

## MYANMAR TIMES

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A nurse checks a patient at a clinic in South Okkalapa township set up to cope with an outbreak on October 1. Photo: Zarni Phyo

## Hundreds infected in cholera outbreak

SHWE YEE SAW MYINT

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HEALTH officials were insisting last week a cholera outbreak in Yangon's South Okkalapa township was under control, after hundreds of patients presented at an emergency clinic and Thingangyun Sanpa Hospital for treatment.

The outbreak had originally been diagnosed as gastroenteritis but Dr Tin Thit Sa, an epidemiologist with the Yangon Region health department, said testing of water samples at the National Health Laboratory had discovered coliform and *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria in the township's water supply.

Health authorities have already opened a 24-hour clinic to provide treatment and hospital referrals.

Between September 27 and October 8, 380 patients sought treatment at the clinic, of which 234 tested positive for cholera and 41 were referred to hospital for treatment, said township administrator U Aung Moe Win.

He said some of the patients were recovering, but new victims were still coming forward. Sufferers are complaining of diarrhoea, vomiting and abdominal pain, and the Ministry of Health is urging anyone with similar symptoms to present themselves to their nearest government health centre as soon as possible.

MORE ON NEWS 3

## FEATURE 10

## Life on the edge

Poor residents in Yangon's outer areas often have even less access to health services than those in rural villages.

## BUSINESS 24

## Loan interest rates could float by 2015

Central Bank deputy governor says newly licensed banks could be allowed to set their own interest rates for US dollar loans from 2015.

## YCDC expands scope of December election

Number of people able to vote has increased almost 30-fold in response to criticism that election law was unconstitutional and process lacked transparency. NEWS 3



# Dunlopillo

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

### Long walk to freedom

Tatmadaw commander-in-chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with visiting Thai officials last week, taking the opportunity to implore them to push for an impartial investigation into the Koh Tao murders.

Thai junta leader Prayut Chan-o-cha was met by minor protests in Yangon.

He was quoted in a release from the Ministry of Information saying "...it is important that 'many guilty persons should escape unpunished, than one innocent person should suffer'". Because if there's one thing officials here hate, it's people being in prison who don't deserve it.

Speaking of, last week's amnesty means there are now 74 political

prisoners left in Myanmar, according to AAPPB figures. So far in 2014, 32 prisoners of conscience have walked free and, if history's taught us anything, there should be another amnesty ahead of the upcoming Obama visit.

### Crime beat

New figures released by the Myanmar police force have shown what looks like an upward trend for robberies, with 2714 incidents reported in the six months from April - meaning there are around 14 each day. Police noticed that violence, or the threat of violence, was becoming more prevalent in robberies. Carjacking is also gaining in popularity, police say, with SUVs the preferred target vehicle.

# 4

The number of female political prisoners left in Myanmar, according to AAPPB's latest figures

### In brief:

Speculation abounds over the whereabouts of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, unconfirmed reports says he was seen at GTR

Oktoberfest at Inya Lake considered a raging success by people who like their glass filled 70% by foam

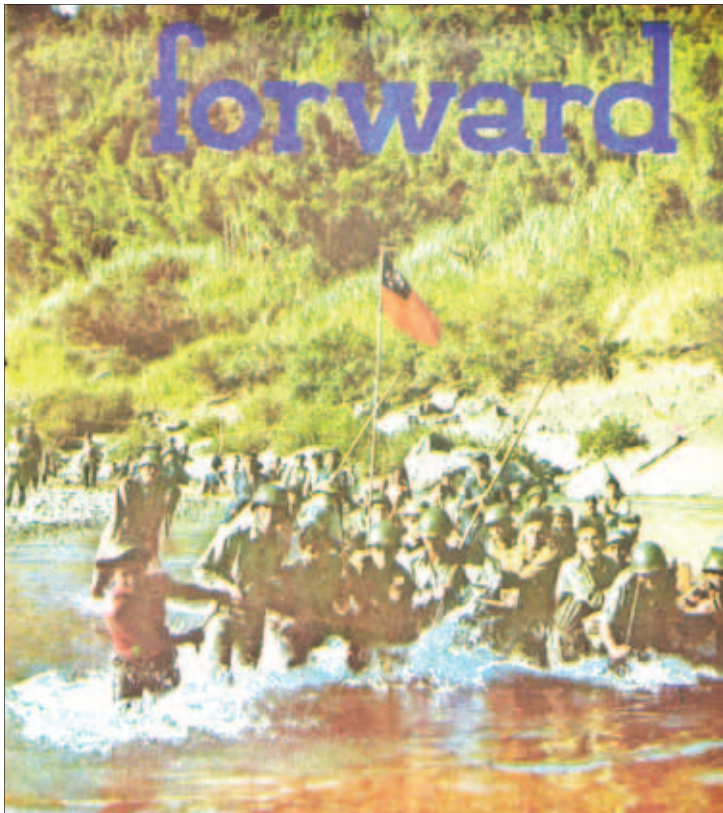
Ruby Mart voted "the most stressful shopping experience on earth"

### Next week:

Surfeit of Japanese restaurants in Yaw Min Gyi area leads to rumours a covert, incremental occupation is being staged

## Once was Burma...

From the Pansodan Gallery archives



Cover of 1970s socialist magazine *Forward*

**'We are not fighting against the government. We just demand for the return of our grabbed land. This camp has lasted for 200 days. Our health and jobs are affected. If we didn't lose our land, we wouldn't have lived on a road like this, not even for a single day.'**

Thingangyun land grab protestors tell Eleven they marked 200 days at their temporary camp next to Mahabandoola Park by going on a hunger strike



Practical and chic: Shwethamee for *NOW!* Magazine.

Photo: Htet Aung Kyaw (Studio HAK)

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ကျွန်းသောင်းမိုးနှင့်အထက် ဝယ်ယူသူတိုင်း ကံစမ်းခံလက်မှတ်(၁)စောင် ရယူကံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

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- အမှတ်(၄၇၃)၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။ ဖုန်း- ၀၁-၅၁၇၆၉၄၊ ၀၉-၇၃၁၂၂၁၀၄
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CONTINUED FROM NEWS 1

The township authorities announced the closure of food and drink stalls in the area on September 29. Shops that reopened were forcibly closed in the days after the outbreak but have since been allowed to reopen, with the township administration office and health authorities conducting hygiene checks each morning.

Also on September 29, 14 workers at the Haewae garment factory in South Okkalapa complained of diarrhoea, and two attended hospital, said factory manager Ko Myo Naing. “We tell our staff to wash their hands, and the township health authority has advised that anyone who feels sick should go to the clinic,” he said.

Dr Nan Win Myint, a deputy

director of the Ministry of Health’s Disease Control Department, said that it was one of the larger outbreaks of cholera in Yangon in recent years, but could not provide specific figures.

Township health officer Dr Aye Aye Moe said poor sanitation, overcrowding and lack of clean drinking water were likely to blame. She said authorities were responding by chlorinating water, providing information on food safety and improving sanitation through better waste management, such as fly-proof toilets.

Retired medical superintendent Dr Ba Shwe said cholera was not common in Myanmar and normally occurred at the start or end of rainy season.

He said the disease can spread very quickly, as flies can transmit it from one area to another, and so it was important the authorities respond quickly.

“Cholera outbreaks really cause headaches for township officials,” he said. “The government needs to build fly-proof toilets and should give health knowledge to residents.”

He said residents could protect themselves by being extra careful about personal hygiene, particularly washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Food and drink should be covered to stop it being contaminated by flies, while water should be boiled or chlorinated to ensure it is safe.

# Activists rally after Koh Tao accused retract confessions

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A DEMONSTRATION calling for justice for the two Myanmar citizens accused of the murder of British tourists in Thailand was shifted to Maha Bandoola Park last week, after the authorities refused to allow it to take place in front of the Thai embassy in Yangon as planned.

At the request of the authorities, Myanmar Social Development Organisation (MSDO) agreed to move the October 10 protest about 1.6 kilometres (1 mile).

The group is calling for an international investigation into the case of the two men, named as U Zaw Lin and U Win Zaw Htun, both 21, who have retracted confessions they say were obtained after beatings. MSDO also wants the Thai and Myanmar governments to ensure that migrant workers enjoy legal protection.

Led by former Tatmadaw captain U Nay Myo Zin, the demonstration took place without incident in Maha Bandoola Park instead of outside the Thai embassy on Pyay Road. Activists demanded the release of the two men, who they said were “wrongly and unfairly accused of murder”.

“We are calling for a review of the case with the mediation of an expert team comprising international forensic specialists. We also want the two governments to cooperate in finding the truth about this case. Finally, we want them to stress the rights of migrant workers and ensure they are protected by the rule of law,” the former army captain told *The Myanmar Times*.



A Myanmar Social Development Organisation member speaks at a public protest near City Hall in downtown Yangon on October 10. Photo: Yu Yu

The two migrant workers were released previously before being re-arrested by Thai police, who said DNA test results indicated their involvement in the killing of tourists David Miller and Hannah Witheridge on Koh Tao.

Explaining the change of venue, U Nay Myo Zin said, “Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Tin Win said it was neither a good time nor a good place to conduct the protest near the Royal Thai Embassy, citing security for the Thai premier’s visit and the relations between the two countries,” he said. “We accepted that.”

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha arrived in Myanmar on October 9 and met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw before visiting the Thai embassy.

The same day, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing raised the Koh Tao issue in a meeting with Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs General Tanasak Patimapragorn in Nay Pyi Taw. He told

Gen Tanasak that it was better that “many guilty persons ... escape unpunished” than for an innocent person to suffer, and requested Thailand’s cooperation with an investigation set up by the Myanmar embassy in Thailand.

RELATED STORY NEWS 6

# YCDC sets date for vote

Election to take place on December 27, with up to 800,000 allowed to vote, according to officials



YANGON City Development Committee will hold its controversial election in late December, and has dramatically expanded the number of people who will be able to vote.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint had previously told the Yangon Region Hluttaw that the election would be held in September but, as *The Myanmar Times* has previously reported, no instructions were given to staff to form commissions to oversee the vote.

On October 3, YCDC placed an ad in its daily newspaper, *City News*, announcing that the election would take place on December 27.

YCDC deputy director U Sein Min Naing said the committee would accept applications from those who want to stand for election until October 19.

In an important change, the number of people able to vote has been expanded. Originally YCDC had announced that it would allow just 1.5 percent of those eligible to vote, citing the expense of holding a city-wide election.

The proposal attracted criticism from some regional MPs, with Daw Nyo Nyo Thin describing it as unconstitutional and threatening to have the issue raised in Nay Pyi Taw’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

However, YCDC joint secretary U Nyi Nyi said last week that the rules had been revised so that each household would be able to cast one vote. He said this would mean that about 800,000 votes could be cast, up from just 30,000 if the 1.5pc rule was used.

Another change has resulted in more positions being up for election. While the YCDC Election Law stated that four of nine YCDC positions would be selected through popular vote, recent amendments mean eligible citizens can stand for election

at the district or township level.

To oversee the vote, YCDC has created an election commission comprising four retired civil servants and one current YCDC official. This city-wide commission will oversee district and township election commissions, each comprising five members, that have also been formed by YCDC.

“We will take 90 days to prepare for the election, which will be taking place in the last week of December,” U Nyi Nyi said.

While some MPs have questioned the short window for registering as a candidate, residents reported that officials have been visiting the wards each night to publicly announce details about the election.

“I knew about the election because township YCDC officials have been wandering around the quarter and making announcements about it every night,” said Ma Myat from Ahlone township.

Daw Thandar from South Dagon township said officials in her area had been doing the same.

U Kyaw, an MP from Thingangyun township who has previously been critical of the election process, said he was pleased that YCDC had addressed the concerns raised by amending the election law.

“The election needs to be fair. We appreciate the fact that the committee is holding the election and has amended some sections of the law that violate the constitution,” he said.

To be eligible to stand for election to the YCDC central body or its township and district committees, candidates must be Myanmar citizens and their parents must also both be Myanmar citizens. They must have lived in the relevant area for at least 10 years, be a resident when they submit their candidacy, have basic knowledge about urban planning, and be loyal to the country and its citizens.

Those standing for YCDC must be aged between 45 and 65, while those standing for district positions must be between 40 and 60. Township-level candidates must be aged 35 to 55, according to the election rules.

**‘We want the two governments to cooperate in finding the truth about this case.’**

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## Stability returns to Myawaddy

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THOUGH calm has returned to Myawaddy, Kayin State, the army is on alert and traffic from other towns is still down from normal levels. After a series of armed clashes, troops searched homes and vehicles for weapons.

Reports that a passenger car and a truck were fired on could not be confirmed.

A Myawaddy resident who requested anonymity said on October 7 that "nearly everything" has returned to normal in the border town.

"The army is here in strength and has imposed tight security. We don't see ethnic armed groups coming and going as usual," the resident said.

Trade between Myawaddy and neighbouring towns has plunged about two thirds, local residents estimated, and cross-border trade with Thailand at Mae Sot was also affected.

The military say only three ethnic armed groups – the Karen National Union, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army and the KNU/KNLA Peace Council, are allowed to stay in Myawaddy. Army claims that other armed groups may be in the town could not be confirmed.

Fighting broke out between the Tatmadaw and DKBA on September 26. The clashes were among the heaviest in the region since November 2010, when the DKBA temporarily seized control of Myawaddy, sending a flood of residents over the border into neighbouring Mae Sot. – *Translation by Thiri Min Htun*

# Clashes could delay peace process, NCCT chief warns



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FRESH clashes between ethnic armed forces and the Tatmadaw could delay the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement, a senior peace negotiator has warned.

Naing Han Thar, leader of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), which is negotiating on behalf of 16 armed ethnic groups, made the comments following an informal meeting with government negotiators in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on October 4.

"We're still wrangling over the details of the ceasefire draft agreement. It's a very sensitive time. The Tatmadaw should avoid getting drawn into fighting, despite the tensions," said Naing Han Thar, referring to the recent fighting between the Tatmadaw and Shan armed groups.

At the informal talks in Chiang Mai, the Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC) and the NCCT discussed the remaining sections of the nationwide ceasefire agreement on which they have not reached agreement, Naing Han Thar said.

"We also talked about the recent clashes," he said, adding that he believed they were linked to the ceasefire process.

"The Tatmadaw want us to sign whatever they put forward but we did not agree to the points that they asked," he said. "After that, skirmishes happened again in some areas. These conditions are likely to delay the peace talks."



Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team chair Naing Han Thar speaks to reporters in Yangon on September 26, at the end of five days of peace talks with the government's Union Peace-making Work Committee. Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

In southern Myanmar, attacks on the Tatmadaw by unknown assailants in Kayin and Mon states at the end of September drove 300 villagers from their homes, but did not produce casualties. In early October, meanwhile, fighting flared briefly between the Tatmadaw and the Shan State Army-North in Kye-thi township, Shan State.

"Fighting has eased over the past few days, and both sides agreed to cease fire on October 6," said Sao Khun Sai, general secretary of the Shan State Progress Party, the political wing of

the SSA-North.

On October 5, the United Wa State Army wrote to President U Thein Sein, army commander-in-chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann urging an end to the offensive in Shan State.

U Harn Yawngnwe, a director of the Euro-Burma Office, said the clashes were likely to continue until a ceasefire was agreed.

"Both sides blame each other. Fighting will keep breaking out

unless a monitoring team is put in place. But forming such a team is impossible without a nationwide ceasefire agreement," he said.

The latest round of talks between the UPWC and NCCT and was held at the Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon last month, but the lack of agreement on security-related issues has dimmed hopes that the deal would be signed in October as previously planned. No date has been set for the next round of talks, although they are expected to take place later this month.

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## Shan leaders meet UNFC

SHAN leaders and the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) met in Thailand's Chiang Mai on October 6 to discuss the delay in the national ceasefire process and related matters, said Sao Pan Pha, central committee member of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP).

No decision was reached at the two-hour informal meeting between the UNFC and the Shan State Joint Action Committee, which includes the SSPP – the political wing of the Shan State Army-North – and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), he said.

Topics included the latest stage of the peace talks, equal rights, self-determination and recruitment. "The situation is unfair, because [under the draft ceasefire] ethnic armed groups can't recruit [soldiers] but the government can. They also discussed the reasons for the delay in the peace talks," Sao Pan Pha said.

UNFC leader N' Ban La and general secretary U Khun Okkar, SNLD chair U Khun Tun Oo and General Sao Say Htin from the SSA-North also attended the meeting. – *Hlaing Kyaw Soe, translation by Thiri Min Htun*

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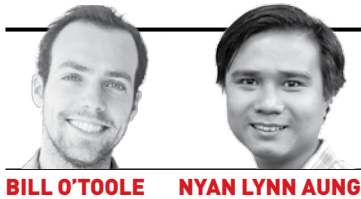


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# President's Office to probe migrant torture allegations



**BILL O'TOOLE** **NYAN LYNN AUNG**

THE President's Office has confirmed it will seek to form a commission to investigate allegations that two Myanmar migrant workers accused of murdering a vacationing British couple in Koh Tao, Thailand, were tortured during a police interrogation.

While details of the commission remain vague, U Zaw Htay, a spokesperson for the President's Office, said the president would give further details in the coming days. The announcement came only a few hours after President U Thein Sein met with the Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha in Nay Pyi Taw on October 9.

The small island of Koh Tao, long a popular destination for tourists, has been the center of international media attention since mid-September, when the bodies of David Miller and Hannah Witheridge were discovered on the beach.

After two weeks of investigation, Thai authorities identified two Myanmar migrant workers as suspects. Both men were brought in for questioning on October 1, where they eventually confessed after several hours of interrogation, according to Thai media.

On October 7, Thai police submitted their case against the two migrants to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Samui, Thailand. While the deadline for releasing the two from detention is technically October 15, the prosecutor's office may ask that the detention be extended while it considers the case. If the prosecutor's office chooses to move forward with the case, both men could face the death penalty if convicted.

The arrests have been



**Two Myanmar migrant workers (seated, wearing helmets) accused of killing two British tourists on the Thai island of Koh Tao last month re-enact the crime scene for investigators on October 3.** Photo: AFP/Thai Police

controversial because of reports suggesting the men may have been mistreated during their interrogation. Senior police officials in Koh Tao reportedly insisted from the start that the murder could not have been committed by a Thai person and made the Myanmar migrant worker community their focus, leading some to question whether they have considered all options.

Additionally, the investigation's credibility has been tarnished by widespread reports that the Thai police tortured Myanmar migrant workers in the area in their quest for suspects, and similarly tortured the accused.

Amnesty international released a statement on October 7 calling for the Thai government to "initiate an independent, effective and transparent investigation into

mounting allegations of torture and other ill-treatment by police".

"The pressure to be seen to be solving an appalling crime that has garnered considerable attention should not result in the violation of rights, including to a fair trial," the statement said.

The arrest of the Myanmar workers has drawn criticism locally on Facebook, while an open petition on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) calling for the UK to conduct its own independent investigation into the killings has gathered more than 47,000 signatures.

Citing the confusing and often contradictory reports from the Thai police - as well as what the petition says is "the well known fact that citizens of Myanmar are the usual choice of scapegoats in Thailand" - it states that the "International and local com-

munity are now not able to trust that the two Myanmar nationals ... have not had their confessions forced out of them or that evidence against them has not been tampered with".

Migrant advocacy groups such as the Migrant Workers Rights Network and the Human Rights Development Foundation, as well as the prominent migrant activist Andy Hall, have sent a team to provide legal assistance to the two men.

The group comprises lawyers, migrant activists and translators, Mr Hall said in an email. "Our team shall seek, in cooperation with Thai officials, to gain access to the accused migrant workers and interview them on their past and present treatment," he said, "as well as ensure these persons understand fully their rights as accused persons under Thai law."

## Rule of law centres to open in November

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RULE of law centres are to open in Mandalay and Lashio, Shan State, a key parliamentary committee has announced. Local and foreign experts will train police and township officials in building stable and peaceful communities.

The initiative is being spearheaded by the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquillity Committee, which is chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with funding and technical assistance from the UN Development Programme and other donors.

"As part of a pilot project, rule of law centres will open in Mandalay and Lashio in November, in cooperation with the UNDP," committee secretary U Win Myint told *The Myanmar Times*. He stressed that the centres would be independent of the government.

U Win Myint added that he now expected cooperation from the government ministries concerned after complaining in parliament on September 29 that they had refused to allow their staff to participate in the process. "They didn't even attend meetings," he said.

Officials have since promised to take part in the committee's activities.

The decision to establish the centres follows the committee's trip to Mandalay and southern Shan State, near the Thai border, a year ago. "These areas are not under the rule of law and do not enjoy enough security to protect life and property," said U Win Myint.

The centre will launch a training program for civil servants from the Ministry of Home Affairs, including police, and village and township administrators, as well as judges, lawyers, legal officers and other staff.

"The centre will issue certificates to trainees who pass their exams," said U Win Myint.



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## Muslim activist released weeks after conviction

## BILL O'TOOLE

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LESS than two weeks after being convicted of rioting in a Sittwe court, Muslim community leader U Kyaw Hla Aung was released under a presidential amnesty on October 7.

U Kyaw Hla Aung was arrested on July 15, 2013, following a clash in the Boduba IDP camp when a group of young Muslims refused to fill out an immigration department form that identified them as “Bengali”.

The situation escalated to the point where the youths allegedly attacked several immigration police.

Shortly afterward, U Kyaw Hla Aung was arrested and accused of inciting the group to attack the police. Many observers said the charges were directly related to U Kyaw Hla Aung's longstanding political activism and legal assistance on behalf of detained Muslims in Rakhine State.

While 3073 prisoners were freed on October 7, lawyer U Robert Sann Aung said U Kyaw Hla Aung was one of just a handful who could be described as a

“political prisoner”.

News of his release was welcomed by both his family and local civil society groups that have taken up his case. However, all were quick to point out that the president's pardon has done nothing to address the larger issue of human rights activists, including Muslims, being targeted for imprisonment and harassment.

During his incarceration, a wide array of international groups spoke out in support of the 74-year-old former lawyer. The former UN special rapporteur for human rights in Myanmar, Tomas Quintana, even met U Kyaw Hla Aung in prison. He regularly called for him to be released from what he described as “arbitrary detention”.

However, local groups were more circumspect in their support. U Bo Gyi, a member of the Remaining Political Prisoner Scrutiny Committee, said he and other civilian members had been attempting to raise U Kyaw Hla Aung's case but were told by government officials that the situation in Rakhine State was too “sensitive” for the committee to examine it.

Some groups dedicated to the rights of political prisoners were hesitant to take up U Kyaw Hla Aung's case, U Bo Gyi said, because they consider the conflict in Rakhine State a religious rather than political conflict.

However, U Bo Gyi said that over the past 18 months there has been a growing acceptance that U Kyaw Hla Aung did not belong in prison.

“Not everyone agreed to regard [U Kyaw Hla Aung] as a political prisoner but everyone agreed to regard him as a special case.”

While U Bo Gyi said he was “not surprised” that U Kyaw Hla Aung was chosen for release, he and other committee members had hoped it would occur through the scrutiny committee. He said they had also expected the amnesty to include many more political prisoners.

“We expected more, therefore we are really upset and frustrated,” said U Bo Gyi, adding that the committee has not met since July.

U Kyaw Hla Aung's son, Ko Aung, said he believed his father's pardon was a “political” tactic to placate the

international community without upsetting Rakhine nationalists.

He pointed out that when U Kyaw Hla Aung was sentenced to 18 months' jail at the end of September, the judge included time already served, meaning his father only had three months left to serve.

Ko Aung said it was a tacit admission that the government was willing to release his father after holding him for more than a year.

Matthew Smith, executive director of Fortify Rights, said even with the pardon U Kyaw Hla Aung's legal troubles are not over.

“He was released with conditions, and his sentence can be reinstated if he's charged with a subsequent offence, so in that sense this is not a true amnesty,” he said. “That said, we are tremendously happy for Kyaw Hla Aung and his family. They've endured abuses for decades.”

When contacted by *The Myanmar Times*, U Kyaw Hla Aung said he was happy to be home but declined to comment out of concerns for the safety of himself and his family.

## Political prisoners: Genuine reform or international bargaining chips?

2012

September 27

President U Thein Sein addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York City

November 19

US President Barack Obama arrives in Myanmar

2013

April 22

The European Union lifts remaining sanctions against Myanmar with the exception of an arms embargo

April 24

President U Thein Sein attends the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Brunei

September 17

514 prisoners released, including 88 political prisoners

November 15

452 prisoners released, amnesty is widely criticised for containing no political prisoners

November 16

66 prisoners released

November 19

51 political prisoners released

April 23

93 prisoners released, including *The Myanmar Times* co-founder U Sonny Swe

## Amnesty panned as MI officials, not political prisoners, walk free



YE MON

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POLITICAL prisoner and human rights groups say they are disappointed with last week's amnesty, which saw only one confirmed political prisoner freed.

President U Thein Sein announced on October 7 that he had granted a pardon to 3073 prisoners under section 204(a) of the constitution. Fifty-eight of those released were foreigners, according to Minister for Information and presidential spokesperson U Ye Htut, while at least one former senior member of Military Intelligence who was imprisoned following a purge nearly a decade ago has been granted amnesty.

The prisoners were freed in the interests of “humanity, state peace and stability, rule of law and national solidarity”, U Ye Htut said in a statement on his Facebook page.

Members of the Remaining Political Prisoner Scrutiny Committee (RPPSC), which was set up in early 2013 to oversee the release of political prisoners, said the amnesty was not based on their recommendations.

The amnesty failed to win support from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which said it was disappointed that only one of an estimated 80 political prisoners had been freed.

The group said that Mar La – also known as La Ring – was the only political detainee released. He was freed from Myitkyina Prison where he was serving five years for associating with ethnic armed groups and being



A man hugs his family outside Yangon's Insein Prison shortly after being released in an amnesty on October 7. Photo: Zarni Phyo

involved in a bombing, according to the RPPSC.

Similarly, Amnesty International said the release was “an empty gesture”.

“The timing, so close to the ASEAN summit in Myanmar in early November, smacks of political opportunism,” Richard Bennett, Amnesty International's Asia Pacific director, said in a statement.

Among those left disappointed were the relatives of five staff from *Unity* journal who were jailed for 10 years in July. Their sentences were reduced to 7 years on appeal late last month and one relative said they had been expecting the five to be released in the amnesty.

Former Political Prisoners Society member U Ye Aung said that while he welcomed the amnesty he wanted the president to take stronger steps to address the issue of political prisoners.

“I welcomed this amnesty but I'm very sad that it included only one political prisoner,” said U Ye Aung, who is also on the RPPSC.

The AAPP said in a statement on October 6 that as of the end of September Myanmar had 80 political prisoners, while 130 are awaiting trial.

The government, however, insists that it freed all political prisoners by the end of 2013 and has hinted that the RPPSC could be disbanded. Those still in jail are there for criminal offences, it says.

The AAPP and FPPS have written to international leaders and asked them to raise the issue, which has largely fallen off the radar since the end of 2013, at the ASEAN meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in November.

FPPS member U Nyo Tun, who sits on the RPPSC, said the president needed to grant further amnesties focused on political prisoners rather than ordinary detainees. He also called on U Thein Sein to force the RPPSC chair, Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein, to call a committee meeting, as the body has met only three times so far this year.

Meanwhile, eight former members of Military Intelligence who were purged along with then-Prime Minister General U Khin Nyunt in November 2004 were freed on October 7.

The RPPSC, which does not consider the former MI officials political prisoners, said former Brigadier General U Thein Swe, Colonel U Maung Maung Than, Colonel Min Thu, Myint Oo, Colonel San Aung, Colonel Aung Kyaw Moe, Colonel Aung Zaw and Major Naing Htay – a personal assistant to U Khin Nyunt – were freed.

U Thein Swe, who was sentenced to 146 years' prison, of which he served 10 years in Myingyan, said he thanked the president for releasing him.

In recent years there has been robust debate as to whether former Military Intelligence officers should be classified as political prisoners. Military Intelligence was a widely feared surveillance body that was responsible for the arrest and alleged torture of many activists.

U Thein Swe was believed to be one of the most senior former military officials still imprisoned. U Khin Nyunt was freed from house arrest in January 2012. – *Additional reporting Tim McLaughlin*



# ‘If they call me, I will work’: U Thein Swe

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FORMER Brigadier General Thein Swe, a senior Military Intelligence officer, was among the 3073 prisoners freed in the October 7 amnesty. Arrested following the purge of MI in 2004, he was sentenced to 146 years in prison after being convicted of a range of offences under the Public Property Protection Act, 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, Unlawful Associations Act and Penal Code. He spoke to *The Myanmar Times* by phone the day after his release.

**What are your plans for the future? Do you have any political ambitions?**  
As I am getting old, I will dedicate most of my time to religion. I am no longer interested in politics and I have no intention of taking part. I will also support my family's businesses.

**Did you sign any deal or agreement before coming out of prison?**

Yes, I signed a pledge [not to reoffend] according to section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**How is your health after being in prison for a decade?**  
I suffered from prostatitis and hypertension while I was imprisoned so I'm eating food without salt or artificial sweetening agents. And my teeth [problems make it] difficult to chew rice, so I eat pounded rice.

**What's your opinion on your jail sentence?**  
Although I was sentenced to 146 years' jail and spent 10 years in Myingyan Prison, I don't want to comment on the judgement. These things can happen sometimes. I believe that this was the way it had to be and it was due to my karma.

**You said you do not plan to return to politics. But if the government re-established the National Intelligence Bureau again and asked you to be part of it, would you agree?**



U Thein Swe talks to media at Yangon airport after his release from prison on October 7. Photo: AFP

Only the government can form the National Intelligence Bureau. I think U Khin Nyunt would not [be involved in] re-forming it. At present, the government is relying on Military Affairs Security Unit [also known as Sa Ya Pha]

so I don't think they will re-establish the National Intelligence Bureau. And even if they did, why would they let unwanted people who they previously fired run something so important?

**In announcing the amnesty, the president said it was to allow former prisoners to participate in the state-building process. If you are invited to apply your experience to this task, will you participate?**  
If they call me, I will work as a responsible citizen for the development of my country. But I think they will not call us again.

**Are there any other former Military Intelligence officers still behind bars?**  
Before there were 18 MI left in prison. Now eight have been freed so 10 remain – they include former Brigadier General Thann Tun, Colonel Tin Hla, Colonel Myint Aung Kyaw, Colonel Tin Oo, Major Nay Soe and U Tin Htut, who is the son-in-law of General Khin Nyunt.

## US urges end to political prisoners

THE United States on October 7 called on Myanmar to release all remaining political prisoners, while welcoming reports of a large-scale amnesty.  
“We urge the government to continue to work expeditiously through the political prisoner review committee to release all political prisoners unconditionally and to remove conditions placed on those already released,” State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said.  
Washington was seeking details about reports that President U Thein Sein had pardoned some 3073 people including former military intelligence figures, Ms Psaki told reporters.  
However, “an estimated 30 to 40 remain incarcerated”, she said.  
US President Barack Obama is to travel to Nay Pyi Taw to attend the upcoming East Asia summit, which will happen alongside an ASEAN meeting next month. – *AFP*

<b>May 20</b> President U Thein Sein meets with US President Barack Obama in Washington, DC, the first Myanmar head of state to visit the White House in 47 years.	<b>July 15</b> President U Thein Sein promises to release all political prisoners after his first official visit to the UK	<b>October 8</b> President U Thein Sein arrives in Brunei for the 23 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit	<b>December 11</b> Southeast Asian Games open in Nay Pyi Taw	<b>2014</b>	<b>January 1</b> Date by which President U Thein Sein pledged to release all remaining political prisoners	<b>September 29</b> Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin calls for Myanmar to be dropped from the United Nations human rights agenda at the UN General Assembly in New York
<b>May 17</b> 23 political prisoners released	<b>July 23</b> Around 73 political prisoners released	<b>October 8</b> 56 political prisoners released	<b>December 11</b> 41 political prisoners released	<b>December 31</b> 16 political prisoners released	<b>October 7</b> 3073 prisoners released, unknown how many were political prisoners	



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## IN BRIEF

**Cyclone brings rain, wind**

Showers and gales experienced over the weekend in some parts of the country were the result of a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said.

Cyclone Hud Hud developed in the southeast of the bay on October 8, heading for the coast of India. According to Tropical Storm Risk in the United Kingdom, the cyclone was expected to make landfall as a Category 4 storm, with wind speeds of 209-251 kilometres (130-156 miles) an hour.

DMH deputy director U Kyaw Lwin Oo said that the cyclone would not approach the Myanmar coast but strong winds and heavy rain could occur in the Ayeyarwady delta, the Gulf of Mottama, and Mon State and Tanintharyi Region. – *Aye Sapay Phyu*

**New cruise vessel launched**

Royal Green River has launched a new two hour cruise service on the Yangon River as of October 4. The Royal Green River Prince can take about 120 passengers, and offers a dinner cruise on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for US\$30 (K25,000 for local residents), sales executive Daw Su Su Wai Aung said.

Sunset cruises on Tuesday and Wednesday are \$20 for tourists and K15,000 for locals. The boat leaves Botahtaung jetty at 5pm. – *Ei Ei Thu*

**Exam changes delayed**

Schools will continue to administer exams at grade 5 and 9 in 2014-15, despite the Ministry of Education previously announcing they would be standardised by district- and region-level bodies.

The plan had been to create teams of experts at the district and region levels to set exam questions for grades 5 and 9 respectively. Currently exams are written by an examination board formed by teachers at the school.

However, that is not likely to change until 2015-16, said U Zaw Htay, a director in the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar). – *May Thinzar Naing, translation by Khant Lin Oo*

# Life, and death, on the

Low access to healthcare services conjures up images of remote villages – but many who live less than 20 kilometres



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POOR or non-existent drainage. Narrow, potholed dirt roads. Intermittent electricity. Such is life on the fringes of Yangon, where the military government carved out large new townships in the early 1990s but failed, for the most part, to provide the accompanying infrastructure.

Slowly, the structural gaps are being rectified by the municipal council and regional governments, in part through the lobbying of local MPs.

But another need has been largely overlooked: properly equipped state health facilities, and the staff to support them. Instead, residents largely rely on private health providers or government-run facilities in other parts of the city when they need treatment – if they can afford the treatment and transport expenses.

Dr Thu Ya has been a township health officer in North Dagon for the

otherwise services are limited: Doctors see outpatients, mostly those suffering from diabetes or hypertension, for two hours a day, five days a week.

“Working- and middle-class patients come to our hospital from nearby areas but those who live illegally cannot afford to come to the hospital – and many don’t even know where it is,” Dr Thu Ya said, adding that while treatment is free, patients are expected to pay for medicine.

In North Dagon, those who are better off go to the private Pinlon Hospital. It’s not hard to see why. The electricity regularly cuts out at the township hospital, and even when it comes the voltage is often too low to run equipment, delaying operations. Patients are asked to pay to turn on the generator so they can receive treatment; if nobody pays, the ward is lit up each night with candles brought by the patients.

The buildings are crumbling and the wiring urgently needs to be replaced. Wards are dirty and there is not enough water for the toilets, let alone keeping the buildings clean.

Dr Thu Ya said that despite the significant increases in health expenditure in recent years – the ministry’s budget has increased from K93.19 billion in 2011-12 to K652.74 billion in 2014-15 – conditions have not improved at North Dagon Township Hospital.

Because the ministry has not provided funding to install more toilets and fix the water supply problems, the hospital has instead appealed to the township administrator for help, he said.

“The power situation, if anything, has got worse,” Dr Thu Ya said. “We don’t have a voltage regulator so even when the power comes the voltage is often too low. We’re waiting to be allocated money to buy one.”

But lack of adequate health facilities is only one part of the peri-urban health problem. Health experts say the poor sanitation and cramped living conditions leave residents susceptible to the spread of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis. This is compounded by the below-average incomes in these areas, which are

**‘Poor people in urban areas suffer from health outcomes that are as bad as, or indeed worse than, those in rural areas.’**

**Billy Stewart**  
3MDG Fund Board Chair

past year. In that time the staff has expanded from 20 to 30 doctors and nurses, and the hospital is now open 24 hours, with a doctor stationed on duty each night. Six months ago it began offering child delivery – natural, not caesarean – and maternal care, but



Above: A woman and her child seek treatment at a government clinic in South Okkalapa.



home to a large proportion of the city’s population of illegal residents, or squatters, estimated at several hundred thousand.

Myanmar’s well-publicised health system problems invoke images of remote villages without any medical facilities. But Billy Stewart, board chair of the Three Millennium Development Goal (3MDG) Fund, a consortium of seven donors focused on improving healthcare in Myanmar, said access to healthcare is not just about the distance to facilities.

It is also the ability of those with an illness to take time off work or pay for treatment, as well as residents knowing what services are available and where they are located.

“[P]oor people in urban areas often suffer from health outcomes that are as bad as, or indeed worse than, those in rural areas,” he said at a workshop on peri-urban healthcare held in Yangon on August 21.

“Many people in urban areas are dependent on daily wage labour to survive. For them, going to see a doctor or a nurse can mean taking precious time away from work, as well as paying for transportation and other costs.”

And experts warn that conditions are only going to get worse unless more effort is put into improving services

from both state and private providers.

Like many cities in Asia, Yangon has grown dramatically in recent decades because of migration from rural areas. In 1950 Myanmar had an estimated population of 1.3 million. That has since grown four-fold, to more than 5.4 million when this year’s census was conducted in March.

At the same time, the city’s area has grown from 50 square miles (130 square kilometres) in 1950 to 300 square miles (775 square kilometres). In the early 1990s, a number of the townships that are today considered peri-urban – such as North, South and East Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Shwe Paukkan, Shwe Pyi Thar and Hlaing Tharyar – were created, and they have become home to a large proportion of the city’s newer residents.

However, little investment has been made in state health facilities in these areas, which continue to grow rapidly. According to the Public Health Foundation, the number of government health centre clinics (33) and sub-Department of Health centres (18) has not increased since 1990.

At the same time, the foundation’s figures show that the number of private medical and maternal clinics has risen rapidly, to about 3000, while there are an estimated 40 private hospitals.

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# edge of Yangon

from downtown Yangon are unable to receive the medical care that they need



lapa township last week. Below: The North Dagon Township Hospital. Photos: Zarni Phyu

"Health infrastructure in the form of clinics and other facilities has not kept pace with urbanisation in and around Yangon," agreed Mr Stewart.

Last month, the 3MDG Fund released details of a pilot project that aims to address many of these issues by engaging different groups to jointly draft a plan for healthcare provision that takes into account the needs of rapidly changing urban areas.

The project will bring together the regional government, local health officials, YCDC, non-government groups and private health providers to build "a model for the future that is sufficiently flexible to cope with changes in where people live and new needs that arise", Mr Stewart said.

"To lift the standard of healthcare

in urban and peri-urban areas we need inputs from a wide range of partners," he said.

"[A] task force, under the leadership of the government, and involving different stakeholder groups, is an important mechanism to review what is being done, improve current interventions and plan for the future.

"[I]t is important to act now to set the foundation for the future; to begin to develop a system of health facilities that draws on both public and private services and meets the needs of this growing population."

The Public Health Foundation is one of 3MDG Fund's local partners on the project. Chair U Than Sein said the aim is to develop health systems that better serve the needs of residents,

particularly those most vulnerable to illness.

Rather than provide treatment directly to residents, organisations involved will work to "rehabilitate" the existing state system, he said.

Nine peri-urban townships have been shortlisted for inclusion, of which one will be selected for implementation. The project will run for two to three years.

"In this township we will create better healthcare management systems by working together with [other stakeholders]," U Than Sein said, adding that the details were still being negotiated with the regional government, regional health department and municipal authorities.

He said a particular focus would be on improving maternal and infant care, which he said was very poor in outlying areas of Yangon.

For many peri-urban residents, private healthcare is the only option they consider. Ma Pwint, who moved to Sittaung Yeikmon housing estate in Dagon Seikkan two years ago, said she doesn't even know where the government health centre or township hospital is located.

She said most people in the township travel to Thaketa or downtown for treatment, while minor ailments can be treated at small private clinics in Dagon Seikkan.

"If we have an emergency and face serious health problems we go to the hospital in downtown because we cannot rely on the small clinics for treatment," she said. "But it takes an hour to get there by taxi and costs about K10,000."

Like many areas of Yangon, Dagon Seikkan has experienced a property boom in recent years, transforming paddy fields into dusty 2400-square-foot lots. While some undeveloped blocks can fetch hundreds of thousands of dollars, there are still few roads, little electricity and no drainage.

Ma Pwint said there is little sign of rising prices translating into better living conditions for residents. Health problems in the township are exacerbated by the poor water supply, she said - most people rely on wells because there are no government pipelines.

"The government," she said, "hasn't done anything to solve this water supply problem."

## HIV legal review pushes case for reform, new laws

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PEOPLE living with HIV and AIDS need stronger legal protections, international experts say, as victims of the disease still face widespread prejudice, discrimination and stigma that could prevent them from seeking early diagnosis and treatment.

The health department and other government bodies concerned should be prepared to launch a program of community consultation leading to the enactment of new laws, or the amendment of current legislation, to protect people living with HIV/AIDS, Eamonn Murphy, country director of UNAIDS, told *The Myanmar Times*.

"Myanmar needs laws to protect the rights of people living with HIV. It could be either an HIV law or amending and changing existing laws that discriminate [against] people living with HIV and key populations," he said.

Mr Murphy was speaking following the release in September of the *National HIV Legal Review Report*, a wide-ranging study of the legal situation as it affects people in Myanmar living with HIV/AIDS.

The report makes 70 recommendations, including six "quick wins" - steps that could be taken in 2014-15 to improve the legal and policy environment for those living with HIV/AIDS and populations considered at a higher risk of infection.

These quick wins have already been endorsed by the Joint Parliamentarians and Community Network Consortium Committee on Human Rights and HIV, which was formed in May to initiate changes to laws and policies to improve the response to HIV.

They include new instructions to the police to support HIV prevention and treatment; new guidance on HIV-related discrimination and confidentiality in healthcare, education and employment; new instructions on universal access to life-saving drugs, such as anti-retroviral treatment; better guidance on the rights of HIV-positive pregnant women; repeal of a section of the excise law criminalising possession of needles and syringes; and ensuring a planned patent bill will enable

Myanmar to access affordable generic medicines where necessary.

Mr Murphy said successful implementation of these recommendations could help potential sufferers who fear to seek HIV prevention services and allow timely access to HIV testing and treatment, thus reducing new infections.

Mr Murphy said people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, sex workers, and people who inject drugs are often stigmatised and discriminated against. Employees are tested for HIV and dismissed if they test positive. HIV patients are refused hospital treatment, receive substandard care or are even charged double the fees paid by other patients. In some hospitals, HIV patients are segregated from other patients, or are denied surgical operations. There are also reported examples of police abuse of sex workers and men who have sex with men.

**'Myanmar needs laws to protect the rights of people living with HIV.'**

**Eamonn Murphy**  
UNAIDS country director

The review was conducted at a cost of US\$50,000 by a partnership of UNAIDS, the UN Development Programme and Pyoe Pin from August to December 2013, together with the National AIDS Program and in consultation with NGOs, people living with HIV and others.

Ma Thuzar Win, of the Sex Workers' Network in Myanmar (SWIM), said she expected many challenges to calls for legal reforms, especially from conservative MPs.

"For example, when MP [Daw Sandar Min] proposed to amend and reform the suppression of prostitution act to make prostitution legal, other MPs rejected it," she said. "Based on this I think it will not be easy to achieve legal reform for people living with HIV."



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# Ma Ba Tha members fight outside court

Brawl erupts when defendant's relative tries to take photos of monks gathered outside North Dagon Township Court to post on Facebook



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A SENIOR monk from the Committee for the Protection of Nationality and Religion - better known as Ma Ba Tha - could face criminal charges after he tried to snatch a camera from the hand of the relative of a defendant in a court case, prompting a scuffle between monks and supporters of the defendant.

Magwe Sayadaw U Parmaukha said he and about 10 monks attended the hearing at North Dagon Township

Court on October 7 at the request of the plaintiff, Ma Kay Thi Soe. A Buddhist, she had requested assistance from Ma Ba Tha in her case against her husband, U Aung Min Naing - a Christian and Australian citizen - which she said had arisen because of their differing religions. U Aung Min Naing is facing charges of voluntarily causing hurt and mischief, according to police.

The fight broke out in a teashop in front of the court when U Aung Htut, a relative of U Aung Min Naing, tried to take photos of the monks, saying he would post them on Facebook to show that members of the clergy were interfering in the case.

U Parmaukha told *The Myanmar Times* he tried to snatch the camera to stop U Aung Htut from taking photos

but lost his balance and fell over. He said U Aung Htut then struck him with his hand, prompting a fight to break out between monks and laymen in the vicinity.

**'I went to the court because the sufferer asked me to help her for her interfaith marriage case.'**

**U Parmaukha**

Senior Ma Ba Tha member

U Aung Htut has since asked North Dagon police to press charges against the monks, according to an officer from the township station.

But U Parmaukha insisted he was the victim.

"I went to the court because the sufferer asked me to help her for this interfaith marriage case. At that time, a man said that he will post on Facebook the photos of monks interfering in social affairs. So, I grabbed the camera. He stepped back and struck my head with his backward hand while I fell over. The other monks couldn't stand it and they joined in the fight. Both sides fought each other [in the teashop]," he said.

He said the monks would file countercharges if a case is opened against them.

"If they start to file charges against us, we will settle it according to the law and also charge them back," U Parmaukha said. "But we have no plan to charge them first."

Interfaith marriage has been one of Ma Ba Tha's main causes since it was established in 2013 on a tide of waving Buddhist nationalism. Late last year it submitted a draft interfaith marriage law to the government that would stop Buddhist women from marrying men of other faiths. The monks say it is necessary to protect the rights of Buddhist women - and, in particular, to stop them being forcibly converted to other religions - but it has provoked widespread criticism from rights advocates in Myanmar and abroad.

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

## Accor opens first Novotel hotel since return

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FRENCH international hotel firm Accor opened its first Novotel-branded hotel in Myanmar since announcing its return to the country in 2013. Novotel Inle Lake, located on the east bank of the southern Shan State attraction, was developed in partnership with Myat Min Company.

Speaking at a ceremony on October 6, Accor's regional chief operating officer, Patrick Basset, said it was the first of as many as 10 properties the company plans to open in coming years in Myanmar.

"We are very happy with this Novotel in Inle Lake because this is really one of the must-see places in Myanmar," he said. "We hope to attract more visitors to this hotel with the beauty of the nature and beautiful setting."

Minister for Tourism U Htay Aung said he welcomed the return of Accor, which pulled out of Myanmar in 2002 for political and economic reasons.

"It was a story [that] happened a long time ago. Today our new administration [has made] significant reform changes [and as a result] Accor is very enthusiastic to work in Myanmar," he said. "I would like to thank Accor for its returning to Myanmar."

In December 2013, Accor and Myat Min signed an agreement to develop three hotels, including Pullman



Shan State Chief Minister Sai Sao Aung Myat (second left) cuts a ribbon to open Novotel Inle Lake on October 6. Photo: Zaw Win Than

Yangon, The Sebel Yangon and Novotel Inle Lake.

Earlier in the year it announced it was working with Max Myanmar Group, owned by tycoon U Zaw Zaw, to develop Novotel Yangon Max, along with hotels in Mandalay and

Nay Pyi Taw.

As *The Myanmar Times* reported last month, it will develop up to three hotels, including two under its budget Ibis brand, with U Thant Zin Tun, the son of Myanmar Golden Star founder U Thein Tun, the ma-

jority owner of Myanmar Consolidated Media, which publishes *The Myanmar Times*.

Mr Basset said Accor expects to open The Lake Garden in Nay Pyi Taw in September, while the long-delayed Novotel Yangon is scheduled to hold a soft opening in December.

"We do have some [other] projects in Mandalay and Muse. So we have several hotel projects in Myanmar for both up-scale and budget types," he said.

Under the agreement between Myat Min and Accor, the local firm invested in the development of the hotel and Accor will be responsible for managing the properties.

Myat Min managing director U Phyo Hla Wai said his company had spent about US\$25 million on Novotel Inle Lake.

He said both of the Yangon hotels - the 300-room Pullman Yangon and a 100-room serviced apartment property, Sebel Yangon - are in Mayangone township.

"We are also considering a fourth project in Bagan, most likely with Accor again. We hope to start that project next year," he said.

Novotel Inle Lake features 122 rooms, including two presidential villas. Facilities include three restaurants, two bars, a ballroom, two meeting rooms, a business centre, a swimming pool, a fitness centre and spa facilities.

## Dedaye villages face high tides

RISING tides are threatening to wash away eight villages in Dedaye township, Ayeyarwady Region. Since the early hours of October 9, tides have risen by up to two metres (six feet) in places, local residents said.

"We had a similar experience in 2000 when the mangrove forest was cleared. We worry if a storm rises during the night, and we can't sleep," said Ko Aung Kyaw San of Taw Kayin village.

He said Bo Tae Gone, Phoe Yar Zar, Taw Paung Sein, Than Tike, Yae Twin Gone Chaung Thit Pauk, Okk Aw Lan are all at risk.

Despite a fall in the tide on October 10, storm conditions were still endangering homes, he said, adding that if a sand embankment failed, 47 villages with 40,000 households would be flooded.

The removal of mangroves to create grazing has resulted in the erosion of about 240 hectares (600 acres) of land and left villages vulnerable to natural disaster.

Ko Aung Kyaw San, a member of environmental group that has been trying to replant mangroves, has been charged and appeared in court 16 times. "I can't appear in court today because I am worried for my family," he said on October 10. - *Cherry Thein*

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# DCA targets direct flights from Europe

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MYANMAR wants to resurrect old contracts with European airlines allowing direct flights, even though the country's airports are not yet equipped to handle the potential increase in customers.

Contracts with France and the Netherlands dating back to the 1970s are being dusted off for re-signing, perhaps before the end of the year, a senior source in the Department of Civil Aviation told *The Myanmar Times*.

"We will resume the contract with French airlines [first signed in 1972] and Dutch airlines [signed in 1977] after presenting drafts to the two governments," he said.

The agreements would permit direct flights from Myanmar to the countries concerned, but flights to Myanmar from those countries were not expected to resume next year, he said.

French and Dutch airlines – notably Air France and KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines – fly direct to Thailand, and could come to Myanmar once the tourism sector here was sufficiently developed, he added.

But U Thet Lwin Toh, vice chair of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, said that Yangon airport should be upgraded before it accepts large airliners from Europe. He said that the government would also need to consider reducing costs to airlines that land if it is serious about attracting long-haul flights.

"We need to boost the capacity of the immigration counters if we have larger aircraft arriving in Yangon," he said. "We should reduce the cost

of aviation fuel and landing fees to make direct flights a more attractive proposition."

The DCA official said there was no reason why direct flights from Europe couldn't begin immediately, as the airport's runway and facilities could accept large airplanes.

The airport is currently undergoing an upgrade, following a tender for the project in 2013, that will see its capacity more than doubled to 6 million passengers a year.

**'We need to boost the capacity of the immigration counters if we have larger aircraft arriving in Yangon.'**

**U Thet Lwin Toh**  
Union of Myanmar Travel Association

The government is targeting 3 million tourists in 2014 and 5 million next year. But despite Myanmar's popularity as a destination since President U Thein Sein took office in 2011, high costs of accommodation and transportation, as well as visa-related problems, have kept some tourists away. U Thet Lwin Toh said direct flights to and from more destinations would give a significant boost to visitor numbers.

"At the moment Myanmar is still a secondary destination for tourists because of the lack of direct air links," he said. "Tourists come to Myanmar after visiting other countries first."



A farmer ploughs a field in front of a pagoda in Bagan. Photo: AFP

## Call for stricter development rules in Bagan after UNESCO meeting

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AN improved inventory of temples and stricter enforcement of heritage laws is needed for Bagan to be placed on the World Heritage List, a government official said last week following a meeting between the Ministry of Culture and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Myanmar government is considering nominating Bagan, which rose to prominence between the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, for inclusion on the list.

To move the process forward, the ministry and UNESCO met with international experts in Bagan on October 10-12 to discuss how the ancient city could be protected from development caused by a sharp rise in tourist arrivals.

UNESCO said in a statement that the meeting was held as part of the Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar project, which is funded by the Italian government. Japan and

Switzerland also support UNESCO work at Bagan.

A retired director general from the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library said international expertise was needed to ensure Bagan can cope with further influxes of guests without damaging its historical value.

**3312**

Temples in the Bagan area, according to the Ministry of Culture

"The authenticity of Bagan is facing challenges because of development projects," said U Sann Win.

A 1998 law bans development inside cultural heritage sites but some hotels were built in these areas before the law was enacted,

while others were allowed in contravention of the law.

"The law should be enforced if we want to sustain the nation's heritage. There should be more specific rules and regulations for development projects," U Sann Win said.

"We should have a specific management to resolve the issue of hotel development at Bagan. That is the major threat to its [inclusion on the World Heritage List]."

Meanwhile, there is confusion over the number of monuments in the Bagan area. The number stood at 2230 in 1975, but had risen to 3122 in 1997 and now stands at 3312.

U Sann Win said the temples should be surveyed again to remedy what he described as the "disorder" of the current inventory.

"The sites should be numbered from one to 3312 ... They should be numbered in series to prevent overlap."

If Bagan is nominated, a team from the World Heritage Center will visit the site to assess its potential for inclusion on the World Heritage List.





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## DRR group to sign UN charter

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OLDER people can help guard their communities against disaster, an international-backed local consortium has declared. The Myanmar Consortium for Community Resilience says older people are among those most affected when natural disaster strikes. But at the same time, they could have more to offer in terms of advice and experience in helping prepare for disaster.

The consortium will ratify Charter 14 of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on October 13 at Nay Pyi Taw. Charter 14 stresses the needs and capacities of older people in the context of disaster preparation and relief.

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, ActionAid, Help Age International, Oxfam, Plan, UN Habitat and Action FAIM have also adopted Charter 14.

U Naing Win, project manager of HelpAge International, said, "Our culture encourages us to take care of old people. This would bring international recognition."

This year the focus for international disaster reduction is on older people, including their needs and what they contribute to better planning and understanding of disaster risks in their communities.

Older people make up approximately 9 percent of the Myanmar population and they are disproportionately affected by disaster as the result of their increased physical vulnerability, and the belief that they are a burden rather than assert in disaster preparedness and response.

## Ministry of Home Affairs flags softer penalties for drug use

Sentences range from five to 15 years but could change as focus of fight against drugs shifts to traffickers



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SENTENCES for those convicted of drug use, which range from five to 15 years, are under review, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brigadier General Kyaw Kyaw Tun told MPs last week.

"Officials from the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, the Union Attorney-General's Office and the Union Supreme Court are drawing up an amendment law," the deputy minister said.

Legal experts from the UN Office for Drugs and Crime and international NGOs will assist them, he added.

In recognition of its failed drug policies, the government in 2012 extended its 15-year drug elimination plan by five years, to 2019. The following year, the deputy minister outlined to parliament a new action plan focusing on 51 townships in Shan, Kayah and Chin states, which aimed to shift the focus from punishing drug users to catching traffickers and money launderers.

U Khamai Mon Kwam, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Kachin State's Sumprabum township, said he agreed with the proposed amendment and shift in policy. He said the imprisonment of offenders have left many children without parents or other guardians, and the government should instead focus on rehabilitating drug users.

"Instead of sending them to



A man holds a bag of an amphetamine-type stimulant. Photo: Staff

prison for the long term we should provide treatment to young drug users by ... sending them to rehabilitation centres," he said.

U Khet Htain Nan, the Amyotha Hluttaw representative for Kachin State constituency 1, said that people in the state capital Myitkyina

have now taken the law into their own hands and formed groups to combat the drugs trade.

He added that the groups have been created because of perceptions the authorities are not taking action to curb the drug problem. U In Phone San, the Pyithu Hluttaw

representative for Kachin State's Machanbaw township, agreed.

"Drugs arrive here together with gold and jade mine investors who come from lower Myanmar. They also use drugs as a tool to make people work a lot. When the state doesn't take any legal action on it, people create civic movements to tackle the issue themselves," he said.

However, these teams are also limited by police inaction. As *The Myanmar Times* reported last month, young residents of Namkham township in northern Shan State have been setting up roadblocks and detaining those found to be carrying drugs. But members said that when they handed the suspects over to police they were told that only the police have the authority to make arrests.

Nationally, poppy cultivation has increased each year since 2006, and the overwhelming majority of the 57,800 hectares under cultivation - 53,300 hectares, or 92.2 percent - is in Shan State. Fuelled by conflict, insecurity and increasing poverty, this rapid growth has flooded some parts of the local market with cheap opium. Currently only Afghanistan produces more opium than Myanmar.

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker U Khin Aung Myint told the session that people are able to consume drugs as openly and easily as they eat food.

Brig Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun stated that the government currently runs 26 major drug treatment centres at larger hospitals and 47 smaller treatment centres.

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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## Shipping bill targets polluting cargo vessels



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AN update to the Merchant Shipping Act with clauses to tackle pollution from cargo ships has been sent to the Attorney-General ahead of its formal submission to parliament, an official from the Ministry of Transport said last week.

The bill proposes "stiff fines" for both water and air pollution and a more developed maritime security framework, according to U Ye Myint, a director in the ministry's department for setting laws and technological standards.

The original law, introduced in 1923, urgently needs updating, he said, particularly to enable prosecution of shipping firms that breach environmental standards.

They said the legislation is particularly needed in Yangon, where shipping has grown significantly over the past decade. Between 2003-04 and 2013-14, the number of international vessels docking in Myanmar rose from 971 to 2334. Over the same period, the number of 20-foot equivalent units, or TEU - the measurement used for cargo volume - increased from 70,000 to 610,000.

"If we have no strict rules on merchant shipping, our new generation

may face the bad result of pollution in the ports because the number of ships docking at the ports in Yangon is increasing," said U Ye Myint.

When new wharves are built in Yangon, 32 ships will be able to dock in the city's port at any one time, while more capacity is being built at nearby Thilawa, beside the special

# 870%

Increase in cargo volume to Myanmar between 2003-04 and 2013-14, from 70,000 to 610,000 TEU

economic zone (SEZ). Meanwhile, large SEZs and deep-sea ports are planned for Dawei in Tanintharyi Region and Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State.

The threat to the environment is clear, an official from the ministry's Department of Marine Administration said.

"Because of air and water pollution, mangrove forests will be destroyed and aquatic creatures will be affected and possibly become extinct," deputy director U Ko Ko Naing said.

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun





IN PICTURES

PHOTO: ZARNI PHYU

Firefighters attend a blaze on the first floor of Than Zay, a market on Lanmadaw Road, on October 8 – the full moon of Thadingyut. Police said children playing with fireworks may have started the fire, which started at about 6:45pm and was extinguished around 30 minutes later. Several shops were damaged in the fire. – *Toe Wai Aung*

# Bus lines back women-only services push

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MOST bus lines in Yangon confirmed last week that they would consider running women-only bus lines in Yangon during the morning and evening rush hours. But there's a catch – the tickets may end up costing more.

Of the 21 bus companies in Yangon, 15 have promised to offer a women-only morning service between 7:20am and 8:40am and an evening service between 4:10pm and 5:30pm, one of the number 31 line's owners confirmed.

The 31 line will have five or six buses running both ways, said U Ko Ko Naing, who is also a member of the Yangon Region Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicles, or Ma Hta Tha.

"The main purpose is to provide a convenient service for women on their way to work. At present, we are still negotiating with the Yangon Region

government and are discussing the bus fare," he added.

Owners are reluctant to run a women-only service unless they can raise fares. In 2012, the Parami line launched a service but stopped it just six months later because it was unprofitable. In 2013, a number of lines ran services for women between 7-10am and 4-7pm but they were also stopped because of lack of customers.

"Six of 21 owners did not agree to run [a women-only service] because they are worried about losing money," U Ko Ko Naing said.

Although the fare remains under discussion, U Ko Ko Naing said he and the owners of the 36 and 39 lines plan to offer the service regardless of whether they can charge more.

"We already presented [the idea] to the Yangon Region government ... If the government permits it, [owners] can do it," said Ma Hta Tha chair U Hla Aung.

# Media forum attendees focus on laws, judiciary

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THE free flow of information is being blocked by law, media representatives said at a forum held last week in Nay Pyi Taw on government relations with the media. Participants also raised questions about the independence and secretiveness of the courts, and discussed ways to improve communication channels to the media.

Speakers from the government, parliament, judiciary, Tatmadaw, Union Election Commission, Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and about 30 media organisation representatives took part in the October 4-5 event, which was aimed at improving both public access to information and the relationship between the government and the media.

Speakers operated under Chatham House rules, which guarantee anonymity in order to encourage the open expression of views.

"When we asked the ministries what they wanted us to tell the media, they gave us nearly 200 pages of suggestions," said a participant from the executive sector. "The relationship

between the government and the media need not be that of allies or adversaries. We have to set up the necessary mechanism after follow-up discussions."

Participants said the law – particularly the 1923 State Secrets Act – posed restrictions on the flow of information from government officials to the public and suggested ways of removing the blockage. They also discussed the independence of the judiciary from the executive, and how its reluctance to deal with the media could be overcome through strengthening the people's right to information.

Government representatives urged the media industry to improve its standards and self-regulatory capacity, such as by building up the skills and knowledge of journalists.

There was also discussion of the government's plan to use information technology to build a new data collection, archive and information system. The action plan for setting up the information storage and capacity-building mechanisms for the media industry will be publicised this month based on ideas discussed in the forum.

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Dated: 13 October 2014



# A sign of 'The Times': On tu

From privileged status under Military Intelligence to ownership disputes and the jailing of both co-founders, *The Myanmar Times*

BILL  
O'TOOLE



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SITTING in his office overlooking St Mary's Cathedral on Bo Aung Kyaw St last week, *The Myanmar Times'* editorial director, U Thiha Saw, explained how he had initially balked at joining the organisation 14 years earlier.

The pitch from co-founders Ross Dunkley and U Myat Swe – known to all as Sonny – sounded great: editor of the first independently owned English-language paper since the beginning of military rule.

However, it was only possible because of the connections of U Myat Swe's father, Brigadier General Thein Swe – a leading member of General Khin Nyunt's Military Intelligence.

"Frankly, I didn't want to associate with people who have some sort of connection with the military – I was an activist," U Thiha Saw said.

Although he turned down the editor job, U Thiha Saw offered advice and guidance to the fledgling company, Myanmar Consolidated Media, and watched with interest as it grew and navigated the unpredictable and often hostile political landscape.

This week, *The Myanmar Times* is publishing its 750<sup>th</sup> issue. U Myat Swe and Mr Dunkley are no longer

involved in company operations, although Mr Dunkley retains a shareholding. U Thiha Saw is now the senior member of the editorial team.

"Things have changed a lot in the last 15 years," he said.

## The past

U Myo Lwin, now the special publications editor, joined *The Myanmar Times* in April 2001, almost exactly one year after the first issue.

Coming from a job as a proofreader for the *Working People's Daily*, today known as *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, he was thrilled to be moving into a "lively" newsroom.

"The number of people in the newsroom was five or six ... and everybody was running. One reporter had four or five beats," he recalled.

At that time, the paper was run out of several rooms in the Thamada Hotel, just north of the downtown area. Unlike most journals, *The Myanmar Times* had its work censored through Military Intelligence, often working directly with Brig Gen Thein Swe.

The relationship with MI provided the paper with some access and latitude that was denied to other private publications.

"In the early 2000s, *The Myanmar Times* was privileged ... [It] got these exclusive stories and interviews," U Thiha Saw said.

However, staff members still chafed under what they described as heavy censorship.

Geoffrey Goddard, a career journalist who had previously spent 20 years reporting in China and South-east Asia, joined the paper around the same time as U Myo Lwin, and later edited the English-language edition for several years.

Even as a "privileged" paper, MI still instructed editors to remove or change articles. Some of these decisions were baffling to Mr Goddard.

"One was having to remove the word 'dirt' from the description of a



Myanmar Consolidated Media staff pose for a group photo outside the company's Yangon office on September 30. Photo: Aung Htay

road leading to an old teak monastery," he recalled last week.

Another was a story about a public vigil in downtown Yangon for victims of the 9/11 terror attacks. While the original story noted the attendance of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, MI censors demanded that she be referred to only as "a central executive committee member of the National League for Democracy".

The special arrangement with MI came to an abrupt end in 2004, when first Brig Gen Thein Swe and then, later, U Myat Swe were arrested amid a purge of Gen Khin Nyunt's sprawling military intelligence apparatus.

Beyond the paper losing its preferred status, Mr Goddard said the arrest of U Myat Swe, the company's deputy CEO, was personally traumatic for many of the staff.

"His absence and its circumstances were awful to deal with for those of us who know and love Sonny Swe, and we are many."

U Myat Swe was subsequently jailed for 14 years, after the government charged him with subverting the course of censorship. It argued that because *The Myanmar Times* had not been censored by the Ministry of Information it had not been

**'[U Myat Swe's] absence and its circumstances were awful to deal with.'**

Geoffrey Goddard

Former editor of The Myanmar Times



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Hlaing

legally censored at all.

His shares in the paper were then forcibly sold to another media entrepreneur, Dr Tin Tun Oo, who had been hand-picked by the Ministry of Information.

By that time, the paper had moved into a renovated three-storey colonial building on Bo Aung Kyaw Street, where it remains to this day. Such was the uncertainty about the company's future amid the political turmoil that when MCM skipped an edition of *The Myanmar Times* because of the office move some rival publications openly speculated that it had been shut down permanently.

**‘[Parts of] the roof were gone, the floor was wet, but we were able to print.’**

**U Myo Lwin**

Special publications editor, on the damage to the MCM headquarters after Cyclone Nargis in May 2008

While the aftermath of U Myat Swe's arrest and an uptick in government meddling was tough on those in the newsroom, U Myo Lwin said journalists worked hard to continue to meet international standards.

He recalled several stories from the late 2000s that still fill him with pride – in particular, putting out a special edition just three days after Cyclone Nargis ravaged Yangon and the Ayeyarwady delta in May 2008.

“[Parts of] the roof were gone, the floor was wet, but we were able to print,” he said.

Meanwhile, relations between Mr Dunkley and Dr Tin Tun Oo soured dramatically over the course of 2010, a period during which the paper won some plaudits for its coverage of that year's elections. By the end of the

year, the Ministry of Information had demanded that Mr Dunkley resign as CEO and hand over the reins to Dr Tin Tun Oo.

He refused, and was arrested in February 2011 on charges of assaulting a sex worker. His supporters said the allegations had been concocted to force him out of the company. After spending 47 days in prison he was released on bail and later convicted of “minor hurt”, with the more serious charges dismissed.

While foreigners convicted of offences are normally deported as a matter of course, Mr Dunkley immediately returned to the newspaper. While Dr Tin Tun Oo was nominally CEO by this point, he was rarely spotted at MCM. Mr Dunkley was again calling the shots.

#### The future

When the Ministry of Information abruptly dropped all pre-publication censorship in August 2012, it heralded the start of a new era for the nation's media. The newspaper, like many independent publications in Myanmar, began winning attention for its independent and accurate reporting. Since 2011, it has won three awards for editorial excellence from the Society of Publishers in Asia and two honourable mentions – a first for a Myanmar-based publication.

The country's reforms also began a process of leadership change at *The Myanmar Times* that brought U Thiha Saw to his current position.

Former Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan – who once compared journalists to red ants – was replaced by the more reform-minded U Aung Kyi in 2012.

Meanwhile, U Myat Swe was released from detention in April 2013, after serving eight years. His attempts to repurchase his shares in the company were thwarted, however, and he instead invested in Mizzima Media Group, a former exile media organisation that had recently shifted to Yangon. His father, Brig Gen Thein Swe, was released from jail just last week in an amnesty.

Despite not being able to welcome U Myat Swe back to MCM, Mr Dunkley was able to convince Dr Tun Tun Oo to instead sell his shares to business tycoon U Thein Tun. The sale went through in February and shortly afterward the company purchased U Thiha Saw's media assets, including *Myanma Freedom Daily*, an English-language newspaper he launched in October 2013 that ceased publication in April.

On October 1, Mr Dunkley handed over day-to-day operations of the paper to U Thiha Saw and newly appointed CEO Tony Child. Mr Dunkley, an often controversial figure in Myanmar's media industry, remains a shareholder but for now is taking a well-deserved break after almost 15 years in charge.

When asked if he thinks it's strange that he ended up working at a newspaper he once actively avoided, U Thiha Saw said such reversals seem to be a defining feature of the nation's “reform” era.

“Now we have former enemies becoming friends and these sorts of things,” he said.

Going forward, U Thiha Saw said the main goal of the paper remains unchanged: to switch from a weekly to daily paper, a prospect the editorial director described as his “dream”.

However, a daily newspaper could be just the start of the expansion plans, he said.

“If U Thein Tun is ambitious enough he may go into other areas of media, like broadcast,” he said. “I think radio might be the next step.”

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# Finding a lost father, fr

For 60 years, Gavin Wigginton knew almost nothing about his father, who died in Burma at

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KEAN

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SYDNEY Wigginton was just a week away from returning home to his wife and son in Britain when the Dakota KN 584 took off from Rangoon on September 7, 1945, destined for Calcutta via Taungoo.

His war had been longer and more notable than most. After enlisting in early 1939, Sydney graduated from the Sandhurst military academy in July 1940 and became a commissioned officer with the Sherwood Foresters that November. Over the next five years, he was sent to North Africa, Spain and Portugal, the Middle East, Italy and later India, Sri Lanka and Burma. Noted for his logistical and operational skills, Sydney had risen to lieutenant colonel, and would later that month be awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE).

**In 1942, Sydney had been recruited into the Special Operations Executive, an undercover organisation of some 13,000 men that conducted operations behind enemy lines.**

Sydney had emerged from an unimaginably bloody conflict largely unscathed. The war in Asia had ended the previous month and the visit to Burma, to debrief soldiers recently freed from Japanese prisoner of war camps, was one of his last missions. Civilian life held much promise. Sydney and his wife Eunice were expecting their second child in November and he had lined up interviews for a number of potential jobs abroad, including in South Africa and Canada.

But like so many combatants, he

would not return home. The Dakota, carrying 16 people – four crew, seven army passengers and five Royal Air Force personnel – was immediately pumelled by the bad weather that can strike during the unpredictable late monsoon period. It struggled to a low range of hills to the northeast of Yangon, on the edge of Kayin State, before being hit by lightning and crashing into mountains near Mewaing, a remote village on the road between Papun in Kayin State and Bilin in Mon State.

News that the plane had disappeared only reached Eunice a week later, and it was not until January 1946 that reports reached Rangoon confirming the crash. After the plane went down, locals, together with a British officer, had buried the remains of the men beside a Buddhist monastery in Mewaing. The three photos the officer took, showing neat rows of crosses in a shaded compound, were passed to Eunice and the other relatives, ending any hope that they would see their loved ones again.

#### The hidden wartime history

The photos were among just a handful of possessions – the OBE, a wallet with Sydney's initials and the Sherwood Foresters emblem, and a silk parachute – that linked Gavin Wigginton to the father he never knew. There was little to suggest his wartime exploits went further than the official records revealed.

Throughout Gavin's childhood and adult life, Eunice rarely talked about her husband, except to say that he was a man Gavin should be proud of. When she was diagnosed with cancer in 2002, however, she agreed to let Gavin interview her to create a record of her life. This revealed many previously unknown details about Sydney and sparked a desire to learn more. When Eunice died in 2009, Gavin inherited from her a small locked metal box that contained a range of intriguing items about his father's life, including papers that referenced unusual wartime activities. In 2013, Gavin, who had migrated to Australia in the 1980s, visited the National Archives in Kew to find out more about Sydney, including why he had received the OBE.

The two successive days he spent in the archives "opened a door on my father's life which was a total surprise", Gavin told *The Myanmar Times* in a recent interview. In 1942, Sydney had been recruited into the Special Operations Executive, an undercover organisation of some 13,000 men that



Top: A wartime photo of Lieutenant Colonel Sydney Wigginton. Opposite, from top: Novice monks stand in front of the monastery in Mewaing, Kayin State, where the remains of the 16 men are buried; a photo of the burial site taken in late 1945 by a British officer; Gavin Wigginton in Bhutan. Photos: Supplied

conducted operations behind enemy lines, including supplying resistance groups and waging propaganda and sabotage campaigns. An expert in logistics and air operations, he had lived in Cairo, southern Italy and Calcutta during the war. Many of the documents, including the citation for the OBE, had only been declassified decades after the conflict ended. His OBE citation spoke glowingly of an officer who had "outstanding qualities of far sightedness, initiative, and clear thinking" and had achieved remarkable success. One example cited was his role in organising the evacuation of Tito's headquarters – totalling some 150 men – from Yugoslavia to Italy with just 12 hours' notice.

Aside from details of his decorated military career, Gavin discovered a number of facts about his father's life – and his own – that took him by surprise. His father had lived with a guardian as a teenager, after his parents died. The reason for their death is unclear. The documents spoke of a brother, about whom nothing is known. At some points, they mentioned a Gavin Stewart, the head of the SOE mission in Calcutta in 1945. Gavin realised it was from him that his parents had taken his name, Gavin Sydney Stewart Wigginton.

They had also inadvertently worked in similar fields. Sydney was an expert in organising complex air operations

during the war, while Gavin specialised in operations research, a field developed during World War II, and has spent much of his life improving the efficiency of logistical systems.

Gavin had always known that his father died in Burma. His research, however, revealed that the country, particularly Kayin State, was a major focus for SOE and Sydney. SOE was working to undermine the occupying Japanese by supporting resistance movements, including the Kayin – also known as the Karen – who were mostly loyal to the British. "The role of SOE, working in particular with the Karen people, in destabilising the

**News that the plane had disappeared only reached Eunice a week later, and it was not until January 1946 that reports reached Rangoon confirming the crash.**

Japanese authorities and operations, encouraging resistance, and preparing for the liberation of Burma cannot be overestimated," Gavin said.

As well as supporting the Kayin resistance, SOE sought to build up the Anti-Fascist Organisation (AFO), formed in 1944 by General Aung San's Burma National Army, together with the communists and socialists, to oppose Japanese rule. In 1945, a Kayin uprising to the east of the Sittoung River valley and AFO attacks to the west helped aid the advance of General William Slim's 14<sup>th</sup> Army, which liberated Burma just before the monsoon rains arrived in May 1945.

While only posted to the Far East for about seven months, Sydney continued to receive high praise for his contribution to the war effort. The commanding officer of the section of SOE responsible for Burma, Colonel Cumming, wrote in a letter to Eunice in October 1945 that Sydney's "knowledge and experience were of the greatest possible assistance to us". "In fact," he wrote, "much of our ultimate success as a force in that campaign must be credited to the excellence of his work."

#### Operation: Mewaing

All of these findings strengthened Gavin's longstanding desire to visit Myanmar and Mewaing. When his mother passed away in 2009, Gavin

### Sydney Wigginton's OBE citation: an extract

Lt Colonel Wigginton was given responsibility for Air Operations of SOE in November 1942, when mounting air supplies to Allied and partisan formations and missions in enemy occupied territory was in its infancy. His work was one of the major factors which raised the percentage of success of clandestine air sorties to a level which encouraged the military and air force to allot the aircraft and other resources necessary for a large scale expansion of Special Operations.

During 1944, the results achieved by SO (M) Air Operations were far in excess of anything which had been envisaged. 15,000 sorties were flown of which over 10,000 were successful, a total of 20,000 tonnes of stores were supplied to over 200 missions or supply zones in the Balkans, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and southern France.

The organisation and control of these operations was more than

a remarkable achievement having regard to the difficulties of clandestine W/T (Wireless/telephone) communications, the number of pinpoints and countries involved, the need for organising ground reception with all the problems of light signals and security considerations, and the variety of the requirements of different agencies.

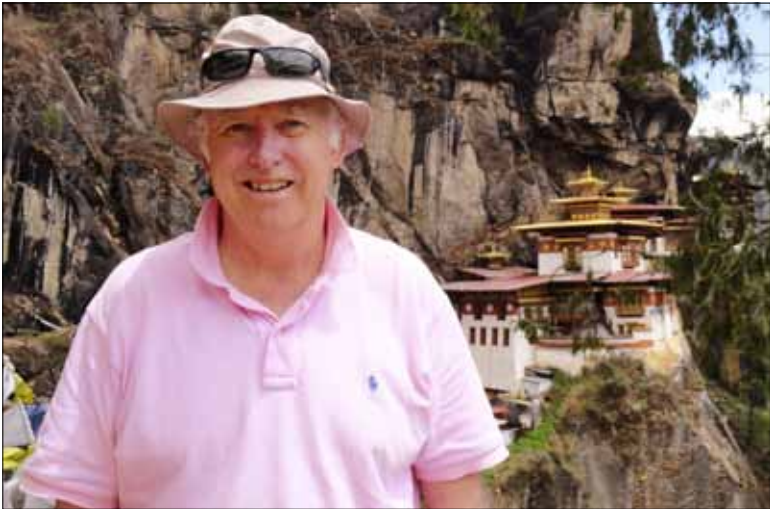
Of particular note is one example when, at 12 hours' notice, Marshal Tito's HQ was successfully evacuated to Italy together with his staff and attached British and American Missions consisting of a total of 150 officers and men.

For the remarkable success that this officer has achieved by his outstanding qualities of far sightedness, initiative, and clear thinking, I have the honour to recommend he be awarded the OBE. Should this award be approved, it is requested that no details of this commendation be made public or communicated to the press.



# From Kew to Kayin State

the end of World War II. His search has uncovered a richer picture than he ever imagined



had kept some of her ashes and hoped to one day be able to place them beside his father's grave. Additionally, he had always wanted to thank the descendants of those who had helped to recover the remains of the men and bury them together in the monastery.

There was one major catch: Mewaing, in the north of conflict-ravaged Kayin State, is little more accessible now than it was in 1946. Despite a lull in fighting between the government and Karen National Union (KNU) soldiers, it remains off-limits to foreigners.

A number of "serendipitous" meetings during 2013, however, provided hope that a visit might be possible. A former university colleague who worked at the European Commission provided contacts for people working with refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border, who in turn put him in touch with a woman named Naw Jercy.

She agreed, with her son Ephraim, to visit Mewaing. As the days ticked by in March, Gavin waited eagerly for news from Yangon. Finally, Naw Jercy got in touch by email: The mission had been a success. Not only did she find Mewaing, but she also visited the burial site and even met a 96-year-old man in the village who recalled the airplane crashing in 1945. Her son had attempted to visit the crash site but was prevented by representatives of the KNU.

The information, Gavin said with typical British understatement, made him "a very happy man". "I was fairly confident that the village existed, but I was sceptical about finding the graves or the crash site," he said.

After receiving Naw Jercy's report, Gavin alerted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the mass grave. It has since responded that it plans to investigate the site. He has also received a letter of support from Burma Star President Viscount John Slim, the son of General William Slim.

Gavin booked his ticket to Myanmar shortly after and is scheduled to arrive later this month. Whether he will be able to visit Mewaing remains unclear. He has submitted requests for permission to the Myanmar government, through both the embassy in Canberra and the British embassy in Yangon, but is yet to receive a response. The British embassy said

last week it was "in the process of trying to facilitate a visit" to Mewaing but declined to comment further.

With just weeks until his arrival in Myanmar, Gavin remains hopeful that these connections will enable him to head into the hills of Kayin State in November. At the same time, he understands this might be the first battle in a longer war, and plans to stay in touch with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the hope of joining an anticipated visit to the site by one of its investigation teams.

**Not only did Naw Jercy find Mewaing, but she also visited the burial site and even met a 96-year-old man who recalled the airplane crashing in 1945.**

It is likely that he has precipitated questions to be asked about repatriation - whether the men should be moved from their monastery grave. He described it as a "very difficult subject" but favours leaving the bodies where they are, possibly with a memorial at Mewaing. "It's a mass grave and I don't think we should be digging it up after all this time. There is also the question that, if we removed the bones, where would we take them? To Yangon? To the UK?" He is also keen to hear from the relatives of the other men who perished, and believes they should all have an equal say. "One thing I would say is that, given that it's a mass grave, it's all or nothing in terms of what we do."

#### A new chapter begins

In the meantime, Gavin is working on his own personal memorial to his father. He recently notched up 40,000 words in the first draft of a biography and plans to return to the UK to work through a "huge number of leads" in

the SOE files at the British National Archives. "I expect to find a huge amount of detail about my father's life and times in Cairo, Italy, and Calcutta," he said. He will visit the Sherwood Foresters regimental archives to research Sydney's activities in the early years of the war, but also hopes to find out more about his family, including Sydney's brother, and what happened to his parents.

Gavin describes his search for Sydney as "one of the most profound experiences of my life". The details uncovered to date have created a far richer picture than he could ever have imagined. As a result, the father he never met has gone from being "little more than a footnote in history" to a person that he feels he knows and admires.

In recent years he has acquired some 20 books on the SOE, a number of which make mention of Sydney. When we met in central Melbourne in August, he carried a second-hand copy of *Baker Street Irregular*, by Colonel Bickham Sweet-Escott - one of the early organisers of the SOE, who, like Sydney, spent time in Cairo, Italy and Kandy. As we had lunch in the winter sun by the Yarra River, Gavin explained that it could only be printed in 1965, 20 years after the war ended, because most of the information was classified. He spoke with energy and excitement about discovering fresh details of his father's life in recent days as he worked his way through the hardback, which he had purchased online. Clues to Sydney's story were, it turned out, a few mouse clicks away, yet it would have been easy to never look, or to have given up, not knowing where to start.

When I asked Gavin later to imagine what it would have been like if he'd never pursued his father's life story, he responded, "The journey of discovery has also led me to reflect on, and redefine, who I am. In a sense, you do not miss what you never had. However, having discovered my father, I am now in touch with a part of me that I had not recognised and I feel more complete."

Sydney's life ended almost 70 years ago, yet the end of his story has not yet been written. A new chapter will begin in Myanmar this month.

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# Lack of by-laws stalls state, region legislation

BY-LAWS have been enacted for barely one-quarter of the more than 270 laws passed by regional parliaments since March 2011, the Attorney-General's Office said last week, resulting in many approved laws not yet coming into effect.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said of the 272 laws enacted by regional parliaments only 72 had by-laws to date. The majority were passed by region, rather than state, parliaments, he said.

Government ministries have been accused of holding back important legislation by taking too long to issue by-laws, which add more detail to the law. While a bill needs to go through parliament for approval, by-laws are normally drafted and enacted by the responsible government.

Daw Nan Say Awar, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Hpa-an township in Kayin State, said the legislative limbo was "like a man who has a head but no body".

But U Tun Tun Oo said there was no need to issue by-laws for every piece of legislation, adding that it "depends on the characteristics" of the law. He pointed to the Electronic Transactions Act and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law as legislation that did not need by-laws.

- Htoo Thant, translation by Zar Zar Soe



Children pass the time in Hpung Lum Yang IDP camp near Laiza on July 26. Photo: Zarni Phyo

# Displaced continue to miss school

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PERSISTENT outbreaks of fighting are depriving local children of education, say Kachin State officials. More than 30 basic education schools remain closed as teachers and students take refuge in displaced-persons camps to escape the violence.

Up to 50,000 children could be missing out on school or receiving only partial education, they say.

Kachin State Social Minister Daw Bauk Jar said entire villages have been depopulated because of the conflict. "We can't open the schools when term begins. Most of our regions are not safe and most of the students and teachers have fled to camps," she said.

In addition to the 20,000 students whose schools cannot open, another 30,000 are receiving education from teachers in temporary camps run by the government, and religious and educational organisations.

"We provide education and health services," said Rector Khan Aung Tu of the Myitkyina Baptist Association.

"Some of the schools that were closed are reopening. We are also arranging to teach children in camps if they can't get to school."

Though teachers were assigned to schools in the state, some went home because of the lack of students.

"Our children are really having trouble learning because of the lack of teachers," said a resident of Chipwe township. "Although the government assigned teachers, they left because the schools were closed."

Armed clashes between government forces and the KIA resumed in 2011, and more than 100,000 people are sheltering in camps in areas under KIA control.

- Translated by Khant Lin Oo

**'Our children are really having trouble learning because of the lack of teachers.'**

**Chipwe township resident**

# Body of pilot found near Hkakabo Razi

Thai pilot and nephew of U Nama Johnsein survive more than 10 days in the wilderness after their helicopter crashed near Putao on September 27

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THE Myanmar co-pilot of a Thai rescue helicopter that went missing in northern Kachin State on September 27 has been found dead, taking the likely toll from the Hkakabo Razi expedition to three.

A rescue team found U Aung Myat Toe's body on October 9 near a cave that he had been sheltering in, according to Htoo Foundation, which has been coordinating the rescue effort and hired the helicopter.

"His family agreed to cremate him in the forest and they want the urn to be taken to Yangon," said a foundation spokesperson, U Tun Tun Min.

U Aung Myat Toe was with climber U Shwe Yin Taw Gyi and Thai pilot Captain Chatchawal Thanthong on board the chopper when it disappeared 20 minutes after leaving Putao airport. The trio had been taking supplies to rescuers searching on the ground for two Myanmar climbers missing after reaching the summit of the 5881-metre (19295 feet) Hkakabo Razi on August 31.

U Shwe Yin Taw Gyi - the nephew of U Nama Johnsein, the only man alive to have reached the top of Mt Hkakabo Razi - managed to walk to safety, reaching Lah Sar village on October 7. The next day he helped a rescue team locate Mr Chatchawal, who was injured when the helicopter went down. However, it could not find U Aung Myat, who had also been injured in the accident.

The search for Ko Wai Yan Min Thu and Ko Aung Myint Myat, who are now presumed dead, was called off by Htoo Foundation after new snowfalls high on the mountain meant their bodies would now be covered up. It is likely to resume around March, when the snow

begins to melt, according to Htoo Foundation.

All but two of the 63 member Chinese civilian Blue Sky Rescue Team also left the area last week after a magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck China's Yunnan province last week, causing them to turn their attention to that emergency instead.

Speaking at a press conference in Yangon on October 4, an Italian helicopter pilot hired by Htoo Foundation said bad weather and difficult terrain around Hkakabo Razi had severely hampered the

11

Days after the Thai helicopter crashed that U Shwe Yin Taw Gyi arrived at Lah Sar village, in Putao township

search for the two climbers and the trio on board the helicopter.

"We spent many hours flying all around the jungle looking for some evidence ... But the weather was really, really bad," Piergiorgio Rosati said of the search near the mountain, which is the tallest in South-east Asia.

"We need to wait till the snow melts," Mr Rosati said.

Mr Rosati's helicopter managed to fly up to 19,000 feet (5791 metres) above sea level and hovered over some areas where the climbers may have sought refuge, including crevasses along the climbing route.

"We didn't find anything but the climbing route. We weren't sure about where we were looking for them ... We found their footprints and their rope for climbing," he said.

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# More than 100 junctions to get improved traffic lights



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THE brief era of the flyover has passed, according to Yangon's mayor, who said municipal authorities will instead tackle the city's traffic woes through improved management.

U Hla Myint made the comments in response to a request from a Yangon Region Hluttaw MP to build a flyover at the junction of Waizayandar and Laydaungkan roads in Thingangyun township.

He said that improving control of traffic lights was more effective than flyover bridges, which can cost up to US\$40 million each.

"If we build flyover bridges we will have to spend a lot of money. Using this traffic management system, we will save money," U Hla Myint said.

The mayor said that under a traffic management and security system plan jointly developed by Japan



A bus merges into a lane of cars near Shwegonedaing Junction before a flyover was built in 2013. Photo: Staff

International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Yangon City Development Committee and the Ministry of Rail Transportation, new control equipment will be installed at more than 100 junctions over the next six months.

Fourteen major junctions are included in the upgrade, he said. After

surveying traffic flow, all of the lights will be controlled at a traffic control centre, although the timeline for the establishment of this centre is unclear.

The first junction to benefit will be Chawdwin Gone in Mayangone township. Ten sets of traffic lights

around Chawdwin Gone will be upgraded and the equipment was sent from Japan on September 23.

In response to the request from representative U Kyaw to build the flyover in Thingangyun, he said there was not enough space because of the nearby Min Ye Kyaw Swar Bridge.

"If we build another bridge near Min Ye Kyaw Swar Bridge, it won't be as effective as we hope," he said.

The mayor said an average of 2100 vehicles pass through the junction of Waizayandar and Laydaungkan roads each hour.

U Kyaw said he believed the flyover was needed because vehicles headed to Dagon Myothit and Hlegu use the junction. It is also close to Thuwunna Stadium and gets clogged when important sporting matches are held, he said.

Representative U Maung San urged the government to tackle the traffic problem, saying it was "the one thing destroying the development of Yangon".

"We don't know exactly what will happen in the next 10 years, but one thing is for sure: The number of vehicles will grow more and more," he said.

## MPs agree to join arms convention

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw last week approved the president's request that Myanmar become a member country of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

Myanmar signed the convention in 1972 together with the other nine ASEAN countries, but it has yet to join as a member country. The convention is designed to stop member states producing, updating or storing biological weapons. Any existing biological weapons they have must be destroyed.

In his message to the hluttaw the president said that becoming a member of the convention would mean further integration with ASEAN countries and would head off any suggestions that Myanmar has or is developing biological weapons.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khine Kyaw told MPs that by joining the convention Myanmar could also get access to treatment for those affected by biological weapons.

It will also be able to ask the United Nations Security Council to take action against a country manufacturing biological weapons, he said.

"Myanmar can show its active participation in the disarmament sector by becoming a member country of the convention," U Khine Kyaw added.

— Pyae Thet Phyto,  
translation by Thiri Min Htun

## CRIME IN BRIEF

### Man dies from electric shock

A man died on the way to hospital in eastern Yangon last week after being electrocuted in his home.

Ko Phoe Cho, 18, was found inside his home in Thaketa township by police officers on October 4. Police believe that he was electrocuted while attempting to plug a fan into a socket near his bed.

### Man accused over Hajj scam

Police have charged a man who allegedly stole money from travellers hoping to take part in the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

U Ba Lin, owner of Yangon Rainbow (Hajj) Travel and Tour Company, told police on October 6 that he had contacted Arrow Lane Travel Co in Pabedan township to arrange tickets and travel documents for 42 pilgrims.

U Ba Lin said Arrow Lane agreed to issue the travel documents at a cost of US\$130,000. U Ba Lin agreed and began paying the company's managing director in instalments. As of September 18, however, U Ba Lin had paid almost \$110,000 but had not received any travel documents. After he filed a complaint to police, Arrow Lane's managing director was charged with cheating.

### Maids tied up during robbery

Two maids have said that they were held during an armed robbery in Tarmwe township last week.

Ma Naw Tamane Htoo, 27, and Ma Hel Salu Phaw, 19, were working at the home of Ma Phyu Phyu Thet on October 4 when Ma Phyu Phyu Thet returned home with her brother and a goldsmith from her family's gold shop.

When the trio returned home they saw a man at the door to the house who appeared to be carrying a knife. The trio left the house and reported seeing three men flee at the same time.

They later returned with Ma Phyu Phyu Thet's father. The maids said that three men entered the home and tied them up before stealing K150,000 and jewellery worth K893,000. Tarmwe police are investigating. — Toe Wai Aung, translation by Khant Lin Oo

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# Views

## Proportional voting benefits only USDP



**SITHU AUNG MYINT**

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ON September 30, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann instructed the commission studying electoral reform to submit a report with information on at least seven electoral systems by October 21.

His instruction surprised MPs because the commission studying electoral reform had already submitted its first report to parliament, examining three systems. Everybody thought they would hold a discussion based on the report. So why did Thura U Shwe Mann issue this instruction, using the authority granted him as speaker? And what does this mean for the PR debate?

In August, U Aung Zin, a representative from National Democratic Force (NDF), submitted a proposal to introduce proportional representation for the 2015 election. Rumours immediately emerged that his proposal arose out of pre-negotiations with the Union Solidarity and Development Party, which, led by Thura U Shwe Mann, would benefit significantly from the introduction of proportional representation. Once the proposal was discussed in parliament, the level of coordination on the proposal between U Aung Zin and Thura U Shwe Mann appeared to confirm this theory. It raised questions about whether they had been dishonest in the way they approached the debate.

A committee was established to decide which type of electoral system is best suited to Myanmar, and was instructed to compile a report and submit it within 60 days. The report it submitted on September 24 focused on three electoral systems: first-past-the-post, which is the system currently in use; proportional representation; and a hybrid system combining the two.

Under parliament rules, the report should be discussed and a decision made on which voting system to use through the casting of votes. If MPs

voted for a hybrid system, there would probably need to be further discussion as to how it would work in practice. This is very simple.

But Thura U Shwe Mann instructed the commission to submit another report containing at least seven types of electoral systems. The decision shows how the parliament has increasingly come to operate under the speaker.

Thura U Shwe Mann took this decision to create the perception the parliament is studying a broad range of systems, not only the three originally surveyed. He wants to show that the USDP, which dominates the parliament, is not trying to simply rubber-stamp a change to proportional representation, and that the system that is eventually chosen is the best one for the country. One thing is for sure: Thura U Shwe Mann and the USDP are trying to get rid of first-past-the-post to avoid the indignity of another electoral whitewash, like the one they suffered in the April 2012 by-elections.

That proportional representation is being discussed in parliament at all is ridiculous. There are neither clear flaws with the current system nor demands from the public for a change. It has simply emerged after the USDP was defeated in virtually every constituency by the National League for Democracy in the by-elections. The proposal to change is simply for the sake of the USDP.

The parliament was shaped by the 2010 election, in which members of USDP won the majority of seats. They have the numbers to virtually do whatever they like. The parliament resembles the National Convention that the military government set up in 1993 to draft the constitution. It is not wrong to say that the government drew the constitution through force. As a result, however, the public has never appreciated the constitution and as soon as the political situation allowed began to demand changes.

Whether the electoral reform committee proposes three or seven systems, it is virtually guaranteed that parliament will choose a system to replace first-past-the-post. And regardless of how the decision was discussed in parliament, or how many MPs voted for it, it will have been without public support – just like the constitution drafted by the National Convention.

– Translation by Zar Zar Soe

## In praise of peace



**AUNG NAING OO**

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IF one were to say before the peace process was initiated three years ago that ceasefires would soon change the lives of civilians in conflict areas, few people would likely have believed it.

But the truth is that the ceasefires in Myanmar have brought incredible peace dividends. They have transformed the lives of many people.

“Life for communities hiding in the jungles of Myanmar changed almost overnight with the signing of the ceasefires,” said Charles Petrie, the coordinator of the Myanmar Peace Support Initiative.

The first direct peace dividends in Myanmar following the signing of the 14 bilateral treaties, which were followed by almost a year of talks toward a nationwide ceasefire, have been fewer clashes.

At the peak of the armed conflict, 10 of Myanmar's states and regions were affected by the war. Now only two areas – Kachin and northern Shan states – have experienced intermittent clashes. In Kachin State, the number of clashes has dropped to a small fraction of what they were before an understanding was reached in May this year.

It goes without saying that fewer clashes means less loss of life and destruction.

The government's chief negotiator, Minister for the President's Office U Aung Min, often tells visitors a heart-warming example of this peace dividend.

The Mingalardon Military Hospital used to carry out many amputations – as many as 40 a day – at the height of previous military offensives. Because clashes have been dramatically reduced, no more amputations have to be carried out. Where doctors at the hospital used to teach medical students using live amputations, they now have to use prostheses to demonstrate to students how to perform an amputation.

Fewer clashes also mean fewer



A government official stamps an ID card application from an ethnic Kayin in Kyaukkyi

refugee outflows. In its report for the first half of this year, The Border Consortium, a coalition of aid groups working with refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border, said about 250 refugees had returned to Myanmar to assess conditions and possibly resettle permanently.

Given the large number of refugees languishing on the Thai-Myanmar border, this is a relatively small number. But the return of refugees is unheard of in the context of Myanmar's armed conflicts. As a result of decreasing conflict in Myanmar, the Thais – who have sheltered the refugees from Myanmar for decades – are in talks with the authorities and international organisations to assess the possibility for return.

There have been other crucial peace dividends from the process initiated by President U Thein Sein.

Since peace returned to many areas in 2011, the Ministry of Immigration and Population has been able to provide some 800,000 IDs cards to people in Kachin, Karen, Mon, Shan and Kayah states. This could only occur as a result of the ceasefires, which led to cooperation between the ministry and the ethnic armed groups.


Assistance of all kind has been


delivered. According to the Ministry of Border Affairs, a total of K1.242 billion (US\$1.25 million) has been spent in border areas on peace-related activities. The money has been used to build bridges, schools, roads and clinics.

# 40

Number of amputations a day carried out at the Mingalardon Military Hospital at the height of past Tatmadaw offensives

Local and international NGOs have gained access to areas that were once off-limits. Roads have been reopened. Civilians can now travel freely in many conflict areas that were once closed. Although not all conflict areas are the same, freedom of movement, which was a luxury before, is now part of daily life in areas where ceasefires have held.










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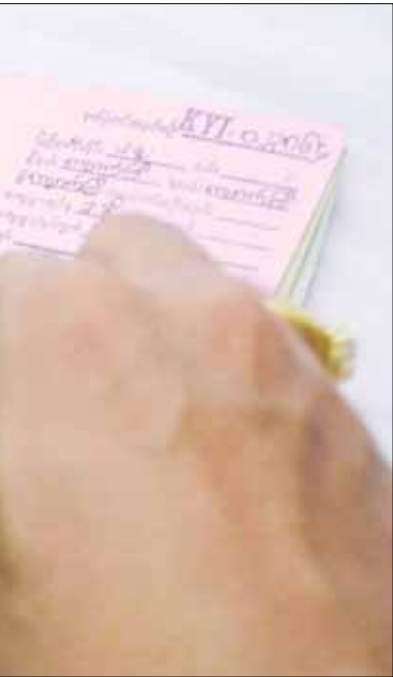
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Furthermore, in areas where ceasefires have brought stability and security, people are talking about tourism and clamouring for development. Economic activity has also markedly improved in ceasefire areas.

But most important of all, civilians have been able to cultivate the land on which they live.

“For the first time in decades, and for some multiple decades, communities had unimpeded access to the areas that they cultivated,” Petrie said. “They could reap the full value of their harvests. As a result incomes increased immediately after the first harvests.”

In terms of healthcare, “Individuals and families no longer had to walk days to Thailand to receive medical treatment. They could go to clinics in the government-controlled areas,” he said.

Ashley South, another analyst who has an intimate knowledge of the peace process, said that for people in many communities life is “much, much better than before the ceasefires, with reduced fear, greater freedom of travel resulting in improving livelihoods, and hope for the future”

While the peace dividends are

too many to count, the ceasefires are not without their problems.

Recently, sporadic fighting flared up in some areas of Kayin and Shan states due to the fragile nature of the current agreements. These incidents highlight why it is so important to wrap up talks on a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and strengthen the existing ceasefires.

According to Petrie, many civilians still fear interactions with the Tatmadaw, although these are no longer traumatic for most people.

The brighter prospects for economic development as a result of the ceasefire are also not without concern, as business can bring with it many negative impacts. “In many conflict-affected areas, ceasefires are also facilitating the incursion of extractive industries, and widespread land-grabbing,” South said. “There is a great risk that unless mining operations, logging and land-grabbing are addressed in conflict-affected areas, the peace process could result in serious long-term negative outcomes for ethnic communities.”

Indeed, the situation is far from ideal. It will be a long time before civilians in conflict areas will be able to lead a completely a normal life.

Those of us living in the cities and in areas not affected by armed conflict may not appreciate the positive effects of the ceasefires. But they have provided the civilians in conflict zones with fresh air from the suffocation of war.

This is why it is so important to maintain these ceasefires at all cost. I have heard many stories about civilians expressing their desire to keep the ceasefires in place. A Kayin official once related how villagers told him to do everything in his power to maintain the ceasefire even if “there was no political dialogue”.

Petrie agreed, saying, “When asked what their greatest wish was, all communities encountered in the former black areas responded: ‘For the fighting not to resume.’”

.....  
**Aung Naing Oo is associate director of the Peace Dialogue Program at the Myanmar Peace Center. The opinions expressed here are his own.**

Malaysia’s Doctor M strikes again



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MALAYSIA’S former prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, was a tremendously positive force for his country and this region during his 22 years in power.

Compared to him, most other Southeast Asian leaders today appear politically puny and constantly preoccupied with defusing petty domestic issues. There is little sense that they have a clear vision of where they want to take their country or, even if they did, that they would have the strength of character to put that vision into effect.

Mahathir always did know where he wanted to lead Malaysia and always fought to get it there. And it’s good to see that as he approaches 90 years old, he still has that commitment – and the verve to continue pushing for its realisation.

His recent castigation of the country’s present leader, Prime Minister Najib Razak, and of the laziness of its ethnic majority Malay community is vintage Mahathir and a joy to witness.

It recalls the 1990s, when this writer, then a foreign correspondent based in Kuala Lumpur, found it hard not to be galvanised by the performance of Mahathir, or “Dr M”, as we all called him.

He was always utterly resolute in his determination to raise standards in Malaysia and to elevate his country’s profile in world affairs.

In doing so, he cared little for those whose toes he stood upon and never gave a hoot about political correctness or the views of Western leaders, who often disdained him for treating them as equals not superiors. But really it was his fearlessness in addressing his own people, and in particular his fellow Malays, that was so astonishing.

He displayed it again last month when he accused his Malay compatriots of being endemically lazy and voiced despair at the way they have been overtaken by the country’s more dynamic Chinese community.

It is difficult to exaggerate the

impact of his comments.

Normally, no Malay leader would chastise his own people, and certainly would never do so while simultaneously extolling the rival Chinese Malaysians.

For any other senior figure, it would be seen as virtually committing political suicide.

It would be akin, for instance, to Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen lauding his country’s small but widely disliked Vietnamese community at the expense of his much larger but more torpid Khmer compatriots.

Or perhaps more aptly, as if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were to lament the lack of zeal of her fellow Burmese Buddhists compared to the more proactive minorities and entrepreneurial Muslims.

Even when palpably true, other leaders tend to hold back from making such statements, but not Mahathir.



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks during the UN General Assembly on September 26. Photo: AFP

He has always been one of the few politicians with the courage to call a spade a spade and to voice unpalatable home truths.

And they are truths. For most Malays are lazy. They are neither inherently industrious nor are they normally determined to fight to advance their material wellbeing.

Nothing intrinsically wrong with that, of course, especially if you are rural-based and more or less self-sufficient, as, until quite recently, most Malays were. It was only after a discriminatory pro-Malay economic policy was introduced by Najib’s father, PM Razak Hussein, in the 1970s, that Malays began to dream of succeeding in business and the professions.

But they were relatively few in number and, as Mahathir came to realise, many more did not bother to take

advantage of the university places, board directorships and civil service promotions offered to them.

As Dr M noted, more Malay men seemed to prefer to join motorbike gangs and have fun, whereas their female colleagues, as well as Malaysian Chinese and Indians, did knuckle down and progress.

“The Malays are lazy and not interested in studying and revising,” Mahathir said last month. “At the universities, 70 percent of the Malay students are women. Where are the men?”

He continued: “I am ashamed when I see the Chinese studying three different languages and still have a better grasp of English compared to their Malay peers.”

He castigated the recent decision of Najib’s government to scrap the teaching of science and mathematics in English, which he had introduced in 2003. And he went further and claimed that the ruling National Front government would lose the next general election if Najib continued as Prime Minister.

Speaking to a business group, he repeated his earlier qualms about Najib’s wobbly leadership and said he was withdrawing his support for the PM. “Many policies, approaches and actions taken by the government under Najib have destroyed interracial ties, the economy and the country’s finances,” said Dr M.

Although the Front was re-elected last year, the margin of victory was the slimmest since Malaysia became independent in 1957 and Najib’s men crucially lost the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution.

Mahathir said that the government’s mistakes must be highlighted so they can be corrected.

“What is wrong is wrong. We have to point it out and not sit on the fence. This is the only way to move forward,” said the former PM.

Malaysian voters certainly appear to have less and less faith in Najib, whose approval rating hit an all-time low of 52 percent in April, while his disapproval score was at a record high of 44pc. Najib’s main strength these days rests on a lack of viable alternative leaders and a serious internal split in the opposition People’s Alliance, led by Dr M’s former deputy now turned antagonist, Anwar Ibrahim.

But even that situation may not save him if more and more people start to share the opinion of the indomitable Mahathir.

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# Business

## Civil society group calls for freeze on Dawei economic zone

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STOP work at the Dawei Special Economic Zone now – unless proper safeguards are put in place, local activist groups are urging. They issued a list of demands to coincide with the visit to Myanmar of the Thai prime minister.

Prayuth Chan-o-cha's Myanmar trip was his first overseas visit since taking power earlier this year. The leaders of both countries agreed on October 9 to continue to implement the stalled Dawei deep-sea port and the ambitious Special Economic Zone project initiated in 2000, as rapidly as possible.

In 2010 a 60-year concession was granted to Italian-Thai Development Ltd (ITD) to develop the Dawei deep-sea port, industrial estate and road and rail link to Thailand.

Project proponents say it will reduce the need to ship through the difficult Malacca Straits by providing a direct overland link between Dawei on the Indian Ocean and Thailand's eastern seaboard. But the development became mired in environmental and social problems, including accusations of land grabs, inadequate and unfair resettlement and compensation, uncompensated loss of farmlands and forests, and damage to local communities' social and economic wellbeing, according to some civil society groups.

In November 2013, Italian-Thai was sidelined and the Myanmar and Thai governments took over the troubled project, transferring control to the Dawei SEZ Development Company, which is jointly owned by the two governments.

A coalition of civil society groups named the Dawei Development

Association (DDA) is now calling on the Myanmar and Thai governments to refrain from reviving the Dawei Special Economic Zone development project unless associated problems are rectified.

They are demanding the two governments resolve a range of problems before resuming work on the site, including ensuring international environmental and social protections, avoiding involuntary resettlement, improving disclosures and preventing corruption.

U Thant Zin, coordinator of the DDA, said local communities had not been given adequate information about the project and had been forced off their land without fair compensation. "There is also no remedy for those whose rights have been abused in the process so far. All these problems must be resolved before the project restarts," he said.

Observers estimate that 20 to 36 villages (comprising 22,000 to 43,000 people) would be directly affected by the SEZ and related projects, including an industrial estate, ports, road links, reservoirs and resettlement areas, the DDA statement said.

"Both governments should respect the culture and tradition of local communities and recognise the use of land practice and the role of local people in natural resource management," said Saw Alex of the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network.

"It is clear that the project activities on the ground so far have been carried out in ways that show that the project management is seriously corrupt. Continuing the project and investing in such a project will maintain the status quo of ongoing illegal activity, including corruption," said U Kyaw Thu, an activist watching the Dawei SEZ project.

## More oil companies reveal ownership

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EIGHT local oil and gas companies have revealed their ultimate beneficial owners as part of NGO Global Witness' drive to promote transparency in the notoriously secretive sector.

The eight were among 15 local companies that are partners with international companies on 36 onshore and offshore blocks Myanmar has awarded in the past year. Many of the local companies are partners on more than one block.

"This makes Myanmar the current global leader on company ownership publication, setting an important precedent on which the government, legislators and the Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative can build," said Global Witness in its report "The shell starts to crack? Real owners of Myanmar's oil and gas blocks coming forward".

"The willingness of block winners to open up their ownership is an important yardstick for progress on reform of Myanmar's extractive industries," the report added.

Global Witness asked each firm

with exploration rights to an onshore or offshore block to reveal their ultimate beneficial owners, and then released the results on October 9. This survey received responses from eight of the 15 local companies, following an earlier survey conducted in June that received only two local responses from among the 15 companies.

The initial two were Machinery and Solutions Co, owned by Aung Ye Soe and Daw Htay Htay, and Myanmar Petroleum E&P, owned by U Moe Myint.

The other six that have revealed their owners in the more recent survey are Parami Energy Development owned mostly by its CEO Ken Tun and his father U Than Tun; Apex Geo Services owned by U Min Mg Mg and Daw Ohn Mar Nyo; Win Precious Resources owned by U Htun Lynn Shein; Royal Marine Engineering owned by U Myint Aung and Daw Ce Ce Htwie; and Oil Star Management Services owned by U Kyaw Hlaing and his son U Hlaing Min.

The local companies that did not reveal their ownership are Young Investment Group, IGE Pte Limited, UNOG Pte Limited, Precious Stone Mining, A-1 Mining, Century Bright Gold and United National Resources Development.



## Loan interest rates coul



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THE Central Bank of Myanmar plans to allow freely floating interest rates shortly, though initially for US dollar loans only, according to its deputy governor U Set Aung.

Current limits on commercial bank loans – a ceiling of 13 percent and a floor of 10pc – are often criticised as being overly restrictive. In practice most loans are made near the 13pc ceiling.

U Set Aung wrote in Ministry of Commerce's weekly journal that the change will come as the foreign banks set up shop over the next year, adding there are also plans to remove the limits on interest rates on kyat loans in the future.

Bankers told *The Myanmar Times* they applaud the plans to end the interest rate limits, adding it will encourage credit growth and financial inclusion in the country.

The Central Bank's 13pc ceiling on interest rates for kyat loans will remain in place for the time being. Before moving to free floating interest rates on kyat loans, U Set Aung said there must be a functioning Treasury bill market and a robust interbank lending market.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has been promoting an interbank lending market, though take-up has been slow, and authorities are also planning a modern Treasury bill market for 2015.

Commercial bankers have also been vocal in their support of less

restrictive interest rates on loans, though some have cautioned expectations need to be realistic.

Co-operative Bank managing director U Pe Myint said it will take some time to change policies limiting interest rates on kyat loans. Still, the bank has been in contact with the nine foreign banks that won licences to set up in Myanmar on October 1, aiming to begin borrowing from them to on-lend to customers.

However, more sophisticated arrangements such as syndicated loans would take some time.

Current lending by banks to Myanmar business is usually near the 13pc ceiling due expensive sources of funding – interest on deposits must be at least 8pc – as well as credit risk concerns for many would-be borrowers.

U Pe Myint said commercial banks are eager to lend to lower-risk borrowers like Shwe Taung Group but more concerned about smaller firms with less collateral.

Businesspeople, however, complain they face higher interest rates than borrowers in other countries, with some adding they hope to be able to borrow money directly from foreign banks at cheaper rates when they set up.

U Soe Thein, executive director of Asia Green Development Bank, said in practice the foreign banks will be introducing a variety of loans at different rates, though they may not be as cheap as people think.

"Some people say foreign banks will charge interest rates of 2pc, but it's hard to tell what kind of loan they're talking about – even [low-risk] concessional loans from EXIM banks begin at 3pc," he said.

Domestic banks borrowing from foreign banks will face two types of risk – their responsibility for the loan as well as the possibility of currency fluctuations.

"Another question is who will guarantee our loans with foreign banks – I think they are many stages that need to be worked through. Everything can't change overnight or chaos will be the immediate response," said U Soe Thein.

Interest rates will be unlikely to drop too far in the short-term due to relatively high inflation, as well as high interest rates on deposits, he said. In April, the International Monetary Fund pegged domestic inflation at 6pc compared year-on-year, and government officials have said they are keeping an eye on the area.

"Rice prices have increased recently and property prices are very high, so it will become impossible to keep money in the bank if interest rates decline," said U Soe Thein.

Economist U Khine Htun said the domestic financial sector is set to become much more complicated with the introduction of foreign banks.

The Central Bank will have to

**'Everything can't change overnight or chaos would be the immediate response.'**

U Soe Thein  
Asia Green Development Bank



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**BUSINESS 30**



Property tax values under fire from real estate agents

**PROPERTY 34**

Exchange Rates (October 10 close)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
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Malaysia Ringitt	K304	K305
Singapore Dollar	K778	K782
Thai Baht	K30	K31
US Dollar	K990	K993

IN PICTURES



Cement is offloaded at Yangon's Bo Aung Kyaw port last week. Cement is becoming an increasingly lucrative industry, and firms such as Siam Cement Group have plans to expand in the country.

*Photo: Zarni Phyo*

# d float by 2015

oversee increasingly complex financial activities, such as syndicated loans in different currencies, which are presently quite rare, he said.

"The quality and the role of the Central Bank is becoming increasingly important," he said. "The development of the financial sector, especially the banks, depends totally on the Central Bank's policy in two main areas: to deepen the banking sector's influence in the economy and to protect local banks from bankruptcy," he said.

Demand and supply will ultimately determine interest rates on loans when restrictions are removed. Likely there will be

narrowing between savings and lending rates due to competition, said U Khine Htun.

Others caution against too much liberalisation too quickly. U Zaw Lin Htut, Asia-Pacific consultant for CRIF, an Italian credit bureau service that is preparing to enter Myanmar, said the market must mature more before restrictions can be removed.

Credit ratings are one area that need to be better, particularly for smaller and medium businesses, he said. U Zaw Lin Htut added he is also worried that interest rates in the future may not keep pace with inflation, but instead depend on supply and demand.

MANDALAY

# Competing visions for jade market's future



TRADERS have set up a committee to upgrade the Mahar Aung Myae jade centre in Mandalay, though an alternate site is also being built outside of the city.

A committee of 72 traders was set up on October 4 with the aim of making suggestions for an upgrade to the Mandalay Regional government.

"We have 72 members, but will accept anyone who wants to join us," said U Win Win Kyaw, owner of Han Saw gems shop and a committee member.

The jade trading industry has been booming in Mandalay, he said. Previously only a few hundred traders participated, but since 2008 the number of daily participants at the market has grown into the thousands.

To accommodate the growth, there are two plans to add room for jade traders. One plan - which is already under way - is supported by the Region government and involves building an entirely new centre near the Yangon-Mandalay highway south of the city. Work on the project is underway and expected to be finished in 2015.

However, some traders have said the new centre is inconveniently located, leading for some to call for the



Mahar Aung Myae is a crowded place to work these days. Photo: Aung Shin

renovations of the existing site on 87<sup>th</sup> Street between 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> streets in southwest Mandalay city.

U Win Win Kyaw said the jade and minerals industry generates lots of revenue for the country, part of which could go to upgrading the existing market. Improved facilities could generate more income, as it would be easier to do business, he said.

The Mandalay Region government had announced on October 1 that it has no plans to upgrade the current centre, according to a report in *The Mirror* newspaper, in favour of the new site

under construction.

Traders told *The Myanmar Times* that if the regional government turns down their suggestions, they will take the cause to the national government and ultimately President U Thein Sein.

"We welcome the new centre that is currently under construction, but we also want the existing centre to be upgraded," said U Than Win, owner of Pwint Oo gems shop.

"Everybody working here is very keen on getting the centre upgrade," he said. "We've been relying on it for years."

- Translation by Zar Zar Soe

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## Foreign banks chip in for tower firm's loan

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TELECOMS tower company Pan Asia Majestic Eagle has completed what it claims is the first cross-border, non-recourse financing arrangement in Myanmar.

The US\$85 million loan will finance its tower build, with financing provided by DBS, ING, OCBC, Standard Chartered and Sumitomo Mitsui, according to a press release.

OCBC and Sumitomo Mitsui both won licences to open bank branches in Myanmar on October 1, while DBS and Standard Chartered had participated in the process earlier on, though ultimately did not receive licences.

A Yangon-based Central Bank of Myanmar official told *The Myanmar Times* that comes against foreign investment normally pledges collateral in the home country. Pan Asia said its loan has a non-recourse element, though, meaning it is only secured by collateral inside of Myanmar.

However, most large-scale lending to the country is likely to remain as cross-border arrangements for the time being, as onshore financing in Myanmar is still a tough sell.

Pan Asia is an independent tower company, and is currently focused on putting up 1250 towers for Ooredoo. A joint venture between Digicel and Yoma Strategic Holdings is also putting up towers for the telco.

Both Ooredoo and Telenor have pursued a strategy of contracting out their tower builds to independent companies, leasing space off the completed towers for their telecommunications equipment. The arrangement could help encourage tower-sharing between different providers in the future.

Many mobile service providers in other countries have built the towers themselves.

U Than Htun Aung, director of Myanmar's Posts and Telecommunications Department – the telecom industry's regulator – said in the release that he welcomed the financing as it supports efforts to build a modern communications network in the country.



Workers at Yangon International Airport do their part for GDP growth last week. Photo: AFP

## Economic growth tops 8%



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THE domestic economy is growing faster than expected, as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) both pegged the past year's GDP growth above 8 percent.

Strengthening business sectors led the World Bank to increase its 2013-14 GDP growth rate for Myanmar to 8.5pc, while IMF similarly stated an estimated GDP growth rate of 8.3pc for the 2014 fiscal year.

While Myanmar still faces significant challenges, the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Economic Update released last week said the country is starting to reap the benefits of its reforms and international re-engagement.

"Construction, manufacturing and services all performed well. Investment has been rising, led by growing domestic investment and boosted further by large FDI inflows," it said.

It said the country's 2014-15 GDP growth is targeted for about 8.5pc, a 0.7pc increase on its estimate in April. The increase comes as the World Bank decreased its overall estimates for developing East Asian economies this year and next, pointing to China's economic expansion losing momentum and

policymakers facing tightening global monetary conditions.

Developing countries in East Asia and the Pacific are likely to see average growth of 6.9pc this year and in 2015, slower than the 7.1pc the bank had forecast in April, it said in the World Bank's October East Asia and Pacific Economic Update.

China's economy is forecast to grow 7.4pc this year and 7.2pc next year, compared with 7.6pc and 7.5pc projected in April as the government addresses financial vulnerabilities and structural constraints. China's economy expanded 7.7pc in 2013.

But the bank's chief Asia economist, Suhdir Shetty, said China's slowdown is unlikely to be "dramatic" enough to have a major impact on the region.

"China's slowdown is gradual... It is slower but it's not the bottom falling out of China's growth," he told reporters in Singapore.

Although Myanmar has bucked

the regional trend, the World Bank's report noted a few areas such as control over the fiscal deficit that need improving.

"In Myanmar, it is critical to increase tax revenues," the report said. "Revenues are temporarily high because of one-off receipts from the grant of telecommunications licences. However, tax exemptions have increased, transfers to states and regions have expanded, and the government has resorted to external borrowing to finance off-budget operations."

Increasing tax revenues will keep the deficit low and expand spending, while authorities should aim for low compliance costs and minimal exemptions, it said.

Both Telenor and Ooredoo are understood to have begun paying fees for licences received at the beginning of the year. Telenor has stated its fee for a mobile licence is US\$500 million.

### Fast facts from the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Economic Update

**8.5%** Myanmar's year-on-year GDP growth, 2014 Fiscal Year (FY)

Prediction in April for Myanmar's 2014 FY GDP growth **7.8%**

**6.9%** East Asia and Pacific developing countries' GDP growth, 2015 FY

Myanmar's government deficit, 2014 FY, as percent of GDP **1.6%**

**3.0%** Gov't deficit for the 2014 FY, removing telecom licence revenue

Government deficit (projected) for the 2015 FY **4.5%**

Myanmar is adding to its options for state financing. It expects to introduce Treasury bills and bond auctions next year, reducing the Central Bank's role in deficit financing, the World Bank report said.

"This will further strengthen the Central Bank's autonomy, and will also lay the basis for the eventual liberalisation of interest rates," it said.

The IMF also pointed to a need to control deficit spending in its press release, claiming to support a strategy to keep fiscal deficits below 5pc of GDP and carefully control off-budget borrowing.

"In order to achieve rapid and inclusive growth, it is vital to maintain near-term macroeconomic stability," it said.

Thin fiscal buffers, the challenges posed by entry of foreign banks, the possibility of structural fiscal risks from tax exemptions and external borrowing for off-budget operations are all concerns, the IMF said in a press release. However, it added there is also a possibility of large one-off inflows from oil and gas exploration.

The World Bank pegged the government's 2014 fiscal year deficit at 1.6pc of GDP, though at 3pc when the revenues from the telecoms licences are removed. The fiscal deficit could widen to as much as 5.5pc of GDP in the current fiscal year, though additional one-off revenues could limit it to about 4.5pc – near the government's 5pc target.

– Additional reporting by AFP

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# Ministers signal shake-up to loss-making state enterprises



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THE government will continue to assess the future of loss-making state enterprises, two ministers said last week, after revealing that many are losing money.

"We are restructuring and abolishing some state departments and enterprises according to [the] democratic reform [program] ... There will be some changes too," Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein told reporters on October 5.

Minister for Finance U Win Shein said 11 of 39 state enterprises supported by the government are losing money, while another state-owned firm from the Ministry of Transport that does not receive budget support is also failing to turn a profit.

"This is according to the revised budget estimate for the 2013-14 financial year. The number of state enterprises and whether they are

making a loss or profit can change from year to year," U Win Shein told reporters.

He did not reveal how much the enterprises were losing. The list of loss-making enterprises includes: the Myanmar Economic Bank and the Myanmar Trade Bank, from the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Electric Power's Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise; and the Ministry of Rail Transportation's Myanma Railways.

State-owned enterprises came under fire from prominent businessperson U Khin Shwe during a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw in July.

He singled out Thar Paung Pulp and Paper mill as leading to local deforestation and the death of many fish in the Nga Won river area. However, he added that many of the factories lose money, with the Ministry of Industry reporting losses of more than K190 billion (US\$195 million) in the second half of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

U Khin Shwe said in July that attention needs to be given on re-focusing the factories, including looking at possible privatisation if they continue losing money.



Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein.  
Photo: Staff

## Plantation approvals go online

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APPLICATIONS to establish private plantations could soon be moving online, removing the need to apply at different government departments in person, said U Aye Myint Maung, deputy minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

Online applications are one part of an attempt to ease the overall process to get projects approved, he said.

About 1.2 million acres is potentially available for plantations of teak, hardwood and industrial crops, while 16,986 applications for organisations and companies receiving permission on 2.8 million acres - with another 774 applications currently under scrutiny, U Aye Myint Maung said.

Some 168 applications have been rejected for reasons such as proposing projects in nature reserves and restricted areas, while another 528,864 acres had been withdrawn from 462 businesses which had not followed the terms of their lease.

U Steven Thar Beik, Amyotha Hluttaw member from Chin State, said that illegal logging is prevalent in the country.

- Translation by Zar Zar Soe

## IN BRIEF

### First 100 percent mining licence to Western firm in Shan State

Asia Pacific Mining Limited has claimed to receive the first mining licence in Myanmar allowing 100 per cent ownership by a Western company.

The firm received an AP-4 exploration licence for an area covering 649 square kilometres (250 square miles) near Namtu in Shan State, it said in a press release.

"The finalisation of the AP-4 license marks the culmination of years of co-operation between Asia Pacific Mining Limited, Myanmar's Ministry of Mines and the Department of Geological Survey & Mineral Exploration," said Andrew Mooney, chief executive officer of Asia Pacific Mining.

The licence area is near the Bawdwin zinc-lead-silver mine, which had been a large producer and was operated by British concerns at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the press release said.

- Jeremy Mullins

### Rail station upgrades coming

Offices and shops are to replace railway buildings at Yangon's Kyemyindaing and Pazundaung stations, Myanma Railways has announced. The work is expected to go out to tender following an invitation for Expressions of Interest to be issued through the state media.

Kyemyindaing station is located at the corner of Upper Kyemyindaing Road and Bargayar Road, Sanchaung township. The project calls for three high buildings with parking, offices and showrooms near the railway lines, though the existing station building will remain unchanged.

At Pazundaung station, in Upper Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung township, multi-storey towers will also house shops and offices to replace 34 existing shops whose leases expired last May. The existing commodities warehouse that pre-dates World War 2 will be retained, while a new railway station will be built on about 2 acres.

Myanma Railways general manager U Htun Aung Thin said it will use a build, operate, transfer system, planning to begin work by 2015, adding the state-owned firm will ask JICA for advice

- Aye Nyein Win

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A truck makes a run for the border at Myawaddy crossing. Photo: Kaung Htet

# Myawaddy trade survives fighting

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CROSS-BORDER trade with Thailand dodged a bullet after fighting threatened to disrupt commerce at the important Myawaddy border gate.

Traders had been wary after conflict broke out on September 27 between the Tatmadaw and regional armed groups, but by October 4 trade had resumed – though area residents and officials disagreed whether commerce was entirely back to normal.

One senior official working the border gate said it was business-as-usual at Myawaddy, the second-busiest of Myanmar’s international land crossings.

“The conflict did slow trade for a while, but it’s returned to normal,” said the official, who holds a senior position at the border.

However, local residents said they are less convinced, with some estimating cross-border trips had declined by as much as 70 percent since fighting broke out – and have yet to recover.

Ko Htun, a Myanmar citizen who owns a jewellery shop in Mae Sot across the border from Myawaddy, said he reckons his business is still down 25pc from the fighting.

“Many traders from Bangkok or other areas of Thailand aren’t coming to town, and my regular Myanmar customers are staying away too,” he said.

U Soe Htut, a taxi driver who regularly travels between Mawlamyine in Mon State and Myawaddy, said he reckoned that by October 5 there were only about one-third the normal number of cars on the road.

“We heard a rumor that a truck and a taxi were shot at,” he said. “So we are waiting to see what happens before re-starting our business.”

The border officials declined to comment on how many trucks and cars come to the gate for trade on a daily basis, though he said it had not been affected.

Official commerce has also been increasing over the last two months when government officials began a program to suppress illegal trade around the border and force it to use the official crossing to and from Thailand.

# Land at border industrial zone going on sale in November



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MYAWADDY Industrial Zone will be banking on its location just a few miles from the Thai border to attract buyers, as property will go on sales at the zone by next month, said U Kyaw Tint, project developer of Nyinaung Oo Company.

The Myawaddy crossing to the Thai city of Mae Sot has the second-highest trade volumes for a Myanmar border gate, behind the gate at Muse in Shan State on the Chinese border.

U Kyaw Tint said the new project is about 5 miles (8 kilometres) from the crossing, and is hoping to address Thai businesses to come

and set up shop.

“Land prices at the zone will be cheaper than other land in the area,” he said. The firm is also planning to lease out land to foreigners, mostly from Thailand, as they cannot purchase property.

The zone will sit on about 315 acres in total, with the first phase of 45 plots on 141 acres being put on sale next month, he said. One acre with road access will sell for K80 million, well below prices in Yangon.

Myawaddy Industrial Zone will also include an electricity supply, telecommunications and water.

Myanmar has about two dozen industrial zones, though most are clustered in Yangon Region. The government has promoted building new industrial zones through the country, aiming to promote regional job opportunities and local development.

However, industrial zones have

been beset by speculators who purchase plots with no intention of developing them, instead hoping for rising land prices.

U Kyaw Tint said the company will try to make sure only investors interested in establishing manufacturing or services operations will be

allowed to set up.

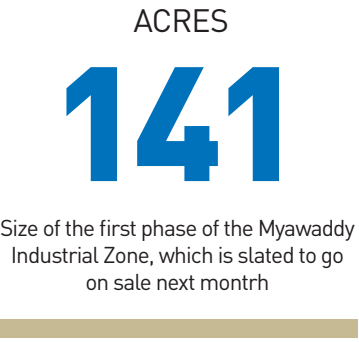
“If we see buyers who keep the land to sell at a higher price, without doing business, then we will take the lands back and refund the buyers,” he said.

Government officials have also said they are looking at the problem of land being locked up by speculators, though actions have been slow so far.

Local residents told *The Myanmar Times* that industrial zones have been slow to take hold in the area.

Nearby Mawlamyine city boasts an industrial zone, though there are few investors partially due to a shoddy electricity supply, according to Mawlamyine resident U Soe Htut.

Still, U Kyaw Tint said he hopes the growing importance of Thai investment will drive the border industrial zone.



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## NAY PYI TAW

## Jade show set for low-grade sparkle

HTOO THANT

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MORE than 7000 lots of jade have arrived for an October 14 to 18 show in Nay Pyi Taw, according to U Aung Naing Oo, a spokesperson for the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

This exhibition – the year's third – will concentrate on selling lower-quality jade by auction or tender, with low-end prices at K1 million a lot, he said. More lots are expected to arrive in the days leading up to the start of the event.

The organising committee has set a number of rules for potential buyers. Purchases must be made in Myanmar kyat, with only local entrepreneurs invited to Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Buyers must also make advance payments of at least 5 percent when buying a lot.

The Ministry of Mines holds a number of annual exhibitions selling precious stones from the country, including jade, pearls and precious gems. Myanmar is the main producer of jade for eventual export to China, and also a major gem producer.

– Translation by Zar Zar Soe

## OPINION

# What is sexier than revising gemstone taxation policies?

Beauty queen Ma May Myat Noe may have made it into Myanmar with a tiara of crystals, but the bigger scandal is over real gemstones headed out of the country without adequate tax payments



MARI OYE

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A MONTH ago, beauty queen Ma May MyatNoe made international headlines for “absconding” with a crown of Swarovski crystals, leaving a pageant in Korea for her home in Myanmar. The Korean pageant organisers are pushing for the return of the crown, valued from US\$100,000 to \$200,000, though Ma May Myat Noe has been holding out.

But Myanmar has much more at stake in the form of its own real gemstones: the jade, rubies, sapphires and more produced every day from mines of ancient fame. Gem production and sale is regulated by the 1995 Myanmar Gemstone Law, which is now up for revision. The amounts produced, exported and taxed aren't clearly known, as gems and jade are some of the least transparent industries in the country – but it is safe to say that they add up to thousands and

thousands of those crystal glass crowns.

Some of the challenges Myanmar faces over gems are the same as those for other precious minerals: how to transform a valuable asset in the ground into tax revenue and how to transform that revenue into investment in the schools, healthcare, infrastructure, etc. that will drive inclusive growth and benefit ordinary people.

However, gemstones bring their own tricky challenges for taxation – technical issues that can hinder the effective collection of revenue. One problem is how to assess the value of a gemstone. Unlike gold, which has a clearly measured price per ounce, gemstones vary in quality, features and flaws. An individual 4 carat stone may be worth much more than 4 carats of smaller, lower-quality stones. How can tax authorities figure out the right basis for charging royalties?

Under Myanmar's current law, a “valuation body” set up by the Ministry of Mines estimates the value of a gem and uses this as the basis for charging royalties, at “20 percent in the case of ruby, sapphire, jade and diamond, with 10pc for other

gemstones”. Some other countries, like Canada and South Africa, also use valuation bodies. However, they also have measures to check whether the price assessed is an accurate market price, such as auditing sales or requiring some gems to be sold at auction, then comparing those prices to the value assessed. Regulators need to make sure the sale prices used are competitive, “arm's-length” prices, not artificially cheap sales between two branches of the same conglomerate. Without this type of safeguard, it is too easy for the values to be set low. If they are, the 20pc royalty can amount to almost nothing compared to the actual value of the gem.

As the Myanmar Gems Enterprise drafts revisions to the Gemstone Law and Parliament considers them, policymakers should focus not only on the level of royalty rate, but on how that rate fits in with the bigger picture of Myanmar's mineral taxation and enforcement. For example, the 1995 Gemstone Law states that those paying royalties “have the right to be exempted from payment of taxes under any other existing law in respect to the sale of said gemstone”. This could

mean that corporate income, sales, and other types of taxes which should be part of the overall system are not paid. In addition, provisions in the current law give the Minister discretion to “suspend, reduce, or eliminate royalties”.

It is easy to draw a dichotomy between “legal” and “smuggled” gems – but the problem is not only that gems are illegally produced and exported, but that the vague definitions in the current law create too many grey areas and exceptions which let tax revenue slip away. The current revision of the law gives Myanmar policymakers an opportunity to step in the right direction, to take full advantage of the country's crowning glory for its lasting benefit.

Mari Oye is a country economist with the International Growth Centre, Myanmar, and is based in Yangon. She is the co-author of a report on natural resources and sub-national government in Myanmar, available at [www.theigc.org/country/myanmar](http://www.theigc.org/country/myanmar). IGC aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research.

# BANKING IN MYANMAR: UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES



Mr. Kamalkant Agarwal



In preparation for AEC 2015, Siam Commercial Bank Plc. (SCB) is strengthening its existing offshore locations in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, including Myanmar. This region is particularly attractive to Thai investors given its proximity and connectivity with Thailand and the fact that it is growing at nearly twice the rate of Thailand.

Mr. Kamalkant Agarwal, SCB's Adviser to Chairman of the Executive Committee and Head of International Banking, says that he remains bullish about Myanmar's economic outlook, expecting the country to record a robust growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 8-10% in next 3-5 years.

“Myanmar is the growth story for the next decade and SCB believes in this growth story. Myanmar has all the necessary ingredients to develop and grow into a leading economy in ASEAN,” he told a small group of reporters at the SCB head office ahead of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum.

The Forum, organized by Euromoney with SCB as one of its lead sponsors, was

held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on September 16-17, 2014. The SCB executive joined the panel discussion on banking and financial reforms.

Mr. Kamalkant defines these “necessary ingredients” as abundant natural resources, good geographical position and connectivity and a large labour force and a can do and want to do attitude amongst the Government officials. Myanmar is today ripe for new investment opportunities and the government needs to continue its commitment to undertake structural reforms.

The panel members were made up of foreign and local banking representatives. With the impending entry of foreign banks in Myanmar, concerns were raised about adequate number and capability of banking personnel, and the central bank's supervision capacity. Local banks feared loss of key and talented personnel to foreign banks. Mr. Kamalkant pointed out there are also a large number of talented Myanmar people overseas with the required skills and who want to come back and work in Myanmar.

If SCB were to be successful in getting a license it would look at these overseas Myanmar nationals as a good source for recruiting its staff. Central Bank of Myanmar will also seek to maintain appropriate balance between the foreign and local banks to ensure the interests of the local banks.

Thai corporations in industries such as Oil & Gas, Power, Cement and Construction, are well placed to support the infrastructure and development needs of Myanmar. “We have strong relationships with Thai companies in these sectors and we stand ready to support their investment,” Mr. Kamalkant added.

Mr. Kamalkant is confident that we will continue to see reforms in Myanmar ensuring sustained momentum to create a favourable business environment.





IN BRIEF

Manila pushes back its targets for rice self-sufficiency

The Philippines has pushed back its 2013 target to attain self-sufficiency in rice production by another two years, an official said on October 9, adding that the country will likely have to import hundreds of thousands of tonnes next year.

“We’re pretty set at 1.7 million metric tonnes” of rice imports for this year, said Francis Pangilinan, an adviser to President Benigno Aquino on food security. Asked if the Philippines planned to import even more than 1.7 million tonnes next year, Mr Pangilinan said, “That’s a possibility.”

He said the Philippines is now aiming to end rice imports in 2016 – three years later than its original 2013 target.

Tax issue halts work at Nokia’s factory in southern India

Finnish telecom equipment group Nokia said it was halting production in its Indian factory near Chennai and that a dispute with local tax authorities was hindering finding a buyer for the facility that employs 7000 workers.

The manufacturing facility, located in the southeastern city of Sriperumbudur, was not included in the sale of the Nokia handset division to US giant Microsoft, completed in April, due to the tax dispute.

A subcontracting arrangement allowed the Finnish group to keep producing mobile phones for the US tech company at the Indian factory, but Nokia said that Microsoft had informed them that it would terminate this agreement on November 1.

World Bank watching Hong Kong

Protests in Hong Kong could hurt the city’s economy – as well as China’s – but the impact will depend on how long the “uncertainty” lasts, the World Bank’s chief Asia economist said on October 6.

Sudhir Shetty said the bank was closely monitoring the events in Hong Kong, where thousands of pro-democracy protesters have paralysed major streets for more than a week, leading to a tense standoff with the government. “Obviously we, like every other set of economic analysts, are looking very closely at the situation and following it and looking at its impact,” he said. “As of now, what we anticipate is obviously a greater impact on Hong Kong SAR – so slower growth in 2014 than was being anticipated earlier.”

EU goes nuclear with approval

The EU approved Britain’s ambitious plan to build its first nuclear plant for a generation, marking a major victory for nuclear energy three years after the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

The bloc’s competition watchdog said Britain had “significantly modified” its funding plans for the £16-billion (US\$26 billion) deal in response to concerns about whether aspects of the deal amounted to state subsidies.

The Hinkley Point project, to be built by France’s EDF, had encountered fierce opposition, but a vote by the bloc’s 28 commissioners narrowly backed the deal.

It is one of the world’s most ambitious nuclear deals and is seen as a key boost to an industry brought to its knees by 2011’s Fukushima meltdown.

Eurozone enters rough patch

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) pointed to a weak outlook for growth in the eurozone, particularly in Germany, when its index of leading economic indicators pointed to stable growth elsewhere.

This latest signal of gloom for the eurozone came the day after the International Monetary Fund lowered its forecast for growth in the 18-member single-currency area.

“In Europe, signs are emerging of a loss of growth momentum in the Euro area,” the OECD said. – AFP

SEOUL

# Korean titans lose their swagger

Samsung and Hyundai see values drop as competition stiffens on the Korean stock exchange

SOUTH Korea’s biggest companies, Samsung Electronics and Hyundai, are losing their sway over the nation’s US\$1.2 trillion stock market as export earnings slow and the government supports smaller businesses.

The combined market value of the Galaxy smartphone maker and the manufacturer of Sonata sedans shrank by \$44 billion this year to \$194 billion as of last week, even as Korean equities added \$8.2 billion. The companies’ proportion of the nation’s exchange has dropped to a three-year low of about 16 percent and their correlation with the broader market is the weakest since 2008.

Samsung is facing stiffer competition from Apple and Hyundai’s overseas sales have been squeezed by a stronger won, just as Korea’s President Park Geun-Hye seeks to curb the economy’s reliance on family-run conglomerates known as chaebol.

“Hyundai and Samsung are both good companies and certainly are not expensive, but they do lack growth and earnings visibility,” said Sam Le Cornu, whose Macquarie Asia New Stars Fund focuses on smaller companies in the region. “It may be the higher growth nature of these other businesses compared to the exporters or cyclical names that investors are looking for.”



Samsung’s operating profits could also use a push as they dropped 60 percent year-on-year. Photo: AFP

Korea’s small-cap Kosdaq Index has climbed 13pc this year, while the Kospi slid 2.1pc.

Samsung, the world’s biggest maker of smartphones, retreated 16pc this year through October 4 and touched a more than two-year low on October 3. The company, based in Suwon, South Korea, posted third-quarter earnings on October 7 that missed most analysts’

previous estimates.

Hyundai Motor, Korea’s largest automaker, reported a 6.5pc drop in second-quarter net income as the strengthening won eroded earnings from overseas. The stock has retreated 8.8pc this year, weighed down by Hyundai Motor Group’s decision to pay \$10 billion for a plot of prime real estate in Seoul, or triple the property’s assessed value.

“The yen has become a serious problem for Korea Inc,” said Mark Matthews, head of Asia research at Bank Julius Baer & Co. “Samsung appears to be willing to sacrifice margin to maintain its market share. It will obviously not be good for the share price.”

The press offices of Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Motor declined to comment.

Most foreign investors tend to ignore Korea’s smaller companies because they’re focused on stocks such as Samsung and Hyundai that comprise a large proportion of benchmark indexes, said Daphne Roth, head of Asian equity research at ABN Amro Private Banking.

Buy ratings on Samsung account for 83pc of total analyst recommendations, the smallest proportion since June 2009, and 86pc for Hyundai, the least since December 2009.

“The current trend of growing influence from the small caps will help improve the Kospi market’s healthiness and resilience,” said Huh Nam-Kwon, the Seoul-based chief investment officer at Shinyoung Asset Management Co.

“The long-term trend of small-cap stocks growth will continue as more investors are beginning to have confidence in them.” – Bloomberg

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Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2014**OPINION**

# A mixed scorecard for NGOs in rural areas



ADAM MCCARTY

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HELPING rural households to sustainably increase their incomes is a tricky business. International and local NGOs have been working on that in Myanmar for more than a decade, but their results are mixed. Much NGO funding has come from the multi-donor fund called LIFT, which disburses about US\$30 million per year to NGOs across Myanmar. LIFT has had its mid-term review (MTR) - assisted by my firm Mekong Economics - and as the latest LIFT Annual Report notes on page 82: "The MTR team determined that about 30 percent of the [NGO] activities observed were likely to have minimal or unclear impacts."

The MTR, which can be found on the LIFT website, reports that success or failure largely depended on the types of activities implemented. Those that worked well included cash-for-work programs that built public infrastructure, dialogue and information exchanges with government, well-designed and technically supported village development committees, community-based organisations, and self-help groups, as well as some village social protection funds. The success stories included support to rice farmers by AVSI, Metta, and RadanarAyar; ActionAid's fellows program; and the income-generating activities of HelpAge/YMCA and SWIS-SAID/SSLDO. The less impressive interventions were typically about introducing new ideas and technologies to village households. These included new rice planting methods and income-generating activities or experimenting with organic fertiliser, co-operative business groups and livestock banks. In general, when NGOs got involved in business and markets, the chance of failure rose dramatically.

It is normal to expect that a percentage of activities will fail, particularly when, as under LIFT, 100-plus different ones are tried by 20-plus NGOs. Private businesses fail all the time, so why do we expect better from donor projects? What is also normal, however, is to hide those failures - when in fact they are the very things that should be studied and understood in detail so that we do it better next time.

Organisations, whether private or public, naturally hide failures, and it takes a special effort to admit and really learn from them. International NGO Engineers without Borders is leading

a trend amongst donors to produce an annual "Failures Report" alongside their annual report. In one of their Failure Reports, Owen Scott describes his failure as "seeing tangible activities as outcomes". He explains, "Success is hard to find in development work and how we think about it matters. For me, success quickly became about having the district staff collect data - it was tangible, concrete, and simple. Success wasn't about the district office valu-

## Who is brave enough to start failure reporting in Myanmar?

ing the program or about behaviour change. This all but guaranteed that my own priorities and the actual priorities of the district would eventually become misaligned." Who is brave enough to start failure reporting in Myanmar?

The LIFT MTR makes for interesting reading and it highlights the common causes of low-impact results from some NGO projects. The MTR cites poor project designs as the key cause of failures. In the rush to "do good", many NGOs do not work through the full impact of their planned interventions. This is particularly so when they try to support income-generating activities. Markets work in rural areas, as elsewhere, so there is a balance of demand and supply at a given price level. So when one NGO gives free inputs to a village to produce thousands more cooking stoves that will cause lower prices or lower sales for others already in the business. A dollar earned or a job created may also cause a dollar lost or a job lost! Maybe what was really needed was a marketing campaign to encourage more households to buy

from existing producers?

Understanding the full impact also requires looking well beyond the project life. There is much hot air about "sustainability", but few seem to take it seriously. NGOs have delivered enormous quantities of free machinery to rural villages, particularly in the Ayeyarwaddy delta, but with little consideration about "appropriate technologies". Firstly, machines replace people: they create unemployment - which is fine if landless people have elsewhere to go (such as factory jobs). Secondly, machines die and need replacing, unless funds are raised and saved for replacement. The MTR reports (page 41) on one power tiller given to a village in 2009: "The village had collected US\$480 in rents thus far, which is only for maintenance. The replacement cost of the machine is US\$1,800. When the tiller is no longer repairable, villagers said that they would purchase the more labour-intensive and appropriate technology replacement: buffaloes."

The LIFT MTR calls for better project designs that take account of the indirect and long-term consequences of proposed interventions, and for designs that specify long-term specific and measurable outcomes - not just vague "poverty reduction". It also advocates "treating rural households as business households; not charity recipients". That means, the focus should be on sustainably increasing their business profits, and so tools like cost-benefit analysis become relevant. Hopefully, more analytical work like this MTR will be read and lessons will be learned to make development assistance more effective in the future.

Adam McCarty is an Australian economist who has been living and working in Vietnam since 1991. In 2001 he established Mekong Economics (MKE) Ltd, where he is chief economist. His work and research across the Mekong region has covered microfinance, state enterprise reform, rural development impact evaluations, trade policy, aid effectiveness and the education sector. He first came to Myanmar in 2008 and has worked on microfinance, poverty targeting and trade policy. MKE has an office in Yangon and are involved in projects with LIFT as well as the World Bank and ADB. He is also regional director of MDF, a Dutch-based training organisation ([www.mdf.nl](http://www.mdf.nl)).

# AIG collapse would have been catastrophic, Geithner testifies

FORMER US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner testified that if insurer AIG had been allowed to fail in 2008, the impact would have been an economic catastrophe.

On the witness stand on the second day of the US\$40 billion lawsuit over the government's seizure of American International Group (AIG), Mr Geithner said financial regulators were trying to avoid some of the mistakes made in the 1930s collapse.

He stressed that much of what they did in the face of a snowballing financial crisis six years ago was beyond any disaster planning by the Federal Reserve, including the scenarios mapped out in a Fed's "Doomsday Book".

"The Great Depression was an example of the terrible failures in crisis response," and the Fed was trying to be more effective, he said. "So much of what we were doing was not in the book. We were really outside the boundaries of precedent."

Asked by David Boies, who represents former AIG chair Hank Greenberg in the suit against the government, if AIG's collapse would have had catastrophic results, Mr Geithner agreed.

Mr Greenberg, suing via his Starr International Company, the largest single shareholder in AIG at the time, argues that the government illegally took a 79.9 percent shareholding in the company in exchange for an \$85 billion injection of capital and tens of billions more in high-priced loans.

Mr Greenberg said the company, the world's largest insurer, was simply in need of funding as the financial system was locking up in September 2008.

By taking over the company, the government wiped out much of the value of existing shareholders' equity.

But the government argues that in saving the company, at least shareholders salvaged some value.

Mr Geithner at the time was head

of the New York branch of the Federal Reserve, which supervised the biggest banks and the financial system generally.

Mr Boies quizzed him on the details of the Fed's action and whether it was insolvent or illiquid.

He also began making a case around the amount charged AIG for support, compared to what possible private sector lenders might have charged for funding.

- AFP







## JOB VACANCY

### About FOUR RIVERS

Four Rivers was founded in 2013 by a team of executives driven by a passionate belief in Myanmar's future. We are a proven team of Myanmar and frontier market investment and managerial experts, including over two decades' in-country experience. We have successfully launched businesses in countries such as Russia, Iraq and India. We have also advised hundreds of the world's leading corporations and investment firms on their global strategies in over 100 countries. Four Rivers is based in Yangon and New York City, USA, with full-time staff and offices in both locations.

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- Monthly project costing and financial statement preparation
- Month end, year-end closing and auditing
- Assist in budgeting and project cost analysis
- Assist in MIC application process
- Reporting to Financial Controller and other ad-hoc request as and when required

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- Who has relevant working experience also encourage to apply
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- Bilingual in English and Myanmar
- Proficient in MS Office application and accounting software
- Ability work independently with high level of motivation and service mindset
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

Interested candidate please send your CV in MS Words format indicated with expected salary, last drawn salary, reasons for leaving, date of availability and recent photo to [hr@fourriversasia.com](mailto:hr@fourriversasia.com) not later than **31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**. We regret that only short listed will be notified.

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For more details please refer to information on the bulletin board at UNDP Office, No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon or please follow the link <http://jobs.undp.org/>. Applications should be apply on-line through above mentioned link.

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### ၂။ Project Manager

M.E (Civil) / B.E (Civil) ဖြစ်ရမည်။ အထပ်မြင့်အဆောက်အအုံအောက်လုပ်ခြင်း။ အတွေ့အကြုံ (၈) နှစ်အထက်ရှိရမည်။ Building Construction ဆိုင်ရာ Design စိစစ် ဆေး။ Tender Processing, Contract Negotiation အတွေ့အကြုံ ဦးစားပေးမည်။ English 4 skill ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။

### ၃။ Project Engineer

M.E (Civil) / B.E (Civil) ဖြစ်ရမည်။ Building Consturction Structure လုပ်ငန်း အတွေ့အကြုံ (၅) နှစ်အထက်ရှိပြီး၊ အထပ်မြင့်အဆောက်အအုံအောက်လုပ်ခြင်း အတွေ့အကြုံ ရှိရမည်။ လိုအပ်ပါက နယ်တွင် တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။ English 4 skill ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။

### ၄။ Electrical Engineer / M & E Engineer

B.E M. E (Electrical) / B.E/M.E (Mechanical) ဖြစ်ရမည်။ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၅) နှစ်ရှိရမည်။ Construction MEP (M&E) အတွေ့အကြုံရှိသူဖြစ်ရမည်။ English 4 skill ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။

### ၅။ Construction Engineer

M.E(Civil) / BE(Civil) ဖြစ်ရမည်။ Building Construction ဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၅) နှစ်အထက်ရှိပြီး၊ လိုအပ်ပါက နယ်သို့ သွားနိုင်ရမည်။ English 4 skill ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။

### ၆။ Mechanical Engineer

BE/ AGTI (Mechanical) ဘွဲ့ရရှိသူ၊ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၅) နှစ်ရှိရမည်။

### ၇။ Architectural (Architect)

B.Arch ဖြစ်ပြီး အဆောက်အအုံပုံစံထုတ်၍ ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးကြီးကြပ်ခြင်း လုပ်ငန်း အတွေ့အကြုံ (၅) နှစ် အနည်းဆုံးရှိရမည်။ Auto CAD 2D, 3D ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။

### ၈။ ယာဉ်မောင်း

ယာဉ်မောင်းလိုင်စင်ရရှိပြီး၊ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၃) နှစ်ရှိရမည်။ ကျွမ်းကျင်စွာ မောင်းနှင်နိုင်ရမည်။

အထက်ပါရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်ထားလိုသူသည် ကာလာဇာတိပုံ (၁) ပုံ၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်မိတ္တူ၊ အလုပ်သမားမှတ်ပုံတင်မိတ္တူ၊ ရဲစခန်းထောက်ခံစာ၊ သန်းခေါင်စာရင်း မိတ္တူ၊ ပညာအရည်အချင်း အထောက်အထားမိတ္တူများနှင့် C.V From တို့နှင့်အတူ ကုမ္ပဏီတည်ရှိရာ အမှတ် (၂၃/၂၄)၊ ဗဟိုရံစည်ရိပ်သာ၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်လမ်း၊ လမ်းမတော် မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့သို့နှစ်ပတ်အတွင်းလူကိုင်တိုင်လာရောက်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဖုန်း ၀၁၂၂၃၀၂၃၊ ၂၂၃၄၁၁၊ ၂၂၃၄၁၂

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# Property

BUSINESS EDITOR: Jeremy Mullins | jeremymullins7@gmail.com

## JICA rejects link between master plan and 'new city' expansion

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THE Japan International Cooperation Agency has rejected suggestions by Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint that a controversial 30,000-acre expansion project was included in the Yangon 2040 master plan, which was jointly developed by JICA and municipal authorities.

The city expansion plan was announced by the Yangon mayor to the Yangon Region Hluttaw in August, though the mayor then announced on September 26 it is being reconsidered.

Few details of the project have been publicly released but U Hla Myint told Yangon Region Hluttaw MPs earlier in September that the proposed expansion was "consistent" with the JICA-backed Yangon 2040 master plan, formally known as the Strategic Urban Development Plan of the Greater Yangon.

U Hla Myint was later quoted in *7Day Daily* as saying that the expansion project had already been discussed with JICA. However, this was denied by JICA.

"The 'Yangon city expansion plan' is not proposed [or] suggested by the master plan. The Yangon city expansion plan has no connection with the master plan," a JICA spokesperson told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

Work on the Yangon 2040 master plan began in 2012 and was completed in March 2013. JICA sent a survey team to YCDC to provide "technical and professional assistance" on the plan, its Yangon office said.

The regional government's city expansion project would see 30,000 acres between the Pan Hlaing and Hlaing rivers, Twante Canal and Twante-Hlaing Tharyar Road developed by a private company, at an estimated cost of US\$15 billion.

It initially awarded the rights to develop the project to an unknown public

company, Myanma Saytannar Myothit, but was forced to backtrack due to public criticism and promised a "transparent" tender process instead.

The regional government announced on September 26 that it was suspending the project indefinitely so it could conduct further analysis on the plan, which has been widely denounced for its lack of transparency.

While critics said the mayor was trying to give the city expansion plan credibility by linking it to JICA, U Toe Aung, director of YCDC's urban planning division, said he thought it was simply a "misunderstanding".

"Of course the 30,000-acre city expansion plan is not connected with the master plan. I don't think the mayor mixed them up on purpose," he told *The Myanmar Times* on October 3.

However, he said Twante was one of a number of several outlying areas of Yangon identified by the master plan for potential development.

## Property values



**MYAT NYEIN AYE**

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YANGON'S Internal Revenue Department has changed the assessment values used to charge property taxes, though the process has been criticised for lacking transparency.

The new assessment values released on October 8 comes one year after changes were made to the way Yangon property taxes are assessed.

Officials say it was necessary to make the recent changes to ensure assessment values keep up with the market, but some agents say the most recent changes were not as openly conducted as those done in 2013.

"The recent work of the Internal Revenue Department is not transparent," said U Sai Kon Naung, owner of Sai Kon Naung real estate.

"They say they will fix the property taxes depending on the market prices. But the taxes are increasing across the board and they don't reflect real prices," he said.

Property taxes are charged on

transactions. Buyers must pay taxes as high as 37 percent of the property's value if they cannot show a clean origin for the money used to buy the property, and smaller amounts if they can show its origin.

The tax is now assessed according to a list of property values put together by the Yangon Region government, which breaks down the different values per-square-foot in each Yangon neighbourhood to be used for determining the transaction tax on a property. Previous to this system, which was implemented in 2013, buyers had to self-declare the cost of the property when paying tax, though many buyers gave an incorrectly low value in a bid to avoid the tax.

U Sai Kon Naung said last year the Myanmar Real Estate Service Association (MRESA) had been closely consulted for the list of values last year, but this year there is no government cooperation with the industry body.

U Sai Kon Naung added in most countries there is an implicit contract between the taxpayers and the government, with taxpayers receiving benefits from paying their taxes.

"[In Myanmar] we don't get benefits from paying tax like in other countries," he said. "People

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## Sayar San condo comes

**MYAT NYEIN AYE**  
myatnyeinae11092@gmail.com

CONDO developers are targeting the high end of the market, as another luxury project is set for Sayar San Road in Bahan township.

The Royal Sayar San Condo is being developed by Than Htike Lu Gems, Minerals and Construction company, with an aim to finish the project in 2017.

The 24-storey high condominium will be built on grant land, with the design by the Spine Architect company. Chang Geng Environmental Construction and City Sunshine Construction will both also participate in construction.

"The condo will be build on [grant] land there is confirmed possession for the customers," said Ma Kalayar Hnin, project manager. "And the location is very central to go everywhere and get

a nice view - so customers can buy our condos not only for living in but also for investing."

The project is slated to have 164 rooms ranging from 1463 square feet to 2787 square feet. There will be 197 indoor car parking spaces, as well as street-level shops, a penthouse, gym and other facilities, as well as an infinity swimming pool on the top floor.

Stephen Aung Moe Shwe, an architect with the project, said the condo's design will have a balcony for each unit.

The project will also make use of pre-sale and installment paying, as is common in the property development industry.

U Myint Swe, head of Yangon Region, said at the October 4 launch event the Myanmar is seeing consistent economic growth and Yangon is taking the lead, meaning it needs more property development.

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“Organisations, whether private or public, naturally hide failures, and it takes a special effort to admit and really learn from them.”

— Adam McCarty, economist

Searching for Manipur’s doomed WWII planes

WORLD 44

# raised for taxes

here are not used to paying taxes and don’t know how it benefits them.”

“If the valuations used to determine taxes are raised further, people will pay even less tax,” he said.

Internal Revenue Department (IRD) officials said that property tax rates are being increased to keep up with rapid changes in Yangon property prices.

“Land values are never low anymore so that’s why the prices used for property taxes is increasing,” said IRD spokesperson U Kyaw Thant Lwin.

“Even though we’ve increased our appraisal values, they’re still below market prices.”

The IRD also plans to cooperate next year with local property agents, though this year decided

to use a specific committee. Prices were determined first by committees at the township level, then put together by a regional committee for final approval by the Yangon Region government.

There has been a large jump in assessment values this year, according to some agents.

Ko Htun Htun, owner of Phoenix real estate, said values in some areas have increased by as much as four times, adding there is still a mismatch between market and assessed values.

In the Poe Sein area of Tarmwe township assessed prices have increased to K180,000 per square foot, from K110,000 last year. Insein township meanwhile have prices assessed at K330,000, while last year they were at K110,000. However, in reality, property in Poe Sein is often 10 times as expensive as in Insein, he said.

“The department has fixed values for taxes at quite high levels in the outskirt regions, so it will be hard to buy land in the area. But for more expensive land, the taxes are less than the market prices – it is not fair,” he said.

“Generally the new taxes are much higher than last year.”

Some agents said the tax raises may slow the market somewhat as well as encourage evasion.

‘People here are not used to paying taxes and don’t know how it benefits them.’

U Sai Kon Naung  
Real estate agent

## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

### A fine cup of coffee in Yaw Min Gyi

SUSHI, watermelon daiquiris and a fine cup of coffee are all important things, and thankfully the Yaw Min Gyi area has them in droves.

The area is an up-and-coming part of Yangon, increasingly popular with foreigners, near downtown, a burgeoning entertainment scene. This week’s home is in the thick of it all at the corner of Yaw Min Gyi Road and Bo Yar Nyunt Road – a pleasant place to be, though a bit of a noisy scene.

The apartment itself is on the first floor of the Royal Yaw Min Gyi Condo. It is 1500 square feet, with three large bedrooms, a smaller bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen – plenty of space with a family or to share with your friends. It could also be partly used as office.

Car parking is always an issue downtown, or will be when *House of the Week* finally cashes in on the next property speculation craze. But Royal Yaw Min Gyi provides its



own lot for you and your car-driving guests.

The apartment also has the plus of a security service, and the interior unit is nicely decorated.

The price is high at US\$5000 per month, but you can always give your negotiating skills a go for something lower. And what you save in rent, you can spend on nearby watermelon daiquiris. – Tin Yadanar Htun

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## MINA

# Hajj selfies trend sparks controversy

RAISING his arm, Yousef Ali hugs his elderly father in front of one of Islam's holiest sites as they grin for a "selfie" – a craze that has hit this year's hajj.

But not everyone is happy about young pilgrims from around the world constantly snapping photographs of themselves as they carry out the rights of hajj which are the high point of a Muslim's spiritual life.

From Tawaf – circling the holy Kaaba structure in Mecca – to prayers atop Mount Mercy in Arafat, and stoning of the devil in Mina, the key stages of hajj have all been recorded on cameras and smartphones for posterity, and for instant sharing through social media.

Hajj is the one of the world's largest religious gatherings. It has attracted over 2 million believers this year.

"As this is my first pilgrimage, it is important for me to document all the events taking place around me," Ali, 24, told AFP, snapping a picture of himself with a green sign reading "Big Jamarah", which refers to a wall where Muslims ritually stone Satan.

"Wherever I go, I take pictures, especially since nowadays we have these little cameras ... that offer a full view of the area," the bearded Kuwaiti, casually dressed in sweatpants and a pair of trendy sandals, said with a smile.

The increasingly popular phenomenon has sparked controversy among more conservative Muslims, however, with some taking to Twitter to criticise pilgrims who take selfies.

"When we went for umra in the mid-90s, Dad nearly had his camera confiscated to shouts of 'haram!' Now, #HajjSelfie is A Thing. What a world," wrote one Tweeter.

Another user named Kahwaaa wrote, "It's a time to connect to Allah and purify my soul. #hajjselvesies shouldn't be taken."

But others said the issue was being blown out of proportion.

"People creating a huge issue about #hajjselvesies. If photos are allowed during Hajj then what is wrong with selfies?," asked Abdul Mufeez Shaheed.

Nothing at all, says Ali's father Mohammed Ali, 65.

"A person taking such pictures is documenting a rare event," a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many Muslims, he said, wearing a traditional white robe.

"This is a symbolic place representing history," Mohammed Ali added, pointing to the three sites which pilgrims began stoning at the start of the Eid al-Adha feast of sacrifice, which is celebrated by Muslims worldwide.

Two women covered in traditional black abayas and veils hurried towards the Big Jamarah wall, but not without stopping for a quick self portrait along the way.

"My daughter and I are taking selfies to show our hajj pictures to our family in Paris. It's also a nice memento," said one of the women, a Saudi pilgrim from Jeddah who gave her name only as Umm Abdallah, 44.



Muslim pilgrims pose for a joint selfie – a duallie, if you will – during the Jamarat, or stoning of Satan, in Mina near the holy city of Mecca on October 4. Photo: AFP

Her daughter Wafaa Ahmed, 19, said, "I love taking many selfies wherever I go to keep them for myself, as well as to show them to my friends and brothers."

Speaking to AFP by telephone, a professor of Islamic Sharia law in the Saudi capital Riyadh said that "if photographs are only for personal memo-

ry and not for disseminating, then no problem.

"But if they were for the purpose of showing off, then they are prohibited, such as the photography that takes place at the [hajj] rites."

The scholar requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of stating a religious opinion in the ultra-conserv-

ative kingdom.

The elderly pilgrim Mohammed disagreed with the scholar.

He says the camera phone is "a tool" like any other, and has not been prohibited by any prominent leaders of the faith, "so why prohibit another tool of the modern era?"

– AFP

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# Where dhamma meets droid

As the nation’s internet grid continues to grow, Buddhism is crossing over into the realm of technology



ON any busy street, maroon-clad monks clutching new smartphones are a common sight. The famed Buddhist shrine, Shwedagon Pagoda, has Wi-Fi and its own community Facebook page.

That may seem jarring, as technology connects people to the world and many Buddhists strive towards worldly detachment. But many argue that the spread of technology and smartphones in Myanmar can also help people develop links to Buddhism as they can now carry their beliefs in their pocket.

No conflicts exist between practising Buddhism and engaging with technology, according to Phyu Phyu Htant of Merit Sharer, a group that recently took third prize for the student category of Ideabox’s first app competition in Myanmar. The team, which won for its UHS-Pali-Myanmar dictionary, has produced multiple Buddhist mobile applications.

“It really depends on how the individual chooses to utilise the technology to enhance understanding about the religion. The intention is the key,” Phyu Phyu Htant said.

“However, it is also important to have knowledge to differentiate levels of attachments [so as] not to misuse the technology.”

Merit Sharer’s apps often deal

with helping people to understand words in Pali, the language used in Theravadan Buddhist scripture. Its UHS-Pali-Myanmar app is geared towards offering explanations of Pali terms in Myanmar and English, according to Phyu Phyu Htant.

The team’s first app, Abhidhamma – which helps Myanmar speakers with a religious text, the Abhidhammattha-Sangaha – came out of Merit Sharer’s wish to study on the bus or train headed to Buddhism classes. The group wanted to make learning about Buddhism easier and more exciting, as mobile phones are lighter, cheaper and more convenient to carry around than books or computers.


This need for convenience meshed with the idea that, through technology, Buddhist knowledge could spread between people more simply. “We want to reduce the language barrier between Buddhism, despite the difference in mother languages,” Phyu Phyu Htant said.

“Since these mobile apps can be easily accessed anytime, anywhere, free of charge, we believe they can bring knowledge to Buddhists who are struggling with their living or having limited exposure to Buddhism.”


Hundreds of thousands of people are looking for ways to keep in touch with Buddhism through technology. Two apps developed by Panacea-Soft founder and CTO Pye Phyo Han – DhammaDroid for Android and, for iPhone, iDhamma – have both seen more than 500,000 downloads, he estimates. The pair assist Buddhists in making “worship anytime, anywhere,” according to their descriptions.

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– Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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WASHINGTON, DC

# Online voting not ready for worldwide roll-out

ONLINE voting has the potential to boost election participation around the world, but is not yet ready to be widely rolled out due to security risks, a study released last week said.

The research, produced by the Atlantic Council think tank and the online protection firm McAfee, concluded that “security will need to be vastly improved” before it becomes feasible to adopt internet voting on a large scale.

According to the study, online voting faces more complex obstacles than electronic commerce, where a customer can be reimbursed in the case of fraud or theft.

“Online voting poses a much tougher problem” than e-commerce, the report said.

“Lost votes are unacceptable ... and unlike paper ballots, electronic votes cannot be ‘rolled back’ or easily recounted.”

The report said hackers could paralyse an online voting system or, even worse, change the results without being detected.

A major problem of online voting is that any system must verify the identity of the voter, and at the same time guarantee anonymity in the process.

Some experts believe it could be decades before online voting becomes mainstream.

Joseph Hall of the Center for Democracy and Technology said that many security experts believe “the timeline will be 30 to 40 years” before the technological hurdles to online voting are overcome.

One of the problems is the “uncontrolled platform”, in which voting software or computers can be infected, Mr Hall said at a discussion hosted by the Atlantic Council.

The report said that online voting has enormous potential if security can be improved.

“Online voting’s potential benefits in terms of reach, access and participation have the potential to revolutionise the democratic process around the world.” – AFP

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# World

WORLD EDITOR: Fiona MacGregor

WASHINGTON

## US raises pressure on Turkey over IS fight

A JOINT US-Turkish military team is due to meet this week in Ankara to discuss the fight against Islamic militants after Washington on October 9 pressed Turkey to join a US-led coalition.

Two top US envoys met that day in Ankara with Turkish leaders seeking to win their NATO ally's support to defeat the Islamic State (IS) group, which has seized a swath of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Although State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki did not outline any specific commitments made by Turkey, she said the two countries held "detailed and constructive talks".

Retired general John Allen and US advisor on Iraq, Brett McGurk, had "discussed several measures to advance the military line of effort against ISIL," Ms Psaki said.

She stressed that, "A joint military planning team will visit Ankara early [this] week to follow up in military-to-military channels."

"Both sides also agreed that we will continue a dynamic and deepening bilateral consultation process across the multiple lines of effort against ISIL,"

which included military support as well as battling foreign fighters and choking off funds to IS.

The two US officials had "emphasised that urgent steps are immediately required to degrade ISIL's military capabilities..

There has been frustration in Washington that Ankara has yet to commit its well-equipped and well-trained forces to the fight against the militants, also known by the acronym ISIL.

The crisis has been deepened by the battle for the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobane, just across the border with Turkey, amid fears it may soon fall into the militants' hands.

Ms Psaki insisted earlier, "It's not a situation where we are making demands."

But, she acknowledged, "there is no question that Turkey is well-positioned to contribute."

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu however said earlier that Ankara could not be expected to act alone.

"It's not realistic to expect that Turkey will lead a ground operation on its own," he said. —AFP



Smoke rises during airstrikes on the Syrian border town of Ain al-Arab, known by the Kurds as Kobane, on October 8. Photo: AFP



HONG KONG

## Fresh protests as Hong Ko

HONG Kong protesters planned a fresh show of force with a major rally on October 10 after crunch talks with the government collapsed, and as they won powerful new US backing in their campaign for free elections.

Key talks between protesters and Beijing-backed city officials had been planned for that day, but fell apart on October 9 after the government pulled out, blaming student leaders for threatening to escalate demonstrations if their demands were not met.

The decision deepened the ongoing political crisis in the Asian financial hub, with no end in sight to mass rallies that have paralysed parts of the city for nearly two weeks.

Demonstrators are calling for Beijing to grant the former British colony full democracy and for the city's Chief Executive Leung Chun-

ying to resign.

Under plans unveiled by China in August, Hong Kongers will be able to vote for Mr Leung's successor in 2017, but only two to three vetted candidates will be allowed to stand, something detractors have dismissed as a "fake democracy".

Although protester numbers had dwindled as the week progressed, the collapse of the talks spurred pro-democracy activists to push for new mass rallies over the weekend, with thousands expected to gather outside the city's government headquarters.

The call for more rallies came as US legislators condemned China's human rights record in a damning annual report, making a highly critical and unusual rebuke over Hong Kong.

Senator Sherrod Brown, chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, also called on Mr Obama to press Chinese President Xi Jinping directly on "issues like Hong Kong" when they meet next month in Beijing.

China has repeatedly warned against any foreign government interfering in events inside the former British colony, which it views as an entirely domestic issue.

Analysts on October 10 warned the collapse of the talks pushes the confrontation between democracy protesters and the government into a dangerous phase, with neither side willing to back down.

Sunny Lo, a political analyst at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, said the government was spooked by a promise from pro-democracy lawmakers October 9 to disrupt the workings of the government in the city's parliament, known locally as LegCo, in a show of support for protesters.

"This is not a good sign now. The temperature is rising both inside and outside LegCo," said Mr Lo.



Pro-democracy demonstrators carry their on October 10. Protesters were planning a government dramatically collapsed and US to press concerns about the city's democracy

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**'If [the protests] drag on ... I'm afraid police action would be inevitable.'**

**Sammy Lo**  
Political analyst





Concerns over King's health keeps Thailand on edge

WORLD 45

Mystery continues over North Korea's 'missing' leader

WORLD 40



Japan's salarymen have fallen on hard times

WORLD 47



IN PICTURES

Photo: AFP

A total lunar eclipse is seen behind a ferris wheel in Tokyo, on October 8. In the Roppongi fashion and entertainment district, enthusiasts were planning to perform yoga exercises under the blood moon. Many others headed to the top of the city's skyscrapers to take in the sight.

ng talks collapse

"If [the] Occupy Central movement drags on for a few more weeks I'm afraid police action would be inevitable. It would just be a matter of time," he added. But Michael DeGolyer, a professor at Hong Kong Baptist University, said a violent police reaction was unlikely given it could reinvigate the protest movement. "They're not going to do the martyrdom thing. That would be



breakfast on a highway in Hong Kong fresh show of force after talks with the lawmakers urged President Barack Obama fight with Beijing. Photo: AFP

a completely unnecessary act of dominance," he said. With patience among many Hong Kongers running out following days of disruption, pressure is mounting on both Mr Leung and the protest leaders to solve the stalemate. Mr Leung's opponents were given a major boost last week when details emerged that he had kept secret large payments from an Australian company while he was in office. The Beijing-backed chief executive has denied any wrongdoing, saying he was under no obligation to declare the earnings and that he did not work for any company while in office. But opposition lawmakers have smelled blood, threatening to bring impeachment proceedings against him while the city's top prosecutor will probe the allegations after a complaint was lodged with Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog. Observers say Mr Leung's bosses in China show no signs of dropping their support for the embattled leader. "For the time being, Beijing will continue to let him deal with the crisis," Surya Deva, a law professor at City University of Hong Kong, said. "But if he messes it up further, his head could come into the firing line." – AFP

MADRID

Ebola could become 'next AIDS'

A SENIOR US health official has urged swift action to prevent the deadly Ebola virus from becoming the next AIDS epidemic as the diseases continues to spread outside Africa. The United Nations chief meanwhile called for a 20-fold increase in the world's response to the spread of Ebola, which has killed nearly 3900 people in West Africa since the beginning of the year. Ebola's spillover into the United States and Europe has raised fears of a wider outbreak, and led the United States, Canada and Britain to start tougher airport screening of passengers arriving from West Africa. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted the number of cases could mount to 1.4 million by January unless strong measures are taken to contain the disease, which is spread through close contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person. "We have to work now so that it is not the world's next AIDS," CDC Director Tom Frieden told the heads of the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund gathered in Washington. "I would say that in the 30 years I've been working in public health, the only thing like this has been AIDS," he added, warning of a "long fight" ahead. In Spain, Teresa Romero, 44, the first person known to have been infected with Ebola outside Africa, was last week "very ill and her life ... at serious risk as a consequence of the virus", according to Madrid's regional president Ignacio Gonzalez. Ms Romero had treated two elderly missionaries with Ebola. Health officials said they would monitor about 50 other people, mostly health staff, who had been in contact with her for the duration of the 21-day Ebola incubation period. Thirteen other people were in quarantine at the hospital as a precaution, including Ms Romero's husband and several health workers, according to the latest tally from the hospital. Among those admitted on October 10 were two hairdressers who had contact with Ms Romero. Last week Thomas Eric Duncan, the first person diagnosed of Ebola in the United States, became the first to die in a US hospital of the hemorrhagic fever. Just after his death was announced US officials ordered increased screening at five major airports in Atlanta, Chicago, New Jersey, New York and Washington. French Health Minister Marisol Touraine said she was working with the authorities in countries badly affected by Ebola "to see in which conditions we can reinforce departure controls". Britain said it would start "enhanced screening" of people coming from Ebola-hit parts of West Africa at Heathrow and Gatwick airports and on Eurostar trains from Belgium and France. The European Commission was expected to meet on October 17 to discuss possible new ways to monitor passengers arriving from affected countries. Doses of a prototype Ebola vaccine developed by Canada remain in the country even though they were offered to the World Health Organization nearly two months ago, the health minister said on October 9. "The WHO has not decided when and if it will distribute it," Health Minister Rona Ambrose said. "We hope they are able to use it." The vaccine has not been tested on humans but has shown promise in animal research, Ms Ambrose said in August. It is one of two vaccines considered promising by the WHO for clinical trials ahead of commercialisation.

The continuing outbreak in West Africa forced officials in Liberia, the nation worst hit by the Ebola outbreak, to postpone nationwide elections. Almost three million voters had been due to go to polling stations on October 7, but organisers said there was no way a "mass movement, deployment and gathering of people" could go ahead without endangering lives. In Guinea, global aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said a surge of Ebola cases had pushed its treatment unit in the capital Conakry to its "physical limits". Speaking to the UN, World Bank and IMF chiefs in Washington, Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma assailed the global response to the epidemic thus far, saying it was moving more slowly than the spread of the disease. "This slower-than-the-virus response needs to change," he said. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said resources to support the fight must be increased 20-fold, and urged nations to act without delay. "Cases are growing exponentially," Mr Ban said. "Do not wait for consultation. Just take action." – AFP



An airport worker wears a protective face mask in the arrivals area of the Los Angeles International Airport on October 9. Photo: AFP

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for **Federal-Mogul Wiesbaden GmbH**  
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E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm  
Dated: 13 October 2014

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Moe Mynn Thu  
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Email: myanmar@rouse.com  
Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
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Dated: 13 October 2014

**SEOUL**

# Mystery deepens over Kim's continued no-show

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-Un apparently missed a key political event on October 10, extending a month-long absence that has fuelled rampant speculation about his physical and political health, although South Korea believes he remains in full control.

Mr Kim was not listed by the state KCNA news agency as being among the officials who made an annual pilgrimage to the mausoleum in Pyongyang housing the remains of his father and grandfather.

However, a floral tribute bearing Mr Kim's name was presented to the two statues of Kim Jong-Il and Kim Il-Sung to mark the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Korean ruling party's foundation, the agency said.

Mr Kim, believed to be 30 or 31, has not been seen since September 3 when he attended a music concert with his wife in Pyongyang.

Competing theories for his disappearance range widely from an extended rest period to a leadership coup, via a long list of possible illnesses and ailments including broken ankles, gout and diabetes.

South Korea, which has largely distanced itself from the guessing game, said it saw no indication to suggest Mr Kim was no longer in charge.

"There are continuous reports [in North Korea's state media] concerning the exercise of Kim Jong-Un's

leadership," Seoul's Unification Ministry spokesperson Lim Byeong-Chul told reporters.

"Judging from these, it seems that Kim Jong-Un is ruling normally," Mr Lim said, adding that the government had no specific intelligence on Mr Kim's health.

Mr Kim's absence from the Kumsusan mausoleum visit was significant as he has attended each year since coming to power following the death of his father in 2011.

The explanation with the most currency is a health issue that has left him temporarily incapacitated.

Mr Kim, a heavy smoker, has shown striking weight gain since taking on the role of national leader and recent TV footage had shown him walking with a pronounced limp.

**'The steel-like unity of the party with the leader at the centre, is the source of invincible power.'**

*Rodong Sinmun*  
State-run newspaper

"My own feeling is that there has been a health problem, but not a particularly serious one," said Chung Young-Chul, a professor of North Korean studies at Sogang University in Seoul.

"A no-show would certainly force us to consider the possibility that it's more serious than we thought," Chung said.

In a front-page editorial on October 10, the *Rodong Sinmun* described Mr Kim as the symbol of the ruling party's "dignity and invincibility"; and said his authority should be protected by all means necessary.

"The steel-like unity of the party, with the leader at the centre, is the source of invincible power," the party mouthpiece said.

What little light North Korea has deemed necessary to shed on the rumours surrounding Mr Kim's absence has only added to the confusion.

State media alluded at one point to his "discomfort", but one member of a top-level North delegation that visited South Korea the previous week insisted Mr Kim had no health problem at all.

"He certainly doesn't want to be seen while he is sick and looking weak," said Bruce Bennett, a senior defence analyst with the RAND corporation.

"Looking weak is not good for a North Korean leader who is trying to maintain control," Mr Bennett said.

— AFP

**BEIJING**

# 'Disorderly internet' under court scrutiny

CHINA'S top court is putting pressure on internet service providers to provide the personal details of web users suspected of "rights violations", state media said on October 10.

The move by the Supreme People's Court, outlined in a judicial guideline issued the day before, is the latest effort by the Communist Party to exert control over China's popular online social networks.

According to the state-run *China Daily* newspaper, the country's highest court is also moving to curb paid internet postings and deletions, tactics that Beijing itself employs in seeking to "guide public opinion" and clamp down on dissent.

"Some posters, as well as workers at network service providers, often use their computer skills to make money, and that leads to a disorderly

internet," court spokesperson Sun Jungong told the paper.

Personal information such as home addresses, health conditions and crime records must also not be posted online, the paper said, although it did not give further details.

China maintains a tight grip on information, with the media controlled by the government and online social networks subject to heavy censorship. — AFP

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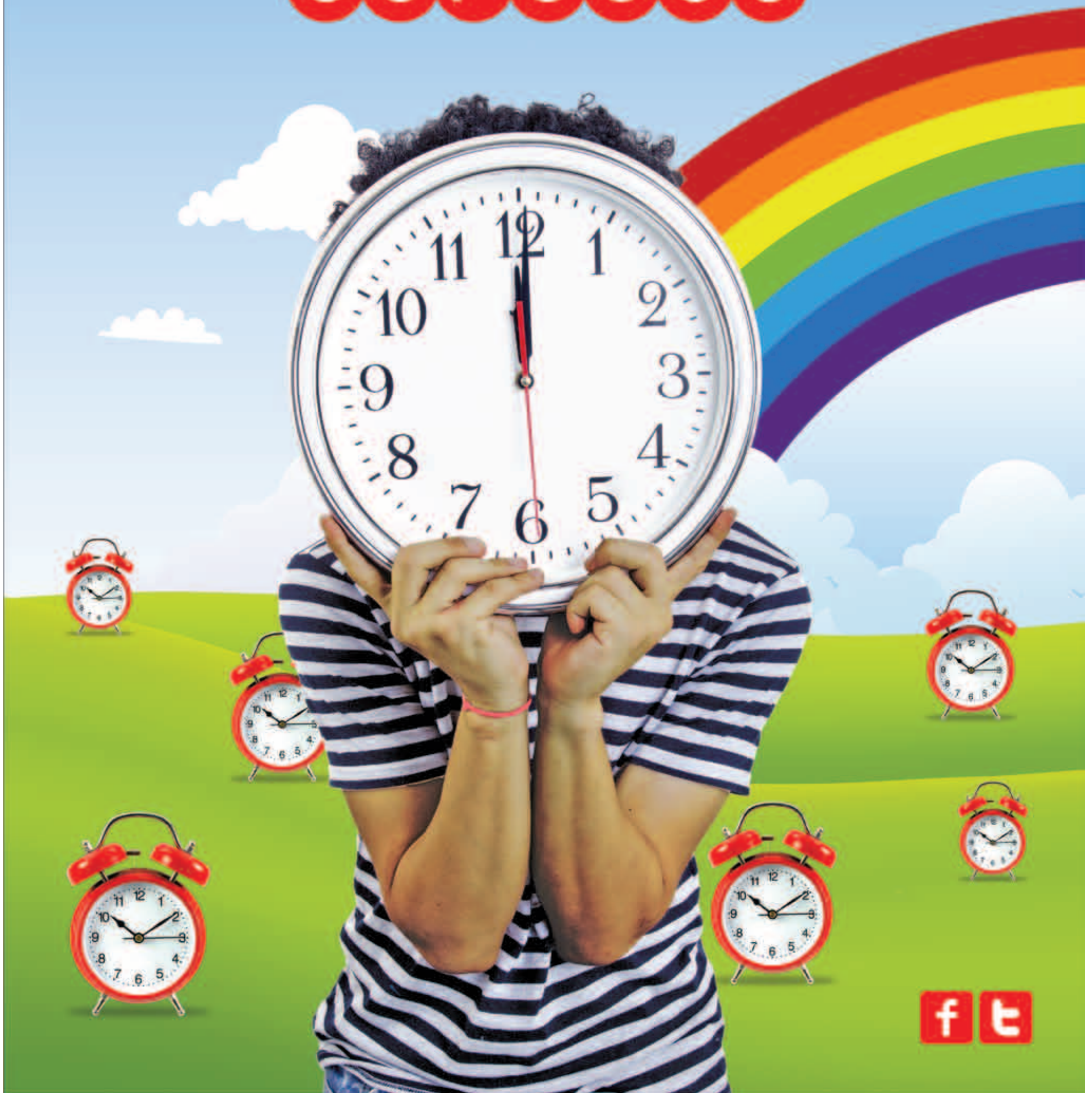


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IN PICTURES

Photo: AFP

Residents watch as dark giant ash clouds rise from the crater of Mount Sinabung during an eruption on October 8 on Indonesia’s Sumatra island, following an earlier eruption on October 5. Hundreds of residents are still being housed at evacuation centres as authorities maintain an off-limits zone around the volcano following an eruption in early February that killed at least 17 people.

BEIJING

# Xi’s ‘mass line’ achieves austerity goals

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has declared victory after a 15-month-long austerity campaign that cut US\$8.6 billion in public spending as he pledged via state media not to relent against official corruption.

The “mass line” initiative – a Maoist term for the need to align the ruling Communist Party with the people – saw more than 160,000 “phantom” government employees removed and 74,000 party members punished for violating austerity rules, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The completion of the drive was marked with a conference attended by all seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee, China’s most

powerful body, and broadcast live to government officials and military officers, the state-run *Global Times* newspaper reported on October 9.

“The close of the campaign is not the end of good work styles,” Xinhua quoted Xi as saying.

The *Global Times* said the initiative, which began in June 2013, had targeted “undesirable work styles such as formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance”.

Xinhua said it led to a 25 percent reduction in official meetings, the retrieval of more than 100,000 excessive government vehicles and a 1.9 million reduction in the number of official documents circulated.

Since taking office last year, Mr Xi has ordered an end to excessive gift-giving and banquets within the state

sector, amid rising anger among the Chinese public at widespread official corruption.

A related graft crackdown has led to a series of high-profile takedowns of party officials that have sent shockwaves through an elite who once did little to hide their prosperity.

News of the “mass line” campaign’s close comes less than two weeks ahead of a highly-anticipated conclave known as the Fourth Plenum, at which party leaders will set policy goals and focus on the chosen theme of “rule of law”.

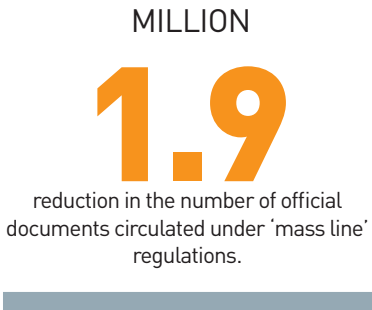
The state-run *China Daily* newspaper ran an editorial on October 9 praising the austerity drive and calling

on Xi to continue the momentum.

But it also warned that “the more successful such thorough and forceful actions are, the more corrupt the Party and government appear to be”.

“With the fight going even further, sometimes a dozen or more corrupt elements in the same government department end up being investigated for abuse of power, as one rotten apple can spoil others in a barrel,” the paper wrote.

Despite “malicious” attempts to use such examples to smear the reputation of the party and government, “the leadership’s zero-tolerance to corruption will become increasingly obvious and welcomed by the public”, it added.



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UNITED NATIONS

## N Korea war crimes trial sought

THE European Union and Japan are asking the United Nations to press for war crimes prosecutions in North Korea following a report that laid bare Pyongyang’s brutality, according to a draft resolution circulating last week.

The measure, to be presented to the UN General Assembly in the coming weeks, would also ask the Security Council to consider targeted sanctions against North Korean leaders “who appear to be most responsible for crimes against humanity”.

The draft resolution, which was obtained by AFP, draws heavily from a UN rights inquiry released in February that revealed a vast network of prison camps and documented cases of torture, enslavement, rape and forced abortions among other violations.

“The commission’s findings, the body of testimony gathered and the information received provide reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed” in North Korea, said the text. It added that these crimes were “pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the state for decades”.

The EU and Japan have presented an annual resolution condemning North Korea’s rights record at the General Assembly, but the release of the UN report has shored up the drive for tougher UN action against Pyongyang.





# Welcoming the closer relationship between Thailand and Myanmar



General Prayut Chan-o-cha

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Dated: 13 October 2014

**IN PICTURES**

Photo: AFP

Participants compete in the annual buffalo races in Chonburi southeast of Bangkok on October 7. Scores of Thai farmers ditched their paddy fields for the race course to sprint across a dusty track on prized water buffalo, vying for glory in a decades-old racing contest.

**NEW DELHI**

# Search for wrecks of forgotten WWII planes

A campaign has been launched to recover the wreckage of Japanese and Indian fighter jets, downed into a lake in a battle during Japan's 1944 advance past Burma

A SEARCH team is set to salvage the wrecks of Japanese and British military aircraft which crashed in a northeastern Indian lake during fierce fighting in World War II, it was revealed last week.

Two Japanese fighter aircraft and a British bomber plane sank in 1944 in Loktak lake in the state of Manipur, home to one of the heaviest but largely unknown battles of World War II which pitted the two forces against each other.

The exact location of the wrecks had been uncertain for decades.

It was recently discovered after a war foundation in the Manipur state capital Imphal, called the 2nd World War Imphal Campaign, studied official records of the fighting.

"We have been gathering information about the crash from locals and eyewitnesses for about a year. We are ready for the real expedition now," the campaign's co-founder Yumnam Rajeshwor Singh said.

"We have been doing excavations like this for a long time. It is our passion and hobby."

The two Japanese planes, known as Oscars by the allies, were gunned down by British forces on June 17,

1944 but later on the same day, one of their own bomber jets called Wellington crashed too.

A team of 50 volunteers and members, led by some 10 researchers, will begin excavating "as soon as possible" by going to the middle of the lake that spreads across 285 square kilometres

**'We've been doing excavations like this for a long time. It's our passion and hobby.'**

**Yumnam Rajeshwor Singh**  
2nd World War Imphal Campaign

(110 square miles) and using GPS and underwater equipment.

Mr Singh said that, according to eyewitness accounts, locals of the area had sold off the planes' wings, tails and lighter aluminium chunks as scrap metal soon after the crash,

leaving behind the heavy parts, including the 600-kilogram engines, behind.

He plans to place the rusty wreckage on display in his foundation's war museum.

A quiet pocket of British India until then, northeastern Manipur was the scene of devastating fighting in the Battle of Imphal from March to July 1944 when the Japanese advanced westward from captured Burma, backed by a rebel Indian force.

Tens of thousands of soldiers were killed in the fighting, with the Allied victory a major turning point in the Asia campaign that was voted as Britain's greatest battle by the National Army Museum of London in April last year.

In 1942, Japanese forces routed the British in Burma, which brought them to India's eastern border from where the attack was launched.

More than 70 years after the end of the war, around 100 British and American aircraft wrecks are believed to be scattered across the jungles of India, Thailand and Malaysia, along with the remains of their crews. – AFP



BANGKOK

# King's illness fuels political concerns

THAILAND'S revered 86-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej has had his gall bladder removed, the palace said last week, two days after he was rushed to hospital sparking fears for his health in the politically turbulent nation.

Bhumibol, who is the world's longest-serving monarch but has suffered from numerous ailments in recent years, is treated as a near-deity in Thailand and his health is a subject of great public concern.

The nation is beset by anxiety over the future once his more than six-decade reign comes to an end.

The king was driven from his coastal palace to Bangkok's Siriraj hospital with a fever on the evening of October 3.

Tests found he had a swollen gall bladder, prompting the operation to remove the organ on October 5, the Royal Household Bureau said in a statement on October 6.

Doctors were "satisfied" with the surgery and the king's condition was "improving" early, the statement added.

"His majesty's heartbeat has slowed down ... His blood pressure is in the normal range and his temperature is lower," it said.

Surgery to remove the gall bladder is common and patients tend to recover quickly from the operation.

Bhumibol, who is officially King Rama IX, left the Siriraj last month after a stay of almost six weeks for a check-up.

He lived in the same hospital for

nearly four years after being admitted with respiratory problems in 2009, but there was no explanation from the palace over his prolonged stay.

As a constitutional monarch the king has no official political role, but Thais see him as a unifying figure and a moral force during a long reign that has been flecked by political turmoil.

In August he formally endorsed the kingdom's new prime minister, Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who seized power from the elected administration on May 22 as head of the army, shortly after Yingluck Shinawatra was booted out of office by a controversial court ruling.

Mr Prayut led his military-stacked cabinet to the hospital on the morning of October 6 to sign a book of well-wishing for the monarch.

"We have heard good news from the medical team that his majesty has strengthened," he told reporters later.

Ms Yingluck also visited the hospital, prostrating herself in front of a large portrait of the monarch, as scores of other well-wishers waited their turn.

Mr Prayut says he was forced to seize power after months of sometimes violent protests paralysed Ms Yingluck's administration and cramped the kingdom's once-dynamic economy.

But critics say the protests were carefully choreographed to induce an army intervention that has since taken aim at the influence of Ms Yingluck's billionaire brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, on Thai politics.



Ousted Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra kneels in front of a portrait of King Bhumibol Adulyadej as she pays her respects during a visit to the Siriraj hospital in Bangkok on October 6. Photo: AFP

On October 2 the king endorsed a 250-strong list of members of a reform council, according to a notice published in the *Royal Gazette* on October 6.

The junta has charged the appointed council, many of whose members

have been outspoken enemies of Mr Thaksin, with crafting wide-ranging reforms that many believe will chisel away at Mr Thaksin's power bases.

Thailand's king is protected by one of the world's toughest royal defamation laws. Anyone convicted of

insulting the king, queen, heir or regent faces up to 15 years in prison on each count.

Rights groups have decried an apparent surge in the number of lese majeste charges since the May coup.

— AFP

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TOKYO

# Japan’s salarymen struggle to keep up

IN a Tokyo karaoke booth thick with cigarette smoke, Shinsuke Chiba’s eyes bulge as he rips into an enthusiastic, if somewhat misjudged, rendition of the Sex Pistols’ “Anarchy in the UK”.

With his jacket folded neatly on his briefcase and necktie loosened only slightly, the 41-year-old insurance broker Chiba is no Johnny Rotten, but earns hearty applause from his work-mates nonetheless. Then he passes the microphone with a bow and raises his beer glass with a drunken leer.

Mr Chiba’s party of five typify the “salaryman” stereotype, guzzling beers and smoking at a furious pace as the clock ticked toward the last train on a rainy Thursday night.

Japan’s identikit corporate samurai are cultural shorthand for the world of work, an army of back-office grafters that swelled as the country’s post-war economic miracle took shape.

They squeeze daily onto famously crammed rush-hour trains to work lengthy shifts at the office – 12 hours or more is relatively common – not daring to leave before their managers.

In the evenings they might be boozing with clients or summoned to practically compulsory company drinks, where much of the corporate bonding goes on.

“I wanted to be an astronaut when I was a kid,” said Mr Chiba, a father of two. “My dad told me to stop being silly. He worked for [Japanese computer giant] Fujitsu for 40 years and wanted

me to work for Fujitsu too. “But I failed the exam,” he added over the din as a colleague belted out a Japanese folk song. “I’ve been in insurance for 13 years. It is getting tougher with the economy the way it is.”

The one-time paragon of modern Japan came of age in the booming 1980s.

Back then, men graduating from a half-decent university could be almost certain of finding a good job. They would trade a lifetime of loyalty for a solid career path where promotions and pay rises came with time served.

The salaryman worked hard during the week. He was expected to be in the office early and to socialise in the evening. At weekends he would play golf, often as a way to keep up professional relationships.

On the one day a week he was not in hoc to his company, he would sleep.

There were many hardships. Men often barely saw their children, but the guarantee of a job for life with a company that would always look out for you made the trade worthwhile.

But then the bubble burst and Japan’s economy floundered. Hiring programs were trimmed. Salaries were frozen, but the overtime stacked up as firms tried to get more bang for their buck.

More than two decades on, lifetime contracts are the exception.

Nowadays, even some graduates from top universities struggle to find a full-time, permanent job; instead, they do the same job as their tenured colleagues, but with little security and lower wages.

“The salaryman is Japan’s favourite figure of mirth,” said Jeff Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University Japan. “They’re the sad, fat punching-bag, but in some ways they’re admired. They are the foot soldiers of Japan Inc.”

However, Mr Kingston said, it’s a two-way street, and for some younger Japanese the toll exacted on their fathers and grandfathers is giving them pause for thought.

“[The younger people] are much



Japanese businessmen, known as salarymen, stroll in an area for drinking in Yokohama, suburban Tokyo on October 3. Photo: AFP

more zealous about guarding their private life and not allowing the job to take over,” he said.

“Corporate Japan has broken the social contract. Why make all the sacrifice if it’s not going to be reciprocated?”

And the sacrifices for the hard-slogging salaryman can be big.

Japan’s labour ministry keeps statistics on the number of lives claimed by *karoshi*, death from overwork, every year.

“There is clearly a correlation between overwork and depression, and alcoholism and depression,” said Mr Kingston. “Society was long in denial about these problems.”

“All that has changed in the last decade or so. People are recognising that untreated mental health issues

are a major factor in the high suicide rate.”

There are more than 21 suicides per 100,000 people in Japan, according to figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), against a group-wide average of less than 13.

“Today’s salarymen are wondering perhaps if they’ve become the lost tribe – the tribe facing extinction with job security under siege,” said Mr Kingston.

“They’re the ones who aren’t being paid overtime, their incomes are declining, their lifestyle has been downsized.”

The hard-drinking and long-hours culture among salarymen is cited as one of the reasons Japan has relatively few women in the workforce.

While Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has promised to boost their number, critics say no amount of legislation will make a difference if mothers cannot get home to their children because they are expected to stay late at the office.

Clambering noisily into a tiny elevator, Mr Chiba’s pickled revellers decide to have one for the road.

“Drinking helps us relax,” chuckled 54-year-old bank employee Kiyoshi Hamada, sporting the classic “barcode” comb-over of thinning hair, and nibbling on chicken gizzards at a traditional *izakaya* restaurant.

“It’s always been hard work, but it’s even more of a slog now. Putting work before family is strangely Japanese maybe.” – AFP

**‘They’re the sad, fat punching-bag, but in some ways they’re admired. They’re the footsoldiers of Japan.’**

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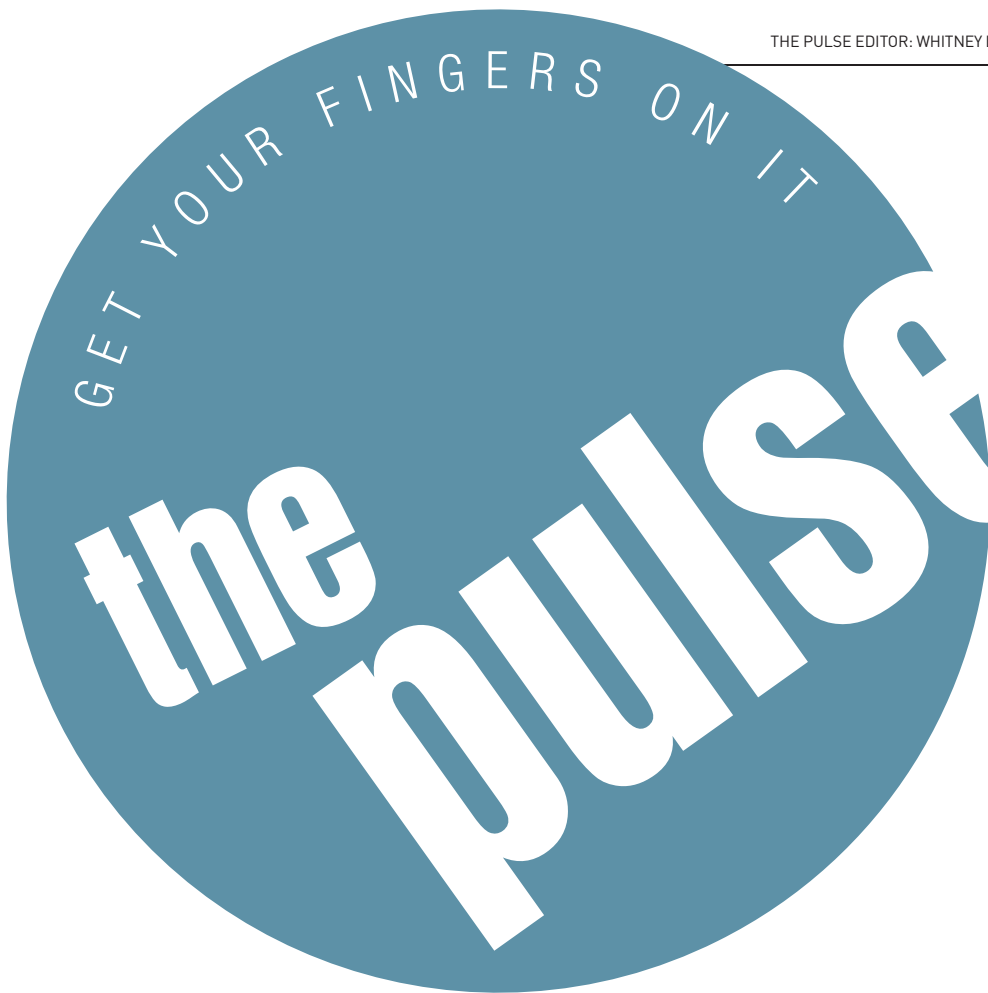
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# Being the

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"Really great cultures emerge when you use the very best of the past and have the courage to reinvent it and re-create it" – David Puttnam. Above, local filmmakers do their work. Photos: Staff



# Kind to new



Producer David Puttnam in Yangon on October 10. Photo: Zarni Phyio

*Award-winning British film producer David Puttnam joined a panel of local experts last week to discuss the links between culture, public policy and society, and the benefits of encouraging innovation in creative industries*

It all started with cowboy films. That was how the United States, which until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was largely an immigrant nation comprising dozens of languages and no central identity, was able to forge a coherent ethos to project to the rest of the world.

This was one of several examples of the tremendous power of film to shape ideas and attitudes that were presented by UK Trade Envoy and eminent film producer David Puttnam during his visit to Yangon last week.

“[The cowboy film] was very important to America because it created a set of identifiable figures who were mythic, who could be identified as good guys, bad guys, principled people, unprincipled people, positive influences, negative influences,” he said.

“Around this myth of the cowboy emerged the myth of America ... and it has endured to a remarkable degree, to the point where the way America saw itself, as well as the way it was seen by the rest of the world, was through the cowboy myth, the sense of the good man who stands up for principle, the sense of fairness, the sense of the rule of law, the sense of moderation.”

Puttnam, who also sits on the Labour benches in the House of Lords, knows what he’s talking about when it comes to the movies: He spent 30 years as an independent producer of award-winning films, which earned 10 Oscars, 25 British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTAs), and the Palme D’Or at Cannes. Among his more well-known titles are *Midnight Express* (1978), *Chariots of Fire* (1981), *The Killing Fields* (1984) and *The Mission* (1986).

He was speaking at a panel discussion titled “Putting Culture at the Heart of Public Policy” held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Lanmadaw township on October 9.

The event, according to a press statement released by the British embassy in Yangon, “was aimed at providing a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss how placing culture at the heart of public policy can help Burma achieve its ambitions”.

Among the panellists was U Kyaw Oo, the rector National University of Arts and Culture, who offered a narrowly defined concept of culture based on reverence for Myanmar traditions.

“Nowadays, most of the young people are not interested in the traditional culture. They are more interested in modern culture – not only music, dance, dress and design, but also behaviour, communication and lifestyle.”

He complained that kids these days spend their time on Facebook, playing games, singing karaoke and drinking beer, but have forgotten the “duty on their shoulders” to maintain Myanmar traditional culture.

U Kyaw Oo said the cultural university played a key role in “strengthening the national unity and the perpetuation of the national culture”, adding that its activities “are not only propaganda and to strengthen Myanmar culture, but also putting the culture at the heart of the public, especially for the young generation”.

However, Puttnam suggested that truly vital culture lay somewhere in between the extremes represented by the traditional-culture-versus-misdirected-modern-youth dichotomy suggested by U Kyaw Oo.

Puttnam offered Ireland as an example, which in 1922 adopted as its official language the old Irish language and promoted veneration for traditional Irish culture, effectively stifling creative innovation.

But two things happened that dramatically changed this unfortunate situation, the first of which was the introduction in the United Kingdom of television broadcasts that could be received on the east coast of Ireland.

“All of a sudden young people were watching very, very good TV programs in English. They became resentful that they had this linguistic duality and dumped the Irish language,” he said.

The second was that the music industry rediscovered its cultural heritage, but tied it to new musical trends. Examples included female singer Enya, as well as the popularisation of Riverdance, which was an updated version of traditional Irish step dancing.

“For some Irish traditionalists, this was an outrage. You couldn’t do this because there were very strict rules in step dancing. But it turned an Irish tradition into an international phenomenon,” Puttnam said.

“Really great cultures emerge when you use the very best of the past and have the courage to reinvent it and re-create it as something that is relevant to young people,” he said.

“If you leave [culture] in aspic and say, ‘well, this is what we did 300 years ago, we’re going to make it again and again and again’ – that’s dead. What’s vibrant is young designers using traditional methods to reinvent something which is part of the soul of the country. I believe countries have souls, and those souls tend to reside in their culture. But they do need refreshing and reinventing. And that’s the challenge for a new generation here in this country.”

Panelist Grace Swe Zin Htaik from the Myanmar Motion Picture Association said she “partially

agreed with U Kyaw Oo” about the need to pass traditional culture to the next generation, but also believes that “culture comes from innovative creative industries, and policy plays a vital role for industrial development”.

“The government always considers the creative industries as an entertainment tool ... They have no idea to make policies to develop the industry by investing,” she said.

“But we do have to think of technical development. Our middle generation is facing the cultural shock of learning technical know-how in our country since changing the policies in 2011 ... We are not familiar with that technical development.”

Grace Swe Zin Htaik said it was essential to create space for young independent filmmakers to work within the industry.

“We should have to create the space for them by merging our own traditional values and the technical know-how. That will be the main door for the development of the creative industries,” she said.

Puttnam largely agreed with Grace Swe Zin Htaik, adding, “There’s a whole generation that needs to enter the cultural arena, and what culture might mean to them might be somewhat different than what culture might mean to someone my age.”

“The cultural world offers young people the jobs they actually want ... These are jobs that young people identify with, that they want to be part of,” he said. “They are part of the future. To ignore them is to ignore the genuine desire among young people to improve themselves and to ignore the economic opportunities they offer.”

Panelist Nay Lin Soe represented the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative, which works to “build a society where people with disabilities can live independently and to their full potential”.

He shared his experiences as a disabled person living in Myanmar, and in doing so provided examples of how traditional cultural beliefs can have a negative impact on a significant segment of society.

After losing the use of his lower extremities at age three due to polio, one of his earliest experiences was being rejected from attending primary school because of his disability. Fortunately, his mother found another school that accepted Nay Lin Soe, and he went on to attend university.

He later started working for disability inclusion and the rights of disabled people in Myanmar.

“Public policy or development should not be limited only to economic growth of the country, but also to increase the wellbeing of human life by promoting social justice through the inclusion of all groups,” Nay Lin Soe said.

“Everybody is talking about how the country is opening and changing, but in reality many citizens with disabilities have not been included in such programs ... We are still left behind on every developmental process of the country.”

He said public policies need to be put into place to remove the physical, attitudinal and systematic barriers that kept disabled from living in equality with others.

In response, Puttnam offered another example of the power of movies to shape public policy. He cited films like *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946), *The Men* (1950), *Coming Home* (1978) and *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989) – all of which depict the struggles of injured soldiers facing the process of readjusting to civilian life after war – as being instrumental in changing public attitudes toward disabled people.

“These films had the effect of reminding people that there was a generation, a whole group, that had been forgotten,” he said.

Mr Puttnam ended the panel discussion by cautioning against the misuse of culture.

“Culture can be used negatively as well as positively. Culture misused is a lazy word, a very exclusive word. It can mean ‘my culture, things I understand’, so that it becomes an exclusive word rather than an inclusive word,” he said. “Culture is something that has to be used judiciously, intelligently and generously.”

He also said that hard work is required to create an atmosphere in which young people have the “confidence to express themselves, confidence to believe that their contribution is valid and important”.

Once again he turned to film for an example, recalling a scene from the animated feature *Ratatouille* (2007) in which one of the characters says that the most important thing that critics need to remember is “to be kind to the new”.

“The new needs to believe in itself, and the new needs to develop confidence,” Puttnam said.

“Unless you put your toe in the water, unless you do these things, and believe you can do them and take them seriously, and get public policy to back them – because that’s what public policy is there to do – they’re never going to happen.”

“It’s fine for us to sit here talking, but in the end none of these things happen unless you and the media and the public policymakers decide to make them happen. Otherwise we can have a nice conversation but nothing changes.”



## The Global Gossip

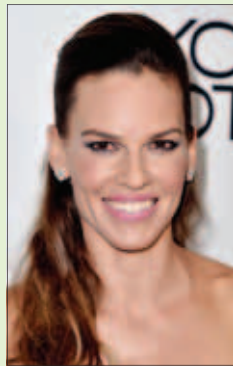
### NEW YORK Depeche Mode to release live album from brothel

Depeche Mode's new live album will feature an acoustic session recorded inside a Berlin brothel in footage shot by celebrated director and rock photographer Anton Corbijn.

The British synthpop giants said October 8 they will release a CD/DVD package entitled *Live in Berlin*, which features two hours of footage filmed in the German capital during their 32-nation tour.

Along with concert footage from the 02 World arena in Berlin, the album due out November 17 will feature an acoustic set recorded at Salon Bel Ami, a famous high-end brothel known for its plush decor. The brothel closed in 2011 when its owner was sent to prison for tax fraud.

Corbijn said in a statement that Depeche Mode enjoyed a strong following in Berlin, which is renowned for its electronic music scene.



Actress and producer Hilary Swank arrives at the premiere of eOne Films' *You're Not You* at the Vanguard Theatre in Los Angeles on October 8. Photo: Kevin Winter/AFP

### NEW YORK Stephen Hawking guest vocalist on new Pink Floyd album

Pink Floyd's first studio album in two decades will be without estranged ex-member Roger Waters, but one vocalist from the last record is staying on – physicist Stephen Hawking.

Song credits leaked onto the internet of Pink Floyd's *The Endless River* – one of the year's most eagerly anticipated new albums, out November 7 – list a song with the acclaimed scientist entitled "Talkin' Hawkin'".

Hawking, who is paralysed due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also appeared on the conceptual rock legends' previous album, *The Division Bell*. On the 1994 album's song "Keep Talking", Hawking's computerised voice begins by saying, "For millions of years, mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened which unleashed the power of our imagination."



Stephen Hawking. Photo: Desiree Martin/AFP



Eurovision Song Contest winner Conchita Wurst performs in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on October 8. Photo: AFP/Emmanuel Dunand

### BERLIN Hunters protest cat-shooting ban

German hunters are up in arms over a proposed law against shooting cats. The hunters' federation of the rural state of North Rhine-Westphalia defends the practice, saying on its website that a wild cat can "kill up to 1000 birds" a year.

The new law is due to be presented to the regional parliament before the end of the year. Environment ministry spokesperson Wilhelm Deitermann said under current legislation dating from the 1930s, hunters can target cats that venture more than 200 metres (650 feet) from a house or prowl fields and edges of forests.

But the ministry argues that the damage caused by cats "does not justify such regulation".

During the last hunting season shooters in the state killed "about 8000 cats," Deitermann said. – AFP

# A motorbike ride to an Indian trading post



The Indo-Myanmar Friendship Road leads to

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**T**HE smoothly winding road through green paddy fields and mountains made my first highway motorbike trip a breeze.

I didn't see even one small pothole in the 100-mile-long (161-kilometre) India-Myanmar Friendship Road, built in 2001 by Indian engineers to increase trade between the two countries.

My ride was slowed, however, by the 71 bridges between Kalay township and the border town of Tamu. These are made of wood, and as it was my first experience on such roads, it took me five hours to complete the journey. The many warning billboards in English and Myanmar did not help my concentration.

I arrived at the "Welcome to Tamu" sign in the dark, but my eyes had already adjusted from riding for two hours as night covered the hills. My friends and I passed only some small villages with electricity.

The India-Myanmar border at this point is unique because while others are connected by river or mountain, Tamu in Myanmar and Moreh in India are easily crossed by land,

divided only by a barbed wire fence. This had made me eager to visit.

As soon we entered the town, we saw that many Indian people were living together with Myanmar, Chin, Kuki (a Chin minority) and Gawkha people. We also noticed that, despite frequent electricity cut-offs, the internet connection here was much better than in Yangon.

It was cold, too, and although we thought we might find an Indian or Chin traditional restaurant for dinner, all we could get were Chinese and Thai dishes.

The sunrise the next day quickly made the air very hot again so that the whole town appeared a yellowish colour. The locals seemed used to this.

Early in the morning we visited Nang Phar Lon market, which is a

famous trading point and gateway between the two countries. We found only dried coconuts, however, and betel nuts. It wasn't much different from any other market in the country, except that the people here exchange rupees rather than kyat (1 rupee equals about K16).

Ko Kyaw Kyaw Lin, a native of Tamu and a dry-goods trader, told us that the border gate had been closed for two weeks last month but that the local merchants hadn't suffered much in their business.

"The gate is often closed, but not for a long period," he said. "Authorities close the gate for two or three weeks mostly without giving any reason. Then, the prices of goods go up and down."

Another seller told us that now



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the border towns of Tamu, Chin State, and Moreh, India. Photos: Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

was the season for betel nuts. “No matter the quality of the nuts, traders are buying and making ready-made betel packages that they distribute throughout Myanmar,” he said.

After betel would come the season for coconuts, watermelons and *myauk ngo* fruits, other locals said.

The border area is also famous for scented woods like *nant thar phyu* and *karamah*, rare scented woods that are used to make sculptures, fans, drums and traditional medicine in both India and Myanmar. It’s expensive, and much wood marketed as the real thing is in fact fake. And it wasn’t easy to find out where to buy the good stuff because the wood is handled by a group of Indian merchants, shopkeepers explained.

In the past, almost all traders had to sell under the terms of Indian merchants because all trade took place in Moreh, Ko Kyaw Kyaw Lin explained.

“The prices were unfair, but if they didn’t go to Moreh, no Indian came to buy in Myanmar,” he said.

The sun was beating down hotly, but the locals didn’t seem to sweat although their bodies were wrapped in Indian saris and they

wore no head covering.

We crossed easily into India. Only traders have to pay an entrance tax. Near to the gate, Indian rickshaw drivers were waiting for passengers.

Some areas near Tamu and Moreh have not yet been clearly divided and arguments over land have been known to cause some aggression among people on both sides.

“Until last year, we heard gunshots come from some problem areas on the borderline, but now we haven’t heard a shot for months. We hear only some voices and marching and shooting guns from India in the evening, and we think they’re training soldiers,” a local said.

It was already midday, and I knew I didn’t have enough time to study the trading system and lifestyles of the minority groups in Tamu. Though I wanted to stay longer, I had to go back to Kalay, which would take me another five hours again of crossing wooden bridges by motorbike.

**DO THIS TRIP**

Motorbikes can be rented in Kalay from Shinlon Hotel for K20,000 for two days. In Tamu, accommodation at Power Guesthouse costs K20,000 per night.

# What's on

OCTOBER 13 - 19

Got an event?  
List it in What's On!  
[whatsonmt@gmail.com](mailto:whatsonmt@gmail.com)



Painting by Win Myint Moe. Photo: Gallery 65

## ART

**Sept 26-Nov 1** “The Mirror: Reflecting Society.” Painting, sculpture, installation and photography by four local contemporary artists. TS1 Gallery, between Lanthit Jetty and Kaing Dan No 1 Jetty, Seikkan 10am-6:30pm

**Oct 18-22** Win Myint Moe’s solo exhibition. Gallery 65, 65 Yaw Min Gyi Road, Dagon 10am-6pm

**Oct 11-17** Aung Maung’s 12<sup>th</sup> solo watercolour exhibition, Yangon Gallery, People’s Park, Ahlone Road 10am-6pm

## 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

*Black and White: The Dawn of Justice.* Directed by Tsai Yueh-hsun. An unrelenting police officer battles a villainous mastermind.

*Smring: The Hunt Begins.* Directed by Pan Visitsak. A Thai horror film about a supernatural legend.

*Minuscule: Valley of the Lost Ants.* Directed by Helene Giraud and Thomas Szabo. Rival ant colonies battle for the remains of a picnic (animation).

**Mingalar Cinema 2**, at Dagon Center 2, Myaynigone

*Smring: The Hunt Begins.*

**Shae Shaung Cinema**, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada

*The Maze Runner.* Directed by Wes Ball. A group of boys trapped in a maze must find an escape.

*Step Up All In.* Directed by Trish Sie. The fifth installment of the American dance series.

**Junction Square Cineplex**, Kamaryut

*Way of the Wicked.* Directed by Kevin Carraway. Father Henry thinks he can explain a series of inexplicable murders.

**Mingalar San Pya Cineplex**, Phone Gyi Street and Anawrahta, Lanmadaw

*Black and White: The Dawn of Justice.*

*The Maze Runner.*

## MUSIC

**Sept 5-Dec 31** Live music. Thiripiytsaya Sky Bistro, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sakura Tower 7-10pm

**Oct 16** Kaiza Tin Moong & Shalom, 50<sup>th</sup> Street Bar, 9-13 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Botahtaung 7:30pm

**Oct 18** Jam It! On the Beat. Zeal Coffee Lounge & Restaurant, 99 Myay Nu Street, Sanchaung 6pm

## MISC

**Oct 14** Gallery conversation and drinks. Pansodan Gallery, 289 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada 7pm-late

**Oct 16** 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





## HO CHI MINH CITY

## Hit by the scent of history

Le Loi Street in downtown Saigon in the 1960s. Photo: Manhhai/Wikimedia Commons



1st Cavalry forces at the combat base LZ Stud, the staging area for Operation Pegasus, on April 4, 1968. Photo: Wikimedia Commons



A visit to the presidential bunker in the former Saigon inspires involuntary memories and leads our correspondent to bury ghosts of the Vietnam War

## STUART ALAN BECKER



stuart.becker@gmail.com

**I**n Ho Chi Minh City a couple days before my 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday on September 12, I took a morning stroll downtown among the old famous hotels – the Caravelle, the Rex, the Continental – where all the US embassy people and correspondents in South Vietnam would gather to drink and tell stories during those heady days of the 1960s and early 1970s.

A friend who'd spent a lot of time in the city told me "be sure to go to the Presidential Palace", so I walked over, paid the 30,000 VND (less than US\$1.50) admission fee and entered the building that the Vietnam government now regards as an "historical relic". It's open daily to the public.

For me, the palace's most interesting feature by far is the reinforced underground bunker and war room where then-South Vietnam

President Nguyen Van Thieu kept his headquarters. Big maps still hang on the walls, and outmoded radios and teletype machines conjure the direct connection to the US Embassy and scenes of war operations against the "Communist aggressors".

But what struck me most of all was the smell – a military smell I recall from my childhood and which accompanies light green and grey paint, steel panels fastened with hex-head screws, radio equipment and gray desks with steel chairs. The US Army posts where I lived as a boy – Fort Rucker, Alabama, and Fort Eustis, Virginia – all shared a standard set of colours, smells and sounds, including the thumping of helicopters overhead.

I knew the kind of helicopter just by the sound they made and couldn't help but learn the military's highly organised structure of categorisation. A "Huey" meant a "Helicopter, Utility

(UH-1)" and a "Jeep" got its name from its classification as a "Vehicle, General Purpose (GP)".

It was 1966 when my father, Chief Warrant Officer Stanley A Becker, got his orders for Vietnam the first time. He flew Huey

Today Ho Chi Minh City – then Saigon – doesn't look much like the communist nightmare we feared

during the Cold War, the dreary landscape of a surveillance society such as what I'd witnessed in Soviet-occupied Budapest in 1981. The Hungarian capital then was a dingy, unsettling place filled with Hungarian Polezi and Soviet KGB officers. Money-making was strictly forbidden.

Ho Chi Minh now is more like New York City: thriving and pulsing with colourful motorcycles in the streets and well-dressed, energetic shop owners and investors engaging in every kind of business. Brand-name stores like Gucci and trendy cafes are everywhere – and the place is remarkably clean.

Certainly the control of the Communist Party of Vietnam continues to loom over the people. Watching the news on TV at the apartment where I was staying, a "NO SIGNAL" message abruptly ended a CNN report about the South China Sea. Still, Saigon today is nothing like Budapest in 1981.

After Vietnam, the Army sent our family to Alaska. Then came that fateful day when the TV news broadcast that a North Vietnamese tank had crashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon, ending the war on April 30, 1975. We were watching together in our living room, and Stanley A Becker, now Chief Warrant Officer 3, was visibly angry, even inconsolable. None of us knew what to say to him. I think he had seen so many young American soldiers fighting for a lost cause that he felt those boys' lives had been wasted and his own harrowing

experiences endured for nothing. I remember one time we all left our house in Georgia early one morning in the pouring rain. CWO Becker was serving then as a pilot instructor. My mother and sister and I were soaking wet when we piled into the family Ford station wagon, but my father, who had run through the same rain, was hardly wet at all. We were amazed and asked him how he had stayed so dry. He told us he'd "dodged the drops". This may sound funny, but I think he learned some kind of spiritual way of dodging bullets when he was flying helicopters in Vietnam.

The bunker of the Presidential Palace seemed to contain all the bitter struggles of the Cold War in one cramped set of concrete tunnels. Here was the seat of a corrupt government propped up by the Americans, the locus of a terrible war, a chessboard upon which the global tensions flowing from the conclusion of World War Two were played out.

The Americans pumped billions of dollars into South Vietnam. As George F Kennan articulated it, the American Cold War strategy of "containment" meant in part to outspend the Communist enemy. Just by building ever more expensive weapons systems, the American-led capitalists could scare the leaders of centrally planned economies into spending everything just to keep up. That's what happened in the Soviet Union – and the Vietnam War was certainly a component in the larger Cold War.

When I climbed up the stairs out of the bunker, I walked down the front steps of the palace and toward a display of tanks. A Vietnamese lady who happened to be there didn't mind smiling as I took her picture.

My circle was complete. I understood now what had taken place – what my family had been part



A Huey helicopter.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

"slicks" – an air ambulance – for the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry, and his uniform bore the black-and-yellow, Norman-shield-shaped shoulder patch with the horse head and diagonal stripe. He flew with distinction, carrying troops into battle and ferrying the wounded to field hospitals for treatment.

CWO Becker himself was shot down – three times. But he lived. Of the 200 soldiers with whom he'd graduated from helicopter training class, only 98 survived the Vietnam War. Becker was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for valour in battle.

These memories of my father and the role he and his peers played in Vietnam flooded my thoughts as I moved among the antiquated radios and teletype machines.



Teletype machines at the former headquarters of South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu during the Vietnam War. Photo: Stuart Alan Becker

MORE ON PULSE 53



CONTINUED FROM PULSE 52

of and how I should feel about it all. It was no longer a confusing topic filled with bitter divisions and heated arguments with the responsibility for massive death tolls and suffering hanging in the balance. The Vietnam War had faded into history.

Only 16 years after that tank crashed through the palace gates, Vietnam's primary communist



The author (left) and Alex McKinnon in Ho Chi Minh City. Photo: Supplied

sponsor, the Soviet Union, collapsed – an event that validated Kennan's containment policy.

To the credit of the Vietnamese Communists, they transformed quickly as the money from Russia dried up starting in 1991, and they have now built a fantastic city in the South – much greater than it ever was

in the 1960s and 1970s. It is safe and open, with plenty of potential and tough, hard-working people getting on with their lives.

I interviewed one man who had served as a soldier with the Viet Cong. At the end he told me to please get a message to my father: He wished him well.

Smells are powerful memory triggers – and it was the smell of that bunker in the “historical relic” that is the Presidential Palace that evoked my earliest memories of my family's life with the US Army and brought closure to my 40 years of trying to figure out why all those people had to die. The war was now as distant in the dimming lens of memory as when I stood at Ancient Corinth in the Greek Peloponnesus, through which the Spartans had passed on their way to battle and where I had imagined those men with their shields and spears marching off to war.

*This story is dedicated to the memory of Alex McKinnon, with whom Stuart Alan Becker stayed in Saigon during the writing of this story. McKinnon, a beloved editor from West Australia and pioneering journalist at the Vietnam Investment Review, died peacefully in his sleep on September 27 at his apartment overlooking the old Presidential Palace. His colleagues, family and friends were devastated at the news of his sudden passing.*



The Presidential Palace in Ho Chi Minh City. Photo: Stuart Alan Becker

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS  
OCTOBER 6 - 12, 2014

AQUARIUS | Jan 20 – Feb 18



You will be at a crossroads and have to make a choice about love or business difficulties. Be assured that it will bring a new beginning. When your higher self governs your actions and aspirations you are sure to attain your goal. Travel may lead to a new love or even greater prospects.

PISCES | Feb 19 – March 20



Understand the real issues behind your problems to go toward positive change. And be open to new and surprising answers that will come from listening to your own unique ideas. Never begin or perpetuate a rumour or gossip. Surround yourself with people who believe in you. An emotional favour is coming soon.

ARIES | March 21 – April 19



You must have clarity and desire in order to achieve any goal. Question the direction your life is going, and put yourself in the most challenging situations to improve your future. Know that your reputation is a sacred personal asset. Never judge a person's character until you observe their actions under emotional pressure.

TAURUS | April 20 – May 20



You will experience freedom and release from problems. You will be productive and as busy as a bee. One large firm may want to keep you working for them. Something you desire to change will change and you will become more comfortable. Favourable doors will open to change your life. True love will verge on perfection.

GEMINI | May 21 – June 20



Challenge yourself to understand what loyalty means to you and to understand how you're acting with your friend and why. Never make negative comments or spread rumours about anyone. Know that a reputation can take years to build, yet can take only seconds to destroy. A broken promise will make you doubtful and dishonest.

CANCER | June 21 – July 22



What you like, what you want and what you wish for are not as interesting to others as what you are doing about it. Know that confidence will get you further than anything else will. Always nourish your brain cells with positive input. Be willing to trust your instincts, especially if you cannot find answers elsewhere.

LEO | July 23 – Aug 22



Every moment of life offers options. Know that a small set of words delivered with a warm smile and a kind heart can make permanent marks. Mistrust comes as much from what you don't know as from what you do know. Maintain morale and moral standards to identify yourself as the trustworthy candidate.

VIRGO | Aug 23 – Sept 22



Don't try to hurry things. Ignore minor considerations. If you hurry your personality will not come into good play. If you let yourself be distracted by minor considerations, nothing important will ever get finished. An argument may end your love affair or you may also suffer a short illness, but you will return to good health before long.

LIBRA | Sept 23 – Oct 22



Put all your attention on the next better opportunity that may be in your sights already. Be the person willing to step forward and risk what awaits you there. Feel free to develop a bigger vision. Know that advice is often what you ask for when you already know what you have to do. Your flexibility should be as fixed as your virtue.

SCORPIO | Oct 23 – Nov 21



A skillful artist can make a figure out of a spilt drop. Know that a burning desire to win is essential to success. You must cut all temptations to retreat and start to exercise discipline. Controversies should be avoided if managing change is to be successful. Take up simple things first and complete one job before moving on to the next.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 22 – Dec 21



Look upon challenges as opportunities for expanding your horizons. You should do your best to forget old criticisms, resentments and disappointments. Emotions, both hidden and open, govern the quality of the life you live. Positivity only attracts good things in life. Put the unpleasant experiences behind you to clear your view ahead.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 – Jan 19



The right idea leads to a good change, and the right attitude leads to a good life. You can set your own rules in any way it suits you. It is better to have social compatibility than good partners. The most important thing is to have self-respect and be unafraid to express your opinion. Act in accordance with your basic values in seeking love.

ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်းကြောင့် သူတစ်ပါးမျက်နှာမပျက်စေဖို့  
ကိုနိုဒင်းကိုဆောင်ထားပါ

ချောင်းဆိုးကင်းစင် ပြုစုပျက်စွာ ကိုနိုဒင်း

ကိုနိုဒင်းဆေးသည် ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်းများကို သက်သာပျောက်ကင်းစေရုံသာမက ခွဲသလိပ်များကို အလွယ်တကူ ချေဖျက်နိုင်ပါသည်။



# Street Seen

This week's photos come from Myanmar Times photographer Yu Yu's winning application to Invisible Photographer Asia's Scholarship Grant for Myanmar Photographers. The scholarship will give her the opportunity to participate in a documentary photography workshop in Yangon next month. The images below come from two of her recent projects, one about the Muslim community in Meiktila (right) and another about families living in the Lokanat Gallery building (left). Photos: Yu Yu



## TOKYO

### Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis', robot-style

KATIE FORSTER

FRANZ Kafka's seminal work *The Metamorphosis* is famous for its themes of alienation, absurdity – and now androids, as a robot takes centre stage in a new theatrical adaptation.

Acclaimed Japanese director Oriza Hirata worked with leading roboticist Hiroshi Ishiguro to create the star of the show, a tall gangly robot with a metal skeleton and white human-like face and hands.

"Even though people react when they see a robot, you can tell people are not moved by it," Hirata told AFP.

"I wanted to create a situation in which a robot could move an audience."

In Kafka's 1915 novella, travelling salesman Gregor Samsa wakes up one morning inexplicably transformed into a repulsive insect, causing his family to hide him away in shame and disgust.

Hirata's production swaps the big bug for a cold silver frame and an automated voice, testing the dramatic timing of four French actors chosen to play his family.

The company – robot included – worked on the play for a month in the remote town of Kinosaki, Japan.

The show, titled *La Metamorphose version Androïde*, opened for a short run in Yokohama on October 9 and will travel to Europe to kick off the Autumn Festival Normandy next

month in France.

Award-winning actress Irene Jacob praised the acting skills of her on-stage android son.

"It has something quite theatrical alright ... Sometimes he can smile a little bit or even laugh," she said.

Some may see the robot as a canny choice to illustrate the book's discussion of isolation in modern capitalist society, which resonates in the technology-obsessed present day, nearly 100 years since the story was published.

Ishiguro, head of a robotics lab at Osaka University, is a well-known figure in Japan who has already staged several plays featuring robots with Hirata. – AFP

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# Sweet or savoury, crêpes please a crowd



**PHYO ARBIDANS**  
phyo.arbidans@gmail.com



Photos: Phyo

### SAVOURY CRÊPE STUFFING

Serves 5

- 1 medium carrot
- 1 yellow pepper
- Half a medium zucchini
- 100-120g of cherry tomatoes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 5 tbsp grated cheese

Dice the carrot, pepper and zucchini. Halve the tomatoes. Grate the cheese finely.

Add the olive oil to a frying pan and heat it on medium. Fry the carrots for 3 minutes. Add the zucchini and peppers and fry 2 minutes. Add the tomatoes and fry 2 minutes more.

Add half of the grated cheese and mix well. It's ready.

Put 3 to 4 tablespoons of veggie stuffing on each crêpe, sprinkle on a little extra cheese and roll it up. Serve with tomato sauce.

### SWEET CRÊPES

Serves 5

- ½ tsp caster sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

Prepare the basic crepe recipe above, adding sugar at the same time as the salt.

For the filling, add the cream and vanilla to bowl and whisk well, either by hand or beater. When the cream is foamy and pale it's ready.

Serve the crêpes with the cream and fresh-cut fruits or maple syrup.

I've been trying to find an easy and yummy recipe for pancakes and crêpes that I can cook in my Myanmar kitchen. Most recipes say to use buttermilk, which I often can't buy here.

Recently I found a no-butter-milk recipe in my cooking "bible" written by Stephanie Alexander. As usual I added my own twist – for savoury and sweet crêpes.

I love crêpes more than pancakes. They're thin and not so spongy. This version is simple to make with few ingredients that you probably already have in your pantry. The original recipe suggests making the batter at least two hours before cooking, but it's okay to do it 30 to 60 minutes before.

We invited our friends and family to come swim at our clubhouse over the recent holidays. So I wanted to

make something that everyone would enjoy. The savoury crepes worked out perfectly.

### BASIC CRÊPE RECIPE

Makes 5 crepes

- 150g white flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1½ cup milk
- 2 tbsp butter

Add the flour to a deep mixing bowl and make a little well in the middle. Add 1 cup of milk. Mix the flour into the milk until it becomes a smooth paste. Then add two eggs and mix well to combine.

Melt the butter by microwaving in a glass bowl for 30 seconds. Add the butter to the mixing bowl and stir into the paste. Don't whisk. Just mix slow

and steady. Add the remaining ½ cup of milk and salt, and make sure there are no lumps in the paste. Cover it with plastic food wrap and keep in the fridge for 30 to 60 minutes.

Before making the crêpes, take the batter out of the fridge and bring back to room temperature.

Heat a non-stick frying pan on high until it is evenly hot, then lower to medium. A 28cm pan yields 5 crêpes, and with a smaller one you might get 6.

Stir the batter and pour ½ cup into the pan. Tilt the pan to make the batter spread around evenly. Cook for nearly 2 minutes and flip the crêpe with a thin spatula. Cook for about 1 minute more. Transfer to a plate and repeat the process.

**TIP:** The pan needs to be just hot enough to cook the crepe.

## New bistro brings excellent fare and a touch of class to Mandalay's dining scene

### ANNE CRUICKSHANKS

WHILE a new bar or restaurant seems to open in Yangon every week, Mandalay's dining scene is growing a bit slower. And sometimes the reasons are out of anyone's control. The owners of Bistro @ 82, for example, had the misfortune to have their planned opening coincide with the mid-July curfew.

In August, they held a soft opening. I dined there with a friend during these early days for the restaurant and will admit that I left with a few reservations. The service was off, our steak was way overcooked, and the place simply felt too empty and soulless.

Thus I was very pleasantly surprised on my recent second visit.

There are three dining rooms to choose from, all of which feature hardwood floors, white walls and an eclectic yet classy array of locally inspired wall decorations. The main room, at the entrance, resembles a casual cafe with its high tables and stools to one side and banquette seating on the other. A private dining room seats around 20 at two large tables. The feel is relaxed and unpretentious, with soft background music and subdued lighting.

Bistro @ 82's paper menu, which doubles as a placemat, is straightforward: a few starters, ten main courses and four desserts. A second smaller menu features daily specials. Already I was impressed, as I cannot stand having a dictionary-sized menu placed in front of me. It's not that I hate

choice. A concise list simply shows that the kitchen knows what it does best with the freshest ingredients.

Some of the offerings are adventurous: barracuda with chorizo sauce, for example. Others are simple comfort foods, such as chicken with mushroom sauce. Another good thing about the bistro's menu is that diners have the option, for most dishes, to order a small or regular portion size.

We started with a salad of buffalo mozzarella, roasted Shan tomatoes and rocket with balsamic dressing (K12,000). It was excellent – great flavours and perfect for sharing. The creamed kailan soup with bacon chips also caught our attention. On first taste I thought it was bland, but after adding a grind of pepper and a pinch of salt it proved to be tasty, albeit safe (K5800 for the small size).

Having polished off a couple glasses of the chef-recommended Sauvignon Blanc, we tucked into our mains. The duck – a daily special – was tender, with just the right amount of fat, and served with a savoury set of grilled Mediterranean vegetables (K17,000). A sweet sauce was drizzled around the edges, giving us the

option of using as much or as little as we wanted.

The ocean trout, which resembled salmon in texture and flavour, was served with a white-wine sauce and tender asparagus (K12,000 for the small size). I couldn't find anything to criticise, though again additional salt and pepper enhanced the flavour perfectly.

The plating and presentation of dishes also receive high marks. I would have liked to have seen more veggies with the main dishes, but my dining companion was happy with the balance. The price point may shock

some diners. Starters range from K3000 to K6000 and mains start around K8000. However, for quality ingredients, perfect preparation and a relaxed night out, Bistro @ 82 is Mandalay's best option.



### Bistro @ 82

82<sup>nd</sup> Street between 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> streets, Mandalay

### Restaurant Review



Photos: Si Thu Lwin

### Restaurant Rating

★★★★★

Food	8
Beverage	9
Service	9
Value for Money	7
X-Factor	8





Phyo Ko, Eain Si, Sett Hlaing and Cafu



Aung Khin Sint, Eain Si, Cafu, Sett Hlaing and Phyo Ko



Mikael Knudsen



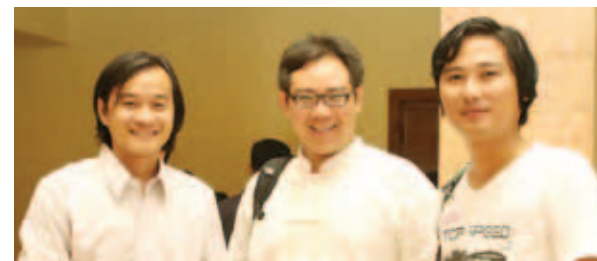
Ni Ni Min Thu and Myat Su

## Fashion show at Monsoon

Thai designer Davis (known as Shan in Thai language) presented the fall-winter 2014 collection of his dVIS menswear brand at Monsoon Restaurant on October 8. The Bangkok-based designer is well-known for his costume-design work for Thai actors and celebrities. His latest designs are available to the public.



Saw Soe Thandar and Wai Lynn Aung



Ko kyaw Kyaw Thet and his friends



## 'Eye Contact' at the National Theatre

On Germany's national holiday, October 3, a Yangon audience was treated to a unique show combining music and visual art called "Eye Contact". Hein Tint's Hsaing Waing Ensemble joined Tim Isfort's jazz group along with 15 string musicians from the Attachment of Cloud (AOC) Orchestra Yangon, while artists Saw Taw Dhar and Malte Jehmlich provided a complementary live-drawing performance.







Shwe Zin and Su Su Maw



Andre

**Sony product launch**  
Sony unveiled a new collection of mobile phone products at Sule Shangri-La Hotel on October 4.



U Aung Win and Sai Sai Kham Hlaing



Saw Moe San and Phyu Sin Thant

**Car company award ceremony**  
Dongfeng Motor Corporation (DFM) named Sai Sai Khan Hlaing its brand ambassador at a reception at Inya Lake Hotel on October 6.



Thazin Nwe Win



Thant Zin Win



Thandar Maung, Clorie and Kaythi



Yoon Mi Mi Mg and Anna



Ko Yaw Han, Ma Khin Kyu Kyu Soe's family



Miss Myanmar World 2014 candidates



The Greenlee family

# TUBORG

## FUN GUIDE

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DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A1	1,2,3,4,5	7:15	8:15
FMI B1	1,2,3,4,5	10:45	11:45
FMI C1	1,2,3,4,5	17:00	18:00

YANGON TO MANDALAY			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 909	1,2,3,4,6	6:00	7:40
K7 282	Daily	6:00	8:10
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	6:00	8:05
YH 917	5,7	6:00	7:40
YH 917	1,2,3,4,6	6:10	8:30
Y5 775	Daily	6:15	7:25
6T 401	Daily	6:20	8:30
YJ 891	1,3	6:30	8:35
YH 831	4,6	7:00	8:40
YH 835	1	7:00	12:55
7Y 651	2,5	8:00	12:48
K7 266	Daily	8:00	10:05
7Y 131	Daily	8:10	10:15
YJ 211	5	11:00	12:25
YJ 761	4	11:00	12:25
YJ 201	2	11:00	12:55
YJ 201	1	11:15	12:40
YH 727	1	11:15	13:25
YH 729	2,4,6	11:15	14:15
YH 737	3	11:15	13:25
YH 737	5,7	11:30	13:40
YH 835	7	11:30	13:10
YH 911	2	12:30	14:10
YH 829	5	12:30	14:10
7Y 652	2,5	13:00	17:45
7Y 241	Daily	14:00	15:55
7Y 662	1,3,4,6,7	14:10	18:25
YH 731	Daily	15:00	17:10
Y5 234	Daily	17:45	18:55

YANGON TO NYAUNG U			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	6:00	7:20
K7 282	Daily	6:00	7:20
YH 917	5,7	6:00	8:25
YH 909	1,2,3,4,6	6:00	8:25
YH 917	1,2,3,4,6	6:10	7:45
YH 909	7	6:15	7:50
6T 401	Daily	6:20	7:40
YH 909	5	6:30	8:05
YJ 891	1,3	6:30	7:50
K7 242	Daily	7:00	8:20
7Y 131	Daily	8:10	9:30
7Y 241	Daily	14:00	16:40
YH 731	Daily	15:00	17:55

YANGON TO MYITKYINA			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 835	1	7:00	9:40
YH 831	4,6	7:00	10:35
YJ 211	5	11:00	13:50
YJ 201	2	11:00	14:20
YJ 201	1	11:15	14:05
YH 835	7	11:30	14:35
YH 829	5	12:30	15:35
YH 826	3	14:00	16:40

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A2	1,2,3,4,5	8:35	9:35
FMI B2	1,2,3,4,5	13:30	14:30
FMI C2	1,2,3,4,5	18:20	19:20

MANDALAY TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 910	1,2,3,4,6	7:40	9:45
Y5 233	Daily	8:05	9:15
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	8:20	10:15
K7 282	Daily	8:25	11:30
YH 918	1,2,3,4,6	8:30	10:45
6T 402	Daily	8:45	10:50
YJ 891	1,3	8:50	10:45
YH 918	5,7	9:10	11:05
7Y 661	1,3,4,6,7	9:50	13:55
K7 267	Daily	10:20	12:25
7Y 132	Daily	10:30	12:25
YJ 201	2	13:10	17:25
YH 832	6	13:50	15:15
YH 832	4	14:50	16:25
YJ 202	1	15:45	17:10
YH 836	1	15:45	17:10
YJ 212	5	16:00	17:25
7Y 241	Daily	16:10	18:15
YJ 762	4	16:40	18:05
YH 728	1	16:45	18:10
YH 912	2	17:00	18:55
YH 830	5	17:00	18:25
YH 738	5,7	17:05	19:00
YH 732	Daily	17:10	19:15
YH 738	3	17:25	18:50
YH 836	7	17:50	19:15
YH 738	7	17:55	19:20
YH 730	2,4,6	18:00	19:25
Y5 776	Daily	19:35	20:45

NYAUNG U TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	7:35	10:15
YH 918	1,2,3,4,6	7:45	10:45
6T 401	Daily	7:55	10:50
YJ 891	1,3	8:05	10:45
YH 910	5	8:05	10:10
YH 910	1,2,3,4,6	8:25	9:45
YH 918	5,7	8:25	11:05
K7 242	Daily	8:35	11:45
YH 910	7	9:40	11:00
7Y 132	Daily	9:45	12:25
K7 283	Daily	10:10	11:30
7Y 242	Daily	16:55	18:15
YH 732	Daily	17:55	19:15

MYITKYINA TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 661	1,3,4,6,7	8:25	13:55
YH 832	6	12:25	15:15
YH 832	4	13:25	16:25
YJ 212	5	14:05	17:25
YH 836	1	14:20	17:10
YJ 202	1	14:20	17:10
YJ 202	2	14:35	17:25
YH 836	7	16:25	19:15
YH 830	5	15:35	18:25
YH 827	3	16:40	19:05

YANGON TO HEHO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	6:00	8:50
K7 282	Daily	6:00	9:00
YH 917	5,7	6:00	9:55
YH 917	1,2,3,4,6	6:10	9:35
6T 401	Daily	6:20	9:20
YH 909	5	6:30	9:00
YJ 891	1,3	6:30	9:20
K7 242	Daily	7:00	9:15
K7 266	Daily	8:00	9:15
7Y 131	Daily	8:10	11:00
YH 505	1,2,3,4,5,6	10:30	11:55
YJ 201	2	11:00	12:10
YJ 761	4	11:00	13:10
YJ 751	3	11:15	12:25
YH 727	1	11:15	12:40
YH 737	3	11:15	12:40
YH 737	5,7	11:30	12:55
YH 911	2	12:30	17:45
7Y 652	2,5	13:00	17:03
7Y 241	Daily	14:00	15:10
7Y 662	1,3,4,6,7	14:10	17:40
YH 731	Daily	15:00	16:25

YANGON TO MYEIK			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 633	3,7	7:00	9:15

YANGON TO SITTWE			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 605	Daily	11:15	13:10
K7 422	Daily	13:00	14:55

YANGON TO THANDWE			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
K7 242	Daily	7:00	10:35
YH 505	1,2,3,4,5,6	10:30	13:10
6T 605	Daily	11:15	12:10
K7 422	Daily	13:00	13:35

YANGON TO DAWEI			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 633	2,5	6:30	7:55
YH 633	3,7	7:00	8:25

YANGON TO LASHIO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YJ 751	3	11:15	13:30
YH 729	2,4,6	11:15	13:15
7Y 652	2,5	13:00	14:38

YANGON TO PUTAO			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 831	6	7:00	11:30
YH 835	1	7:00	10:35
YH 835	7	11:30	15:30

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
WV9 9607/ YJ 7607	4,7	14:20	16:10

HEHO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 651	2,5	8:45	12:48
YH 910	5	9:00	10:10
YJ 891	2,4,5,6,7	9:05	10:15
K7 283	Daily	9:15	11:30
K7 243	Daily	9:30	11:45
YH 918	1,2,3,4,6	9:35	10:45
6T 402	Daily	9:35	10:50
YJ 891	1,3	9:35	10:45
YH 918	5,7	9:55	11:05
7Y 132	1,3,4,6,7	10:35	13:55
K7 267	Daily	11:10	12:25
7Y 661	Daily	11:15	12:25
YH 506	1,2,3,4,5,6	11:55	14:00
YJ 201	2	12:25	17:25
7Y 241	Daily	15:25	18:15
YJ 762	4	15:55	18:05
YH 728	1	16:00	18:10
YH 732	Daily	16:25	19:15
YH 738	3	16:40	18:50
YJ 752	3	17:30	18:40
YH 912	2	17:45	18:55
YH 738	5,7	17:50	19:00

MYEIK TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 634	3,7	11:25	13:25

SITTWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
6T 606	Daily	13:30	14:50
K7 423	Daily	15:10	16:30

THANDWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
K7 243	Daily	10:50	11:45
6T 605	Daily	12:25	14:50
YH 506	1,2,3,4,5,6	13:10	14:00
K7 423	Daily	14:10	16:30

DAWEI TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 634	2,5	10:45	11:55
YH 634	3,7	12:15	13:25

LASHIO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 651	2,5	11:10	12:48
YJ 752	3	16:25	18:40
YH 730	2,4,6	17:00	19:25

PUTAO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 836	1	10:35	17:10
YH 832	6	11:30	15:15
YH 836	7	15:30	19:15

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
WV9 9608/ YJ 7608	4,7	17:20	18:10

Domestic Airlines

**Air Bagan (W9)**  
Tel: 513322, 513422, 504888. Fax: 515102

**Air KBZ (K7)**  
Tel: 372977-80, 533030-39 (airport), 373766 (hotline). Fax: 372983

**Air Mandalay (6T)**  
Tel: (office) 501520, 525488, (airport) 533222-3, 09-73152853.  
Fax: (office) 525937, 533223 (airport)

**Asian Wings (YJ)**  
Tel: 515261-264, 512140, 512473, 512640  
Fax: 532333, 516654

**FMI Air Charter**  
Tel: 240363, 240373, 09421146545

**Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5)**  
Tel: 09400446999, 09400447999  
Fax: 8604051

**Mann Yadanarpon Airlines (7Y)**  
Tel: 656969  
Fax: 656998, 651020

**Yangon Airways (YH)**  
Tel: 383100, 383107, 700264  
Fax: 652 533

Airline Codes

6T = Air Mandalay  
7Y = Mann Yadanarpon Airlines  
FMI = FMI Air Charter  
K7 = Air KBZ  
W9 = Air Bagan  
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines  
YH = Yangon Airways  
YJ = Asian Wings

Subject to change  
without notice

**Day**  
1 = Monday  
2 = Tuesday  
3 = Wednesday  
4 = Thursday  
5 = Friday  
6 = Saturday  
7 = Sunday

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO BANGKOK			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 706	Daily	6:15	8:30
8M 335	Daily	7:40	9:25
TG 304	Daily	9:50	11:45
PG 702	Daily	10:30	12:25
TG 302	Daily	14:55	16:50
PG 708	Daily	15:20	17:15
8M 331	Daily	16:30	18:15
PG 704	Daily	18:20	20:15
TG 306	Daily	19:45	21:45

YANGON TO DON MUEANG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4231	Daily	8:00	9:50
FD 252	Daily	8:30	10:15
FD 254	Daily	17:30	19:10
DD 4239	Daily	21:00	22:45

YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
Y5 233	Daily	10:10	14:40
SQ 997	Daily	10:35	15:10
3K 582	Daily	11:20	15:50
8M 231	Daily	12:45	17:10
MI 533	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	1,5	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	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 GUANGZHOU			
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	Daily	10:50	16:15

YANGON TO KUNMING			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
CA 906	Daily	12:15	15:55
MU 2012	3	12:20	18:25
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	8:00	11:10

YANGON TO PHNOM PENH			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr

YANGON TO SEOUL			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
OZ 770	4,7	0:35	9:10
KE 472	Daily	23:35	7:50

YANGON TO HONG KONG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
KA 251	Daily	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	4	19:45	21:00
BG 061	1	21:45	23:00

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 MUEANG			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
FD 245	1,2,4,6	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
PG 722	1,2,3,4,5	19:30	22:30

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
TG 303	Daily	7:55	8:50
PG 701	Daily	8:50	9:40
8M 336	Daily	10:40	11:25
TG 301	Daily	13:00	13:55
PG 707	Daily	13:40	14:30
PG 703	Daily	16:45	17:35
TG 305	Daily	17:50	18:45
8M 332	Daily	19:15	20:00
PG 705	Daily	20:15	21:30

DON MUEANG TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
DD 4230	Daily	6:20	7:05
FD 251	Daily	7:15	8:00
FD 253	Daily	16:20	17:00
DD 4238	Daily	19:30	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	4,6	11:35	12:55
MI 518	Daily	14:20	15:45
TR 2826	Daily	17:05	18:25
Y5 234	Daily	15:35	17:05
8M 232	Daily	18:15	19:40

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	1,5	12:50	13:50
8M 9507	Daily	13:30	14:40
MH 742	Daily	13:30	14:40
AK 502	Daily	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	Daily	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	20:20	6:25+1

PHNOM PENH TO YANGON			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 9006	1,3,6	16:00	17:30

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	Daily	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	4	16:30	18:45
BG 060	1	18:30	20:45

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	1,2,4,6	10:50	12:15

KUNMING TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
MU 2029	Daily	13:55	13:50
MU 7524	1,3,5	18:20	21:00

GAYA TO MANDALAY			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
8M 604	4	13:15	16:20

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW			
Flights	Days	Dep	Arr
PG 721	1,2,3,4,5	17:00	19:00

International Airlines

<b>Air Asia (FD)</b> Tel: 09254049991-3
<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, 255265. Fax: 255119
<b>Biman Bangladesh Airlines (BG)</b> Tel: 371867-68. Fax: 371869
<b>Condor (DE)</b> Tel: 370836-39 [ext: 303]
<b>Dragonair (KA)</b> Tel: 255320, 255321. Fax: 255329
<b>Golden Myanmar Airlines (Y5)</b> Tel: 09400446999, 09400447999 Fax: 8604051
<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>Nok Airline (DD)</b> Tel: 255050, 255021. Fax: 255051
<b>Qatar Airways (QR)</b> Tel: 379845, 379843, 379831. Fax: 379730
<b>Singapore Airlines (SQ) / Silk Air (MI)</b> Tel: 255287-9. Fax: 255290
<b>Thai Airways (TG)</b> Tel: 255491-6. Fax: 255223
<b>Tiger Airline (TR)</b> Tel: 371383, 370836-39 [ext: 303]
<b>Vietnam Airlines (VN)</b> Tel: 255066, 255088, 255068. Fax: 255086

Airline Codes			
3K = Jet Star			
8M = Myanmar Airways International			
AK = Air Asia			
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines			
CA = Air China			
CI = China Airlines			
CZ = China Southern			
DD = Nok Airline			
FD = Air Asia			
KA = Dragonair			
KE = Korea Airlines			
MH = Malaysia Airlines			
MI = Silk Air			
MU = China Eastern Airlines			
NH = All Nippon Airways			
PG = Bangkok Airways			
QR = Qatar Airways			
SQ = Singapore Airways			
TG = Thai Airways			
TR = Tiger Airline			
VN = Vietnam Airline			
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines			
Subject to change without notice			

<b>Day</b>	<b>4 = Thursday</b>
1 = Monday	5 = Friday
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday



An office worker strolls on a normally traffic-clogged highway in Hong Kong. Photo: AFP/Philippe Lopez

A new vision for Hong Kong? Protest site becomes traffic-free oasis

LAURA MANNERING DENNIS CHONG

PEDESTRIAN streets, al fresco art, urban picnic zones and recycling points have become part of the landscape in central Hong Kong as a result of mass protests – and some residents would like to keep it that way, regardless of their politics.

The student-led democracy movement that has taken over parts of the city for nearly three weeks has left traffic gridlocked, commuters irate and businesses complaining of lost trade due to road closures and diversions. But while daily life has been disrupted, some are now taking advantage of the kilometre-long sweep of highway running through the centre of Hong Kong, which is now traffic-free.

As protest leaders and government officials make slow progress on talks and some students return to school or university, the numbers of demonstrators in the central district of Admiralty have dwindled to a few hundred in the past few days – making room for joggers, cyclists and lunching office workers enjoying a break from traffic noise and fumes. “It’s actually like a huge massive exhibition space. I think the whole thing is disruptive, but as an idea it would be nice to have more space for pedestrians,” said one 30-year-old who works in the fashion industry and gave her name as Lucy.

“The city has got a little bit unbearable because it’s too packed. This is actually quite nice and peaceful,” she said, taking an early morning walk along the road where birdsong is now louder than the urban hum.

Cyclist George Adams, 56, questioned why



Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

HOLDING BACK By George Pompey

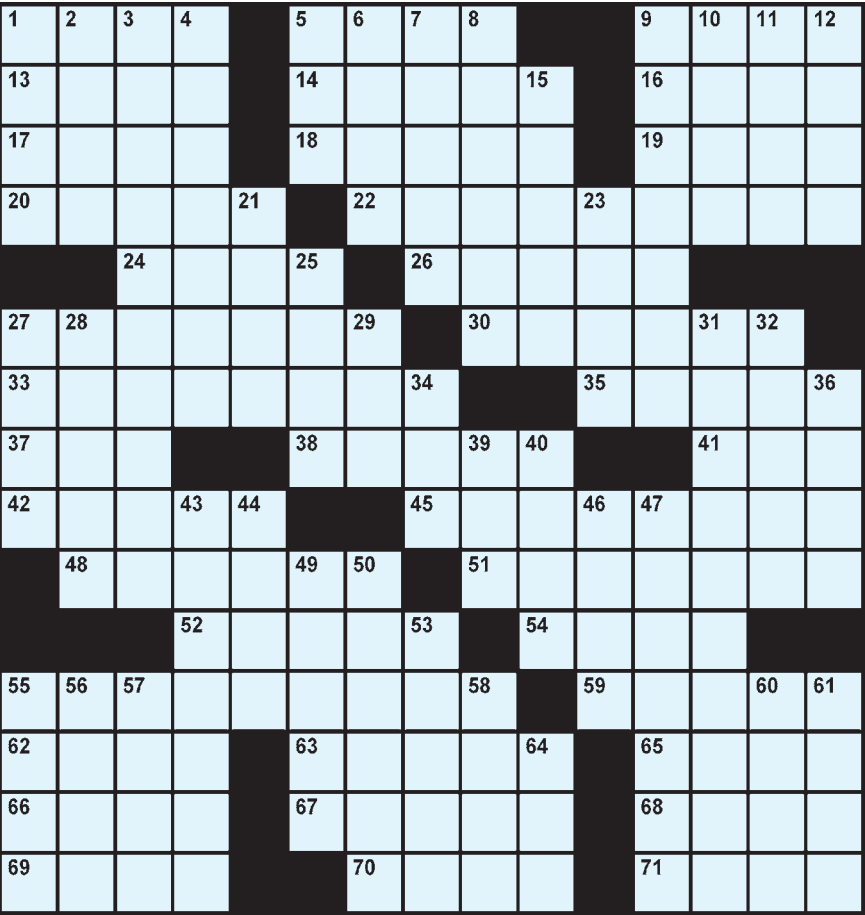
ACROSS

- 1 Inflatable item
- 5 Biological pouches
- 9 "\_\_\_ right up!"
- 13 Horrible boss
- 14 Like Utopia
- 16 Allowance for weight
- 17 Quiz option, often
- 18 Saucy condiment
- 19 Leave the stage
- 20 Not well-thought-out
- 22 Deters
- 24 Bad joke's sound?
- 26 Kind of palm or nut
- 27 Back payments
- 30 Ocean bottoms
- 33 Japanese delicacy
- 35 Mold
- 37 Well-chosen
- 38 Exercise, as power
- 41 New Zealand bird, once
- 42 Iron
- 45 Anxiety may be a symptom of it
- 48 Ruby's live-TV victim
- 51 With expertise
- 52 Sign after Pisces
- 54 "... happily \_\_\_ after"
- 55 Rates racehorses
- 59 Crops, as a snapshot
- 62 Certain newspaper piece
- 63 "Put two and two together," e.g.
- 65 Click, as the fingers
- 66 Act the crybaby
- 67 Aquarium beauty
- 68 Homely fruit?
- 69 Scot's language
- 70 Must have
- 71 Quieter "Looky here!"

DOWN

- 1 IRA type
- 2 Taj Mahal town

- 3 Gets one's goat
- 4 Cuts canines
- 5 Nickname within the family
- 6 Jewish month before Nisan
- 7 Paparazzi target, briefly
- 8 Spoke impudently to
- 9 Bomber attribute
- 10 It's hailed by city dwellers
- 11 "\_\_\_ go brag!"
- 12 Hamsters, often
- 15 Cafe concoction
- 21 Chinese river
- 23 Exercise units
- 25 Audience attracter
- 27 Pronto
- 28 Copy
- 29 Enjoy the bunny slope
- 31 Renders powerless
- 32 Baby
- 34 When dark comes o'er the land "\_\_\_ does it"
- 36 "\_\_\_ does it"
- 39 Grassy field
- 40 Kind of ranch
- 43 Wrap tightly with a blanket
- 44 Calcutta dress
- 46 Info from a tachometer
- 47 Speaks freely and candidly
- 49 According to law
- 50 Apply novocaine to
- 53 Acrimony
- 55 "Where the heart is"
- 56 Impersonator
- 57 Kind of wire
- 58 Like some losers
- 60 Coterie components
- 61 Barbecue utensil
- 64 Like some scientists



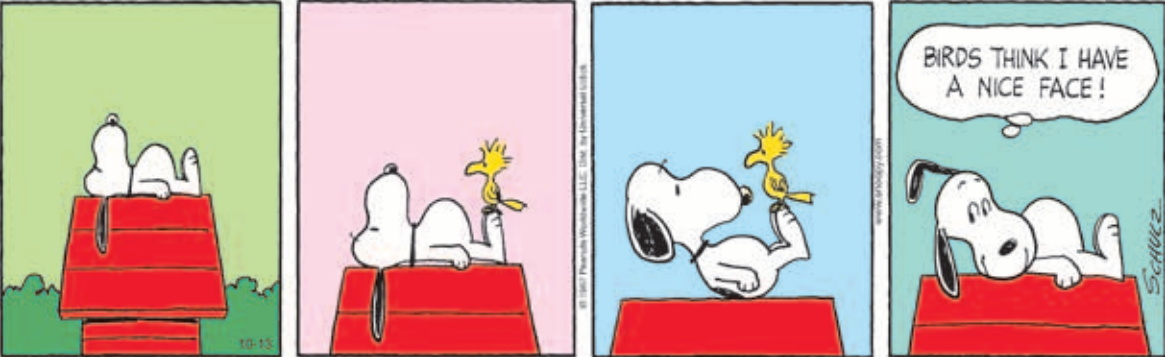
DILBERT

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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.



10/16

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.

REMEMBER MICHAEL JACKSON'S MUSIC

Solution: 8 letters



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10/13

Alone, Beat It, Best, Billie Jean, Black or White, Break Of Dawn, Butterflies, Care, Dance, Eating Alive, Father, Friends, Girl, Happy, Heal, Heartbreaker, Hold, Human Nature, Invincible, Jive, Love, Mine, Moonwalk, Morning, News, Off the Wall, Paris, Prince, Remember, Rock, Say Say Say, Smile, Streetwalker, Time, Together, Whatever, World

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**Bangladesh** 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. Tel: 515275, 526144, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

**Brazil** 56, Pyay Road, 6<sup>th</sup> mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 507225, 507251. email: Administ. yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

**Brunei** 17, Kanbawza Avenue, Golden Velly (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 566985, 503978. email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

**Cambodia** 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 549609, 540964. email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

**Canada** 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.

**Denmark**, No.7, Pyi Thu St, Pyay Rd, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 01 – 9669520 – 17.

**Egypt** 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 222886, 222887, Egyptembassy86@gmail.com

**France** 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 212178, 212520, email: ambaf rance. rangoun@diplomatie.fr

**Germany** 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 548951, 548952, email: info@rangun. diplo.de

**India** 545-547, Merchant St, Yangon. Tel: 391219, 388412, email:indiaembassy @mptmail.net.mm

**Indonesia** 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Rd, Yangon. Tel: 254465, 254469, email: kukygn @indonesia.com. mm

**Israel** 15, Khabauing 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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**Laos** A-1, Diplomatic Quarters, Tawwin Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 222482, Fax: 227446, email: Laoembcab@mptmail.net.mm

**Malaysia** 82, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. Tel: 220248, 220249, email: mwkyangon@mptmail.net.mm

**Nepal** 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. Tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb @mptmail.net.mm

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**Netherlands** 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

**Saudi Arabia** No.6/S, Inya Yeiktha St, 10<sup>th</sup> Qtr, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon, Tel: (951) 652-344, 652-344, Fax: (951) 657-983

**Russia** 38, Sagawa Rd, Yangon. Tel: 241955, 254161,

**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@dmofat.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

**Turkey** 19AB, Kan Yeik Thar St, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 662992, Fax : 661365

**United Kingdom** 80 Strand Rd, Yangon. Tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, Tel : 662992, Fax : 661365

**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

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**ILO Liaison** 1-A, Kanbae (Thitsar Rd), Yankin Tsp, Tel : 01-566538, 566539

**IOM** 318 (A) Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel – 01-210588, 09 73236679, 0973236680, Email- iomyangon@iom.int

**UNAIDS** 137/1, Thaw Wun Rd, Kamayut Tsp. Tel : 534498, 504832

**UNDCP** 11-A, Malikha St, Mayangone tsp. Tel: 666903, 664539.

**UNDP** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tel: 542910-19. fax: 292739.

**UNFPA** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tsp. tel: 546029.

**UNHCR** 287, Pyay Rd, Sanchaung tsp. Tel: 524022, 524024.

**UNIAP** Rm: 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. Tel: 254852, 254853.

**UNIC** 6, Natmauk St., Bahan, tel: 52910-19

**UNICEF** 14-15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, Kyauktada. Tel: 375527-32, unicef.yangon@unicef.org.

**UNODC** 11-A, Malikha Rd., Ward 7, Mayangone. tel: 01-9666903, 9660556, 9660538, 9660398. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org

**UNOPS** 120/0, Pyi Thu Lane, 7 Miles, Mayangone Tsp. Tel: 951-657281-7. Fax: 657279.

**UNRC** 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE Tel: 542911-19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator),

**WFP** 5 Kan Baw Za St, Shwe Taung Kyar, (Golden Valley), Bahan Tsp. Tel : 2305971-6

**WHO** No. 2, Pyay Rd, 7 Mile, Mayangone Tsp, Tel : 650405-6, 650416, 654386-90.

**ASEAN** Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Tsp. Tel: 225258.

**FAO** Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673.

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### ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS



#### ASIA PLAZA HOTEL YANGON

No. 277, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Corner of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : (951) 391070, 391071. Reservation@391070 (Ext) 1910, 106. Fax : (951) 391375. Email : hotelasiaplaza@gmail.com

#### Avenue 64 Hotel

No. 64 (G), Kytewine Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 09-8631392, 01 656913-9



#### BEST WESTERN Green Hill Hotel

No. 12, Pho Sein Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon Tel : (95-1) 209299, 209300, 209343 Fax : (95-1) 209344 bestwestern.com/ greenhillhotelyangon.com

#### Chatrium Hotel

40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe. tel: 544500. fax: 544400.



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

4, Shweli Rd, Bet: Inya Rd & U Wisara Rd, Kamaryut, tel: 525781, 526872



No. (356/366), Kyaikkasan 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 Grand United (Chinatown)

621, Maharbandoola Rd, Latha Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (95-1) 372256-58

#### (21<sup>st</sup> Downtown)

66-70, 21<sup>st</sup> Street (Enter from Strand Rd), Latha Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (95-1) 378201

#### (Ahlone Branch)

35, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Rd, Ahlone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (95-1) 218061-64; Email: grandunited. head@gmail.com, www. hotelgrandunited.com

#### Hotel Yangon

91/93, 8<sup>th</sup> Mile Junction, Tel : 01-667708, 667688.



186, Lu Nge Thitsar Street, on Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: +951-8550 283, +951-8550 284, +959-2540 63632, E-mail: enquiry@hotelyankin.com, www.hotelyankin.com

#### 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



No.1, Wut Kyaung St, Yay Kyaw, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 01-8610640, 01-202187, www.mkhotelyangon.com

#### MGM Hotel No (160), Warden

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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.



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#### Savoy Hotel

129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp. tel: 526289, 526298,

#### Sedona Hotel

Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

#### Strand Hotel

92 Strand Rd. tel: 243377. fax: 289880.

#### Summit Parkview Hotel

350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966.

#### Sule Shangri-La Hotel

223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.

#### Windsor Hotel No.31, Shin

Saw Pu Street, Sanchaung, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 95-1-511216-8, www. hotelwindsoryangon.com

#### Winner Inn

42, Than Lwin Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 503734, 524387. email: reservation@winner innmyanmar.com

#### Yuzana Hotel

130, Shwegondaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, tel : 01-549600

#### Yuzana Garden Hotel

44, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, tel : 01-248944



#### VINTAGE LUXURY YACHT HOTEL

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### ACCOMMODATION LONG TERM

#### Golden Hill Towers

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#### Marina Residence

8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 6506 51-4. fax: 650630.



#### MiCasa Hotel Apartments YANGON MYANMAR

17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. Tel: 650933. Fax: 650960. Email : micprmi@myanmar.com.mmwww. myanmarmicasahotel.com

#### Sakura Residence

9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

For more information about these listings, Please Contact - [classified.mcm@gmail.com](mailto:classified.mcm@gmail.com)

## Emergency Numbers

Ambulance ☎tel: 295133.  
 Fire ☎tel: 191, 252011, 252022.  
 Police emergency ☎tel: 199.  
 Police headquarters ☎tel: 282541, 284764.  
 Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368  
Traffic Control Branch ☎tel:298651  
Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.  
Immigration ☎tel: 286434.  
Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390  
Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605  
Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.  
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.  
Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.  
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.  
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

### HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.  
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807  
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.  
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.  
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.

Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.  
Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.  
Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.  
Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.  
Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

### ELECTRICITY

Power Station ☎tel:414235

### POST OFFICE

General Post Office  
39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

### YANGON PORT

Shipping (Coastal vessels) ☎tel: 382722

### RAILWAYS

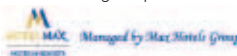
Railways information  
☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.



## ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS (NAY PYI TAW)



**Reservation Office (Yangon)**  
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www.lasourcebeautyspa.com



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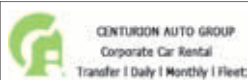
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fax: 524580. email:info@  
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mgr@gmail.com  
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Yangon Int'l Airport.  
• # 87/2, Crn of 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
St, 77<sup>th</sup> St, Chan Aye Thar  
Zan Tsp, Mandalay.  
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gmail.com,

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nwetapintrading@gmail.com

## COMPUTER



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254296248, 09 254249629.  
[Mdy Ph: 09 73103051,  
73103052] www.pqi-group.  
com, www.royal-  
ayeyarwaddy. com



**Royal Ayeyarwaddy  
Co.,Ltd.**  
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394494 , 09-421132002,  
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Fax: (95-1) 650306.  
Email: zamilsteel@  
zamilsteel.com.mm

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www.thuraswiss.com

## CO WORKING SPACE



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## CROCKERY



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**PHYSICS** **HOME** Tution, Saya U Myint Thein, Physics, Yangon University. Sule Pagoda Rd, Kyauktada, Yangon. (Since 1984) Ph: 09 730 52859. Email: umtedu@gmail.com

**SAT, TOEFL**, Study in USA Connect Institute. Improve critical thinking and English skills, win scholarships and study in US colleges. Learn and consult with our US graduates. Come check out our free Discussion in English every Sunday 9-11 am. Call 09-255-959-944 or email at info@connect.com.mm. MGW Tower, Rm 503, Lower Bo Aung Kyaw St, Botahtaung, Yangon

**MATHEMATICS**, Is your child from ILBC,

YIS, ISY, ISM, Yangon Academy, MIS, MISY, SIS, PISM, ALBA, DSY or all international schools (KG to Sec 3 or Grade 9) weak in Maths, doesn't understand problem solving, no one can help him or her in practicing or learning? If your child is willing to learn & practise, I will teach him or her to develop the required skills to improve in Maths from present situation. Please contact and come to Daw Naing Naing Aung, B.Com (Q), No. (6), Thuketa St, Bauktaw, Yankin. Ph: 09-500-4993, 544594.

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**GOLDEN LAND** Real Estate : For sale, buy & rent, Pls contact to Ph: 3940532, 09-730-08848, 3920853

**I DO** translate English ~ Myanmar & Myanmar ~ English and also teach Myanmar language (4 skills) for foreigners. If you want to contact, call me, Katherine Ph: 09-516-8697.

**REGISTERED** Tourist guide in English, French is available for immediate appointment, please ring 09-3019-9028.

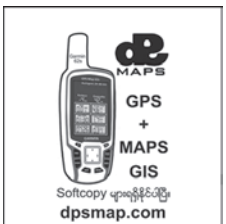
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#### For Rent

**COLD STORAGE** 100 M/T capacity situated at Hlaing Thar Yar Industrial area at reasonable rate. Please Contact: 682011, 685846, 09-500-8845, 09-500-8843.

#### For Sale



No. 165/ 167, 35<sup>th</sup> St, (Mid), KTDA Tsp, Ygn. Tel: 20 40 20, 24 52 30, 09 50-30177, facebook.com/ DPSMyanmar

**SAMSUNG** Galaxy SII, GT-I9100T (14GB, Black) No Error + 2 Cover. Price : 110,000 Kyats. Ph: 09-2500-80324.

**SAMSUNG GALAXY** Tablet 7.7. With phone, 3G. Similar to current Samsung Note 8, which costs USD 380. Two years old. Price USD 150 or offer. Phone 10 AM, Mr Ansar, Rm 503, Ph: 01-246030, 242094.

**HARLEY-REGA** Motorcycle built in Japan 1950 years. Rare Motorcycle USD - 7500. Ph: 09-505-4880

**HONDA FIT** 2009 Model, GE-6, 1300 CC, (White), Auto Gear, 1H/3--- (YGN), 99 lakhs, Ph: 09-312-87827.

**CAMERA** from Singapore, used Nikon D-7000, Canon 60D, 600D, 550 D, 450D & Fujifilm S 9100 cameras for sale. Ph: 09-512-8713

#### Language

**FRENCH**, 4 skills & spoken French, Home visit & intensive classes. Daw Oo Oo A Zin, B.A (French) (Y.U.F.L), DALF & DELF (Dip of Alliance Francaise) Ph: 01-450775, 09-8611-813.

**I AM** a Professional Japanese and English

Translator and Teacher based in Yangon. I am Certified with B.A (JAP) MUFL with JLPT Level 2 and IELTS with Band 7. I have 4 years of experience in Freelance Japanese translation, interpretation and teaching. Please do not hesitate to contact me for an evaluation. I have many foreign students such as Japanese and Indians and I use all the reference that is base on language learning. For more information, please contact me to 09-4283-50386 and email me to jasmine5842@gmail.com.

**I'M AN** experienced Chinese (Mandarin) teacher here in Yangon, Myanmar. I have over 6 years teaching in Singapore. Please do not hesitate to contact me for an evaluation. I'm a professional teacher who will help you improve your speaking, reading and writing skills. I use Singaporean text books and Chinese speaking/ conversation books for teaching speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin. I'm available Monday-Sunday with a flexible schedule. I also teach Myanmar language to all Foreigners. For more details please call the number below. If I don't answer please send me a SMS and I will get back to you as soon as possible. May: 095-9-516-2988.

curriculum based on your particular needs. Email: steffanilorraine@gmail.com

**TEACHING** Myanmar language for foreigners Near Myay Ni Gone City Mart, Sanchaung. Ph: 09-4200-30782.

**TEACHING** English for adults Near Myay Ni Gone City Mart, Sanchaung. Ph: 09-4200-30782

**WE DO** teach Myanmar language 4 skills for Foreigners by Teacher TUN. Available home & group class. Basic Class - 3 months, Intermediate Class- 3 months, Advanced Class- 3 months. English for adults and young learners. We do teach 4 skills face or group class. Available home tuition or group class. Chinese language for all grades & classes. Taiwan Teacher Mr. Lin; William Lin (BM, IDCS (UK), TW Civil (Taiwan), USB Accounting, Yunan Uni Dip (China)) teach 4 skills to be a native speaker. Intend to go abroad study or work students. Can contact us. Basic Class - 3 months, Intermediate Class- 4 months, Advanced Class- 6 months, Super Advanced Class- 6 months. We do service of interpreting Chinese- Myanmar service. Japanese for all students who want to go to Japan for work or study. We do teach 4 skills and

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**TESUAN** Travel & Tour, Travel Agent License: Kha-2375, Tour programs - Yangon & Environs 1 Day Tour. Yangon & Pyu city Package Tour. Yangon-Golden Rock Optional Tour. Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour, Adventure & Eco Tour, Hotel & Air Ticket Reservation, Car Rental & Travel Insurance, Office: 3/B, Ground Flr, Hledan 1st St, 3rd Qtr, Kamayut, Yangon, Tel: 511298, 09-302-85183, 09-732-38306, Email: tesuantour.co.mm@gmail.com, www.tesuanmyanmar.com

**SWAN SAUNG YEE** Travel & Tours Co., Ltd. Bldg (D/B), Rm (002), Thitsar Residence, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Kyaik Hti Yoe (1N/2D)-80,000/-ks per pax. Chaung Tha (2N/3D)-93,000/-ks per pax. Bagan-Popa (3N/4D)-138,900/-ks per pax. Mandalay-Sa gaing-Innwa-(3N/4D)-156,000/-ks per pax. Ph: 01-562917, 09-8611-864

**TAXI**, Service Near, Parkroyal Hotel, Air Conditioner Car, English Speaking Driver, One hour 5000 kyats, 09-317-75734.

**TRAINED** Domestic Helper available. Knowledge of all household works, including infants and elderly people care. Tel: 09-315-75765, 09-2506-49927.

**MITA** Myanmar Investment, Trade & Technology Conference, Workshop and Exhibition will be held during 25-27 Sept 2014 UMFCCI, Yangon. The Best Conference, Exhibition & Workshop @ Reasonable Fees in Myanmar! for more info, please visit: www.MitaMyanmarInvestmentTradeTechnologyConference.com, Ph: 09420110451, 09-4201-10666, Email: maizar@mitaservices.com.sg

### Property

#### Housing for Rent

**YANKIN**, Thit Sar St, Ground Flr, 25'x50', included Garden, Higher prepair finished, Ph: 09-2510-27176.

**(1). PANSODAN** Condo, 1800sqft, 2-Rooms, 2-Hall, with 2lifts, 2-bath rooms (2). 2RC, Near the Diamond, Kamaryut (3). 1250.sqft, 1MBR, 2BR, with 2 Aircons, Shwe Pone Nyet Yeikmon, Kamaryut (4). Mingalardon industry zone, factory 2RC (100'x100') store (80'x80'). Ph: 09-731-54071, 01-530756.

**BAHAN**, Inya Rd House, 2 RC, Area..3008 sqft, 3MBR, 2SR, 1 living, 1 dinning, 1 praying, 1 kitchen, 1 common toilet, 1 car garage, 2 store room, 1 ph line, AC 6, water heater 5, Internet line, All bedroom are bathroom attached. Price 3000 US\$, quite and power save place. Near by Inya hotel. Ph: 09-512-6285, 09-731-74306.

**OFFICE SPACE TO LET** 3100sqm available over 5 floors in a 12-storey building with car park, restaurant, multifunction hall and apartments. Please contact - Ph : 09-431-34381. Email : office-mm@uniteammarine.com, web : www.facebook.com/officespaceyangon

**BAHAN**, University Rd, University Yeik Mon Condo, Condo (B), 3BR, 1 living room, 1 kitchen room, ph line. 20 lakhs. Ph: 09-512-6285, 09-731-74306.

**HIAING**, Shwehinhthar condo, (1) Tower C1, 2200sqft, 2MBR, 2SR, 6AC, 2 lift, basement car park, generator, fully furnished, USD 5000/ month. (2) Tower B, 2200sqft, 1MBR, 2SR, 5AC, 2 lift, basement car park, generator, fully furnished, USD 5000/ month (3) Tower C2, 2220sqft, 2MBR, 2SR, 6AC, 2 lift, basement car park, generator, fully furnished, USD 6000/ month. Ph: 09-4210-21621, 09-2540-01189.

**OFFICE SUITES** for Lease, Pearl Centre, Bahan Township, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 500-10,000 sq-ft available at affordable rates. Contact: 09 430 30 288 slee888@gmail.com

**HIAING THAR YAR**, (Ware huse & Factory) (1) 11000 sqft, 315 KVA (2) 12000 sqft, 315 KVA on land 2 Acre. Ph: 09-4237-55335.

**ON PYAY ROAD**, 7 mile, single house, land (60 x 90), teak wood ceiling & flooring, 2MBR, 3AC, near Norwegian Embassy & UNOPS, quiet residential area, suitable for expats, USD 2,500. No agent. Ph: 09-515-6769.

**THANGAN GYUN**, Mya Yamon Water Front Villa, 3 Storey with fully furniture, swimming pool, steam room, water fall. For foreiner only. Ph: 320334, 09-510-3207.

**BAHAN**, Near Chatrium Hotel, Po Sein Road, Quiet Surrounding, Small two-storeys house, 3 rooms, with toilet, AC, teak parquet flooring, with cable phone., with wide carparking, with mate room. USD 2500 per month, No brokers

sees, Contact: 09-430-24808, 09-2500-26350. **DAGON**, Near Parkroyal Hotel, Condo with lift, 1250 sqft, 3 AC, fully furnished, with cable phone, 1MBR, 1 SR with balcony, 250 USD per month, Contact: 09-430-24808.

**(1). PANSODAN** Tower 1800 sqft, 2 Rooms, 2-lifts, New building (2). Hledan, Near Diamond Condo, 2RC (3). Mingalardon Industry zone factory, 100'x100', store 80'x80', New building (4). 7 miles, Si Taw Gyi Condo, 3400Sqft, Hall. Ph: 09-731-54071, 514802.

**(1). NEAR PARK ROYAL** Hotel, 1500 Sqft, 2MBR, 1SR, fully furnish, USD 1500 (2). Near Yuzana Plaza, condo, 1700Sqft, 1MBR, 2 SR, fully furnish, USD 2300. (3). Near Kandaw Gyi Park, condo, 1500 Sqft, 1MBR, 1SR, 1500 USD. (4). Near Kabaraye Pagoda, Ga Mon Pwint condo, 1800 Sqft, 2MBR, 1SR, fully furnish USD 4000. Ph : 09-4921-4276, 09-4211-77105

**MYAY NIGONE**, Sanchaung, Min St, First Flr, All furniture. One bed room, one kitchen, one bathroom (The balcony), 1 RC, 1 (month) 600 US, Shan Shan, Ph: 09-731-92603, Moe Hein, Ph: 09-4250-18442.

#### Housing for Sale

**NGAPALI BEACH** Front, Good location, Nice view in Linthar village, Hotel land 1.75 Acre. Contact to 09-204-2457.

**SANCHAUANG**, 5th Floor, Tha Yett Taw St, 12.5' x 50', Hall type, Other Inclusive: Sunshade & Iron Bars on all windows & doors. Negotiable price: MMK 550 Lakhs. Ph: 09-500-2313

**DAGON** Tsp, Fatherland condo, No 51 Boyaryunt St, 1200sqft, 1Toilet, Hall Type, 3000lks. Ph: 09-4210-21621, 09-2540-01189.

**CONDO**, 650 sqft. Star City Building 1. Including Well furnished. Offer price: 1250 lks. Contact: 09-2506-38104 (Aung San Htun)

**CLASSIC STRAND** Condominium suitable for office, 2280 sqft (2,500 sqft with mezzanine), 3rd floor, wide open space, 14 ft ceilings, face river. New building with gym, car park, cafe, facilities. Prime downtown location between Strand Rd and Merchant St, close to strand hotel/union bar. wongyfi@gmail.com. 09-4200-04585, 09-4211-02223, 09-2544-08789.

**CLASSIC STRAND** Condominium suitable for office, 2280 sqft (2,500 sqft with mezzanine), 3rd floor, wide open space, 14 ft ceilings, face river. New building with gym, car park, cafe, facilities. Prime downtown location, close to strand hotel/ union bar. wongyfi@gmail.com. 09-4200-04585, 09-4211-02223, 09254408789

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1. House with 5 beds, 5 toilets, store and servant's room, separate drawing room and spacious dinning, minimum built up area-7,000, sqft land area 10,000 sqft.
  2. House with 4 beds, 4 toilets, living-dinning room, built up area 2500-3000 sqft.
  3. A flat with 2200-2500 sqft with 4 bed rooms and 4 toilets.
  4. A flat with 1600-1800 sqft with 3 bed rooms and 3 toilets.
- Only interested owners are requested to contact: @ 09 51 66731, 092 5335 2033

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Employment

Embassy Position

**ROYAL EMBASSY** of Cambodia is seeking **Secretary** 1 post. Interested persons should send an application letter with a current CV, 2ID photos, recommendation letters and educational certificate copies. 25(3B/4B) New University Avenue, Bahan, Yangon. Ph:951-549-609, 540-964. E-mail:camemb.mmr@mfa.gov.kh

Ingo Position

**AMD** is seeking **Assistant Project Coordinator** for Namtu at Lashio Field Office. Qualifications: Minimum of bachelor's degree in health related discipline or an equivalent combination of relevant education and experience. Minimum of 3 years relevant professional experience in a similar role, preferably in the INGO sector. Excellent command of spoken and written English and Myanmar, knowledge of Shan is an asset. Strong computer skill (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.). Interested applicants should apply by sending a cover letter, CV with two references and a recent passport-sized photograph to the following address not later than 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 (Thursday) 17:00. To: Senior Officer, Admin/ Finance Unit, AMD Myanmar Country Office, No.73/A (1), University Avenue Road, Golden valley (1), Bahan Township, Yangon. Tel: 513224, E-mail: srafo. amda@gmail.com

**PSI/Myanmar** is looking for an **Internal Audit Manager / Senior Manager**. The Internal Audit Manager/Sr. Manager will be to work under the supervision of the Senior Director of Admin and Finance and the main responsibilities are; Assessing PSI/ Myanmar compliance with both PSI's and local policies and with certain key donor requirements; Supporting & performing investigations into suspected fraud; Identifying process and control improvements required to address any identified weaknesses; Developing an annual internal audit plan which support monitoring compliance with PSI and donor and local legal requirements based on risk prioritization, and including both PSI/Myanmar's local operation & sub-awardees; Perform internal audits of PSI/ Myanmar's operations in line with the agreed annual plan to assess the effectiveness of PSI/Myanmar internal controls and compliance with PSI/Myanmar's policies and procedures; Identify control weakness and areas of actual or potential non-compliance with PSI and donor requirements and summarize these in an internal audit report, containing observations and internal control and procedural improvement recommendations; Monitor the implementation status of recommendations made by PSI/Myanmar's internal audit team, PSI's Global Internal Auditors, donor auditors, financial statement external auditors, and other audit recommendations as applicable; Support and report key risk and compliance issues to Senior Management Team; He/She must be B.Com, C.P.A and should be at least three years post qualification experience in internal

or external audit. Computer literacy and familiarity with excel and QuickBooks would be beneficial. If you are interested in the above position, please send your CV and Cover letter to the following address not later than 20th October 2014. PSI/ Myanmar Headquarters: 16, West Shwe Gone Dine 4th St, Bahan, Yangon. Ph: 01- 375 854, 01- 375 855, 01- 375 856, 01- 375 857, 01- 375 858. Email: hr@psimyanmar.org.

**THE INT'L Rescue Committee (IRC)** is seeking (1)**Project Manager** 1 post in Hpa-An, Kayin State: Higher education degree in Law, Int'l Law, Human Rights, Int'l Affairs or other related field. 3 years of professional experience in related work, community mobilization. Fluency in English. (2) **PHC Medical Doctor** (Senior) - 2 posts in Sittwe: Registered medical doctor (M.B., B.S degree) with 3 years experience on primary health care settings and clinic management. Good English languages skill. Good practice on MS word & excel. Please submit a Cover letter & CV to the HR Department by email at: WaiMar. Naing@rescue.org or by delivery to the IRC office : 33/A, Natmauk Lane Thwe (1), Bocho (2) Quarter, Bahan, Yangon. Closing date : for (1) 16th October, for (2) 17th October 2014.

**MYANMAR Red Cross Society** is seeking **Program Officer** 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: Myanmar National. University graduate. Effective computer knowledge (MS Office, Internet). Effective English language skill. 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. Closing date: 20-10-2014.

**CLINTON Health Access Initiative** is seeking **Junior Office Assistant**, who will be based in Nay Pyi Taw: Fluency in Burmese both written & oral. Familiarity with the set up of offices in DoH and MoH. Can reside in Nay Pyi Taw with own arrangement. Can drive in Nay Pyi Taw. Interested candidates are invited to submit CV with a cover letter (in English) by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2014. Please address your application to: xchan@clintonhealthaccess.org

(1)**PROGRAM OFFICER** (CBHFA) 1 Post. Please send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) Yazatingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com. www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org Please mention "Position Title" in subject if you apply.

**THE INT'L Rescue Committee (IRC)** is seeking (1)**Finance Officer** 1 post in Muse, Northern Shan State: University degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Commerce or Finance with a recognized profession certificate in accounting (CPA or equivalent certificate). 3 years of accounting professional experience & 1 year direct supervisory experience. Experience with various PC and financial related software (spreadsheets, accounting packages). Able to communicate effectively in English

& Myanmar. (2)**Field Manager** 1 post in Muse, Northern Shan State : University degree in Management, Community Development or equivalent field. 5 years of senior management experience and/or community development. Fluently in English/ Burmese and excellent report writing skills. Strong Computer skill. Please submit a Cover letter & CV to the HR Department by email at: WaiMar.Naing@rescue.org or by delivery to the IRC office : 33/A, Natmauk Lane Thwe (1), Bocho (2) Quarter, Bahan, Yangon. Closing date : 14 October 2014.

**FONDAZIONE Terre des hommes Italia** (TDH Italia) is seeking **Civil Engineer** (Based in Magway & Mandalay Regions) : Bachelor's or diploma in Civil Engineering. Command of English. Command of Microsoft Office. Please submit application with completed information about current job and expected salary incl. CV, photo, references by email or by postal service to Terre des Hommes Italia Main Office: TDH Italia Main Office: 48, Shwe Hinn Thar St, 11 Ward, Hlaing, Yangon. Tel: 654604, Email: hr.tdhit.mya@gmail.com Closing date: 15-10-2014.

(1)**FIELD SUPERVISOR** (KyaingTone) 1 Post. Please send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) Yazatingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com. www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org Please mention "Position title" in subject if you apply.

**THE Association of Medical Doctors of Asia** is seeking **Medical Coordinator** 1 post in AMDA Laukai Field Office : M.B.B.S, 2 years experience (INGO experience would be an asset). Strong data analysis skills. Good command in English. Strong computer skill. Senior Officer, Admin/ Finance Unit, AMDA Myanmar Program Office, 19/B, Thukhawaddy Rd, Yankin, Yangon. Email: sr.afm.amda@gmail.com.

(1)**BRANCH WASH** Officer (Falam, Mogok, Sagaing, Matupi)- 4 Posts (2)**Field Supervisor** (DeMawSo) - 1 Post (3)**Assistant Field Supervisor** - (LoiKaw) 1 Post (4) **Program Assistant** (Yangon) - 1 Post (5)**M & E Officer** - (Matupi) 1 Post. Please send application letter, CV & related documents to Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) Yazatingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Or mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com. www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org

**Local Positions**

**GOLDEN Myanmar Airlines Public Co., Ltd.** (GMA) is seeking, **Chief Commercial Officer**, Male / Female (1) Post. Requirements: Ideal candidate should be familiar with Regional, Myanmar Aviation and Network Route Planning. Knowledge of designing and improving relevant airline-related commercial processes. Previous experience in Low Cost Carrier would be of advantage. All interested and qualified candidates are invited to submit applications with Cover Letter explaining how education, skills and experience meet

the requirement for the applied position. Detailed and complete curriculum vitae with two passport size photos. Copy of NRC card. Certificate of graduation. All application must be received not later than 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 5:00 PM at GMA office address below:- 3<sup>th</sup> Floor, Saya San Plaza, Corner of New University Avenue and Saya San Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.

**GOLDEN CLOVER Travel** is looking for (1)**Tour Operation Manager** - M 1 Post: At least 5 years of experience in tourism field. (2)**Chief Accountant** - M/F 1 Post: At least 5 years of experience. (3) **Programmer** - M/F (1) Post : At least 5 years of experience in ICT field. For all positions: Any graduate with certificate. English language (Four skills) must be fluent. Good communication and skills social dealing. Computer literate (very good knowledge of Excel/ PowerPoint/ Word/ Internet/ Email) Interested candidate shall submit an application letter, CV with recent photo, Copies of NRC, Educational certificate and other testimonial to Golden Clover Travel & Tours: 48, Rm (E-3), 2nd Floor, Gyar Taw Ya Oat Rd, Shwe Nanthar Quarter, Bahan, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: +95-18603244/45, 0949297848. E-mail: info@goldenclover.com.mm

we are currently seeking for (1).**Restaurant Manager** - M/F 2 posts : 5 ~ 8 years experience (2).**Supervisor** - M/F 2 posts : 4 ~ 8 years experience. (3).**Captain** - M/F 2 posts : 3 ~ 8 years experience (4). **Accountant** - M/F 2 post : 3 ~ 5 years experience (5).**Cashier** - M/F 2 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (6).**Bar Tender** - M3 post : 3 ~ 5 yrs experience (7). **Waiter/Waitress** - M/F 12 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (8).**Sambal Sauce** - M/F 3 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (9).**Tempura** - M/F 2 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (10).**Pastry** - M/F 1 post : 2 ~ 5 years experience (11). **Cook** - M/F 5 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (12) **Wok** - M/F 2 posts : 2 ~ 5 years experience (13). **Restaurant/Kitchen cleaner** - M/F 6 posts : 1 ~ 3 years experience (14). **Laundry** - M/F 2 posts : 1 ~ 3 years experience (15).**Security** - M 4 posts: 3 years experience. For (1)~(5) : Any graduate, Can speak English, Computer literate, For (6) ~ (10) High school passed, Cans speak English. For (11) ~ (15) High school, Please submit CV, Photo with relevant documents to 52, Yaw Min Gyi St, Dagon tsp, 404, 4 Flr, Yaw Min Gyi Condo, Yawmingyi St, Dagon tsp. Ph: 01-393112, 01-393113. Email:sasazu.yangon@gmail.com

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**opportunity in business. Experience in employee career development & training. Well understanding of Organization's aims, values & principles.** Age 30 ~ 40 years. Salary US\$ 1500 – 2000 per month. Please submit recent CV & cover letter (English) to ezytrading@mptmail.net.mm & Cc mail : sengawng86@gmail.co, smilingrebecca2011@gmail.com'. Closing date - 31.10.2014. Ph:09-4211-28700, 09-4311-9985. Apply only who are able to draw the HR constitute plan. When apply, please submit with the attachment file for sample document of HR constitute plan.

**TRAVEL AGENCY** is looking for a **content manager** to build multimedia content and expand social media engagement, with a strong focus on driving traffic to our websites – including Myanmar's premier travel website, Go-Myanmar.com. Other responsibilities will include media relations work & website analytics. Essential skills: fluent written English and a love writing and travel; social media savvy; creative flair and good eye for design, video content & photography. Email CVs to info@go-myanmar.com.

**SASAZU Restaurant** is coming soon in Yangon. Asian/western Fusion in the heart of the city. So

candidates will be employed as service engineers for installation & maintenance of advanced medical equipments including CT scanner. Candidates must: A Bachelor Degree in Electronics or equivalent, Have a good command of written and spoken English, Have good basic knowledge of electronics, Be willing to travel within and aboard Myanmar, Be hard-working and adaptable. Previous working experience is preferable, but not a necessity as the company will provide the necessary training. Interested persons (Male only) can submit their application form along with the C.V and recent photograph to Rm 2-C, Shwe Padauk Condominium, 99/A, Myay Nu St, Sanchaung, Yangon. Ph.01-525748. Within two weeks.

**THE KT GROUP** is seeking enthusiastic and career-driven individuals to join our team for the following positions: (1) **Business Development Analyst** (2)**Executive Assistant to CEO** (3) **Real Estate Marketing Manager** (4)**Real Estate Sales Manager** (5)**HR Manager** (6) **Senior Accountant** (7) **Accountant**. Qualifications & Requirements : Professionally mature, Knowledge of the Yangon Real Estate market, Bachelor's Diploma in Business or Sales & Marketing, MBA preferred, 3-5 years' experience in Sale & Marketing or Business Development, Fluent in English, Knowledge of using MS Office Suite (particularly Word, Excel and PowerPoint), Ability to organize and prioritize tasks from different stakeholders. Please send CV to recruitment@ktgroup.com.

**SALE EXECUTIVE** wanted (For made in USA, Patented Product), Any graduate, 3 posts Age 20~25, Male 1 post, Female 2 posts, Must have result oriented, winner attitude, 2 years sales experience will be advantage, High salary+commission, Email your CV to info.welflex@gmail.com, wynnnpw@gmail.com

**TSC Enterprises** is a Development Consultancy & Professional Property Marketing Firm. We are looking for energetic young professionals to for a number of exciting new property development projects in Yangon for **Sale and Marketing Executives** 10 posts : Degree holder, Proficient in English & Microsoft Office applications, Must possess a pleasant and outgoing personality, Ability to work independently and under pressure, Willing to work on weekends and public holidays, Prior relevant sales experience in property, hospitality or lifestyle industries will be an advantage, Enjoy flexible working hours with attractive compensation in basic salary plus commission and bonuses. Interested candidates are invited to submit resumes in MS word with a recent photograph and expected salaries to info@tscmyanmar.com.

(1)**SALES GIRLS** - F 2 Posts (2)**Accountant** - F 1 Posts : Graduate, neat and tidy person. No need to have experience. Contact here - No. 40 Aug Myay Yadanar St, Thu Mingalar housing, Thingangyun, Yangon. Ph : 09-732-20460, 09-2540-45560.

**AVER ASIA (Myanmar) Ltd** is seeking **Technician**. Able to

communicate in English preferred. Training will be provided for technician. Interested candidates can apply through rebecca.htoo@averasia.com or Office: Unit 514, Hledan Center, Corner of Pyay Rd and Hledan Rd, Kamayut. Tel: 01-2305629, 09-3150-1567.

**BLACKBOX Media & Advertising** is looking for a young & aggressive creative **graphic designer** with good creative concepts and graphic ideas. You will work on a variety of products, including websites, product packaging, exhibitions, corporate identity etc. 2 years related working experience. Ability to interact, communicate and present ideas. Up-to-date with industry leading software and technologies (In Design, Illustrator, Photoshop, Desktop Publishing etc). For immediate employment, interested candidates, please send your resume and expected salary to : blackbox.tp@gmail.com or naychi-mgt@myanmar.com.mm Or call : 09 -506-9346 for an appointment.

**GREEN GLASS Door Marketing Services Co.,Ltd** is seeking(1) **Senior Head Designer** 1 Post : Bachelors degree (or) certificate in a field of study similar to the Responsibilities of this position, A good command of the English language in both writing and speaking. 5 years experience in related field. (2)**Billboard Marketing executive** - M/F 5 Post: Any graduate, English language skills, 3 years experience, Computer use Excel, Word, Powerpoint, Internet, Email, Basic pay K 100,000. Please submit CV with necessary documents to (148/B), 2nd Floor, BogoyokeAung San Rd, Botahtaung, Yangon. Ph : 09-2507-30521, 09-4200-43696. Email: greenglassdoorhrca@gmail.com

**WE ARE** seeking (1) **Waiter/ Waitress** - 5 posts : F & B certificate (2)**Cashier** - 3 posts (3) **Bakery Chef** - 1 post. Please contact to Ph: 09-4210-50413.

**WE ARE** a GERMAN company and we are looking for new employees to be based in our new Yangon Office that we are going to set up very soon! We are looking for **sales Engineers** to fill the following positions. 1. Graphics and Printing Supplies. 2. Food Processing Equipment. 3. Plastic and recycling Equipment. 4. Pharmaceutical Equipment. 5. Building Equipment & Preparation Equipment. 6. Machine Tools & Metal Production Equipment. The candidates should be proficient in English as well as Burmese. Comprehensive training will be given to the right candidates. Please send CV to the following email address.shweyeemg@riekermann.com

**WE ARE** a leading tour company and are looking for 1.) **A sale representative** for Outbound trips to Cambodia 2.) **A junior accountant**. Interested candidates can contact the following details. email: info@enchanted-myanmar.com, Ph: 09-4211-40414, 09-316-09262, 011-221570. Ph/Fax: 01-370-836~9 Ext:806

**ESSENCE** of Myanmar is seeking (1)**Tour Operations Manager** - M/F 1 Post: Any graduate with certificate, 5 years experience in tourism field, English language

(4 skills) Fluent (French language ability will be an advantage), Good communication and skills social dealing, Computer literate (Very good knowledge of Excel/ PowerPoint/ Word/ Internet/ Email), Fully give back the time on the job if necessary many working. (2) **Assistant Tour Operations Manager** - M/F 1 Post : Any graduate with certificate, 2 years experience in tourism field, English language (Four Skills) must be fluent, Good communication and skills social dealing, Computer literate (Very good knowledge of Excel/ PowerPoint/ Word/ Internet/ Email), Fully give back the time on the job if necessary many working. Please submit an application letter, CV with recent photo, copies of NRC. Educ& and other testimonial to : 6 Shwe Gong Daing Rd (Near SSC Women Center) Bahan, Yangon. Tel: 01-8604279 or 01-401589. Email: zani@inspirationmyanmar.com.mm, znb197@gmail.com

**CARDNO EMERGING Markets** has been short listed by the Department of Rural Development to tender for two townships as part of the Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project funded by the World Bank and are looking for Myanmar consultants for the following positions: (1) **Finance Officer** - 2 posts (2)**Procurement Officer** - 2 posts (3)**Monitoring & Evaluation & MIS Officer** 2 posts (4) **Infrastructure & Safeguards Specialist** 2 posts (5)**Social Accountability & Gender Specialist** 2 posts. The two townships that we are bidding for are Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw and Htantabin, Yangon. Cardno Emerging Markets is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to child protection in all fields. Apply with CV and cover letter to cardnorecruitment@icloud.com ASAP.

**SALES GIRLS** - Female 2 posts (2)**Accountant** - Female 1 post : Graduate, neat and tidy person. No need to have experience. Please contact: 40 Aug Myay Yadanar St, Thu Mingalar housing, Thingangyun, Yangon. Ph: 09-732-20460, 09-2540-45560.

**PARKWAY CANCER Centre**, is seeking (1) **Medical Doctor** - F 1 post: M.B.B.S Graduate with SA MA registration, 2 years experience in medical field, Good communication in English, Must be able to use computer, internet and Microsoft application with excellent skills. (2)**Accountant** - F 1 post : A minimum degree from university preferably accounting & marketing background. (LCCI Level - 3 ), Age above 35, Good communication in English, 2 years experience, Able to use computer, internet & Microsoft application with excellent skills. (2)**Accountant** - F 1 post : A minimum degree from university preferably accounting & marketing background. (LCCI Level - 3 ), Age above 35, Good communication in English, 2 years experience, Able to use computer, internet & Microsoft application with excellent skills. (2)**Accountant** - F 1 post : A minimum degree from university preferably accounting & marketing background. 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## LONDON

## Document surfaces outlining Pietersen's misbehaviour

KEVIN Pietersen's monopoly of the airwaves and printed media regarding his claims of bullying in the England cricket team's dressingroom ended abruptly on October 7 with the leaking of an email outlining his poor behaviour on last year's disastrous Ashes series in Australia.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) insisted the email that website Cricinfo had received was not the official dossier compiled by former coach Andy Flower, who has like many others not escaped the wrath of Pietersen in his book.

The ECB said it was an internal email draft drawn up by their lawyers - marked strictly privileged and confidential.

Mevertheless it will not make pleasant reading for the South African-born batsman but will delight those who like former England spinner Graeme Swann and wicketkeeper Matt Prior have been lambasted by Pietersen.

Pietersen's claims that an atmosphere of bullying existed in the dressing room is undermined by one of the observations in the email.

"At the end of the First Test, KP [Pietersen] was awarded a present by the team in recognition of 100<sup>th</sup> Test (as is customary). During his acceptance speech KP stated that 'this is the best England dressing room environment that I have ever experienced,'" reads

the email.

Pietersen's claim of younger players being hectorated and bullied by the bowlers in particular if they were deemed guilty of dropping catches or sloppy fielding also appears to include him in the list of those abusing them according to the email.

"After playing a terrible shot to get out in one of his innings in the Fourth Test, KP returned to the England dressing room and in front of the younger England players, shouted 'you lot are a bunch of useless c\*\*\*s,'" reads the report.

His antipathy toward Swann and disregard for Alastair Cook's captaincy are also laid bare in incidents that apparently took place ahead of the fifth and final Test.

"KP stated that AC [Cook] was weak, tactically inept and that AC's latest effort to galvanise the team was 'pathetic'.

"KP ranted, saying GS is a 'c\*\*\*', cites the email.

His poor attitude is also remarked upon following his dismissal in the final innings of the fifth Test.

"Following KP's second innings dismissal, KP whistled casually on his way back to the pavilion, before coming into the dressing room.

"After the game was lost, KP walked out of the dressing room, saying 'I don't give a f\*\*\*'" - AFP

## NEW YORK



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell holds a press conference on October 8 in New York City. Photo: AFP

# NFL looks to address violence

**N**FL team owners spent five hours on October 8 talking in detail about how to handle domestic violence issues, including what role league commissioner Roger Goodell should have in imposing punishments.

The subject was a major topic for 32 NFL team owners, who received a 40-minute presentation on domestic violence, in the wake of numerous incidents involving players hitting women and children in recent months.

"I would call it a very significant discussion," Goodell said.

No details were revealed about topics or positions as owners hoped to better learn how to handle the subject after sparking public outcry - and ending up reversing decisions - over their response to stars such as Adrian Peterson who face charges.

Questions include whether players should be benched while awaiting legal rulings that could take several months.

That is especially an issue when major evidence of wrongdoing becomes public, as happened to Ray Rice, a former Baltimore rusher now suspended indefinitely after a video was revealed showing him knocking out his then-fiancée in a casino elevator.

In Peterson's case, he was benched for a weekend, reinstated and then given a special paid leave while preparing to defend himself in court against charges of reckless or negli-

gent child injury for spanking his four-year-old son so hard with a stick that it left visible welts for days.

"We take these incidents very seriously. This is unacceptable in any circumstance. It's illegal. I believe the vast majority of our players are great people," Goodell said.

"This isn't a football issue. This is a society issue. All of us must focus on this.

"If we can make some impact on the broader society, fine, but our focus is getting our own house in order."

Owners received an educational presentation on domestic violence that will be shown to every NFL employee over the course of the current season.

"The reaction was very good today. They found it informative and educational," Goodell said.

Goodell said topics on the table included policy change needs; weighing timeliness and fairness; whether or not the NFL should conduct its own investigations and should that method be modified or should law-enforcement agencies be relied upon; and whether or not findings of fact could be used ahead of court verdicts in rendering punishments.

The league also talked about what support services it could offer to family and victims as well as league employees involved in domestic violence.

"We got a lot of feedback from the clubs. Speed, efficiency and fairness are obviously the most important things," Goodell said. "There was a lot of debate and a lot of discussion.

"They understand the balance between due process and protecting the integrity of the game."

Goodell has been criticised for an initially light ban for Rice. He said he repeated his admitted failures to owners.

"I was very open with them about where we failed in the process, where we made mistakes and what we have done to make sure they don't happen again," he said.

Goodell said he hopes for a revamped domestic violence punishment policy before the Super Bowl in February.

"We're working consistently on this, non-stop," he said. "We'll do this as quickly as we can, but we want to make sure we get the right policy.

"People want simple solutions to complex situations. You are trying to balance the due process with protecting the integrity of the game."

Owners were briefed on elements of the NFL's new drug test program, including HGH tests that began on October 6.

"The changes we've made in our drug program we are proud of," Goodell said.

NFL owners also unanimously approved the sale of the Bills, the Wilson family trust having reached a deal last month to sell the franchise to Terry and Kim Pegula, owners of the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres, for a reported US\$1.4 billion.

Ralph Wilson founded the Bills in 1960. He died in March at age 95.

- AFP



## IN PICTURES

China's Lin Chaopan performs on the pommel horse during the men's team final of the Gymnastics World Championships in Nanning on October 7 as China won its sixth straight championship.

Photo: AFP



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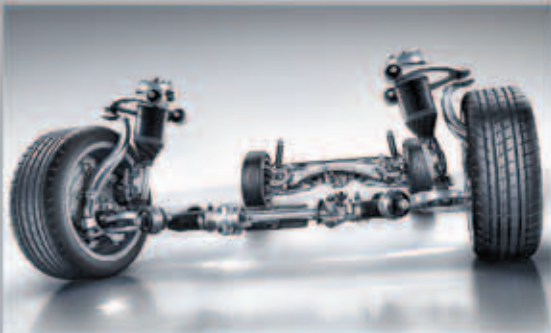
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# Sport

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# Triumph and tragedy for Bianchi family

**F**RENCHMAN Jules Bianchi, who is lying critically ill in a hospital in Yokkaichi following his horrible crash in the Japanese Grand Prix, comes from a family steeped in rich motorsport tradition but also scarred by previous tragedy.

The 25-year-old from Nice was knocked unconscious in a high-speed crash when he collided with a recovery vehicle during rain-soaked conditions at the Suzuka circuit.

The highly talented youngster, tipped by many to be the next great French champion, is now fighting for his life with severe brain damage leaving his chances of recovery from this kind of condition, slim at best.

He made his Formula One debut in 2013 with the Russian team Marussia and has also been a test driver with Ferrari and Force India as he followed in the footsteps of previous racers in the Bianchi family.

Born in the Cote d'Azur city of Nice in 1989, he grew up in a family that originated in Milan but left Italy in 1950 before moving onto Belgium and finally France.

His grandfather Mauro, was a renowned F3 driver, a three-time world champion in GT cars, notably with Alpine-Renault, and one of the great stars of motorsport during the 1960s.

However Jules' accident on October 5 brought back dramatic memories of the fate suffered by his great-uncle Lucien, a driver who took part in 17 Formula One races, finished third at the 1968 Monaco Grand Prix and won the Le Mans 24-hours endurance race later that season.

One year later, at the wheel of a Alfa Romeo, he crashed during Le Mans testing and was killed at the age of 34 when his vehicle burst into flames.



Messages for Marussia driver Jules Bianchi of France are placed at the Mie General Medical Centre in Yokkaichi on October 7. Photo: AFP

His father Philippe, who is now at his son's bedside with his mother Christine, was a specialist in kart racing and introduced his son to the sport at the Brignoles track in the Var region, where his younger brother Tom was present when the dramatic events in Japan unfolded.

After steadily climbing the ranks in motorsport, the young Bianchi joined the Ferrari Driver Academy in 2009 before adapting

to Formula 3 and then two seasons in GP2 where he finished third in the championship standings in 2010 and 2011.

In 2012, he was again battling for the championship after switching to the Formula Renault 3.5 Series, and only lost the title in the final race of the season after a controversial collision with Dutch driver Robin Frijns.

The newly formed Russian team Marussia recognised Bianchi's grow-

ing potential and handed him a drive for the 2013 season, where he outperformed his teammate Max Chilton all season, with a best finish of 13th at Malaysia in only his second GP.

A slow start to the 2014 campaign burst into life on the streets of Monaco in May where he gave the team their first F1 points with a ninth place finish, despite driving one of the slowest cars on the grid.

The rise of Jules Bianchi was in full flight and just three days before fate intervened in Japan, he declared himself "ready" to be one of the two drivers at the Ferrari stable he knows so well from his days as a test driver.

"Of course, I feel ready and I have been working on that since I joined the [Ferrari] Academy in 2009," Bianchi said at the traditional pre-race press conferences at Suzuka.

"I have had two seasons in Formula One, I have good experience and I feel ready for that," said Bianchi.

"Obviously for the moment the two drivers [Alonso and Raikkonen] have contracts so there is no question, but if the opportunity presents itself, I think it would be good for me and I feel good."

Another potential possibility was the proposed idea being put into place by Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone, who wants the big teams to line up with three cars, as early as next season.

First-choice driver with Marussia and test driver with Ferrari, the future looked extremely bright for Bianchi and he had all the qualities of a champion in the making.

Now he will be lucky to ever drive again as the world of Formula One tries to come to grips with the most shocking accident since Ayrton Senna died at the wheel of his Williams-Renault in 1994 at the San Marino Grand Prix. - AFP

## Myanmar, Yemen unable to find the goal

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MYANMAR was held to a goal-less draw in its opening match of the AFC U19 Championship against Yemen last week in Yangon.

The home-side put its best players forward including Aung Thu, Nanda Kyaw, Maung Maung Soe and Nyein Chan Aung, who were fresh off a tournament in Vietnam but failed to break through tough Yemen defenders on October 9.

"It was good football, we had possession of the ball for large chunks of the game but I can't score goals for them from the bench," said Myanmar coach Gerd Zeise after the match.

"Aung Thu had a bad day. Since his injury in Brunei he's still not in the shape we need."

Myanmar struggled against a defence that was physically larger and had its way with some of Myanmar's smaller offensive players.

"Myanmar's strength is their supporters. Their weakness is their striking and scoring goals," said Yemen's coach Ahmed Qasem.

"It was a difficult match. We missed some big chances but the draw is not bad for both teams. We both have one point and the tournament is still on."

In other Group A action on October 9 Thailand downed tournament favourites Iran 2-1. In Group C, South Korea drubbed Vietnam 6-0 and China topped Japan 2-1. Group B and Group D kicked off on October 11.



Myanmar and Yemen battle for the ball on October 9 in Yangon. Photo: MFF

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