Oversight of high level meeting and travel plans for visiting missions for DFAT and DFID staff;
- Guidance and management to Administrative Assistant to assist with daily logistical requirements of the office including arranging meetings and calendars, and provide guidance 5. and compliance with DFAT and DFID hospitality policies and guidelines; and
- 6. Other duties as required.

CAPABILITIES AND REPORTING

The appointee will have the following qualifications and experience:

Canabilities

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- Supports shared purpose and direction;
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- Demonstrates public service professionalism and probity; and Communicates clearly.

Reporting

The officer's salary will be paid jointly by DFAT and DFID. The position reports to DFAT, and DFID will provide regular feedback on the officer's performance. The officer will work under limited direction, responding to broadly stated objectives and requiring little guidance during the performance of work. The officer will be on an initial 6 month contract.

Eligibility/Other Requirements

The position is required to obtain a satisfactory security check and medical check. Applicants are required to be experienced users of Microsoft Office applications, and have the ability to travel outside of Myanmar or work non-standard hours if work demands dictate.

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:

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The closing date: 4PM (Yangon time) 28 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
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Property

BUSINESS EDITOR: Jeremy Mullins | jeremymullins7/dgmail.com

Bridge on Hlaing river ups land prices

Property prices on the rise in western Yangon as a twinned bridge to Hlaing Tharyar township nears completion



noenoeag@gmail.com

BRIDGE construction to Hlaing Tharyar township in western Yangon aimed at easing traffic congestion is also driving up property prices, according to real estate agents.

Land prices increased across the Hlaing river by up to 50 percent from the end of Thingyan, as bridge construction looked to be nearing its finish.

"There has been regular business over the past couple weeks. Prices are up as well," said Ko Aung Kyaw of Aung Khaing Khant realty, which is based in Hlaing Tharyar township.

Prices sat around K20 million for an average 2400 square foot lot before Thingyan, but have increased to between K25 and K30 million, he claimed.

Although Hlaing Tharyar township is a pleasant place to live, property development has been hampered by poor infrastructure links with downtown Yangon.

"There's been terrible traffic around Bayint Naung bridge, and people haven't dared to buy land there," said U Min Min Soe of Mya Pan Tha Khin real estate.

He added the area around Bayint Naung could contain "the worst traffic in Yangon" – though there are plenty of competitors.

"It used to take hours to get to Hlaing Tharyar township," he said.

There are two main crossings across

'It's not only places near the bridge, but other areas in the township that are getting snapped up.'

> Ko Aung Kyaw Real estate agent



the river to the township, though the Baying Naung bridge is more conveni-

ent for people coming from downtown. The bridge is being twinned, with No 2 Baying Naung bridge originally set for completion in 2014. The new bridge, along with two flyovers completed in 2013, were built by First Myanmar Investment (FMI) and Thailand's TPC, with support from Yangon City Development Committee.

All this construction makes it more attractive to live across the Hlaing river. One recent development from the bridges has been an increase the attractiveness of some of the more out-of-theway lots. Whereas it had been difficult to find buyers for remote properties before the bridge construction, interest has jumped in recent weeks.

"It's not only places near the bridge, but other areas in the township that are getting snapped up," said Ko Aung Kyaw.

Areas near Thamgone and FMI City developments are also hot, he said.

Although the new four-lane, 0.76 kilometre (0.48 mile) bridge is some time away from completion, real estate agents say they hope it leads to traffic improvements.

"People expected less traffic jams when the flyovers were complete, but it had less result than expected," said Ko Thet Maung of New Moon real estate. "We still have bad traffic, but it's better than before. Hopefully the new bridge will make it better."



A man rides across existing Baying Naung bridge. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing





No. 83/95, Corner of Manawhari and Pyay Road. Dagon Township, Yangon. Myanmar. Phone : 01 221 721, 214 361 E-mail: yangon@waterlibrary.com - www.waterlibraryyangon.com "The little difference here is we're trying to build more towers more quickly than any company has ever attempted."

What comes next after Thailand's latest coup? **WORLD 39**

Apartment comes with own helipad

TIN YADANAR HTUN yadanar.mcm@gmail.com

HIGH-END Kabar Aye Executive Residence, designed to withstand both earthquakes and rainstorms, will feature a rooftop heliport to beat the traffic in case of "medical emergencies".

With 60 percent of its apartments already sold more than two years before construction work is expected to finish in July 2016, the feature – along with biometrical digital door locks appears to be a popular selling point for the uber-rich.

"We have finished building 80 percent of the basement now. When construction work started, we sold the lower floor condominiums from 8 to 19, and now we will sell the high zone condos," said Daw Aye Aye Thwe, managing director of Yangon-based Living Square Company, which is developing the project.

The KER project on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangone township will also feature some of the more pedestrian features of a luxury apartment block such as a swimming pool, a gym, a cafe and a bar.

Interested buyers can make payments in two-year installments or there is a higher purchase scheme available from three to five years with KBZ Bank.





myatnyeinaye11092@gmail.com

NEARLY all of Yangon's recently constructed "condominiums" may not quality as condominiums under the draft Condominium Law, according to Yangon City Development Committee engineering deputy director U Nav Win.

The draft law has been submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw, but it stipulates a condo must be built on freehold land or land that was granted to the residents - while most of Yangon's buildings are on leased land.

"Under the condominium law. residents must be proportional owners of their land," said U Nay Win. "But most residents of the condos don't own the land, just the rooms. We cannot regard them all as condos."

William Pollack, official at Apollo Towers

U Nay Win said "condominium" is often being used as a catch-all term for a high-rise with large rooms, and buildings with this label generally do not meet the legal definition.

'People think these buildings will be included in the law, but they are not," he said. "No recent buildings have followed the condominium law.

Most so-called "condominiums"

'People think these buildings will be included in the law, but they are not.'

> **U Nay Win** YCDC official

have been built on leased government or YCDC land, meaning owners of condo apartments do not own the land it sits on.

Condo owners can face other difficulties if the building is on leased land.

An ageing building that needs to be torn down and rebuilt on leased land will not receive automatic approval to go ahead. New structures in Yangon require YCDC approval, which may not be granted if the property owner objects.

"If they don't get approval from the owner, they don't get permission from YCDC," city officials told The Myanmar Times.

Disputes between the landowner and developer and residents can also occur, as well as the requirement to pay for the lease, the official said.

Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association vice president U Tha Aye said developers want the condominium law to cover those in a building on leased land.

Identifying the difference between owned and leased land can be difficult for residents, he said. He added it was better to purchase a condo located on owned land, but there are relatively few of these in Yangon.

Myanmar Real Estate Service Association (MRESA) general secretary Daw Moh Moh Aung said that developers should be candid about the type of land the building sits on particularly when foreign investment in condos materialises.

U Nay Win said the draft laws submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw allow foreigners to own a maximum of 40 percent of a building that is over four stories.

Daw Moh Moh Aung said many of Yangon's buildings were constructed under built-operate-transfer terms, with an initial lease of 50 years than can be extended twice by 10 years each time.

A window out to the world

Yangon isn't always at the forefront of modern design. But this week's house bucks the trend, making excellent use of glass windows to bring in large amounts of natural light. With such pleasant views of the surrounding green Hlaing Tharyar township, you won't be afraid to pull back the curtains

The houses measures 5156 square feet, offering plenty of room for a luxurious life. Entering through the wide living room, you'll be greeted with a kitchen and dining room partitioned with simple white walls, including a bar for your quest.

With three bedrooms each family member has their own space, while the large upstairs balcony provides plenty of room to relax. There is also a one-car garage with a remote-control door system.

The house comes equipped with air conditioners in every room, even the kitchen, and is fully furnished. - Tin Yadanar Htun

Location : Shwe Bon Thar Residence, Hlaing Tharyar tsp

: K 7,000, 000 rent (per month) Price

Contact : Thomas Win (Owner)

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Science & Technology

WASHINGTON

NSA row sparks rush for encrypted email

A NEW push to encrypt email, keeping messages free from government snooping, is gaining momentum.

One new email service promising "end-to-end" encryption launched on [May 16], and others are being developed while major services such as Google Gmail and Yahoo Mail have stepped up security measures.

A major catalyst for email encryption were revelations about widespread online surveillance in documents leaked by Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor.

"A lot of people were upset with those revelations, and that coalesced into this effort," said Jason Stockman, a co-developer of ProtonMail, a new encrypted email service which launched May 16 with collaboration of scientists from Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the European research lab CERN.

Mr. Stockman said ProtonMail aims to be as user-friendly as the major commercial services, but with extra security, and with its servers located in Switzerland to make it more difficult for US law enforcement to access.

Encryption is a tool that can help dissident activists avoid detection in places like China or Iran, but the movement has also gained credence in the United States among those who want to stay clear of snooping from the NSA or other intelligence services.

"Our vision is to make encryption and privacy mainstream by making it easy to use," Mr. Stockman told AFP. "There's no installation. Everything happens behind the scenes automatically."

Even though email encryption using special codes or keys, a system known as PGP, has been around for two decades, "it was so complicated" and did not gain widespread adoption, Stockman said.

After testing over the past few months, ProtonMail went public using a "freemium" model – a basic account will be free with some added features for a paid account.

"As our users from China, Iran, Russia, and other countries around the world have shown us in the past months, ProtonMail is an important tool for freedom of speech and we are happy to finally be able to provide this to the whole world," the company said in a blog post.

Google and Yahoo recently announced efforts to encrypt their email communications, but some specialists say the effort falls short.

"These big companies don't want to encrypt your stuff because they spy on you, too," said Bruce Schneier, a well-known cryptographer and author who is chief technology officer for CO3 Systems.

"Hopefully, the NSA debate is creating incentives for people to build more encryption." -AFP

BUENOS AIRES



A paleontologist lies beside the femur of an adult Titanosaur. Photo: AFP

'Largest' dinosaur found in Argentina

PALEONTOLOGISTS in Argentina's remote Patagonia region have discovered fossils of what may be the largest dinosaur ever, amid a vast cache of fossils that could shed light on prehistoric life.

The creature is believed to be a new species of Titanosaur, a longnecked, long-tailed sauropod that walked on four legs and lived some 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Researchers say the plant-eating dinosaur weighed the equivalent of more than 14 African elephants, or about 100 tonnes, and stretched up to 40 metres (130 feet) in length.

The previous record-holder, also in Argentina, the Argentinosaurus, was estimated to measure 36.6 m long.

A fossilized femur of the Titanosaur was larger than a paleontologist who lay next to it. And the find didn't stop there. Bones from at least seven individual dinosaurs, including some believed to be younger, were found at the site.

This is "the most complete discovery of this type of giant dinosaur in the world, a momentous discovery for science," said Jose Luis Carballido, one of eight scientists who participated in the research. -AFP



Science & Technology





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This Sports HD-DV camera can take photos up to 30 meters underwater. Moreover, you can fix it to the front of your bicycle or boat for some 1080P Full HD action shots to show your friends. **K120,000**



Gadget Reviews

by Myo Satt

Action Camcorder

Though small, this camera comes with a wealth of features. Its case is water proof, it can shoot video, and the touch panel display is 2 inches wide. The resolution is an excellent 1.3 megapixels, and the 300mAh lithium battery can last for more than one hour of shooting. **K85,000**

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Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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World

WORLD EDITOR: Fiona MacGregor

Black day for Ukraine military as 17 soldiers killed days before key vote

Pro-Russian rebels firing grenades and mortar shells killed 17 Ukrainian soldiers on May 22, the blackest day yet for the military and a dramatic ratcheting-up of tensions just three days before a crunch election.

The attacks in the eastern industrial belt near the Russian border underscored the difficulties of the embattled Kiev government in resolving a crisis that is threatening to tear the country apart.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk accused Russia of trying to "escalate the conflict" and disrupt the May 28 vote, calling on the UN Security Council to hold an urgent meeting on the crisis.

He said the Kremlin's announcement of a troop withdrawal from the border was merely a "bluff", and that even if soldiers were redeploying, Ukraine was still being infiltrated by "armed terrorists".

Adding to the chaos in the east, armed separatists seized four coal mines in the first such confirmed attack on the main economic engines of the former Soviet republic.

Western governments have pressured Russia not to meddle in the snap election, seen as crucial to preventing all-out civil war erupting on Europe's eastern flank.

Russia set Western nerves on edge when it massed some 40,000 troops on the border, raising fears of an invasion into eastern Ukraine after its seizure of the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March.

On May 22, Russia's defence ministry said four trains and more than a dozen planes were taking troops and equipment away from the border in what President Vladimir Putin said were measures to create "favourable conditions" for the May 25 election.

NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he had seen some evidence of limited Russian troop activity that

he hoped was "the start of a full and genuine withdrawal".

But rebels in Ukraine's heavily-Russified eastern industrial regions of Donetsk and Lugansk are showing no signs of scaling back resistance to what they and the Kremlin regard as an illegitimate government in Kiev.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said the worst of the two overnight attacks saw the insurgents blow up a military vehicle after volleying mortar shells and grenades at a roadblock set up by government troops near the town of Volnovakha in the Donetsk region.

The health ministry said 16 had been killed in Volnovakha, while the defence ministry said another soldier was killed in a similar strike near Rubizhne in Lugansk.

Kiev's interim government launched its so-called "anti-terrorist" operation in mid-April aimed at crushing the rebels who have seized more than a dozen eastern cities and towns and declared sovereignty in Donetsk and Lugansk.

An AFP toll compiled through UN and Ukrainian government sources puts the number of deaths across the east since then at well over 140.

Mr Putin, whose government is wary of sanctions threatened by Washington and its European allies, denies a direct role in the insurgency and has so far refrained from recognising the rebel republics.

But Mr Putin rejects the legitimacy of the pro-Western team that toppled a Moscow-backed president in February on the back of a massive wave of street protests.

He has given only grudging backing to an election that is all but certain to bring to power a pro-Western president who will seek to fold the nation of 46 million more fully into Europe and break for good its historic dependence on Russia. The May 25 poll pits the overwhelming favourite Petro Poroshenko, a 48-year-old confectioner whose chocolate factories have been shuttered in Russia on dubious health and safety grounds, against nearly 20 challengers including the divisive nationalist ex-premier Yulia Tymoshenko.

A new poll on May 22 gave Mr Poroshenko almost 45 percent of the vote against 7.5pc for Mr Tymoshenko, but not enough to avoid a second-round run off on June 15.

"What is important is not the election itself," Mr Putin said. "What is important is that [Kiev] repairs relations with the regions so that people start feeling like full-fledged citizens again."

US Vice President Joe Biden, in Bucharest on May 21, warned of new sanctions.

"If Russia undermines these elections on Sunday, we must remain resolute in imposing greater costs," he said.

Ukraine's interior ministry said it is mobilising 55,000 police and 20,000 volunteers to ensure security for the May 25 ballot although officials acknowledge it will be difficult to organise in the east.

"I appeal to all Ukrainians not only to go and vote but to help others go and vote, to prevent people from preventing others to vote," Wolfgang Ischinger, the mediator for an OSCEsponsored peace plan, told reporters.

Rebel leaders have vowed to disrupt polling in Donetsk and Lugansk, the heartland of Ukraine's Soviet-era industrial rust belt that churns out more than 15pc of the country's economic output.

On May 22 the self-proclaimed leader of Lugansk, Valery Bolotov, proclaimed martial law in the region and called for Mr Putin to send peacekeeping forces that could help avert a "humanitarian catastrophe".



BANGKOK



Thai army soldiers stand guard at the main entrance of a pro-government "Red Shir protesters following a coup by the army. Photo: AFP

Thai ex-prime m

FORMER Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra has been detained by leaders of the country's military junta, a source in her party said on May 24 as the army prepared to brief the media for the first time on a coup criticised worldwide.

The fate of Ms Yingluck and scores of other figures in the nowdeposed government and her Puea Thai party has been a mystery since they were summoned by the army early May 23 as it tightened its grip on the country.

"It is confirmed that she was detained by the military since she reported to the junta yesterday," said the source, who had served in Ms Yingluck's government and was present when she turned herself in.

In the latest twist in years of escalating political turmoil, the kingdom's tough-talking army chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha deposed the civilian government May 22, saying he acted to quell the escalating strife.

The United States, which has led international calls for restoration of civilian rule, took its first concrete steps, saying it would suspend US\$3.5 million in military assistance for the country, about one-third of its aid.

State Department spokesperson Marie Harf said Washington was also considering further cuts under a USlaw office in a controversial court ruling earlier this month that set the stage for the takeover.

She was among more than 150 prominent figures from both sides of Thailand's bitter political divide summoned by the army.

They were also banned from leaving the country, a step analysts said was aimed at averting formation of a government-in-exile.

Thailand has been in political crisis since a 2006 military coup deposed Ms Yingluck's elder brother Thaksin Shinawatra, a billionaire tycoon turned politician.

Mr Thaksin shook an entrenched elite aligned with Thailand's revered monarchy by winning ardent support among millions of rural poor with populist measures.

He was elected prime minister in 2001 but deposed in 2006 in a military coup, fleeing into exile two years later to avoid a corruption conviction.

However, his family and allies have continued to triumph at the ballot box.

Anti-Thaksin forces alleging government corruption have staged months of deadly protests in Bangkok, triggering rival demonstrations by his supporters.

The tensions spiralled in early May with Ms Yingluck's dismissal.

aw The 2006 coup that ousted Mr

Men carry the body of a killed Ukrainian army soldier out of a van and into the morgue in Volnovakha, on May 22, after an ambush at a checkpoint between Blohoddatne and Horlivka, 50 kilometres (37 miles) south of Donetsk. Photo: AFP

mandating suspension of assistance to foreign militaries that overthrow elected governments.

Under the new regime civil liberties have been drastically curbed, most of the constitution suspended, and a night-time curfew imposed as the army cleared rival political protesters from Bangkok's streets.

Late on May 23, the army sent dozens of troops into central Bangkok to clear scores of anti-coup demonstrators.

Demonstrators had chanted slogans and held banners denouncing the coup – one read, "We will never lick dictatorship's boots" – violating military bans on political gatherings and criticism of the takeover.

Witnesses described seeing several people taken away by troops but no clashes were reported.

Ms Yingluck was removed from

Thaksin saw the detention by several top figures in his government and the launch of corruption proceedings, including the charges against Mr Thaksin.

Europe, Japan, and UN chief Ban Ki-moon have joined the calls for civilian control to be restored.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said there was "no justification" for a coup that would have "negative implications" for US relations, and demanded early elections.

Japan, Thailand's biggest foreign investor, called for a "prompt restoration of a democratic political system".

Mr Thaksin's so-called "Red-Shirt" supporters had earlier warned a government overthrow could trigger civil war and all eyes are on the movement's response.

While the numbers taken into custody far exceed those detained in


What does the coup mean for Thailand?

WORLD 39

Malaysia plays down concerns over China's ocean claim

WORLD 43

RFIRUT



Right set for gains as Europe heads to poll

WORLD 44



ts" rally site in Bangkok on May 22. Soldiers shut down the camp and cleared

Syria rebels shell election rally

SYRIAN Islamist rebels bombarded a campaign rally in support of President Bashar al-Assad's re-election in a controversial June 3 poll, killing at least 21 people, a monitoring group has said.

The mortar fire hit a tent where Assad supporters had gathered in the southern city of Daraa late on May 22 and also wounded at least 30 people, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Mr Assad faces two little-known challengers in next month's vote and is widely expected to clinch a third sevenvear term in office despite the raging civil war. The Observatory said a child was among the dead in the attack, the first of its kind on Assad supporters since campaigning got underway earlier this month.

Pro-government militiamen were also among those killed in the mortar attack, which was carried out by an Islamist rebel brigade, the Britain-based watchdog said. It had initially given a death toll of 22.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said the attack "is a clear message from rebels to the regime that there

is not one safe area in which to hold the election'

The June 3 poll will be held only in regime-controlled areas and has been branded as a farce by the exiled opposition and its Western supporters.

The attack happened as the rights group reported that Syria's army has ended a year-long rebel siege of Aleppo central prison after a fiercely fought battle for the strategic prize.

"After a siege of nearly 13 months by Al-Nusra Front and Islamist rebels, regular armed forces backed by pro-regime fighters were able to break the siege of Aleppo central prison," the Observatory said.

Tanks and armoured vehicles entered the prison grounds and intense celebratory gunfire was heard inside the sprawling complex, Abdel Rahman said.

The army's advance in the area around the prison in northern Aleppo had "cut a path for essential supplies to rebel fighters between areas they control and the Turkish border", he added.

The breakthrough means that President Bashar al-Assad's forces were within reach of Castelo road, which links rebel-held parts of Aleppo to the northern countryside.

Fighting in the area has killed at least 50 rebels and an unspecified number of pro-regime fighters, since May 20, according to the Observatory, a Britainbased group that relies on sources on the ground for its reports.

Rebel fighters have repeatedly attacked the prison since April 2013, hoping to free the approximately 3500 detainees inside, who are reportedly being held in dire conditions. Government soldiers inside the prison have fought to defend the complex.

In early February, a group of rebels launched a major assault on the prison and took control of the vast complex, before being partially driven back by air raids. Many prisoners died during the siege because of a lack of food and medicines and poor hygiene.

The prison had nearly 4000 prisoners before the siege, including Islamists. Poor humanitarian conditions and the bombardment of the area have caused the death of some 600 inmates, according to the Observatory. - AFP

inister detained

2006, there has so far been no sign of significant tank or troop deployments, in contrast to eight years ago.

The coup has brought a mixed reaction from Thais, with some expressing hope it will bring stability, while others said they were uneasy about the threat to democracy.

Thailand's democratic development has now been interrupted by 19 actual or attempted coups since 1932, interventions that traditionally require the monarchy's approval.

It was unclear whether the monarchy headed by 86-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej had blessed Mr Pravut's takeover.

Paul Chambers, research director for the Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs at Thailand's Chiang Mai University, said the detentions were aimed at throttling opposition to the coup.

"Yes this is a purge of potential threats to the coup government," he

"Prayut has to shore up his power, especially since we have yet to see monarchical endorsement of this coup."

Political observers expect the junta to hold power for at least a year - as it did after the 2006 coup - and draw up a new constitution to curb the political dominance of Mr Thaksin and his allies. - AFP



A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) on May 22 shows Syrian troops on the rooftop of Aleppo prison after they broke a long-running siege of the prison. Photo: AFP



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BEIJING

Market attack leaves 31 dead

ATTACKERS killed at least 31 people when they ploughed two vehicles into a market and threw explosives in the capital of China's Xinjiang region, on May 22.

Authorities called the latest "severe terrorist incident" to hit the Muslim Uighur homeland.

More than 90 people were also wounded when two off-road vehicles drove into a crowd in Urumqi, with one of them exploding, the regional government's Tianshan web portal said, in an attack with echoes of a fierv car crash in Tiananmen Square last year.

Pictures posted on Sina Weibo, a Chinese equivalent of Twitter, showed

'I saw flames and heavy smoke and goods were on fire while vendors escaped.'

Witness fo Xinjaing attack

victims lying in a tree-lined street, as others sat on flimsy stools.

Flames rose in the background, while other images showed smoke billowing over market stalls $behind a {\it police} road block. None of the$ photographs could immediately be verified.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to "severely punish terrorists and spare no efforts in maintaining stability", the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Xinjiang, a vast and resource-rich region in China's far west, has seen periodic violence which has increased and sometimes spread beyond it in recent months.

Beijing says it faces terrorism from a violent separatist movement there, driven by religious extremism and foreign groups, while critics point to economic inequality and cultural and religious repression of Uighurs as causes of unrest.

Tianshan described the attack as a "severe, violent terrorist incident".

"Thugs broke through protective metal barrier by driving two vehicles, colliding with the crowd and detonating explosive devices, causing the deaths of 31 people and injuring 94," it said.

A witness at the market told Xinhua he heard a dozen "big bangs' during the attack, which happened at about 7:50am when Chinese morning markets, which usually sell fresh groceries, are commonly crowded with shoppers.

"There were multiple strong explosions in the morning market at the Cultural Palace in Urumqi," wrote one Weibo poster who said he was less than 100 metres (328 feet) from the scene.

"I saw flames and heavy smoke as vehicles and goods were on fire while vendors escaped leaving their goods behind."

China has seen a series of attacks in recent months targeting civilians that authorities have blamed on separatists from Xinjiang.

On April 30, the final day of a visit by Mr Xi to the region, assailants armed with knives and explosives carried out an attack at a railway station in Urumqi, killing one person and wounding 79. Two attackers also died.

The main plotter had formulated plans from abroad, then eight days before the incident ordered 10 people to make an explosive device and choose a target, Xinhua said in a later report. In March attackers went on a stab-



Security personnel guard a checkpoint along a highway leading to Beijing May 20 amid heightened security in China. Photo: AFP

bing spree at a railway station in the southwestern city of Kunming, killing 29 people and wounding 143 in an incident dubbed "China's 9/11" by state media. Four of the assailants were shot dead by police.

In 2009 ethnic riots erupted in Urumqi between Uighurs and the country's majority Han Chinese, leaving 200 people dead and prompting a security crackdown.

China has dramatically increased the number of armed patrols on its streets in response to the spate of violent incidents.

The May 22 blasts came a day af-

ter state media reported that courts in Xinjiang jailed 39 people for offences including spreading "terrorist videos".

The 39 were given prison sentences of up to 15 years, the state-run China News Service said, adding that several had "organised, led and participated" in terrorist organisations.

Critics say the security threat in Xinjiang is exaggerated by Beijing to justify hard-line measures, and that tensions are driven by cultural oppression, intrusive security measures and immigration by majority Han Chinese which have led to dec-

MARTIME

ades of discrimination and economic inequality.

Beijing says that its policies in the region have brought prosperity and higher living standards.

The attack sparked outrage on Sina Weibo, with many calling for action against the assailants.

"We should learn anti-terrorist methods from the US and Israel which is about talking less nonsense, showing less mercy and killing them all," said one poster.

"Whatever demands they have, they shouldn't hurt innocent people!' said another.



Cambodia recalls genocide

CAMBODIA'S annual "Day of Anger" against the genocidal former Khmer Rouge regime was marked on May 20 by about 1000 people who gathered on the outskirts of the capital Phnom Penh.

Black-clad students wielded hoes and bamboo sticks to mimic the crimes committed under the regime in the late 1970s.

The re-enactment took place at the Choeung Ek "Killing Fields" on the outskirts of the capital. The site contains the mass graves of victims of the 1975-79 fanatical Maoist regime. Dozens of fine arts students recreated the bloody scenes at the emotional event, which is organised by Phnom Penh authorities. Chik Sarom, 60, who lost 10 relatives under the Khmer Rouge, said 'The regime was like hell on earth. The Khmer Rouge leaders must be sentenced to life in prison."



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Up to two million people were executed or died from starvation, overwork or torture during the Khmer Rouge era.

Its 2 most senior surviving leaders have been brought before a UNbacked court. The hearing has been split into a series of smaller trials, initially focusing on the forced evacuation of people into rural labour camps and related charges of crimes against humanity.

What's next for Thailand: a coup Q&A

THAILAND'S military seized power on May 22, removing the civilian government and suspending the constitution in an overthrow it said was aimed at ending months of deadly political turmoil.

What are the roots of the crisis?

The kingdom has been wracked for years by political divisions between mostly rural, working-class "redshirt" supporters of now-exiled populist former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and the royalist urban middle class, southerners and Bangkok-based "yellow-shirt" elite who loathe him.

Mr Thaksin reshaped Thailand's political landscape by wooing voters in the rural north with policies such as cheap universal healthcare and micro-loans.

He clashed with the establishment, which saw him as a threat to the monarchy, before he was ousted by the army in a coup in 2006.

Mr Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra was removed from office as prime minister in a controversial court ruling earlier this month, angering her supporters.

"The coup represents in a sense a failure of all the elite to find accommodation with new democratic forces now alive in Thailand," said author and academic David Streckfuss.

Unrest related to nearly seven months of opposition street protests has left 28 people dead, hundreds wounded and caused legislative paralysis.

Who is in charge now?

All authority in Thailand has been assumed by a "National Peace and Order Maintenance Council" comprised of the leaders of the various branches of the Thai armed forces and the police.

The dominant power on the council is General Prayut Chan-O-Cha, the hardline chief of Thailand's powerful army who is a staunch royalist.

"Prayut is not just anti-Thaksin, not just anti-Red Shirt, but also pro-mon-



Thai commuters wait for taxis as they rush home after a curfew was imposed when armed forces seized power in Bangkok on May 22. Photo: AFP

archy. Not only that, he is the righthand man of the queen," said Pavin Chachavalpongpun of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Japan's Kyoto University.

Traditionally coups in Thailand have needed the approval of the palace, according to observers, although it was unclear if that was the case on this occasion.

Some experts believe that a struggle is unfolding to decide who will run the country when the more than six-decade reign of revered but ailing 86-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej eventually ends.

What is the effect on civil liberties?

The military junta placed sweeping curbs on civil freedoms, imposing a 10pm-5pm curfew, banning gatherings of more than five people for "political purposes", and suspending most of the constitution.

All radio and television broadcasters were forced to cease normal programming and air only a continuous feed from the military.

The coup also reaffirmed a martial law declaration made two days earlier by the army chief.

That includes the authority to restrict public movements and gatherings, detain people without charge for up to seven days, conduct searches and seizures, and restrict the media.

What next?

The army gave no indication of how long military rule might last but offered an indication of what is to come, saying it took power to "start political reform" -6 a key demand of opposition protesters.

It also left the upper house of parliament, the Senate, intact despite a suspension of the constitution, giving a hint of the coming process to select a new leader.

Experts at the Siam Intelligence Unit, a Bangkok-based independent think tank, predicted that a new prime minister, possibly former defence minister General Prawit Wongsuwan or roval adviser Palakorn Suwanrath. would be appointed by the Senate within the next few days.

The new junta government would then run the country for one to two years during which time a new constitution, more draconian than the 2007 military-drafted charter, would be drawn up.

In this scenario, peace would return in the near term but violence could erupt further down the road if the pro-government "Red Shirts" go underground and fight back.

"The worst possible scenario is a chronic civil war [the] same as Thailand's ongoing deep south Insurgency," the experts said in a briefing note. - AFP

- AFP

BANGKOK

Bangkok residents stoic – but missing their favourite TV shows

AIDAN JONES

AN uneasy calm settled over Bangkok on May 23 as one of the world's most vibrant cities crept back to life after a night-time curfew imposed by the military as part of a very Thai coup.

The capital's usual morning gridlock was relieved as schools were shuttered following an army order, but many people returned to work as normal, stopping at food stalls which opened following the end of the curfew at 5am.

In contrast to the last coup in 2006, there were no tanks on the streets and only a limited deployment of soldiers senior politicians who were ordered to report to the military. But for the public at large, the curfew was met with a very Thai dose of humour and stoicism in a city whose recent history has been pockmarked by political unrest.

For Thanakan Chalaemprasead the most distressing aspects of the coup so far are the loss of his favourite television shows, after the army ordered the suspension of normal programming, and the early closure of the city's ubiquitous 7/11 stores.

"I was hungry ... but I only had instant noodles at home," the 21-year-old mechanic said. home, they should have at least let us watch something."

Instead, televisions and radios blared patriotic music punctuated by statements from a stern-faced military spokesperson.

Overnight the commercial heart of the city, famed among foreign holidaymakers for its 24-hour beat, was reduced to a near ghost town, with only the occasional tuk-tuk or taxi plying the roads as the curfew descended.

A smattering of bars breached the order serving beers to bemused tourists, most of whom were holed up in their hotels. dramatic day of army deployments and televised orders threating further curbs on media and personal freedoms including a ban on political gatherings of more than five people.

As dawn broke on May 23 scores of armed troops were seen around Government House overseeing a clean-up after protesters dispersed from their sand-bagged encampment.

After months of disruptive political rallies, some Bangkok residents expressed optimism that the coup would cut a path through the political paralysis, which has seen at least 28 people killed and hundreds more wounded in idea," Vichit Kriyasaun, 27, said. "But now I think it could be good because they may stop the fighting."

However, others were further wearied by the latest chapter in a festering political crisis that has torn Thailand apart since 2006, when billionaire former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by the military.

The overnight curfew is expected to remain in place nationwide until the army says otherwise.

"This curfew is no good ... we have no customers, the tourists are scared," said Wanit, a 50-year-old taxi driver giving only one name.

at key buildings. "There was also nothing on tel-The direct impact has been felt by evision ... if the army wants us to stay of the military intervention, after a "At first I thought the coup was a bad" and the people will not know." - *AFP*



TRIPOLI

Libya 'terrorist hub', renegade general claims

A RENEGADE general who launched an assault against Islamists in Benghazi has warned Libya had become a "terrorist hub" and called for urgent reforms.

Claiming to speak in the name of the army, Khalifa Haftar on May 21 urged the country's highest judicial authority "to form a civilian presidential high council tasked with forming an emergency cabinet and organising legislative elections".

Mr Haftar, who was once one of slain dictator Moamer's Kadhafi top generals before falling from grace and going into US exile, was reading a statement broadcast on several Libyan networks.

He returned to support the rebellion in 2011 but has this year emerged as the most serious challenge to the post-Kadhafi authorities born of the rebellion.

"Libya has become a hub for terrorists who control power," said Mr Haftar, who has been branded an outlaw by the authorities after launching an assault in Benghazi on May 16 in which at least 79 people were killed.

Speaking from the eastern town of Al Abyar, he said the presidential council he envisions would hand over power to an elected parliament.

Oil-rich Libya has called an election for June to replace its disputed interim parliament, the General National Council, and try to resolve the power struggle, but violence among militias threatens to scupper the vote.

Highlighting the seriousness of the security threat, the navy's chief of staff, Rear Admiral Hassan Abu Shnak, his driver and two guards were wounded on May 21 when gunmen attacked his convoy in Tripoli.

Militias are blamed for growing

unrest in the North African country since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that killed Kadhafi.

Successive governments have complained that the General National Council's claim to executive power as well as legislative authority has tied their hands in taming the militias.

The electoral commission said the election for the currently Islamistdominated GNC would be on June 25. While some observers doubt it will

take place, one Western diplomat told AFP the vote could indeed go ahead.

"The electoral commission has the logistical and human resources needed to organise the elections on schedule," the diplomat said.

The government hopes such a vote could help avoid civil war after the Benghazi attack of May 16.

Gunmen from the ex-rebel Zintan brigade, saying they back Mr Haftar, stormed parliament on May 18 and set fire to an annex.

Mr Haftar has won widening support for his campaign to rid Libya of jihadists.

His supporters include an elite special forces unit of the regular army in Benghazi, who have suffered mounting losses in suspected jihadist attacks in the eastern city where Islamists are well entrenched.

Police brigades, officers at Tobruk air base and the powerful Al-Baraassa tribe from the east have also declared support for Mr Haftar.

The chief of staff of Libya's air defence units, Colonel Jomaa al-Abani, told a private television channel he was joining Mr Haftar's offensive, dubbed "Operation Dignity".

It was not known what prompted the attack on the admiral. Abu Shnak was on his way to work when his convoy came under fire, spokesperson



Libya's Prime Minister Ahmed Miitig holds a press conference in the capital Tripoli on May 21 as the authorities strive to and prevent a descent into civil war. PHOTO: AFP

Colonel Ayub Kassem said.

"He was lightly wounded in the head. A driver and two guards were also wounded, but their injuries are not life-threatening."

Detractors have accused Mr Haftar of being in the pay of the United States, where he lived in exile for two decades, but Washington has distanced itself from the renegade general.

However the United States is ready to help organise new elections in

Libya in hopes of ushering in a more b stable government, US officials said m Wednesday.

"We're prepared to help support elections preparation from here," State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said, cautioning that Washington was still waiting for official word from Tripoli.

Washington has a range of tools at its disposal, she said, declining to confirm however whether the US would be prepared to help with security arrangements.

Despite the tensions, the situation was almost normal in Tripoli and Benghazi, where shops, banks and governments were open.

Prime Minister Ahmed Miitig called on May 21 for dialogue among all protagonists while affirming that "Libyans don't want to be ruled by the military," referring to the rogue general.

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Former judge appointed S Korea's new prime minister amid ferry anger

SOUTH Korean President Park Geun-Hye named a former Supreme Court judge as her new prime minister on May 22, as the fallout from last month's ferry disaster casts a long shadow over upcoming local elections.

Ms Park also accepted the resignations of the chief of national security as well as her spy chief, presidential spokesperson Min Kyung-Wook announced. Ahn Dai-Hee, 59, is to replace outgoing Prime Minister Chung Hong-Won, who offered his resignation last month over the April 16 ferry disaster, which claimed around 300 lives. "We believe that he is a right person to strongly push ahead with reforming government organs, correcting wrong practices and eventually transforming the country," the spokesperson said. Ms Park accepted resignations offered by Nam Jae-Joon, the head of the country's National Intelligence Service, as well as Kim Jang-Soo, the head of the National Security Council. Both came under criticism over their inaction when the disaster struck.



party is expected to perform well at the upcoming local elections on June 4, capitalising on public anger at the government's mishandling of the ferry disaster.

Parents and relatives of the missing and the dead have blasted the response to the sinking, saying delays in launching the rescue had cost lives. There has also been rage over perceived corruption and lax safety standards that may have led to the disaster, with claims that the ferry was overloaded and that the passenger list was inaccurate and incomplete. The polls are the first nationwide elections since President Park Geun-Hye took office 16 months ago. They are widely seen as a referendum on her performance leading the country.

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Dated: 26th May, 2014

South Korea president Park Geun-Hye. Photo: AFP

Mr Ahn still needs parliamentary consent to officially be declared as prime minister, but this is a formality because the ruling Saenuri Party has majority status in the National Assembly.

Ms Park's popularity ratings have slumped in the aftermath of the *Sewol* tragedy and her ruling Saenuri Party is greatly concerned over the political fallout from the disaster on June 4 local elections.

South Korea's main opposition

The 6825-tonne ferry carrying an estimated 476 people sank off the country's southwest coast on April 16.

On May 22 a total of 288 passengers had been confirmed dead, most of them students on a school trip, with 16 others still unaccounted for.

-AFP

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| Online | 1 | Videographer |
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| Printing | 1 | Printing Director |
| Sec. | | (7+ years experience required, returned national a plus) |
| Human Resources | 1 | HR Director |
| | | (5+ years HR exp required, Management degree, returned nation a plus) |
| NOW! Magazine | 1 | Photographer |
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| | 2 | Marketing Assistant |
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| | | (2-3 months with potential for lone term hire) |
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Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 30 May 2014. Early applications will receive priority consideration. To apply, send a one-page CV and one-page cover letter explaining how your skills, experience or degree are relevant to the position.

Include specific ideas about what you would do on the job to add value to the newspaper and the company.



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MYANMARTIMES

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токуо



Malaysia downplays China ASEAN threat

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Najib Razak has distanced himself from growing territorial conflicts in Asia, telling a Japanese newspaper they should not jeopardise the "strategic importance" of his country's ties with Beijing.

"We must look at the big picture and not define relations with China on a single-issue basis but look at the broad spectrum of the relations, and recognise the strategic importance of our bilateral relationship with China," Mr Najib told *Nikkei* on May 22.

"We do not want (the territorial) issue to be an impediment to the growing ties between Malaysia and China," the Malaysian premier, on a visit to Japan, said in an interview with the business daily.

TOKYO

The comments come as Vietnam and the Philippines, which along with Malaysia are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASE-AN), are embroiled in separate rows with China over control of parts of the South China Sea.

Tensions remain high in the region after an eruption of deadly anti-China riots in Vietnam over Beijing's controversial plans to drill for oil in contested waters.

Kuala Lumpur and Beijing have their own rival claims to parts of the South China Sea which is believed to hold vast deposits of oil and gas, but Mr Najib has played these down as he pursues closer ties with Malaysia's top trading partner.

Mr Najib's government has also

been trying to placate Chinese anger over the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, two-thirds of whose 227 passengers were from China.

On May 22 Mr Najib said: "We should heed the fundamental principles in which good diplomacy is a conductor... sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, and mutual benefits in relations."

He added that disputes over resources should be solved through "international law, and not economic and military solutions".

Military solutions". Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, speaking at the same forum, said Asia's future could go one of

two ways. The first, which he characterised as "a good scenario", includes China's rise as "a benign power" similar to the United States and with "a stable strategic environment that will foster regional economic integration".

But "in a less benign scenario… tremendous growth in China's power can prove too much for the regional order to accommodate," Mr Lee said.

Without regional trust "maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas (will) continue to fester (and there will be) tensions between other countries, too, arising from a result of historical issues, territorial disputes, and nationalist populism," he said.

"Nationalism is a growing force in many Asian countries.... as we have recently witnessed in anti-China protests in Vietnam. "In Japan and (South) Korea, the history of the war continues to drive public sentiment towards each other.

"And in China, ...the country's astonishing progress has aroused strong nationalistic feelings, and in these are to claim China's rightful place in the sun after more than a century of humiliation," he said.

This kind of strife will set back Asia's economic development, he said, adding that China needed to be stitched into regional trade networks, including the ongoing talks over a mooted Trance-Pacific Partnership.

The comments came a day after Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said China's placing of an oil rig in contested South China Sea waters had "seriously threatened peace". – *AFP*

Fukushima reactors to stay shut as court rules they pose 'specific risk'

A JAPANESE has court ruled against the restarting of two reactors at a nuclear power plant, acknowledging residents' safety fears and dealing a blow to the government's plan to revive nuclear power.

The decision on May 21 was the first court ruling in Japan against the restarting of reactors since a massive earthquake and tsunami sparked meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear plant in March 2011.

At present, all of Japan's nearly 50 nuclear reactors are offline due to

shutdowns or safety checks.

The regional court at Fukui in western Japan said the two reactors at the Oi plant operated by Kansai Electric Power Co. should not be restarted after safety checks because they pose "specific risks" to residents in the event of a major earthquake.

The court was responding to a lawsuit filed by a group of 189 people demanding an injunction against the restarting of the reactors. It acknowledged claims by 166 of them who live within 250 kilometres (156 miles) of the plant. The ruling came as a blow to government plans to bring some back online.

The utility firm lodged an appeal against the decision the following day, "It was sutramply perpetuble that

"It was extremely regrettable that our company's position could not be understood," Kansai Electric Power said in a statement.

"During an appeal, our company will continue to stress the safety of the number three and number four reactors at the Oi plant," the company said.

In the face of widespread public unease about nuclear power, the Nuclear Regulation Authority in July last year introduced new safety standards. These oblige plant operators to put in place specific countermeasures against serious accidents like meltdowns or tsunamis.

Despite the ruling, the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said there was no change in its plan to restart nuclear reactors if they are confirmed safe.

"As a country, we are going to explain to local people about reactors that are found to be safe after thorough checking," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference after the firm appealed the ruling.

"This basic stance has not changed at all," the top government spokesman said.

Japan shut down all its nuclear reactors after Fukushima. The two reactors at Fukui resumed operations in August 2012, the first and only ones to do so

In September last year they were stopped for regular safety checks.



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44 World

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LONDON



Members of a student's corps cast their ballots for the European elections, just after midnight on May 22. Photo: AFP

Right tipped for gains as Europe goes to the polls

BRITAIN and the Netherlands went to the polls on May 22, starting the ball rolling on elections to the European parliament that are expected to see a swing toward populist right-wing parties.

The elections, which began at 5:30pm GMT in the Netherlands, were spread over four days in the EU's 28 member states, and were expected to see major gains for parties bent on dismantling the European Union from the inside.

"I believe in Europe, but I think there are far too many rules coming from Brussels," Margreet de Jonge, 63, said as she cast her ballot in The Hague, echoing the view of many that the EU has become a bloated bureaucracy.

Eurosceptic parties were being tipped to top the polls in Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands in the results which were due to be announced at 9pm GMT on May 25.

The anti-immigration and anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) of Nigel Farage, and Geert Wilders' virulently anti-Islam Party of Freedom (PVV), are both forecast to make big gains.

UKIP's rise has rocked the British political establishment as a party without a single representative in its national parliament heads into the European election slightly ahead of the main opposition Labour Party, according to a poll published by *The Times* on the morning of the vote.

Mr Farage, a former financial trader who likes to hold court with journalists in the pub, has ruled out joining a far-right bloc of Mr Wilders' party and France's National Front, led by Marine Le Pen.

Mr Wilders hopes UKIP will sign up to the grouping, but Mr Farage has refused to do business with an alliance involving the National Front, which he considers anti-Semitic.

With 26 million people out of work across the EU, including more than half of those aged under 25 in countries such as Greece and Spain, eurosceptic and far-right parties have picked up massive support on anti-immigration and anti-EU platforms.

The latest polls show eurosceptics and others have struck a chord with disgruntled voters and could secure almost 100 seats in the new parliament. trebling their number in the 751-seat assembly.

A survey by PollWatch showed conservatives holding a narrow lead over their socialist rivals in the next parliament, with the European People's Party (EPP) on for 217 seats against 201 for the Socialists and Democrats (S&D).

While that would leave the mainstream groups still the two biggest parties, the EPP would drop from 35.8 percent to just short of 29pc of the total seats, with the S&D up marginally to 26.8pc.

UKIP highlights the trend of a shift toward eurosceptic parties. It looks certain to sharply increase the 13 seats it currently holds in the European Parliament.

It was also predicted to do well in local council elections that also took place in Britain on May 22.

Simon Hix, a political science specialist at the London School of Economics, said, "It could be perceived as a breakthrough election [because] they could win seats and win votes in all parts of the country."

Nevertheless, UKIP has endured a troubled few days in the build-up to the election.

Last week. Mr Farage was forced to back-pedal after saying in a radio interview that he would be concerned if he had to live next door to Romanians, and on May 20, a "multi-cultural street party" that UKIP organised to counter allegations it is racist descended into farce.

Protesters hijacked the event in a London suburb and the Caribbean steel band booked for the event stopped playing after five minutes when its members realised who had booked them for the event.

In the Netherlands, Mr Wilders' party hopes to garner six of the 26 seats up for grabs, although unlike Mr Farage he is a lawmaker in his national parliament so will not stand for a Brussels seat.

Mr Wilders has waged an energetic campaign, vowing to take the Netherlands out of the EU and abandon the euro. Analysts said however that voter apathy among eurosceptics in the Netherlands could have a negative impact on the PVV's score. - AFP





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JOS

US joins search for girls amid attacks in Nigeria

THE United States has deployed 80 military personnel to Chad to help find 200 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, who are blamed for a spree of deadly attacks last week including a massive car-bombing.

In a letter to Congress, US President Barack Obama said the military contingent, which were deployed to Chad on May 21, would stay until their support "is no longer required".

The troops mark a significant boost to an existing US military effort which includes the use of surveillance drones as well as manned aircraft over Nigeria.

The Pentagon has criticised Nigeria for failing to react swiftly to the rise of Boko Haram, held responsible for thousands of deaths since 2009. Until the kidnappings Nigeria had resisted cooperation with the West in its fight against the group.

Nigerian authorities have been probing the nation's deadliest bomb attack yet, a twin car blast Mau 20 in the New Abuja Market area of the central city of Jos which left at least 118 people dead and buildings collapsed.

Boko Haram has been blamed for the atrocity as well as other recent strikes near the town where the schoolgirls were kidnapped, in affronts to a security crackdown launched in response to the April 14 mass abduction. Three more attacks, two in villages

near the girls' hometown of Chibok in northeastern Borno state and one near Lake Chad, have left more than 50 people dead between May 19 and 21, according to witnesses.

"They began shooting and set fire to our homes. We had to flee to the bush. They killed 20 of our people," Haruna Bitrus in the village of Alagarno said, in an account supported by other residents.

Washington described the Jos carnage, and a suicide car bombing in the northern city of Kano on May 18, as "vicious attacks on defenceless Nigerian civilians".

Britain said the "cowardly, inhumane crime" would only strengthen the international community's resolve to defeat terror in Africa's most populous nation.

In Jos, where Boko Haram have attacked before, Plateau state governor Jonah Jang's spokesperson said the bombing bore the hallmarks of the Islamist extremists.

"The investigation is still ongoing but this is clearly an extension of the terrorist activity that has affected the northeast of the country, the Boko Haram insurgents," Pam Ayuba said.

The Roman Catholic archbishop of Jos said the insurgents were trying to sow "chaos" in the religiously divided city, hit by waves of deadly sectarian clashes over the last 15 years.

Kyari Mohammed, a Boko Haram specialist and chair of the Centre for Peace Studies at Modibbo Adama University, said the militants were "the only ones capable of doing this".

"Every other rebel or fringe group can use bombs but not of this scale or sophistication," he added. "I have the feeling that what they want to achieve is to escalate things because of the international pressure which has built up [because of the kidnapping]."

On the day of the mass abduction, Boko Haram also launched a car bomb attack on a bus station in a suburb of the capital Abuja which killed 75. They are suspected of a similar attack in the same location on May 1 which left 19 dead.

Four people were killed in the May 18 attack in Kano, although it was unclear whether the attack was linked to Boko Haram.

Faced with the escalating violence, Nigeria's army announced a major new recruitment drive, with spokesperson Olajide Laleye warning that fresh recruits would be sent to the frontline.

Parliament on May 20 approved a request for a further six-month etxtension of a state of emergency in Borno and neighbouring Yobe and Adamawa states with the caveat that non-military means should also be explored to end the violence.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan is adamant there will be no negotiations with Boko Haram on swapping the girls for militant fighters held in Nigerian jails, but the government has maintained it is open to dialogue on wider issues.

Nigeria has submitted a request to the United Nations to proscribe Boko Haram as an international terrorist group. The global attention on the plight of the missing girls has also seen specialist teams from the United States, Britain, France and Israel sent to Nigeria.

The analyst Kyari Mohammed said however that while international pressure was forcing the government to act, it was also emboldening Boko Haram to mount further strikes. -AFP

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Clockwise from top: Hand-blown glasses are displayed in the Nagar Glass Factory "natural warehouse"; a chimney stack that survived the destruction of the factory remains standing; Hpan Myay Hman Myay's sister finishes off a glass plate; Hpan Myay Hman Myay sits beside a table of finished glass objects inside one of the remaining buildings at the Nagar Glass Factory. Photo: Bridget Di Certo

Buried treasure

In the ruins of Cyclone Nargis remains the near-legendary story of one family's fortunes in the glassware business

BRIDGET DI CERTO

Bridget.dicerto@gmail.com

PAN Myay Hman Myay can't quite remember his age. "More than 60, but not yet 70," he guessed, sitting in the shade of a rustravaged tin roof that has looked ready to collapse for nearly six years. Scattered around him and half-hidden under leaves and shrubs on these 4 acres of land are the fruits of his labour during those 60-odd years. It is here, on the outskirts of Yangon, that as a boy Hpan Myay Hman Myay joined his father in Myanmar's first hand-blown glass factory. The Nagar Glass Factory is well concealed off a little-trafficked road behind the Brazilian Embassy near the north-eastern tip of Inya Lake. A small dirt side road breaks off, and following the path through a heavy canopy of overgrowth to what remains of the factory is a powerful reminder of the damage Cyclone Nargis wreaked in Yangon six years ago. The Nagar Glass Factory is a tumble of fallen trees, collapsed workshops and warehouses, and mountains of the precious glass the factory was once famed for. After the Second World War left Myanmar, and its manufacturing sector, in splinters, like most commodities all glass had to be imported from Thailand or Japan. It was at this time that

Hpan Myay Hman Myay's father and five of his friends saw a market niche for Myanmarproduced glass.

"At the start they were not perfect," Hpan Myay Hman Myay said. "Bit by bit we improved. I read lots and lots of books about glassmaking.

"I had to teach myself how to blow the different shapes, how to affect the viscosity of the glass and to get the temperature right. Too much heat, it would be too liquid and not good. Too cold and the glass will break. "

Unlike European or even other Asian glass blowers, Hpan Myay Hman Myay and his father's team of workers were working in an information vacuum. They only had access to books imported from England to help teach themselves how to craft the delicate sculptures and glasses the factory became known for, Hpan Myay Hman Myay remembered. Their patience and persistence paid off, and the Nagar Glass Factory was born and gained quick fame within Myanmar. Among the visitors during the factory's heyday were National League for Democracy Leader Aung San Suu Kyi's family and, on a whistlestop tour in the 1960s, US astronaut John Glenn. The Nagar Glass Factory grew into a large operation, with Hpan Myay Hman Myay and his younger sisters growing up to take the company reins. While Hpan Myay Hman Myay cannot recall the monetary value of the operation, there were over 100 employed at the glass factory making products for export to Thailand and Japan and local distribution.

'Bit by bit we improved. I read lots and lots of books about

family into literal and emotional darkness.

Shortly before the cyclone hit, Hpan Myay Hman Myay said he had heard rumours that foreigners were fleeing the country. Unsettled by the exodus, he took the unusual measure of turning off all the gas in the factory shortly before Nargis made landfall.

"This saved us, because we stayed here. Over there," he said, pointing to a cavernous shanty of rusted corrugated iron in a ditch at one side of the property. "Because there was no gas we were lucky, because there were no fires."

After the financial squeeze of sanctions, and the cyclone devastation to the factory and workshop, Hpan Myay Hman Myay and his

But in 1997, the glass factory felt the pinch of trade sanctions and dramatically downsized its operation. Then, a decade later, Cyclone Nargis

glassmaking'

Hpan Myay Hman Myay

Owner, Nagar Glass Factory

smashed through the Ayeyarwaddy Delta, pounding into Yangon and Nagar Glass. The violent winds that left more than 100,000 dead also took the family's main house, factory and warehouses. Centuries-old trees, thicker than the brick chimneys of the factory furnace, were flung across the property. The storm led to power and water cuts, plunging the family laid off 60 workers and officially closed down the Nagar Glass Factory.

"Now it is our natural warehouse," he said, sweeping his hand across the dilapidated acreage with piles of finely crafted, hand-blown glass stacked under leaf litter.

Hpan Myay Hman Myay compares himself to the factory, something shattered, unable to be rebuilt. He said he is uninterested in restoring the factory or opening a shop for his glass.

"The people like to look [through the ruins]," he said.

The Nagar Glass Factory is located on Hlaing Mahasi Road, behind the Brazilian Embassy near the north-eastern tip of Inya Lake. The factory is open every day for punters to hunt through the jungle and select glass objects. Hpan Myay Hman Myay's sister or niece will polish and finish the products while you wait. Vases sell for K10,000 to K15,000; drinking and wine glasses are around K6000 and glass sculpture (of anything from fish to cats to nativity sets) start at K5000.



IN PICTURES

A member of a dance troupe performs for audience members at the Oramin F High School Queen contest during an interval before the evening-gown competition at Yangon's Shangri-La Hotel on May 15. *Photo: Yu Yu*

Coffee baristas get ready to rumble

EI EI THU

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MYANMAR baristas will have a good chance to show their skill in a national barista championship to be held June 18 to 20 at the Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon.

The Myanmar National Barista Championship 2014 will test participants' coffee-making techniques and knowledge, said Ko Wai Phone, co-founder of Element Coffee Consulting and Machine Supplies Company.

"I would like to show the world that Myanmar has a good barista. So people around the country who are interested in this competition can get involved. They don't need many qualifications. They just need to be over 18," said Ko Wai Phone, who is also an international barista judge, roast-master and trainer.

Bangkok Exhibition Services and Element Coffee helped organise the event.

"The contestants will compete in making three different types of coffee: espresso, cappuccino and signature," he said.

A champion and two runners-up will be named.

After this competition is over, Element Coffee aims to host another contest with international baristas in Myanmar next year, Ko Wai Phone said.

Contestants may register at Coffee Circle, 107A Dhammazedi Road, up until June 12.

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Treasures of Upper Myanmar

From gov't hotel to high-end resort, one woman's transformative hotel career

STUART ALAN BECKER

N northern Mandalay, just where the city becomes countryside, you'll find Rupar Mandalar Resort, a grand compound constructed of teak wood and planted with flowers, shrubs and trees cared for by a team of gardeners. There's even a lizard that lives in

the flowers by the entrance to the spa. It wasn't always this way. When

Daw Win Win Tin, the hote's front office manager, started her career back in 1981, her salary was only K8 per day at the government-owned Mandalay Hotel and the service there, as at most other local hotels, was indifferent – even rude by today's standards.



The young Daw Win Win Tin at the government-owned Mandalay Hotel in 1981 when she earned K8 per day. Photo: Supplied

In the 33 years between those days and now, Daw Win Win Tin has helped transform Mandalay's hospitality industry, driven to meet the demands of a steadily increasing stream of international visitors.

At Rupar Mandalar's restaurant last week, Daw Win Win Tin described the changes she's seen since she first went to work at Mandalay Hotel, which today is called the Mandalay Swan Hotel, located across from the palace moat.

"Every young lady who joined the government hotel started out in housekeeping, even if they were college graduates," she said. Likewise, every young man started out as a gardener.

"At the time people were not very open-minded and hotel workers were looked down upon," she said.

She got a lucky break when the manager asked if she wanted to work at the front desk.

"I sat and dealt with the guests and never stood up. Nobody taught us – but now we know this is rude behavior. Now we know that the customer is the most important, because if guests don't like the hotel, they won't come back," she said.

"In a government hotel, whether or not you tried hard, you still got your salary."

Big changes started to come in 1997 when the hotel became a joint venture and a French hotel manager arrived who influenced Daw Win Win Tin's thinking about hotel service. Other professionals from Israel and Germany later arrived in Mandalay to provide staff training.

"During this time a lot of foreigners came and they taught me a lot of things. Their behavior



II II

Daw Win Win Tin stayed on at the Mandalay Swan for another two years after it became a joint venture hotel – and watched with growing excitement as the Sedona Hotel was constructed right next door.

Her next move was to join the Sedona Hotel as a supervisor, and after a year she was promoted to duty manager. Two months later she became front office manager.

In 2007 she joined the Rupar Mandalar, which is at the top end of expensive hotels in Mandalay, with room rates of more than US\$300 per night and a \$2500 a night Presidential Suite.

The Rupar Mandalar Resort was completed in 2005 with 16 rooms but has since expanded, thanks to a government licence, to 22 rooms. A new wing will open in the next few months, bringing the room total to 46. There's a pool, a spa and a restaurant that serves Asian and Western food, and a new coffee shop is nearing completion.

"We have 100 staff and only 22 rooms," Daw Win Win Tin said. "The best thing about this hotel is the service to all guests from check-in to check-out. We treat the guests like they are in their own room in their own home."

Staff greet guests upon arrival at the Rupar Mandalar Resort Spa. Photo: Stuart Alan Becker

Rupar Spa

Most of the guests are foreigners of two types, she said: honeymooners and retired couples.

Every year professional trainers come from Thailand to provide instruction to the staff at the Rupar Spa, which is open every day 1-9pm and where a body scrub costs \$40.

With a chef from Guangzhou, the Rupar Mandalar is locally famous for Chinese food.

"Guests come from Mandalay Hill Hotel and Sedona Hotel especially for the Chinese food."

As for the future of Myanmar, Daw Win Win Tin said she hopes salaries will increase for ordinary Myanmar people.

"For most of the people staying in villages in Myanmar, their lives are not much improved until now. If we compare with other countries, salaries around Mandalay are very low. Even Yangon people get higher salaries," she said.

Despite Myanmar's past, Daw

Win Win Tin feels she's been lucky to provide for her family's wellbeing. She's happy that her daughter recently graduated with a degree in engineering and that she herself has been able to travel to Singapore and Malaysia in the past few years as part of a bonus program for senior staff.

For Daw Win Win Tin, these are the best days for Myanmar compared to the old days around 1981. "For me there has been only one

"For me there has been only one career: in hotels."

Rupar Mandalar Resort

www.ruparmandalar.com. Corner of 53rd & 30th Streets, Chan Aye Thar Zan township, Mandalay Phone +95 261555 Email reservation@ ruparmandalar.com

Would you like to suggest any hidden treasures of Mandalay or Upper Myanmar? Do you want to announce events that are happening in Mandalay or Upper Myanmar? Please e-mail your information to stuart.becker@gmail.com.

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14



Cooking by feel

Blind chefs show off skills at culinary competition

ZON PANN PWINT zonpann08@gmail.com

"PEOPLE used to question whether a blind person can put food in their mouth straight when they eat. I want to show that the blind can even cook," Ma Hauk San said, touching plastic containers of fish paste, salt, chilli powder and a bottle of peanut oil to learn the arrangement of the containers of ingredients before the blind cooking competition started.

Most would probably assume that cooking demands a good light to keep a chef safe from cutting herself and good vision to get the balance of ingredients right and avoid burning hands on the stove.

The first Blind Cooking Competition in Myanmar challenged these perceptions of the blind.

Twenty-two students from the Yangon School for the Blind participated in the event, which was organised by the Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind. They competed in 11 teams of two.

Ma Hauk San was born blind, but she used her keen sense of touch and smell to cook.

"Every day I go to the market. buy what I like to eat and cook at home," she said. She works as a massage therapist at the school.

The Yangon school in Mayangone township is one of two schools operated by the Christian Fellowship, a non-government organisation that provides education, lodging, vocational training and music for the blind. Altogether, the fellowship trains about 224 students, which is just a fraction of the nation's estimated 700,000 blind people.

Most have troubles in everyday life. Yangon's crumbling sidewalks pose a hazard, as do reckless drivers. Socially outcast, the blind experience high rates of unemployment. Some become teachers, but others become beggars, and most rely on family support. Although Myanmar has recognised White Cane Day since 1992 to promote nondiscrimination against blind people, society's attitude has been slow to shift. The fellowship aims to help change that.

Standing around a table set with kitchen utensils, cauliflower, gourds, beans, carrots, mangoes, garlic, onion, fresh chicken and more, Ma Hauk San waited with excitement. During a 30-minute preparation, all the participants were busy touching the utensils and containers of ingredients to remember their arrangement.

The competition allowed each team one-and-a-half hours to prepare four kinds of dishes: chicken curry, fried vegetables, gourd soup and pounded marian.

When the competition started, each team member took different tasks. While one chopped chicken the other peeled garlic and onions and cut the vegetables.

Ma Hauk San peeled the garlic slowly and carefully so as not to harm her hands while her partner chopped the chicken into small cubes with her skilled fingers. Once, a chicken cube jumped off the cutting board and onto the floor. She fingered the cutting board to try to locate the cube but yielded when she couldn't find it.

During the competition, six judges visited each cooking station, smelling and checking for cleanliness and helping teams to pick up fallen spoons that they didn't notice had been dropped.

"Reduce the heat, please," a judge told a participant who failed to attend the stove while she fiddled with opening a container of spices.

Some teams were married couples; they seemed to have a smoother style than teams of friends.

"At home, my wife and I cook alternately. At first, I found being sightless quite a handicap in cooking, especially when using a charcoal cooker. The school prepares kitchens for the blind at a boarding house. The stove, kitchen utensils and containers of ingredients are neatly arranged in order so it makes it easy for us when we cook. We just need to go to the market," said U Brendan, a keyboard player at the school.

He and his wife took part in the competition together. They support two schoolchildren who have normal vision.

Apart from a few setbacks, all participants prepared four colourful and aromatic dishes. A spectator told a participant that "the appetising smell from your chicken curry and pounded marian made my mouth water. Please reduce the salt; I will buy your dishes after competition."

After time was up, the teams neatly put curries on plates and bowls to let the judges taste.

"I was brought up by my grandmother and she cooked for me. She used to say that she wanted to know how I would survive through life and feed myself without sight when she died. She died years ago. If she were alive, I would show her how well I can cook," he said, adding that at home he cooks a one-dish meal for himself every day.

Before the results of the contest were announced, the audience was treated with songs sung by Christian singers.

Then a judge, Mr Oliver from the Myanmar Chefs Association, told the crowd, "All the participants are good. Their dishes are delicious." He only half-joked that he was surprised no one's hands were burnt when they put the gas cookers on high.

He also advised that the chefs use a bit less salt and added that the natural sweetness of fresh meats and vegetables don't need seasoning powder (monosodium glutamate), which has harmful health effects

The winning team received K300,000 while second and third got K200,000 and K100.000. respectively. All the dishes were then sold at auction. The top three meals went for K4,000,000, K1,100,000 and K400,000. The others sold for K100,000 to K250,000. The money will be used to help cover the cost of living of the school's students.

"Most people know that the School for the Blind trains people in literature and vocational courses.," said Reverend U Thein Lwin, secretary of the fellowship."But when a student finishes primary education, he has to learn to peel onions, cut vegetables and make fire."

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS

MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 2014

AQUARIUS | Jan 20 – Feb 18



Your unpredictable actions may break everything and you may not stay around long enough to carry your ingenious insights into

effect. You will interest no one in exploring global issues or electrify the world with life-changing inventions but lead yourself toward indignity and infamy. Unwholesome forces will punish you with no chance to escape from misery.

PISCES | Feb 19 - March 20



Having felt all the pain possible in this world, you may prefer dreams to reality, and you will get hopelessly lost in your imagination.

Choose to swim upstream and use your bubbling creativity in practical endeavors. Overcome your own sensitivity and foster the emotional understanding to bring yourself to the final goal of spiritual fulfillment.

ARIES | Mar 21 – Apr 19



Your specialty is action rather than extensive planning, and you should do things your own way. Be bold and optimistic to get

the adventure of your life, but think also about long-term security. The key to financial success merely requires that you concentrate on your strengths and leave your weak areas to those born under other signs, including Gemini and Aquarius.

TAURUS | Apr 20 - May 20



Negative to positive means unavailable to available. Your stubborn nature needs to be made flexible and

which is the power that will help you create something better in your life. Looking a mile ahead is your remarkable quality. You also need to be simple and honest in making money. You cannot expect to be cool and pleasant in seeking love and find erotic attachment.



competitive system. Your spirit speeds through life with the purpose of stimulating thought

and forming alliances that are clear and strong. Never get away to the next place of intrigue before finishing what you first imagined. Don't get proud but add value to others around you.

LEO | July 23 – Aug 22



Your admirable and independent qualities will show themselves in good condition, and you can build personal trust in society. The

greater the flames around the hot seat in which you sit, the more magnificent your assertion of power. You will eat the fruits of successful financial operation and inspire a mass movement of resentment and resistance to your business progress.

VIRGO | Aug 23 – Sept 22



Your practical mind behind the business machine will be noticed soon, and you can make it your purpose to be useful to others who may be

ready to help you again. Keep up your self-confidence and endurance and show vour optimistic attitude at all times. A wonderful association with a great person will change your mind and lead you to take charge.

LIBRA | Sept 23 – Oct 22



Intellectual expression should be matched by emotions in order to tilt your relationships toward a natural state of balance.

Concentrate on investigating all the possibilities of every situation and develop strategies to solve the most complex problems of social communication. Let simple issues carry the weight they naturally deserve. Any attachment should be made carefully and consciously.

SCORPIO | Oct 23 – Nov 21



Even though you remain cool and calm in your method of attack, others will seem to sense your iron will and deadly competitive sting. It is

better to involve yourself in reconstructing rather than in a completely new enterprise. Your style of success is slow and controlled, and you see no need to blast through brick walls. Don't push new ventures but observe change.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 22 - Dec 21



A great opportunity will come up in conversation to make a big change that sets you clear on your way to resolution. To be author-

itative means to show determination toward making the right changes. Shoulder the right duty and responsibility to make a historic mark on the political record. Diplomacy is the key to success.



harmonious to gain trust,

GEMINI | May 21 – June 20



CANCER | June 21 – July 22



No lifestyle is secure and no person has perfect personal security. With a strong instinct for

preservation and a tenacious grip on your possessions and profits, you will be well prepared for the battlefields of business. A golden condition will be up and running before you get involved. Love will be enjoyable.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 - Jan 19



Rules and regulations must be fair and thorough. Know that nothing gets finished without discipline, which is the fundamental unit of any skill. Everybody is moved by time, but few know the value of time. You can hope for

good changes in your life, but you may not know how to make them.

AUNG MYIN KYAW

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It's possible to eat local and right



livingwellmyanmar@gmail.com

N this column I've frequently written on the importance of diet and exercise in a long and healthy life. To prevent disease and disability, a primary care doctor has no therapy as potent as a healthy lifestyle. What you eat and how much you move your body impacts all aspects of your health, from cardiovascular function to cancer to psychological sharpness.

The five fundamental aspects of a healthy lifestyle are: 1) eating vegetables, beans, nuts, fish and olive oil, 2) not smoking, 3) exercising 90 minutes per week, 4) not becoming overweight and 5) drinking a glass of alcohol every day.

In Yangon we might add carrying a flashlight at night so you don't fall through a hole in the sidewalk.

In a previous column,we discussed how to eat a "Mediterranean diet" in Myanmar, which is considered by many experts to be the healthiest approach to food consumption. Ample opportunities exist in Yangon to access most of the items in the Mediterranean diet: vegetables and fish in the market, beans in many Myanmar and South Asian dishes, and peanuts pretty much everywhere.

The challenge in eating well for most people is not the availability of the proper foods but rather access to sufficient income to purchase these foods.

Large studies continue to support these dietary choices. The Nurse's Health Study, one of the largest investigations into chronic disease ever conducted, has been following more than 100,000 people in the US since the 1970s. The ongoing data collection has provided medical professionals with great information on a healthy lifestyle. A recent analysis showed that people eating the most vegetables and fruits had a 17 percent lower risk of heart disease.

A separate analysis from the Nurse's Health Study showed that eating nuts saves lives. People who ate nuts reduced their risk of death by 7pc if they consumed nuts less than once per week, by 11pc if they ate nuts once per week, by 13pc for two to four times per week, by 15pc for five to six times per week, and 20pc for seven or more times per week. Even better, the study authors checked if the behaviour worked for just tree nuts and peanuts (which are actually legumes) and found the same benefit.

As we've known for many years, excess meat consumption appears to have a negative impact on lifespan. The European EPIC trial of over 400,000 people showed that a daily intake of 160g (5.6oz) or more of red meat was associated with 14pc higher mortality than eating meat infrequently. The data is worse for

eaters of processed meat, such as salami, for whom death from any cause was increased by 44pc. So which parts of the

Mediterranean diet, or our Myanmar version of it, are most beneficial? A Greek study using the EPIC data asked 23,000 people what they ate and then watched them over an average of eight years, tracking how many of them died. With the data, they could see how different components of diet affected the risk of dying. They concluded that a 16pc reduction in the likelihood of death could be attributed to high vegetable intake, 11pc to nut consumption, 10pc to legume eating, 24pc to moderate alcohol drinking, 17pc to low consumption of meat and 11pc to healthy oils like olive oil.

The science of healthy eating shifts over the decades. Many people remember the attack on fats in the 80s, which has cooled in recent years. Nevertheless the current data piling up in support of vegetables, fish, nuts, beans and olive oil is consistent in its reproducibility and striking in its benefit. It would be great to one day conduct research which shows that a proper Myanmar diet can achieve the same advantages.

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 Mvanmar Medical Association.Reader inquiries are welcomed.

(NSE)



NEW YORK

fix him up?

May 20.

2

US show flirts with royalty, ridicule

ginger hair on a Fox TV dating show.

fourth in line to the British throne.

keeping his real identity secret until the grand finale... then wait and see if his pick likes the real Matt.

LONDON

Panned by critics but tapping into the US obsession with

Philip Roth retires from public view

Philip Roth, widely regarded as one of the greatest US novelists of his generation, has confirmed he will be retiring from writing and from the public stage.

In a two-part documentary for BBC, the first part of which aired May 27, the reclusive author, age 81, tells interviewer Alan Yentob that "this is my last appearance on television, absolutely my last appearance on stage anywhere"

Roth stunned the literary world 18 months ago when he told French cultural magazine Les Inrockuptibles he was laying down his pen.

The grandson of Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe, Roth grew up in New Jersey, and his own life was a constant source of material for his fiction. During the interview, Roth also said that his 2004 comment that he cannot not live without writing had been misguided. "I was wrong," he told Yentob. "I had reached the end. There was nothing more for me to write about."

3

CANNES Director says Indian men 'confused' as patriarchy challenged

Some Indian men struggle to understand changes to their patriarchal society, amid growing opportunities for women and awareness of sexual violence, film-maker Kanu Behl told AFP in an interview in Cannes.

The Indian man is "used to being the dominating person; he's used to being the breadwinner; he's used to having a wife who's performing a certain role [...] and suddenly there's the whole shift in the world outside.'

Behl's directorial debut, Titli, tells the story of a young criminal trying to escape his oppressive family, especially his violent elder brother Vikram who works as a security guard at one of the many new shopping malls in India. The film is being shown in the Cannes Film Festival's prestigious new talent section.

Behl said the fatal gang-rape of a young student in New Delhi in December 2012 influenced the film's first draft. The film explores the two worlds shown in the film - India's burgeoning shopping malls and the family, which he called a "fire-breathing monster" in which violence was often as much

psychological as physical.

WASHINGTON

US museum adds Katy Perry portrait to collection Thanks to the generosity of a US forklift truck dynasty, pop star Katy Perry will soon take pride of place in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington.

"Cupcake Katy", an oil-on-linen portrait by New York artist Will Cotton, will go up on June 18 as part of a rotating display of recent acquisitions, the museum said on May 21.



A long term solution to improve the basic structure and function of joints and cartilage, formula from latest studies on Joint Nutrition Science, USA.







Contains 8 billion beneficial bacteria that can keep intestines healthy and improve digestive system.









The painting, completed in 2010, is being gifted to the gallery by the James Dicke family, whose wealth and large art collection derive from a global forklift truck business based in Ohio.

In a statement, gallery director Kim Sajet said the tongue-in-cheek work "brings to mind a traditional European portrait of a bewitching 18th century belle -Madame de Pompadour, perhaps?" – AFP

1. US celebrity Paris Hilton attends the De Grisogono Party during the 67th annual Cannes Film Festival at the Eden Roc hotel in Antibes, France, on May 20. Photo: AFP/Jean-Christophe Magnenet

2. Italian businessman Flavio Briatore (left) and model Elisabetta Gregoraci attend the De Grisogono Party during the 67th annual Cannes Film Festival at the Eden Roc hotel in Antibes, France, on May 20. Photo: AFP/Jean-Christophe Magnenet

3, 4. Models present creations from Oscar de la Renta's fall 2014 collection during the Audi Fashion Festival at the Tent at Orchard Road in Singapore on May 18. Photo: AFP/Roslan Rahman

From Italy, with love

How to make pasta with not-sosecret sauce



PHYO ARBIDANS phyo.arbidans@gmail.com

GREEN BEANS WITH PAPRIKA

Serves 6

- 300g green beans
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- •1tsp paprika
- Salt and ground black pepper

Pick the ends of the green beans and wash. Boil the water with a tablespoon of salt to blanch the beans. When the water boils, turn down the heat and blanch the

beans for 3-4 minutes. Refresh them in icy cold water. Drain well.

Lay beans on the plate, add olive oil and paprika. Mix well.



Photo: Phyo

HE rain has come and it's really pouring. All my plans for grocery shopping were postponed this week, and so my menus changed as well.

I had to dig around in my

pantry to come up with a recipe. I found cans of tomatoes and lots of pasta. Pots of basil grow in our backyard. At home we've been watching

the *Two Greedy Italians* cooking program on TV. The chefs are always busy in the kitchen with foodie experiments, but they maintain that the simplest Italian dishes are the best, and that only an Italian mama knows the secrets: tomatoes, pasta and love. Well said. So, I decided to be an Italian mama and make a very simple tomato sauce.

In fact my husband, John, cooked the sauce, and we all loved it. I offer my version below. It's quick to prepare and easy to have a good result. Try it out.

AN ITALIAN MAMA'S PASTA Serves 6

- 2 cans whole peeled tomatoes
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 5 tbsp olive oil
- 2 red chillies, minced 3 tbsp white wine (optional)
- 1/3 cup Italian basil

500g pasta 120g Pecorino romano cheese

Chop the tomatoes roughly. Prepare the pasta as per packet instructions, but do not add oil to the water. Reserve a cup of the boiled pasta water.

Add olive oil to a saucepan and sauté the garlic and chilli. When the aroma comes out, add the tomatoes and bring to a boil. Add the wine after 5 minutes. Simmer for half an hour.

Add basil and pasta to the pan. Mix well. If it is sticky, add 3-4 tbsp of pasta water.

Serve with grated cheese. Add fresh ground pepper and salt to taste.

Restaurant Review

Cafe wins points for made-at-your-table fresh coffee

Black Sky Café & Bakery

49th Street and Maha Bandoola Road, Pazundaung township, Ph- 01293093

NANDAR AUNG

nandaraung.mcm@gmail.com

DISDAINING the rain, I was happy to walk. But bowing to my friends' complaints about muddy feet and squishy toes, I hailed a taxi. Soon enough we arrived at the Black Sky Café & Bakery on 49th Street and Maha Bandoola Road.

The glass showcase by the door is the first clue. It contains home-baked cakes, breads, pastries and other desserts. The walls are hung with being concocted in a nest of glass flasks that would be at home in a laboratory. They contain coffee powder and water that is heated before you, and bubbles and percolates satisfyingly, with milk and sugar added to taste. Our charming 20-year-old waiter explained the science for us. Next time, if we are not so busy, we will follow the example of other customers and brew it ourselves. It might be less overpowering that way. Geek warning: Black Sky does not

Geek warning: Black Sky does not offer Wi-Fi service. If you go there with friends and loved ones, you might



appetising pictures of curry dishes.

As the name implies, the house speciality is baked goods. That doesn't stop them from offering dim sum, curry with rice and soup for lunch and dinner, and even at breakfast, served from 7-9:30am.

A K3000 *yat tha mar hin* – drunkard's soup – includes mushrooms, cuttlefish, chicken, fish and tomato. *Lal tha mar hin cho* (farmer's soup), also K3000, melds baby corn, cauliflower, radish, mustard, prawn and cuttlefish. The curry was fresh and sweet, if the soup was a tad watery, but the blend of sour and spice was eye-opening.

Proceeding to dessert, my companions selected floss cake (K800) and blue almond (K500), while I plumped for the K600 chicken floss, all washed down with a K2000 pot of coffee.

The coffee is an experience in itself,

actually have to talk to them instead of losing yourself in your mobile device. For those who find that an

attraction, Black Sky is a good place for couples and groups of friends or family as well as single diners, and for all who enjoy delicious seafood and local dishes, whether sweet, sour, salty or spicy, under air-conditioning.

> Restaurant Rating ★★★★↓

| Food |
|-----------------|
| Beverage |
| Atmosphere |
| X-factor |
| Service |
| Value for money |

Black Sky brews up some joe. Photo: Yu Yu



Beauty and health seminar



On May 16, the celebrity model Tin Moe Lwin presented a new Korean cosmetic product at an event at Junction Square. Famous actress Moe Moe Mint Aung was also in attendance. Photo: Thirilu

Chit Thu Wai



Jung Bun Ja

Nateli Han



Chair of Yangon Institute for University Studies Aye Cho presented a speech and made awards to this year's graduates at Sedona Hotel on May 17. The school offers preparatory training for students aspiring to university.



Wut Hmone Yee Khet Khet

LG lucky draw

Ma Swe Mon, Kyaw Soe Win and Ma Shwe Sin







On May 17, LG hosted a lucky draw event for its custom ers as a token of gratitude at TMW complex, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Eight winners received valuable awards. The first winner received a 50" flatscreen TV, the second got a handset while the third got an air-conditioner. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

Aung Ye Hla

Ma K Thwe and Thandar Sint





im Sum Special Daily - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

LS auto showroom press conference

Photo: Thirilu

On May 22, representatives of LS auto showroom hosted a launch event at Sedona Hotel to introduce Morris Garages (MG) cars to the Myanmar market. At present, five models of MG are available at the showroom in Sanchaung township near Hanthawady Circle, Pyay Road. U Zaw Htoo, a consultant at LS company, described the features of the MG models. Photo: Thirilu



Zaw Htoo, Mr Lee and Soe Nyunt Aung

New Ocean Super Center outlet opens

A new Ocean Super Center outlet opened at Shwegonedine Juction on May 18. The owner hosted a ceremony to mark the occasion. Famous singers L Saize and He Lay entertained the crowd. Photo: Yu Yu



YIUS graduation ceremony



Aye Aye Thwin, Aye Cho, San Yee and Mu Mu Thin Si



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Shwe Thinzar Soe and Ei Ei Soe



Theint Theint Aaung, Thu Thu Hnin, Kaung Htet Aung and Htet Htet Aung

www.mmtimes.com

Thazin Biscuit family donation



Daw Khin Ohn Yi





On May 22, the family behind a famous Myanmar confectionery, Thazin Biscuit, held a novitiation ceremony at Oriental House Restaurant in Mandalay. Over a hundred friends, relatives and guests came to praise the family's good deeds. The family do-nated food and money to the monks during the ceremony.

Myat Su Yati Soe



Ko Aung Soe Win



Ma Lin Lin Myat

Ma Saw Yu Nwe

Lin Latt Yati Soe







Htun Ko Ko

Eaindra Kyaw Zin

Hotel Queen, located on 81st Street in Mandalay, opened a new bar and restaurant called Queen's Sky View on May 19. The bar is situated on the hotel's seventh floor. About a hundred guests were invited to come to the ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by four famous celebrities. Guests enjoyed cocktails, a buffet and party. **Photos:** Sithu Lwin



Ko Zay Yar



Ko Zaw Gyi and Yadanar Bo



Make-up Ei Tone



BRING INTO PLAY OR THE MODERN DAY EXPLORE



Queen's Sky View bar & restaurant opening



DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

2,6 10:00 12:25

YH 829

| VANOON | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------|-------|
| YANGON | IU NAY | ΡΥΓΙΑ | W |
| 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 |
| | | VANO | |
| NAY PYI | IAW IU | YANGU | JN |
| 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 |
| VANCON | | | v |
| | I TO MA | | |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr |
| YJ 761 | 6 | 6:00 | 7:25 |
| YJ 891 | 2,4,5,7 | 6:00 | 8:05 |
| YJ 891 | 1 | 6:00 | 7:55 |
| 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 | 4 | 6:10 | 7:50 |
| YH 917 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | 6:10 | 8:30 |
| Y5 234 | Daily | 6:15 | 7:30 |
| 6T 401 | Daily | 6:20 | 8:25 |
| YJ 003 | 3,6 | 7:00 | 8:20 |
| YJ 233 | 1 | 7:00 | 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 |
| YJ 233 | 6 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| YJ 761 | 1,2,4 | 11:00 | 12:55 |
| 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 |
| YJ 601 | 4,6 | 12:30 | 13:55 |
| YJ 761 | 5 | 13:00 | 14:25 |
| K7 226 | 2,4,6 | 13:00 | 14:25 |
| 6T 501 | Daily | 14:30 | 16:30 |
| YH 731 | 2,6 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| W9 129 | Daily | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| | | | |
| MANDA | LAY TO Y | ANGO | N |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr |
| YH 918 | 4 | 7:50 | 10:40 |
| Y5 233 | Daily | 8:10 | 9:25 |
| YJ 891 | 1 | 8:10 | 10:05 |
| YJ 891 | 2,4,5,7 | 8:20 | 10:15 |
| 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 | 10:40 |
| K7 267 | Daily | 10:20 | 12:25 |
| | 6 | 10:20 | 11:55 |
| YJ 761 | | | |

| YJ 202 | 6 | 10:30 | 11:55 |
|---|---|--|---|
| YJ 212 | 5,7 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| K7 823 | 2,4,7 | 11:25 | 14:25 |
| YJ 234 | 1 | 13:20 | 14:45 |
| | | | |
| YJ 004 | 3,6 | 13:30 | 15:25 |
| K7 643 | Daily | 12:35 | 16:25 |
| W9 120 | 1,3,6 | 16:30 | 17:55 |
| YH 728 | 1 | 16:30 | 18:35 |
| YH 732 | 2,6 | 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 |
| YJ 602 | 4,6 | 17:10 | 18:35 |
| 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 |
| YJ 761 | 5 | 17:30 | 19:25 |
| YH 730 | 4,6 | 17:45 | 19:10 |
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| YH 917 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | 6:10 | 7:45 |
| YH 917 | 4 | 6:10 | 8:35 |
| W9 141 | Daily | 6:15 | 7:35 |
| 6T 401 | Daily | 6:20 | 7:40 |
| K7 282 | Daily | 6:30 | 7:50 |
| | | | |
| YJ 003 | 3,6 | 7:00 | 8:20 |
| W9 143 | Daily | 7:15 | 8:35 |
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| 6T 501 | Daily | 14:30 | 17:20 |
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| YH 731 | 2,6 | 14:30 | 17:25 |
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| YH 731 W9 211 YJ 9211 Flight YJ 891 YH 918 W9 141 6T 401 YH 918 W9 144 K7 283 YH 732 6T 502 W9 211 YANGON Flight YJ 201 YJ 211 YJ 213 YH 828 K7 642 | 2,6 Daily G U TO Y/ Days 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily Daily 4 Daily 2,6 Daily Daily 2,6 Daily Daily Company 2,3,4 5,7 1 2,6 Daily | 14:30 15:30 Dep 7:35 7:45 7:55 8:35 8:50 10:40 17:25 17:35 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 | 17:25 17:40 Arr 10:15 10:25 10:40 10:45 10:40 10:10 12:00 18:45 18:55 19:15 Arr 8:50 8:50 9:50 10:00 10:50 |
| YH 731 W9 211 YJ 9211 YJ 991 YH 918 W9 141 6T 401 YH 918 W9 144 K7 283 YH 732 6T 502 W9 211 YANGON Flight YJ 201 YJ 211 YJ 233 YH 828 K7 642 YJ 233 | 2,6 Daily G U TO Y/ Days 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily Daily 4 Daily 2,6 Daily Daily 2,6 Daily Daily 2,6 Daily C MYI Days 2,3,4 5,7 1 2,6 Daily C MYI C MYI C MYI C MYI C MYI C C MYI C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C | 14:30 15:30 Dep 7:35 7:45 7:55 8:35 8:50 10:40 17:25 17:35 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 17:55 | 17:25 17:40 Arr 10:15 10:25 10:40 10:45 10:40 10:40 10:10 12:00 18:45 18:55 19:15 Arr 8:50 8:50 9:50 10:00 10:50 13:50 |
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| YJ 234 | 1 | 11:55 | 14:45 |
| K7 643 | Daily | 14:05 | 16:25 |
| YJ 203 | 4 | 15:15 | 18:20 |
| YJ 234 | 6 | 15:55 | 18:45 |
| | | | |
| W9 252 | 2,5 | 16:05 | 19:00 |
| YH 827 | 4 | 16:40 | 19:05 |
| YANO | GON TO H | EHO | |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr |
| YJ 891 | 1 | 6:00 | 8:40 |
| YJ 891 | 2,4,5,7 | 6:00 | 8:50 |
| YH 917 | 4 | 6:10 | 9:30 |
| YH 917 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | 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 |
| YJ 761 | 1,2,4 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| 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 |
| YJ 751 | 5,7 | 12:30 | 13:40 |
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| 6T 501 | Daily | 14:30 | 15:40 |
| YH 731 | 2,6 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| W9 129 | Daily | 15:00 | 16:10 |
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| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr |
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| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 | Days Daily 1 | Dep 8:35 8:55 | 10:40 10:05 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YJ 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 |
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| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily | Dep 8:35 8:55 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:15 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:15 15:45 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:15 15:45 15:45 15:50 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:50 15:55 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily 2,6 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 15:55 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 18:45 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 738 YH 738 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 15:55 16:25 16:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 18:45 18:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 738 W9 129 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 15:55 16:25 16:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 18:45 18:35 18:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 15:55 16:25 16:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 18:45 18:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1 1,3,6 1,2,4 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 15:55 16:25 16:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:00 18:55 18:45 18:35 18:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 YJ 751 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 7 Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:35 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:50 15:55 15:55 16:25 16:25 16:25 17:00 17:35 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 17:55 18:45 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:10 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 YJ 751 YJ 751 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 1,5 3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,7 Dai 2,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:45 15:55 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:35 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 YJ 751 YA NG C Flight | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 7 Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5 7 Daily 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:45 15:55 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 17:00 17:35 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 732 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 YJ 751 YJ 751 YJ 751 Flight 6T 607 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,5 Daily 1,5 3,5 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 1,5 3,5 7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,6 3,5,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 3,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 3 Daily 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 2,7 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:55 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 17:00 17:35 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:45 |
| Flight W9 141 YJ 891 YH 918 6T 402 YH 918 K7 283 W9 201 K7 267 W9 204 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 829 YJ 004 K7 845 YH 728 W9 120 YJ 761 6T 501 YH 732 YH 738 W9 129 YJ 751 YJ 751 YJ 751 | Days Daily 1 2,4,5,7 1,2,3,5,6,7 Daily 4 Daily Daily Daily Daily 1,3,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,5 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 1,5 3,7 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 1,5 3,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,6 Daily 2,7 2,7 Daily 3,7 Daily 2,7 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 Daily 2,7 2,7 Dai 2,7 Daily 2,7 Da3 | Dep 8:35 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 9:55 11:10 12:25 13:50 14:15 15:45 15:45 15:45 15:55 16:25 16:25 16:25 16:25 17:00 17:35 | 10:40 10:05 10:15 10:25 10:45 10:40 12:00 11:05 12:25 13:35 15:05 15:25 18:10 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 18:35 18:45 |

| 6T 605 | 5 | 11:15 | 13:15 | PUTAO TO YANGON |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| K7 422 | Daily | 13:30 | 15:25 | Flight Days Dep Arr |
| SITTV | VE TO YA | NGON | | YJ 234 1 11:00 14:45 |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | YJ 234 6 15:00 18:45 |
| 6T 612 | 2,3,4,6,7 | 13:00 | 14:25 | YANGON TO CHIANG MAI |
| 6T 608 | 1 | 13:00 | 15:00 | Flight Days Dep Arr |
| 6T 606 | 5 | 13:35 | 15:00 | YJ 9611 3,6 7:00 11:40 |
| K7 423 | Daily | 15:40 | 17:00 | W9 9607 4,7 14:20 16:10 |
| YANG | ON TO M | YFIK | | CHIANG MAI TO YANGON |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | Flight Days Dep Arr |
| YH 633 | 1,3,4,5,7 | 7:00 | 9:15 | YJ 9611 3,6 12:30 15:25 |
| K7 319 | Daily | 7:00 | 9:05 | W9 9608 4,7 17:20 18:10 |
| 6T 707 | 1,2,4,5,6 | 7:45 | 9:45 | |
| MVEI | k to yan | ICON | | Domestic Airlines |
| | | | ٨ | |
| Flight YH 634 | Days 1,3,4,5,7 | Dep 11:25 | Arr 13:25 | Air Bagan Ltd. (W9) |
| K7 320 | Daily | 11:30 | 13:35 | Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102 |
| 6T 708 | 1,2,4,5,6 | 12:10 | 14:10 | |
| | | | | Air KBZ (K7) Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport), |
| YANGO | N TO THA | NDW | | Fax: 372983, Hot Line: 373766 |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | |
| W9 141 | Daily | 6:15 | 9:35 | Air Mandalay (6T) |
| 6T 605 | 5 | 11:15 | 12:10 | Tel : (Head Office) 501520, 525488, Fax: 525937. Airport: 533222~3, 09-73152853. |
| 6T 607 | 1 | 11:15 | 13:50 | Fax: 533223. |
| K7 422 | Daily | 13:30 | 14:25 | |
| THAND | WE TO Y | ANGON | | Asian Wings (YJ) Tel: 951 515261~264, 512140, 512473, 512640. |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | Fax: 951 532333, 516654 |
| 6T 605 | 5 | 12:25 | 15:00 | Colden Myenmen Airlines (VE) |
| 6T 608 | 1 | 14:05 | 15:00 | Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5) Tel: 95 9 400446999, 95 9 400447999, |
| K7 422 | Daily | 14:40 | 17:00 | Fax: 01 860 4051 |
| YANG | ON TO D | AWEI | | Yangon Airways(YH) |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264, |
| 6T 707 | 1,2,4,5,6 | 7:45 | 8:55 | Fax: 652 533. |
| YH 633 | 1,3,4,5,7 | 7:00 | 8:25 | FMI Air Charter - Sales & |
| DAW | EI TO YAN | IGON | | Reservations Tel: (95-1) 240363, 240373 / (+95-9) 421146545 |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | |
| 6T 708 | 1,2,4,5,6 | 13:00 | 14:10 | |
| YH 634 | 1,3,4,5,7 | 12:15 | 13:25 | Domestic |
| YANGO | ON TO LA | RSHIO | | 6T = Air Mandalay |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | W9 = Air Bagan |
| YJ 751 | 5,7 | 10:45 | 13:00 | YJ = Asian Wings |
| YH 729 | 2,4,6 | 11:00 | 13:00 | K7 = AIR KBZ |
| YJ 751 | 3 | 12:30 | 14:45 | YH = Yangon Airways |
| LARSH | IIO TO YA | NGON | | FMI = FMI AIR Charter |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines |
| YJ 752 | 3 | 15:00 | 18:45 | - |
| YH 730 | 2 | 15:40 | 18:05 | Subject to change |
| YH 730 | 4,6 | 16:45 | 19:10 | without notice |
| YJ 752 | 5,7 | 15:55 | 18:10 | |
| YANG | ON TO P | UTAO | | Day 4 = Thursday |
| Flight | Days | Dep | Arr | 1 = Monday 5 = Friday 2 = Tuesday 6 = Saturday |
| Y.I 233 | 1 | 7.00 | 10.42 | $2 - M_{\rm electron} = 7 - 5$ |

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YJ 233

YJ 233

7:00

11:00

1

6

10:45

14:45

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

| | IGON TO BA | | Arr |
|--|--|--|--|
| Flights PG 706 | Days Daily | Dep 6:15 | Arr 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 |
| | 3 | | 21.00 |
| | ON TO DON | | • |
| 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 DD 4239 | Daily | 21:30 21:00 | 23:15 22:55 |
| DD 4239 | Daily | 21.00 | 22.00 |
| | <mark>gon to sin</mark> i | | |
| 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 |
| TR 2827 | 2,3,4,5 | 17:10 | 21:35 |
| 3K 588 | 1,3,4,6 | 19:15 | 23:45 |
| YANG | <mark>ION TO KUALA</mark> | 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 |
| YA | NGON TO BE | IJING | |
| | | D | Arr |
| Flights | Days | Dep | AII |
| Flights CA 716 | Days 3,7 | Dep 23:50 | 0550+1 |
| CA 716 | 3,7 | 23:50 | |
| CA 716 YAN | 3,7 I <mark>gon to gaun</mark> | 23:50 Igzhou | 0550+1 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights | 3,7 I GON TO GAUN Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep | 0550+1 Arr |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 | 3,7 I <mark>GON TO GAUN</mark> Days 2,4,7 <u>3,6</u> | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUM Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO TA | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 |
| CA 716 Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 Flights | 3,7 Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 NNGON TO T, Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 V/ | 3,7 IGON TO GAUM Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO TA | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 |
| CA 716 Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 Flights CI 7916 | 3,7 Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 NNGON TO T, Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 YA Flights CI 7916 YA | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO TA Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 YA Flights Cl 7916 YA Flights | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 YA Flights CI 7916 YA Flights CA 906 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 NNGON TO T Days 1,2,3,5,6 NGON TO KUN Days Daily | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 Arr 16:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 YA Flights YA | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 V/ Flights CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2032 | 3,7 GON TO GAUK Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T. Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN Days Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 Arr 15:55 18:20 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CJ 3056 CJ 7916 YA Flights CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2032 | 3,7 GON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T, Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN Days Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 (ANGON TO HAR (ANGON TO HAR) | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 XNOI | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 Arr 15:55 18:20 18:20 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 YA Flights CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2032 Flights | 3,7 GON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T, Days 1,2,3,5,6 INGON TO KUN Days Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 YANGON TO HA Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 XNOI Dep | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 Arr 15:55 18:20 18:20 Arr |
| CA 716 Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 V/ Flights CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2012 MU 2032 VN 956 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 I,5 I,2,3,5,6 I,2,3,5,6 I,2,3,5,6,7 I,2,4,5,6,7 I,2,4,5,6,7 I,3,5,6,7 | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 XNOI Dep 19:10 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 16:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 Arr 15:55 18:20 18:20 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 V/A Flights CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2012 MU 2032 VA Flights VN 956 YANG | 3,7 GON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T, Days 1,2,3,5,6 NGON TO KUN Days Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 YANGON TO HA Days 1,3,5,6,7 DN TO HO CHU | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 XNOI Dep 19:10 VIIINH CTTY | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 16:15 7 47 15:55 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 |
| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 VA Flights CA 7016 VA Flights VN 956 VN 956 Flights | 3,7 GON TO GAUK Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 ANGON TO T, Days 1,2,3,5,6 NGON TO KUN Days Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 YANGON TO HA Days 1,3,5,6,7 DN TO HO CHI I Days | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 XNOI Dep 19:10 VIINH CTTY Dep | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 22:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 47 15:55 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 47r 21:30 |
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| CA 716 YAN Flights 8M 711 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CZ 3056 CJ 7916 CJ 7916 CA 906 MU 2012 MU 2012 MU 2032 VA Flights VN 956 YANG Flights VN 942 | 3,7 IGON TO GAUN Days 2,4,7 3,6 1,5 INGON TO T, Days 1,2,3,5,6 IGON TO KUN Daily 3 1,2,4,5,6,7 INGON TO HA Days 1,3,5,6,7 INTO HO CHII Days 2,4,7 | 23:50 IGZHOU Dep 8:40 11:25 17:30 AIPEI Dep 10:50 IMING Dep 12:15 12:20 14:50 VINH CTY Dep 19:10 VINH CTY Dep 14:25 | 0550+1 Arr 13:15 22:15 22:15 Arr 16:15 47 15:55 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 18:20 47r 21:30 |
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| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| MU 2030 | Daily | 14:40 | 17:30 | | |
| MA | NDALAY TO | GAYA | | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| 8M 603 | 4 | 11:10 | 12:15 | | |
| NAYP | YIDAW TO B | ANGKOK | | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| PG 722 | 1,2,3,4,5 | 19:30 | 22:30 | | |
| BAN | IGKOK TO YA | NGON | | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| TG 303 | Daily | 7:55 | 8:50 | | |
| PG 701 | Daily | 8:50 | 9:40 | | |
| 8M 336 TG 301 | Daily Daily | 10:40 13:00 | 11:25 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 Y | ANGON | | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| DD 4230 | Daily | 6:30 | 7:15 | | |
| FD 2751 FD 2755 | Daily Daily | 7:15 11:10 | 8:00 11:45 | | |
| FD 2753 | Daily | 16:35 | 17:20 | | |
| FD 2757 | Daily | 20:15 | 20:55 | | |
| DD 4238 | Daily | 19:25 | 20:15 | | |
| SING | APORE TO Y | | | | |
| 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 MI 518 | Daily Daily | 13:25 14:20 | 14:50 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 | | |
| BE | IJING TO YAI | NGON | | | |
| 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 8M 9505 | Daily Daily | 10:05 10:05 | 11:15 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 | | |
| GUAN | <mark>IGZHOU TO Y</mark> | ANGON | | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr | | |
| CZ 3055 | 3,6 | 8:40 | 10:25 | | |
| CZ 3055 8M 712 | 1,5 2,4,7 | 14:40 14:15 | 16:30 15:50 | | |
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| | VIPEI TO YAN | | Arr | | |
| Flights CI 7915 | Days 1,2,3,5,6 | Dep 7:00 | Arr 9:55 | | |
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| Dragonair (KA) | | | | | |
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| 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 |
| HA | NOI TO YAN | IGON | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| VN 957 | 1,3,5,6,7 | 16:50 | 18:10 |
| | | | |
| HO CHI I | MINH CITY T | <mark>o yango</mark> | N |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| VN 943 | 2,4,7 | 11:40 | 13:25 |
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| | OHA TO YAN | | A |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| QR 918 | Daily | 20:30 | 6:15+1 |
| G | <mark>aya to yan</mark> | GON | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| 8M 602 | - | 9:20 | 12:30 |
| OW OUZ | 3,5,6 | 9.20 | 12.30 |
| PHNO | M PENH TO | YANGON | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| 8M 404 | 3,6 | 20:15 | 21:40 |
| | | | |
| | OUL TO YAN | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| KE 471 | 2,3,4 | 18:45 | 22:35 |
| 0Z 769 | 3,6 | 19:50 | 23:45 |
| | | | |
| | KYO TO YAN | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| NH 913 | Daily | 11:00 | 15:40 |
| HON | <mark>g kong to y</mark> | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| KA 250 | 1,3,5,7 | 21:45 | 23:30 |
| NA 230 | 1,3,3,7 | 21.4J | 23.30 |
| DH | <mark>iaka to yan</mark> | IGON | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| BG 060 | 1,4 | 16:30 | 18:45 |
| | | | |
| | HEON TO YA | NGON | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| 8M 7701 | Daily | 18:45 | 22:35 |
| 8M 7501 | 3,6 | 19:50 | 23:25 |
| DANC | | | |
| | KOK TO MA | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| PG 709 | Daily | 12:00 | 13:20 |
| DON MI | JEANG TO N | IANDALA | Y |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| FD 2760 | Daily | 10:50 | 12:15 |
| | ļ | | 12.10 |
| | NING TO MA | | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| MU 2029 | Daily | 13:55 | 13:50 |
| CA | YA TO MAN | ΔΙΔΥ | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| 8M 604 | Udys 4 | 13:15 | 16:20 |
| 0101004 | 4 | 13.13 | 10.20 |
| BANG | KOK TO NAY | PYIDAW | |
| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| PG 721 | 1,2,3,4,5 | 17:00 | 19:00 |
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| Internati | Und | | |
| FD & AK = Air A | sia | | |
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| Y5 = Golden Mya | nmar Airlines | 5 | |
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|------------------------------------|
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| |



Nay Lin Htike, ready to help you travel better. Photo: Yu Yu

New cafe caters to the ambitious, and thirsty, traveller

Off the Beaten Track offers food, drink and travel resources and conversation

EI EI THU

91.eieithu@gmail.com



OULD you like to go to a cafe and exchange travel knowledge of Myanmar while just having a coffee or

something? Now you can, at Off the Beaten Track travel cafe at Kandawgyi Lake.

The cafe offers not only food and drink but also the opportunity to talk travel, especially how to get around without the aid of a travel agent or tour group.

The cafe owners can explain and recommend places to go, how to get there and answer the questions travellers may have about tourism in Myanmar.

Nay Lin Htike, 39, had been an English tour guide for 17 years before he opened the cafe, so it's no surprise he communicates easily with Englishspeaking visitors.

He officially opened Off the Beaten Track on April 9. The main hope is to provide travel information other than what is already popular and offered by agents and guidebooks. Myanmar has a lot of beautiful landscapes, and Nay Lin Htike hopes his customers will help to uncover some new destinations. "We give free advice and service to tourists. The tourists can ask for trip advice. For example, if they want to go to Myitkyina, we can calculate the cost of transportation by train and by bus and also of accommodation," Nay Lin Htike said.

Every Thursday night the cafe features "tipsy travel talk", a regular event where travellers can have a drink while sharing and discussing their experiences. Drinks are on 10 percent discount.

The cafe also offers a small library with many English travel books and a big map of Myanmar that's easy to read. There's also free Wi-Fi. Customers can photocopy information for a small fee.

The restaurants comprises nine tables and a small bar and kitchen. All tables are housed on island platforms like comfortable mini bungalows and decorated with white cloth, curtains and small pillows. The table-islands are all named for the cities of Myanmar, and the menu items are cleverly travel-themed.

Prices for food and beverage are modest, ranging from K2000 to K6000. The cafe is open daily from 11am to 11pm in Kandawgyi Natural Park, Karaweik Oo-Yin Kabar.

| 8M 401 | 1,3,6 | 8:35 | 10:45 | | | | |
|----------------|-------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
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| YANGON TO GAYA | | | | | | | |
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| 8M 601 | 3,5,6 | 7:00 | 8:20 | | | | |
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| BG 061 | 1,4 | 19:45 | 21:00 |

| YANGON TO INCHEON | | | |
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| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| 8M 7702 | Daily | 23:35 | 8:05 |
| 8M7502 | 4,7 | 0:35 | 9:10 |

| MANDALAY TO BANGKOK | | | |
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| Flights | Days | Dep | Arr |
| PG 710 | Daily | 14:05 | 16:30 |

| MANDALAY TO SINGAPORE | | | |
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| Y5 233 | Daily | 8:05 | 14:40 |
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| Day | | 4 | = | Thursday |
|-----|-----------|---|---|----------|
| 1 = | Monday | 5 | = | Friday |
| 2 = | Tuesday | 6 | = | Saturday |
| 3 = | Wednesday | 7 | = | Sunday |



Plan your trip and rest up at a cozy table. Photo: Yu Yu

ACROSS

9 Fuzzbuster's

14 Opera feature

alphabet 17 Predicament

18 Snobbery 19 The entire

range 20 Swimsuit

models

24 Hilo souvenir

25 Ark measures 29 Bugler's

grimace **36** River to the Caspian Sea

37 Good time to make the bed

40 Nutmeg cover 41 Pen ends

43 Hallucinatory drug 44 No longer

45 A reindeer
46 Sick-day reason
47 Short-necked

diving bird 48 Forming lasting relationships

57 Family treasury58 German river

59 Equine color 60 Inner personality,

to Jung 61 Actor's lines 62 Pearl Mosque city

Lion's antithesis
 Word with "high

5 Planet beyond Saturn

pressure" Essential point

DOWN

4 Kimono adornment

DILBERT

PEANUTS

15 Not made up 16 End of the Greek

23 Convent resident



CALVIN AND HOBBES

| IS CALVIN YES, HE'S | BOY, |
|------------------------|-------|
| ASLEEP ? / SNUGGLED UP | KNO |
| WITH HOBBES. | I'M |
| | 11000 |

ME NEITHER. I DON'T I CAN'T GET EVER OVER WHAT'S 1ADD

THE IDEA OF SOME CRAZY STRANGER GOING THROUGH OUR HOUSE ... BRRRR !!

BY BILL WATTERSON

I GUESS SO WHAT DO YOU'LL HAVE I GET TO TO DO. SNUGGLE ? HOW

NA

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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des Terre hommes Italia [TDH Italia] : We would like to inform, our new office address. Operation will start at 19 May 2014. Office address is: No.48, Shwe Hinn Thar Street, 11 Ward, Hlaing, Yangon. Contact phone number is : (95)1-654 604 WOULDyouliketokilTwo

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 - · Excellent written and spoken English
 - · Good computer skills in MS office and knowledge in accounting software
 - · Good interpersonal skills and willing to work with team
 - · Able to work independently with sense of initiative
 - · Minimum three years experience in related fields

Post (2) • Must be graduate.

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- · Good interpersonal skills and willing to work with team
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| | Good knowledge of internation | al humanitarian organization |
| Must be interesting real estate. | | |
| | Age between (25) to (35) year | |
| (2) | | |
| (2) | Age between (25) to (35) year | |
| | Must be interesting real estate | |
| (0) | 5 | |
| (3) | Computer | M/F (3) Posts |
| | (Word, Excel, Photoshop, Pow | ver Point) |
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66 Sport

BANGKOK **Thailand Open cancelled amid unrest**

THIS year's US\$1 million Thailand Open has been cancelled because of the deepening political crisis in the divided kingdom where martial law was declared on May 20, organisers said.

The OneAsia tournament was meant to have taken place at Bangkok's Thana City Golf & Sports Club in March but was postponed after a 60-day state of emergency was declared in the capital.

The event was due to be rescheduled but organisers said late on May 19 it would not take place in 2014 with hopes it will return to the calendar next year.

"The Thailand Open is a worldclass tournament and we want to hold it when the environment is stable." President of the Thailand Golf Association (TGA) Rungsrid Luxsitanonda said in comments released by the organisers.

Thailand's army early on May 20 imposed martial law to quell unrest across the country which has been shaken by deadly violence since antigovernment demonstrations erupted six months ago.

The army said the move was "not a coup" - in a country which has seen 18 actual or attempted military takeovers since 1932.

The political crisis has its roots in the 2006 ouster of tycoon-turnedpremier Thaksin Shinawatra, who went into self-imposed exile to avoid jail for a corruption conviction.

Patrick Feizal Joyce, a vice president at event promoter World Sport Group, said, "We needed some certainty in the situation so it has been agreed by all relevant parties to cancel this year's Thailand Open.

"It is our hope that the tournament will be staged next year," he added just hours before martial law was invoked.

Last year's Thailand Open was won by Thai Prayad Marksaeng. - AFP

NEW YORK 'Chrome' set for Belmont as nasal strips OK'd

approved on May 19 the California Chrome from racing for the Triple Crown.

tucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner, said May 18 the chestnut colt might not run the third leg of the US flat racing treble on June 7 if nasal stripes were not allowed.

But now California Chrome will try to become the 12th horse to sweep the Triple Crown, and the first since Affirmed in 1978 in a record-long drought for achieving the feat.

California Chrome has won six races in a row since he started using the strips to widen his nasal passages and allow a greater intake of air during races.

The Belmont Stakes had denied another horse the use of nasal strips two vears ago in a Triple Crown sweep bid. but the spectre of such a move potentially causing California Chrome's owners to skip the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes was too much for officials to bear.

Only a day after formally asking race stewards to allow the nasal strips, the colt's owners were given permission.

Stewards conferred with Dr Scott E Palmer, the New York State Gaming Commission (NYSCG) equine medical

JAKARTA

TEWARDS at Belmont Park

use of nasal strips for the Belmont Stakes, ending an issue that could have kept Art Sherman trainer for the Ken-

California Chrome races to the finish line en route to winning the 139th running of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course on May 17 in Baltimore. Photo: AFP

director, who agreed that the nasal strip should be permitted.

"I recommend that the stewards at state-based thoroughbred racetracks discontinue their ban on equine nasal strips," Palmer wrote in a statement release from the NYSGC.

"Equine nasal strips do not enhance equine performance, nor do they pose a risk to equine health or safety and as such do not need to be regulated.

"While there is research to indicate that equine nasal strips decrease airway resistance in horses and may decrease the amount of bleeding ... I am unfamiliar with any research indicating that equine nasal strips enable a horse to run faster with nasal strips than without them.

"Equine nasal strips do not pose a welfare or safety risk to the horse." - AFP

Indonesian striker dies after kick to stomach during match

AN Indonesian striker playing in one **'There's a suspicion** "We are investigating the case, but



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Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers Ph: 0973150632

Email:law chambers@seasiren.com.mm For. Ella Cheong LLC(Singapore)) Dated: 26th May, 2014



of the country's top leagues has died after a goalkeeper kicked him in the stomach during a recent match, an official said on May 20.

The death of Akli Fairuz, 27, is a further blow to the reputation of Indonesian football, which has been beset by numerous problems in recent years, from leadership tussles to foreign players dying after complaining of being unable to afford healthcare.

Fairuz sustained serious injuries after the challenge during a game on May 10 in Banda Aceh, on western Sumatra island, said Mahfudin Nigara from the Indonesian Football Association.

Video footage showed the player. from club Persiraja Banda Aceh, run into the box of the opposing team, PSAP Sigli, to take a shot after the ball rebounded off the goalkeeper.

But the goalkeeper ran out and kicked him in the stomach as he took

that treatment of his injury on the pitch might have been too

slow.'

Mahfudin Nigara

Official from the Indonesian Football Association

the shot, knocking him to the ground. Akli was substituted immediately but continued to watch the match and was only rushed to hospital later when his condition worsened, Nigara said.

"Akli died due to a rupture in his intestine on May 16 from the goalie's kick," he told AFP.

there's a suspicion that treatment of his injury on the pitch might have been too slow.'

He said that the football association had set up a team to investigate the incident.

Persiraja Banda Aceh and PSAP Sigli are in the Liga Indonesia Premier Division, the country's second-tier division.

Indonesian football has been struggling to recover following a long-running feud between two rival federations, which spawned two toptier divisions. The two sides have now agreed to unite.

The country's football chiefs also came in for criticism over the deaths of a Paraguayan and a Cameroonian playing for Indonesian clubs, who reportedly could not afford medical treatment after going unpaid for months. – AFP

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California Chrome eyes elusive Triple Crown **SPORT 66**

LOS ANGELES

Yao Ming eyeing deal to buy Clippers, report says

RETIRED Chinese superstar Yao Ming is lining up investors to make a bid for the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers if embattled owner Donald Sterling has to sell, ESPN.com reported on May 23.

Yao is just the latest celebrity to be linked to a potential Clippers bid since Sterling was engulfed in a scandal over racially charged remarks that became public in April.

ESPN, citing unnamed sources, said that Yao and another former NBA player, Grant Hill, were working separately to find investors to launch bids.

Celebrity gossip website TMZ and other US media outlets reported May 23 that Sterling has surrendered control of the club to his estranged wife, Shelly, who is in talks with the league to sell the team.

The Clippers are valued at nearly US\$600 million by Forbes magazine and could fetch substantially more given the publicity surrounding the team and its location in a major US market. Yao became an NBA star with the

Houston Rockets, who made him the first pick in the 2002 NBA draft.

Although his size was his strength, the rigours of top-flight basketball proved too much for Yao's massive 7-foot, 6-inch (2.29-meter) frame and his career was marked by lengthy absences from the court due to a succession of mostly foot and leg injuries.

He announced his retirement in July of 2011 following a trail-blazing career that made him China's bestknown athlete and helped spur the game's growth all across Asia.

He owns a team in China, the Shanghai Sharks, and maintains close ties with the NBA.

Hill is just completing his first year in retirement after a 19-season career that ended with the Clippers after seven All-Star berths.

Other big names said to be interested in purchasing the clippers include software billionaire Larry Ellison, entertainment mogul David Geffen and television powerhouse Oprah Winfrey,. - AFP

PARIS **Rivals wary of Nadal backlash**

AFAEL Nadal might be seen by some as losing his grip on the French Open crown, but his main rivals for the title don't share that view ahead of the May 25 opening day at Roland Garros.

The 27-year-old Spaniard has been strangely subdued during the long buildup to the consecration of the claycourt tennis season with just the one title to his name - at Madrid when Japan's Kei Nishikori was forced to retire in the final with a back injury.

Quarter-final defeats to David Ferrer in Monte Carlo and Nicolas Almagro in Barcelona were shocking and he was swept aside in the second and third sets by Novak Djokovic in the Rome final last week.

But ATP tour events are one thing; taking on eight-time winner Nadal at his Roland Garros stronghold is quite another.

French hope Jo-Wilfried Tsonga said that it would be pure folly to downplay the Spaniard's hopes of a record ninth title in Paris.

"If we have to look at the results these last couple of weeks, of course we can say that," he said.

"But when we look, you know, in the past, there is no reason to say Rafa is different than the other years. "You know, he's still the same guy,

the same champion, and I'm sure he wants to win again here in Roland Garros?

Words echoed by Andy Murray, who led Nadal 4-2 in the deciding set in the Rome quarter-finals last week before losing it 7-5.

It would not take long, he said, to establish whether or not there were any chinks in the Nadal armour.

"Normally when the tournament starts, you know, whether Rafa has been playing well or not, I would expect him to play great tennis here," the Wimbledon champion said.

"I would expect Novak to play great tennis here. Roger, I would also expect to play very well.

"So there is nothing there to suggest that they are all of a sudden going to stop performing well in the slams and struggle. I would expect them to all have great tournaments.'

For Djokovic the win over Nadal in Rome was encouraging, but he knows from past experience that getting the better of Nadal in the year's second Grand Slam is a different challenge altogether.

He has played the Spaniard five times at Roland Garros in their marathon rivalry and lost all five times - albeit getting closer to turning the tables every time.

"The tournament win in Rome came at the right moment for me," he sai

"For my confidence level it's definitely a booster and positive thing, and hopefully I can carry that confidence coming into Roland Garros.

"But it's obviously different than the Rome tournament. It's a Grand Slam. It's a two-week-long event. best of five, and there is a feeling that most of the players who are participating in the event have an extra motivation to perform well in this tournament comparing to the other events."

Nadal for his part believes it is all about momentum and being in prime form at just the right time. "Rome, Monte Carlo, Madrid, Bar-

celona is past now. We are here in Roland Garros, and the only thing that matters now is have a good practice when I will be able to finish with the press," he said at his pre-tournament media conference.

"I will practise today, will practise tomorrow, good practice on Sunday, and try to be ready for the competition, no?

"The dynamic is positive, it's true, so that's always important for the confidence. I felt that in Rome I was able to play with not that much nerves, that anxiety that I played in the first two tournaments and some moments in Madrid, too." - AFP



IN PICTURES

Laid out: Second baseman Sean Rodriguez of the Tampa Bay Rays makes a throw to second base in a game against the Boston Red Sox on May 23 in St Petersburg, Florida. Photo: AFP

