



# MYANMAR TIMES

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## EDITORIAL

## Fragile Fourth Estate needs our attention

THE greatest asset Myanmar has is not natural resources. The greatest asset is people. If this nation wants to advance, the most important thing is to unlock its human potential. The only way to do that is by giving people the freedom they need to develop their talents and capabilities.

But freedom comes at a price – and that price is a steely discipline. And discipline, professionalism and an unbending commitment to preserving this brittle democracy have been sorely tested recently, with the *Unity* jailings and the deadly riots in Mandalay.

## MYANMARTIMES

The Fourth Estate – the foundation on which our new society must use as its check and balance – has been exposed for what it is: brittle and wafer thin. It consists of the tiniest number of qualified participants and an arsenal of weapons so weak that it can be overrun without real resistance.

The details that have now emerged from Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw about how the rumours that sparked the recent violence in Mandalay tell a sad and tawdry tale: one involving no less than 11 people who, motivated by self-interest and loathing, spun a web of lies that plunged a city into chaos.

As some have commented, this plot is in some ways unremarkable. Similar cases occur around the country each day, facilitated by corruption and the opaqueness of the justice system.

Yet few have such serious ramifications. Two innocent men are dead. Muslim homes and businesses have been targeted and trashed. Hundreds have been arrested, and many jailed, for breaking a curfew that has significantly harmed Mandalay's economy.

**MORE ON NEWS 8**



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PHOTO: ZARNI PHYO

Leaders of armed ethnic groups gathered in the Kachin State border town of Laiza on July 25 for three days of talks on a draft nationwide ceasefire text. If an agreement is reached, a further round of talks with the government is expected in August.

## IN DEPTH

## The meaning of 'feminism'

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WHETHER among activists, scholars or ordinary women, feminism in Myanmar falls under two major factions.

The more conservative say women here have, and have always had, the same rights and opportunities as men. Evidence, if presented, usually points to pre-colonial times – though whether we can call this view feminist at all is debatable, given it says everything is all right.

A second opinion – usually held by the younger and more progressive, as well as those working in newly established networks, NGOs and community-based organisations – says traditional gender roles are discriminating, repressive and crying out for systemic change.

Which is correct? It's true that Myanmar has made greater strides in gender equality than neighbouring countries such as Cambodia, Bangladesh, Laos and even democratic India, all of which rank lower on the Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index.

And Myanmar's legal framework does support gender equality – having ratified international conventions such as CEDAW. Gender equality is also enshrined in the 2008 constitution: Article 348 unequivocally states "the Union shall not discriminate [against] any citizen ... based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth".

But a closer look – at the constitution and at the daily lives of women nationwide – reveals a very different story.

**FOR FULL ARTICLE SEE OUR SPECIAL "WOMEN OF ASEAN" LIFTOUT INSIDE**

# Opposition slams UEC campaigning directive

National League for Democracy demands revision to restrictive rules introduced earlier this month, as some parties warn they may consider boycotting 2015 election. **IN DEPTH 3**

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# Page 2

## THE INSIDER: The local lowdown & best of the web

### Hunt on for Dhammazedi Bell

In news that's bound to excite anyone who's grown tired of waiting for developments in the Spitfire dig (hold on, O ye of little faith and patience!), the latest search for what some say is the world's largest bell will resume in August. Though the very existence of the Dhammazedi Bell is a matter of some conjecture, dive teams will wrap up the next reconnaissance by late August. Watch this space.

### Medicins avec Frontieres

The decision from the Rakhine government last week to allow MSF-Holland to resume services in the state was met with cautious optimism and tentative praise by many, however it seems the people behind the protests that played no small part in the organisation's initial expulsion

haven't changed their tune any and aren't too stoked at this most recent development.

Nor has it done wonders for the support base of new government-appointed Rakhine chief minister U Maung Maung Ohn, whose public favour in the region was already on the low side courtesy of his being a USDP rep – and a Bamar to boot.

A meeting of community members was held in Sittwe on July 25 at the Sei Da Na Mo Hall, where people voiced their dissatisfaction with the government position, according to reports from local media.

It was not stated how many were in attendance but the general gist was that those gathered were deeply unimpressed that they had gone to all that effort to drive MSF out

because they "stand by the [sic] Bengalis side", and the State government inviting them back in is "neglecting the opinion of the Rakhine people". It was resolved that the group would pen a sternly worded letter to the chief minister and President Thein Sein. If the response is not satisfactory, they say, the community will stage further protests.

Rakhine News Group cited the press release from the meeting (exactly who issued this was not stated) which said "if there is any violence in the future, Rakhine communities are not responsible for it. The responsibility for future violence would lie with the Rakhine state government and MSF".

The possibility of a resumption of services had been picked up by the eagle-eyed NGO Watch Team in Rakhine back in late June, when they circulated a job vacancy advertisement for a project coordinator role in the Maungdaw branch.

This was subsequently carried by Coral Arakan, a news outlet that doesn't have a website at present but updates on Facebook on a regular basis. Indeed, in the 24 hours following the announcement that MSF would be invited back, they posted no less than four stories – all of which were on the subject.

In a similar show of dedication to apolitical, fact-based, neutral and objective reporting, Rakhine News Group changed their Facebook cover photo to a shot of crowds marching with anti-MSF signs.

While the Rakhine government's invitation is a promising step, the exact terms under which the return is being allowed remain unclear. The real litmus test will be how protests, should they take place, are managed by the State- and Union-level governments. After all, protests by farmers whose land had been seized and those voicing their opposition to a culture of impunity surrounding Tatmadaw-perpetrated rape in Chin State have been quashed with relative ease elsewhere in the country in recent months – to give just two examples.

### Rough seas for Premium hotel

Yangon's "Vintage Luxury Yacht Hotel" has found itself navigating rough seas amid public backlash over pictures of staff members dropping to their knees in the presence of guests – an in-house greeting policy it turns out is actually a fairly grave cultural affront in Myanmar, as that sort of thing is usually reserved for worship and not ushering in businessmen.

The hotel, which opened in June, billed itself as a high-end alternative in a market simply starved of opulence.

"Myanmar doesn't really have top-end luxury hotels," Eric Noel, operations manager of Vintage Luxury Yacht Hotel, told *The Myanmar Times* in a fairly reprehensible puff piece we ran in early July.

"So we decided why don't we introduce luxury products in Yangon and give them the real luxury services to stay and to relax," he said.

Now, I don't know about you, but if there's one thing that just oozes luxury it's probably a gaudy bar at the Yangon docks where the interior designer has so gone hell-for-leather in pursuit of a grandiose nautical aesthetic that, heaven forbid you should temporarily forget you were on a boat, you will probably trip over a carefully weathered-looking anchor or buoy before you even finish the thought. But more than that, when I think luxury I think handing over K9000 for a cup of Premium 3-in-1 Coffee Mix at a maritime-themed lounge bar at Botahtaung. Ah, la vie est belle!

### In brief:

Talk of damaged cables causing network slowdown leads many to confess they don't really understand what the internet "is" or "how it works" Speaker U Shwe Mann asks President U Thein Sein to clarify position on media freedom gambling ring says odds for "pro" are dwindling Ministry of Home Affairs drafting new legislation that will once and for all stem the influx of people looking to settle in sunny, politically stable northern Rakhine



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Ni Ni Khin Zaw from *NOW! Magazine*. Photo: *Pyay Han (ColorMax)*

Style Statement **NOW!**



Mingalar TaungNyunt Township of Yangon, July 13. Via Facebook

**Next week:** Telegrams: due for a comeback?

Talk of nuclear medical program gives faint glimmer of hope for boost in health budget

**Yangon living 101:** Tap the side of the toaster before you use it to ensure that any small lizards nestled in there will jump out before the heat kicks in forcing them to abandon their charred tail. Based on a true story.

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From exile British publication *Burma To-Day*

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IN DEPTH

# Free and fair? Opposition says no

Political battle lines emerge in Myanmar as opposition groups slam new campaigning rules and push for proportional representation

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POLITICAL parties say a new directive issued by the Union Election Commission that will place tight restrictions on campaigning means next year's election is unlikely to be free or fair, as tension grows between opposition forces and the military-backed establishment over the country's political future.

Some political leaders say they are even considering boycotting the election unless changes are made to the directive, which was issued on July 1, and have accused the establishment of attempting to move the goalposts to reduce the chances of a National League for Democracy landslide in 2015.

They are also upset that feedback from political parties on a draft version of the directive distributed in May was seemingly ignored by the commission.

"The commission has no right to issue a directive like this one. It has a mandate only to supervise the election," said U Nyan Win, a spokesperson for the NLD.

Directive 1/2014 sets 30 days for campaigning and requires candidates to seek permission from the township election commission office before holding any campaign events. The proposed list of speakers, as well as the location and number of participants need to be vetted before an event by both the commission and the regional government, while candidates must also seek permission if they want to buy advertisements. Permission must be sought at least 15 days in advance.

U Sai Nyunt Lwin, secretary of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, said the new directive made him hesitant to contest the election. "The commission's code of conduct is not fair and square," he said, adding that he believed the rules were designed to benefit the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

Many also perceive the rules as an effort to rein in the NLD, and in particular the role of popular party leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

On April 7, commission chief U Tin Aye reportedly told election commission members and political parties in Patheingyi, Ayeyarwady Region, that candidates in the 2015 general election would not be allowed to campaign outside their own constituencies. While U Tin Aye denied making the comments and promised to allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to campaign freely around the country, the rules give the commission discretion to stop anybody from



A young National League for Democracy supporter attends a party rally in Pakokku on July 12. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

speaking at a campaign event.

In a statement on July 21, the NLD demanded the directive be revised, arguing that 30 days is not long enough for campaigning and that candidates should only have to inform,

**'As long as [USDP leaders] are only interested in their party's welfare, the election will not be fair and square.'**

**U Aye Thar Aung**  
Rakhine National Party leader

rather than seek permission from, the election commission when organising a campaign event.

The party also called for the election commission to be reformed with "highly respectable" people who have not been a member of any political party for at least five years.

The current chair, U Tin Aye, is a retired major general who won a seat for the USDP in the 2010 election but resigned from parliament in February 2011 to lead the commission on the instructions of then-Senior General Than Shwe.

The issuing of the directive comes at a time of heightened political tension because of the USDP's attempt to change the voting system from first-past-the-post to proportional representation, which would likely harm the NLD's chances of winning a majority in the 2015 election.

U Aye Thar Aung, leader of the Rakhine National Party, said it is clear that the USDP is changing the rules to disadvantage the NLD.

"Party leaders should be able to campaign on behalf of candidates ... [but] setting only one month to campaign means party leaders won't have much time to campaign in other seats. This is deliberately aimed at stopping a particular party from winning, and this is also why some are trying to change the electoral system in parliament," he said.

"It is very clear ... [that the USDP] doesn't want the NLD to win and is worried that its power will disappear. As long as they are only interested in

their party's welfare, the election will not be fair and square."

The issue is drawing ethnic parties into the NLD-USDP fight, as they are staunchly opposed to changing the voting system. The Nationalities

Brotherhood Federation (NBF), an alliance of 20 ethnic political parties, has threatened to protest if proportional representation is introduced in minority areas.

"We never accept proportional representation and if the motion is approved we will stage protests in all states," said U Saw Than Myint, deputy leader of the Federal Union Party, which has been formed to represent ethnic minorities in areas dominated by the majority Bamar ethnic group.

Senior USDP members told *The Myanmar Times* last week they had no complaints over the election commission directive, and they would support whichever voting system will most benefit the country and the people.

Party leader Thura U Shwe Mann has on many occasions pledged that the party will compete fairly in 2015, unlike in 2010, when the rules and political landscape were strongly tipped in its favour.

For now, it remains unclear how the government, election commission and USDP will respond to the demand of opposition parties to lift restrictions on election campaigning, reorganise the commission and retain first-past-the-post voting.

But U Sai Nyunt Lwin said he doubted that these military-backed groups would budge.

"I'm certain that they will just go ahead and do whatever they want."

— Translation by Thiri Min Tun and Zar Zar Soe

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EXCLUSIVE

# Solution in Rakhine State 'is to accept that we are all human beings': Yunus

Nobel Peace Prize-winner Muhammad Yunus, who pioneered the concept of microfinance in the late 1970s and founded the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983, discusses social enterprises, Bangladesh-Myanmar relations and conflict in Rakhine State



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**MYANMAR and Bangladesh are neighbours but often seem distant. How familiar are you with Myanmar? Is this your first visit?**

In a way it is, but my first visit was way back in 1959, passing through Rangoon to Philippines. I travel a lot and we are close neighbours but I have never been here [besides in 1959]. It is such a shame. We live next to each other but we never drop in as frequently as we should. [In Bangladesh] we used to know Burma for many years and Rangoon is very familiar. A lot of our family members worked here, lived here, had businesses here and many married here ... We have never felt [Myanmar] is ... different from us but they live in their Burmese way. We had a very close relationship but suddenly everything stopped for a long period.

**What brought you here this week, after such a long time between visits?**

The main purpose of this trip is to talk to people about what we do, particularly social businesses. In Myanmar, this is a transition period, an opening-up period [but] maybe this is a time [when] people need to listen to experiences from different countries, particularly doing business in different kinds of ways to solve the people's problems, rather than just making money. So the British Council invited me and I accepted and came here. I met lots of people - young professionals, young people who created businesses, met policymakers, went to Nay Pyi Taw today and met six senior ministers. They came to our discussion and presentation and asked questions. So it was a great interaction with them. It was a good feeling that we as neighbours [are] talking to each other.

**What are your impressions of the Myanmar economy? How can business play a role in reducing poverty and improving lives?**

This is very important because [Myanmar] is opening up after a long, long period ... Everybody wants to find out



Muhammad Yunus speaks exclusively to *The Myanmar Times* in Yangon on July 21. Photo: Yu Yu

what is there. Everybody is delighted to proceed as there are so many opportunities. So before the foreign businesses come and take opportunities and take advantages, this is the occasion for the Burmese people to get advantage from their [resources] rather than being taken advantage of.

**What can social businesses bring to a country like Myanmar?**

It is very simple ... it is not a technical thing at all. The business that we know that happens globally is always focused on how to make money for their owners and shareholders. That's how the business is ... They are not here to change

the country ... The other kind of business we started was business to help people and to solve people's problems without having any intention of getting back money ... When the foreign businesses want make money here, the government can say as a condition that they must start a social business alongside their money-making businesses. [In] any [business sector] it is possible to create a social business. I see a lot of opportunities here for the people of this country.

**How did the senior government officials you met in Nay Pyi Taw respond to your ideas?**

They were very happy to listen to me and I shared the ideas about what we do ... After the discussion, they said they got a lot of new ideas. Maybe some of my ideas they will use and maybe some they will discard.

I am not here to suggest, do this and do that ... I [would] rather invite many of the higher officials, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to come and see what we do and [find what] makes sense to this country. I also met nearly 30 young people, businesspeople, and invited all them to come and see Bangladesh and I also invited an equal number of Bangladeshi young people to Myanmar and see here.

**What was the highlight of your meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi?**

I met her on my first day. We discussed the distance among the two countries and how to solve these and what social business is all about. I suggested that she send a group of people ... to visit Bangladesh to see what social businesses have done there and report back to her so that when she becomes a part of the government, then she can use these ideas for the people.

**Rakhine State is just across the border from Bangladesh. How do you view the conflict that has affected the state since 2012?**

Everybody should be concerned [about the conflict]. The world should be concerned. During our meeting, one MP from the opposition stood up and asked about this issue and how did I see the situation from the other side. I answered [that whether I am on] this side or that side, it doesn't matter - human beings are human beings. Wherever they live, they have to live and they should have a peace and security. If I sleep, I wake up in the morning, I see my child sleeping next to me. This is human rights; this is a basic thing of civilisation. You can't take it away.

The fact is that a person living in a country - even if I am a stateless person, it doesn't matter - as long as I am living on your soil, you have to take care of me no matter what religion or race you are. This is your responsibility. That's what human rights are all about ... If I violated the law, proceed according to the law but you can't come and beat me up or kill me and so on. This is all about human rights issues and then citizenship ... There is a standard procedure that is internationally recognised. [These] people [have been] living [here for] generations. You can't say that they are not. They are citizens, but their citizenship has been taken away. How did you do that? Where is the legal procedure for that?

**What's the key to resolving the conflict then?**

[The] solution is to accept that we are all human beings. The world is one place, home for all of us. We can't throw each other from one country to another country.

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Dated: 28 July 2014

## Ethnic leaders begin conference in Laiza

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ETHNIC leaders were locked in talks over the weekend aimed at resolving disagreements over a proposed nationwide ceasefire agreement, and pave the way for the signing of the accord and the start of political dialogue.

Senior officials from 16 armed ethnic groups represented on the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) gathered in the Kachin State border town of Laiza - the headquarters of the Kachin Independence Organisation - for talks that were expected to run from July 25 to 27.

Ethnic groups will consider the text of the draft that the NCCT finalised with a state negotiating team led by Minister for the President's Office U Aung Min at talks in Yangon in May.

While both sides agreed on a text at the May 23 talks, the draft still requires

final approval from the leaders of the armed groups. A handful of contentious points still need to be resolved but senior ethnic leaders say that if they can reach agreement then the final round of peace talks with the government negotiating team can be held in August.

As well as the draft text, the NCCT was expected to present working reports from the eight rounds of official and informal talks held with the state peacemaking committee and also discuss a military code of conduct.

Karen National Union general secretary Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win told *The Myanmar Times* that the Laiza talks would focus on military issues, including the future of ethnic groups' armed forces after the ceasefire is signed, and the how to approach the political dialogue process.

"These issues will absolutely be discussed. We have very senior leaders

who can make a decision [on the ceasefire] participating in this conference," he said.

In his opening address, KIO leader Zaung Khara emphasised the importance of attaining political rights for ethnic minorities.

"We must negotiate with the government until we achieve a genuine federal union, equal rights and self-determination," he said.

To facilitate talks, a leading body for the conference was formed on July 24 to help resolve the outstanding issues.

"The leading body is not a group formed to make a decision when a problem erupts. It is a group to negotiate between the two sides," Padoh Kwe Htoo Win said.

More than 100 participants travelled to Laiza for the conference, including representatives of the 16 NCCT members and observers.

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun



# Ethnic MPs boycott voting system debate

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THE Pyithu Hluttaw has agreed to discuss the introduction of proportional representation, helped in part by many ethnic MPs boycotting the vote to show their opposition to the proposal, which has sharply divided the political landscape.

The Amyotha Hluttaw, or upper house, has already approved a proposal to use proportional representation instead of first-past-the-post voting for the 2015 election, despite strong opposition from ethnic groups, the National League for Democracy and even military MPs.

On July 24, Pyithu Hluttaw speaker Thura U Shwe Mann allowed U Aung Zin, a representative of the National Democratic Force (NDF), to submit his proposal to introduce proportional voting for the seven ethnic Bamar-dominated regions in the 2015 election.

42

Number of MPs who voted against discussing a proposed change to proportional representation

Such were the tensions surrounding the issue that the MP had been waiting one-and-a-half months for the proposal to be tabled in the house.

U Aung Zin told parliament that he wanted to introduce the system to ensure a “colourful parliament” after the 2015 election – one in which all parties could have a voice, rather than a single party dominating the house.

“I have heard there is strong debate over the system but I believe the proposal will help build a genuine federal state through a system of fair competition. I advise you to

consider [what is best for] the state and people,” he said prior to the vote.

He said 90 countries were using a system of proportional representation and dismissed concerns that voters would struggle to understand the system. “Some are worried about voter education regarding proportional representation. We don’t think that the knowledge level of our voters is lower than people in other countries.”

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was among the 42 MPs – from a total of 356 present – who stood up to vote against the proposal. Military MPs, despite their opposition in the upper house, voted to discuss the proposed switch.

All MPs from the National Brotherhood Federation, a coalition of around 20 ethnic parties, boycotted the vote.

The speaker instructed all MPs who want to participate in the discussion to register with the hluttaw office by 4pm on July 24 – just hours after the vote took place.

“We were against discussing it but it does not mean that we are afraid to discuss it. Our party is ready to discuss [the issue],” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told reporters at the end of parliament session.

Prior to the July 24 vote, tensions became unusually heated when the speaker relaxed parliament rules to enable U Ba Shein, a representative from the Rakhine National Party, to discuss the proposal.

Normally, only the representative submitting a proposal is allowed to speak before parliament votes on whether to discuss it.

“Are there any problems or any complaints with using the first-past-the-post system in previous elections?” U Ba Shein asked. “Are there any serious or urgent reasons why we need to be change to proportional representation? If not, why do we need to change?”

While he was talking, U Soe Win from the NDF interrupted and asked the speaker to force U Ba Shein to stop talking. Thura U Shwe Mann agreed and promptly put the proposal to a vote.



Ethnic Rakhine protesters march through Sittwe on February 3 calling on MSF to leave Rakhine State. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

## MSF invited back to Rakhine State

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AID agency Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland (MSF) has been invited to resume operations in Rakhine State, according to state media.

An announcement from the Rakhine State government and a Myanmar News Agency article based on a Ministry of Health report, both published in the July 24 edition of the *New Light of Myanmar*, said the group will be allowed to re-start work in the western state.

In the announcement the Rakhine State government invited UN agencies and INGOs, including MSF, “to participate in development, humanitarian, education and health-care programs in accordance with the wishes of the Rakhine people”.

The invitation was made in order to implement the Rakhine Action Plan, which was developed following meetings on June 26-27 with members of the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), UN officials, civil society representatives and officials from the Myanmar Peace Centre, it said.

The government ordered the Nobel Prize-winning organisation to leave Rakhine State in late February

amid accusations it was biased in favour of the state’s Muslim population. A month later, all INGOs pulled out of the state after their offices were targeted by Rakhine extremists. All were later allowed to return, but the state government said it would not allow MSF to resume its activities in Rakhine.

**‘MSF welcomes the Myanmar government’s announcement.’**

Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland

It remains unclear as to when and under what circumstances the aid agency will be allowed to resume its programs, which include the provision of medical care to isolated Buddhist and Muslim communities.

MSF said in a statement that it welcomed the decision.

“MSF welcomes the Myanmar

government’s announcement today that the organisation will be invited to resume medical humanitarian operations in Rakhine State,” it said.

“We look forward to continuing constructive discussions with the Ministry of Health regarding how MSF can support the ministry in the immediate expansion of life-saving medical activities for the people of Rakhine currently facing a humanitarian crisis.”

The group declined to comment further.

Prior to its eviction from the state, MSF had angered the government and Buddhist Rakhine residents by reporting that it had treated 22 Rohingya Muslims following an outbreak of violence in Maungdaw township in January. The UN has said that it believes at least 40 people were killed during the fighting but the government has denied that anyone was killed.

The organisation said at the time it was “deeply shocked” by the decision to force it to leave.

According to Rakhine State government figures, there are 24 international organisations working in the state, with 112 national staff and 72 international staff.



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ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE



## Magwe court accepts appeal from reporters

YE MON

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MAGWE Region Court has agreed to hear an appeal filed on behalf of four reporters from *Unity* journal who were jailed for 10 years on July 10.

Lawyer U Robert Sann Aung said he submitted the appeal for the reporters on July 21 and the court accepted it the same day.

"We will wait about 45 days for the court to hear the appeal. We had no time for arguments in [the trial at the] district court and also the judgment was not fair," he said.

U Kyaw Lin, a lawyer for *Unity* chief executive officer U Tin San, said he also planned to file an appeal on behalf of his client, who also received a 10-year jail term.

All five are being held at Pakokku Prison in Magwe Region. They were jailed for breaking the 1923 State Secrets Act in relation to reports in *Unity* that alleged a military factory in Pauk township was making chemical weapons.

Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, wife of jailed reporter Ko Lu Maw, said her husband had told her he was pleased to hear the court had agreed to hear the appeal.

She said he is expecting the appeal will lead to a positive result, such as a sentence reduction or retrial.

Last month, Magwe District Court reduced a one-year jail term handed down to a Democratic Voice of Burma reporter to three months on appeal. The reporter was freed immediately, having already served the three months.

Meanwhile, on July 23, police from Special Branch (SB) held meetings with the chief editor and deputy editors of *Myanmar Than Taw Sint* journal to discuss its cir-

ulation, and the background of the journal and its chief editor.

Editor-in-charge U Aung Tun Lin said it was the second time SB officials had interrogated staff from the publication, which has been linked to former Minister for Religious Affairs U San Sint, who is now on trial for corruption and sedition.

In June, most of Myanmar's major publications, including *The Myanmar Times*, were invited to attend meetings with SB.

**'We had no time for arguments in [the trial at the] district court and also the judgement was not fair.'**

U Robert Sann Aung

Lawyer for four *Unity* journalists

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brigadier General Kyaw Kyaw Tun told reporters in Nay Pyi Taw that the ministry had invited media organisations to discuss their operations because it wanted to better understand the industry, including why some newspapers succeed and others do not.

However, some have accused the government of misusing its authority to intimidate publications.

"SB deals with national security," said U Kyi Myint of the Lawyers' Network, "and this is none of their business."

## 'Unity' reporter was ju

Ko Lu Maw had always dreamed of being a reporter – but shortly after *Unity* gave



YE MON

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TEN years in jail for typing up a set of handwritten notes and emailing them to Yangon. It sounds like something that might have occurred under the military regime – but not here, not now.

Ko Lu Maw, 28 – real name Ko Lin Kyaw Oo – had only been working at *Unity* for 23 days when he was

arrested on January 31. Less than six months later he and four colleagues were sentenced to 10 years' prison for breaking the 1923 State Secrets Act.

In announcing the sentence on July 10, Pakkoku District Court judge U Mg Mg Htay said Ko Lu Maw was guilty under section 3(1)(A)/9 because he was aware of the offences committed by his colleagues, reporters Ko Pating Thet Kyaw, Ko Ya Zar Oo and Ko Si Thu Soe, and *Unity* chief executive officer U Tin San.

"He expected he would be sentenced for trespassing," his wife, Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, said in a recent interview. "But 10 years is very harsh."



Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, wife of reporter Ko Lu Maw, sits with their daughter at home in Pauk on July 11, a day after his sentencing. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

### PROFILE

None of them were expecting it."

It was not Ko Lu Maw's first brush with the authorities. Originally from Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyarwady Region, he and Ma Lwin Lwin Myint had helped to provide assistance to those affected by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 when the government failed to do so.

"Lu Maw was always willing to help other people," said Ko Sanay Lin, a friend who works for a Myanmar-based news agency. "But he also had a strong dislike for the military government."

The couple's Nargis activities – and the fact that Ma Lwin Lwin Myint is the sister of prominent monk-turned-activist Ashin Gambira – left them fearful of the wrath of the military regime. They eventually fled to Thailand.

"After Nargis, the government officials were jealous and looked down upon relief workers," she said. "Eventually we ran away to Thailand ... but returned in May 2012."

While in Thailand, Ko Lu Maw, who had always wanted to be a reporter, filed articles for exile media outlets *Mizzima* and *Irrawaddy* under the pen-name Ko Maw. He also learned some computer skills, and after returning to Myanmar set up Maw Computer and English Training Centre in Magwe Region's Pauk township.

While the business thrived, Ko Lu Maw still wanted to pursue his dream of becoming a reporter.

Through a *Unity* reporter, Ko Kyi Naing, he was eventually introduced to U Tin San. He began work as a reporter in the second week of January.

"When he told me that he wanted to be a reporter, I said he could do as he wished but that I thought the job

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Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014



# st 23 days into new job

him his first chance in January, he was arrested for breaking the State Secrets Act



Ko Lu Maw arrives at Pakokku District Court on July 10 before being sentenced to 10 years in jail. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

was a little bit risky,” Ma Lwin Lwin Myint said.

Because of the sensitivity of *Unity’s* story on the alleged chemical weapons factory, U Tin San instructed Ko Lu Maw not to undertake any reporting activities.

However, because he had helped to write up the information gathered by the three other reporters, Ko Lu Maw’s byline appeared on the January 25 article alleging that former Senior General Than Shwe had set up a chemical weapons factory in Pauk in cooperation with Chinese experts.

The first signs of potential fallout came six days later, on January 31, when the head of the ward administration office visited Ko Lu Maw’s home at about 3pm to ask for the names of all the residents.

At about 11pm, the administrator returned with police. Officer Than Aye requested Ko Lu Maw to come along with them to the police station because they wanted to ask him some questions. A statement was taken; he was put in a holding cell and then transferred to

Pakkoku Prison. He is likely to remain behind bars for years, even if he does not serve his full sentence.

For Ma Lwin Lwin Myint and their three-year-old daughter, Ma Aye Yanant Maw, the sentence has been a crushing blow. Ma Aye Yanant Maw knows only that her father has gone to jail for using his computer, and said she is waiting for the day when he will return.

As well as losing her husband, the trial has devastated their business. All of the 200-plus students enrolled in December 2013 have quit, too scared to come to class. She is considering moving to Pakokku, convinced that she can never find work again in Pauk.

“After he was arrested, no one dared to come. There were 20 policemen in our home and the neighbours were all shocked,” she said. “Now my parents from Meiktila are sending us money so we can survive ... but it’s impossible to live off the support of my parents for 10 years.”

Her one glimmer of hope is an appeal, which was filed to the Magwe

Region High Court last week.

“I think his punishment will be decreased on appeal,” she said. “But I hope that the court will instead decide to conduct a new trial, under a different charge.”

# Speaker questions president about media freedom

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PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann has written to President U Thein Sein asking him to explain the government’s position on media freedom, following a spate of arrests and jailings that journalists say constitute a government crackdown.

In the July 22 letter, Thura U Shwe Mann said he understands that some journalists, due to a lack of experience and over-enthusiasm, may go “too far” but urged the government to exercise restraint.

Media groups have asked the parliament to push the government on the issue, he told representatives on July 23, adding that he had specifically raised a number of cases with the president in the letter.

He declined to say which cases he had raised but said he believes that the Union Government will consider those cases and take steps to resolve them.

“I sent this letter because I think that [the government can] ease the fears of these media groups, and their misunderstandings on the government will fade,” he said.

His comments come after the president warned on July 7 following sectarian violence in Mandalay that the government would take legal action against organisations if their reporting threatens state security.

On July 10, five employees from *Unity* journal received 10 year jail terms for breaking the State Secrets Act, while four journalists from *Bi Mon Te Nay* were also arrested in early July, under the 1950 Emergency Provision Act. Police

from the Special Branch department have also been conducting interviews with staff from local publications, although the nature of the investigation remains unclear.

In response, the Interim Press Council has asked for a meeting with the president to discuss its concerns. So far it has not received a response, said secretary U Kyaw Min Swe.

“Because we got no response I have asked the legislature to help

**‘I sent this letter because I think that [the government can] ease the fears of these media groups.’**

**Thura U Shwe Mann**  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker

us,” he said, adding that he welcomed the speaker’s response.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khine Maung Yi said journalists were yet to enjoy the rights specified in the Media Law enacted in March.

Under the law, the government must consult first with the Press Council before it takes legal action.

“I think the letter from the speaker will have some impact,” he said, “and tension between the government and media will decrease.”

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun



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CONTINUED FROM NEWS 1

Fragile Fourth Estate needs our attention

Why was this different? Largely because of the role played by social media, including Facebook, and some online news media outlets. This was more pronounced than in any of the previous conflicts to date, as highlighted by the decision to shut down Facebook for several hours over the evenings of July 3 and 4.

Internet connectivity, mostly through mobile phones, has increased significantly since even March 2013, when riots broke out in Meiktila, leaving more than 40 dead. At the same time, internet penetration is highest in more urbanised areas, and Mandalay is the largest city to be affected by communal violence to date.

But it is not the medium that is the problem. It is the message, and those who are spreading it. It is not surprising that an online news site like Thit Htoo Lwin has been blamed for its role in this shameful incident.

It is more of news aggregator than a genuine media outlet, taking both unattributed rumours from Facebook and verified news stories written by mainstream media organisations, including *The Myanmar Times*, and repackaging them as its own content. Sometimes it is acknowledged where the information came from, sometimes not.

Thit Htoo Lwin may have been acting in good faith when it reported these now-debunked rape accusations. Given both its popularity and approach to journalism, it was possible that at some point its actions would result in severe harm – not online, but in the real world. This is not how responsible media operates.

Publications like *The Myanmar Times* and other leaders in the industry hold themselves to higher standards. Our journalists are trained to verify information with multiple sources before it is published. They

have a respect for internationally accepted standards of journalism ethics. This is not a process that takes place overnight; it is the result of years of investment in training and human resources development. As a publication, we also prioritise the safety of our readers and the community over shallow, populist reporting aimed at winning short-term popularity.

In the long run, it is responsible publications that will form the backbone of the new Fourth Estate. This is a Fourth Estate that holds the government and others in positions of authority to account, but at the same time does not allow its coverage to be clouded by political or other biases.

It is important that the government recognises this distinction and provides an enabling environment for all responsible media outlets – not simply those that are happy to toe the government line. This will benefit not

only the industry, as one of the pillars of democracy, but also the country as a whole.

Consumers of media – readers, viewers, listeners, web users – also have a choice to make. What kind of media industry do they want? Ultimately, it is they who decide which media organisations succeed and fail – and they will get the media they deserve. The consequences of giving too much credence to those peddling unverified reports are already clear.

With an election year around the corner – perhaps the most important election in Myanmar's history and one that will set the tone for the years ahead – independent and responsible media organisations will be more important than ever. Readers need balanced, professional reporting that they can trust. At *The Myanmar Times*, that is what we promise to provide to you, our readers.

OPINION



Why 'The Myanmar Times' is more important than ever



ROSS DUNKLEY

newsroom@mmtimes.com

OVER the past decade and more *The Myanmar Times* has continued to expand its operations in a nation that falls far short of its potential for sound and informative publishing.

In a region where access to computers and the internet for the moment limit the impact of cutting-edge global media strategies, we nonetheless embrace, as others have, the necessity for change. But what drives our evolution here in Myanmar is not an obsession with cutting costs, but rather a passionate commitment to good journalism that honours the needs of our readers and remains relevant to our unique surroundings.

Serving a readership whose hunger

has fuelled an explosion of new publications in Myanmar in the past decade – some 150 weeklies and 200 magazines – requires that we as editors and reporters constantly update our approach to ensure that we offer the most exclusive and relevant content available. It also requires that we zealously guard our independence in an age where many mainstream media outlets have fallen prey to multinational conglomerates and the exigencies of corporate spin.

We have never been more prepared to do the heavy lifting that is required of a newspaper like ours – one that has to contend, at every step and in an increasingly wired world, with global media giants that often put the interests of industry above the rights of readers.

As Myanmar transitions toward a democratic union, we also stand ready to embrace the changes looming in the decade to come as the nation moves to reintegrate with the global community. The natural progression for a publication like *The Myanmar Times*, hav-

ing worked tirelessly on behalf of the country and its people, is to cement our place as a solid, viable and vibrant information provider.

*The Myanmar Times* has attained a critical mass with 350 educated and enthusiastic staff. It has acquired the necessary printing technology and built an effective distribution chain. Our newsroom has eagerly attacked the challenges that have come with the liberalisation of the media sector, a development we have been uniquely prepared to take advantage of by virtue of our experience, skill and devotion to a sector that demands the most rigorous standards of integrity. At a time when Myanmar aims to embrace the world, we serve as an excellent model for government and private-sector leaders.

Myanmar's official press has become less relevant in the new, modern and developed country that we live in. Its continued existence must surely remain in doubt, as it holds readers' attention by only the slimmest of

threads. Its printing and production rely on outdated technology and it does nothing to project the youthful vigour of a vibrant nation.

Publications such as *The Myanmar Times* are the country's news vehicles of tomorrow because they serve the interests of their readers. They also reflect the energy and enthusiasm of a nation eager to embrace the world and a new political future. In times of transition, reliable information and intelligent analysis remain essential. Shining light on dim places is more essential than ever.

A free press serves the democratic electorate well. Within society, it's a forum for feedback while acting as a mechanism for correction. It is in the government's interest to nurture publications like ours.

Ultimately, a newspaper is a reflection of the society in which we live.

Ross Dunkley is editor-in-chief of *The Myanmar Times*.





Riot police patrol in Mandalay after a Buddhist mob set fire to the Muslim part of a cemetery on July 4. Photo: Kaung Htet

# Police train with Bangladeshi counterparts in United States

Six officers from each country tour airports, seaports and state border crossings on 10-day, three-state tour

**TIM MCLAUGHLIN**  
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A JOINT delegation of police officers from Myanmar and Bangladesh has returned from a training course in the United States focused on improving border security.

Six Myanmar and six Bangladeshi police officers toured airports, seaports and state border crossings in New York, New Jersey and Virginia as part of a 10-day visit to the US.

"The visit was constructed to increase the capacity of Burmese and Bangladeshi law enforcement officials to counter cross-border, transnational crime such as drug, human, and wildlife trafficking," an official from the US embassy in Yangon said.

It was the second such trip taken by Myanmar officers this year. During the first visit to the US, the officers travelled with their Thai counterparts.

The joint delegation's visit, which was organised by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, comes amid heightened tension on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border following clashes in May.

The most serious of these occurred when Myanmar security forces opened fire on a Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) patrol on May 28. A Bangladeshi officer was killed during the shootout and his body was returned to Bangladesh three days later.

Myanmar officials insisted they

mistook the Bangladeshi soldiers for members of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, which it says has been increasingly active on the border. Other sources say the border has become a hotbed of illicit activity, including the trafficking of arms, drugs and people, fuelled in part because of increased conflict in Rakhine State. Jason Eligh, the country manager for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, told *The Myanmar Times* at the time that crime on the border was a "serious and growing concern".

The May skirmishes prompted both sides to convene a high-level meeting in Nay Pyi Taw from June 10-12 led by Myanmar Police Force chief Police Major General Zaw Win and BGB director general Major General Azziz Ahmed.

During the meetings, nine areas of cooperation were agreed on, including the opening of border liaison offices.

The Myanmar Police Force has received increased international assistance since last year, with the European Union the most visible in helping reform the force.

The EU has provided 10 million euros (US\$13.5 million) for an 18-month program focused on community policing and crowd management. About 4000 officers will receive training through the program, which began in November 2013.

Most recently, officers departed on July 19 for the Netherlands as part of a multi-country study tour, the first such overseas tour undertaken as part of the EU program.

## NLD to protest killing of member

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NATIONAL League for Democracy officials plan to protest the police force's failure to bring to justice those responsible for the killing of a party member in Hopong township in June.

U Sai San Tun, deputy head of the NLD office in Mong Pyin village, was killed by an unknown attacker at about 11pm on June 4. He died from three 9-millimetre bullets to the head.

The party's leader for Taunggyi district, Ko Tin Maung Toe, said members would protest at the end of July if the killers were not caught.

"It is important for residents' security that the real killers are arrested. It has been more than a month since he was killed but no one has been caught," he said.

The Hopong members had planned to protest in early July but were instructed not to by the party's head office because of the conflict in Mandalay.

Police are investigating U Sai San Tun's death and say they believe he was murdered. A spokesperson for the township police station said they had detained one man in relation to the killing but indicated that they do not think he is responsible.

"We are interrogating a man deemed to relate with the murderer [on June 29]," said Police Lieutenant Kyaw Min Soe from Hopong police station. "The murderer will be arrested one day."

But Ko Tin Maung Toe said he did not think the authorities are doing enough to find those responsible.

"Nothing has happened to date," he said. "When I asked Hopong police about the case, they told me that they are just working according to their procedure."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

## Govt spends big on flood prevention

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THE government has spent more than K21 billion (US\$21.65 million) to undertake flood prevention measures this rainy season, the president has told parliament.

In a formal letter sent earlier this month, the president said K13.75 billion had been spent on repairing the Bago-Sittaung Canal in Bago Region, while K6.631 billion had gone toward improving drainage in outlying suburbs of Yangon, including east, north and south Dagon.

Another K712.7 million was spent on improving Myitmakha Creek to prevent flooding in Paungde and Thegon townships in Bago Region, and K150 million went towards repairing Zawgyi Bridge in Mandalay's Kyaukse township.

The president sent the letter to explain how the government was using funds from a government budget line that has been set up for special projects.

- Translation by Myat Su Mon Win

### Myanmar Traditional Cultural Variety Show with Buffet Dinner

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## Mandalay jade pagoda nearing completion

**HLAING KYAW SOE**

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A PAGODA in Mandalay made entirely of jade is nearing completion, its backer says. The Kyaukse (Jade) Pagoda in Amarapura township includes more than 10,000 tonnes of the precious gemstone and is being built at an estimated cost of K10 billion (US\$10.3 million).

U Soe Naing from jewellery trader Aye Aye Khaing said he stockpiled jade for 25 years to build the pagoda. Work began in November 2012 and is about 90 percent finished.

"The pagoda is made only of jade - we didn't use any bricks. The value of the jade varies. Some pieces are valuable, others are not," he said.

U Soe Naing said the pagoda is the first in the world to be made entirely from jade. He hopes that when completed it will become a tourist attraction.

The pagoda features jade pieces carved to depict the *jataka*, or stories of the Buddha's previous lives, as well as the chronicles of Myanmar's kings.

A former royal capital, Amarapura is best known for U Bein Bridge, a teak structure that crosses Taungthaman Lake. — *Translation by Thae Thae Htwe*

# Activists give history lesson

WALONE

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## FEATURE

this was no ordinary morning. July 7 marks the anniversary of the destruction of the Student Union building by General Ne Win's government in 1962. Despite the political liberalisation that has taken place since President U Thein Sein became president, the date remains a sensitive one for the authorities, who fear a repeat of the student activism that has been a feature of Myanmar politics since the colonial era.

Their caution is matched by the desire of activists to mark the occasion. About an hour after the officers began gathering at the bus stop, a group of young men and women, each wearing a dark longyi and a white shirt, stepped down from a bus, holding roses in their hands.

Almost 50 students and young people from civil society and activist groups gathered at the bus stop and marched

to the university campus, holding the student union flag aloft and chanting slogans calling for reform of educational institutions and the reconstruction of the student union building. A short ceremony was then held at 10am to remember the dead.

"We have come to pay respect to the students who sacrificed their lives on July 7, 1962," said D Nyein Lin, a university student and former political prisoner.

The 1962 demonstrations, which took place barely three months after the military coup, objected to the imposition of new rules on the university.

After violence that left 16 students dead according to official figures that likely downplayed the scale of the massacre, the government blew up the building in the early hours of July 8. Fifty-two years on, the site of the building, donated by prominent businessperson, U Nyo, and built between 1929-31, is now covered in trees.

A senior Yangon University official, who asked not to be named, said the university does not have the authority to agree to the demands of the demonstrators, particularly on rebuilding the union building.

"We are under the control of the Ministry of Education so we can't decide whether to rebuild the student union building. It's not our responsibility," he said.

Some change is taking place at the university, however. In December 2013, undergraduate classes resumed for 20 arts and science majors.

None of the students involved in the demonstration are currently studying at the university, however.



A police officer stands in front of Yangon University's Convocation Hall. Photo: AFP



This is in part because the authorities have strictly forbidden students from taking part in political activities and have stifled attempts to reestablish the student union. Instead, it has created a "students service centre".

"The students still haven't got their rights even though the new government has been reforming," said activist Ko Nay Min.

But few of the students that *The*

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# to incoming students



Student activists hold a ceremony on July 7 to remember those killed at Yangon University 52 years earlier. Photo: Supplied

Myanmar Times spoke to on July 7 as they arrived at the university for class appeared interested in political rights. One history major, who asked not to be named, said, “I just try my best at school. I have no time to be interested [in politics].”

A handful are actively involved in politics, in defiance of university rules. First-year Myanmar language major Ma Ei Myat Swe, 18, together with

seven other undergraduates and a postgraduate student, has formed the Yangon University Student Union.

She said it has been hard to rustle up interest among the university’s student body, which, at 1500 undergrads, is just a shadow of its former size.

“It is still difficult to organise the students,” she said. “It’s going to take some time.”

For now, there is little of the hustle

and bustle of student life that dominated the once-vibrant campus.

After the July 7 ceremony, a black peacock flag was placed on the fence at the front of the university, while a rose lay discarded on the ground nearby. They were the only visible link between the Yangon University of the past – a potent symbol of defiance of both colonial and military rule – and the recently reopened classrooms.

# Mandalay students demand right to take part in politics

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**‘We don’t accept the law – it needs to be abolished.’**

**Ko Nyan Htein Lin**  
Yadanarpon University student

DOZENS of students have protested outside Mandalay’s Yadanarpon University demanding that the National Education Bill passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw on March 16 be abolished.

If it is signed into law it would formalise a long-standing policy banning students from supporting or being involved in a political activity that leads to “unrest”. Students also demonstrated against a clause in the bill that prohibits ethnic minority languages from being taught.

About 40 student union members from Yadanarpon University, Mandalay Technological University and Kyaukse Technological University marched along the perimeter of the university campus and past three of its gates.

University officials locked the gates to prevent the demonstrators entering the campus and notices opposing the education bill that were stuck on the perimeter wall were removed by the officials within minutes. When asked, one tutor who was taking photos of the protest declined to explain what he was doing.

“We’ve expressed disapproval with this bill because it was not drafted in accord with democracy,” said Ko Nyan Htein Lin, a member of the student union organising committee at Yadanarpon University.

“Students know they are being oppressed and the authorities should also know that students would rebel against it if they are going to be pressed down more and more. We don’t accept the law – it needs to be abolished,”

He said that while other students had shown an interest in the protest only a few had joined in.

“There is less participation by students. But we don’t blame them because students have been oppressed since the 88 uprising. We will make speeches twice a week on why we are opposing the law and try to draw their attention to be joined with us more,” he said.

One student, who asked not to be named, said he didn’t know what the protest was about. “I don’t know why they are doing it but I felt there is a good intention in their activities ... Maybe I will join with them when I can find out what their cause is”

– Translation by Zar Zar Soe



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Dated. 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014



# Facebook takes steps to combat hate speech

TIM MCLAUGHLIN



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FACEBOOK will speed up the translation of its community standards and guidelines into Myanmar language, an official said at a seminar in Yangon on Sunday, in an effort to combat online hate speech following deadly unrest in Mandalay earlier this month.

Mia Garlick, head of policy and communications for Facebook Australia and New Zealand, said that the social media giant is speeding up a translation of its policy, which bans the use of hate speech on the site. An estimated completion date was not given.

**‘[Posting online] is different from talking at the tea shop.’**

**U Than Tun Aung**  
Posts and Telecommunications Dept

Facebook’s terms and conditions warn users not to “credibly threaten others or organise acts of real-world violence” and the company urges users to report posts that could be deemed hate speech, but the policy is currently not available in Myanmar language. There are about 2 million Facebook users in Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Officials from Facebook were in contact with Nay Pyi Taw earlier this month to discuss strategies for combating hate speech after reports of a rape circulated on the social media were blamed for stoking tensions in Mandalay. These tensions eventually turned violent: Two men were later killed by unknown attackers, while almost 20 people were injured.

The report was initially published on the website Thit Htoo Lwin and then shared on social media. State media reported on July 20 that the story of the rape had been fabricated.

Ms Garlick spoke at the July 20 event along with officials from Google, the Asia Foundation and accounting firm Deloitte at a seminar organised by the President’s Office to promote responsible social media use.

Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein said fewer than five percent of people in Myanmar are connected to the internet but unrestricted access – Myanmar has among the least online censorship in the region – had exposed the country to the “dark side” of the web.

He added that incidents of unrest in which social media has played a factor “increasingly threaten” Myanmar’s stability.

Despite this warning, government officials reiterated on July 20 that Nay Pyi Taw would not play a central role in curbing online hate speech. They said it is instead the responsibility of internet users, who should use online platforms responsibly, and members of the on-line community, who must understand and use safeguards set up by sites like Facebook and YouTube, which is owned by Google, to flag suspicious or hateful content.

U Than Tun Aung, a director from the ministry’s Posts and Telecommunications Department, said people need to better comprehend the potential consequences of posting hate speech online.

“[Posting online] is different from talking at the tea shop,” he said.

The government’s pledge to remain hands-off comes just weeks after Facebook was blocked in the city on Mandalay on July 3 and July 4. The site remained accessible when using a proxy server, however, indicating that it had been made intentionally inaccessible for users inside Myanmar. The government has not formally confirmed that it was behind the blockage.

The decision against increased online intervention will likely be welcomed by those within the tech industry, who feared that the government could revert to censorship in an attempt to curb incendiary comments online.



A natkadaw, or spirit medium, smokes a pair of cigarettes during the 2010 Taungbyone festival.  
Photo: Christopher Davy

## Extra security promised for Taungbyone nat festival

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RECENT violence in Mandalay will not affect the annual Taungbyone nat festival but officials have promised heightened security at the event, which begins this week in Madaya township.

Held in the village of Taung-byone, about 45 minutes north of the city, in the week leading up to the full moon of Wagaung to honour the nat (animist spirit) brothers Min Gyi and Min Lay, the festival draws tens of thousands of pilgrims from across the country.

“The festival will be celebrated as in past years but officials have promised extra security. We’ve already held three meetings to discuss security measures,” said U Tin Win, head of the board of trustees at Sutaungya Pagoda in Taungbyone.

The festival will run from August

3 to 10. Permits to arrange services at the festival, including electricity, water supply and performance stages, were auctioned on July 18.

1000

Stallholders expected at this year’s Taungbyone nat festival

Ninety companies participated in the auction, which saw the winning bidders pay K110 million for the big market, K87 million for the small market, K10 million for electricity supply and K2.5 million for water supply.

The winning bidders aim to


recoup the costs – and make a profit – by charging stallholders for services.

The prices were much higher than in 2013, when the winning bidders offered just K20 million for the small market and K17 million for the big market but were below the figure paid in 2012.

That year, many vendors boycotted because the companies that won the auctions raised prices significantly. In 2013, trustees set limits on how much the service providers could charge and this is still in place, said U Sann Yu Aung, who organised the auction.


“The bidders gave high prices for the auction but we have instructed them they can only charge from K50,000 to K200,000 from each stallholder,” he said.

The festival typically has about 1000 stores across the two main marketplaces.





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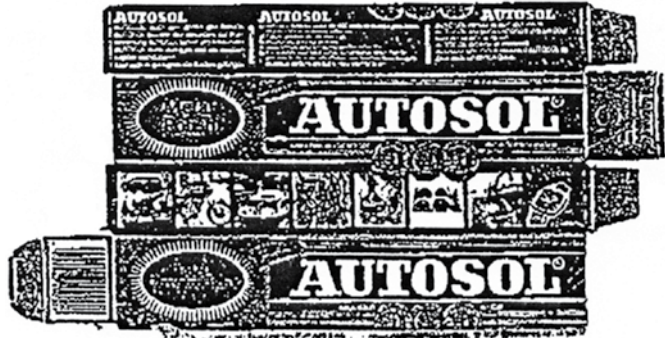
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## IN PICTURES

PHOTO: SI THU LWIN

More than 30 reporters staged a protest in Mandalay on July 20 over the recent jailing of four journalists from the weekly *Unity*, along with the publication's chief executive officer. They called for the sentences handed down on July 10 to be reduced, and also expressed dismay at the possibility that up to 50 Yangon-based journalists could face legal action for allegedly staging an illegal protest against the *Unity* verdict. — *Maung Zaw*

# Confusion over Pathein coal plant stokes tension

Residents seek clarity over future of proposed 660-megawatt coal power plant



**CHERRY THEIN**

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CIVIL society groups are calling for greater transparency regarding the future of a coal-fired power plant in Ayeyarwady Region's Pathein township.

The plant, in Nganyoutkaung sub-township, will be built by India's Tata Company and have an installed capacity of 660 megawatts. It is scheduled for completion by 2019, according to an agreement the company signed with the Ministry of Electric Power in April 2013. The company said at the time it could have a second 660MW plant ready by 2020.

While the project will provide electricity to Ayeyarwady Region and spur job creation, some residents and non-government organisations in the regional capital Pathein are calling on the government to reassess the project to minimise its negative impacts and boost the benefits it brings to the community.

U Naing Lin Htut, a member of a civil society organisation participating in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), told *The Myanmar Times* last week that most people in Pathein township knew little about the project and it was difficult to assess its potential impact because of the lack of information.

Members of the Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability, a coalition of civil society groups

working on improving transparency and supporting the country's EITI application process, are lobbying the government to conduct formal environmental and social impact assessments.

"Civil society groups know a little about the project but communities have almost no information," U Naing Lin Htut said. "[In June] the company came and introduced the project to the community but didn't give details. They just said villages will get electricity and job opportunities. We need more information."

# 660

Installed capacity, in megawatts, of a proposed coal power plant in Pathein

"The project definitely needs to be reassessed based on the advantages and disadvantages for nearby communities ... Projects under the previous government were done more or less in secret but we can't accept this method anymore."

Officials from both the Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyarwady Region governments declined to comment when contacted last week.

Rumours have spread that the project will be supported by the World Bank but these were denied during a poverty reduction workshop hosted by World Bank officials in Pathein

township on July 10. The World Bank did not respond to requests for comment last week.

"When we asked questions on this coal-fired power plant, the facilitator said they don't know anything about it but would ask," said U Win Thein, a resident of Nat Maw village who attended the World Bank-run workshop.

U Mg Kan, a resident of Thit Yaung village, said he had only learned about the project from local NGOs and had heard nothing from the government.

"We feel bad that the government has not educated us about the project even though it's being done in our region," he said. "We want to get electricity in our homes but why does it have to come from coal? Why can't we use natural gas to generate power, which we know has less of an impact on the environment?"

The proposed project area covers 5000 acres of farmland across 10 villages that are home to more than 10,000 people, U Mg Kan said.

The region is close to the border with Rakhine State and is characterised by high biodiversity and attractive coastlines.

Residents said they will raise awareness among their communities and collect signatures to petition the regional and union governments to release more information about the project. A press conference is planned for early August, they said last week.

Myanmar was accepted as a candidate for the EITI on July 2. It has 18 months to submit its first report under the initiative, which requires the disclosure of revenues from extractive industries, including energy and mining.





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CRIME IN BRIEF

Policeman killed be fellow officer in apparent accident

A police officer has died after being shot in the head in what the man who shot him described as a prank gone wrong.

Constable Thein Zaw Oo from the Twante police station said he had jokingly told fellow officer Zaw Win Htike on the afternoon of July 13 that his patrol report for the day was not up to standard.

Constable Thein Zaw Oo pointed his gun at Zaw Win Htike's head and the gun accidentally discharged, killing Zaw Win Htike. Constable Thein Zaw Oo has been charged over the incident.

Depressed man attempts suicide

Police say a man who attempted to commit suicide on July 18 was suffering from depression.

The man, 26, repeatedly stabbed himself in the stomach at his residence on Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township. He was transferred to Yangon General Hospital for treatment.

Driver charged after truck fire

A man has been charged after his truck caught fire at a natural gas shop in Yangon.

The fire was caused when a loose wire lit CNG gas that was being pumped into the truck caught fire. The fire caused around K20,000 in damages. Officers from Tarkayta Central Police Station are handling the case.

Thai man arrested at airport

A Thai national has been charged after ammunition was found in his bag as he passed through Yangon International Airport.

Two .38 calibre bullets were found in the 23-year-old man's bag as he passed through security on the evening of July 16 after taking a flight to Yangon from Bangkok. The man has been detained and Mingalardon police station is handling the case.

Teenager commits suicide

A teenage girl has committed suicide due to difficulties at school, police say.

The girl, 15, drank insecticide that she found near her home in Kungyangon township on the evening of July 18. Police said that she was experiencing difficulties at school.

Chinese man charged over factory accident

A construction worker suffered a serious stomach injury while working demolition on an old ship factory in Kyauktan township last week.

Ko Wai Lin Tun, 18, was removing cement from a mixer when the machine unexpectedly turned on. Ko Wai Lin Tun was cut by the rotating blades inside the machine. A Chinese national, aged 44, has been charged for allegedly switching the machine on while Ko Wai Lin Tun was inside.

Anti-rape protesters charged

A group of anti-rape protesters have been charged under the Peaceful Assembly law after a demonstration earlier this month.

The pair, aged 23 and 56, gathered with eight others on Mahabandoola Street on July 15 holding signs with anti-rape messages and handed out flyers to pedestrians. Police captain U Win Tin asked for a letter of permission for the protest.

After organisers were unable to produce a letter they were charged at Kyauktada police station under the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act.

– Toe Wai Aung, translation by Khant Lin Oo



Migrants wait to register for work permits at a centre in the Thai port town of Samut Sakhon on July 23. Photo: Fiona MacGregor

Migrants flock to Thailand for worker registration

FIONA MACGREGOR  
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TENS of thousands of new migrants from Myanmar have flooded into Thailand in recent weeks because of a new worker registration scheme launched on June 30, a labour rights network says.

The new arrivals hope that two-month registration cards issued under the program will make them eligible for temporary passports and work permits under a bilateral program, U Aung Kyaw, president of the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN), told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

The hundreds of thousands of unregistered migrant workers in Thailand have been warned to sign up for the program by the end of July or potentially face deportation, fines and jail sentences. The program has been broadly welcomed by rights groups, including MWRN, although there are concerns it could exacerbate exploitation by brokers.

"I'd say since the scheme was launched two weeks ago an additional 10,000 Myanmar unregistered workers have arrived here in Samut Sakhon alone," U Aung Kyaw said in his office in the port town outside Bangkok, where about 200,000 migrants work in seafood processing factories, as well as on fishing boats and construction sites.

About 60,000 of those were unregistered before the scheme was launched, he said.

U Aung Kyaw said a number of other provinces have experienced a similar influx of Myanmar nationals keen to acquire legal status in Thailand, which will allow them to travel freely around the country, give them a degree of legal protection and entitle them to higher wages.

Although only those who were in Thailand as of June 30 are officially eligible, new arrivals are also being registered; *The Myanmar Times* met one woman at a registration office who had just received a card despite only have arrived in Thailand two days earlier.

The strong demand for documentation is also being driven, in part,

by fears of what it could entail for those who fail to comply.

"The military government has come in and tried to sort out 21 provinces, but it is not certain [what will happen to those who remain unregistered after the deadline]. There might be some kind of military action," U Aung Kyaw said.

Shortly after Thailand's military took control of the country on May 22, hundreds of thousands of migrants – the majority from Cambodia – fled the country because of fears of a clampdown on illegal workers.

In mid-June, Thailand, which has been subject to a number of high-profile slavery scandals, was finally downgraded to the lowest ranking in the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report.

But Thailand's economy is heavily reliant on migrant workers, who are mostly from Myanmar, and in late

June the junta reestablished a registration process for foreign workers. An earlier program had lapsed because of the country's political crisis.

The new registration scheme was launched initially in Samut Sakhon and then spread to other areas of the country.

While it has once again enabled workers to register, U Aung Kyaw said the process has a number of shortcomings, including its failure to verify the age of workers. Another loophole that has led to profiteering enables any Thai person, regardless of whether they own a business, to sponsor a migrant worker's application.

"That means someone just needs to find a Thai person to sign for them, so now there are so many people acting as brokers. The registration card should only cost 1350 baht [US\$42], but many people are having to pay 3000 or 4000 [\$94 to

\$125]," he said.

U Aung Kyaw said some brokers could charge as much as 16,000 baht (\$502) to bring workers into the country, with daily salaries for migrant workers averaging about 200 baht (\$6), though the legal minimum wage is 300 baht (\$9).

"I think the military government does want to make things better for migrant workers, but the problem is that they don't necessarily know how to do it properly," he said, adding that this "could actually make things worse than before", particularly on child labour.

With people continuing to flood over the border into Thailand with the help of brokers and corrupt officials, the problem of illegal workers is unlikely to be resolved soon. "It's hard to see how they can eliminate illegal migrants if they can't control the borders," he said.

**‘Now we will be able to send our kids to school’**

AT the registration centre on the edge of central Samut Sakhon, hundreds of migrant workers, mainly from Myanmar, sit on long rows of blue chairs under corrugated roofs that shelter them from the baking midday sun.

Each wears a badge with a number on it and clasps the forms that will help them attain the right to work legally in Thailand.

Many have been there since early morning waiting to undergo the series of health checks, questions and photographs required to register. The general atmosphere is one of bored resignation.

Sitting close to the entrance, opposite a large sign in Thai, Myanmar and English that directs applicants around the seven sections of the centre they have to visit to acquire their registration cards, are Ma Thein Thein Yu, 24, and her friend and colleague Ma Win Win Ye, 29.

Factory workers who have lived in Samut Sakhon for about eight months, they arrived at the centre at 7am.

"We were allowed the time off to

come here and register. I don't feel particularly happy about it one way or the other, it's just something that's has to be done," said Ma Win Win Ye.

"I don't think it will make a big difference, but I worry that if we didn't register we might be captured by the police. Everyone says that if we don't have the card we would be deported back to Myanmar," added Ma Thein Thein Yu.

For now, however, the uniformed military staff overseeing the process are in a helpful mood and do not object to the presence of journalists.

Inside the main building, where medical and military workers mingle together over lunch, U Mya Aye is waiting with his wife and five children, who he hopes to register under the scheme.

The 46-year-old from Bago Region has been working in Samut Sakhon for two years. He thinks the registration scheme is a "good idea".

"We are able to travel freely. Before it was okay for the adults because they had cards, but the younger children normally had to hide because

they don't have passports. Now we will even be able to send the kids to school and they won't have to hide anymore," he said.

Back out in the courtyard, where the final stage of the registration process is conducted, those who have just got their new cards are showing them to friends and relatives.

Among them is a 24-year-old woman from Mawlamyine. She is one of those who has arrived since the registration scheme was launched. Although technically not eligible, they are still being issued with cards.

"I got here two days ago and will start work on a construction site tomorrow," she said, adding that relatives already working in Samut Sakhon had arranged her travel to Thailand.

"Previously I worked in a market selling vegetables and potatoes. In my new job I will earn 300 baht (US\$9) a day, which is much more. I am looking forward to it," she said with a large smile, "and I am happy to get my card because it means I am free to travel."

– Fiona MacGregor



## FEATURE

# Flooding brings misery in South Dagon

Days of heavy rainfall strand residents in their homes and turn streets into waterways on the infrastructure-starved outskirts of Yangon



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The month of Waso in the Myanmar calendar is typically one of rain, falling smack-bang in the middle of peak monsoon. But for many Yangon residents, the Waso of 2014 will stick in the mind as one of a deluge of rain that flooded shops, home and whole streets.

South Dagon has been particularly badly hit. Last week, the ground floors of homes in 106 and 107 wards were completely under water. The roads turned to mud, sometimes sucking the unwary walker ankle deep into it.

As *The Myanmar Times* went to print, residents said they expected their homes to remain under water for at least several more days. Despite yards and the ground floors of houses being submerged, people mostly remained where they were, as there was simply nowhere else to go.

"The floods started last Saturday [July 19]," said Daw Pa Pa, 67, as she sat on her wooden bedstead. "A while after the heavy rain started, water rushed into my house and we couldn't bail it out. Rain didn't stop for the next three days and we couldn't move anywhere, we had to sit down like this all the time."

"The water was at knee height, even inside the house," she said.

Stray dogs, most of which were saved by residents, stopped their usual barking and simply gazed at the flooded streets from wherever they had been placed above the water. Flooded rubbish dumps released their contents out on to the stinking water.

"The worst thing is the floods sink the rubbish dumps," one resident from

**'The water was at knee height, even inside the house.'**

**Daw Pa Pa**  
South Dagon resident

106 quarter said. "There is rubbish everywhere and a day ago a dead dog floated along the street. It was such an unpleasant sight."

Kaytumadi market, which services several South Dagon quarters, was entirely flooded. The water level in the streets around the market reached thigh-level – and even waist-level in some areas.

"There are nearly 300 shops in the market. But now half are closed as



South Dagon residents steer a homemade raft through flooded streets on July 23 following days of heavy rain that left many stranded in their homes. Photo: Yu Yu

there is water in their shops. Of course, business is ruined," said Ma Theingi, a grocer at the market.

In nearby streets, young men could be seen helping schoolchildren and the elderly by transporting them around in homemade rafts.

One young volunteer rowing a raft jokingly told his passengers: "Welcome aboard! This is a trip to look around the floating houses, just like in Inle [Lake]."

Elderly people were moved to pagodas on the first day of the flooding but many of these buildings were later flooded too. There were also concerns for the health of children.

"Some schools in the township had to close because of the floods. The worst thing for me is the lack of clean water. Everywhere in the house is wet ... I worry that my children will catch a cold," said Ma Hlaing Hlaing Htwe, a mother of five.

South Dagon, a relatively new township, settled in 1989, used to be farmland. Much of its infrastructure, particularly drainage, was never properly developed, which many blame for the severity of this year's flooding.

"We don't have good drainage systems and floods became worse after the industrial zones were developed," said U Hla Myo Htwe, an elderly resident who lives in 107 quarter. "And here, some people built the shops just over the drains by covering them instead of making moveable concrete slabs. I am sure the drains would be blocked with waste."

"This year is the worst in 15 years that I've been through in this area. For four years, I and other young people have asked the head of township office to solve the flood problem. But we were just told we were not the only ones suffering from the flooding – the whole township faces the same problem."

On July 23 the rain stopped, almost as suddenly as it started. Residents said they are only momentarily relieved because they fear the gloomy skies will soon burst open again.

Perhaps the only people in South Dagon who will fondly remember this year's Waso are the children, who played happily in the polluted water, knowing that there was no way to go to school.

## More heavy rain expected this week

A low pressure area forming in the Bay of Bengal will intensify the monsoon rains this week, a senior Department of Meteorology and Hydrology official says.

"There is a weather situation in the northern Bay of Bengal that can form into a low-pressure area in the next two or three days. Therefore, further intensification of the already strong monsoon is expected into the first week of August. Coastal areas will have heavy rainfall during that period," deputy director U Kyaw Lwin Oo said on July 25.

He forecast that coastal areas may receive more than 10 inches (25.4 centimetres) of rain from July 24 to August 1. Rainfall of up to 5 inches (12.7cm) is forecast for central Myanmar, while the rest of the country is expected to get 5 to 10 inches (12.7cm to 25.4cm).

The impact of a typhoon in the South China Sea and recent strong monsoon conditions have resulted in several incidents of severe weather across Myanmar in the past week.

On July 25, the state-owned *Kyemon* (Mirror) newspaper reported that floods and landslides occurred in Kunlong in northern Shan State after heavy rain on July 20 and 21. No injuries were reported.

Thandwe received the highest rainfall last week, with 16.93 inches (43cm) between July 19 to 21, while downtown Yangon received 9.37 inches (23.8cm). – Aye Sapay Phyu

# Ministry of Home Affairs drafting border police law

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MYANMAR needs new legislation so its border police force can tackle insecurity along the country's border with Bangladesh, the deputy minister for home affairs has told MPs.

"The ministry is forming a law-drafting committee to be able to enact a law to have security and the rule of law along Myanmar's borders," Brigadier General Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Amyotha Hluttaw.

His view was shared by U Aye Maung, the Rakhine National Party representative for Rakhine State Constituency 1.

"It is time to enact a law related to

border guards that gives them a clear mandate and responsibilities to ensure the security of the border," said U Aye Maung.

He added that ethnic Rakhine living along the border have been concerned for their security since border guards were reportedly attacked by a group operating from Bangladesh in May. In a separate incident, Myanmar border forces killed a Border Guards Bangladesh soldier on May 28.

In June, officials from Myanmar and Bangladesh met in Nay Pyi Taw and agreed take measures to avoid a repeat of these "untoward" incidents.

At an earlier session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on July 16, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for

Rathetaung in Rakhine State, Daw Khin Saw Wai, said the border police should be decentralised and their rank and power increased.

She added that members of the Rakhine ethnic group have died unnecessarily because border police have had to seek permission from their superiors before firing on suspects.

On July 24, the deputy minister also confirmed that local militia units, which have been formed to guard villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, have received firearms training. Militias are forbidden under the constitution, which states that the Tatmadaw is the only armed force in the country.

He also confirmed that the head of

**'It is time to enact a law related to border guards that gives them a clear mandate.'**

**U Aye Maung**  
Rakhine National Party

fice and branches of the Border Guard Control Command in Rakhine State, which was created in February, comprise staff of various ethnic groups,

including Rakhine and Bamar.

When the deputy minister stated that the conflict in Rakhine State was between ethnic Rakhine and Muslims who have illegally entered Myanmar from Bangladesh, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint intervened.

"The conflict occurred because of a criminal case, not because of religion, so [the deputy minister] shouldn't speak like that," U Khin Aung Myint said.

The deputy minister also told parliament that work on a border fence with Bangladesh had resumed. The land border stretches 207.16 kilometres, or 128.75 miles. – Translation by Thiri Min Htun



# Father of rape accused says family living in fear

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THE relatives of two Mandalay men who were wrongly accused of rape, prompting mob violence that resulted in two deaths, say they still feel unsafe despite the city mostly returning to normal.

The father of the two men, U Mg Mg, 83, said the false accusations had led to much suffering in the town. He described the past month as “the worst time of my life”.

“The police kept asking where our little sons are. Even I don’t know where they are,” he said.

State media reported on July 20 that allegations of rape against the two Muslims, who own the Sun Cafe teashop, had been fabricated. The Ministry of Home Affairs statement was released exactly three weeks after rumours began spreading that the men had raped a Buddhist woman in Nay Pyi Taw.

It said the woman had admitted to creating the accusations because she had been paid to do so. The statement said the story had been fabricated on behalf of another Muslim man, Hajji Tun Tun, because he blamed the Sun Cafe owner and his brother for him being charged with rape.

Hajji Tun Tun has been accused of raping one of his own employees, who he has in turn accused of stealing K8 million from him.

The elder brother of the Sun Cafe



**U Mg Mg, the father of two Muslim men falsely accused of rape.**  
Photo: Khin Su Wai

owners, who asked not to be named, said his family had been in a dispute with Hajji Tun Tun since about five years ago, when he became involved in a human trafficking case that resulted in the brothers being jailed for six months.

The brother said he knew his siblings had been innocent from the start, adding that the rape accusations were motivated by “envy and hatred”.

“My little brothers are very successful and many people in our community rely on them,” he said. “But some tried to frame them because of envy and hatred.”

He said the Ministry of Home Affairs statement had failed to name

some of the “agitators” behind those already arrested.

“My father and sister-in-law told everything to [the police] but they did not reveal it.”

While the statement appeared to clear up the rumours that engulfed Mandalay in early July, a number of residents criticised the government for being too slow to respond to the rumours.

“Why did it take them so long to make this announcement?” said U Than Nyunt, a Muslim member of an interfaith group. “I think there is a third party behind this unrest. During this reform period, us Muslims are being targeted.”

Some questioned whether there was still more to the story.

“I think there are more things to figure out and that the ministry’s statement is not complete,” said a Buddhist member of a 23-member peacemaking committee formed by civil society groups in Mandalay on July 4 in response to the violence.

“We could also see from the way the violence broke out that the authorities were not able to handle the situation properly,” said the committee member, who asked not to be named.

Ko Zaw Min Tun, a Muslim who runs education service provider Tip Top, said it was not uncommon for allegations and charges to be fabricated to resolve personal disputes but few have such dramatic implications.

# Residents in Mandalay call for end to curfew

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RESIDENTS in Mandalay are urging the authorities to lift the city’s curfew completely, saying it is no longer needed as the situation has returned to normal after violence earlier this month that left two people dead and dozens injured.

On July 21, the curfew was cut back by two hours to allow more early morning commuters to reach work, and to get more highway bus services running.

**‘They are too cautious ... We don’t feel free living in the city.’**

**U Kyaw Lwin**  
Mandalay resident

“We have changed [the curfew] from 9pm to 5am to 9pm to 3am. It is for basic workers and morning market vendors. The curfew will be ended when the city is in complete peace and stability,” district administrator U Win Zaw Naing said.

So far the curfew has had a limited financial impact on most businesses but it has inconvenienced many people wanting to go out in the evening.

“It would be the best if the

curfew is lifted. They are too cautious ... We don’t feel free living in the city,” said one Mandalay resident, U Kyaw Lwin.

If the curfew can’t be ended, residents say they at least want it shortened further. “10pm to 4am will be the most suitable. What happened was because of competition between two groups, not because of religious conflict. People will be okay when they know the truth,” said Ko Min Zaw from Chan Mya Thar Si.

The Mandalay Peacekeeping Committee, which comprises both Muslim and Buddhist community leaders, has also demanded officials reduce the curfew by an hour both at night and in the morning.

According to social welfare organisations, ambulances, doctors and healthcare services have managed to continue operating despite the curfew.

“The ward administrators were informed if anyone needed healthcare services. Cars were checked on the road and we explained well, so they were allowed [to pass],” said U Thein Soe, the vice chairman of Chamyae Thukha Social Welfare Organisation.

The city’s hoteliers also say they have not been affected. “Hotels have not seen a big difference ... There are just not many guests at this time of year,” said U Khin Maung Swe, secretary of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association.

More than 950 people were caught breaking the curfew between July 3 and 20. - Translation by Myat Su Mon Win

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# U San Sint slapped with additional sedition charge



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AN additional charge of sedition has been filed against former Minister for Religious Affairs U San Sint, who was allowed to meet his family for the first time since his June 19 arrest at a court hearing last week.

U San Sint, who had previously been charged with misusing public funds and abetment, was also charged with sedition at the fourth hearing, held in Dekkinathiri Township Court on July 22. He faces up to life imprisonment if found guilty.

Journalists were not allowed into the court compound for the session, but U San Sint met his family for 30 minutes at the court.

One of his relatives, who asked not to be named, declined to reveal what was discussed.

"It is better if we don't say anything at present. The public

already knows about this case. We are grateful that we were allowed to meet him," the family member said.

U San Sint is being held at Yamethin Prison and has not been allowed a family visit since he was sacked by President U Thein Sein and charged by police.

He is accused of misusing about K10 million of state funds for the construction of a pagoda in Lewe township in December 2013.

"I am innocent. I didn't use a single kyat of [state] property," U San Sint told reporters at Pobbathiri Township Court after the second hearing on July 3.

In addition to barring media from the hearing, the case was transferred without warning from Pobbathiri Township Court, angering journalists who had been assigned to cover the trial. Similarly, the date of the third hearing had been changed from July 8 to July 17.

The former minister's personal assistant, U Aung Thu Min, who was detained together with him, was released after the third hearing.

- Translation by Zar Zar Soe



U San Sint's relatives arrive at Dekkinathiri Township Court on July 22 to meet the former minister for the first time since his arrest. Photo: Pyae Thet Phyo

## NLD rep loses paternity case

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A JUDGE in Pyin Oo Lwin has ruled in favour of a woman who says a National League for Democracy politician is the father of her 16-year-old son.

District judge Daw Thuzar Shwe announced the decision on July 16, said lawyer U Aye Thaung, who was representing the woman, Daw Khine Wityi Thandar Maung, and her son, Mg Khun Sat Kyaw.

U Kyaw Thiha has been accused of abandoning Daw Khine Wityi Thandar Maung and refusing to acknowledge that Mg Khun Sat Kyaw is his son. She then filed a civil suit against U Kyaw Thiha in 2013.

U Kyaw Thiha became the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Pyin Oo Lwin after defeating U Khin Maung Win of the Union Solidarity and Development Party in an April 2012 by-election.

Daw Khine Wityi Thandar Maung said she was "so happy" for her son.

"My son had many problems at school because of this ... He would always get sad when he had to write his father's name on his student administration card," she said.

U Kyaw Thiha could not be contacted for comment last week but U Aye Thaung said he has been informed the NLD representative will appeal the decision. - Translation by Khant Lin Oo

## Green growth dialogue launched

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THE British government has launched a program aimed at bringing together international experts and "key actors" in Myanmar to discuss environmental challenges and possible solutions.

Three committees have been formed to hold monthly meetings on the issue from now until May next year, when a conference will be held to discuss the results. The meetings aim to come up with "concrete environmental and socially inclusive public policies" that can feed into a "National Action Plan for Green Growth in Myanmar", the British embassy in Yangon says.

The committees will focus on agriculture and forests, renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and urban infrastructure, waste and water treatment. Each committee will include 10-12 members, including government officials, environmental experts, and civil society, private sector and youth representatives. The program is also supported by French non-government organisation Green Lotus.

British ambassador to Myanmar Andrew Patrick told *The Myanmar Times* that the decisions the country makes in the next two years will have "a huge impact" on its environment.

He said a major challenge is how to make the most of Myanmar's natural resources in a sustainable way.

"We think that it is very important that when those decisions are made, we have to have proper debate. Everyone has good discussions about the options and then makes a decision," he said.

"That's why we are helping; to make sure people are informed about the issues and then can take a good decision."

Green Lotus president Jean-Marc Brule said the program simply aimed to promote dialogue between different groups that then led to "concrete ideas".



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# Israeli embassy hits out over coverage of Gaza conflict

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ISRAELI officials in Yangon have criticised *The Myanmar Times* for publishing an article about the fighting in Gaza, describing it as unbalanced and providing a skewed version of events.

The article from news agency AFP ran on page 35 of the July 21-27 issue of the English-language edition of *The Myanmar Times*. On July 22, Israeli ambassador to Myanmar Hagay Moshe Behar said in a letter that he was “surprised” at the article’s content.

“Furthermore, publishing the mentioned article, that includes a quote, by the head of Hamas, defined not only by Israel but also by the Quartet as a terror organization, does not allow the presentation of the required balanced picture of the mentioned conflict,” he said in the letter, which was addressed to editor-in-chief Ross Dunkley.

“It would have been more proper, to publish an additional article in the same page, representing a different opinion of the conflict,” Mr Behar said.

The AFP article also included quotes from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US Secretary of State John Kerry and UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon.

Mr Behar’s letter was delivered along with a 40-page collection of documents, titled “Operation Protecting Edge” after the current Israeli military operation in Gaza. These were provided “in order to present the required balanced and objective perspective of the events”, Mr Behar said.

The collection contained various

press releases from the Israeli government and an analysis piece on the origins of Hamas-fired rockets by Michael Segall, a former lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Defence Forces who is now a senior analyst at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, as well as articles by a number of pro-Israel journalists.

Mr Behar has been active in his efforts to defend Israel’s actions in Gaza, where the death toll from the fighting continues to mount, despite

**‘Imagine thousands of rockets falling on the Shwedagon Pagoda, Bagan, the parliament building.’**

**Hagay Moshe Behar**  
Israeli ambassador to Myanmar

the relative insignificance of ties between Myanmar and Israel.

On July 15, Mr Behar, who has served as Israeli ambassador to Myanmar since 2012, spoke to government officials at the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Yangon about the conflict.

“The message is very clear. We have nothing against the civilians in Gaza. Our operation is against Hamas and other terror organisations,” he told state media following the briefing. “Israel’s [defence force]

is doing the utmost to reduce to a minimum the harms caused to uninvolved civilians.”

Mr Behar comments were published on the front page of the state-run *New Light of Myanmar* the following day.

His media push continued on July 22 when Mr Behar said it was wrong to analyse the conflict by numbers and that this was “the biggest mistake” the media could make.

He also attempted to bring the conflict closer to home for Myanmar journalists. “Imagine thousands of rockets falling on the Shwedagon Pagoda, Bagan, the parliament building. Would you sit and debate, waiting for the international community to come up with a solution?” he said.

As fighting dragged into a third week, 697 Palestinians have been killed, of whom at least 518 were civilians, according to the UN figures from July 23. Thirty-seven Israelis, including 35 soldiers, have also died.

Nay Pyi Taw has remained publicly silent on the conflict. Officials from the Myanmar embassy in Tel Aviv declined to comment when contacted by *The Myanmar Times*. U Ye Htut, spokesperson for the President’s Office, could not be reached for comment. State media has, however, run articles on the conflict almost daily since fighting began, mostly from the Reuters news agency.

Myanmar and Israel have enjoyed stable and amicable diplomatic relations since the 1950s. Then-prime minister U Nu became the first foreign PM to visit Israel when he travelled there in 1955. Israel’s first Prime Minister Ben Gurion spent two weeks in Myanmar in 1961.

# Hundreds of Kanbalu farmers face jail

**KYAW KO KO**  
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HUNDREDS of farmers in Sagaing’s Kanbalu township are facing prison time for staging “plough protests” that saw them reoccupy land seized in 1997 by military-owned Myanmar Economic Corporation and Shwebo No 2 Supply and Transport Battalion.

Recently two village administrators and an activist for farmers’ rights, U Kaung Tun, who organised the protests - referred to as “harrow battles” in Myanmar language - were

sentenced to two years in jail for their role, farmers said at a press conference last week.

They said nearly 400 farmers from Mayemon, Htaut Shar Eian, Payegy, Ngapyaw Tine, Kha Ohn Tar and Bukone villages are facing charges, while about 90 farmers have already been sentenced and are in Shwebo Prison.

“There are more than 100 farmers being prosecuted in our village for a variety of charges. Each farmer is facing many charges. Even some of those who weren’t involved are being charged,” said Mg Lin, a farmer from Paegy village.

Most recently, 18 farmers were sentenced to jail terms of three months on July 17.

“The military has supported tenants to open lawsuits against the farmers who are the original owners of the seized farmlands ... Laws are to protect the public but farmers are now being jailed ... Is the law is fair?” Mg Lin added.

“Farmers staged the harrow battle because of poverty,” said U Tin Ohn Kyaw, a member of the farmers’ union. “For that reason farmers are now being jailed. This is so bad.”

- Translation by Zar Zar Soe



A child sits in floodwater in South Dagon township last week as two students walk to school.

# UN calls for more

Almost 80 percent of the population vulnerable to falling

**BILL O'TOOLE**



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UNITED Nations Development Programme experts have recommended Myanmar cut back on military spending and focus on social services, as a new report from the agency warned that the lack of protection for at-risk populations could halt or even reverse development progress in Myanmar and elsewhere.

The 2014 edition of UNDP’s long-running Human Development Report series, *Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience*, recommends that national governments and the international aid community concentrate on policies that “build resilience” to these threats, mainly through providing universal ac-

cess to basic social services such as education, health care and public safety.

UNDP said the threats to development are particularly pertinent in Myanmar, where millions are considered at risk of sliding into poverty due to natural disasters, conflicts and economic crises. Adding to the problem is the state’s virtually non-existent social safety net.

Speaking at a launch event in Yangon on July 24, Daniel Kostzer, a senior economic adviser at UNDP Myanmar, said the government could greatly expand social services if it re-allocated some of the funds currently going toward the military, which receives a quarter of the state budget.

Mr Kostzer and his colleagues plan to meet representatives from various government ministries to discuss the recommendations of the report in the coming months. These meetings will enable the logistics of expanding social services to be discussed in greater depth.

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school. Photo: Yu Yu

# social spending

into poverty because Myanmar lacks a social safety net

Mr Kostzer said he believes the government has little choice but to take up the recommendations, as the need for basic social services is only going to become more pronounced as development increases.

“The pressure of people on the administration ... is going to be strong and the policymakers will have to adapt to those requirements,” he said.

**‘A basic social protection package is affordable so long as low-income countries reallocate funds.’**

**2014 Human Development Report**

“I don’t expect people to stay calm when there are so many needs.”

The report describes as “a misconception” the belief “that only wealthy countries can afford ... universal social services”, pointing to Rwanda and Vietnam as examples of less-developed nations that nonetheless offer robust social services.

“A basic social protection package is affordable,” it said, “so long as low-income countries reallocate funds and raise domestic resources.”

Igor Bosc, a senior program adviser at UNDP Myanmar, said one of the report’s main arguments is that “failures to protect people against vulnerability are mostly a consequence of inadequate policies and poor or dysfunctional social institutions”.

Myanmar remained in the “low human development” category in the 2014 report at 150<sup>th</sup> place on the Human Development Index, the same position it held last year. However, its HDI value rose slightly, from 0.520 to 0.524.

## OPINION

# Poverty progress vulnerable to a raft of short-term shocks

TOILY KURBANOV  
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IN an attempt to go beyond the materialistic pursuit of economic growth, at the United Nations Development Programme we define human development as “expansion of people’s freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals they have reason to value; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet”.

To keep up with cutting-edge research, UNDP refreshes this definition through the annual Human Development Report, which since it was launched in 1990 has become our flagship publication.

Each Human Development Report chooses one topic as its main theme and focuses on innovative ideas, practical policy changes, and constructively challenging policies and approaches that constrain human development.

In this vein, this year’s report explores human development from the angle of sustaining human progress through reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience. Our new publication asserts that although poverty has been reduced throughout the world, the progress is precarious and vulnerable to different short-term events - natural disasters, internal conflicts or economic shocks - that can have long-term effects. Vulnerability is thus a major constraint to human development advancement.

The report argues that while 842 million of the globe’s population suffers from chronic hunger, more than 2.2 billion are living either near or in what is considered multidimensional poverty. Almost half of the workers on our planet - 1.5 billion individuals - are in informal or precarious employment. This is aggravated by the fact that 80 percent of the global population lacks comprehensive social protection.

In Myanmar, between one-third and one-fourth of the population is estimated to be living under the poverty line but almost 80pc of inhabitants are living either in poverty or very close to it. Many households may easily slide into poverty, driven by events such

as natural disasters, economic shocks or even violent conflict. Social policies don’t cover all these vulnerabilities.

As capabilities are built over a lifetime and have to be nurtured and maintained to avoid setbacks, the vulnerabilities can have aggravated effects on human development. As UNDP’s research shows, from country to country and from one social group to another, family and individual history plays a crucial role in the risks that affect an individual. The child of a worker with full rights and social protection is less likely to face risks compared to the child of a casual worker. A youngster is likely to be better off if he or she received a formal education and is in good health, as he or she can therefore aspire to a better job, which will translate to the possibility of

**Many households may easily slide into poverty, driven by events such as natural disasters, economic shocks or even violent conflict.**

a pension at an older age. But in one of the most profound manifestations of human vulnerability, today 80pc of the world’s elder population do not have a pension and rely on labour or family for income.

Bringing the report’s insights back to Myanmar, it is clear that despite significant efforts during the transition period there is still a long way to go in developing a comprehensive social protection scheme. Structural vulnerabilities, where social structures and legal institutions, political spaces, tradition and norms, do not serve all members of society equally. These vulnerabilities create barriers within society, generating unequal groups based around gender, ethnicity, religion, class, geography and more. They reinforce poverty

and the risks faced by the poor. The insecurity that some groups, not always minorities, face also leads to the eruption of localised violence, fuelling further vulnerability.

That said, Myanmar can benefit from the 2014 Human Development Report, which emphasises that the most effective policies toward building resilience and protecting the most vulnerable are often based on four basic principles.

The first is that all policies, including macroeconomic, should be seen as a means to gain human development. Economic growth should benefit things that really matter - health, education, income for basic needs - with nobody left behind.

Second is embracing universalism. All people are considered equal, and those that face disadvantages should receive the preferential support that will equalise their well-being with the rest.

The third principle is committing to collective action. A positive vision of a democratic system largely depends on the provision of public goods and services to all.

Fourth is a new social contract between the public and the private space that coordinates between state and social institutions, and designs instruments that foster social cohesion and the provision of social goods.

Policymaking based on these four principles can contribute to plans, programs and projects in the building of a “new” Myanmar where inclusive growth benefits all.

The idea expressed by the country’s leaders for “people-centred development” through a framework of universal coverage in the distribution of social goods and services is the best starting point for the construction of an equitable society. The legitimacy of the democratic system largely depends on its people feeling more integrated, secure and less vulnerable.

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Toily Kurbanov is the country director and Daniel Kostzer is a senior economic adviser at UNDP Myanmar. The 2014 Human Development Report can be downloaded here: <http://www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/library.html>

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# Views

## Shared frontiers, distant neighbours



SONU TRIVEDI

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THE shared frontiers of India and Myanmar have been a perennial area of study for scholars and researchers of South Asia and Southeast Asia. A common issue for area studies scholars is why, despite these shared frontiers, these countries are "distant neighbours". In recent years, steps have been taken to bridge the cultural and economic divide, including through the implementation of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in western Myanmar. Recently I visited the area to learn about this project and other development projects in Myanmar.

Encouraging development and economic prosperity for northeast India has been a guiding principle behind India's Myanmar policy, together with addressing security and stability concerns. The porous border between northeast India and Myanmar has been a flourishing area for drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade. These activities are closely linked to the lack of economic opportunities in the region, and in this sense the proximity of northeast India to Myanmar offers immense opportunities.

Infrastructure development and railroad connectivity between northeast India and Myanmar can enable the region to become a "gateway" to Southeast Asia and enable its landlocked states to link with the ports of the region. The Kaladan project involves the development of Sittwe Port, which will also act as the gateway to Mizoram in India through a combination of river and road routes, thus providing an alternative route for the transport of goods to and from northeast India.

While the focus is largely on economic development for northeast India and poverty-stricken Rakhine and Chin states, Essar, the company developing the seaport at Sittwe and the inland port at Paletwa, has shown sensitivity to the impact on

indigenous rights and culture. In Paletwa, for example, Essar has set up its camp office on the other side of the Kaladan River from the town so as not to inconvenience residents. The project has also offered gainful employment to local skilled and unskilled workers who otherwise have few job opportunities.

Nevertheless, some voices have been raised against the project for its perceived socio-cultural impact. Civil society organisations have been active in raising their concern about environmental and social assessments. Underlying this, there appears to be concern about the presence of an external power and uneasiness that the project will disturb the socio-political dynamics of the region. Though their concerns seem to be genuine, based on what I saw during my trip the project's implementing partners have been largely successful in addressing these concerns.

With few employment opportunities and little in the way of education, health, sanitation, electricity and other basic services, these communities are far behind the rest of the country, let alone the rest of the world. The relationship between Essar officials and residents that I witnessed indicates that most in Rakhine and Chin states are looking forward to having further job opportunities as a result of the project.

It is clear from this project that India must reinforce its policy of engagement with Myanmar, with priority given to infrastructural projects in areas bordering its northeast states. There is much India may still offer and it is advisable that Essar examines other possible opportunities in this sensitive region. India must make use of this window of opportunity. Its new government should endeavour to make the northeast the focal point of a connectivity push into the rest of Southeast Asia and the Pacific by bridging the missing infrastructure link in western Myanmar.

**Sonu Trivedi teaches political science at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi. She is currently a member of Indian Council of World Affairs core group on Myanmar.**

## Responsible tourism - development partners

**M**EDIA reports regularly highlight how Myanmar tourism is experiencing spectacular growth and out-performing other sectors of the economy. This is borne out in statistics that show international visitor arrivals are growing at about 46 percent a year, and in the first five months of 2014 tourism generated US\$552 million in foreign exchange earnings. This figure is expected to easily surpass \$1 billion by the end of the year. This should be great news.

Myanmar tourism offers a fast-growing tax base to finance investments in health, education and infrastructure. The industry is also labour intensive and provides one of the most accessible routes out of poverty, with some 60pc of entry-level positions going to women. The sector is forecast to create well over 1 million new jobs in Myanmar by 2020.

Beyond 2020, tourism will likely generate more employment than any other sector bar agriculture. Many of these jobs will be spread throughout the country among the many destinations that are home to Myanmar's vast wealth of natural, cultural and historical tourism assets.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is one of the few ministries to have prepared a sector master plan to facilitate this growth. The plan sets out strategies and actions aligned with the 2012 Responsible Tourism Policy, which focuses on poverty alleviation, community involvement, environmental protection and good governance. Simply put, a solid foundation for responsible tourism growth has been established.

Planning is, however, always far simpler than implementation. International tourism is a complex, multi-faceted industry, and Myanmar has had virtually no engagement with this industry for 50 years. This is especially true at the state and region government level and also in the destinations where income, employment and other sector benefits are arguably most needed.

While managing tourism growth is a sophisticated task, globally the industry is full of good practice



Buddhist monks walk inside a pagoda in Bagan. Photo: AFP

examples that link tourism to poverty alleviation and effective management of natural and cultural heritage. Linking these elements, however, is neither automatic nor straightforward. The extent to which government planners and managers at the state and region level, as well as at destinations, are able to deliver responsible tourism will depend upon the level of support they receive from Myanmar's development partners.

To date, Myanmar has received solid support to prepare the above policies and plans. It's reassuring that development partners have now moved into the hospitality and vocational training arena, and also encouraging that others are stepping in, mainly to support private-sector growth and strengthen pro-poor supply chains in some destinations. Myanmar's tourism entrepreneurs warn however, that without support for integrated destination-level planning, outcomes will fall way short of expectations.

Only two of Myanmar's primary

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destinations - Bagan and Inle - currently receive tourism planning support. This means other destinations are unable to benefit from international experience. They must go it alone and learn from their mistakes, which is a high-risk approach.

The consequences are already clear. Kyaikhtiyo, a world-class attraction and asset, is under severe environmental stress from domestic visitors, and set to experience substantial international growth as cross-border arrivals increase. *The Myanmar Times* also recently highlighted problems associated with Mandalay's proposed Tada Oo Hotel Zone, especially issues affecting local farmers and land owners. Hotel zones drawn up with insufficient host

## Is Myanmar marching toward political crisis?



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MORE than three years after President U Thein Sein took office, Myanmar is at a crossroads. Despite some reforms, the government has been unable to achieve reconciliation with ethnic groups or with the people more broadly. The country appears to be on the verge of political crisis.

The most dangerous development has been the series of racial and religious conflicts that have erupted one after another. Starting first in Rakhine State, where the conflict has claimed hundreds of lives and left more than 100,000 homeless, it has since spread to Meiktila, Lashio and Bago. Most re-

cently, violence erupted in Mandalay.

In Rakhine State, there has been no reconciliation between the Buddhist and Muslim communities. If anything, the situation has only deteriorated further, with ethnic Kaman and INGOs targeted by extremists. More broadly, there is little indication that communal violence will stop any time soon because the president and Ministry of Home Affairs have shown no desire to take legal action against those seeking to provoke hatred and extremism.

My personal conclusion is that this reluctance can only be explained by the fact that most of those instigating hatred and extremism are not opposed to the government, the Union Solidarity and Development Party or the Tatmadaw. Instead, they are opposed to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. Politics is the main reason that they will not take legal action against the problem makers.

Another ongoing issue is oppression of the media. Previous military governments severely oppressed all media. After pre-publication print media censorship was abolished in August 2012,

many articles criticising the government, parliament, Tatmadaw and cronies appeared. In April 2013, the government gave the green light to publish daily newspapers, and this criticism increased in frequency. During the recent violence in Mandalay, publications openly put the responsibility on the government.

The government and Ministry of Home Affairs, which is controlled by the Tatmadaw, do not like the media. In their eyes, the media is opposed to the government and supports Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They consider the media

**All groups are undertaking actions that are antagonistic and as a result are pushing the country closer to crisis point.**

their political enemy so they are trying to oppress it any way they can.

Another important challenge is amending the 2008 constitution, which was enacted in order to perpetuate military rule in Myanmar. This task has been put in the hands of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, and much is taking place behind closed doors. Nobody really knows what is going on. At the same time, the speaker's party, the USDP, is trying to introduce proportional representation, which is opposed by the NLD and ethnic parties.

For its part, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD is leading a campaign to amend section 436 to remove the military's control over constitutional change. The main slogan of the campaign is "send back the military to the barracks for the sake of its own dignity".

Last but not least on the list of roadblocks on the path forward, a long-promised nationwide ceasefire, described as the first step toward peace, has failed to appear.

What is clear from these examples is that none of the major actors are working for national reconciliation. All

of these groups - the government, military, parliament, NLD - are undertaking actions that are antagonistic and as a result are pushing the country closer to crisis point.

If they don't stop and reconsider these actions, the country will slide closer to the abyss. If this occurs there will be harmful consequences for both the state and the people. This is what we are facing today. All groups need to take stock and refocus their efforts on national reconciliation. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has to change the way she is pushing to remove military leaders from politics. Similarly, the parliament, ruled by Thura U Shwe Mann's USDP, needs to be transparent about its activities to amend the constitution. It should also stop trying to introduce proportional representation.

The president and Ministry of Home Affairs need to show they are serious about stopping any repeat of communal violence by taking legal actions against those extremists who are lighting the fires. If not, the country and its people will continue to face an uncertain future. - Translation by Thiri Min Htun



# are Myanmar's doing enough?



ment from donors to the plan's priority projects. Myanmar's bigger donors and development partners are also needed at the government's tourism sector working group meetings.

The government in Nay Pyi Taw has recently reaffirmed its commitment to integrated planning by forming the Tourism Development Central Committee (TDCC). This body is essential to plan and coordinate a sector that embraces so many policies, ministries and locations across the country.

Yet to be truly effective, it must be backed up by a Tourism Technical Authority that assumes responsibility for measuring industry performance. This is a difficult but fundamentally critical task requiring development partner assistance. Without this data, the TDCC will be working half blind. You cannot manage what you can't measure.

The government has asked for support to implement its tourism master plan, and it is time for Myanmar's development partners to fully recognise the strategic importance of the country's travel and tourism industry. Well-managed, responsible tourism plays to all the elements of classic good governance programs, including participatory planning, peace and security, inclusive economic growth, transparency and accountability, improved services, and sound management of natural and cultural assets.

Greater support is urgently needed for three critical elements of a responsible tourism system: integrated destination planning at the state and region and destination levels; the collection and supply of destination-level performance data to a Tourism Technical Authority; and the establishment of this authority. Without these fundamental measures, the promise of high-yield responsible tourism - and the transformational benefits the sector is capable of delivering - will slip away.

.....

**Paul Rogers is a tourism planner with 20 years of experience working in developing countries in the tourism, poverty alleviation, and heritage management policy and planning arenas. He was team leader for the Myanmar tourism master plan.**

community and tour operator consultation, and the possibility of resettlements that fail to meet international standards, ultimately harm a destination's reputation.

The hard truth is that greater support for inclusive destination planning is urgently needed. Without it, state and regional governments will struggle to use tourism as a vehicle for sustainable development. Myanmar's development partners have a responsibility to do more to support this transformational sector.

The majority of these partners spent decades pressuring for a political shift toward greater human rights and democracy. It is this change of government direction that has led to the spectacular growth of Myanmar tourism. Critics point out that after pushing Myanmar to open up, these same development partners have a responsibility to help destinations manage the consequences of rapid tourism growth.

Yet with the master plan complete, there has been insufficient commit-

# Why we should mourn the loss of Dolly, famed red light district



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THE news from Indonesia in recent weeks has naturally been about the presidential election, which, aside from a few gripes from the loser, went off largely without a hitch.

If only the same could be said for recent polls in Cambodia and Thailand. But then those countries lack a well-founded civil society, kept in check by the tolerant version of Islam practised by most Indonesians.

Admittedly, their much-admired tolerance is often put under strain, as it was in June by misguided but no doubt well-meaning officials in the east Java city of Surabaya.

Now, it has to be said that Surabaya's hot, steamy and traffic-choked downtown does not have much physical charm, but it manages to make up for this deficiency in other ways.

For instance, it has an oasis, the Hotel Majahapit, which, though not quite on a par with the Oriental in Bangkok or Yangon's Governor's Residence, or even the Tugu in nearby Malang, does run them a close second.

Surabaya also acts as an excellent staging post for a trip to the amazing volcanoes around Mt Bromo, as well as the scenic "apple town" of Batu with its waterfalls and hot springs.

Until last month, it also had Dolly. One of the largest and most lively red light districts in all of Asia, if not the world, it's now all gone. And that is a great pity.

It was shut down by Mayor Tri Rismaharini and his cohorts, who claimed the action was taken for the public good, when really it

was a crude populist measure to appease a minority of more radical Islamists.

Let us hope that this craven action rebounds on the mayor's team and that they are unceremoniously booted out of office at the next election.

Certainly, the owners of Dolly's myriad bars and hawker stands, the *mesdames* running the pleasure houses, including their 1450 working girls, and, perhaps surprisingly, most of the area's residents, were furious when policemen came to close them down on June 18.

Those trying to resist were given a stern warning by the chief

**If any female is faced with the choice of working in a lively red light district or in a Dickensian textile factory, she cannot be faulted for taking the former.**

of police, Unggung Cahyono, who said, "I don't like violence, but we will act against those who continue operating prostitution businesses in Dolly."

Unggung claimed that his men had earlier deployed helicopters to drop leaflets urging citizens not to get agitated and ordering Dolly's formerly happy and peaceful hookers to cease their street protests.

But they were quite right to remonstrate. There is a reason why prostitution is the world's oldest profession and why it is legal in most civilised countries. It is because it caters to an irrepressible need, generates much-needed income and, in most instances, brings satisfaction to all concerned.

In places like Surabaya, Manila,

Phnom Penh and Yangon, many women are so egregiously exploited in their day jobs that they cherish the freedom, social camaraderie and of course the income of their evening work.

And this is not a male point of view. As the political philosopher Martha Nussbaum has written, "The idea that we ought to penalise women with few choices by removing one of the ones they do have is grotesque."

She added that this attitude stems from bigoted state and religious officials who peddle the view "that women who choose to have sex with many men are tainted, vile things who must be punished".

One wishes that Mayor Tri and Inspector Unggung would step back and consider the issue in a more objective manner that takes account of the views of Dolly's working women.

They might, for instance, peruse an excellent recent book called *The Wisdom of Whores*, whose author, the academic Elizabeth Pisani, studied the profession for years in Indonesia.

Pisani concluded, "Most female sex workers are not trafficked: They have simply chosen a line of work that pays much better than other lousy jobs open to them."

Indeed, many young women in Surabaya and across the region clearly do not regard the job as any lousier than toiling in sweatshops from 8am to 5pm for US\$10 a day making the clothes the rest of us wear on our backs.

Certainly, if any female is faced with the choice of working in a lively red light district like Dolly, or in a Dickensian textile factory in the outer suburbs of Jakarta or Yangon, she cannot be faulted for taking the former.

And the region's officials should accept this, no matter what sanctimonious claptrap they were fed in their formative years.

As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "It is never too late to give up your prejudices." People would be much wiser and happier if they would give up their nasty but still pervasive prejudice against prostitutes.

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# Business

## Max Myanmar, KBZ top website rankings

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CORPORATE websites provide a window to examine business practices, but their quality is still a mixed bag in Myanmar, according to a report by the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB).

KBZ Bank and Max Myanmar came out on top of a rankings list that looks at the amount of information firms provide in key areas like anti-corruption, respect for human rights, and general organisational transparency, according to the July 22 report.

MCRB head Vicky Bowman said the survey purely looked how well the companies in question provided public information and was not meant to measure actual progress of their business practices.

"This report looks at what a company publishes about what it says it does. It's no guarantee they do it, but it's a first step," she said.

Beyond encouraging businesses to be more transparent, Ms Bowman said the report's research holds telling insights into local business culture.

Many large companies with "significant" links to foreign partners still have no websites whatsoever, while

others publish public information with a speed that surprised the researchers, she said.

"In a way, both of these are a reflection of the fact that Myanmar companies are family-owned," she said. "On the one hand they can take decisions fast without being slowed down by corporate lawyers and layers of bureaucracy. On the other hand, some family businesses don't seem to see themselves as having any external stakeholders."

Of the 20 large companies ranked, KBZ Bank and Max Myanmar Company were at the top of list, while Loi Hein manufacturing and M&GH tobacco were nearly tied for last place in the rankings.

KBZ welcomed its inclusion on the list in a follow-up statement.

"As a family run business, we have always worked to our own high ethical and moral standards with a strong focus on [corporate social responsibility]," the statement said.

MCRB said website content was judged according to a slightly modified version of model used by the INGO Transparency International to judge websites in the developed world. It plans to conduct the surveys on an annual basis.

## Trade gap to widen

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THE trade deficit will likely continue widening for two years as the government promotes infrastructure development and vehicle sales, requiring more imports, said Ministry of Commerce director U Win Myint.

Imports are expected to grow at double the pace as exports in the 2014-15 fiscal year, even as petroleum

exports pick up, he said.

From April 1 to mid-July, imports totaled \$4.2 billion, with exports hit \$2.6 billion - with half coming from the sale of natural gas, according to ministry figures.

Other important export goods are rice, rubber and beans and pulses, said U Win Myint.

In the 2013-14 fiscal year, exports totaled about \$14 billion and imports totaled \$11.1 billion.

Source: Ministry of Commerce

	Total exports	Total imports
2014 - April through mid-July	US\$2.587 billion	\$4.197 billion
2013 - April through mid-July	\$2.584 billion	\$3.2 billion

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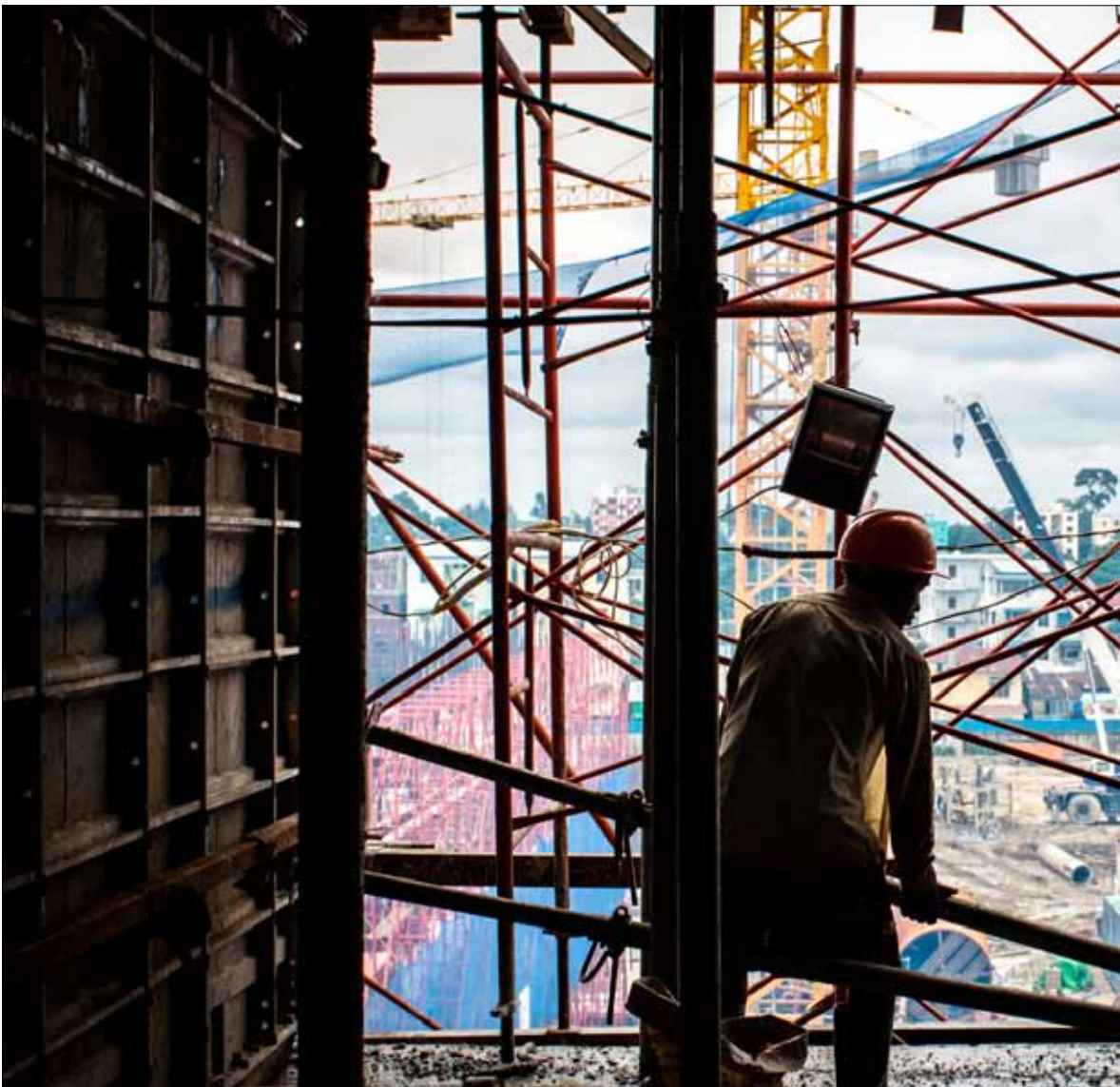
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### IN PICTURES

Construction workers build the Gems Garden Condominium project. The project is receiving plenty of interest from buyers, though some add luxury-related article "Condo builders claim they're riding the top-end boom".

## Thai investors eye o



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THAI businesses are continuing to eye Myanmar opportunities, downplaying concerns the country's political situation may slow investment here.

Several Thai business delegations visited Yangon last week looking to expand in the fast-growing economy, though some experts added further reforms in Myanmar are required to attract investment.

Thailand investment will reach US\$100 billion in the next 15 years through projects in a number of sectors, said Thai Ambassador Pisanu Suvanajata at a seminar hosted by Bangkok Bank on July 18.

"Myanmar needs to ensure political and economic [reforms] carry on, and constraints on doing businesses in Myanmar must be eliminated," he said.

Thailand was the second-largest source of approved foreign investment in Myanmar as of the end of June, worth about \$10 billion or 22 percent of the total, with much of the total thought to be from PTTEP's offshore oil and

gas projects. China was the largest, with approved investments of \$14 billion.

However, Thai investment in Myanmar has been diversifying. Siam Cement Group announced plans for a \$400 million cement factory in Mon State last week. Several Thai banks are also still in the race for foreign banking licences, while garment and footwear factories are looking to set up shop, drawn partially by lower labour costs.

Thailand has been run by a military junta since a May 22 coup. Ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra visited France last week, where she met with her brother Thaksin, while military official General Prayut Chan-O-cha is still in control in Bangkok.

The coup has been blamed for slowed border trade, which pushed up local prices for imported goods like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) - the main fuel used in Myanmar's kitchens - though Thai officials said border trade continues as normal and it is only illegal trading that has been limited.

Thailand Department of Foreign Trade official Akarapong Dipavajra said trade flows to the border are continuing as usual, though added there had been a crackdown on illegal border trade.

Prices may have risen for Thai-made goods such as LPG, but the hikes are temporary and will soon return to normal, he said.

He added that businesses in Thailand are operating normally, and are interested in expanding in several sectors in Myanmar.

BILLION  
**\$100**  
Amount Thailand will invest in Myanmar in the next 15 years, according to the Thai ambassador

While China is the largest source of approved investment in Myanmar, Thailand investors are interested in a wider variety of sectors.

Large Thai-based cement maker Siam Cement Group announced plans for a \$400 million cement plant in Mon State's Kyaikmayaw



Partly foreign-owned petrol stations to come after tender

BUSINESS 32



Workers pocket more cash from the building boom

PROPERTY 34

Exchange Rates (July 25 close)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Euro	K1308	K1309
Malaysia Ringitt	K305	K306
Singapore Dollar	K782	K786
Thai Baht	K30	K31
US Dollar	K971	K973



ect. Developers of high-end projects say they  
ary living is a new concept for many. See  
om” on page 34. Photo: Zarni Phyo

# opportunities

township last week.

SCG president and CEO Kan Trakulhoon said the factory will be able to produce about 1.8 million tonnes of cement annually when it is completed in 2016, with excess demand met from imports from Thailand.

The firm has been importing cement to Thailand since 1997, and has seen demand increase on an annual basis, he said.

“Our brand can compete locally because we can offer very good quality,” he added.

Meanwhile, four large Thai banks are among the 25 foreign banks still competing for banking licences in Myanmar.

The Central Bank of Myanmar officials have said between 5 and 10 foreign banks will be selected to begin operations this year, though the winners will face a number of restrictions.

Bangkok Bank executive vice president Chaiyarit Anuchitworawong said the bank aims to focus on areas that domestic banks find it hard to reach, and would also like to finance the agricultural sector and provide long-term SME loans – if the Central Bank of Myanmar allows foreign banks into the sectors.

“We want to encourage SMEs from start to end as we have experience in the sector in our country,” he said last week at a

conference the bank hosted in Yangon.

“We will operate as the central bank permits, especially in connecting globally [in areas] which domestic banks currently cannot perform,” he added.

Bangkok Bank, Kasikornbank, Siam Commercial Bank and Krung Thai Bank are all still in the hunt for a licence, according to a July 15 statement from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Meanwhile, Thailand’s Department of Foreign Trade also assisted in bringing garment and footwear businesspeople for a Myanmar business matching event last week.

“Thailand’s footwear is a very strong industry,” said Mr Akarapong. “We export a lot of footwear to many countries.”

However, some Thai business are interested in setting up in Myanmar, attracted partially by labour costs that are about a third of Thailand’s.

Expensive land and challenges with laws and regulations are hurdles to investment, he added.

“As well, business operation costs for foreign investors must be properly controlled,” he said. “Myanmar needs macroeconomic stability together with its growth and regulatory reform.”

– Additional reporting by AFP and Myat Nyein Aye

# Gold miners fall behind on fees

Heated 2011 tender process blamed for companies pledging high payments to secure sites

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THREE large private mining companies at the Moehti Moemi mines owe hundreds of millions of dollars worth of in-kind payments to the Ministry of Mines, according to U Win Htain, Mining Department director general.

Fevered bidding in a 2011 tender may have seen the three firms overreach, as they offered high payments in the future to secure sites at the mines in Mandalay Region, despite little surveying work having been done.

“These companies have paid almost nothing to the government since they started working nearly three years ago. The latest we’ve heard is that each has paid only about 100 viss [160 kilograms],” officials at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Joint Committee of Public Account said two weeks ago.

The three firms have agreed to pay the ministry a total of 13.5 tonnes, or 432,000 troy ounces, as part of their contracts. With a troy ounce fetching about US\$1300 on international markets last week, the outstanding balance is worth some \$564 million. The firms are required to pay in-kind each year over the five year-period of their contracts, said U Win Htain.

“I assume the ministry will not allow these deals to continue if the companies fail to meet their obligations,” said parliamentarian U Win Myint.

Mining department official U Win Htain added that the companies have already progressed through the exploration phase and are now mining gold.

The three mining companies – National Prosperity, Shwe Moe Yan [Golden Sky] and R Sha Kabamyay [Asia Global] – all work in the Moehti Moemi area in Mandalay Region’s Yamethin township.

National Prosperity, which is chaired by prominent businessperson U Soe Tun Shein, has the highest outstanding debt, worth 5.577 tonnes over the five-year contract, according to U Win Htain.

National Prosperity gold mining director U Maung Maung told *The Myanmar Times* the firm has not yet started production, which is coming in September, and disputed claims the firm is in arrears on the debt, adding it has kept up with the payments it owes the ministry.

‘The companies were in a hurry to get permission to start ahead of the others, but they didn’t have any geological data about the gold mining sites.’

U Win Htain  
Ministry of Mines official

Canadian firm Ivanhoe conducted surveys in the area before withdrawing from the country in 2007, though officials say little other surveying works has been done since.

The Ministry of Mines held a tender for the Moehti Moemi area in 2011, with 18 private companies bidding and five eventually allowed to operate, according to U Win Htain.

“The companies were in a hurry in the bid to get permission to start ahead of the others,” he said. “But they didn’t have any geological data about the gold mining sites.”


U Win Htain added that international companies would not have agreed to pay such a large amount of gold without in-depth advanced study.

“It was not systematic, it was not smart bidding as the local companies were planning to mine gold without much technology,” he said.

In addition to the in-kind payments, the companies had to place a K1 billion deposit each with the ministry to secure the plots between 5000 and 8000 acres. Two of the five miners have already returned their sites to the ministry, said U Win Htain.

Parliamentarian U Win Myint said he agreed the ministry should not allow the deals to continue if the companies fail to meet the payments they agreed on.

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# Auto part importers jostle for position

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THERE are more cars on the road than ever before, but the supporting industries are not yet up to speed, say would-be auto part importers.

Several high-profile international car manufacturers have set up shop in Myanmar, with a few like Nissan also announcing plans to open local assembly plants and others like Toyota holding discussions to do the same, said U Aung Min, secretary general of the Myanmar Industries Association.

The influx of vehicles on the road and international car manufacturers also requires a supporting parts industry, and businesspeople are keen to get involved in the sector. Though auto part importers do not have the public prominence of car manufacturers, it is

**‘Since everything needs to be imported from outside the country, the quality is not stable.’**

**Steven Chen**  
Yokers company

clear that businesspeople see the industry's potential.

A number of auto part manufacturers have looked at setting up here, such as Malaysia's APM Automotive which claims to have received Myanmar Investment Commission approval for a Bago Region plant in October 2013.

Meanwhile, about 120 companies from Myanmar as well as Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan, USA, UK, China and Malaysia took part in an auto part exhibition from July 18 to 21 at Yangon's Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall.

With little domestic production, nearly all auto parts need to be imported, said Steven Chen, area manager at Yokers trade and marketing service.

“Since everything needs to be imported from outside the country, the quality is not stable,” he said.

The majority of auto part imports come from China, as they are generally the cheapest, said U Hla Myint, an official with Mg Ba and Sons.

However, Taiwanese products are becoming more popular as consumers are looking for higher quality, he said.

“Products from Dubai, Thailand, China and Taiwan are available in my shop but still most demand is from China,” he said. Auto part makers are also increasingly entering the market in line with the more high-profile vehicle manufacturers, meaning customers have more choice and competition is fiercer.

Industry observers say it can be



A shopkeeper reaches for a car audio part. Auto part firms are increasingly keen on Myanmar. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

challenging keeping up with the rule changes governing the sector.

Alex Pen, from the Taiwan government agency Taiwan Trade Centre, said Myanmar's large market size is particularly enticing for investors, but that regulations can change frequently.

“Exhibitors are a little bit worried about the current situation because they don't know if in the future regulations will change again,” he said. But he added that public assurances by senior government officials that rules would remain stable had helped.

Mr Pen said Taiwanese exporters

are in part hoping their auto part exports to Myanmar are boosted by the fact that they produce left-hand drive cars for the right-hand side of the street. The People's Republic of China is also a right-hand drive country, while Thailand, India and Japan are left-hand drive countries.



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Two men assemble a Myanmar-made vehicle.  
Photo: Phyo Wai Kyaw

# Cash for clunkers drives price

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SALE prices of made-in-Myanmar jeeps and other vehicles have jumped by up to 40 percent since the government started accepting the vehicles on July 14 in exchange for import permits, say car traders.

Vehicle traders from Mandalay's Pyi Gyi Myat Shin car trading zone said demand for the vehicles – and the import slips they can be exchanged for – is huge and prices have climbed by up to K2 million a car.

Trader Ko Win Myint Oo said prices have reached K5.9 million, up from K4.5 million for a comparable

vehicle in June.

At the same time, prices for some other early-model cars have declined and sales have slowed.

U Maung, another dealer, predicted that vehicle import permits prices are likely to fall later when large numbers of vehicles are handed in and more permits are released. He said the import permit system might even be scrapped in 2015.

“The strong demand for imports will eventually cause the price to fall when more become available,” he said. “And I think the slip market will disappear eventually. But jeeps are selling very well now.”

He added that people who want the latest model should buy quickly – at least by the end of the year – or risk paying tax in 2015.

“If you want the latest model, purchases should be completed by 2014, because in 2015 you will have to pay the full tax owed on imports,” he said, referring to the 20 percent tax reduction offered for import permits generated by handing in made-in-Myanmar vehicle.

More than 90,000 vehicles were produced in Myanmar assembly factories, including jeep models that were popular with the public until the motor import policy was radically changed in September 2011.

– Translation by Myat Su Mon Win

# Onshore petrol deals hit by another delay

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REGIONAL approval is holding up the signing of the agreements to govern onshore petroleum searches and production, according to government officials.

Myanmar announced 16 winners of onshore petroleum blocks in October 2013, but after 10 months the winning companies and the Ministry of Energy (MOE) still have not signed the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) and Improved Petroleum Recovery agreements necessary for work to begin on the blocks.

The ministry had previously aimed to have the process wrapped up in June, a deadline which has come and gone.

“The contracts for the onshore blocks are going to be signed at the end of month,” said U Win Maw, deputy director general of MOE's Energy Planning Department, last week. “If not, it cannot be later than early August.”

The process has been delayed as the agreements require regional approval after getting the green light from the Myanmar Investment Commission and the cabinet, he said.

There are a total of 10 PSCs and three Improved Petroleum Recovery agreements waiting to be signed in

the first stage.

Companies have six months to complete the assessments after signing the PSC agreements.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise also has the right to purchase 15 to 25 percent of each block when production starts, according to the draft. Another 5pc of production will be transferred to MOGE as a “research and development fee”, said U Win Maw.

The companies will also have to make a \$50,000 contribution to a training fund after the contracts are signed, he added.

International companies that won rights to two blocks include ONGC Videsh from India, Eni from Italy, Malaysia's state-owned Petronas Carigali, Canada's Pacific Hunt Energy, Petroleum Exploration (PVT) from Pakistan and MPRL from the British Virgin Islands.

Meanwhile, Brunei's National Petroleum, CAOG from Luxembourg, JSOC from Russia and Thailand's PTTEP each won a single onshore block.

The international firms must have at least one local partner for onshore work. Machinery Solution, MPEP, Parami, UNOG, Young Investment Group, IGE, Apex GEO, Sun Apex and Win Precious were all selected as local partners.

## IN BRIEF

**Mine ministry plans gem lab**  
The Ministry for Mines has purchased gem laboratory equipment with an aim to open a high-quality laboratory at the site of Yangon's Gem Museum, Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung said.

Several other private companies or associations have also declared intentions to open laboratories, but U Than Tun Aung said in a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw on July 22 that the ministry's laboratory is necessary to analyse gems and precious minerals in Myanmar. The lab on Yangon's Kabar Aye Pagoda Road aims to be open by September, he added.

U Than Tun Aung highlighted Painite and Maw-Sit-Sit, two precious minerals found only in Myanmar, as examples of the country's unique wealth in gems. – Htoo Thant, translation by Myat Su Mon Win

**Jade sales flat after capital's show**  
Mandalay's jade market has lost its lustre after many prize pieces were sold at the Nay Pyi Taw exhibition early this month, said U Zaw Zaw, chair of the management committee of Mandalay's jade market. The annual Nay Pyi Taw exhibition wrapped up on July 6.

It draws top dollar particularly from large-scale Chinese traders. “For that reason there is a shortage of supply at present, but we expect it to rebound soon,” said U Sein Win, an experienced jade trader. The rainy season also somewhat slows mining efforts in Kachin State.

– Mg Zaw, translation by Zar Zar Soe

**Construction event to come again**  
The organisers behind the Build Tech Yangon exhibition plan to hold a second conference on May 7 to 9 next year. About 150 foreign companies from countries including Japan, South Korea, Germany, Singapore and China along with 20 local companies will take part, said Oh Li Ling, project manager at Sphere Exhibition. Sphere and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) will jointly organise the exhibition.

MCEA chair U Tha Htay said the Build Tech Yangon 2015 conference aims to serve construction and development in Yangon. – Myat Noe Oo



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## IN DEPTH

# Businesswomen build a bright future

Program aims to help a group of women entrepreneurs tackle the obstacles and build the skills to start a small business



MYAT NOE OO MYAT NYEIN AYE

Ma Su Wint Wha is a 24-year old woman who dreams of combining her love of reading with a taste for coffee.

Bookstore-café combinations are common in many parts of the world, but not Myanmar. But she says she can see the potential.

Students and travellers particularly

enjoy reading, but face limited options and high prices for books. Add in the burgeoning popularity of coffee shops among the young and wealthy, and Ma Su Wint Wha spots a business opportunity. However, like many would-be entrepreneurs, the practical challenges she faces are daunting.

Ma Su Wint Wha - who has a full-time job at an NGO - is one of 11 women who was initially selected to join Project W. The program is a collaboration between Project Hub Yangon, a start-up incubator, and international NGO Partnership for

Change, aiming to see the female entrepreneurs receive coaching and launch their businesses by November.

The entrepreneurs are looking at a wide range of areas, from web design to the cosmetic industry to office supplies. Through the project they will attend about 20 workshops on a range of issues pertinent to launching and running a business, capped off by a pitch to potential investors at the end.

Project W aims to develop innovative ideas in sustainable and scale-able businesses, said Allison Morris, co-founder of Project Hub Yangon. The incubator held a similar program in 2013 for male and female entrepreneurs, but has decided to focus on women this time around.

"We decided to focus on women entrepreneurs because we simply don't see very many female-led start-ups in Yangon and we want to change that," she said.

"We also believe that women entrepreneurs have unique needs and often do not have the networks of other women and female mentors to draw on that most male entrepreneurs have."

Ma Su Wint Wha has mulled the bookstore café idea over with her friends. They have been collecting used books, but like many would-be entrepreneurs in Yangon, have been partly stymied by difficulties finding a location.

"We believe this business can be successful, even though we have some difficulties," she said. Still, she added that having the Project W experts guide her through the process has so

far made things easier.

"The training assistant has helped me get confident with the idea of my first business," she said.

The participants are clearly passionate in their ideas and keen to see their projects through. *The Myanmar Times* visited one of the earliest sessions in June to take stock of the program and its participants at the start of the process.

Female entrepreneurs are a relatively rare breed in Myanmar, but there are many women doing exceptional work in business. It is clear women entrepreneurs face different constraints from their male counterparts.

Ma Saw Yu Ko is a 34-year-old mother. She holds an electrical engineering degree but is interested in tourism, and wants to introduce Myanmar's unique sights to foreign families.

Acknowledging she has weak management skills, Ma Saw Yu Ko said she hopes to gain expertise through Project W to run a business, improving her knowledge in areas such as marketing skills.

"I'm trying to attend this workshop, but I hope I can handle my dream as well as housework and looking after my child," she said.

While most of the entrepreneurs with Project W are looking at areas that appeal to men and women, some are targeting specifically at female customers.

Ma Su Mon Thaw is planning a cosmetics retail corner. She has already made a few sample lipstick products, claiming they are 100 percent natural, and is now keen to learn how to bring the products to market.

Foreign customers looking for a holiday souvenir are her targeted clients.

"To be well known is what I need to get a good market [share], and if I distribute it in the larger market my product will be a success," she said.

Finding out about Project W through Facebook, she is a doctor during the day, but would like to be a local make-up success.

The women participating are aim-

ing to learn the business concepts needed to bring their goods and services to market. On the day *The Myanmar Times* attended training, the women went to a class

run by an expert from



Myanmar Market Research and Development (MMRD). Ma Sun Mon Thaw taught a class on how to conduct market research. After the formal lecture, the attendees split up into groups to chew over market research ideas.

Ma Su Mon Thaw stressed focussing on customers, adding the customers are the target, and it's important to get the prices right and learn from experience.

Most of the entrepreneurs have little experience in the industry they are looking to launch a business in. Project W participants often face large differences between their day jobs and the businesses they are looking to start.

The women entrepreneurs just hope it all works out.

*This article is part one of a planned three-part series looking at participants in Project W as the program progresses. For more on Project W, check out page 12 of this week's "Women of ASEAN" supplement.*



Ma Su Wint Wha and two other entrepreneurs attend a Project W session. They aim to open their own businesses. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

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**'We simply don't see very many female-led start-ups in Yangon and we want to change that.'**

Allison Morris  
Project Hub co-founder

## Export finance hurdles to ease

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RESTRICTIONS on export financing will be gradually eased this year for exporters and banks, according to a senior official at the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The Central Bank is looking to develop pre-shipment financing, where firms with a contracted buyer can receive working capital from Myanmar banks to produce and ship goods.

Under the plan exporters receive credit from a bank after a foreign buyer is contracted but before manufacturing the goods. The buyer's bank, usually in a foreign country, will then have to repay the Myanmar bank.

Presently it is difficult for would-be exporters to finance production without cash-in-hand, even if they have a buyer lined up.

Officials said pre-shipment financing should make it easier to expand exports, but will require more funding for widespread adoption.

It is the latest in a string of measures designed to ease trading.

Previous restrictions on financing imports were liberalised in April this year. Importers had essentially been forced to pay for an entire shipment in cash, but in April the Central Bank changed the rules to allow firms to

import by borrowing up to 70 percent of the cost of the goods it was purchasing. The policy depends on the credit worthiness of the traders and finding a commercial bank to lend the capital.

The Central Bank official said it is part of a plan to see less government involvement in banking.

"The amount of Central Bank involvement will gradually decrease, to boost the capacity of commercial banks," the official said.

The proposed changes to financing options will boost traders' financial access, said Ministry of Commerce director of the trade promotion department U Win Myint.

The domestic financial system had previously been weakened by the West's economic sanctions, and requires some catching up, he said. One step that needs to happen to assist trade finance is a credit bureau that can assess traders' creditworthiness, he added.

Industry insiders have pushed for eased restrictions and improved facilities to promote trade.

CB Bank deputy general manager of trade Daw Myint Myint Ye said the bank presently judges the creditworthiness of traders through past dealings as well as their asset size.

The Central Bank of Myanmar allows private banks to offer trade by

letter of credit, but take-up has been slow and most importers and exporters still use state-owned Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank and Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank rather than commercial banks.

Exporters don't want their money stored at banks for a long time, and in the future will likely make more use of credit facilities, she said. "They want their money to flow to commodity deals, but the banks need more capital [to lend]."

CB plans to extend its trade financing programs as far as the Central Bank of Myanmar allows, she said.

Meanwhile, Central Bank of Myanmar officials say there is strong interest among state-owned and semi-government banks to move into export and import financing.

Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, or Myanmar Citizen Bank could take over formal EXIM duties, providing credit guarantees to private banks to reduce their exposure.

"Capital is currently limited for our domestic bank to operate as export-import banks," said a senior official, requesting anonymity.

Banks would require at least \$200 to \$300 million in funds in addition to the minimum \$75 million minimum paid-up capital, he said.

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# Gas-fired plants to cut power shortages

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THREE gas-fired power generation plants are moving closer to being built, as Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) officials evaluate bids for the projects.

Although the government claims an installed capacity of 4362.5MW, difficulties with distribution and plants operating at less than capacity means Myanmar is often unable to meet peak demands of up to 2370MW.

Gas-fired plants including Kyauk-phyu in Rakhine State, Thaton in Mon State and Thilawa in Yangon Region are all being built or rebuilt in an effort to chip away at the electricity deficit.

Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) officials are now evaluating bids from five companies to build a gas-fired plant near Kyauk-phyu Special Economic Zone in Rakhine State, said MEPE managing director U Htain Lwin.

The winner could be announced by December, he said, adding the plant will be fuelled by natural gas obtained from the China-Myanmar Gas Pipeline.

Although state-owned enterprises are running some of the projects themselves, others are receiving outside support.

The World Bank is funding a refurbishment of a plant in Thaton township in Mon State through a US\$140 million low-interest loan. The plant now generates about 40MW, but with the new generators could produce 106MW, officials have said.

The MOEP is also planning to build a 50MW gas-fired plant at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon Region. Financed by a Japanese loan, a total of three private companies are now being considered for the project, said U Htain Lwin.

"We are selecting companies for each project depending on their proposed electricity production capacity and price," he said, adding that authorities are aiming for the plants to be online by 2015.

Experts have estimated that capacity will need to increase by 800 to 1000MW annually to meet demand. MOEP is drawing up an Electricity Master Plan with the help of the Japanese International Cooperative Agency to lay out the path to meet energy needs.

## Correction

Contrary to what the "Smuggled cigarettes, alcohol beat the ban" article from July 21 claims, City Mart was not raided by authorities. It was Premium Food Service Products Co Ltd that was raided by authorities. *The Myanmar Times* regrets the error.

## Clarification

In the "Change in owners as U Tay Za said to exit AGD Bank" article from July 21, U Soe Thein said that the changes in ownership at AGD are routine, and public attention has been drawn as the people involved are well-known public figures. He did not say or imply any judgment on these figures. The online article has been updated to reflect this.

# Firms slow to use GSP benefits



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ZAW HTIKE

TAKE-UP on benefits offered through the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) has been limited, even though most countries involved in the market access program have extended benefits to Myanmar, said Ministry of Commerce economist U Maung Aung.

Participation in the program, which allows Least Developed Countries such as Myanmar tariff-free market access, has been low, but it offers the potential to significantly increase exports, he said.

"Most Myanmar traders don't know about GSP," he said. "But if they learn about it, they will use it, especially if it gives them competitive advantages with other countries' firms."

The GSP program offers significant tariff reductions to United Nations-designated Least Developed Countries on most products. However, many countries did not offer the program to Myanmar as part of sanctions against the country, though this has gradually been changing.

The European Union offered GSP benefits to Myanmar in July 2013, joining other countries such as Japan



A ship waits to unload at Yangon docks. Photo: Staff

and South Korea that offered the program to Myanmar.

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) vice chair U Maung Maung Lay said that many businesspeople do not know about the program and so do not make full use of the benefits.

"Myanmar traders often only know a little about the program with

the European countries, Japan and South Korea - but not in detail," he said. "They don't use these advantages very well."

But while the program will, on the whole, help exporters, some said that local businesspeople are so focused on day-to-day realities of running their businesses that they are unable to look into trade programs.

U Hnin Oo, vice chair of the Myanmar Fishery Federation, told *The Myanmar Times* that even though fish exports have duty-free access to the EU, take-up has been slim and the country's fish exports are decreasing.

"While the trading opportunities from programs like GSP are very important to Myanmar businesses, they are in vain if they cannot meet the high standards of markets like the EU," he said.

U Hnin Oo said there are 14 frozen seafood factories recognised by the EU in Myanmar, but a lack of adequate investment and infrastructure in areas like electricity and transportation mean fish export volumes are decreasing year-by-year.

"I am sure businesspeople are interested if they can benefit," he said. U Hnin Oo added that Myanmar's exporters often do not match other countries' demands - pointing to Turkey's need for beef as one area that Myanmar exporters are ill-equipped to meet.

"Except for the garment sector, I don't see many business sectors that have seen export volumes rise because of the GSP," he said.

Independent economist U Hla Maung said he agreed with U Hnin Oo that if Myanmar cannot produce the quality goods that are demanded by the world's importers, it will be impossible to promote trade.

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Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

# Door to open for foreign-owned petrol stations

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FOREIGN companies will soon be invited to enter into a joint venture with state-owned Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) to distribute and sell petrol and diesel fuel, said an official.

“We are going to invite international companies for a joint venture ... in the next two or three months,” said U Myin Zaw, a director from state-owned MPPE, which sells fuel at a wholesale and retail level.

“We want quality and price competition in the market,” he said.

Fuel retailing is currently limited to Myanmar companies, but it can be challenging to control the quality and price of local stations, said U Myin Zaw.

“If we let an international company into this business, the competition will create quality business,” he said.

MPPE is also currently conducting a tender for an international joint venture partner in the jet fuel business. Pre-qualified companies



A man pumps fuel at a petrol station. Drivers could soon fill up from a part foreign-owned firm. Photo: Staff

must submit their final proposals by July 25 for evaluation.

MPPE currently distributes jet fuel at 11 domestic airports, and looks to partner with a foreign company to improve practices. It plans

to first begin at Yangon International airport.

Two foreign company will be initially allowed to form a joint venture for both the jet fuel and the petrol station projects.

## Farmers group to submit second law

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FARMERS groups will submit a second draft of a law aimed at supporting rice farmers, after a submission last year by a rival group has languished without approval.

The latest draft, titled “Solving Difficulties in the Rice Farming Workplace Law”, will be submitted to parliament by the Myanmar Freedom Farmers League, after 2013’s “Farmer Profit Promotion Law” was not passed.

The latest law differs in that it prioritises on more practical workplace difficulties than the former, said Myanmar Freedom Farmer League chair U Thein Aung.

The League claims 400,000 members, and was founded on May 7, 2013,

by members who broke away from the Myanmar Farmer Association.

It plans to have U Zaw Htun, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Ayeyarwady Region, submit the law in August, said U Thein Aung.

It focuses on overcoming difficulties faced by farmers in areas including transportation to rice farms, irri-

**‘Farmers always face problems when they are growing rice.’**

**U Htay Aung**

Myanmar Freedom Farmer League

gation systems, roads for transporting paddy, fair water supply from dams and canals blocked by fish farms in the rainy season.

Bago Region-based Myanmar Freedom Farmer League executive member U Htay Aung said these problems are making it more difficult to grow rice, pointing to difficulties with fish farms as one area that needs to be addressed. Fish farms and rice farmers often overlap, and farmers sometimes complain that fishers are unfairly given priority.

“Because of these problems, we farmers always face problems when they are growing rice,” he said.

U Soe Tun, chair of the Myanmar Farmer Association, said he was not yet aware of the Myanmar Freedom Farmers League’s plans to propose another law.

## Bago property market quiet as investors eye airport’s fate

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PRICES for Bago Region property near the border with Yangon Region have cooled as no new developer for Hanthawaddy Airport has been announced.

Property in Bago was snapped up as momentum behind the new international air hub for Myanmar appeared to grow last year, with speculators anticipating economic spillover from the US\$1 billion project, but Bago land prices have since quieted down as a contractor has still not been finalised for the project, said U Yan Aung, a Bago-area realtor.

“Land prices will get higher when construction of the airport actually starts and a contractor is signed on,” said U Aung Swe, a Bago real estate agent. “But since there is no new contractor, land prices are a little cold.”

Although property varies widely based on exact location, some land near the Hanthawaddy site is fetching K80 million an acre, up on K60 million this time last year, said one realtor. However, some prices rose even further earlier this year before settling down.

South Korea’s Incheon Airport consortium won the tender as preferred builder for airport the project in August 2013, but talks on a formal contract with the Department of Civil Aviation fell apart by the beginning of 2014. The four consortiums that had initially bid were then re-invited to submit bids for the US\$1 billion project, though there has not yet been a formal announcement of a winner or a signed contract.

The airport has been criticised as being too far from Yangon city centre, though the existing Yangon International Airport is said to be

quickly reaching capacity.

U Aung Swe said it was not only land near the proposed site that reached new heights last year, but also land on nearby roadways such as the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

“It is a great property market for speculators,” he said. “Many businessmen bought the Bago land.”

U Myint, manager of Mahar Bago real estate agency, said in some cases land on the Yangon-Mandalay road is sitting at K80 million an acre for a property that had been at K5 million two years ago. The further from Yangon, though, generally the less expensive the land.

Bago Region land located further from major roads and Yangon has seen less demand, added U Myint.

“Speculators aren’t really buying land near Bago city, though there are many people buying on the border with Yangon,” he said.





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Applications should be lodged at the Embassy or emailed to [austembassy.yangon@dfat.gov.au](mailto:austembassy.yangon@dfat.gov.au) together with a one page summary addressing the selection criteria and a copy of your CV with one recent passport sized photo. The closing date for applications is **4:00 pm on Friday 08 August 2014**.

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- Good knowledge of modern office procedures, practices, methods and equipment including use of standard personal computer software programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Affinity for team work, initiative and ability to determine and achieve objectives.
- Excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and liaison skills.

**Note:**

1. The Australian Embassy does not discriminate in regards to race, ethnicity, gender and age.
2. Only those candidates whose qualifications and experience are of further interest will be contacted for an interview.



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Successful applicants can expect a **commission plus high bonus**. If feasible, this job can be combined with other work or duties.

Applicants are asked to send their **curriculum vitae, a photo and a letter of motivation** to the address below. The deadline for applications is **15 August 2014**. Applications via email should not exceed the size of 1 MB.

**Contact:** Mr Juergen Werz, Messe Frankfurt, **Email:** [Juergen.Werz@MesseFrankfurt.com](mailto:Juergen.Werz@MesseFrankfurt.com)

**Contact for inquiries in Myanmar:** Delegation of German Industry and Commerce, Monika Staerk, [monika.staerk@myanmar.ahk.de](mailto:monika.staerk@myanmar.ahk.de), 01 230 1823



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- Experience working in implementation and delivery of humanitarian/recovery projects at the field level is a must.
- Experience working in a complex settings that requires sound judgment, and operational flexibility.
- Previous experience in a similar capacity with humanitarian agencies, in particular the UN, preferred.
- Fluency in English and Myanmar language. Knowledge in any other local languages will be an asset.

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

**Admin and HR Unit, UNOCHA Myanmar**  
**Room (211), No (5), Kanbawza Street, Shwe Taung Kyar (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar (In front of Pearl Condo)**  
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# Property

BUSINESS EDITOR: Jeremy Mullins | jeremymullins7@gmail.com

## Construction workers speak

- Interviews by Noe Noe Aung, photos by Yu Yu and Thiri



I moved to this job about four years ago. Our group mostly works on roads and bridges rather than buildings. But I was a vendor before this job - a higher daily payment is the main reason I switched jobs. Being a vendor is not easy and the income is irregular. I now earn K7000 a day. - Ko Tun Tun Naing, foreman

In the villages I did odd jobs as a farm worker. But a farm worker only has odd jobs in the rainy season and the summer, so it's tough to get regular income. Here I get K5000 a day and can save K3000 a day to send back home to my family. For safety, our supervisor gives us boots or helmets to wear if the workplace is obviously dangerous - but we don't usually wear them.

- Ko Chit Ko



I became a worker four or five years ago. Years ago my father moved here and worked as a construction worker, and I began working with him. Usually I work as a mason building bridges. I earn about K7000 to K8000 a day, and usually switch between any four places in a month.

- Ko Thet Ko Ko Maung, foreman

I used to work on the farmlands in Pyay city, but I couldn't make enough money. I moved to Yangon and work as a labourer; it's not a lot but better than before. I usually work in carpentry and metalworking. - U Than Htun



Living in Bago before, I earn far more in Yangon even though I only do odd jobs. Here I make K5000 or K6000 daily depending on the project owner. I've been working for Thilawa SEZ for six months but do other work as well. I've a small family of only three people, so K5000 is usually enough, but I have to borrow money if it's an emergency. - U Than Shwe



A construction worker at Gems Garden condominium gets the job done. Photo: Zarni Phyo

## Labour shortage drives construction wage rises



NOE NOE AUNG

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IT'S a good time to be a skilled construction worker in Yangon - at least in terms of salary, according to developers and employees.

A spate of new construction sites and a lack of labour is driving salaries higher. Skilled tradespeople are in particular demand, often chasing higher wages and overtime pay from site to site as developers bid for their sought-after skills.

Ko Kaung Htut, foreman for a group of 15 workers, said that his group often works at more than one site at once.

The group may work for three days at one site, then switch to another site if it has more urgent work giving overtime pay, before switching back when the second task is completed.

The shortage is particularly apparent for skilled labourers. "We still have many non-experienced workers," he said. "But we don't have enough skilled workers and there are many construction sites out there."

Wages keep pace with the worker

shortage, according to developers.

U Aung Aung, an official at one construction firm in Kamaryut township, said that in 2013 casual workers started at about K3000 a day. "Today the lowest payment is K5000 a day," he said.

Casual workers with some experience were earning between K4000 and K5000 a day, while skilled professionals earn between K6000 and K8000 a day, in 2013. But insiders say they must now pay far more for skilled trade. Some say they regularly pay over K10,000 a day for skilled labourers.

"Hiring fees have been gradually increasing since a year ago, and we are making high daily payments for workers," he said.

"It's difficult hiring professionals. In the past you could get a real mason whose work was excellent. But now we have to hire an ordinary worker who uses a mason's tools," said U Aung Aung.

Royal Smart construction company owner U Tin Tun said the skilled workers are available - if one is willing to pay the costs.

It's not difficult finding casual labourers, as "many people want a job," he said. "But of course I can't get enough skilled workers, but if developers pay enough it's not difficult to find them."

U Tin Tun said he pays his female

casual workers K3000 a day and male workers K5500.

"But the minimum for skilled workers is K8000," he added.

An official from Aung Myin Pyae Sone company in Thingangyun township he reckons many skilled workers are being lured abroad by promises of higher salaries.

The official, who requested anonymity, said his firm is conducting recruitment in villages to try and find workers to bring to the big city.

"Even though we're looking for skilled workers in the villages, we're finding no one," he said.

"There are fewer skilled workers as they go abroad for higher-paying jobs."

Wages are rising even though the quality of work is often dropping, he said. He added wages had increased about 50 percent for casual labour and about 70pc for skilled carpenters from later year.

"Skills speak for the price," he said.

Although there is a shortage of skilled labourers, officials from the Myanmar Engineering Society said their efforts to provide training programs with masonry, carpentry and iron work skills often fail.

It cancelled a carpentry class in June because too few people registered, he said. "Workers want to be working instead of being in class."

## Condo builders claim they're riding the top-end boom

MYAT NYEIN AYE

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BUILDERS aiming at the upper end of Yangon's booming development scene claim demand has been exceeding their expectations.

The opening of the country over the past three years is being credited for a flood of well-moneyed buyers looking for a place to live. Builders are racing to put up what they claim are international-standard apartments and condominiums, competing to provide the latest hot offering in a city that currently boasts relatively few high-end properties.

"The high prices for condos and apartment rentals shows how much need there is for more condos and apartments," said one developer.

Though much has been made of

the role of speculators in pushing Yangon's prices higher, Ma Lwin Mar Aung, senior marketing manager at Capital Development, the builders of Gems Garden condominium, said there are many reasons people want to buy.

Some purchase a condo as an investment, others want to live in the new place and rent out their old apartment, while others simply want to move in, she said.

"People are interested to buy with us because there aren't a lot of condos with a real, international standard," she said. "A lot of older condos are really more like high-end apartments."

The firm did not begin presales until work was actually underway, said Ma Lwin Mar Aung. Claiming to have sold about 70 percent of the development, the project on Hlaing township's Insein

Road is about 35pc complete. Work will wrap up in 2016, with a total 584 of units in the 21-storey building. The project will also include a swimming pool, library, convenience store, garden and several other facilities. Developers had previously put the pricetag at US\$100 million.

**'The high prices for condos and apartment rentals show how much need there is.'**

Developer

Other high-end developers are claiming similar success.

The Singapore-led consortium developing 68 Residence has already sold about 70pc of its units, said Ma Thit Thit Soe, a sales and marketing official with the company.

"We are getting plenty of interest from both locals and foreign-based people. Local customers are very interested in international style, so they're keen to buy," she said. The firm has also held road shows in Singapore aiming to sell largely at the Myanmar diaspora.

Condominium ownership is currently restricted to Myanmar people, though officials have aimed to allow foreigners to buy in a draft condominium law.

Although there are more and more projects being announced, Ma Thit

Thit Soe said there is still abundant demand at market's higher end.

68 Residence aims to open at the end of 2017, with 369 units in a 27-storey building. It boasts amenities such as 444 spaces in a basement car park, as well as an infinity swimming pool and ground-floor retail outlets. Developers previously estimated the Bahan township project will cost a total of \$150 million.

Condo developers say that because there has not historically been much in the way of high-end projects, it has fallen to them to explain the advantages of paying for top units.

Infinity luxury condo senior executive Ko Ye Pyae Aung said local customers "are very green with their knowledge of luxury living," but added Infinity it is in line with international standards.



“It was not systematic, it was not smart bidding as the local companies were planning to mine gold without much technology.”

— Ministry of Mines official U Win Htain, on the high bids put forward by gold mining firms

Year-long Cambodian impasse reaches an end  
WORLD 44

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



Smelling the flowers in Mayangone

Style is not always the strong suit of a Yangon house, but this week's home is at least bold enough to try something different. It is pretty, with a large compound and a unique design. Situated in Mayangone township, it is a ways outside of the busy city centre.

The 5800-square-foot compound has a scenic complement of trees and gardens, lending a patch of green space that many newly built homes lack. It is not always easy finding green space in Yangon, and the air around this house feels purified by

the greenery.

This two-storey house sits on 1140 square feet, and contains three master bedrooms, two living rooms, two dining rooms, two kitchens and four bathrooms. It comes with some furnishings, though more shopping will be required. It also has the usual complement of air conditioners and a telephone land line, as well as three of the seldom-spotted but much-prized water heaters.

— Tin Yadanan Htun

**Location :** Yoedayar Street, Mayangone township

**Price :** \$3600 per month (negotiable)

**Contact :** Estate Myanmar Real Estate Agency

**Phone :** 09-43118787, 09-43031699

Mandalay mayor limits oversized development

SITHU LWIN  
sithulwin.mmtimes@gmail.com

THE Saittara Mahi housing development near Mandalay's palace has been forced to change their plans after high-ranking officials found out the project was set to break zoning rules.

Work on the site has already begun on Mandalay's 26<sup>th</sup> Street between 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> under the Mandalay City Development Committee's (MCDC's) Building and Warehouse Department's coordination, when Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung said two weeks ago that the project is too tall for its location near the moat.

U Aung Maung said he was unaware of the problem until he saw trucks rumbling down 26<sup>th</sup> street to the site two blocks from his office, and inquiries revealed the project was to up to nine stories tall – well above the 46-foot (about four stories) limit for new buildings near the moat.

After taking a week to deliberate, government officials last week decided to force the development to adhere to the rules, though building is underway.

The companies and officials behind the mixed private-public development will be told to amend the buildings' design, said U Myo Aung, head of the Building and Warehouse Department.

“We won't allow any building to

obstruct views of the palace,” he said.

The department also clarified height restrictions for buildings near Mandalay's central palace. Buildings within 100 feet (30.5 metres) of the road around the palace are limited to being 46 ft tall, buildings between 100 ft and 150 ft must be less than 70 ft, and buildings between 150 ft and 500 ft must be less than 173 ft, the department said. Meanwhile the walls themselves are 27 ft at the highest point, though the regularly spaced towers are much taller.

The central Mandalay palace was rebuilt following fires during the Second World War. Most of the area inside its walls is reserved for military use, though a section is open for tourists.

Nearly all new buildings must be submitted to the Building and Warehouse Department for approval, though military, police and embassy projects have an exemption for security reasons, said U Myo Aung.

The Saittara Mahi development is meant to upgrade 60-year-old government housing. On completion, 52 percent of the project will be owned by the department and the rest owned by private companies to sell. An official from one of the developing companies claimed the change in height would not greatly affect the development.

— Translation by Thiri Min Htun



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PARIS

# New medical advances turn science fiction into science fact

EXOSKELETONS helping the paralysed to walk, tiny maggot-inspired devices gnawing at brain tumours, machines working tirelessly as hospital helpers: in many respects, the future of medicine is already here.

Experts say that, at the experimental level, human skills are already being enhanced or replaced by robots and other hi-tech substitutes – and these may become commonplace just a few years from now.

“If one had spoken of this 10 years ago, people would have said it’s science fiction. Today, it is a reality,” French ophthalmologist Gerard Dupeyron said of one of the most advanced technologies helping people today – the bionic eye.

Some recent advances:

### Tumour-eating “maggots”

Last year, scientists at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore said they had developed a creepy-crawly device inspired by the humble maggot that zaps tumours with electricity and sucks up the debris.

The finger-like prototype has multiple joints allowing it to move in several directions, according to a press release from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which funded the work.

The idea for the tiny neurosurgical robot was born from the difficulty doctors have in reaching many types of tumours that lie deep

within the brain.

Researchers are testing the safety of the device in pigs and human cadavers.

### Cancer-crunching claws

Inspired by crab pincers, scientists in Singapore created a tiny robot which can access a person’s stomach via the throat to cut up tumours using miniature claws.

One robotic arm holds the tumour while the other slices away, according to the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), which took part in the research.

The procedure, that could take as little as 20 minutes, may one day eliminate the need for surgery, which can take hours.

The Master and Slave Transluminal Endoscopic Robot (MASTER) has

**‘If you had spoken of this 10 years ago, people would have said it’s science fiction. Today, it is reality’**

Gerard Dupeyron  
Ophthalmologist

been tested successfully in patients, according to the NTU.

### Roboskeletons

Engineers around the world are racing to design the lightest, most autonomous robotic exoskeleton, not only to restore movement to disabled people but also to boost the strength and endurance of those who carry heavy cargo or walk very far, like soldiers or rescue workers.

Strapped to the lower body, such devices are powered by motors that take some of the strain off the muscles – similar to the brain-controlled suit that helped a paraplegic kick a football at the World Cup opening ceremony.

Several prototypes have been developed, but many battle to meet the key challenge of compact, long-lasting, carry-on power supply.

Among those looking to perfect the technology is the United States Military, leading President Obama to quip recently that “basically, we’re designing Ironman.”

### Computer chip sight

Among the recent advances in treating degenerative retinal diseases is the so-called “bionic eye”, which has restored rudimentary vision to dozens of people in Europe and the United States.

The system works with a chip implanted in the eye to mimic the function of photoreceptor cells, typically combined with a miniature camera

mounted in a pair of sporty-looking sunglasses.

The camera sends images via a mini computer to the chip, which converts them to electrical signals to the brain, where they are interpreted as vision.

In one patent, the chip itself functions also as photoreceptor and transmitter.

A drawback for the tens of millions of people suffering from diseases like retinitis pigmentosa is the cost – these vision aids cost about 100,000 euros (\$140,000) each.

### Healers, gophers and caregivers

To bypass human tremors and the need for large cuts for surgeons to get their hands on a deep organ, much smaller surgeon-guided robot prongs and pincers are increasingly being used for minimally invasive procedures.

They also allow for degrees of rotation and motion beyond what the human hand is capable of, and make remote surgery possible by allowing doctors to control a scalpel in robotic hands on another continent.

Saving the health sector a pretty penny in labour costs, robots are also starting to take over duties as hospital as cart pushers.

And at home, they can help the disabled communicate and be more independent – one type of robotic arm has a spoon at the end allowing for self-feeding. – *AFP*

BEIJING

# Tibet tweets are Chinese propaganda: rights group

BEIJING has created at least 100 fake Twitter accounts to spread propaganda about Tibet and other Chinese concerns, a campaign group said.

The social networking site is blocked within China, but Free Tibet said it had identified around 100 accounts – many of them bearing Western names, usually a combination of two forenames – as “undoubtedly fake”, adding there could be “hundreds more”.

They are dedicated to circulating China’s message on Tibet and other controversial issues such as the restive region of Xinjiang, home to largely Muslim Uighurs, the London-based group said in a statement.

Profile pictures included photographs of US schoolgirls taken from professional photographers’ websites, models, commercial stock images and images of celebrities including the late Pink Floyd singer Syd Barrett, it added.

The roughly 20 accounts it highlighted were suspended on July 22, but the US-based *China Digital Times*, which tracks Chinese Internet and media activity, posted images of tweets by one of them, tomhugo148.

**‘[This is] China’s latest attempt to persuade the world that Tibet is a safe, protected and happy Chinese province.’**

Free Tibet Campaign

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Win Mu Tin, M.A.,H.G.P.,D.B.L.  
for ArcelorMittal  
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E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm  
Dated: 28 July 2014

They included: “Tibetans hail bumper harvest of highland barley”, and “How People of China Perceive Dalai Lama”.

Free Tibet did not give evidence of who had set up the accounts, but described them as “China’s latest attempt to persuade the world that Tibet is a safe, protected and happy Chinese province”.

The content disseminated includes attacks on the Dalai Lama – one tweet attacking the Tibetan spiritual leader has been retweeted 6555 times, it said.

They tweeted identical or very similar content, sometimes simultaneously, and the postings had “minimal ‘personal’ content” and instead provided links to Chinese Tibet-related sites.

“The extensive nature of these abuses and apparently large number of suspicious accounts makes the provision of a definitive and comprehensive list impossible,” it added.

China has governed Tibet since 1951, a year after the People’s Liberation Army invaded, and the Dalai Lama fled across the Himalayas to India after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

Impersonation is a violation of Twitter’s rules, but a spokesman declined to comment on the suspensions, saying the company does not comment on individual accounts or cases for privacy and security reasons. – *AFP*



# Telenor will partner with INGO on ‘tele-medicine’ services



AUNG KYAW NYUNT

aungkyawnyunt28@gmail.com

TELENOR Myanmar and the non-profit health organisation Marie Stopes International announced last week that they will be partnering on an initiative to connect isolated communities with healthcare professionals via smartphone.

Initially the project will be focused on young children and expectant mothers, according to a joint statement from the partners, but they plan to eventually expand the program to a wide variety of “tele-medicine” projects.

“The combination of their extensive healthcare experience and our network rollout for affordable mobile communication means we can help provide key health advice to

most parts of Myanmar,” said Petter Furberg, CEO of Telenor Myanmar.

The statement said the advice and recommendations of pre-natal health experts “will be available via text and voice activated SMS, interactive voice response, and through call centers with customised real-time advice by healthcare professionals.”

The statement did not reveal how much consumers would pay for the service, saying only that it would be for an “affordable” cost.

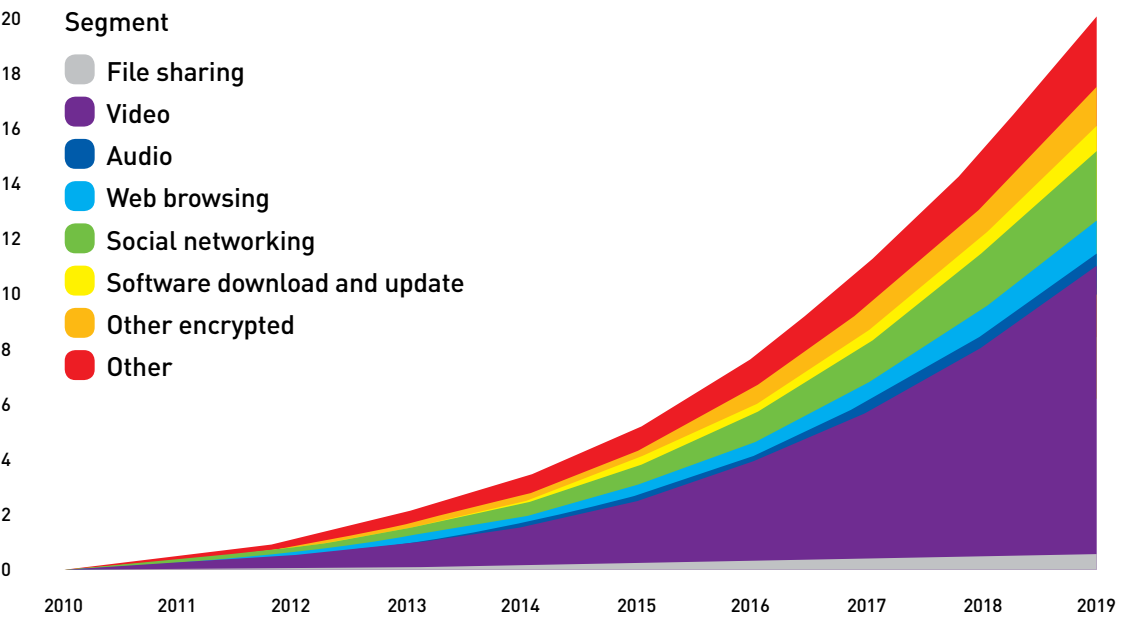
Two-thirds of Myanmar’s population lives in remote areas where accurate information about healthcare can be hard to come by.

“With 70 percent of the population living in rural areas where there is need for skilled healthcare personnel on the ground, finding innovative solutions to increase coverage of key maternal and child information and services is critically important,” said Dr. Sid Naing, country director of MSI Myanmar.

## Telco Trends

The international communications technology firm Ericsson released its annual global mobility report last week, some of the key findings have been reproduced below. As the graphs show, mobile internet will become the dominant way most consumers get online if current trends continue, with mobile video especially poised to explode. Graphics: Ko Phy

Mobile data traffic by application type, global (monthly Exabytes)



## Ooredoo announces local distributors



### IN BRIEF

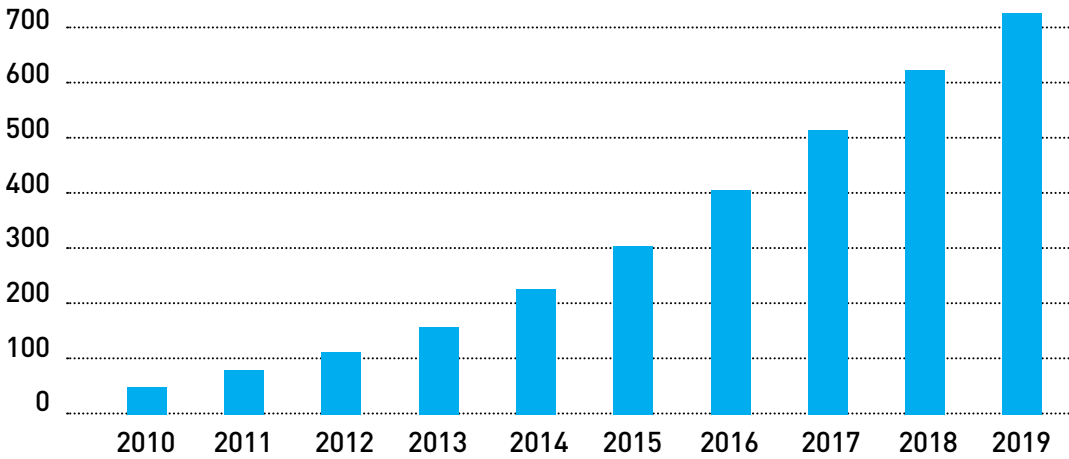
Ooredoo has announced the list of local firms that will be selling their SIM cards in the coming year.

In a statement released on July 18, the company said these partners will include Great Ayerwaddy Telecoms Company Limited, MDG Mobile Company Limited, Direct Consumer Limited, Capital Connect Limited, Kiwi & I Co. Limited, and MDR Golden Myanmar Sea Co. Limited.

The different partners will give Ooredoo footholds in the larger cities such as Yangon and Mandalay, as well as more remote markets like Mon State, Bago Region and Sagaing.

Photo: Yu Yu

Smartphone subscriptions, South East Asia and Oceania (million)



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# World

WORLD EDITOR: Fiona MacGregor

## MIDDLE EAST

## Gaza death toll tops 800 as 7-day truce proposed

ISRAELI fire on July 25 pushed the Palestinian death toll in Gaza to above 800, as Washington pressed Israel and Hamas to agree a week-long humanitarian ceasefire and thrash out a durable truce.

In the West Bank, Palestinian factions declared a "Day of Rage" after a night of clashes over Israel's Gaza offensive, with one Palestinian killed.

Among those killed in an air strike on Gaza on July 25 were two women, one of them pregnant, adding to a spiralling toll of Palestinian civilian casualties from Israel's military operation, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> day, aimed at halting militant rocket fire.

Thirty-two Israeli soldiers have been killed, and Hamas rocket attacks have killed two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker.

An incident on July 24, in which Israeli shelling of a UN facility sheltering displaced Gazans killed at least 15 civilians, has drawn widespread international condemnation.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said he was "appalled" at the shelling which "underscores the imperative for the killing to stop and to stop now".

Washington said it was "deeply saddened and concerned about the tragic incident", without explicitly blaming its ally Israel.

Amid intense international pressure on both sides to cease fire, Israel's security cabinet was to meet on July 25 to discuss a truce proposal passed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by US Secretary of State John Kerry, media reported.

It proposes a week-long humanitarian ceasefire that would allow Hamas, the de facto power in Gaza, to save face after having rejected an Egyptian initiative last week that proposed a lasting truce first and negotiations later.

According to Western and Palestinian officials, once a humanitarian lull takes hold, delegations from Israel and Hamas would arrive in Cairo, which has mediated past conflicts between the two, for indirect talks that could lead to a lasting truce.

"The way it's going is there will

be a humanitarian truce declared for seven days, and then everyone comes to Cairo for the talks," said an official with President Mahmud Abbas's Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Mr Kerry on July 24 reached out to Hamas allies Turkey and Qatar and was joined in Cairo by UN chief Ban and British Foreign Secretary Mr Philip Hammond to push forward the plan, diplomats said.

Hamas's exiled leader Khaled Me-shaal, however, told the BBC in an interview on July 24 that any truce

**'[The shelling of civilians sheltering in a UN facility] underscores the imperative for the killing to stop and to sop now.'**

**Ban Ki-moon**  
UN Secretary General

must include a guaranteed end to Israel's eight-year blockade of Gaza.

"We want a ceasefire as soon as possible, that's parallel with the lifting of the siege of Gaza," he said.

The latest truce efforts came on the last Friday of Ramadan, as Israeli braced for West Bank and east Jerusalem unrest after Palestinian factions declared a "Day of Rage" in the West Bank and Israeli police restricted entry to the Al Aqsa compound to men aged 50 and above.

One Palestinian was killed and 150 injured in clashes with Israeli forces in the West Bank, Palestinian medics said, with Israeli police arresting 29 in east Jerusalem.

In Gaza, an Israeli air strike on Khan Yunis killed Salah Hasanein, a local leader for Islamic Jihad, and his nephew, security sources said.

Attacks on a house in the southern Gaza town of Deir el-Balah killed a woman of 26 and another aged 23 who was pregnant, Palestinian emergency services spokesperson Ashraf al-Qudra said.

Two other people wounded earlier in shelling of Khan Yunis died of their wounds, Mr Qudra said, bringing the number of Gazans killed in the Israeli campaign to 807.

The July 24 strike hit a UN school sheltering some of the 100,000 Palestinians driven from their homes after weeks of deadly fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas militants.

The shell hit a courtyard where people were camped, killing least 15 people and wounding more than 200.

"Many have been killed including women and children, as well as UN staff," Mr Ban said.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said that before the strike it had been trying to coordinate with the army to evacuate civilians, without success.

Israeli army spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner suggested rocket-firing militants near the school could have caused the deaths.

He also disputed the claim that Israel had rejected a humanitarian truce around the school, saying it had implemented a four-hour window for evacuations.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Centre for Human Rights has said more than 80 percent of the casualties so far have been civilians, a quarter of them children, triggering growing international alarm.

UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos expressed deep concern over the mounting civilian casualties, saying it was "almost impossible" for Palestinians to shelter from Israeli air strikes in the densely populated territory.

A military spokesperson said militants had fired two rockets at southern Israel early on July 25 bringing the number of rockets and mortar rounds from Gaza that hit Israel since July 8 to 1,850, with another 470 intercepted by the Iron Dome defence system. — AFP



## BAMAKO

## 'Bad weather' caused Air Algerie crash: Hollande

AN Air Algerie flight that went down over Mali killing everyone on board most likely crashed by bad weather, the French government announced on July 25.

Speaking on television a day after the incident, President Francois Hollande said, "Sadly, there are no survivors."

It was unclear exactly how many people were on board AH017, as Swiftair put the number at 116 while the French presidency said 118 passengers and crew were on the jet.

AH017, was carrying 51 French nationals, when it went down shortly after take-off from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

The wreckage of the McDonnell Douglas 83 plane, operated by Spanish charter firm Swiftair on behalf of Air Algerie, was located 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of the Burkina Faso border in Mali's Gossi region.

In addition to the French victims, passengers and crew hailed from Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Algeria, Spain, Canada, Germany and Luxembourg.

It was on its way to Algiers when it crashed amid reports of heavy storms in the area, shortly after the pilots radioed in that they were diverting course due to difficult weather conditions.

A witness reported seeing the plane "falling" in the difficult-to-access Gossi region.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said meteorological conditions appeared to be the most likely cause of the accident – the worst air tragedy for French nationals since the crash of the Air France A330 linking Rio de Janeiro to Paris in June 2009.

Transport Minister Frederic Cuvillier added that the possibility of a strike from the ground had been ruled out "from the start", quashing speculation that rebels in Mali's restive north could have shot the plane down.

But Mr Hollande insisted that no potential cause for the accident was being left out.

Swiftair has a good safety record

and the head of France's DGAC civil aviation authority said on July 24 that the MD-83 had passed through France earlier that week and been given the all-clear.

The plane disaster is the third in the space of just eight days, capping a disastrous week for the aviation industry.

Mali, Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso and France were all coordinating their search efforts, and the plane wreckage was located by a French drone thanks to information provided by Burkinabe authorities.

**'Sadly, there are no survivors.'**

**Francois Hollande**  
French President

France has a strong military presence in the area after it launched an offensive in Mali last year to stop Islamist extremists and Tuareg rebels who had seized the north of the country from marching onto Bamako.

As such, around 100 French soldiers stationed in the northern city of Gao were able to travel overnight to the site of the crash on board some 30 vehicles.

The black box flight recorder of the plane had been recovered by French military forces on site and was being taken to Gao, Mr Hollande said.

In France, two crisis units were set up at the DGAC and at the foreign ministry, in addition to other emergency centres in airports around the country as many of the French passengers were transiting through Algiers on their way to France.

One French family had seven people on the plane, a brother of one passenger said.

"There was my brother, his wife and their four children, plus my nephew," Amadou Ouedraogo said via telephone. — AFP



The body of one-year-old baby Noha Mesleh, who died of wounds sustained after a UN school in Beit Hanun was hit by an Israeli tank shell, is buried in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, on July 25. Photo: AFP





Japanese McDonald's turn to Thailand after China meat scandal

WORLD 40

Indonesian presidency faces further challenge

WORLD 45



Opposition returns to parliament after boycott in Cambodia

WORLD 44



IN PICTURES

PHOTO: AFP

Relatives of passenger Mohamed Akhdar, 23, who was aboard Air Algerie flight AH5017, mourn at the family's home in the village of Zairiyeh in south Lebanon on July 25. Wreckage of the plane, which went missing after taking off from Ouagadougou bound for Algiers on July 24, was found the next day in Mali near the Burkina Faso border.

Black week for air travel

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on July 25 it will "leave nothing unturned" to boost global aviation safety after a black week for the industry that has claimed over 460 lives in three separate crashes.

"With three tragedies in such quick succession, many people will, understandably, be asking questions about aviation safety," said Tony Tyler, the head of the global airline federation.

"The greatest respect that we can pay to the memory of those involved is to leave nothing unturned in our quest to understand the cause and to take steps to ensure that it is not repeated. Our number one priority is safety. And despite the events of the past seven days, flying is safe," he added.

On July 17, a Malaysia Airlines jet crashed in rebel-held eastern Ukraine, believed downed by a surface-to-air missile, killing all 298 people on board.

A Taiwanese aircraft crashed in torrential rain in southwest Taiwan on July 23, killing 48 people. On July 25, the wreckage of an Air Algerie plane with at least 116 people on board was found in Mali's Gossi region, a day after it went missing. - AFP

DONETSK

More chaos for MH17 probe as Ukraine PM steps down

UKRAINE'S prime minister resigned after his governing coalition collapsed, plunging the former Soviet state into political limbo as it struggles to quell a deadly rebellion in the east.

The shock announcement on July 24 added to an already chaotic situation in the rebel-controlled east, where international experts are carrying out a complex investigation into the July downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 that left 298 dead.

The gravity of the situation facing the country was underscored by allegations from Washington that the US has evidence Russian troops are firing artillery on Ukrainian military positions from Russian soil.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said he was stepping down over the "dissolution of the parliamentary coalition and the blocking of government initiatives" after several parties walked out on the ruling group.

The collapse of the ruling coalition paves the way for early elections to be called by President Petro Poroshenko within 30 days.

Although a truce has been declared by both rebels and government forces in the immediate vicinity of the vast crash site, heavy shelling was ongoing nearby including around Donetsk, just 60 kilometres (40 miles) from the scene.

Ukraine's army reported four soldiers killed over the last 24 hours in its offensive to retake the eastern industrial heartland from pro-Russian insurgents.

Countries which lost 298 citizens in the disaster are looking to deploy armed police to secure the impact zone, with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte announcing the Netherlands was

sending 40 unarmed police to the crash site.

"On the site it is still clear that nothing is happening without the approval of the armed rebels who brought the plane down in the first place," said Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, whose country lost 28 citizens in the crash.

"There has still not been anything like a thorough professional search of the area where the plane went down, and there can't be while the site is controlled by armed men with vested interest in the outcome of the investigation.

**'There has still not been anything like a thorough professional search where the plane went down.'**

**Tony Abbott**  
Australian Prime Minister

The Ukrainian military said rockets were on July 24 being fired "from the Russian side", hitting locations close to Lugansk airport and in several areas in the Donetsk region.

Mortar shells also rained down on Avdiyika in the Donetsk region, the army said, without giving details of casualties.

Kiev said two fighter jets that were downed on July 23 were hit by mis-

siles launched from Russian territory, and that while the pilots ejected safely, there was no information about their whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross warned both sides to abide by the Geneva Conventions, declaring that it considered Ukraine to be in a state of civil war.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Marie Harf warned that Moscow was planning to deliver "heavier and more powerful multiple rocket launchers" to the pro-Russian separatist forces in Ukraine.

In a debate over more sanctions, Britain ruffled feathers in neighbouring France over its push for an EU arms embargo, as Paris is keen to go ahead with its sale of two warships to Russia.

US intelligence officials have said they believe the rebels mistakenly shot down the Malaysia Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur with a surface-to-air missile provided by Russia.

Moscow has denied the charges and Mr Putin has pledged to "do everything" to influence the separatists and ensure a full probe into the crash.

Russia has continued a troop build-up near the Ukraine border and kept up deliveries of arms and equipment to separatists since the downing of the Malaysian airliner, US defence officials said, without confirming that Russian troops were firing on Ukrainian positions.

The first bodies from the crash arrived in the Netherlands on July 23 to a solemn ceremony. Dozens more were flown there the following day to undergo an identification process that Mr Rutte has warned could take months.

- AFP

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U Kyi Win Associates  
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by its Attorneys-at-Law  
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INDIA.

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

**TOKYO**

A customer orders food at a McDonald's restaurant in Tokyo on July 25. Photo: AFP

## Japan's McDonald's bans Chinese chicken imports

MCDONALD'S has announced that all of its Japanese restaurants have stopped selling products made with chicken from China, with sourcing moved to Thailand in the wake of a scandal that saw expired meat sold to fast food giants.

More than 3000 restaurants across Japan had halted imports of chicken products from China "to address the concerns of our customers", the company announced on July 25.

The announcement marks a significant widening of the scandal after Japan's giant Family Mart convenience store chain and McDonald's restaurants in the country this week stopped selling chicken nuggets sourced from a scandal-hit plant near Shanghai.

On July 23, Chinese police detained five people from the unit of US food supplier OSI Group, in a case involving expired meat sold to fast food giants including McDonald's and KFC.

The move came after Shanghai authorities shut an OSI plant on July 20 for mixing out-of-date meat with fresh meat, re-labelling expired goods and other quality problems, following an investigative report by a local

television station.

The case has sparked calls for stronger regulation in a country which has seen repeated scandals over food and product safety.

The Shanghai factory's customers in China included McDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut, coffee chain Starbucks, Burger King, 7-Eleven convenience

**'It was terribly wrong and I am appalled that it ever happened in the company that I own.'**

**Sheldon Lavin**  
Chair of food supplier OSI

stores and Papa John's Pizza, according to the companies.

US burger chain Carl's Jr., also used its products, Chinese media said. Sheldon Lavin, chair and chief ex-

ecutive officer of OSI, apologised and said what happened at the factory was "completely unacceptable".

"It was terribly wrong and I am appalled that it ever happened in the company that I own," he said, adding authorities have inspected the company's other facilities in China and had not found any issues.

His comments appeared in a statement posted on the company's China website dated July 24.

The Japanese government said it was banning "any food imports that were processed by the company in question".

In its last fiscal year, McDonald's Japan bought about 38 percent of its chicken products from China, with the rest imported from Thailand, a company spokesperson said.

"We made this decision in view of the growing concern over McDonald's chicken products made in China," the Japanese unit's chief executive Sarah Casanova said in a statement.

"All of our chicken meals are now being made with poultry from Thailand," a spokesperson said on July 25. - AFP

**BANGKOK**

## King backs junta's 1-year reform plans

THAILAND'S junta won approval from the king on July 22 for an interim constitution mapping out year-long political reforms expected to curb the influence of fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

It was the first time the revered but ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 86, has granted an audience to coup leader General Prayut Chan-O-cha since the military seized power two months ago.

"General Prayut met His Majesty the King, who has endorsed the interim constitution," said deputy army spokesperson Colonel Sirichan Ngathong.

Mr Prayut has ruled out holding elections until around October 2015, despite appeals from the United States and the European Union for a return to a democratic path.

The interim constitution, when published, is expected to give an indication of how the military plans to run the country and overhaul the political system, although the main changes are expected to come later in a permanent charter.

The May coup was the latest chapter in a long-running political crisis broadly pitting Mr Thaksin's billionaire family and its supporters against a royalist establishment backed by parts of the military and judiciary.

"The goal is to utterly destroy the influence of Thaksin," said Paul Chambers, director of research at the Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs in Chiang Mai.

"But a military government and new reactionary constitution will instead tend to build sympathy and more support for Thaksin from rural and impoverished Thais."

He said the kingdom's arch-royalists would have to use tactics such as "gerrymandering on a massive scale" to prevent another election victory by a pro-Thaksin party.

The army chief seized power after nearly seven months of protests saw 28 people killed and paralysed the government of former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is Mr Thaksin's sister, and her Puea Thai Party.

The junta, which has curtailed civil liberties, has said it plans to share power with a new interim government, with the military retaining control of national security.

The new cabinet is expected to be picked by a junta-appointed national assembly which observers anticipate will be broadly subservient to the military.

The reforms could result in the lower house of parliament becoming partially appointed, like the upper house, said Kan Yuenyong, executive director of the Siam Intelligence Unit think tank.

"The conservatives know that if they let a normal election happen again, the Puea Thai Party and Yingluck maybe can win another landslide," he said.

He said the new constitution could also include an amnesty for the coup-makers.

But Mr Kan added that there was also "a lot of political conflict within the conservatives themselves," so it was unclear how radical the reforms would be. - AFP



## HermanMiller Hello Myanmar

This August, world renowned furniture design and manufacturing company Herman Miller partners with MMRD to officially launch the Herman Miller dealership in Myanmar.

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HANOI

# Tourism hits choppy waters

Public anger over disputed control of the South China Sea is causing Chinese holidaymakers to avoid Vietnam

CAT BARTON

FOR years Nguyen Huu Son has guided Chinese tourists around Vietnam's popular coastal city Danang, but a bitter maritime dispute between Hanoi and Beijing means he is now out of work.

Relations between the communist neighbours plunged to their lowest point in decades when Beijing moved a deep-sea oil rig into disputed waters in the South China Sea in early May, triggering deadly riots in Vietnam.

The rig has since been withdrawn. But the Chinese tourists have not returned.

"It's never been this bad before. My company has almost no customers, no work," Mr Son said.

Mr Son's salary has been cut by two-thirds, but he feels "embarrassed" to take even this reduced pay package as he knows his company is not making any money at all.

"We focus on individual travellers, not tour groups, and 100 percent of them cancelled. I have nothing to do with my time," he said, adding that he was mulling a change of career.

After the mid-May riots, in which China says four of its nationals were killed, Beijing evacuated thousands of citizens and issued a "yellow" travel warning for Vietnam.

While this was reasonable in the immediate aftermath of the riots, which mostly affected Taiwanese and South Korean businesses, maintaining the travel warning when any danger to tourists has passed smacks of politics, said Professor Jonathan London at City University of Hong Kong.

"It reminds one of Beijing's campaign to reduce mainland tourism to the Philippines," Mr London said, referring the economic fallout from the 2012 standoff over the Scarborough Shoal.



Foreign tourists take part in a city tour by cyclos in downtown Hanoi on July 16. Photo: AFP

After a dispute over the uninhabited shoal, Beijing warned its citizens about travel safety in the Philippines, prompting mass cancellations.

Chinese tourist arrivals to Vietnam were down 29.5 percent in June from the month before, official figures show.

29.5%

Drop in the number of Chinese tourists arriving in Vietnam after protests in May

In June, 136,726 Chinese visited Vietnam, down from 194,018 in May and 216,659 in April this year, the figures show.

Vietnam will continue tourism

promotion efforts in China, aiming to show Vietnam is a "safe destination," said Nguyen Manh Cuong, an official at the tourism department.

Tourism is an important source of revenue for communist Vietnam, contributing nearly 6 pc of the country's gross domestic product in 2013, official statistics show.

Chinese visitors make up the largest single group of arrivals, more than 1.1 million in 2014 overall, despite the sharp fall off after May.

The next largest group, South Korea, saw 405,634 arrivals.

The average Chinese visitor stays five days and spends US\$300 if they travel by land, or \$700 if they have arrived by airplane, Mr Cuong said.

This compares to an average stay of about 10 days by European or American tourists, who spend up to \$3000 during that period, official figures show.

The fall in Chinese arrivals after the maritime dispute erupted is un-

derstandable as Beijing uses outbound tourism as a "negative sanction," according to Tony Tse, a professor at the school of hotel and tourism management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Vietnamese tourists have also been cancelling trips to China in droves, although the government has not issued any travel warning, said one travel agent who declined to be named.

"It's a way to express patriotism. Vietnamese like travelling in China, but now they cancel to show their patriotism," he said.

Tran Thi Lan, 54, a primary school teacher from central Nghe An province, had booked a trip to China for this summer.

"The Chinese government's behaviour was unacceptable. We decided not to go to show our attitude. We don't want to go on holiday to a country that is invading our waters," she said.

- AFP

SEOUL

# Mystery over how ferry chief died

SOUTH Korean forensic experts said on July 25 they had been unable to determine a cause of death after examining the body of a fugitive tycoon at the heart of the inquiry into April's ferry disaster.

The body of Yoo Byung-Eun, 73, had been found June 12 in a fruit orchard in an extremely advanced state of decomposition.

At first, local police had no idea it was Mr Yoo's body and a nationwide manhunt for the reclusive billionaire had continued for six weeks before DNA and fingerprint evidence revealed the corpse's identity.

Mr Yoo was the patriarch of the family that owned and operated the *Sewol* ferry which sank April 16 with the loss of around 300 lives, mostly schoolchildren.

After Mr Yoo ignored repeated summonses for questioning over lax safety standards and regulatory violations, state prosecutors had offered a US\$500,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Several empty bottles of alcohol found near his body prompted speculation that he had committed suicide, but state forensic experts said toxicity tests had come back negative.

"The cause of death could not be determined," Seo Joong-Seok, the director general of the National Forensic Service, told a press briefing.

"Test results rule out the possibility of the deceased having taken any drug, alcohol or poison," Mr Seo said.

As to other causes, Mr Seo said the body was so badly decomposed that it had been impossible to confirm or rule out a number of scenarios including homicide.

"There is no way to determine whether he had suffered any wounds," Mr Seo said.

"And as [the body] was so badly decomposed, we were unable to determine any disease as a cause," he added.

The forensic results are likely to fuel the rampant speculation and conspiracy theories that have been doing the rounds on South Korean social networks since police announced on July 22 that the body from the orchard was Mr Yoo's.

Some have even suggested the body was not Mr Yoo's at all and had been planted by the authorities to curb criticism of their failure to capture the missing tycoon.

The fact that the body was in a police morgue for six weeks while the manhunt was still under way triggered a storm of angry ridicule.

Two senior police officials and a top prosecutor in the case were both dismissed from their posts as a result.

- AFP

BANGKOK

# Three die in car blast

A CAR bomb exploded on July 25 outside a hotel in Betong in insurgency-ravaged southern Thailand, killing three people and wounding 36 others, police said.

"A car bomb went off in front of Holiday Hill Hotel at around 4:00 pm," Lieutenant Colonel Sophon Saisuree said, adding three of the wounded were in critical condition.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but suspicion was likely to fall on Muslim insurgents waging a decade-long campaign against the Thai state. Police said they had been on heightened alert for possible attacks in the region towards the end of the fast-ing month of Ramadan. - AFP

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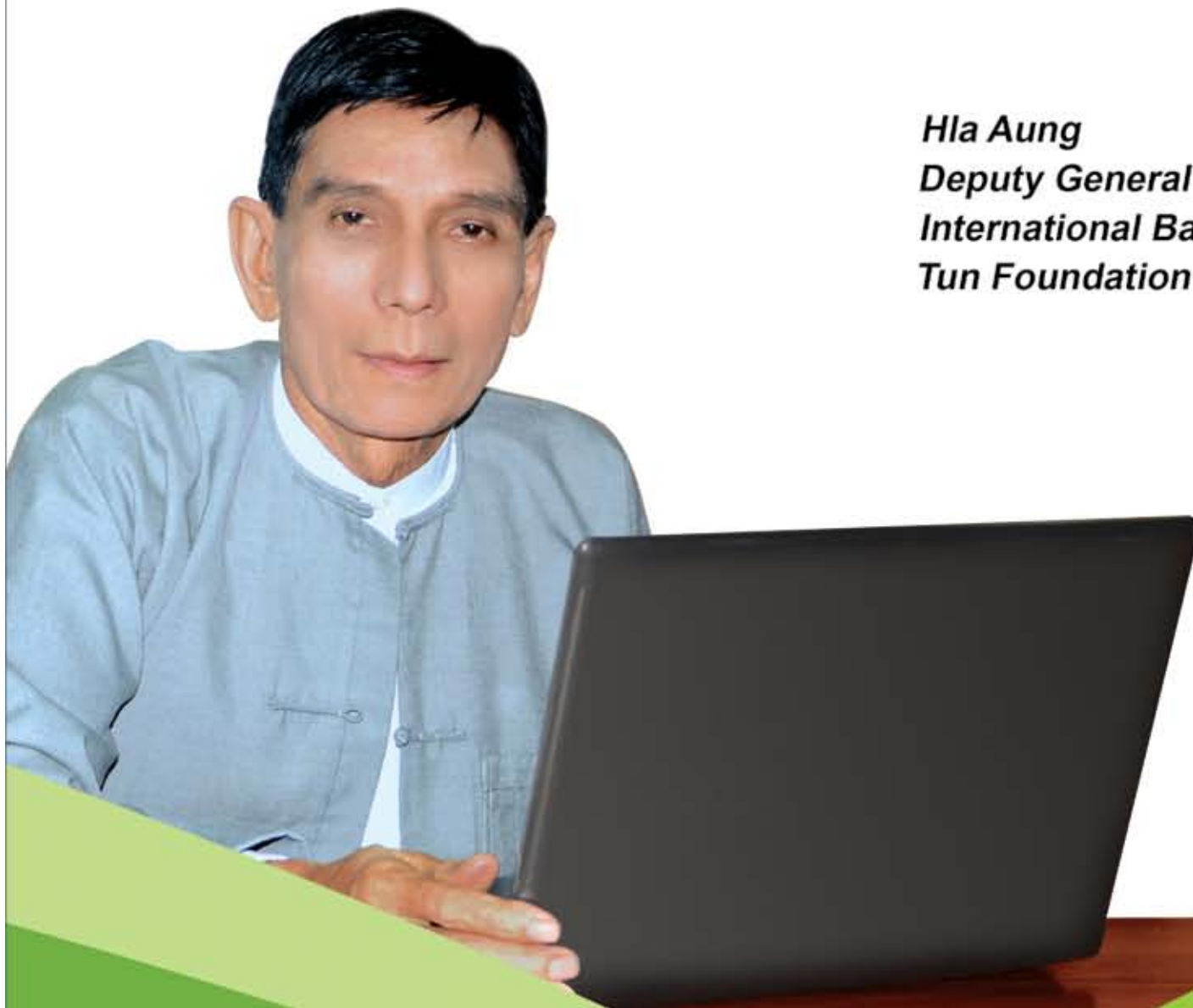
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**CORRIGENDUM**

In the Cautionary Notice for Trademark “TOVIAZ” Reg. No. 4/3494/2010 which appeared in the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 issue of this journal at page 39, “a company incorporated under the laws of New York” should read “a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands”.

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**KOYOBOND**

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Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

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Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**PHNOM PENH**

Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy sits in a car travelling to the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on July 24. Photo: AFP

## Opposition returns after year-long vote boycott

CAMBODIA'S main opposition party has struck a deal with strongman premier on July 22 Hun Sen to end its year-long boycott of parliament triggered by a disputed election.

The Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) said it had agreed on July 22 to break the deadlock and take up its seats in the National Assembly in return for a promise of electoral reforms.

It had refused to join parliament since elections in July 2013, accusing Mr Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party of stealing victory with widespread vote-rigging.

“Today we have reached a common political resolution to end the political crisis,” opposition leader Sam Rainsy told reporters after talks with Mr Hun Sen.

“We have no choice,” he added. “The only appropriate way is to end the political crisis and the tense situation.”

Mr Hun Sen, who has held power for nearly three decades, described the deal as a “success”.

Analysts say Mr Rainsy's return to the negotiating table may have been spurred by last week's arrest of eight CNRP politicians for insurrection over

a protest in the capital which saw clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

The eight were released on bail shortly after the end of the talks on July 22, according to a CNRP lawyer.

Rights groups have denounced the charges against the politicians, who could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

Under the agreement the parties will reform the National Election Committee, a key demand by the opposition which accused the body of endorsing a vote riddled by fraud.

The new committee will have nine members, four from each of the two main parties and another independent figure selected between them.

A CPP official said that would pave the way for elections which will not take place before February 2018, despite an earlier call by the opposition for fresh polls to be held sooner.

While the agreement offers a pathway through Cambodia's political impasse, some observers said it falls short of a cure-all.

“I think the devil is in the detail,” Ou Virak, of the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, said.

“I think Hun Sen got what he wanted by getting the CNRP to end the deadlock and legitimise parliament and the government”

“But the opposition will still have some cards to play. There is nothing to stop them from walking out of parliament... or going back to the streets.”

Opposition supporters have staged several major demonstrations against Mr Hun Sen's government with Mr Rainsy, a French-educated former banker, previously rejecting the poll result and vowing to fight for new polls.

Mr Hun Sen, 61, is also regularly criticised by campaigners for ignoring human rights and stamping out dissent.

A crackdown on striking garment workers in January left four people dead.

Official results of last year's poll gave the CPP 68 seats to 55 for the CNRP.

The opposition garnered just 300,000 fewer votes than the ruling party.

While it failed to unseat Mr Hun Sen, the poll was the ruling party's worst election result since 1998. — AFP

**BEIJING**

## Hopping mad over toad comparison

CHINESE reports about a giant inflatable toad have been deleted from the internet after social media users compared the puffed-up animal to a former Communist Party chief.

The installation of a giant inflatable duck in Hong Kong's harbour last year sparked a national craze for oversized blow-up wildlife, with several Chinese cities launching their own imitations.

The latest, a 22-metre-high (72-feet) toad, appeared in a Beijing park earlier this month, but met with mockery from social media users who compared its appearance to that of former President Jiang Zemin.

The website of China's official Xinhua news agency and popular web portal Sina had deleted their reports on the animal, seen as a symbol of good fortune in traditional Chinese culture, by July 23.

A message on Xinhua's website read: “Sorry, the report you are attempting to access has been deleted or has expired,” although reports on some lower-profile news sites were still accessible.

China's ruling Communist Party tightly controls the internet, blocking foreign sites such as Facebook while ordering local outlets to remove articles on political topics it deems sensitive, such as criticism of senior leaders.



A boat is steered past a 22-metre (72-feet) tall inflatable “big golden toad” by Chinese artist Guo Yongyao from Ningbo at Yu Yuan Tan Park in Beijing on June 21. Photo: AFP

Last year China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo blocked searches for “big yellow duck” after users posted an image of the iconic “Tank Man” photograph showing a Tiananmen Square protester but with military vehicles replaced by giant ducks.

Mr Jiang who stepped down as president in 2002 but still wields influence within the party, has been mockingly nicknamed “toad” by

some internet users for his jowly features.

Rumours have been swirling around Mr Jiang amid reports that current party chief and president Xi Jinping is targeting some of the former president's allies in an anti-corruption drive.

A spokesman for Yuyuantan park in Beijing said there were no immediate plans to remove the toad. — AFP



JAKARTA

# Prabowo rejects poll result with court challenge

Indonesians face more uncertainty as military chief vows court action after reformist rival declared victor

THE ex-general who lost Indonesia's presidential election to Joko Widodo will challenge the result in court, his campaign team said on July 23, a move that could spell weeks of uncertainty for the world's third-biggest democracy.

But Prabowo Subianto's last-ditch bid to overturn the result did little to dampen the enthusiasm of Widodo's supporters, with thousands staging a noisy rally next to a Jakarta monument commemorating Indonesia's proclamation of independence in 1945.

Widodo, the reform-minded governor of Jakarta seen as a break from the autocratic era of dictator Suharto, was named the winner on July 22 after results showed he resoundingly defeated Prabowo, his only challenger.

Before the result was announced following a lengthy vote-tallying process, Prabowo, a senior general during the Suharto era who has been dogged by allegations of human rights abuses, angrily announced he was withdrawing from the election.

Prabowo, who had earlier claimed victory in the July 9 election, accused his opponent of cheating in the vote count.

On July 23 a spokesperson for the ex-general's team said he plans to contest the result at the Constitutional Court, with the challenge directed at the election commission for allegedly mishandling the count.

Analysts believe the poll was largely free and fair and do not expect a court challenge to succeed given the size of Widodo's victory he won by more than 6 percentage points, or about 8.4 million votes.

But the move nevertheless signals weeks of uncertainty ahead, as the court will likely only issue a ruling on August 21.

The challenge would be filed within three days, said Prabowo spokesperson Tantowi Yahya, adding his side considered 21 million votes to be in dispute.

Prabowo's brother Hashim Djojohadikusumo, a wealthy businessman who has provided financial backing for the campaign, added, "We are



Indonesian President elect Joko Widodo gestures as he speaks to his supporters to celebrate victory in Indonesia's election in Jakarta on July 23. Photo: AFP

looking for justice ... We are expecting some fairness."

He also urged foreign leaders not to congratulate Widodo, saying that "the legal process has not ended yet".

Congratulations flooded in nevertheless, from US President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, as well as the leaders of neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia.

The US president called Widodo to congratulate him on his victory in "free and fair elections" and told him he "looks forward to meeting him at the earliest opportunity", the White House said.

Widodo seemed unperturbed by his rival's challenge and returned to

his duties as Jakarta governor at city hall on July 23. He will not be inaugurated as president until October.

He said preparations for his new job were "in progress" and a special office to help with the transition had already been set up.

At the Jakarta rally, rock bands played to a crowd of about 3000 of his supporters, who were waving banners using Widodo's nickname and reading, "Jokowi: honest, man of the people."

As the sun set over the historic site, Widodo arrived to loud cheers from the crowd and thanked all the campaign volunteers "who have been working day and night" to secure victory.

"Please now get back to your lives, to your day jobs," he joked.

Newspapers welcomed his victory, with the major Indonesian-language paper *Kompas* showing a photo of a grinning Widodo alongside his running mate Jusuf Kalla, under the headline, "It's time to move together."

The words were from Widodo's victory speech delivered on July 22, in which he urged Indonesia to unite following the country's tightest and most divisive election since the downfall of Suharto in 1998.

A Constitutional Court official said if Prabowo filed immediately hearings could begin on August 6 and a ruling would be delivered on August 21. – AFP

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BEIJING

# China’s one-child policy ages badly

With the number of over-60s set to double in the next 15 years, pensioners are facing an uncertain future with fewer relatives to care for them

CAROL HUANG

AS she nears retirement along with millions of other Chinese, He Xi-angying is too busy sending her son money and raising a stranger’s child to worry about who will eventually look after her.

The nanny’s plan is to work until her health fails, then go back to her home village in the Chinese countryside and grow vegetables to save money.

She holds out little hope of help from her jobless son.

“If he isn’t doing well for himself then why would he support his ageing parent?” said Ms He, a 51-year-old widow, welling up while her charge rested in a stroller under the shade in a Beijing park.

“I will take care of myself.”

China’s elderly population is expanding so quickly that children struggle to look after them while caregivers are either unaffordable or unavailable, prompting a scramble for solutions, even ones bucking age-old traditions that families should care for their own across the generations.

Projections show that 350 million Chinese, one in four of the population, will be aged 60 or older by 2030, almost twice as many as now.

That monumental shift, fuelled by the one-child policy, will impose a huge burden on the country, shrink the labour force that has fuelled its growth, and put the responsibility for multiple grandparents onto a single grandchild.

Many of those young adults are, like Ms He’s son, already struggling with sky-high housing prices and slowing economic growth.

“Those children who are poor, whether you live or die they cannot do anything for you,” she said, as fellow nannies manned other push-chairs nearby.

China is still only piloting schemes, such as care homes and financial products, to provide care for the elderly and help them pay for it. At present the country has only 25 care beds for every 1000 senior citizens, civil affairs minister Li Liguao said last week.

“This will be an era of a great institutional experiment for facing China’s ageing challenge,” said Wang Feng, a demographics expert with the



An elderly couple rests in a park in Beijing on June 29. Photo: AFP

Brookings Institution.

“This is not something China has encountered in the past,” he said. “The pressure is building up. It’s just going to get greater and greater.”

In Chinese culture children should look after their ageing parents, though the idea is losing sway under the pressure of modern life.

On the outskirts of Beijing, a three-star hotel has been converted into the Yiyangnian nursing home, a 300-bed complex of plain rooms and quiet hallways where residents occupy themselves playing mahjong and cards.

“If I were living at home it would be so lonely,” said Zhou Chuanxun, who has been living at the facility for two years. “Here at least I can have conversations with other people. It’s better here. Time passes quicker.”

His son and daughter “both have good jobs” and are too busy to look after him, he added.

The home charges up to 8000

yuan (US\$1290) a month, says owner Wang Yun, which is far beyond the budgets of most Chinese families.

Staffing poses another problem, as young Chinese starting careers in their fast-modernising country find the idea of bathing and feeding old people unappealing.

Authorities have sought to encourage such projects but only expect 3 percent of China’s elderly to be

accommodated in homes. And as in other countries, they are stigmatised as depressing waiting rooms for death.

At the park, a man in his 60s surnamed Zhang gossiped with friends about an ailing acquaintance just sent to a facility. “It’s like a tomb,” he said.

Another man playing a harmonica added, “Old people are not willing to leave their home. No matter how good the senior home, it’s not a home.”

The government expects the vast majority of the elderly to stay in their houses and perhaps hire a caregiver to help them.

But meeting the cost of such assistance remains a challenge, especially in poorer rural areas.

Various schemes floated so far, including increasing pension contributions or raising the age of retirement, which generally comes at 60 for men and 55 for women, have faced resistance.

Four major cities began piloting

schemes this month that confront tradition by encouraging people to sell their houses for a regular income, surrendering possession at death or when their full value has been paid out, instead of keeping them in the family.

“No way,” said a woman surnamed Chen. “You should leave something to your children.”

Solving the problems will take time, which is in short supply, said Yanzhong Huang, a China healthcare expert at the US-based Council on Foreign Relations.

“I haven’t seen any government reports saying ‘this was a very successful experiment, let’s popularise it nationwide,’” he said.

At the park a 79-year-old man in sunglasses stretching his hamstring on bright blue exercise equipment said his solution was to stay healthy.

“As long as I can look after myself I will. If you get sick, you are in pain, and your kids have to bear the burden,” he said. – AFP

MILLION  
350

People over 60 expected to be living in China by 2030

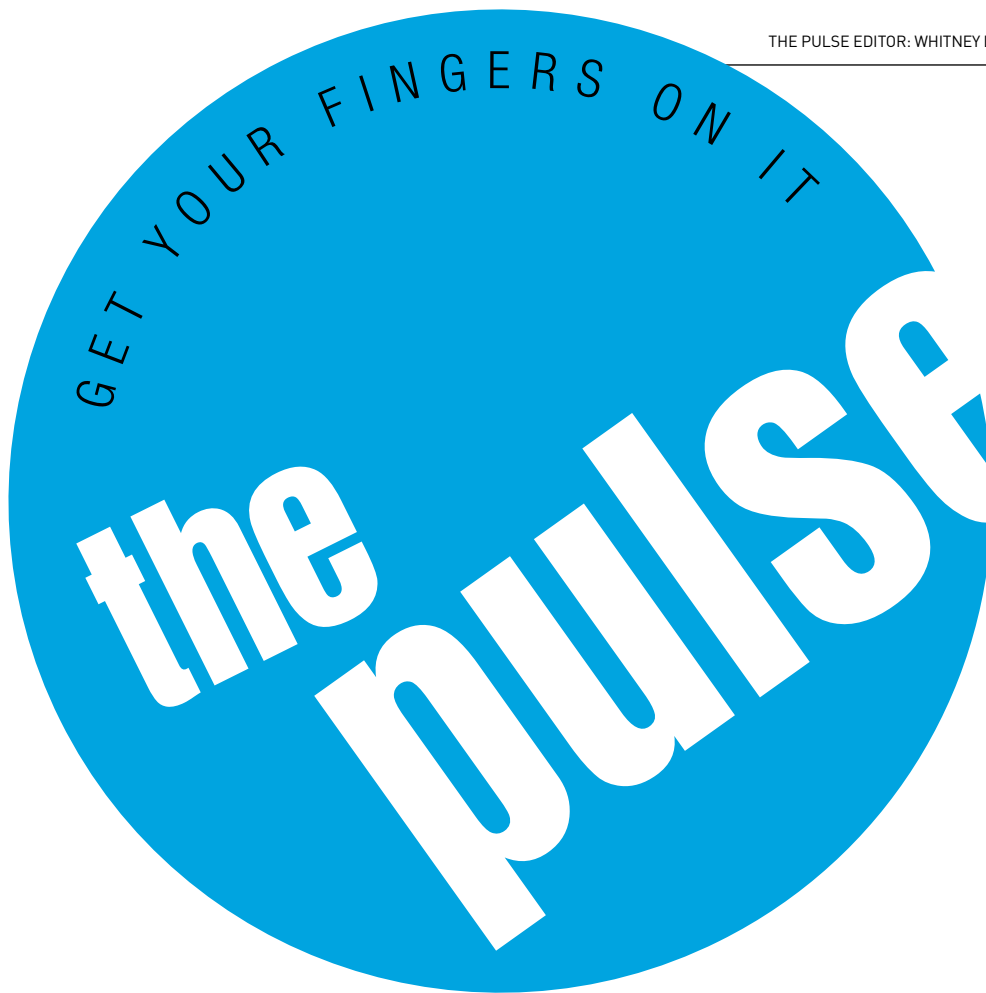
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# Minding

*As Myanmar struggles to close the digital divide between city and country, rural residents hope to benefit from greater access to communications technology*

**BY NYEIN EI EI HTWE AND ZON PANN PWINT**



Photos: Yu Yu



# the IT gap



**W**HILE mobile phones are quickly becoming an increasingly important aspect of Yangon's social and business landscapes, the same cannot be said for large swathes of Myanmar's rural regions.

A survey conducted in a village in the Ayeyarwady delta earlier this month illustrates the extent of the urban-rural divide: The investigation found, for example, that none of the 288 households are wired for electricity. Instead, they rely on a combination of solar and battery power, as well as that age-old standby, candlelight.

Furthermore, out of a population of just over 1400 people, only 50 residents have mobile phones. Of these, only four have smartphones that they can use to access the internet.

It is clear from this data that much work needs to be done to improve communications in rural areas, including connecting more villages to the national power grid, making phones and SIM cards available to low-income families, and providing fast, uninterrupted internet connections.

The delta survey was part of larger data-collection project being conducted by Proximity Designs, a Yangon-based social enterprise that creates low-cost products and services for rural families.

Ma Su Mon, a social impact manager at Proximity Designs who collected information from the delta village, said few people in rural areas can afford desktop computers or laptops for internet access.

"This particular village has a wireless internet connection in the school compound, so people with smartphones go there to use it," Ma Su Mon said.

Even this small step toward wider connectivity is a recent development in the village. It would have been impossible before last year, when K1500 SIM cards were made available to the public using a lottery system. Before then, SIM cards cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

"In some villages, a few well-off people have already bought smartphones because they have seen others using them and they admire the technology. They have waited a long time for internet connections," Ma Su Mon said.

She added that she has already seen instances where smartphones have helped enhance the business practices of people living in smaller towns.

She cited the case of a carpenter in Pakokku, Magwe Region, whom she met during another survey.

"The owner of the store where he buys his building materials always sends him lists of the prices of materials by SMS," she said. "He shows it to homeowners because he wants to clear up any doubts they might have about whether he raised the price."

She said wider internet access will be accompanied by faster connection speeds and lower phone prices, which will result in an overall increase in the number of IT users.

"We see potential because there are many villagers who want to use the internet," she said.

Ma Su Mon said villagers who have smartphones and internet connections tend to go online to read the news. They also use Facebook and Viber to communicate with family members working in Yangon and in foreign countries such as Malaysia.

"Villagers with smartphones share their experiences with other interested villagers at the teashops and explain their use," she said.

She said that in the past, when smartphones were more expensive and computers were the main tool for using IT to get information, the gap between rural and urban lives seemed virtually unbridgeable. But with technology getting cheaper, and Ooredoo and Telenor stepping in to boost Myanmar's telecommunications sector, she hopes the digital divide between city and country will narrow.

One group working to improve computer literacy is Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation (MIDO), which provides basic computing courses for rural youth.

The group's executive director, Nay Phone Latt, said young

He added, "Computers should be on every school curriculum."

U Phoe Kauk, a farmer from Danubyu township in Ayeyarwady Region, said many rural residents are keen to use the internet, but slow connections are a huge deterrent.

"We want to use the internet to find new ways to help our agriculture, but the connections are really bad," he said.

Other issues include expense and lack of electricity.

"We didn't use mobile phones in the past because they were too expensive, and we thought they weren't useful," U Phoe Kauk said.

But through articles in news journals and agriculture magazines, farmers started realising they could use the internet not only to connect with each other but also to learn about new farming and animal breeding techniques.

"Last year, the government started using a lottery system to give out cheap SIM cards in our township. Most people got the cards and even had phones, but when the electricity

doesn't come daily, how can we use our phones for the internet?" he said.

U Phoe Kauk said he grows limes and betel leaves using traditional methods learned from his father and grandfather, but he wants to improve his farming methods.

"Now the government is building more mobile towers in our township, and us farmers are waiting to see if we get better internet connections on our phones," he said.

Ko Myo Min Tun, 19, a history student in Patheingyi, Ayeyarwady Region, said accessing the internet on his mobile phone saves him the hassle of going to internet cafés.

"Most daily newspapers and journals don't reach rural areas because of transportation problems and low readership, so I want to use the internet to read updated news," he said. "The problem with internet cafés is they're full of people playing computer games, so it's better for me to access the news on my phone."

Many urban computer users, meanwhile, have been using the internet for a wider range of activities, including finding job vacancies and applying for scholarships.

Ko Zaw Lin Htet, 18, recently finished his pre-collegiate studies and has been using the internet to research universities and scholarship programs in foreign countries.

"When I first had internet access, I mostly went to the internet café to use Google Talk and chat with girls and friends," he said. "But when I got internet access at home and bought a printer, I found it very useful for helping me write papers, applying to colleges and reading news blogs to improve my English-language skills."

He added that his own personal experiences have illustrated the extent of the digital divide between urban and rural areas.

"When I travel to rural places, there's no internet access," he said. "It causes trouble when I'm trying to do research for papers or reply to important emails."

*"We like to say the whole world is a 'global village', but some communities are still kept separate from the village because of their lack of technology."*

**NAY PHONE LATT**

MYANMAR ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

people in some rural areas are completely unfamiliar with computer technology.

"When they saw laptops and projectors, they were surprised and thought we were doing magic tricks," he said.

"We like to say the whole world is a 'global village', but some communities are still kept separate from the village because of their lack of technology."

He estimated that only about 4 percent of Myanmar's population has access to the internet.

"In some areas, we had to use generators to give people practical experience using computers, and slow internet connections often created problem for our trainers," he said. "To become familiar with the technology, people need a place with reliable electricity and a good internet connection."

But even urban schools have trouble teaching computer skills to children. Many have multimedia rooms, Nay Phone Latt said, but there aren't nearly enough computers for the students.

He said teaching kids how to use computers is about far more than giving them access to the internet.

"The differences between computer-literate and illiterate children are fear, feelings of inferiority and lack of courage to do something new," he said.

"When I taught at Inle in Shan State, I learned about these differences. The computer-literate children showed the courage to try something new when they got in touch with the world through technology."



Treasures of Upper Myanmar



Myanmar's Indiana Jones, government archeologist Aung Zaw Min in Hanlin.  
Photo: Stuart Alan Becker

STUART ALAN BECKER

**S**TANDING above the rolling landscape at Site 22 of the World Heritage site of Hanlin (also known as Halin), you realise that civilizations like the Pyu city-states have come and gone – but the rich volcanic soil, hot springs and salt kept people coming back.

Believed by archeologists to have been founded somewhere around the first century CE, Hanlin was the largest and most important Pyu city until around the eighth century, when it was overtaken in importance by the much larger city Sri Ksetra, located near modern Pyay. Some scholars say Pyu culture then gradually morphed into Bagan culture, broadly shaping the society of today.

Myanmar applied to UNESCO in 1996 to have Hanlin, along with Beikthano and Sri Ksetra, included on the World Heritage list, and the sites were added just last month at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha, Qatar. Since then,

thanks to funding from Italy, one of the old wagon tracks that leads to Hanlin – about 10 miles (16 kilometres) south of Shwebo on the road to Sagaing – is now being rebuilt and expected to be completed next year.

Currently, the best way to go is by taking a right turn about 10 miles out of Shwebo on the road to Mogok. Either way the journey is about 35km (22 miles), more than an hour's slow and bumpy drive. In our car, we were held up by a flock of ducks being herded across the road by a local duck kingpin, then unexpected road construction, including sections of jagged, tire-tearing rocks piled on the road.

When we finally reached beautiful downtown Hanlin, we sat down in the town's only cafe and locals clustered around us for conversation over tea and cake.

A man of local importance, school headmaster Yan Aung Moe, 46, of the adjacent village Sadaunggyi, spoke of his affection for the place where he grew up and lives with his family today.

“One day is not enough to go

from site to site,” he said.

The Myanmar Archaeological Department had arrived in 2008 and 2009 to excavate the site and make improvements, he said, although it's been known as an archeological site since the colonial era. The understanding of the ancient inhabitants unearthed in the process made him even prouder to live there.

“By the evidence like the walls and gold pieces I have a feeling that they had a high living standard. They had a dam, they used irrigation, and in terms of agriculture they were quite advanced,” he said.

The population of Hanlin is about 6400 people, or about 1300 households. Yan Aung Moe said nearly all the residents were involved in farming of rice, different varieties of beans and sesame seeds. It's also famous for salt. He explained the method of salt extraction thus:

“We build a dyke with clay. Then, salt-rich earth is placed into the clay dyke container and under the clay dyke is bamboo which allows the salty water to drip out.” The salty water is then dried and the salt is collected. Ancient salt production is thought to have taken place at a lake, also the south, called Hanlin Inn, employing solar evaporation to get salt from the soil.

Soon, tourism will be added to the list of local industries. During the last few months, the road project has put local people to work. Following a recent visit by Myanmar's Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Yan Aung Moe said rumours were floating about the construction of a hotel.

“We are happy for the changes to come,” he said.

Overhearing our conversation in the cafe was Aung Zaw Min, an assistant engineering officer for the Department of Archaeology. He had been posted to Hanlin from Nay Pyi Taw six months earlier and could barely contain his zeal to show us the sites of the ancient Pyu.

The walled city, surrounded by 12 gates and what are now traces of a moat, covers an area of 541.4 hectares in a rectangular shape sloping to the south. It sits on a rolling volcanic plain 16km (10 miles) from the Ayeyarwady River and 27km (17 miles) from the Mu River to the west.

The hot springs lie south of the ancient city. In a few of the many springs, the water is hot enough to boil an egg.

We followed Aung Zaw Min and Yan Aung Moe on their motorcycles to the first archaeological site, a concrete building that houses excavated skeletons of an ancient graveyard, with heads facing north and buried with clay pottery, jewelry and bronze rattles, presumably for the afterlife. Carbon dating indicates the earliest graves may date back 5000 years.

The next stop on the tour was a walk around the “Southern Gateway” to ancient Pyu, which

dates to about 200 AD.

Next were the ruins of a 12<sup>th</sup> century AD pagoda of the late Bagan period, which had been landscaped recently with cactus plants put in by the Department of Archaeology.

Finally, we arrived at the very interesting HL-22 site, a square monumental excavation, with three sets of standing stone slabs dating from the second century AD suggesting a connection to the megalithic culture found at Laikor in the Indian states of Assam and Manipur.

Some of the tops of the stones had been broken off by local people thinking they were jade. Archeologists had to cement them back on.

A short distance from HL-22 are the remains of an ancient dam that provides ample evidence that the Pyu inhabitants were capable of constructing intricate and impressive hydrology systems for irrigation and defense.

On the way back to the modern village of Hanlin, we visited the archaeological museum (K5000 for foreigners and free for locals). With exhibits of silver coins and gold necklaces, as well as bricks, written texts and other artifacts, the museum is a necessary and interesting stop. A cemetery stone shows evidence of the Pyu alphabet, which relates to Indian Sanskrit as well as to today's modern Bamar language.

Hanlin locals are said to be less forthcoming than they once were about reporting silver coins and artifacts they discover owing to an incident some time ago – possibly many years ago – when an official arrived in response to honest local people reporting a discovery of valuable silver coins and then, according to the story, the official promptly sold the ancient artifacts and pocketed all the money for himself. The event left a sour taste that remains today. Nevertheless, the local people are proud of their village and the relationship they have with the ancient Pyu people.

After the museum, we visited the hot springs, stuck our fingers in water of various temperatures, and saw women and children bathing in the concreted areas around the springs. The water doesn't smell and is reputed to have curative properties. Many of the local residents, including Aung Zaw Min, bathe at the hot springs each morning.

On good advice from our host Yan Aung Moe, we exited Hanlin by the road leading to the north, toward the Shwebo-Mogok Road, passing a number of ox carts filled with hay and bamboo, attesting to a beautiful kind of country life that has existed in this area for thousands of years.

If you're traveling north of Mandalay in the Shwebo region, a visit to the Hanlin archaeological sites will offer a genuine glimpse into what life must have been like in the Pyu

city-states that rose, flourished and withered away between 2000 and 1300 years ago – and the local people rocking along the bumpy roads on their oxcarts full of hay and bamboo will remind you that today's lifestyle probably isn't that different to what it was when the walled city of Hanlin flourished.

## Legends of Hanlin

DOUGLAS LONG  
dlong125@gmail.com

APPROACHING Hanlin, the irrigated rice fields give way to dry scrubland, an area once described by archaeologist Aung Thaw as an “almost barren and desolated” landscape that could have inspired one of these stories, which said Hanlin was founded thousands of years ago by a prince whose unspecified “misdeed” resulted in “a rain of ash and molten matter pour[ing] down heavily and bury[ing] the city completely”.

In his 1972 book *Historical Sites in Burma*, Aung Thaw recounted one of these stories, which said Hanlin was founded thousands of years ago by a prince whose unspecified “misdeed” resulted in “a rain of ash and molten matter pour[ing] down heavily and bury[ing] the city completely”.

A different account of the kingdom's demise comes from Ma Khine, a local guide. According to her version, Hanlin was destroyed by a rain of hot sand from the sky, after the king murdered his gentle brother with a dagger. The brother had refused the king's order to demonstrate his ability to make gems fall from the sky for visiting Chinese diplomats.

While most of the city's inhabitants died in the sandstorm, the gentle brother's son escaped the destruction. Years later he returned to rebuild the city, and – as a devout Buddhist – his first project was to construct Shwegugyi Pagoda.

Shwegugyi is now surrounded by farmland dotted with dozens of ancient brick stupas. To the north lies the site of ancient Hanlin, while just south is Halingyi.

Legends notwithstanding, archaeologists have determined that the area has been settled since at least the Bronze Age more than 4000 years ago, long before Hanlin was established by the Pyu around the first century CE.

Evidence of these early settlers is showcased at an excavation museum adjacent to Shwegugyi. The displays are arranged in tiers, with human remains and pottery exhibited at the subterranean level at which they were uncovered by archaeologists.





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# What's on

JULY 28 - AUGUST 3

Got an event?  
List it in What's On!  
Email: [whatsonmt@gmail.com](mailto:whatsonmt@gmail.com)

## ART

**July 15-August 4** Soe Naing's solo exhibition. TS1, between Lanthit Jetty and Kaing Dan No 1 Jetty, Oo-Pa-Sa Street, Seikkan

**July 28-August 2** "Beyond 50 Years of Mahar Hmaing," Lokanat Galleries, 1st Floor, 62 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada

## FILM

Start times at Mingalar (1, 2), Thwin, Shae Shaung (1,2) and Nay Pyi Taw cinemas are 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. Start times at Junction Square and Maw Tin are 10am, 1pm and 4pm daily and 7pm and 9:30pm on Friday and Saturday. Start times at Mingalar San Pya are 10am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm and 9:30pm.

**Nay Pyi Taw Cinema**, near Sule Pagoda *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*. Directed by Matt Reeves. A sci-fi film about a battle between the apes and humans.

**Mingalar 2 Cinema**, at Dagon Center 2,

Myaynigone, Sanchaung *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

**Shae Shaung Cinema 1**, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. Directed by Michael Bay. A sci-fi action film based on the Transformers franchise.

**Shae Shaung Cinema 2**, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada *The Raid 2*. Directed by Gareth Evans. An Indonesian martial arts-crime action film.

**Junction Square Cineplex**, Kamaryut *In the Dark*. Directed by Yeo Joon Han. A Chinese horror film that conveys messages on social issues.

*Z-storm*. Directed by David Lam. A crime thriller about the biggest financial fraud ever attempted in Hong Kong.

**Mingalar San Pya Cineplex**, Phone Gyi Street and Anawrahta, Lanmadaw *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

## MUSIC

**July 1-30** Wednesday Hospitality Night. 25pc savings on selected beverages, and

performances by the Columbian Sinaloa Band and DJ Blues. Park Royal Hotel, 33 Alan Pya Road, Dagon 6pm-1am

**July 25** Live music. 50<sup>th</sup> Street Bar, 9-13 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Botahtaung 3-5pm

**August 2** "2NE1 in Myanmar" concert. Tickets at City Mart, 1876 Call Center, or by calling 09-420007777. Myanmar Event Park, Sanchaung, 5-7pm

## MISC

**July 29** Gallery conversation and drinks. Pansodan Gallery, 289 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada, 7pm-late

**July 31** Topsy Travel Talk Thursdays. Discuss alternative travel in Myanmar over drinks. Off the Beaten Track Café, Kandawgyi Oo Yin Kabar, Kandawgyi Park, Mingalar Taung Nyunt

**July 27** Drawing club. Pansodan Scene, 144 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada 10-11:30am  
August 3 Third Myanmar Otaku & Cosplay Festival, CBC ballroom, corner of Sayar San Rd and New Avenue Rd, Bahan, 10am-5pm

## LONDON

# Nosy singles sniff out partners at pheromone party

ANNE LAURE MONDESERT

**I**N a bar in trendy east London, dozens of people mill about, sniffing from plastic bags. But there are no drugs inside – just slightly smelly T-shirts.

These adventurous single men and women are at a “pheromone party”, an alternative dating trend based on the idea that smell plays a key role in the choice of a sexual partner.

Each of them has agreed to wear the same cotton T-shirt for three nights in a row, with no deodorant or perfume, and to bring it to the party.

The clothes, infused with the pure scent of the wearer's body, are placed in transparent plastic bags with numbers on coloured labels – pink for women, blue for men.

“Smell as many bags as you like. Have fun,” encourages the organiser, Judy Nadel.

There is some nervous laughter, then a sudden rush for the bags laid out on a big table in the middle of the room.

Some people open the bags carefully, taking a timid sniff, while others plunge their noses right inside.

“This one's been worn for a few days,” quipped one young man, while his friend Steven Lucas, a 23-year-old law trainee, remarks that the clothes “all smell the same”.

Those who get a sniff of their dream partner snap a picture of themselves with the bag. The images are then projected onto the wall, and the lucky owners of the chosen T-shirts have the chance to meet their admirers.

A bearded young man wearing a white shirt unbuttoned to reveal his chest hair decides to improve his chances, grabbing handfuls of bags – numbers 35, 88, 52, 128 and others.

There are smiles all around, and the atmosphere in the bar is playful.

“It is such a weird concept. It's a huge ice-breaker because you are smelling a stranger's T-shirt – you can't be cool or pretentious,” Nadel says.

She launched her pheromone parties in London early this year, taking on a concept that was first promoted in the United States in 2010 by artist Judith Prays.

The idea is inspired by a 1995 experiment by a Swiss scientist, Claus Wedekind, and the belief that pheromones – chemicals that are fundamental to the sexual behaviour of animals – can also be picked up by humans.

Six couples got together at the first party in London in March, although Nadel is not sure whether their relationships have lasted.

In a city partial to alternative dating methods, this odorous concept has proved seductive – the two parties so far have both attracted more than 140 people, with plenty left on the waiting list.

Booking early pays – tickets cost up to £12 (US\$20).

“London is such an amazing and vibrant city, but it's difficult to meet people, and they tend to stick to themselves, in their groups,” says Nadel, herself a single woman who became frustrated with traditional dating websites.

Marta Montserrat, 33, circulates with her sister Berta, 29, who is worrying that her T-shirt is missing from the table.

*‘It doesn't matter what I smell if I don't like what I see.’*

**Marta Montserrat**  
Pheromone sniffer

Both sisters, recently single, have come because a friend got them tickets.

They move enthusiastically from bag to bag, breathing in the aromas and trying to judge the character of the wearers from the style and colour of the T-shirt, and how they have been folded or crunched up in the bag.

But as the night draws on, Marta Montserrat starts to despair of finding her soulmate.

“It doesn't matter what I smell if I don't like what I see,” sighs the chatty brunette, casting an eye around the other participants, none of whom are her “type”.

Bob, 48, stands apart from the crowd and sips his drink. “Funnily enough I was scared that someone would smell my shirt and throw it down,” he confides. Fortunately, everyone remains civilised. – AFP



Partygoers sniff the bagged T-shirts of other attendees at a pheromone party in London on March 25. Photo: AFP

**now!**

**that's HOT**

**now!** စာစောင်မှာအော်ပြနေတဲ့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲ့ ထိပ်တန်းမော်ဒယ်တွေနဲ့ သိပ်ကို ခေတ်ဆန်လွန်းတဲ့ အသွင်အပြင်တွေကို အော်ပြတဲ့ **Fashion Focus** ကဏ္ဍမှာ ဖြောင့်ခြာပြီး သင့်ရောင်းအားတွေကို မြှင့်တင်ကြည့်လိုက်ပါ။

အထက်ခေါ်ပြတဲ့ **Fashion Focus** ကဏ္ဍက သင့်ကို ထူးခြားလွန်းနေမှာပါ။ ကမ်းပတ်မှာ ကမ်းမိသားစုဝင်ပြီး ဆိုင်း တစ်ဆိုင်း၊ သို့မဟုတ် တစ်ရပ်တည်းတည်းဆိုင်းတည်းဆိုင်းတည်းမှာ သင့်တရားနဲ့ ချစ်ခင်စာတတ်သော အကောင်းဆုံး ဓာတ်ပုံပညာရှင်တွေက ချိတ်ကူးပေးမယ့် စာမျက်နှာ၊ စာမျက်နှာမှာ သင့်တရားနဲ့ အသွင်အပြင်နဲ့ တော်ကို အသက်ဝင်အောင် လုပ်ကြည့်လိုက်ပါ။ **now!** ရဲ့ **Fashion Focus Feature Package** မှာ ပါဝင်မှာတွေကတော့-

- **now!** ရဲ့ ကွန်ဒိုကွန်ဒို Stylist တွေနဲ့ တိုင်ပင်ဆွေးနွေးပြီး လူတို့က သင့်ရဲ့ image ကို ဖော်ပြအောင် ထူးခြားတဲ့ပုံစံတွေနဲ့ ခန့်တီးပေးခြင်း
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- စုတင်အဖွဲ့သားတွေအားလုံးအတွက် ကြိုဆိုခေါ်ဝေါ်ခန့် အစားပြောဆိုခွင့်ရခြင်း ချိတ်ကွင်းစီစီစီစီ ပေးမည်မှာပါ။

ပါတွေအားလုံးအတွက် ကွသင့်တွေက **ဒေါ်လာ ၅၀၀** ဆိုပေးမယ့် အခု **ဒေါ်လာ ၂၅၀** နဲ့ ခန့်ဝင်ပါ။ စက်တင်ဘာလ ၁ ရက်နေ့ မတိုင်ခင် ကြိုတင်စာရင်းဝင်ပြီး **၅၀ ရာခိုင်နှုန်း** လျှော့နည်းတဲ့ စာရင်းလိုက်ပါ။

အချိန်ဆွဲမနေနဲ့ **၀၁-၃၉၂၉၂၉ (သို့) ၂၅၃၆၄၂** ကို အခုပဲ ဖုန်းခေါ်လိုက်ပါ။

**get your hands on FASHION FOCUS**



# Street seen

Photos: Yu Yu



## WEEKLY PREDICTIONS

JULY 28 - AUGUST 3, 2014

**AQUARIUS** | Jan 20 – Feb 18



Emotions are the colour of life, and you would be a drab creature without them. But you must restrain those emotions that are negative and destructive, or they will control you. Experience is not what happens to you, it is what you do with what happens.

**PISCES** | Feb 19 – March 20



Your conscious mind is distracted by worry, fear and the pressure of time, but your subconscious mind can help solve the problem. Always take corrective action when discipline is needed. Know that discipline is not about administering it but maintaining it.

**ARIES** | Mar 21 – Apr 19



You are not the same person today that you were yesterday. Asceticism and the experience of profound wisdom bring maturity. Inconsistent discipline produces insecurity. According to Aristotle Onassis, the secret to success is to know something great that nobody else knows.

**TAURUS** | Apr 20 – May 20



Impersonal and imaginative questions can make for stimulating conversation. Do you listen and learn? Make your contributions visible to establish your value. Get in the habit of enhancing your flexibility. Know that enthusiasm is a way of life not an emotional problem.

**GEMINI** | May 21 – June 20



Think carefully about your own desires and fears as part of your renegotiation strategy. Know that the one who wins the war is not always the strongest but often confident and brave. Keep on top of current events and notice changes in your favour.

**CANCER** | June 21 – July 22



Don't be afraid of asking or ashamed of learning. Be courageous in right action and steady in decision-making. Taking charge in crisis is to define your role and to maintain discipline. Pay more attention to the voices of common people and confidantes, but learn from nature.

**LEO** | July 23 – Aug 22



As a leader in any circumstance, you must dominate the situation or it will dominate you. General Douglas MacArthur said it is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it. Know that people don't like to follow the leader who is not alert or has trouble coming to a right decision.

**VIRGO** | Aug 23 – Sept 22



Be ready to be on your best behaviour for a long time. It is pleasant and important to find that real merit is appreciated. Your dreams could inspire a new social life, but as long as social invitations are being offered you must go ahead full-speed to show your personal integrity.

**LIBRA** | Sept 23 – Oct 22



Everyone is responsible for being sympathetic in social life, and the higher your position the greater your responsibility. Never make a fool of yourself by acting in doubt. Change gears to find your right path. Do what needs to be done as the situation presents itself.

**SCORPIO** | Oct 23 – Nov 21



The more self-aware you are in social life the better you will behave. Your different idea of the truth must have a logical basis. You must prove your experience to others. Know that image is important in social relationships, and love is the essence of the heart.

**SAGITTARIUS** | Nov 22 – Dec 21



Your first step to getting more comfortable should be a willingness to get uncomfortable. Develop immunity to your anxiety, depression and adverse responses to stress. True silence is mind nourishment, and refreshment is required right now to empower your thoughts.

**CAPRICORN** | Dec 22 – Jan 19



Minds, like bodies, will often fall into an ill state from mere excess of comfort, according to the psychological research of Charles Dickens. Your willingness to forego comfort in pursuit of learning is the right action. Learn to be comfortable with discomfort.

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## PARIS

# Looking back at elegant 1950s fashion

HELEN ROWE

**C**INCHED at the waist, with soft rounded shoulders and a swirling skirt, Christian Dior's famous "Bonbon" dress today appears the epitome of modesty and restraint.

But in 1947 – after years of clothing coupons and wartime austerity – this simple dusty-pink wool dress with a brown belt was nothing short of scandalous.

The French fashion designer had been yearning for a return to a more feminine silhouette to replace what he called post-war "soldier women with a boxer's build".

The hourglass-shaped "Bonbon" or "Sweetie" dress – one of more than 100 haute couture outfits that have just gone on display at a new exhibition in Paris – fit that bill perfectly.

Dubbed the "New Look" by *Harper's Bazaar* magazine, this return to feminine curves was an immediate hit although the amount of fabric Dior's new designs required caused outrage.

During the war years, dresses were typically made from just 3 yards (2.7 metres) of material. By contrast, one of Dior's new evening dresses required no less than 25 yards (23 metres) of taffeta.

Dior himself attributed the huge success of the "Bonbon" dress not just to its being "pretty" but also to its price tag – it sold for much less than it cost to make because of a pricing error.

The style was highly influential and "found great resonance with other couturiers", according to Olivier Saillard, co-curator of "Fashion in France 1947-1957" at Paris's Galliera museum of fashion.

The exhibition celebrates the glory days of haute couture, an exclusive, labour-intensive type of fashion design, through celebrated outfits by designers such as Dior, Chanel, Cristobal Balenciaga, Jacques Fath, Jacques Heim and Hubert de Givenchy.

For a decade from 1947, haute couture was dominated by a small



A dress by Hermes is displayed at the Palais Galliera in Paris on July 10 as part of an exhibition on French fashion between 1947 and 1957. Photo: AFP/Stephane De Sakutin

group of male designers whose wasp-waisted dresses implied a return to the corset and the aesthetics of the Edwardian era.

"It's very elegant but it can also give the idea of a woman who is trapped by the mysteries of her seduction," Saillard said.

Such supremely feminine clothes were too much for Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel, who considered them old fashioned and not suitable for liberated, working women.

Rebelling against this stylistic domination, she engineered a comeback at the age of 71.

Her 1954 collection expressed the desire of women who had worked their way through two world wars for style teamed with comfort and practicality.

The simple, straight suits and dresses with echoes of her pre-war designs were at first snubbed by critics, then acclaimed.

Although the fashion world was on the brink of changes that would ultimately make stylish clothes available to everyone, it was a time when the wardrobe of women able to afford haute couture was still bafflingly complex.

Clothes were divided up into categories such as day suits, travel suits, classic suits, two-piece day suits,

travel coats, everyday coats, lunch dresses, day dresses and formal day dresses.

For evening, there was yet more subtle variety with early evening dresses, eating out dresses, dinner dresses, dancing dresses, cabaret dresses and evening dresses.

"Clients used to change their clothes three or four times a day," Saillard said.

The cocktail dress, which was to become a symbol of the decade, was the 1950s' answer to the early evening dress.

Examples in the exhibition include Pierre Balmain's strapless "Clorinde" dress in ivory silk chiffon and metal thread embroidery and Balenciaga's pink taffeta "Baby doll" dress.

The disappearance of the cocktail dress mirrored the demise of many of the old haute couture houses.

Pierre Cardin, one of the earliest believers in ready-to-wear fashion, was in 1959 expelled from Paris's association of haute couturiers for launching a ready-to-wear collection.

But times were changing. Ready-to-wear was an unstoppable force and Cardin was later readmitted.

Of the 106 haute couture fashion houses that existed in 1946, only 36 were still there in 1958. –AFP

## Toronto film fest announces partial line-up

MICHEL COMTE

THE upcoming Toronto film festival will showcase a "big year" for Reese Witherspoon, James Gandolfini's final movie and Oscar-bait performances from several major Hollywood stars, organisers said on July 22.

More than 300 feature films will be screened at the 39<sup>th</sup> Toronto International Film Festival, which runs from September 4 to 14.

The event has traditionally been key for Oscar-conscious studios and distributors, attracting hundreds of filmmakers and actors to the red carpet in Canada's largest city.

Last year, Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave* won the audience prize for best picture, before going on to win three Oscars including the coveted statuette for best picture.

In presenting this year's line-up, festival boss Cameron Bailey told a press conference in Toronto that fans of Witherspoon should be ready for a "big year" from the Oscar winner.

The 38-year-old Witherspoon has been one of Hollywood's highest-paid

and most bankable box office draws since her breakout role in the 2001 comedy *Legally Blonde*.

But she failed to gain credibility as a serious actress until her 2006 Oscar win for her performance as singer June Carter Cash – the wife of superstar Johnny Cash – in James Mangold's biopic *Walk the Line*.

In September, Toronto audiences will have an opportunity to see her again in two new films: *The Good Lie* about an American woman who takes in a Sudanese refugee, and *Wild*, the film adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's best-selling memoir.

*Wild* is directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, whose previous feature, *Dallas Buyers Club* began its journey to Oscar success in Toronto last year.

James Gandolfini makes a posthumous return to movie screens in the gangland tale *The Drop*, shot just before his death in June 2013.

His penultimate film *Enough Said*, a romantic comedy co-starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, was warmly received in Toronto last year.

For the first time, North America's largest film festival will showcase only world premieres over the first four

days, including from directors Noah Baumbach, Susanne Bier, François Ozon, Lone Scherfig and Chris Rock.

The new policy was put in place as competition between film festivals around the world to land more premieres heats up, explained festival co-director Piers Handling.

The Venice film festival and the Telluride film festival in the US state of Colorado both start at the end of August and overlap with the Toronto event.

"It doesn't affect the selection of the films at all. It only affects the scheduling," Handling said.

Also this year, Robert Duvall and Robert Downey Jr will appear as father and son in the court drama *The Judge*.

Shawn Levies's *This is Where I Leave You* – starring Jason Bateman, Tina Fey and Jane Fonda – follows four siblings who reunite after their father's death.

Denzel Washington returns in the movie adaptation of the 1980s television series *The Equalizer*.

Chris Rock directs and stars in *Top Five* about a comedian proving his acting chops. –AFP

## The Global Gossip



Rachel McAdams and Mick Jagger attend Lionsgate and Roadside Attraction's premiere of *A Most Wanted Man* at Skylark in New York City on July 22. Photo: Dimitrios Kambouris/AFP

## LOS ANGELES

### Beetles devour George Harrison tree

A tree planted in a Los Angeles park in memory of the late George Harrison of the Beatles has been killed by beetles, a city councilor said July 22.

Tom LaBonge, whose district includes Griffith Park, told AFP that the Japanese black pine tree, planted about 12 years ago, would be replaced at a community planting that is due to take place in November.

It had grown to 12 feet (nearly 4 metres) in height but succumbed to bark beetles thriving in the vast and popular inner-city park amid one of California's worst droughts in years.

Harrison, the Beatles' lead guitarist as well as a chart-topping solo artist and avid gardener, lived in Los Angeles prior to his death in 2001.

A plaque at the base of the tree read, "In memory of a great humanitarian who touched the world as an artist, a musician and a gardener."

## PARIS

### Paris hotels allow guests to 'pay what you want'

Five Paris hotels on July 21 launched a scheme allowing guests to "pay what you want" in an experiment that may be extended if successful.

The three- and four-star hotels taking part in the scheme are located in the city's 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> districts – a little away from the city's tourist centres. The owners are bullish about the prospects and confident that clients will not abuse the scheme.

Tourists often complain about high hotel rates in Paris and tiny rooms. France attracts more tourists than any other country in the world.

The scheme will run until August 10 and will be available only to those who have made bookings through the website [www.payezcequevousvoulez.net](http://www.payezcequevousvoulez.net).

The hotels taking part have so far only set aside two to three rooms each under the scheme.



A model presents a creation by design students of the Andean Region University Foundation, during the Colombiamoda fashion show in Medellin, Colombia, on July 22. Photo: AFP/Raul Arboleda

## BERLIN

### 'Sex tax' also applies to tantric massage, German court rules

Tantric massages provide sexual pleasure and are subject to the same tax levied on brothels and swinger clubs in Stuttgart, a state court said July 21.

The decision by an administrative court in Baden-Wuerttemberg state followed a complaint by the owner of a massage parlour who had been billed a total of 840 euros (US\$1140) for January and February 2012 under a local "amusement tax" targeting the local sex trade.

The court said that a studio offering the massages falls under the same tax levied on businesses that "specifically grant the opportunity for sexual pleasures".

It upheld the ruling of a lower court from November. Stuttgart introduced the "amusement tax" in 2012.

The business owner had argued that tantric massages should be exempt because "the main purpose of the treatment is not sexual pleasure". Rather, she said, the massage is aimed at providing holistic well-being.

But the court stressed that because massages including the genital area can be booked for a fee, the business fit the tax criteria.



Joan Jett attends the 2014 Gibson Brands AP Music Awards at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 21. Photo: Duane Prokop/AFP

## LOS ANGELES

### 'Weird Al' Yankovic tops charts with parody album

US comedian-singer "Weird Al" Yankovic has scored a career-first number one album following a viral video campaign parodying two of the biggest hits of the past year.

Yankovic, 54, famed for his 1984 spoof version of Michael Jackson's "Beat It" – "Eat It" – finally found chart-topping glory after coming up with comic versions of Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" and Pharrell's "Happy".

"Blurred Lines" has been re-imagined as "Word Crimes" – a lighthearted rallying cry against poor grammar – while "Happy" is aped as "Tacky", poking fun at eccentric fashion tastes.

Both parodies were included on the album *Mandatory Fun* which has debuted at number one on Billboard's 200 chart.

It is the first comedy album to reach top spot since 1963 and logged the highest weekly sales of any comedy album for 20 years. –AFP



Indian Bollywood actress Poonam Dhillon poses with the 2014 International Indian Achievers Awards trophy during its unveiling in Mumbai on July 21. Photo: AFP



# Italian herbs inspire veggie dishes

### CARAMELISED CAULIFLOWER

Serves 4


- 400-500g cauliflower
- ½ tsp fennel seeds
- ½ tsp dried Italian basil
- ½ tsp dried thyme
- ¼ tsp chilli flakes
- ¼ cup olive oil

Cut the cauliflower into florets and slice the stems thinly.

Add olive oil to a frying pan and heat on high. Fry the cauliflower for 4-6 minutes or until caramelised. Cover with a lid during frying. Keep stirring or tossing frequently to cook evenly. Then transfer to a plate.

Fry spices in 1 tablespoon of oil for 30 seconds. Bring the cauliflower back into the pan and fry 2 minutes more.

Serve warm with rice or as a side dish.



**PHYO ARBIDANS**  
phyo.arbidans@gmail.com



## food



Photos: Phyo

**A**MONG my family's mealtime favourites are some Italian vegetable dishes. The first one is fried eggplant, tomatoes and garlic. It's very simple and authentic. I used to serve this at dinner parties and Sunday brunches in Sydney. Everyone cleaned their plate of it.

You can also serve it as a side dish, or you can use it to make sandwiches, pasta or rice. Another benefit: It's not at all expensive to prepare.

The second dish I'm sharing is caramelised cauliflower with Italian herbs. The cauliflower prepared this way is sweet and crunchy. Sometimes I splash a bit of white wine in the pan while it's cooking, but that's optional.

**FRIED EGGPLANT WITH TOMATOES AND GARLIC**  
Serves 6

- 3 eggplants
- 8 ripe tomatoes
- 1 tsp Italian basil dried leaves
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1/3 cup olive oil

Cut the top of the eggplant and cut them into 5cm (2-inch) lengths. Cut each length into four slices. Sprinkle with ½ teaspoon salt and rub in. This will prevent the eggplant from oxidising and changing colour.

Wash tomatoes, slit them at the top in a cross shape and cover them with water in a sauce pan. Bring to a boil. When the

skins split, transfer them to cold water to cool down. Peel and dice roughly. Set aside.

Crush the garlic and set aside.

Add two-thirds of the oil into a wok or a frying pan and heat on high. Fry the eggplant in batches until they become soft and cooked through. Add more oil if needed. Then let rest on a plate.

Turn the heat down to low. Sauté the dried basil for 30 seconds. Then fry the tomatoes for 3-4 minutes or until the liquid is evaporated.

Add garlic and fry. When the aroma comes out, bring the eggplant back to the pan and turn the heat up to high again. Then salt to taste and fry for 2 minutes more.

Serve warm with rice or pasta, or as a side dish.

# Jing Hpaw brings the tastes of the far north to Yangon

**CHIT SU WAI**  
suwai.chit@gmail.com

SHORT of travelling up to Myanmar's northmost region, one of the best places in the country to satisfy a craving for traditional Kachin food is Jing Hpaw restaurant in Yangon. Located in Sanchaung township, just a few blocks west of Dagon Centre, it can be reached from downtown in about 30 minutes.

The restaurant is decorated with wall hangings made from traditional Kachin fabrics, and photographs of Kachin State scenery add to the feeling that guests are far from the city. The dining room is air-conditioned, although Wi-Fi is not available. The space is fairly narrow but quite comfortable.

The waiters are very polite and are willing to take the time to explain the menu and make ordering suggestions.

We decided to start with *shat jam* (K2000), which is

Kachin rice mixed with chicken, sesame and vegetables. The taste is a little sweet and a little salty, but thoroughly delicious. We also ordered *phoe tan*, or century egg salad (K2500), which is good but tastes similar to other salads that can found elsewhere around town.

One of the great Kachin delicacies is fish marinated in herbs and steamed in a banana leaf (K1800). The aroma is amazing, and the fresh, spicy taste is even better.

*Si pa* (K2500) is suitable for vegetarians. It consists of a mix of pumpkin, lady fingers, long beans and various edible leaves. It's got a pleasant, chilli-laden smell, and very little oil is used in the cooking. The vegetables are not over-cooked, so they retain their crispness and flavour.

Jing Hpaw is also famous for its Kachin-style chicken curry (K3800), which comes out of the kitchen smelling deliciously spicy with a taste to match. This dish goes well with Kachin rice wine (K1000 for one cup), which has



## Restaurant Review



a soft taste that flows warmly down the throat. The waiter explained that the wine is good for the health because it is infused with medicinal herbs.

Other good rice wine matches include the fried pounded potatoes (K2500), which are also virtually oil-free but come with an added kick due to the onions sprinkled on top.

During my visit, the small dining room was nearly full with a mix of locals and foreigners, but it was still calm and quiet. The pleasant atmosphere, the fair prices and the amazing food all contribute to making Jing Hpaw a great place to have a meal with family and friends.

### Jing Hpaw

2B Kyun Taw Street,  
Sanchaung township

Restaurant Rating  
★★★★★

Food:	10
Beverage:	8
Service:	8
Value for money:	8
X factor:	8



Photos: Chit Su Wai





May Myat Su Aung, Aye Mon Thu, Hnin Lwin Lwin



Candy Thet, Kayk, Alex Phuy and Ying Zhu Xu



Win Oo, Ko Phyo and San Thaw Tar

## Fancy House

Fancy House Hair and Beauty Nail Spa celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 22. The glamorous denizens of Yangon's fashion world converged on Sedona Hotel to join the spa's big hairstyle and design show.



Rajeev Singh, director general of the Indian Chamber of Commerce



Luc Pesant



Uni-Icon Travel and Tour



Thant Zin Naing, Lim Pak Li Johnathan and Kyaw Sit Naing



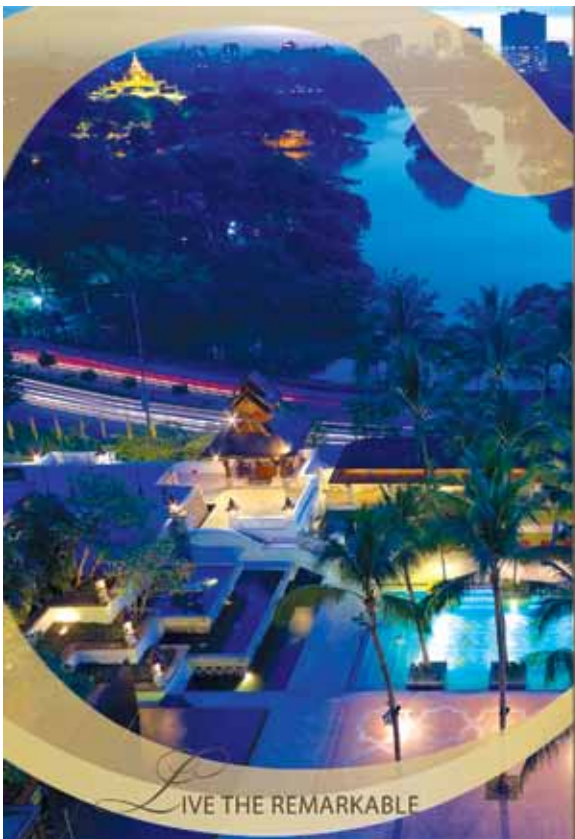
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**Photos:**  
ima/Emmanuel Maillard  
imaphotodesign@gmail.com



Representatives from I S Leather



### India Investrade

Zaw Zaw Naing, president of the Myanmar India International Business Association

The Indian embassy and the Indian Chamber of Commerce hosted the India Investrade 2014 show at Se-dona Hotel on July 23 and 24. About 50 companies from India came to Yangon, some for the very first time, to meet potential business partners in Myanmar.



Naung Kyaw and Moe Way



Zeya and Mhan Pho Aye



Than Swe and Koinn Wa



### Myanmar Poets' Union

The Myanmar Poets' Union held a ceremony at Last Leaf Art Gallery on Pansodan Road in Yangon on July 23 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of politician and writer Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing.



Thurein Win



Dr. Kyaw Zay Wint



Chan Myae Win



Lin Than Nyi and Kay Zaw Moe



Moon Thu Eaih and Tain Moe Wai



U Htein Win, vice chairman of the Tanintharyi Chamber of Commerce and Industry with his guests



Shah Brothers tea merchants

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E : bd@bristol.com.mm

W : www.bristol.com.mm



DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A1	1,2,3,4,5	7:30	8:30
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

YANGON TO MANDALAY			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 7143/YJ 143	Daily	6:20	8:25
YH 917	Daily	6:10	8:30
6T 401	2,4,5,7	6:20	8:25
K7 222/7Y 111	Daily	6:30	8:40
6T 401	1,3	7:00	8:25
7Y 851	1,3,4,6,7	7:05	11:20
W9 201	Daily	7:30	8:55
7Y 741	2,5	8:00	12:45
YH 727	1	11:00	13:10
YH 729	2,4,6	11:00	14:00
YH 737	3,5,7	11:00	13:10
W9 151/YJ 7151	1,3,6	11:00	14:45
W9 7153/YJ 153	2,5,7	11:00	12:25
YH 731	Daily	14:30	16:40
K7 224/7Y 221	Daily	14:30	16:35
6T 501	2,4,7	14:45	16:45
6T 501	3,5	15:30	17:30
W9 211	1,2,3,5,6	16:00	17:25
W9 7211/YJ 211	4	16:00	17:25
Y5 234	Daily	17:45	18:55

YANGON TO NYAUNG U			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 917	Daily	6:10	7:45
6T 401	2,4,5,7	6:20	7:40
6T 411	6	6:20	7:40
W9 7143/YJ 143	Daily	6:20	7:40
K7 222/7Y 111	Daily	6:30	7:50
6T 401	1	7:00	9:10
6T 401	3	7:00	9:15
6T 501	6	10:30	11:50
K7 224/7Y 221	Daily	14:30	17:25
YH 731	1,3,5,6,7	14:30	17:25
6T 501	2,4,7	14:45	17:35
6T 501	3,5	15:30	18:20
W9 211	1,2,3,5,6	16:00	18:10
W9 7211/YJ 211	4	16:00	18:10

YANGON TO MYITKYINA			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 824	1	7:00	9:40
YH 828	2,6	7:00	10:00
7Y 851	1,3,4,6,7	7:05	12:45
W9 7151/YJ 151	1,3,6	11:00	13:15
W9 7153/YJ 153	2,5,7	11:00	13:55
YH 826	4	14:00	16:40

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A2	1,2,3,4,5	8:50	9:50
FMI A2	6	10:00	11:00
FMI B2	1,2,3,4,5	13:00	14:00
FMI A2	7	17:00	18:00
FMI C2	1,2,3,4,5	18:05	19:05

MANDALAY TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 918	Daily	8:30	10:25
W9 7143/YJ 143	Daily	8:40	10:05
6T 401	3	8:45	11:35
6T 402	2,4,5,7	8:45	10:45
K7 223/7Y 112	Daily	8:55	11:00
W9 201	Daily	9:10	11:05
6T 402	1	10:10	12:10
7Y 852	1,3,4,6,7	14:25	18:40
W9 153/YJ 7153	7	12:45	19:30
W9 153/YJ 7153	2,5	12:45	18:50
7Y 742	2,5	13:00	17:18
W9 7152/YJ 152	1,3,6	15:05	16:30
YH 728	1	16:30	17:55
YH 732	Daily	16:40	18:45
6T 502	6	16:50	18:55
K7 225/7Y 222	Daily	16:50	19:00
6T 502	2,4,7	17:05	19:10
YH 738	3,5,7	17:10	18:35
YH 730	2,4,6	17:45	19:10
6T 502	3,5	17:50	19:55
Y5 776	Daily	19:35	20:45

NYAUNG U TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 918	Daily	7:45	10:25
W9 7143/YJ 143	Daily	7:55	10:05
6T 401	2,4,5,7	7:55	10:45
K7 222/7Y 111	Daily	8:05	11:00
YH 918	4	8:35	10:40
6T 412	6	8:40	10:00
6T 401	1	9:25	12:10
6T 402	3	9:30	11:35
YH 732	Daily	17:25	18:45
6T 502	6	17:35	18:55
K7 225/7Y 222	Daily	17:40	19:00
6T 502	2,4,7	17:50	19:10
W9 211	1,2,3,5,6	18:25	19:45
W9 7211/YJ 211	4	18:25	19:45
6T 502	3,5	18:35	19:55

MYITKYINA TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 829	2,6	10:00	12:25
YH 825	1	11:30	13:55
7Y 852	1,3,4,6,7	13:00	18:40
W9 7152/YJ 152	1,3,6	13:35	16:30
W9 7154/YJ 154	7	16:35	19:30
W9 7154/YJ 154	2,5	16:35	18:50
YH 827	4	16:40	19:05

YANGON TO HEHO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 917	Daily	6:10	9:15
6T 401	2,4,5,7	6:20	9:20
K7 222/7Y 111	Daily	6:30	9:30
6T 401	1	7:00	10:45
6T 401	3	7:00	10:10
7Y 851	1,3,4,6,7	7:05	10:35
W9 201	Daily	7:30	9:40
7Y 741	2,5	8:00	12:03
6T 501	6	10:30	12:45
YH 727	1	11:00	12:25
YH 737	3,5,7	11:00	12:25
YH 731	1,3,5,6,7	14:30	15:55
K7 224/7Y 221	Daily	14:30	15:45
6T 501	2,4,7	14:45	15:55
6T 501	3,5	15:30	16:40

YANGON TO SITTWE			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 611	2,3,4,7	11:15	12:40
6T 605	5	11:15	13:15
W9 7311/YJ 311	4	11:30	13:20
W9 311	2	11:30	13:20
6T 607	1	12:30	13:55

YANGON TO MYEIK			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 633	3,4,5,7	7:00	9:15
K7 319/7Y 531	Daily	7:00	9:05

YANGON TO THANDWE			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 605	5	11:15	12:10
6T 607	1	12:30	15:05

YANGON TO DAWEI			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 633	3,4,5,7	7:00	8:25
K7 319/7Y 531	1,3,5	7:00	8:05
K7 319/7Y 531	2,4,6,7	7:00	8:10

YANGON TO LASHIO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 741	2,5	8:00	9:38
YH 729	2,4,6	11:00	13:00

YANGON TO PUTAO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 824	1	7:00	10:35
W9 7153/YJ 153	2,5,7	11:00	15:05

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 9607/ YJ 7607	4,7	14:20	16:10

HEHO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 918	Daily	9:15	10:25
6T 402	2,4,5,7	9:35	10:45
K7 223/7Y 112	Daily	9:45	11:00
W9 201	Daily	9:55	11:05
6T 402	3	10:25	11:35
6T 402	1	11:00	12:10
7Y 741	2,5	12:15	17:18
7Y 852	1,3,4,6,7	15:10	18:40
YH 728	1	15:45	17:55
YH 732	1,3,5,6,7	15:55	18:45
6T 501	6	15:55	18:55
K7 224/7Y 221	Daily	16:00	19:00
6T 501	2,4,7	16:10	19:10
YH 738	3,5,7	16:25	18:35
6T 501	3,5	16:55	19:55

SITTWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 612	2,3,4,7	13:00	14:25
6T 606	5	13:35	15:00
W9 7311/YJ 311	4	13:35	15:00
W9 311	2	13:35	15:00
6T 608	1	14:15	16:15

MYEIK TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 634	3,4,5,7	11:25	13:25
K7 320/7Y 532	1,3,5	11:20	13:25
K7 320/7Y 532	2,4,6,7	11:30	13:35

THANDWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 605	5	12:25	15:00
6T 608	1	15:20	16:15

DAWEI TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 634	3,4,5,7	12:15	13:25
K7 320/7Y 532	1,3,5	12:20	13:25
K7 320/7Y 532	2,4,6,7	12:25	13:35

LASHIO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 742	2,5	15:40	17:18
YH 730	2,4,6	16:45	19:10

PUTAO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 825	1	10:35	13:55
W9 7154/YJ 154	7	15:25	19:30
W9 7154/YJ 154	2,5	15:25	18:50

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
W9 9608/ YJ 7608	4,7	17:20	18:10

Domestic Airlines

**Air Bagan Ltd. (W9)**  
Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

**Air KBZ (K7)**  
Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport),  
Fax: 372983, Hot Line: 373766

**Air Mandalay (6T)**  
Tel : (Head Office) 501520, 525488,  
Fax: 525937. Airport: 533222~3, 09-73152853.  
Fax: 533223.

**Asian Wings (YJ)**  
Tel: 951 515261~264, 512140, 512473, 512640.  
Fax: 951 532333, 516654

**Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5)**  
Tel: 95 9 400446999, 95 9 400447999,  
Fax: 01 860 4051

**Yangon Airways(YH)**  
Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264,  
Fax: 652 533.

**FMI Air Charter - Sales & Reservations**  
Tel: (95-1) 240363, 240373 / (+95-9) 421146545

**Mann Yadanarpon Airlines (7Y)**  
Tel: (+95-1) 656969,  
Fax: 656998, 651020.

Domestic

6T = Air Mandalay

W9 = Air Bagan

YJ = Asian Wings

K7 = AIR KBZ

YH = Yangon Airways

FMI = FMI AIR Charter

Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines

7Y = Mann Yadanarpon Airlines

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO BANGKOK			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 706	Daily	6:15	8:30
8M 335	Daily	7:40	9:25
TG 304	Daily	9:50	11:45
PG 702	Daily	10:30	12:25
TG 302	Daily	14:55	16:40
PG 708	Daily	15:20	17:15
8M 331	Daily	16:30	18:15
PG 704	Daily	18:25	20:20
TG 306	Daily	19:45	21:35

YANGON TO DON MUENG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4231	Daily	8:00	9:45
FD 252	Daily	8:30	10:15
FD 254	Daily	17:50	19:35
DD 4239	Daily	21:00	22:45

YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 231	Daily	8:00	12:25
Y5 233	Daily	10:10	14:40
SQ 997	Daily	10:35	15:10
3K 582	Daily	11:20	15:50
MI 533	2,4,6	13:45	20:50
MI 517	Daily	16:40	21:15
TR 2827	Daily	19:05	23:40

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 501	1,3,5,6	7:50	11:50
AK 505	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 503	2,4,6	19:30	23:45

YANGON TO BEIJING			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 716	1,3,5,7	23:50	0550+1

YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 711	2,4,7	8:40	13:15
CZ 3056	3,6	11:25	16:15
CZ 3056	1,5	17:30	22:15

YANGON TO TAIPEI			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CI 7916	1,2,3,5,6	10:50	16:15

YANGON TO KUNMING			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 906	Daily	12:15	15:55
MU 2012	3	12:20	18:20
MU 2032	1,2,4,5,6,7	14:50	18:20

YANGON TO HANOI			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 956	1,3,5,6,7	19:10	21:30

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH CITY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 942	2,4,7	14:25	17:15

YANGON TO DOHA			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
QR 919	1,4,6	8:35	11:10

YANGON TO PHNOM PENH			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 403	3	16:50	19:15

YANGON TO SEOUL			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
OZ 770	4,7	0:35	9:10
KE 472	Daily	23:35	8:05+1

YANGON TO HONG KONG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KA 251	1,4,6	01:10	05:45

YANGON TO TOKYO			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
NH 914	Daily	21:45	06:50+1

YANGON TO GAYA			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 601	3,5,6	7:00	8:20

YANGON TO DHAKA			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
BG 061	1,4	19:45	21:00

YANGON TO INCHEON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 7702	Daily	23:35	8:05
8M7502	4,7	0:35	9:10

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 710	Daily	14:05	16:30

MANDALAY TO SINGAPORE			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MI 533	4,6	15:55	20:50
Y5 233	Daily	8:05	14:40

MANDALAY TO DON MUENG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
FD 245	Daily	12:45	15:00

MANDALAY TO KUNMING			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2030	Daily	14:40	17:30

MANDALAY TO GAYA			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 603	4	11:10	12:15

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
TG 303	Daily	7:55	8:50
PG 701	Daily	8:50	9:40
8M 336	Daily	10:40	11:25
TG 301	Daily	13:00	13:55
PG 707	Daily	13:40	14:30
PG 703	Daily	16:45	17:35
TG 305	Daily	17:50	18:45
8M 332	Daily	19:15	20:00
PG 705	Daily	20:15	21:30

DON MUENG TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4230	Daily	6:30	7:15
FD 251	Daily	7:15	8:00
FD 253	Daily	16:35	17:20
DD 4238	Daily	19:25	20:15

SINGAPORE TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
SQ 998	Daily	7:55	9:20
3K 581	Daily	8:50	10:30
MI 533	2,4,6	11:35	12:55
8M 232	Daily	13:25	14:50
MI 518	Daily	14:20	15:45
TR 2826	Daily	17:05	18:25
Y5 234	Daily	15:35	17:05

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
AK 504	Daily	6:55	8:00
MH 740	Daily	10:05	11:15
8M 9505	Daily	10:05	11:15
8M 502	1,2,3,5,6	12:50	13:50
8M 9507	Daily	13:30	14:40
MH 742	Daily	13:30	14:40
AK 502	2,4,6	17:50	19:00

BEIJING TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 715	1,3,5,7	19:30	22:50

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CZ 3055	3,6	8:40	10:25
CZ 3055	1,5	14:40	16:30
8M 712	2,4,7	14:15	15:50

TAIPEI TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CI 7915	1,2,3,5,6	7:00	9:55

KUNMING TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2011	3	8:25	11:40
CA 905	Daily	10:45	11:15
MU 2031	1,2,4,5,6,7	13:30	14:00

HANOI TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 957	1,3,5,6,7	16:50	18:10

HO CHI MINH CITY TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
VN 943	2,4,7	11:50	13:25

DOHA TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
QR 918	3,5,7	20:30	6:35+1

PHNOM PENH TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 404	3	20:15	21:40

SEOUL TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KE 471	Daily	18:45	22:35
OZ 769	3,6	19:50	23:25

HONG KONG TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KA 250	3,5,7	21:45	23:30

TOKYO TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
NH 913	Daily	11:00	15:40

GAYA TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 602	3,5,6	9:20	12:30

DHAKA TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
BG 060	1,4	16:30	18:45

INCHEON TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 7701	Daily	18:45	22:35
8M 7501	3,6	19:50	23:25

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 709	Daily	12:00	13:20

SINGAPORE TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MI 533	4,6	11:35	15:00
Y5 234	Daily	15:35	18:55

DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
FD 244	Daily	10:50	12:15

KUNMING TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2029	Daily	13:55	13:50

GAYA TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 604	4	13:15	16:20

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr

International Airlines

<b>Air Asia (FD)</b> Tel: 251 885, 251 886.
<b>Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)</b> Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102
<b>Air China (CA)</b> Tel : 666112, 655882.
<b>Air India</b> Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175
<b>Bangkok Airways (PG)</b> Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119
<b>Condor (DE)</b> Tel: + 95 1 -370836 up to 39 [ext : 810]
<b>Dragonair (KA)</b> Tel: 95-1-255320, 255321, Fax : 255329
<b>Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5)</b> Tel: 95 9 400446999, 95 9 400447999, Fax: 01 860 4051
<b>Malaysia Airlines (MH)</b> Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124
<b>Myanmar Airways International(8M)</b> Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305
<b>Silk Air(MI)</b> Tel: 255 287~9, Fax: 255 290
<b>Thai Airways (TG)</b> Tel : 255491~6, Fax : 255223
<b>Vietnam Airlines (VN)</b> Fax : 255086. Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.
<b>Qatar Airways (QR)</b> Tel: 379845, 379843, 379831, Fax: 379730
<b>Biman Bangladesh Airlines (BG)</b> Tel: 371867~68, Fax: 371869.
<b>Nok Airline (DD)</b> Tel: 255050, 255021, Fax: 255051
<b>Tiger Airline (TR)</b> Tel: 371383, 370836~39 Ext: 303
<b>International</b>
FD & AK = Air Asia
TG = Thai Airways
8M = Myanmar Airways International
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines
PG = Bangkok Airways
MI = Silk Air
VN = Vietnam Airline
MH = Malaysia Airlines
CZ = China Southern
CI = China Airlines
CA = Air China
KA = Dragonair
3K = Jet Star
QR = Qatar Airways
KE = Korea Airlines
NH = All Nippon Airways
SQ = Singapore Airways
MU=China Eastern Airlines
DD = Nok Airline
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines
TR = Tiger Airline
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<b>Day</b>	<b>4 = Thursday</b>
<b>1 = Monday</b>	<b>5 = Friday</b>
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<b>3 = Wednesday</b>	<b>7 = Sunday</b>



Perfect landscapes abound in Tanintharyi Region. Photo: Staff

Myeik resort undergoing renovations

MYANMAR Andaman Resort, located in the Myeik Archipelago, is undergoing major renovations and will be reopened in October 2015, according to Daw Thel Su, the resort's sales and marketing director.

The archipelago has about 800 islands in the Tanintharyi Region of southern Myanmar. Almost all the islands have beautiful beaches said to look like Thailand's Phuket, one of the most famous beaches in the world.

The area is suitable for diving and kayaking trips, snorkeling adventures and trekking through jungle, Daw Thel Su said.

“Tourists will be able to do more of these activities after the renovations,” she said.

Myanmar Andaman Resort will expand from 22 up to 80 rooms, and all room packages will include at least a three-night stay. Locals and tourists will be charged the same for services.

Previously, the resort only offered two kinds of rooms, superior and suite, said Daw Thel Su. After the renovations, a wider variety of room options will be available to guests.

To get there, tourists can fly to Kawthaung via Yangon (4 hours), Bangkok and Phuket. Hotel staff will pick up guests there by speedboat and transport them to the resort, which will take about two hours. The most popular time of year to visit is from November to January.

Room packages at the resort will go on sale in January 2015, when prices will also be announced. Until October 2015, the resort is officially closed.

Twenty years ago, Phuket was about as developed as the Myeik Archipelago is today. In the same way that island paradise grew in popularity, the Myeik islands could become important tourist attractions for Myanmar within a few years, said U Thaw Tar Nyunt, director of the tour company Elegant Myanmar.

Tourists can also visit the Myeik Archipelago by cruise ship from Myeik or Kawthaung, although only from September to April.

Elegant Myanmar Tours offers a chartered-cruise package to the Myeik Archipelago on the Mergui Princess, a ship that has eight rooms for 16 customers, U Thaw Tar Nyunt said.

A two-day, three-night package going to four islands costs US\$984 per person. A five-day, six-night package going to 13 islands is \$1781 per person.

For the five-day package, customers may choose a route that goes from Myeik to Kawthaung, Kawthaung to Myeik, or Kawthaung to Kawthaung.

“We will start up again in September,” he said. “Now it's stopped due to rainy season.”



Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

SIGHT UNSEEN By Henry Quarters

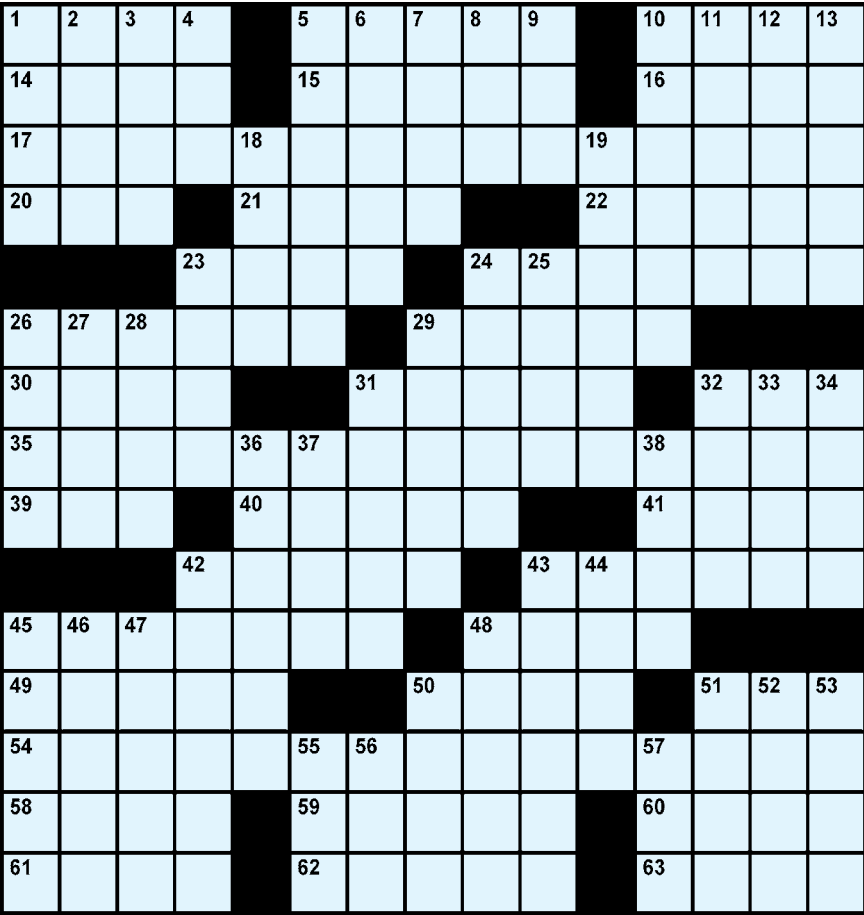
ACROSS

- 1 Junker of a car
- 5 See 35-Across
- 10 Poker action
- 14 Unwanted outbreak
- 15 Domesticates
- 16 "Buck" follower
- 17 Slimed people
- 20 She's a real hog
- 21 Former NFL receiver Randy
- 22 Scottish lord
- 23 Barber's symbol
- 24 Daring base runner
- 26 Richard III offered his kingdom for it
- 29 Skeptical
- 30 Italy's capital
- 31 Plant bristles
- 32 Scottish "John"
- 35 Andrew Lloyd Webber work (with 5-Across)
- 39 Awfully long time
- 40 Join with others
- 41 "All in the Family" producer
- 42 Prefix with "plasm"
- 43 Hands-on-hips position
- 45 Replaceable shoe parts
- 48 Big shot in hockey
- 49 March king
- 50 Thief's retreat
- 51 Floating zoo
- 54 Sci-fi classic
- 58 Gold digger's quest
- 59 Yemeni's neighbor
- 60 Napa Valley sight
- 61 Some sheep
- 62 One of the Rolling Stones
- 63 Little advantage

DOWN

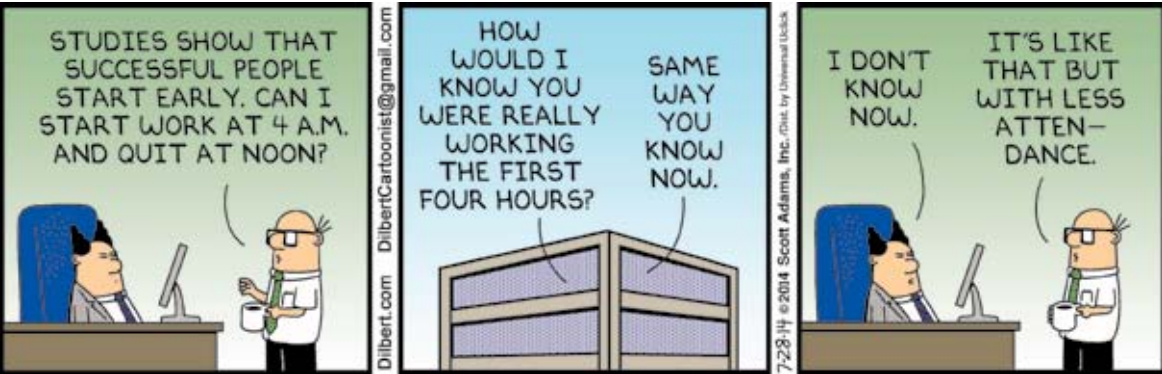
- 1 Ring-tossed items?
- 2 Comeback of a kind
- 3 Starting fresh
- 4 Projection on many coatracks
- 5 "My Favorite Year" star
- 6 Out of style
- 7 They may save your life
- 8 Union opponent
- 9 Tempe sch.

- 10 Literary name for China
- 11 "... live nephew of my Uncle Sam"
- 12 Greene of "Bonanza"
- 13 Typical Las Vegas gambler
- 18 Managed care grps.
- 19 Dorm room staple, once
- 23 Kind of school
- 24 Have one's heart (desire strongly)
- 25 Wagon puller
- 26 Commedia dell'
- 27 A couple of words from Santa
- 28 A comet, to the superstitious
- 29 Relinquish one's hold
- 31 Piqued states
- 32 Nugget of news
- 33 Moby Dick chaser
- 34 Infamous emperor
- 36 WWII Chief Justice Stone
- 37 Shaving-cream ingredient
- 38 "Geraldine" creator Wilson
- 42 Nosegays
- 43 Common defenses
- 44 Communism co-founder Marx
- 45 Fiber used in basketmaking
- 46 With zero chance, informally
- 47 Soft leather
- 48 Actress Eva Marie
- 50 Would-be lawyer's exam
- 51 During the course of
- 52 Told, as a bell
- 53 -jerk reaction
- 55 Promise
- 56 " little confused"
- 57 First grandmother



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



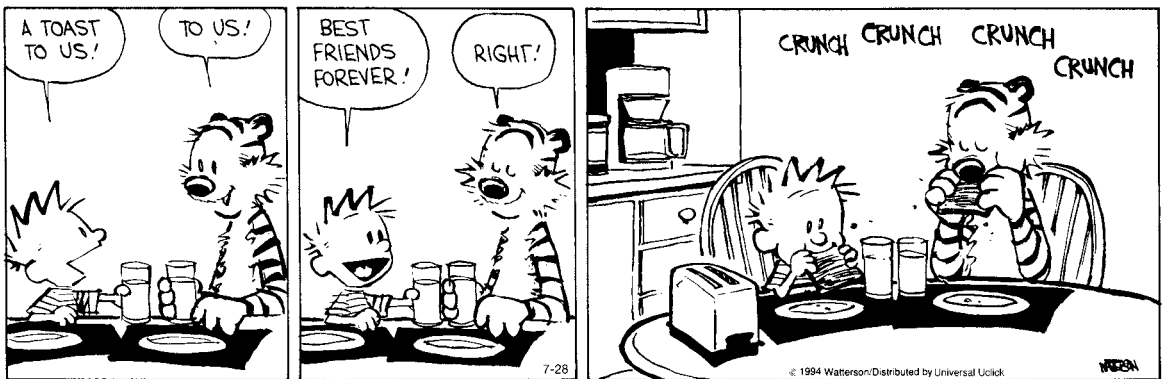
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



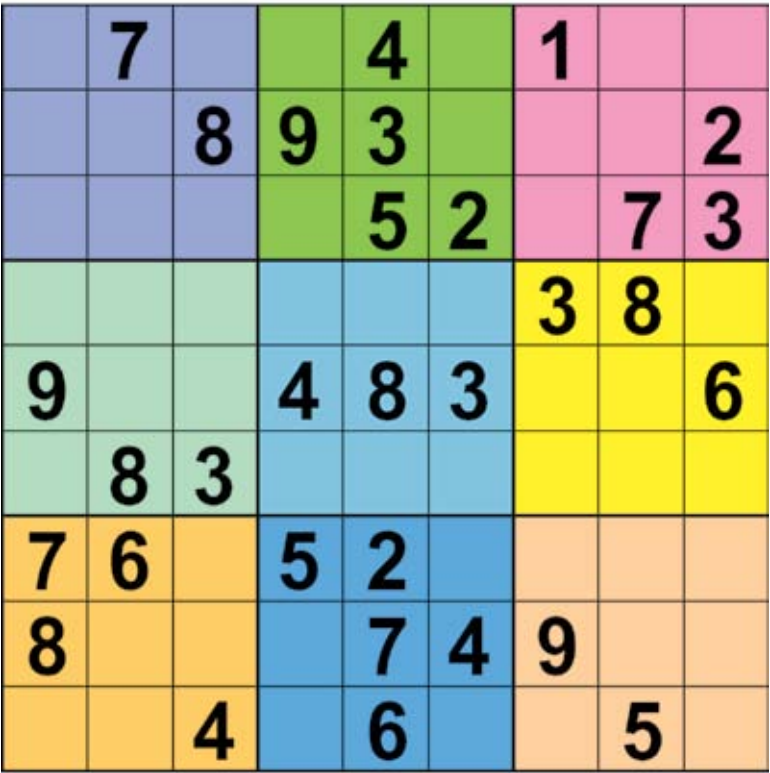
CALVIN AND HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



SUDOKU PACIFIC

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



7/31

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

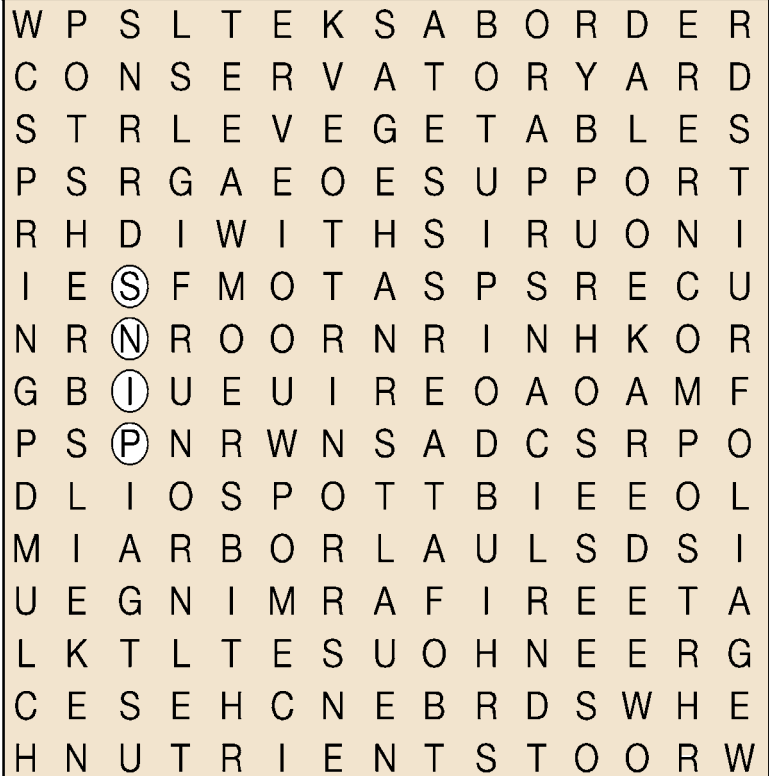
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GARDENING TIME

Solution: 9 letters



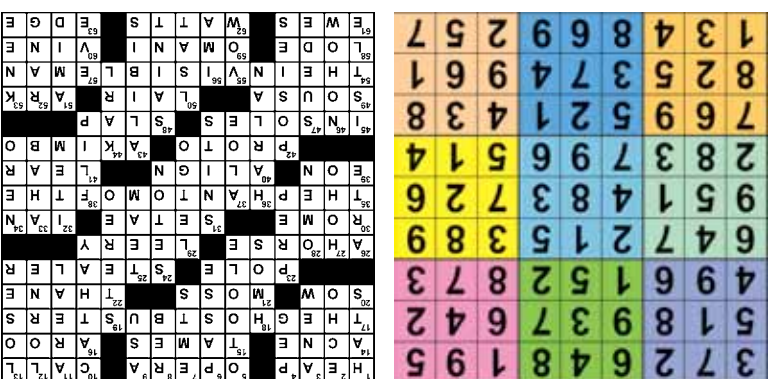
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7/28

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**Brazil** 56, Pyay Road, 6<sup>th</sup> mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 507225, 507251. email: Administ.yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

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**Cambodia** 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 549609, 540964. email: RECYANGON@mptmail.net.mm

**Candian Embassy** 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centerpoint Towers, 65 Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, Tel : 01-384805 , Fax :01-384806, Email : yngon@international.gc.ca

**China** 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 221280, 221281.

**Danmark**, No.7, Pyi Thu St, Pyay Rd, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 01 – 9669520 - 17.

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**France** 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 212178, 212520, email: ambaf rance.rangoun@diplomatie.fr

**Germany** 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 548951, 548952, email: info@rangun.diplo.de

**India** 545-547, Merchant St, Yangon. Tel: 391219, 388412, email:indiaembassy@mptmail.net.mm

**Indonesia** 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Rd, Yangon. Tel: 254465, 254469, email: kukygn@indonesia.com.mm

**Israel** 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

**Italy** 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. Tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang.mail@esteri.it

**Japan** 100, Natmauk Rd, Yangon. Tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

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**Nepal** 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. Tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb@mptmail.net.mm

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**New Zealand** No. 43/C, Inya Myaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 01-2306046-9 Fax : 01-2305805

**Netherlands Diplomatic Mission** No. 43/C, Inya Myaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 01-2305805

**North Korea** 77C, Shin Saw Pu Rd, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 512642, 510205

**Pakistan** A-4, diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Rd, Yangon. Tel: 222881 (Chancery Exchange)

**Philippines** 50, Sayasan Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 558149-151, Email: p.e.yangon@gmail.com

**Russian** 38, Sagawa Rd, Yangon. Tel: 241955, 254161,

**Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia** No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung. Tel : 01-536153, 516952.

**Serbia** No. 114-A, Inya Rd, P.O.Box No. 943, Yangon. Tel: 515282, 515283, email: serbemb@yangon.net.mm

**Singapore** 238, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 559001, email: singemb\_ygn@sgmfa.gov.sg

**South Korea** 97 University Avenue, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 527142-4, 515190, fax: 513286, email: myanmar@mofat.go.kr

**Sri Lanka** 34 Taw Win Rd, Yangon. Tel: 222812,

**Switzerland** No 11, Kabaung Lane, 5 ½ mile, Pyay Rd, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 534754, 507089.

**Thailand** 94 Pyay Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 226721, 226728, 226824

**Turkish Embassy** 19AB, Kan Yeik Thar St, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 662992, Fax : 661365

**United Kingdom** 80 Strand Rd, Yangon. Tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438,

**United States of America** 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 536509, 535756, Fax: 650306

**Vietnam** Bldg-72, Thanlwin Rd, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 511305

**UNITED NATIONS ILO Liaison** 1-A, Kanbae (Thitsar Rd), Yankin Tsp, Tel : 01-566538, 566539

**IOM** 318 (A) Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel – 01-210588, 09 73236679, 0973236680, Email- iomyangon@iom.int

**UNAIDS** 137/1, Thaw Wun Rd, Kamayut Tsp. Tel : 534498, 504832

**UNDCP** 11-A, Malikha St, Mayangone tsp. Tel: 666903, 664539.

**UNDP** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tel: 542910-19. fax: 292739.

**UNFPA** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tsp. tel: 546029.

**UNHCR** 287, Pyay Rd, Sanchaung tsp. Tel: 524022, 524024.

**UNIAP** Rm: 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. Tel: 254852, 254853.

**UNIC** 6, Natmauk St., Bahan, Tel: 22910-19

**UNICEF** 14-15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, Kyauktada. Tel: 375527-32, unicef.yangon@unicef.org.

**UNODC** 11-A, Malikha Rd., Ward 7, Mayangone. tel: 01-9666903, 9660556, 9660538, 9660398. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org

**UNOPS** 120/0, Pyi Thu Lane, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp. Tel: 951-657281-7. Fax: 657279.

**UNRC** 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE Tel: 542911-19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator),

**WFP** 5 Kan Baw Za St, Shwe Taung Kyar, (Golden Valley), Bahan Tsp. Tel : 2305971-6

**WHO** No. 2, Pyay Rd, 7 Mile, Mayangone Tsp, Tel : 650405-6, 650416, 654386-90.

**ASEAN** Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Tsp. Tel: 225258.

**FAO** Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673.

## General Listing

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#### Asia Plaza Hotel YANGON

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#### Chatrium Hotel

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No.7A, Wingabar Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : (951) 546313, 430245. 09-731-77781-4. Fax : (01) 546313. www.cloverhotel.asia. info@cloverhotel.asia

#### Clover Hotel City Center

No. 217, 32nd Street (Upper Block), Pabedan Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 377720, Fax : 377722 www.clovercitycenter.asia

#### Clover Hotel City Center Plus

No. 229, 32nd Street (Upper Block), Pabedan Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 377975, Fax : 377974 www.clovercitycenterplus.asia

#### Confort Inn

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No. (356/366), Kyaukkasan Rd, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 542826, Fax: 545650 Email: reservation@edenpalacehotel.com



M-22, Shwe Htee Housing, Thamine Station St., Near the Bayint Naung Point, Mayangone Tsp., Yangon Tel : 522763, 522744, 667557. Fax : (95-1) 652174 E-mail : grandpalace@myanmar.com.mm

#### Hotel Yangon

91/93, 8<sup>th</sup> Mile Junction, Tel : 01-667708, 667688.

**Inya Lake Resort Hotel** 37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

#### KH Hotel, Yangon

28-A, 7 Miles, Pyay Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Ph: 95-1-652532, 652533

**MGM Hotel** No (160), Warden Street, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. +95-1-212454-9. www.hotel-mgm.com



No. 205, Corner of Wadan Street & Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (95-1) 212850 ~ 3, 229358 ~ 61, Fax: (95-1) 212854. info@myanmarpandahotel.com http://www.myanmarpandahotel.com

#### PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar

33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 250388. fax: 252478. email: enquiry.prygn@parkroyalhotels.com.



**Royal White Elephant Hotel** No-11, Kan Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. (+95-1) 500822, 503986. www.rwehotel.com

#### Savoy Hotel

129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp. tel: 526289, 526298,

#### Sedona Hotel

Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

#### Strand Hotel

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**Summit Parkview Hotel** 350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966.

**Sule Shangri-La Hotel** 223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.



No.6, Botahtaung Jetty, Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Tel: (951)9010555, 9010535 Fax : (951) 9010536 info@vintageluxuryhotel.com www.vintageluxuryhotel.com

#### Winner Inn

42, Than Lwin Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 503734, 524387. email: reservation@winnerinnmyanmar.com

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#### Yuzana Hotel

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#### Yuzana Garden Hotel

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17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. Tel: 650933. Fax: 650960. Email : micprmd@myanmar.com.mmwww.myanmarmicasahotel.com

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 Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368  
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Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.  
Immigration ☎tel: 286434.  
Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390  
Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605  
Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.  
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.  
Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.  
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.  
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

### HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.  
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807  
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.  
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.  
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.

Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.  
Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.  
Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.  
Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.  
Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

### ELECTRICITY

Power Station ☎tel:414235

### POST OFFICE

General Post Office 39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

### YANGON PORT

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Railways information ☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.



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067-420778, E-mail :  
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Kyaw St, Kyauktada.  
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Botataung Tsp. Tel-397160.

**the LOBBY BAR**  
**Lobby Bar**  
PARKROYAL Yangon,  
Myanmar. 33, Alan Pya  
Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp.  
tel: 250388.

**Strand Bar** 92, Strand  
Rd, Yangon, Myanmar.  
tel: 243377.fax: 243393,  
sales@thestrands.com.mm  
www.ghmhotels.com

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Yangon. (Off University  
Road) Tel : 01-535097,  
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**Coréana**  
Esthetic  
Marina Residence, Yangon  
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Beauty Plan, Corner of  
77th St & 31st St, Mandalay  
Ph: 02 72506

**hana**  
**Beauty Spa & Reflexology**  
42 (A), Amaka (10)  
Kyaung St, Pyay Rd,  
Hlaing Tsp, Yangon.  
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09-51 09435, 09-51 43568

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80-A, Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp.  
Tel: 512380, 511252  
**Beauty Bar by La Source**  
Room (1004), Sedona Hotel,  
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**MANDALAY**  
**La Source Beauty Spa**  
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Chanaye Tharzan Tsp.  
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www.lasourcebeautyspa.com

**Lemon Day Spa**  
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• #87/2, Crn of 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
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Zan Tsp, Mandalay.  
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Ahlone Township. tel:  
212 409, 221 271. 214708  
fax: 524580. email: info@myanmarbook.com

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Ingo Positions

**JHPIEGO** is currently implementing programs to improve Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (MNCH) in Myanmar is seeking (1) **HR Officer** : Bachelor's degree, 3 years' experiences, Good communication skills in English. (2) **HR for health/MNCH quality improvement advisor**: Bachelor's degree in health, education or related field; Master's degree preferred, 8 years' experiences. Experience in public speaking & professional presentations. Demonstrated excellence in English. (3) **Procurement Officer**: Bachelor's degree in business administration or related field. 3 years experiences. Demonstrated excellence in English. (4) **Program Manager**: Bachelor's degree in health, education or related field; Master's degree preferred. 8 years experiences in program development & project management. Experience in public speaking & professional presentations. Demonstrated excellence in English. (5) **In-Service (Clinical) Training Advisor** : Midwife or health worker with 5+ years of experience as a midwifery clinician and tutor. Excellent clinical & training skills. (6) **Midwifery Education Advisor** : Advanced clinical or educational degree in midwifery or nursing & MPH preferred. 5+ years demonstrated experience implementing & managing field based education programs in MNCH. Strong clinical & technical proficiency consistent with global midwifery competencies. Excellent verbal, written and educational skills. (7) **MNCH Clinical Advisor** : MD with MPH or equivalent. Outstanding project management skills demonstrated in donor-funded initiatives. 5+ years of mid-to senior-level experience designing & implementing field-based programs in MNCH. Strong clinical background & experience. Pls submit a detailed CV & a letter of interest, including the position for which you are applying, on or before August

4, 2014 to career@myanmarhumancapital.com [www.jhpiego.org](http://www.jhpiego.org). **COMMUNITY SOCIAL Services and Education Project (CSSEP)** is seeking **Adm / Finance Assistant** in : Maungdaw, Rakhine State : University degree preferably in Business Administration, Accounting, Economics, Banking and Finance or Liberal Arts; Priority to be given those with LCC Level III training / CCA Certifications, 3 years experience of progressive responsibility in the fields of actual accounting, finance, or auditing; has relevant work experience in administrative related work; current or prior work experience with an international organization, UN / NGO is an asset, Basic communication skills in the English language; proficiency in communicating in Myanmar language; can communicate in the local language (s). Ability to supervise administrative processes & oversee preparation of announcements, forms, and reports. Pls submit their signed letters of application together with a complete resume citing relevant academic qualifications & work experience (with scanned copies sent in advance by email) to: The Project Director, CSSEP/CFSI, RM.207, Bldg-A, Highway complex Housing, Lane 1, Hnin Si St, (Near KBZ Bank-Sin Ma Like) Kamayut, Yangon, Email: [longsiapco@cfsi.ph](mailto:longsiapco@cfsi.ph); [cssepygn@gmail.com](mailto:cssepygn@gmail.com); [cssep.rakhine@gmail.com](mailto:cssep.rakhine@gmail.com) Closing date : 31 July 2014 **MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking (1) **Deputy Manager** (Admin & Finance) 1 post in Hpa-An Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre Hpa-An, Kayin State: Myanmar National. University degree. 3 years experience. Effective English language skills & computer knowledge. Red Cross Volunteers are preferable. Please send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society Head Office, Yazathingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or [mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com), Closing date: 4.8.2014. **MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking (1) **M & E Officer** 1 post in Taunggyi: M.B., B.S with valid SAMA or equivalent medical degree from Medical University recognized by Government of Myanmar. Master/ Diploma degree in Public Health will be the priority. Effective English & Myanmar language. Able to speak Shan/ Pa Oh language is an asset. (2) **Resource Mobilization Officer** 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: Bachelor's degree. 2 years experience. (3) **Mobilization Officer** 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: Bachelor's degree. 2 years experience. For all posts : Effective English language skill & Computer knowledge. Red Cross Volunteers are preferable. Please send application letter, CV and related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society Head Office, Yazathingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or [mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com), Closing date: 30-7-2014. **MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking (1) **Finance & Admin Officer** 1 post in Myitkyina : B.Com/ Bachelor of Accounting (or) equivalent accounting degree. Computer skill in MS Excel & accounting

software is an asset. 3 years professional experience. (2) **Finance Officer** 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: B.Com/ Bachelor or Accounting/ CPA (or) equivalent accounting degree. Computer skill in MS Excel & accounting software is an asset. 3 years professional experience. (3) **Assistant Finance Officer** 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: University Degree. Relevant educational background (accounting finance). (4) **Cashier** 1 post in Yangon: University Degree. Accounting knowledge or certificate will be an asset. For all posts : Effective English language skills & computer knowledge. Red Cross Volunteers are preferable. Pls send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society Head Office, Yazathingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or [mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com), Closing date: 1-8-2014. (1) **DY.DIRECTOR** (Admin & Finance) - 1 post (2) **National Consultant** - 1 post (3) **HR Officer** - 1 post. Application process: Please send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) Yazathingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or [ormrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:ormrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com) For more information & application, please visit to [www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org](http://www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org) Please mention "Position title" in subject if you apply. **THE CENTER** for Vocational Training is seeking (1) **Myanmarsar & General Education Teacher** 1 post : Any graduate, prefer Myanmarsar & Economics related degree. Good communication & presentation skills. Used to work a computer (basic computer knowledge). Good command in English. (2) **Teacher** for Hotel & Gastronomy Profession 1 post : Must be certificate holder of Room Divisions. 5 years experience & 2 years Teaching experience. Interested in wide spectre of the profession related aspect in general. Used to work with a computer (Microsoft Office). Good command in English. Submit an application letter with CV, recent passport photo & Copy of relevance documents to the reception counter or by email : 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, MRCS Bldg 42, Strand Rd, Botahtaung, Yangon. Email: [hrcvtmyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:hrcvtmyanmar@gmail.com), [cvt.2001.2009@gmail.com](mailto:cvt.2001.2009@gmail.com). Closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Local Positions

(1) **GENERAL Manager** (Hydro & Coal) - 1 Post (800-1500 USD) (2) **GM / Sr Manager** (Commercial & Co-ordination for Thermal Power Plant) - M 1 Post (800-1500USD) (3) **Planning & Controlling Manager** - M/F 3 Post

(800-1500 USD) (4) **Business Development Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (5) **Commercial Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (6) **Public Relation Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (7) **Technical Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (8) **Finance Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (9) **Project Implementation Manager** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (10) **Chief Accountant** - M/F 3 Posts (500-1000 USD) (11) **Personal Assistant** - M 3 Posts (400-800 USD) (12) **Project Engineer** (Investigator) - M 3 Posts (400-800 USD) (13) **Technical Co-ordinator** - M 3 Post (400-800 USD) (14) **Assistant Manager** (Kyauk Sal) - M 1 Post (400-800 USD). Please send CV and cover letter, including your salary expectations, to Email: [thelondoner007@gmail.com](mailto:thelondoner007@gmail.com). More details of Job Description from [www.myanmarjobsdb.com](http://www.myanmarjobsdb.com), [www.myanmar-network.net](http://www.myanmar-network.net), [www.work.com.mm](http://www.work.com.mm) Closing date : 1st August, 2014.

(2) **Marketing & Sales**. (3) **Customer Service**. (4) **Documentation**. Fresher's open to Learn and with Can Do attitude are also welcome to apply. Applicants should submit an Application letter, Curriculum vitae, Recent Photograph with other relevant documents to: [uditm@boxcoworld.com](mailto:uditm@boxcoworld.com) **GREAT GOLDEN** Glory Co., Ltd. is seeking (1) **Technical Sales Representative** - M/F 2 Posts: Graduate in B.E. (Chemical) or B.Sc. (Chemistry, IC or Microbiology). Age 25 ~ 35 years, Fluent in written & spoken English. Good computer skill. 3 years experience. (2) **Assistance Accountant** - F 1 Post: Graduate in BA. Eco. or B.Com, LCCI (Level 1, 2). Age 25-30 years. Fluent in written & spoken English. Good computer skill. 1 year experience. (3) **Customer Service** - 1 Post: Any graduate. Fluent in English. Good computer skill. 1 year experience. Please contact to: Great Golden Glory Co., Ltd: 85-87, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 32<sup>nd</sup> St, Pabedan,

High school education, Age above 30, Valid driving license with 2 ~ 3 years experiences work as a professional driver, Thorough knowledge of road rules & regulations, Able to travel, Salary offered will be in line with experience. Please submit a detailed CV via email : [fmcgmyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:fmcgmyanmar@gmail.com) and Please mention "position title" in subject if you apply OR call 09-4211-25584, 09-2542-30 851 **GREATER MAN** Int'l Services Co., Ltd is seeking **Service Center Manager** - M 1 post: University graduated with management studies (or) Engineering degree. 3 years experience in automobile & machinery. Age above 30. Good in English. (2) **HR Manager** - M/F - 1 post: University graduated with management studies. Age 27-35. 3 years experience. Can travel locally if work is demanding (3) **Admin Manager** - M/F - 1 post : University graduated with management studies (or) Administration more preferable. Age 27~ 35. 3 years experience. Can travel locally. Good in English. (4) **Service Center Supervisor** - M 1 post : University Graduated with management studies (or) Engineering Degree more preferred. 1 year experience in automobile & machinery, Age above 25. Good in English. (5) **Admin Officer** - M/F 2 posts : Any graduate, 2 year experience in customer service field would be preferable. Age 25 ~ 30 years. Good in English. (6) **HR Officer** - M/F 2 posts : Any graduate. 2 years experience. Age between 25 ~ 30. Good in English. (7) **Service Engineer** - M 5 posts: Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering 3 years of hands-on experience in trouble-shooting, repairing and servicing of Automobile. Technical knowledge in Euro 4 diesel engine & electrical system, (8) **Spare Part Engineer** - M/F 2 Posts : Degree in Mechanical Engineering or other Engineering discipline. 2 years experience in inventory planning & control. Basic knowledge of logistic & ware house management. (9) **Admin/HR Assistant** - M/F 5 posts : Age 20 ~ 25 years, Any graduate, 2 years experience. Good communication skills in English. (10) **Security** - M 5 posts : Age 20 ~ 40, 10 standard. Able to work both day and night. For 1 to 9 : Can use Microsoft Office & Email & Internet. Pls submit CV, a recent photo with necessary documents to 4, Dagon St, Aungmyingalar highway bus station. Ph: 09-863-1155. Closing date: 31th, July, 2014 **PRO 1 ONE STOP** Home Centre is seeking (1) **Project Sales & Marketing Manager** (2) **Project Marketing Asst**;

**Manager** (3) **Project Sales & Marketing Asst**; (4) **Supervisor** (5) **Asst; Manager** (6) **Asst; Supervisor** (7) **Purchasing & Account Assistant** (8) **Buyer / Purchaser** (9) **Surveyor** (10) **Warehouse Asst**; (or) **Store Asst**; (11) **Stock Control** (For Inventory) (12) **Driver** (13) **General Worker**. Ph: 640469 email : [pro1hrho@gmail.com](mailto:pro1hrho@gmail.com) **WE ARE** urgently looking for (1). **Skilled Photo-Shop & Graphics Designer** - F/M (2). **Architect** - M/F : uses skillfully 3D-Max & Auto-Cad - F/M - Compulsory 4 skills English. Age 25 to 35 years. University Graduate with general computer literate. Email: [patrickrobert09@gmail.com](mailto:patrickrobert09@gmail.com) **THE HOTEL** @Tharabar Gate, Old Bagan is seeking: (1) **Front Office Manager** - 1 post: Spoken & written English, good customer handling skills, computer knowledge, service minded are essential for this position. (2) **Pastry Chef** - 1 Post : Good knowledge in bread baking, flair for outstanding desserts, leadership and English communication skills important for this position. (3) **Sous Chef / Chef de Cuisine** - 1 Post Leadership, innovation, modern presentations, Western-, Asian and Myanmar Cuisine, Guest Relation, high hygiene standards are vital for this position. A minimum of 3 years experiences in a similar position. Salary accordingly to experiences. All Position based in Bagan. Please send CV with 1 recent photos, labour registration card, relevant certificates and testimonies to Rm 2H, No 22/24 Sa Mon St, Natwarat Condo, Dagon Tsp, Yangon or mail to: [gm@tharabargate.com](mailto:gm@tharabargate.com) or [bodsec@hoteltharabarbagan.com.mm](mailto:bodsec@hoteltharabarbagan.com.mm) Closing date: 30 July 2014. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. **VICTORIA HOSPITAL** is seeking (1). **Senior Staff Nurse** - M/F 10 Posts : B.N.Sc / Diploma in Nursing (2). **Jr. staff Nurse** - M/F 10 Posts: Diploma in Nursing (3). **Nurse Aid** - M/F 10 posts : Must have nursing certificate, 1 year experience, Proficient in Computer. (4). **General Worker** - M/F 10 posts (5). **Driver** - M 5 posts : 5 years experience. (6). **Radio graphar** (Imaging) - M/F 10posts : B.Med. Tech, 2 years experience, Proficient in computer & English 4 sills. (7). **Counter Cashier** - F 10 posts : Any graduate, Computer skills, 1 year experience. Pls submit CV, Photo with necessary documents to 68, Tawwin St, 9 Miles, Mayangone. Ph: 01-9666141, 9666128. Email: [hr@witoriyahospital.com](mailto:hr@witoriyahospital.com)

**AVER ASIA** (Myanmar) Ltd is seeking **Technician & Chauffeur/ Personal Driver**. Able to communicate in English preferred. Training will be provided for technician. Interested candidates can apply through [yangon@averasia.com](mailto:yangon@averasia.com). Office: Unit 514, Hledan Center, Corner of Pyay Rd & Hledan Rd, Kamayut. Tel: 01-2305629, 09-31501567. **KELVIN CHIA** Yangon Ltd is seeking **Senior Administrative Executive**. Must have good written & spoken communication skills in English. Some HR background & experience preferred. Interested applicants are invited to send their full resume together with a recent photograph to [chw@kcyangon.com](mailto:chw@kcyangon.com) **CHINESE SEAFOOD** Restaurant is seeking (1) **Manager** - M/F 1 post, (2) **Chinese Food Chef** 2 posts, (3) **Waiter/ Waitress** - M/F 10 posts, (4) **Cashier** - F 5 posts. Ph: 09-4210-50413. (1) **WAITER/ESS** - M/F 10 posts, (2) **Cashier** - F 3 posts, (3) **Thai Cook** - 3 posts, (4) **Staff with knife skill** - 3 posts, (5) **Japanese Cook** - 2 posts, (6) **European Cook** - 1 post, (7) **Bakery Chef** - 2 posts, (8) **Steward** - 3 posts. Ph: 09-4210-50413. **THE** International Montessori Myanmar invites application from suitably qualified local candidates for the following positions of **Nursery/ Pre-K/ Kindergarten Lead teachers and Assistant teachers**. A Kindergarten teacher who is loving, caring and understand early childhood education with ECCD certification is preferred. Both are full time positions, Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 4:00. Please email your CV through [imm.myn@gmail.com](mailto:imm.myn@gmail.com) or contact 55 (B) Pho Sein Rd, Bahan, Yangon. **TAW WIN ACM Co., Ltd** (Constructin, Reat Estate & Trading) is seeking (1) **Sales & Marketing Manager** - M/F 3 posts (2) **Sales & Marketing Executive** - M/F 5 posts (3) **Graphic Designer** - M/F 3 posts (4) **Driver** - M. 5 posts. Pls submit CV with necessary documents to [acm.hrdept@gmail.com](mailto:acm.hrdept@gmail.com). Ph: 09-514-765, 09-4201-70274. (1) **MANAGER** - Male 1 post : Any Graduate, 5 years experience, Age over 35 years. (2) **Assistant Manager** - Male 1 post: Any graduate, 3 years experience, Age over 25 years. (3) **Accountant** - Female 3 posts : B.Com, LCCI Level III, Knowledge of Accounting Software. 3 years experience. For all posts : Computer literate, Can speak English, Prefer who lives in Shwe Pyi Thar. Pls submit CV, Photo to Email: [shweptpt@gmail.com](mailto:shweptpt@gmail.com)

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**BAGANTHIRIPYITSAYA** Sanctuary Resort is seeking: (1) **Front Office Manager** - 1 post, (2) **F&B Manager** - 1 post: For all posts: 3-5 years experience in related field, any graduate, fluent in both written and spoken English, Good communication skill, leadership skill, problem solving and Computer literate. Interested candidate shall submit an application letter, CV with a recent photo, copies of NRC and Labour Registration card, Educational Certificate and others testimonials to HR Department not later than 14th August 2014. Address: Bagan Archeological Zone, Old Bagan, Mandalay Division. Email: [p.m.thiribagan@gmail.com](mailto:p.m.thiribagan@gmail.com). Tel: 061 60048-49 **BOXCO**, one of India's, Top Freight Forwarder, Logistics & Supply Chain Management service provider maintaining extensive network across the globe covering over 100 countries. We are looking for suitable candidates in areas of Agencies, Forwarding & Logistics operations for our extensive business activities in Myanmar. Candidates with experience in above related fields may apply for following positions: (1) **Senior Management**.

Yangon. Tel: 387366, 387431, 376844, Email: [3g@gggglory.com.mm](mailto:3g@gggglory.com.mm), [3gmyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:3gmyanmar@gmail.com), Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014. **F&N FOODS Pte., Ltd** (Yangon Branch Office) is currently seeking **Information System Manager/Executive** - 1 post, **Business Development Executive** - 1 post, **Trade Marketing Executive** - 1 post, **Brand Executive** - 1 post, **Trade Marketing Executive** - 1 post, **Route to Market Development Executive** - 1 post. For all posts: Good command in English & computer skill. Interested Candidates should apply with full CV/Resume indicating expected salary, position of interest, qualifications, educational background and recent photo to 39, Aung Theikdi Avenue, (1) Lane, Ward (3), Mayangon, Yangon. Tel: 01-522674 (or) Email : [100plusmyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:100plusmyanmar@gmail.com) Closing date: 1.8.14. **THE WELL** established Sales & Distribution Company is seeking (1). **Sales Promoter** - 5 posts: Preferable female, Age 20 ~ 25 years, Any University graduate, 1 ~ 2 years experiences especially in FMCG, Good communication English skills (2). **Driver** - 3 posts in Yangon : Basic

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LONDON

# Gerrard leaves Lions in tears

**A**S Steven Gerrard soaked up thunderous applause from England's supporters at full-time in Belo Horizonte, he looked surprised and relieved by the generous response to his team's dismal World Cup campaign.

The 17-minute substitute appearance in a meaningless draw against Costa Rica proved to be Gerrard's last England appearance after the Three Lions captain announced his retirement from international duty on July 21.

The 34-year-old took his last curtain call on the global stage when he waved in response to the England cheers that seemed so out of place in a tournament in which Roy Hodgson's team took only one point from three matches.

It was a symbolic epitaph for Gerrard's England career, which left the player himself and his legion of ad-

mirers frustrated that he never quite dominated in the manner he has for Liverpool.

After winning 114 caps, behind only Peter Shilton (124) and David Beckham (115) on his country's all-time appearance list and captaining England at two World Cups, Gerrard will rightly be remembered as a loyal and proud servant.

But while Gerrard's application in an England shirt could never be questioned, the quality of his performances often fell short of the stratospheric standards he reached in Liverpool colours.

While Gerrard's signature moments for Liverpool are many and varied – few will ever forget his heroics in Istanbul in the 2005 Champions League final and his 2006 FA Cup final masterclass against West Ham – for England he was mostly diligent but lacking inspiration.

He scored 21 times for England, starting with a blistering strike from outside the penalty area in the memorable 5-1 thrashing of Germany in September 2001.

Yet he never netted against another top-level international opponent, with his remaining goals coming against a motley crew including the likes of Macedonia, Andorra, Belarus and Trinidad and Tobago.

That chilly night in Munich when Gerrard inspired the German demolition seemed to promise such a bright future for the midfielder, who was making only his sixth England appearance.

"That was my favourite England game," Gerrard said. "We had to get a result and we completely played them off the park."

But he failed to scale those heights for England again, instead becoming one of the now tarnished "golden gen-

eration" who never made it past the last eight at a major tournament.

Gerrard was handed his first England cap by Kevin Keegan against Ukraine in 2000 and he insisted from that moment on he "enjoyed every minute of representing his country".

If that is the case, Gerrard must have some masochistic tendencies.

He made his tournament debut at Euro 2000 when England bowed out in the group stages, then missed the World Cup two years later due to a groin injury.

Gerrard, whose failure to establish a strong midfield partnership with Frank Lampard was a constant problem, was unable to stop England crashing out of Euro 2004 on penalties against Portugal in the quarter-finals.

Two years later Gerrard would miss a penalty against the same opponents in Germany, where England again lost on spot-kicks in the World

Cup quarter-finals.

Gerrard was made vice-captain by Steve McClaren, but England failed to qualify for Euro 2008 after a 3-2 loss to Croatia.

He went on to take the armband for the 2010 World Cup, but a 4-1 last-16 exit against Germany brought a chastening end to that campaign.

Gerrard hinted before the World Cup in Brazil that it would be his international swansong and he wanted to go out on a high.

But he struggled to hit top form and cried tears of frustration after his critical mistake led to Luis Suarez scoring the late winner for Uruguay that effectively eliminated England.

For that to be Gerrard's last significant contribution for England is hardly fair to such a decent and dignified man, but somehow it was in keeping with the sombre mood of his international career. – *AFP*



Steven Gerrard walks across the pitch at half-time during a match between Liverpool and Roma in Boston on July 23. Photo: AFP

LOS ANGELES

## Closing arguments scheduled in Sterling trust case

DONALD Sterling's lawyers last week opted not to call Shelly Sterling as a witness in their court fight to block her sale of the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers and abruptly rested their case.

The move sets the stage for closing arguments on July 28 in the case in which Donald Sterling is challenging his estranged wife's authority to sell the club for US\$2 billion to former Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer.

The final witness called on behalf of Donald Sterling was doctor Jeffrey Cummings, an expert in Alzheimer's disease who acknowledged under cross-examination by Shelly Sterling's lawyer Pierce O'Donnell that the two doctors who found the Clippers owner mentally incompetent did not have to state the reason for their examinations beforehand.

Donald Sterling's lawyer, Maxwell Blecher, had been expected to call Shelly Sterling, but decided not to after Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas said he could not ask his client's estranged wife about her lawsuit against her husband's former companion, V. Stiviano, or about the Clippers owner's antitrust lawsuit against the NBA.



Donald Sterling stands during a Clippers game last season. Photo: AFP

After the court proceedings O'Donnell said that Donald Sterling's argument that he had been the victim of fraud had "disappeared like that".

Shelly Sterling negotiated the deal as the trustee of the Sterling family trust, after Donald Sterling's position as co-trustee was terminated when two medical experts declared him mentally incompetent to handle trust affairs.

The sale was precipitated in April, when recordings of Sterling making

racist comments to his would-be girlfriend Stiviano led to his being banned from the NBA for life by league commissioner Adam Silver.

An August 15 deadline to complete the deal in approaching, with the risk that the offer could be withdrawn if it isn't finalized by then.

O'Donnell voiced confidence that Levanas will see Donald Sterling's efforts as a "diversion" and refuse to block the sale.

O'Donnell also scoffed at the latest lawsuit filed by Sterling on July 22 against his wife, the NBA, the Clippers and Silver saying it raised "the same old issues".

"Donald Sterling is running out of courts in which to file cases," O'Donnell said, noting that the octogenarian billionaire has filed suits in federal and state court and well as battling his wife in probate court.

Levanas told lawyers for both parties he wants the closing arguments to be focused on whether Shelly Sterling had authority under the family trust to remove her husband as a co-trustee because of his alleged mental incompetence and whether her husband's subsequent revocation of the trust had any effect on her ability to sell the team to Ballmer. – *AFP*

LOS ANGELES

## Premier League set for US big screens

US fans will have a new venue to satisfy their growing appetite for football when selected 2014-15 English Premier League matches hit movie screens across the country.

NBC Sports, which holds Premier League broadcast rights in the United States, is teaming up with entertainment company Fathom Events to show live matches on Saturday mornings in selected American cinemas.

The "Barclays Premier League LIVE" in-theater series was announced on July 23, and will kick off on Saturday, August 16.

In order to ensure that the highest profile fixtures are featured in theaters, each week's game will be announced the Tuesday before.

According to Fathom, fans who buy tickets will also be treated to "specially

MILLION

32

Number of US viewers who watched the 2013-14 Premier League through NBC Sports' Group's broadcasts.

produced half-time breaks" featuring interviews, analysis and "theater-only" insights live from England".

A record 32 million Americans tuned in to NBC Sports Group's 2013-14 Premier League coverage – more

than doubling the 13.3 million who watched the previous season on ESPN, ESPN2 and Fox Soccer, according to The Nielsen Company that compiles viewership ratings.

The 2014 World Cup in Brazil also drew record television audiences stateside.

"It's clear from the recent nationwide outpouring of support for team USA in the World Cup that more and more Americans are embracing and following this remarkable sport," said Fathom Events chief executive John Rubey.

"In this 'first-ever' cinema sports series partnership with NBC Sports Group, fans in theaters can expect to get the full Barclays Premier League experience as though they were at one of the famed stadiums in the United Kingdom." – *AFP*

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## LONDON

# Queen's Gold Cup winner fails drug test

Estimate, which lifted the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2013 and came second in this year's edition, has tested positive for morphine, a banned substance.

A statement by the Queen's racing adviser said initial indications were the positive test had resulted from the "consumption of a contaminated feed product".

The Queen, renowned for a love and knowledge of horse racing which dates back to the 88-year-old monarch's childhood, cheered on Estimate, saddled by top trainer Michael Stoute, when the now five-

year-old filly won at Ascot last year.

A statement by John Warren, the Queen's bloodstock and racing advisor, said, "On Thursday July 17 the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) announced that a number of post-race samples, obtained from recent race meetings, had been found to indicate the presence of morphine, which is a prohibited substance on race days.

"Five horses, under the care of various trainers, were affected.

"I can confirm that one of those horses was Estimate, the five year-old filly trained by Sir Michael Stoute and owned by The Queen.

"Initial indications are that the positive test resulted from the consumption of a contaminated feed product.

"Sir Michael is working closely with the feed company involved to discover how the product may have become contaminated prior to delivery to his stables.

"As the BHA investigates this matter, including potential links between the different cases, Sir Michael continues to offer his full co-operation.

"There will be no further comment until the BHA announces its considered findings.

"Her Majesty has been informed of the situation."

Estimate made sporting history for the Queen in 2013 when she became the first reigning monarch to own a Gold Cup-winning horse.

An often reserved figure in public, the Queen was seen smiling as Estimate crossed the winning line in first place as her family, including granddaughters Princess Eugenie and Beatrice, jumped



## IN PICTURES

**The air up there:** Nadia Akpana Assa of Norway competes in the women's long jump during day one of the IAAF World Junior Championships in Eugene, Oregon on July 22. *Photo: AFP*



Queen Elizabeth II pats her horse, Estimate, in the winner's enclosure on July 20, 2013 at the Royal Ascot, in Berkshire, west of London. Photo: AFP

for joy behind her in the royal box.

Immediately after Estimate's victory, Stoute said, "It's a special thrill to win this race for the Queen and it will have given her enormous pleasure - she really loves this game and it's a great recreation for her."

"She told me it was a very big thrill and thanked everybody involved."

Under the rules of English racing, Estimate will not be stripped of her 2013 Gold Cup victory but she could be deprived of second place in this year's edition if officials decide there has been an infringement.

Long known as the 'Sport of Kings', racing's connections to royalty date back centuries.

It was Queen Anne in 1711 who first

saw the potential for a racecourse at Ascot, south-west of London.

Whilst out riding near Windsor Castle she came upon an area of open heath that looked, in her words, "ideal for horses to gallop at full stretch".

The first meeting took place later that year, although Royal Ascot in something like its present form only started to take shape with the introduction of the Gold Cup, a flat race for "staying" horses aged four or older run over a distance of 2 miles and 4 furlongs (4023 metres), in 1807.

Estimate's victory in 2013 was a particularly notable success as wins in major races for the Queen having become increasingly rare in recent decades. — *AFP*

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# Sport

GLASGOW

## Aussies bury London misery in gold

**A**USTRALIA'S swimmers buried their 2012 Olympics flop by claiming two world records on the opening day of the Commonwealth Games which brought only misery for superstars Bradley Wiggins and Mo Farah.

Two years after a controversial Olympics yielded just one gold amidst claims of bullying, wild partying and abuse of prescription drugs, the Aussies were a revelation in the Glasgow pool.

Their women's 4x100m freestyle relay squad set a new world record of 3min 30.98sec as they retained their Commonwealth Games title.

Having already broken the Commonwealth Games record in the heats, the addition of 100m freestyle world champion Cate Campbell to the team of Bronte Campbell, Melanie Schlanger and Emma McKeon proved the difference as they shaved more than seven-tenths of a second off the previous record held by the Netherlands.

England took the silver medal with Canada coming third for bronze.

"It wasn't even a topic that we had discussed, but I think we all had an inkling in the back of our heads that it was possible," said Schlanger.

For McKeon, it was a second gold of the night after she had also claimed the 200m freestyle title in a Games record time of 1min 55.57sec.

Australia's Rowan Crothers broke his own world record to claim gold in the para-sport 100m freestyle in a time of 54.58sec.

Ross Murdoch shattered the Games record for the second time in a day to deny hot favourite Michael Jamieson as Scotland claimed gold and silver in the men's 200m breaststroke.

Glasgow-born Jamieson had been one of the most prominent athletes in



Australia's Cate Campbell, Melanie Schlanger, Emma McKeon and Bronte Campbell pose after winning the women's 4x100m freestyle relay at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on July 24. Photo: AFP

the build-up to the Games having won silver in the same event at the 2012 Olympics.

Hannah Miley had claimed Scotland's first swimming gold of the Games as she retained her 400m individual medley title in a new Games record time of 4min 31.76sec.

On the cycling track, 30-year-old Australian Anna Meares took 0.3 seconds off her own previous 500m time-trial best of 33.758sec to take gold in 33.435sec.

Four-time world champion Meares has now won a record-equaling five gold medals at the Games, joining compatriot Bradley McGee.

It was also a third successive victory in the event for Meares, who has now equalled Kathy Watt's Australia women's cycling record of seven Commonwealth Games medals.

"I decided to start cycling after watching Kathy at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and now some 20 years later I beat her in most golds. But breaking the record was not my biggest target. I just wanted to be the best," said Meares.

Australia also won the men's team pursuit gold in a Games record time of 3min 54.851sec.

England, with former Tour de France winner Wiggins in the lineup, took silver. It was Wiggins' fourth career Commonwealth silver medal.

"We've had limited preparations for this and hopefully will look back in two years with gold medals around our necks [at the Rio Olympics] thinking this was the starting point in Glasgow," said Wiggins.

World champions New Zealand smashed the Commonwealth record on their way to winning the men's team sprint.

England swept the opening triathlon golds with Alistair Brownlee trumping younger brother Jonathan to win the men's title after Jodie Stimpson earlier took gold in the women's event.

The immediacy of the action took some of the sting out of Mo Farah's shock withdrawal which rocked the Games just as they got underway.

- AFP

## Queen's champion horse fails drug test

SPORT 67

SINGAPORE

## Singaporean jailed in sex-for-fixing case

A SINGAPOREAN businessman was sentenced to three years in prison on July 22 for providing prostitutes to three Lebanese football referees in an attempt to rig future matches.

Nightclub owner Eric Ding Si Yang, 32, was jailed on corruption charges following revelations that Singapore has become a centre of gambling-linked match-fixing for games as far away as Europe.

He was found guilty on July 1 of bribing referee Ali Sabbagh, 35 and assistant referees Ali Eid, 34, and Abdallah Taleb, 38, before a match last year in Singapore.

District Judge Toh Yung Cheong said as he handed down the jail sentence that Singapore's reputation had been tarnished by the match-fixing.

He earlier ruled that the prosecution had proven beyond reasonable doubt that Ding offered the Lebanese match officials sexual services to "induce the three of them to agree to getting involved in match-fixing".

"The ultimate objective was to get the match officials to make decisions

on the pitch that were incorrect in order to benefit the match-fixers," Toh said.

The three Lebanese were arrested in April 2013 before they could officiate at an Asian Football Confederation Cup match between Singapore-based club Tampines Rovers and India's East Bengal.

All three subsequently pleaded guilty. Sabbagh was jailed for six months while Ali Eid and Abdallah Taleb served three-month sentences.

When he convicted Ding on July 1, the judge dismissed as "far-fetched" the businessman's argument that he was not a match-fixer but a freelance journalist with a local tabloid who had an "interest in writing about match-fixing".

State prosecutors had asked the court to hand down a stiff sentence of up to six years in jail and a maximum US\$242,000 fine.

In September last year, Singapore police nabbed 14 people believed to be members of a global match-fixing syndicate including the suspected mastermind Dan Tan. - AFP

## Two Two eyes Golden Belt

KYAW ZIN HLANG

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SOUTHEAST Asian Games traditional boxing gold medallist Two Two will challenge Golden Belt champion Saw Nga Man for his title in Yangon as part of an eight fight card next month.

Saw Nga Man has long been a dominant force in the ring, but at 33, there are doubts about his age as he takes on rising talent Two Two, who is 10 years his junior on August 17 at Thuwana indoor stadium.

"Saw Nga Man is the current champion of Myanmar traditional boxing while Two Two's skills are increasing following the SEA Games and other recent matches. This competition will be very interesting for fans," said Soe Than Win, CEO of T&T Group, which

is promoting the fight.

Two Two said he was ready to take on a more seasoned opponent.

"I have been watching video of my opponent's matches and I have learned Saw Nga Man's strengths and weaknesses. I will try my best to get a good result," he said.

Two Two's coach, Kyaw Soe, said he expected his fighter to shine.

"He [Two Two] has fought well in local and international boxing matches and he will show his talent. I think he is ready to challenge Saw Nga Man," he said.

Also squaring off on August 17 will be two former Golden Belt champions, Shwe War Htun and Lone Chaw.

VIP tickets will cost K15,000 and K20,000. General admission tickets will cost K5000.

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