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IN PICTURES

PHOTO: ZARNI PHYO

A team uses torches to inflate a balloon at the Fire Balloon Festival in Taunggyi, Shan State, on November 5. This year's festival, which was held from October 31 to November 6, was marked by tragedy when a fire balloon and fireworks accident on the opening day killed two and injured 12.

NEWS 3

Body of slain journalist exhumed in Mon State

The body of freelance journalist Ko Par Gyi, killed while in the custody of the Myanmar army, was sent to Mawlamyine township on November 5 for a post-mortem.

NEWS 4

Government disputes prisoner claims

A report in state media maintains that 27 prisoners said to have been detained for political reasons are guilty of other crimes, including murder and possession of narcotics.

NEWS 6

Minister implicated in war crimes

A report published last week offers evidence that three military leaders, including one currently serving as a minister, were involved in human rights violations in Kayin State.

NEWS 14

Govt takes legal action against weekly journal

The Ministry of Information has brought charges against 11 staff members at *The Myanmar Herald* for allegedly publishing defamatory remarks about President U Thein Sein.

BUSINESS 22

United Amara scrambles to prevent bank run

Large amounts of deposits are withdrawn from United Amara Bank after a US decision to blacklist the father of the owner - though bank officials insist there is no reason to worry.

300 vie for YCDC positions

The Yangon City Development Committee last week certified candidates for the December 27 election, giving them less than two months to garner support from voters. **NEWS 4**

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Page 2

THE INSIDER: The local lowdown & best of the web

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Crime and Punishment

The Scrutinizing Committee for Remaining Political Prisoners has reviewed the claims by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners and Former Political Prisoners Society that there are still 30 political prisoners in Myanmar, and found that three of the prisoners AAPPB had listed have been released. The remaining 27, however, have been found to have “committed other crimes”.

“Their sentences for political activities have been annulled under a president’s order,” read a release in the *Global New Light of Myanmar* on November 1, which went on to outline the remaining prisoners’ criminal offences in a dazzling seven-page spread.

The majority of those behind bars are alleged to have committed offences relating to drugs, detonating bombs or exacting bomb plots. Among the more questionable and less guns’n’drugs-related charges was one man, who was found guilty of possessing a walkie talkie and a “village seal” (which probably means “stamp”, and that he was simply KIA-affiliated).

Another, a 76-year-old man who was found to have preached to “discredit the Buddha”, is not getting out any time soon. One pilot at Myeik Air Base committed the grave offence of emailing the International Labour Organisation to ask “how ILO could assist him to be able to leave the unit” – but not to worry: *he* won’t be roaming the streets for the better part of the next decade, even with the 900-day remission he was granted.

While it’s commendable that the political components of the prisoners’ sentences has been nixed, and that many have had their death penalties commuted to long stretches of hard time, it might also be worth pointing out that this particular scrutiny exercise did not take into account journalists or farmers protesting land confiscation.

Rules and regulations

The media handbook for journalists covering the ASEAN summit elicited a few giggles when it was released last week, with its polite

request that attendees refrain from smoking and chewing betel – something one local reporter said was “probably not going to happen”.

Members of the press corps were mildly miffed ahead of the meeting, after finding out access to the buildings in which events were actually taking place is unlikely.

One reporter said he’s “simply elated” at the prospect of spending days covering ASEAN in the blazing Nay Pyi Taw heat from what amounts to a catering tent, even if it is allegedly air-conditioned.

Balloons over Shan

The Tazaungdaing festival in Taunggyi retains its reputation as possibly one of the least OH&S-minded celebrations on earth, after three people were killed and five left critical from the burns they received – with scores more left with less serious injuries. Dramatic pictures spread on Facebook of a man running, on fire, on the festival’s first night.

For anyone not familiar with the concept of Tazaungdaing, here’s a brief primer: There are three types of balloons. All three are made of waxed paper. During the day, animal-shaped hot air balloons are sent up – without incident, for the most part. The second, when inflated, has a wire framework around it supporting cup holders, into which the balloon teams place hundreds of tea lights. These ones are generally okay, unless they crash or people get burned by the hot fire accelerator that drips from the blazing core.

The other kind is the fire balloon: ornately decorated and, once inflated (in a process that involves a lot of kerosene and running) and ready to take off, is attached to a raft of fireworks weighing some 250kg.

A number of things can go wrong. If a hole is found in the balloon as the team tries to inflate it, the breach is patched up and the whole process begins again. That doesn’t inspire a great amount of faith.

If the balloon is slightly too heavy and therefore slow to lift off, fireworks will ignite and start shooting into the crowd prematurely. Even successful balloons on a windless night involve a significant amount of rocket-dodging for anyone within 200m.

If the wind changes, people attempting to avoid the balloon’s course can be caught off-guard. If a balloon is too heavy to take off successfully, it can come down on the launch field – or land on one of the nearby stalls (as happened several times this year). This is when people panic and sprint away in scenes that resemble an active war zone. Fortunately, the one fire truck present was able to douse most failed balloons before a major explosion took place – just.

As one man who had witnessed the accident on the Friday night told *Page 2*, “It is very beautiful... but very dangerous.”

Tough at the top

According to the *Global New Light of Myanmar*, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing’s thrill-a-minute visit to Belarus to meet military and industry figures in order to coordinate on drugs elimination and counter-terrorism efforts, as well as military and science technology, included a trip to the “Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant”. Talk about making sacrifices for your country.

In brief:

Deluge of reports timed to coincide with ASEAN summit crowd each other out, has opposite of desired effect

Harvard Law School’s International Human Rights Clinic says timing of release of report stating abuses carried out in one township during a three-year offensive in northern Karen State amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity has “nothing to do with” Obama’s visit, despite having worked closely with diplomats for last two years

Tourist affronted when locals covertly take pictures of her on a mobile phone, oblivious to the fact that’s pretty much what she’s been doing to people in the marketplace with her enormous DSLR

Expat betting ring opens odds on whether or not Obama will use the ‘R’ word again

Next week:

Pre-Christmas rush on tinsel threatens “fashion show” industry

Once was Burma...

From the Pansodan Gallery archives



Chindwin Journal, Independence issue. Exact date unknown.

No one really knows what is happening in Nagaland: report

Interfaith marriage law would “significantly complicate” the process for filming Myanmar spinoff season of hit TV show *Wife Swap*, say producers

The Corrections:

Many thanks to astute *Page 2* reader U Kyaw Aye for pointing out that last week’s “Once was Burma” section was incorrectly captioned as being the *Golden Hammer Journal* when it was, in fact, *Oh Wei*. Mea culpa.



SWEETY HOME

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Protesters demand answers in shooting

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ACTIVISTS and students from across upper Myanmar held a second protest in Mandalay last week, continuing to demand that the government reveal how freelance reporter Ko Par Gyi came to die in military custody.

Also known as Ko Aung Kyaw Naing, the reporter was detained by the Tatmadaw in Mon State's Kyaikmaraw township on September 30 while covering fighting between the military and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army. He died in military custody on October 4, but the Tatmadaw only released information about his death on October 23.

The protesters - who came from Mogok, Thabeikkyin, Pyin Oo Lwin, Monywa, Shwebo and Sagaing - gathered at the corner of 80th and 26th streets beside Mandalay's moat.

"We are going to wage protests and go on seeking and demanding to get the truth about his death," said protest leader Ko Aye Thein. "If we don't do anything on this case now, those dictators and militarists will kill people in the future."

Police explained that there were no arrests at the protest this time because, unlike the first rally held on October 27, the protesters had gained permission in advance.

Police have charged the leaders of the previous protest with holding an unlawful demonstration, which carries a maximum one-year jail term, but have not explained why they turned down a request for it to go ahead.

"We asked the police the day before yesterday if Myanmar Police Force came here to protect our rights or to create a riot," Ko Nyi Nyi Kyaw, a member of 88 Generation Students Group, told *The Myanmar Times*.

"The authorities don't understand why people protest. They think that it is a kind of contradiction," he said. - *Translation by Thiri Min Htun*



Protestors in Mandalay demand an investigation into the death of freelance journalist Ko Par Gyi. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

Body of journalist exhumed

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THE body of slain journalist Ko Par Gyi was exhumed on November 5 and sent for a post-mortem at Mawlamyine township hospital by a forensic specialist team the same day.

The body was buried near Shwe War Chaung village, two hours away from Kyaikmaraw township. The exhumation was attended by police, military officials, the family of Ko Par Gyi and some observers.

"The authorities let us exhume Ko Par Gyi's body. We were able to acquire photos and videos. We have seen his body. Captain Lu Zaw from Kha La Ya (210) Unit pointed out the place where the body was buried," U Nay Myo Zin said on November 5.

U Robert San Aung, a lawyer involved in the case, said the forensic specialists' findings would probably be issued within two weeks, adding that

there were preliminary, but not conclusive, indications of bullet wounds. He said the post-mortem result would be submitted to the police prior to the launching of any legal process.

The post-mortem team is led by Dr U Aung Soe of the Forensic Department, University of Medicine (2), Yangon, and Dr Khin Maung Oo, Hpa-an District Forensic Specialist.

Ma Mee Mee, a member of 88 Generation student group, who joined the family for the exhumation, confirmed that the body had arrived at Yangon from Mawlamyine at 1pm on November 7.

Ko Par Gyi was arrested during skirmishes between the Tatmadaw and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) in Kyaikmaraw township, Mon State, in September and was allegedly shot dead during his detention by the army.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is investigating

the case on instructions from President U Thein Sein. The army has released two statements concerning the case, asserting that Ko Par Gyi

was a member of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), a claim denied by his family and friends.



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YCDC certifies 291 candidates for election

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THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) last week revealed a list of nearly 300 candidates for its upcoming election, scheduled to be held on December 27.

During a ceremony held on November 7, the YCDC election commission handed out certificates of acknowledgement to all approved candidates.

"We received a total of 305 applications for all 115 positions. After examining all the applicants according to the YCDC election by-law, we still have 291 candidates," said U Tin Aye, president of the election commission.

Among the applicants were 41 for the central committee, 43 for district

committees and 221 for the township level. Among them were 32 women.

Fourteen applicants were dismissed, including seven who withdrew their applications, U Tin Aye said.

The other seven, including activist U Win Cho, were not selected because, according to one election commission official, "they were not matching up with discipline". No further explanation was provided.

"I can't say the commission made a perfect selection or decision, but we did our best in the short time we had," U Tin Aye said.

The certified candidates were told at the ceremony that they could conduct election campaigns from November 8 to December 26.

"But their campaigns should be legal," U Tin Aye said.



Central committee candidate Daw Susanna Hla Hla Soe from the Karen Women's Action Group speaks to media. Photo: Thiri Lu

U Nyi Nyi, the joint secretary of YCDC's central committee, said elected officials would receive salaries of K320,000 (central committee), K220,000 (district) and 180,000 (township).

The selected candidates come from a range of backgrounds, including doctors, teachers, engineers, businesspeople and social workers.

U Win Aung, a candidate from North Dagon township who is running for the central committee, said

having authority was the most important aspect of the job.

"We can't make any changes if we don't have enough authority," he said.

Another candidate for the central committee, Daw Susanna Hla Hla Soe from the Karen Women's Action Group, said one month was not enough time for a campaign but she would try her best.

"I think all the candidates have to make sure the residents know who we are and what we can do for the city or townships," she said.

Political prisoner claims disputed by govt

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THE government has given up on a pledge to release all political prisoners, human rights activists claim. They say that since the end of last year, no action has been taken to fulfil a promise made by President U Thein Sein on taking office to make the issue a priority.

He set up the Remaining Political Prisoner Scrutiny Committee (RPPSC) in 2013 to look into the matter and identify political prisoners, leading to the release of several hundred inmates.

But activists said 29 prisoners of conscience remained incarcerated. Two of them were released during the last amnesty, leaving 27 still in prison.

U Ye Aung, a member of the RPPSC as well as the Former Political Prisoners' Society (FPPS), said activists were continuing to press for the release of remaining detainees, but the government had been unresponsive.

"The government should be calling meetings every month, but they don't. And the committee's chair hasn't attended a meeting all year," he said.

The government says the Remaining Political Prisoner Scrutiny Committee held 12 coordination meetings, leading to the release of 354 prisoners, and a total of 404 prisoners and 12 detainees were freed in an amnesty declared by the president last December 30.

The government says the prisoners said to have been detained for political reasons are in fact guilty of other crimes.

The state-controlled media on November 1 issued a list of the 27 individuals, detailing the length of their sentence and what they say are the criminal offences for which they were convicted.

These include murder, dealing in or possession of narcotics, and involvement in explosives-related crimes.

U Aung Thein, deputy minister in the President's Office and secretary of the Committee for Scrutinising Remaining Political Prisoners, said last August, "The president has removed the part of the sentence imposed for political activities. But they still have to pay for their other crimes. That's why I am saying that there are no political prisoners left in this country."

U Tate Naing, secretary of another activist group, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, told *The Myanmar Times* that the government should review every single case.

"I was sentenced under the penal code, but I did not commit the crime I was charged with. We have found that the other crimes they were charged with were in fact related to political reasons. The charges were groundless, the trials were not free and fair, and they were sentenced to extremely long imprisonment," he said.

Now the AAPP and the FPPS are demanding the recognition of the 27 as political prisoners and their immediate release, and say they will write to world leaders to draw attention to the matter, raising the prospect that the matter could return to prominence during this week's visit by US President Barack Obama.

More rain expected through mid-November

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LOWER Myanmar will continue to experience wet weather through mid-November as the result of a series of storms in the Bay of Bengal, an official from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) said last week.

DMH director U Kyaw Lwin Oo said a low pressure area that formed early last week in the Bay of Bengal has caused heavy rain and strong wind in Rakhine State and Ayeyarwady, Bago and Yangon regions.

"The storm currently occurring in the Bay of Bengal is forecasted to move to the east coast of India," he said on November 6.

"But another low pressure area is expected to form in the Andaman Sea near Kawthoung [Tanintharyi Region] around November 9 and will move into the Bay of Bengal. So we are forecasting more wet days in lower Myanmar until the middle of November," he said.

According to measurements taken by DMH on November 6 at 9:30am, the

Yangon (Mingalardon) and Hmawbi weather stations set new maximum rainfall records for a 24-hour period in the month of November.

Mingalardon recorded 172 millimetres (6.77 inches), eclipsing the old record of 158mm (6.22 inches) set in 1988, while Hmawbi's new total of 121mm (4.76 inches) superseded the 119mm (4.69-inch) total set in 2002.

New records were also set in Pyapon in Ayeyarwady Region (175mm), Bago in Bago Region (151mm) and Zaung Tu in Bago Region (106mm).

Strong winds on November 6 also knocked down trees, signboards, electric power lines, cell phone towers and even houses in Yangon's Hlaing and Mayangone townships.

U Kyi Thar, director of the Relief and Resettlement Department in Yangon Region, said five townships were affected by high winds and flooding on the morning of November 6.

"Thirty-nine buildings were totally collapsed and the roofs of 62 other houses were removed in the villages in Kawhmu township," he said.

"One house in Hlaing township was also knocked down by falling trees, and the roofs of 209 houses were blown off by strong winds. There was flooding in Shwe Pyi Thar, Mingalardon and Insein townships."

U Aung Thuang Shwe, the deputy director of the Disaster Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, said 218 houses were damaged to varying degrees and more than 1300 people were affected by strong winds in Hlaing township on November 6.

"Two people also sustained minor injuries," he said.

U Kyaw Lwin Oo said areas along the coastlines of Rakhine State and Tanintharyi and Ayeyarwady regions will likely experience widespread rain and isolated heavy rainfall until mid-November.

"Precipitation between 7 to 10 inches is forecast from November 6 to 14 in the coastal areas, and from 3 to 5 inches in the central and upper Myanmar regions," he said.

U Kyaw Lwin Oo said that, historically, storms that occur in the Bay of Bengal in November tend to make

landfall along the Myanmar coast. The DMH will therefore monitor the storms not only for rain forecasts but also for storm warnings.

"The low pressure area that is expected form next week in the Andaman Sea is also forecast to intensify into a tropical depression," he said.

As for long-term forecasts, the DMH said last month that the return of El Niño conditions is likely to bring rain and warmer-than-average temperatures over the coming months. Night temperatures between November and February are likely to be 3 Celsius above average, said U Kyaw Lwin Oo.

"As it is likely to be an El Niño year, the sea surface temperature in the Bay of Bengal will be warmer and rain is forecast in the coastal and lower Myanmar area this winter," he said.

"As a result, lower Myanmar is forecast to be warmer than normal at night from November to February."

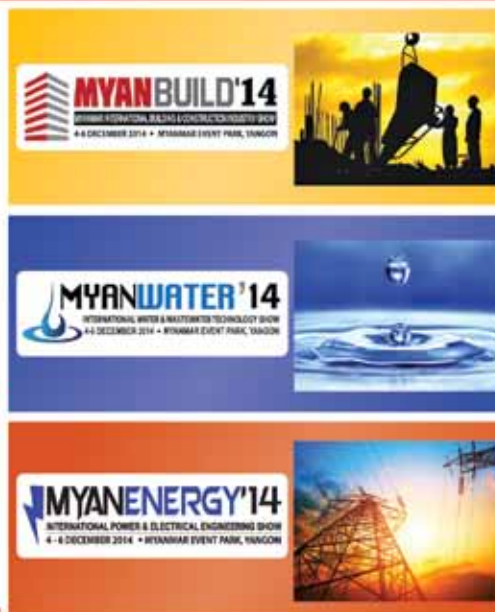
The department said night temperatures will be above average in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi regions, as well as Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

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Aung San Suu Kyi talks during a press meeting at the head office of National League for Democracy in Yangon on November 5. Photo: AFP

Daw Suu Kyi warns against over-optimism about reforms

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DON'T get your hopes up about reforms in Myanmar, opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has warned the heads of state and government that will be visiting the country this week.

US President Barack Obama and leaders from Russia, Indonesia and India are also expected at the ASEAN Summit hosted by Myanmar as chair of the regional organisation.

Observers believe the visits could lead to a renewal of the international spotlight on Myanmar, including critical comment on the progress of the reform movement, or lack thereof.

"Over-optimism will not help us," the National League for Democracy chair told reporters at a press conference in advance of the summit, which takes place on November 12 and 13.

The election of the government of President U Thein Sein in 2011 was

followed by a flurry of liberalisation measures that helped persuade the United States and the European Union to lift trade and other sanctions on Myanmar.

These measures included scrapping restrictions on opposition groups, releasing political prisoners and abandoning press censorship. The government's economic reforms have also encouraged an influx of foreign investors, accompanied by a construction boom and widespread

ownership of cars and mobile phones.

Daw Suu Kyi acknowledged that Western countries had helped the democratisation of Myanmar, but she said they should now look carefully at what further steps were needed.

"If they really studied the situation in this country they would know that this reform process started stalling early last year," Daw Suu Kyi said, adding, "What significant reform steps have been taken within the last 24 months?"

Among the remaining issues to be dealt with are the revision of the 2008 constitution, the signing of a nationwide ceasefire between the government and ethnic armed groups, the release of remaining political prisoners, and the resolution of inter-communal strife that has led to hundreds of deaths in Rakhine State and elsewhere.

International attention will also be focussed on the freeness and fairness of next year's elections.

'What significant reform steps have been taken within the last 24 months?'

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
National League for Democracy leader

Report links minister to war crimes



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THREE senior generals, including current Home Affairs Minister Lieutenant General U Ko Ko, are liable for trial under international law for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kayin State, a US-based legal report has concluded.

Evidence against the commanders is cited in a legal memorandum released last week by the International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) of Harvard University.

The report follows a four-year investigation that recorded incidents of forced relocation, enslavement, torture and execution of civilians by the Myanmar military in Kayin State between 2005 and 2006.

The report also named Commander of the Bureau of Special Operations Brigadier General U Khin Zaw Oo, as well Brigadier General U Maung Maung Aye, who has served as Nay Pyi Taw regional commander, as also being implicated in war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The IHRC report found that army personnel from the Southern Regional Military Command and Light Infantry Division 66 repeatedly carried out human rights violations against the civilian populations of Thandaung township in Kayin State.

It said that a Myanmar military culture in which the commanders not only failed to prevent abuses, but also took "affirmative steps to initiate operations" against civilians, meant they could face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"One practice that concerns us especially [was] the labelling of certain areas as black areas," said Matthew Bugher, a global justice fellow at Harvard Law School and the report's lead author.

These he described as "free-fire" zones in which soldiers were instructed to treat civilians - including women, the elderly and children - as enemies, the consequences of which were "devastating".

An estimated 42,000 people were displaced and hundreds are believed to have been killed during the offensive from 2005 to 2008 in which the Myanmar military aimed to suppress the activities of the Karen National Liberation Army by targeting civilian populations, according to the report.

In-depth interviews with more than 150 people, expert declarations and photographic evidence were used in compiling evidence against Myanmar army officers.

Speaking at a press conference in Yangon on November 7, Mr Bugher said the IHRC was not itself calling for the generals to be arrested or tried, but was presenting evidence that could enable that to happen if other organisations in Myanmar pushed for it.

"What we are calling for is a clear discussion about how to address these things that involves all stakeholders," he said.

"We are concerned that the commanders who oversaw these egregious abuses have a prominent place in the military and the government. We think that it calls into question the sincerity of the reform movement - the fact that the home affairs minister oversaw these kinds of abuses." He added that because Myanmar is not signed up to the ICC's Rome Statute on jurisdiction, any action by the ICC would require United Nations involvement.

However, he said the findings from Kayin State had important relevance to ongoing conflicts in Kachin and northern Shan states. He added that the organisation was concerned that the policies and practices it had documented in Kayin were being played out again in those regions.

"Soldiers and commanders need to know they can be prosecuted," he said, adding that senior officers also needed to realise that they could be held criminally responsible if they failed to take action against soldiers who broke the law.

Information Minister Ye Htut

'We think that it calls into question the sincerity of the reform movement - the fact that the home affairs minister oversaw these kinds of abuses.'

Matthew Bugher
Harvard Law School

did not respond to calls from *The Myanmar Times* to discuss the report's findings.

But Mr Bugher said he had met with Deputy Defence Minister Major General U Kyaw Nyunt prior to the report's publication. He said the meeting had been cordial, but Maj Gen U Kyaw Nyunt had described the IHRC's findings as "one-sided".

The report's publication came just days before international leaders, including US President Barack Obama, were due to meet in Nay Pyi Taw during the 25th ASEAN Summit.

Mr Bugher said the coincidence was not intentional, but he said armed conflict was too often treated as a political issue rather than a human rights one.

"I hope ASEAN leaders and Mr Obama make this a priority," he said.

IHRC also called for the Myanmar government to take action.

"These are serious allegations that demand a determined, good-faith response by the Myanmar government and military," said Tyler Giannini, co-director of the clinic.

"The abuses perpetrated by the military have been too widespread, too persistent and too grave to be ignored."

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Nothing gained or lost for ASEAN chair

KYAW LIN OO

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THE second ASEAN Summit for 2014 will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from November 12 to 13.

The summit will be attended not only by leaders of ASEAN's 10 member countries, but also by other world leaders such as US President Barack Obama, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

As the host country, Myanmar is therefore getting more attention from the international community and the media compared with previous ASEAN summits held in other countries.

Myanmar was ambitious at the beginning of the year when it took over the ASEAN chair from Brunei Darussalam.

The government proudly said it would mediate between China and the four ASEAN member countries with which it has territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

However, the negotiations did not go well following the first ASEAN Summit in May.

Regarding the South China Sea, China wanted to draft individual codes of conduct with each country, while the four ASEAN countries proposed a single code of conduct between China on one side and the regional group on the other.

No compromise was reached, and Myanmar suffered its first diplomatic failure in ASEAN politics.

The international community and civil society organisations also expected Myanmar to take a leading role in

amending terms of reference for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

However, Myanmar has failed to work hard to persuade its fellow ASEAN countries about the importance of improving the human rights mechanism for the region. Nothing has changed and no improvements have been made for the protection and promotion of human rights for the citizens of ASEAN.

Myanmar will therefore not get any applause for its role in leading ASEAN during the year of its chairship.

On the other hand, it will not be criticised by other ASEAN countries for its handling of the South China Sea debacle or ASEAN human rights issues. Myanmar has maintained its neutrality in all issues related to the region, and when Malaysia takes over the chair next year, it will face the same unsolved problems.

The main topics under discussion at this week's ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit will be economic in nature rather than dealing with political or security issues.

Plans call for the ASEAN Economic Community to be established in 2015 with six member countries. The four less-developed countries in the regional grouping - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam - are due to join in 2018.

ASEAN member countries are expecting more investment and economic aid from Japan, China and South Korea to ensure the successful implementation of the economic community. But Chinese investment remains controversial in some ASEAN countries, including Vietnam and

Myanmar, because public sentiment regarding Chinese development projects is not very positive.

Apart from the economic interests of the region, world leaders who attend this week's summits will likely bring up Myanmar's political and economic reforms during bilateral talks with President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw.

The reform process is currently stalled due to various unforeseen challenges to U Thein Sein's administration. One of the biggest obstacles is finalising the peace process, through which the government and armed ethnic groups hope to forge a ceasefire agreement.

U Thein Sein might want to show other world leaders the bright side of the national peace process, but this

will be difficult: Recent weeks have seen new fighting between the Tatmadaw and some ethnic groups, while the army is under scrutiny for killing a freelance journalist in Mon State last month.

It will be challenging for U Thein Sein to face world leaders who have been expecting too much from Myanmar's political reform process.

That's not to say that there have been no positive developments in the lead-up to the summits. Several months have passed with no new outbreaks of sectarian violence, which will allow U Thein Sein's government to say that it has been effective in controlling these clashes.

At the same time, however, the government remains reluctant to accept the Rohingya as one of the officially

recognised ethnic groups in Myanmar. The international community and the United Nations will continue pressuring the government on this issue even after its period as the ASEAN chair ends.

Overall, Myanmar has successfully passed its responsibility as ASEAN chair without experiencing any major turbulence. Some other countries in the region were not so lucky, such as Thailand, which faced plenty of political instability while chairing ASEAN in 2009-2010.

However, Myanmar has not gained any credit for taking a leading role in transforming ASEAN into a people-centred grouping. It has been business as usual for Myanmar and the other member countries in 2014. Nothing gained, nothing lost.

Govt to announce future vision at ASEAN Summit

WHAT will be the legacy of Myanmar's chairing of ASEAN?

Though some international observers may have felt some quiet apprehension this time a year ago as Nay Pyi Taw prepared to preside over the regional grouping, those concerns have been long since laid to rest.

Now, as Myanmar prepares to hand over to next year's chair, Malaysia, it is enunciating its vision for the near future.

In a four-point statement to be released before this week's ASEAN summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the government will address concerns about

climate change, human trafficking, the prevention of epidemics and anti-terror measures.

"A high-level task force will be set up to help achieve our goals in 2015 and beyond," said U Aung Htoo, the deputy director-general of ASEAN Affairs.

Myanmar's watchword since taking over the chair last year from Brunei has been "Peace and Stability".

As it now prepares to yield the chair, its regional neighbours might be wondering how far it has accomplished those goals, as well as others such as the review of the ASEAN Charter,

preventing terrorism, promoting environmental conservation and reducing economic inequality among the membership.

"Not much has happened on those issues," said U Kyaw Lin Oo, coordinator of the Myanmar People's Forum.

The international spotlight on Nay Pyi Taw will be intense, as invitees include US President Obama, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Their visit could help boost our investment, trade and tourism sectors," said U Aung Htoo. - Nyan Lynn Aung

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DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS

Studying political change and media in Poland

WA LONE

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THE blast of cold air that struck me as I stepped off the plane at Chopin Airport made me think I had walked into a gigantic refrigerator.

But the greeting that followed was warm, as our trip organiser, program officer Bartosz Kozerkiewicz, welcomed us to Warsaw.

On this, my first visit to Europe, I noticed even small things, like the way the red-gold autumn leaves fall and lie on the pavements – not something you see in the tropics.

Our one-month internship was jointly organised by Polish Aid and the Lech Wałęsa Institute, named after the former president and Nobel Prize-winner, which invited two Myanmar journalists to study the political transition and the status of the media in Poland.

Poles began to challenge their totalitarian leaders and their centrally planned economic system in the late 1980s, about the same time as Myanmar experienced its 1988 revolution. Poland was more successful, and led what turned out to be the renunciation of the Soviet model throughout Eastern and Central Europe. Economic development followed rapidly when the country joined the European Union in 2004.

The former electrician Lech Wałęsa led strikes across the country to hasten the demise of communism. He was elected president, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983.

The tacit agreement between the communist regime and the strikers to resolve their disputes through peaceful means contrasts with the Myanmar government's failure so far to seek national reconciliation jointly with the opposition.

Our internship program took us to many regional newspapers, radio stations and magazines, and led to many conversations with Polish journalists, who told us the freedom of the media had helped drive the transition to democracy.

The editorial independence of Polish Public Radio, the biggest radio



A visitor reads a caption at a museum display at the European Centre of Solidarity in Gdansk, Poland. Photo: Wa Lone

station in the country, is protected by law. Unlike Myanmar Radio, it doesn't broadcast government propaganda.

The taxpayer-funded Polish Public Radio presents unbiased news and, like other media, is free to criticise the government, the legislature and the judiciary. Wolciech Cegielski, chief editor of the web department of Polish Radio, said, "The constitution prescribes and protects the rights of journalists."

One of the most interesting places we visited was a former Communist Party building in central Warsaw, which now houses the Warsaw Stock Exchange (Centrum Bankowo-Finansowe) as well as a bar on the ground floor.

Anti-communists love the irony of this once-despised symbol of oppression serving as a centre for capitalism and a popular venue to buy a drink.

Mr Kozakiewicz ordered beer for us at the bar counter. We chatted about the history of communism in Poland, and he said, "No one could have imagined the future of the Communist Party, especially that this place would become a bar."

Getting around town was also a revelation. We were each given a prepaid ticket, valid for a month, for unlimited travel on buses, metro and trams so punctual you can set your watch by them. I couldn't help comparing this system with our Yangon buses, whose drivers and conductors think that any attempt to predict arrival times brings bad luck.

We were told, however, that Poland has higher rates of car accidents than the EU average, something the government is cracking down on.

Dr Than Htike, a civil engineer

Unlike Myanmar Radio, Polish Public Radio does not broadcast government propaganda.

who has joint Myanmar-Polish citizenship, said, "It's all down to skilful management."

As early as my first evening in Warsaw, I noticed how well-kept the parks, playgrounds and cycle paths were. Along the riverbank, wild forest and its population of birds and animals had been preserved.

Two Myanmar journalists were on a five-day work assignment with a regional newspaper in the town of Slupca, near the German border, evidently the first representatives of our country ever to visit. They were able to confirm the truth of the Polish proverb, "A guest in the house brings God into the house."

Much of the local cuisine might not be to the taste of every Myanmar person, but Polish vodka certainly helps keep out the cold.

The future of this internship program seems to depend on the evaluation made by the Polish government as to the freeness and fairness of next year's elections in Myanmar. If we get that right, perhaps we can go on to learn more from Poland.

Journalism and the shaping of democracy

VERENA HÖLZL

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SOMETIMES you understand better what is going on in your home country when you are far away.

Far away in this case means 10,000 kilometres. Nine Yangon-based journalists recently spent 10 days in Germany, where they attended a workshop organised by the Berlin newspaper *The Tageszeitung*, more popularly known as *The Taz*.

It was the second time the newspaper has invited journalists to visit Germany in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. And it likely will not be the last.

The visitors got to know a country that has twice gone through its own democratic transitions: German democracy was the outcome of the transition after the end of the Nazi dictatorship in 1945 on the western side of the country, and after the end of the communist regime in 1989 in the eastern part of the country.

"While Myanmar is shaping its democracy, we want to share our experiences with Burmese journalists," explained Sven Hansen, the Asia editor of *The Taz*.

The Myanmar journalists – who came from publications such *The Irrawaddy*, *The World* and *The Myanmar Times* – discovered the ways in which Germany has come to terms with its past as a dictatorship.

They also learned about the country's media system and political institutions, as well as the ways that different religions manage to live together peacefully.

In cold and dusty Berlin, considered one of the most vibrant cities in Europe, the Myanmar guests visited the German Parliament, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Press Conference.

At the latter institution – which is organised by journalists – government spokespersons answer questions from the media at least three times a week. According to the German law, the government is obliged

to deliver such information to the public.

A visit to Germany's biggest news site, Spiegel Online, gave rise to a discussion about the cornerstones of election reporting.

Of course, Germany faces its own problems regarding the media, some of which were familiar to the guests from Myanmar, including how to continue financing journalism at a time when print media appears to be in decline.

One of the visitors, Thwe Myo Nyunt from *People's Age*, also observed, "Germans also don't have a solution about how to deal with the spread of rumours on social media."

One highlight of the program was a public debate organized by *The Taz*.

A well-informed Berlin audience sought the opportunity to get updates on various issues in Myanmar, including the likelihood that the 2015 election will be free and fair, working conditions for journalists, and the treatment of the Muslim minority in Rakhine State.

More information about Myanmar was left in the form of a *Taz* supplement that the Yangon journalists prepared during their stay.

Even though discussion was sometimes hard when there was no common basis of knowledge about the two countries, the tough program was appreciated by the participants.

It took Germany decades to build up its democracy and erase the effects of its past.

"Coping with this did not mean remaining silent. It meant saying what had to be said," explained a former inmate of the communist prison Hohenschönhausen.

That is what a journalist's job is all about, all over the world.

On November 2, the Myanmar journalists returned to their home country to continue their important work.

One week later, on November 9, Germany commemorated the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the symbol of the country's time under a communist dictatorship.

WWF focuses on Tanintharyi



THE World Wildlife Fund plans to focus its efforts on green growth development, reforestation and biodiversity conservation in southern Myanmar's Tanintharyi Region, a spokesperson from the organisation said in Yangon on November 1.

Michelle Owen, the program manager of WWF-Myanmar, said the organisation was "very happy" to discuss its work in the areas of green growth and green development with other groups.

"Our plan in the coming months and years is to give examples of what green development means. We are hoping to be able to explain and give information about what a green economy actually means in sectors such as infrastructure, energy and agriculture," Ms Owen said.

She said the primary focus of WWF is biodiversity.

"Tanintharyi is very important on two fronts. It's got high biodiversity for Myanmar and good forests running the length of the region. It's got the best potential for tigers in Southeast Asia. It also forms a major connection with two major forest blocks in Thailand, so it is important both nationally and internationally," she said.

However, Ms Owen said the region is facing pressure from potential development.

"We are trying to conserve the area's natural value, and we're looking at how these developments in the region might follow green principles to demonstrate a better way for the development of the country," she said.

"A lot of our work is focused regionally. When you start to change how an area is used, the impact does not occur just in one place. Our focus is the entire region and landscape, much more so than, say, a single village or township."

Miss Owen said WWF-Myanmar will contribute to reforestation in the region, which is important for the viability of tigers and their prey in both Thailand and Myanmar.

Stuart Chapman, a representative from WWF-Greater Mekong, said Myanmar's rivers and forests are less degraded than some of its neighbours, so the country has the opportunity to become a role model in the implementing a green economy.

But the government will need to make the right decision based on a proper environmental assessments to ensure that development occurs in a manner that maintains the country's valuable biodiversity.

Mr Chapman added that investment based on the desire for quick profits can have dire consequences for the environment.

WWF established its Myanmar branch in September 2013.



Mt Victoria (Natmataung) in Chin State. Photo: Douglas Long

Ecotourism policy planned

BY ZAW WIN THAN
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ECOTOURISM is set to receive a boost as the government prepares to finalise a plan to link tourism with conservation. They say this will help promote protected areas, from Lampi Marine National Park in the south to Hkakaborazi National Park in the north, and will also provide local people with jobs.

"The plan will ensure conservation of our protected areas for future generations," said U Htay Aung, Union Minister of Hotels and

Tourism, at the first national consultation workshop, which was organised with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

Paul Rogers, consultant to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based in Nepal, said, "Ecotourism will strengthen the relationship between tourism and protected area management by directing revenue toward conservation efforts." ICIMOD is providing technical support.

"Measures are under way for ecotourism to be developed in the buffer zones of protected areas," said

U Win Naing Thaw, the director of the Department of Forestry.

The goal is to ensure that tourism in protected areas will support biodiversity, conservation and community-based income generation, and strengthen the management of protected areas.

ICIMOD tourism specialist Marjorie van Strien said an intergovernmental Ecotourism Task Force had been established to draw upon the expertise of senior officials from 15 departments. Consultations have been held in Putao, Natmataung, Lampi, Mandalay and Yangon.

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MCDC evicts families for road project

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LWIN



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MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) said last week that it will go ahead with plans to demolish nine homes in Chan Mya Tharsi township to make way for a road extension project, despite petitions from the people who live there.

The families met with the committee last week in an effort to save their homes, but were told they must leave to make way for the demolition.

So far 24 other homes along the section of the Mandalay-Sagaing Road have been demolished by MCDC, which claims the families were squatting illegally. It says it notified all 33 households in 2008 and has since brought legal action against those who have refused to move.

"Out of 33 illegal houses built in the road area, 24 were demolished. So the rest, the nine houses

left, [we will] continue to demolish," said MCDC secretary U Khin Maung Tint.

The residents who live on plots 498 and 500 along the highway were told by MCDC officials at the township administration office that they were squatting illegally. The officials also explained the laws relating to buildings, warehouses and land restrictions in the neighbourhood.

The residents petitioned the officials to conduct a thorough land survey and review their decision, arguing that their houses were at least 1.8 metres (6 feet) away from the road's drains. But MCDC's secretary refused, insisting the land is part of the road's perimeter.

U Maung Maung Lay, who is in his 60s and whose home is on the demolition list, complained that there was no fairness regarding the ways in which people obtain legal ownership of their houses. He suggested that only those with the most influence secured such privileges.

"In 1991, we paid several times with the hope of getting an official ownership document," U Maung Maung Lay said. "We were never granted any legal ownership, but others who live in the area like us



A resident shows documents and photographs indicating that he paid for an application for ownership of his house in 1992.

Photo: Sithu Lwin

were already given legal ownership. I've lived here all my life."

He added that he now wonders where he will live if his house is destroyed.

Ko Myo Gyi, another resident whose house is on the demolition list, agreed that they were being

treated unfairly.

"There are houses that sit on the road to the west but the authorities turned a blind eye to them. So this is dishonest behaviour. It seems there is something of a personal relationship in this issue," he said.

But MCDC denied the claims.

"We are not doing this for the sake of personal relationships," U Khin Maung Tint said. "It is impossible to grant legal ownership documents to those living in the road area, and those who apparently received ownership will also be re-scrutinised."

— Translation by Zar Zar Soe

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Former ambassador reflects on past while eyeing the future

Mandalay bureau chief **Stuart Alan Becker** interviews Vicky Bowman about the reforms occurring in Myanmar, her affection for Mandalay and her new job promoting responsible business practices

AMONG her Myanmar friends Vicky Bowman is something of a celebrity, with an easy fluency in the Burmese language and an ambassador-level understanding of how the country's leaders think.

When she presented her credentials to Senior General Than Shwe on December 31, 2002, she used a Burmese proverb to explain how happy she was to take up the role of British ambassador, telling him – in Burmese – that her posting to Myanmar was like sending a betel-nut lover to Taungoo.

"Afterward I was told that the senior general said it was only credentials ceremony he'd enjoyed that year," Ms Bowman said.

Much earlier, from 1990 to 1993, Ms Bowman had served as the second secretary at the British embassy in Yangon, after studying Burmese language in London and Mandalay.

She is also well-versed in Myanmar's history and the unique circumstances that shaped the country into what it is today – and will continue to shape it into the future.

"I love this country because the Myanmar people are so hospitable," she said. "When you speak Burmese and people see you're interested in their culture, they help you understand what makes the country tick, and that makes it so much more rewarding."

She is particularly attached to Mandalay because of the role it has played as an intellectual and cultural hub during the past century.

"I love the strength of social capital you feel in Mandalay, which has survived through colonisation, world war and dictatorship. I'm talking about the networks that connect intellectuals, religious and charity groups, and businesspeople," Ms Bowman said.

She said she loves the sense that there are Mandalay families who have been pillars of the community since royal times.

"I don't want modernisation and

urban migration to result in Mandalay, or other places in Myanmar, losing that sense of community and culture, in the way that many other countries have," she said.

During her interview with *The Myanmar Times*, Ms Bowman sipped a cold yoghurt drink at Shwe Ywet Hla yoghurt shop on 73rd Street – owned by her friend of almost 25 years, Ma Too – and reflected on changes in Myanmar since her first stay in the Mandalay when she came to learn Burmese in 1990.

"The main positive change is freedom of speech. It feels like night and day," Ms Bowman said.

"The fact that civil society – including the media and parliament – now has an audible and powerful voice has been a wakeup call for companies."

"It's a major shift of gear in accountability. The fact that civil society – including the media and parliament – now has an audible and powerful voice has been a wakeup call for companies. That includes foreign companies who had been doing business for years here without worrying about what stakeholders thought. We need more of it."

While she welcomes the reforms, like others she has felt the momentum slowing over the past year.

"We are seeing both backward steps and forward steps," she said.

During her two diplomatic post-

ings, and in particular during her time as ambassador, Ms Bowman said debate raged about whether foreign investment in Myanmar could be done responsibly and whether it could help transform the country.

"Ten years on, the situation has changed to the extent that there is a widespread consensus that it is right to encourage responsible investment here," she said, adding that this is why she is now working with the Yangon-based Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB).

The centre is the result of a collaboration between the UK-based Institute for Human Rights and Business and the Danish Institute for Human Rights. It receives funding from the governments of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Ireland.

Established in 2013, the MCRB (www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org) describes itself as providing "an effective and legitimate platform for the creation of knowledge, capacity and dialogue concerning responsible business in Myanmar, based on local needs and international standards, which results in more responsible business practices".

For Ms Bowman, responsible business means businesses that abide by international standards, protect the environment, pay taxes, refuse to pay bribes, treat their workforce with respect and "create shared value" – that is, making a profit while addressing societal problems.

This is true not only for foreign investors but also for Myanmar companies.

"One of the biggest challenges is the business climate within which Myanmar companies operate, and the habits it has engendered," she said.

"There are laws, but they are unclear, unknown and unenforced, or can be ignored. Many companies recognise that to be responsible means paying



Vicky Bowman. Photo: Stuart Alan Becker

their workers a decent wage, not forcing them to work excessive hours, putting them on contracts, keeping them safe. But they worry that their competitors will not do those things and will undercut them and the government won't enforce the rules."

She said making progress means businesses need to take the initiative to be responsible, but at the same time the government must "adopt and enforce laws transparently on a level playing field".

Ms Bowman welcomes the fact that the tax department is starting to become more transparent, even publishing a list of top taxpayers, and that there is growing recognition that paying tax is the duty of a responsible business.

But Bowman notes that even with the best intentions in the world, continued corruption makes this challenging.

"When a company goes to pay tax, it should be allowed to pay the tax it legally owes. What often happens instead is that the tax official reduces the bill by 50 percent, demands 25pc on the side, and then won't issue the tax clearance unless the taxpayer complies," she said.

Ms Bowman's vision for MCRB is gaining influence not because it is a watchdog with bite but because it can mobilise to provide the right advice to the right people at the right time to

make the right connections, which is her favourite activity: connecting people to information and to one another.

"We provide advice to business, government and civil society groups. We put them in touch with one another, collectively and individually. We can help them navigate what can be a tangled thicket of international standards on responsible business, which is very difficult to understand if you have not lived in that world," she said, adding that she worked two years for global mining company Rio Tinto before returning to Myanmar in 2013.

"In the end, you have to remember that businesses are owned by and employ people, and most of those people want to do the right thing and be seen to do the right thing. You can build on that to effect change," she said.

Another encouraging factor, she said, is that Myanmar ranked second in a 2013 survey of the world's most generous nations.

"Based on three measures – including helping strangers, volunteering and what percentage of the society makes donations – Burma comes out as the second most generous nation in the world," she said.

It is that underlying good nature that Ms Bowman wants to tap into with the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business.

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Dated: 10 November 2014

MOI sues ‘Myanmar Herald’ weekly journal



LUN MIN MANG

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THE government said last week it would sue a newspaper for describing the words of President U Thein Sein as “absurd and insane”, amid mounting international concern over backtracking on press freedoms.

Information Minister U Ye Htut confirmed that the ministry had started proceedings against *Myanmar Thandawsint*, known in English as *The Myanmar Herald*, for the remarks contained in its October 9 issue. The ministry says the paper ran an interview in which the subject described the president’s words as “gibberish, irrational, cheap and inconsistent ... completely nonsensical, absurd and insane”.

On November 5, legal authorities sent a letter to the journal stating that 11 staff members would be charged under section 25b of the Media Law. They have been told to appear in court in Nay Pyi Taw on November 14.

The penalty for violating section 25b is a fine ranging from K300,000 to K1 million, but jail time is not a threat.

The legal action follows the failure of attempts to mediate between the two sides by the interim press council in which the government rejected an offer of redress from the

weekly as insufficient.

“Since commenting on a case before the courts could be seen as interference with the judiciary, let’s await the judgment,” U Ye Htut told *The Myanmar Times*.

U Ernt Khaung Min, the journal’s deputy editor-in-chief, said, “We are

‘Though the code of ethics allows some sensitive things to be published in the public interest, people affected by that publication may sue the writer or publisher.’

U Kyaw Min Swe
Press council secretary

ready to go to court. But we insist that the process should be free from influence by the authorities, and should result in justice being done.”

The press council’s spokesperson and secretary U Kyaw Min Swe said the words used by the journal should

be reviewed from the ethical point of view.

“Readers know whether publication is in the public interest or not. Though the code of ethics allows some sensitive things to be published in the public interest, people affected by that publication may sue the writer or publisher,” he said.

The decision to sue the paper comes before a visit by President Obama this week. His visit is likely to highlight concerns over journalist arrests and the death in army custody of a freelance reporter late last month.

The government elected in 2011 ushered in sweeping press reforms, including the release of jailed journalists and scrapping draconian pre-publication censorship. But government-media relations have worsened in recent months, with prosecutions against the media that have seen several journalists handed prison terms.

Last month the army admitted that soldiers had shot dead Ko Par Gyi, a freelance reporter it claimed was working for a rebel group, in an insurgency-prone eastern border region. The United States has called on Myanmar to conduct a “credible and transparent investigation” into the killing.

Freelance journalist and democracy activist Ko Par Gyi was gunned down by soldiers while in military custody in the volatile eastern border region, where fighting between the army and rebels has flared in recent weeks.

– With AFP

Hagel’s trip to Asia postponed

PENTAGON chief Chuck Hagel is pulling out of a long-planned trip to Vietnam and Myanmar this month because of a demanding schedule at home, defense officials said on November 4.

The last-minute decision to postpone the 10-day trip came after Mr Hagel faced criticism over his performance from unnamed officials inside President Barack Obama’s administration in a series of news reports.

Some of the reports suggested Mr Hagel and other officials might be replaced in a shake-up of Mr Obama’s national security team after last week’s midterm elections.

Officials have dismissed the speculation and the criticism, saying the trip was put off because Mr Hagel needed to attend a Congressional hearing.

“It was deemed the most prudent thing to do to make sure he was available to answer questions from Congress about any number of matters that are on their minds,” Pentagon spokesperson Rear Admiral John Kirby told a news conference.

“This was simply a prudent scheduling decision and nothing more,” Mr Kirby said.

Asked whether Mr Hagel was out of favour at the White House and needed to shore up his position in Washington, Mr Kirby said the Pentagon chief was in good standing.

“The secretary enjoys a very close relationship with the president and the national security staff,” Mr Kirby said.

The trip had yet to be publicly announced when officials gave word the visit would be postponed, likely until next year.

The announcement also came against the backdrop of strategy discussions in the White House and the Pentagon on the US-led war against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The move to delay the visit was



US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks during a press conference at the Pentagon in Washington DC on September 26. Photo: AFP

unusual, especially so close to a planned trip.

In the past, Mr Hagel has gone ahead with scheduled tours to Asia even at politically charged moments.

Last year, Mr Hagel flew to Southeast Asia as the Obama administration appeared poised to take military

‘This was simply a prudent scheduling decision and nothing more.’

John Kirby
Pentagon spokesperson

action against the Syrian regime.

Mr Kirby said the postponed trip should not call into question the Pentagon chief’s commitment to the administration’s strategic “rebalance” to the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Hagel has taken more than six trips to the Pacific region during his tenure and remains heavily focused on Asia, he said.

Mr Hagel called his counterparts in Vietnam and Myanmar to inform them about the postponement, Mr Kirby added.

Visiting Vietnam carries special resonance for Mr Hagel, a veteran who was wounded during the US war in the country.

The trip was to be his first to Vietnam since he took over as defence secretary in 2013. – AFP



Negotiating the future of Myanmar

Independent analyst **Mael Raynaud** offers an outsider’s perspective on last week’s talks in Nay Pyi Taw

THE pictures are impressive, and to anyone who follows Myanmar politics closely, they feel like something of true historical importance has just taken place in Nay Pyi Taw.

On October 31, exactly one year before general elections are set to take place in the country, President U Thein Sein gathered the most powerful and influential figures of the country’s newborn democracy to talk about the future of the nation.

If U Thein Sein had wanted to signal the start of the political campaign for the 2015 elections, he could hardly have done it any more clearly than through gathering the 13 individuals who sat around him in one room and in front of the cameras.

The speech given by U Thein Sein as an introduction to the meeting showed very clearly what the issues at hand were: the organisation of a free and fair election at the end of 2015, the continuation of the peace process and national reconciliation.

To me, there were two key sentences from the president’s speech. The first was, “I hope this meeting will be the start of a conversation and will allow us to begin framing a common vision and a common path forward.”

And the second: “I would like to talk about the continuation of the democratic transition and the political process.” So, this is the beginning of a much-needed dialogue, one that should help the various political forces find a way out of the deadlock the country has been entangled in for over five decades. Further meetings are supposed to take place, as announced by Information Minister U Ye Htut, which is excellent news.

The president then went on to say, “In order to make sure that the democratic transition endures, the 2015 elections must be held in a free and fair manner.”

He has now publicly declared that the elections would indeed take place in 2015 and would be free and fair. He will be remembered as a man who kept that promise, or who did not. People in the future will judge him on that, maybe more than anything else he has achieved, and I doubt he is not fully aware of this.

But most important in that speech, in my opinion, was one of the final sentences: “I would like to suggest that all political forces work in concert to ensure that the political transition will be smooth, that the 2015 elections will be free and fair, and that there will be a peaceful transfer of power.”

Work together, “smooth” political transition, free and fair elections: All of this is key, but “a peaceful transfer of power” – that’s a fascinating comment indeed. This, in my opinion, is what makes this meeting so very important.

This is also why it was later so disappointing to learn that the meeting lasted only two hours and participants did not get the feeling that they had been able to express their views, as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has complained to various media outlets.

This gives credit to the view held by many observers that this meeting was merely there as an exercise in “trust-building”.

It could be, and it should be, so much more than that.

Besides the objectives of this conversation defined by U Thein Sein, there are at least three additional issues

open for constitutional reform.

The first is the revision of the provision that effectively bars Daw Suu Kyi from becoming president. The second relates to the voting system: first-past-the-post versus proportional representation. The third is the provision that secures 25 percent of the seats in the different parliaments for members of the Tatmadaw.

I believe that millions of people in Myanmar, probably a significant majority, wish to see Daw Suu Kyi become their next president, and apparently this is a topic open for conversation.

I believe, on the other hand, that the seats reserved for military MPs are not

in nature, as it favours more diversity in the parliament.

A win-win solution is possible. If the USDP/government/Tatmadaw side agreed to let Daw Suu Kyi become president in 2016, then the NLD could agree to not push for an amendment to the constitutional provision that grants army representatives 25pc of the seats in parliament, at least for a certain number of years. Why not until the elections of 2020?

And it could go as far as accepting what is indeed a more democratic voting system, with the clear objective of not forcing the USDP into a shameful defeat in 2015. The interests of

As a close observer of Myanmar politics for over a decade, I cannot honestly say that I have any idea what the main political parties want to do after 2015 if they are elected. Beyond promoting democracy, rule of law and development (very vague notions indeed), I don’t think the people of Myanmar who get to vote next year have any idea either. That, as well as all of the issues discussed above, is an urgent matter.

This gives a responsibility not only to the government, Tatmadaw and political parties, but also to the media, civil society and the private sector – to name only the main non-political stakeholders – to do their share in promoting the kind of values they hold dear.

The media need to question all political parties and not hesitate to push where it hurts, and help the citizens understand the issues at stake and make an informed decision a year from now.

Civil society needs to try and influence political parties so they will formulate platforms, and then policies, that match their desires.

The private sector needs to push politicians to understand the issues they face in trying to do business in what remains a very weak economy with laws that are not always appropriate, understood or implemented.

U Thein Sein has signalled the start of a political campaign that could not be more important for the future of Myanmar. It is everyone’s responsibility to contribute to making it a success.

The NLD should be aware that democrats around the world generally see the proportional representation system as being more democratic in nature.

negotiable for the moment. This will need to change in the future, as many even in the Tatmadaw seem to realise.

So a lot depends on the remaining topic, the voting system. The National League for Democracy has opposed attempts to change the first-past-the-post system, for the obvious reason that the party is favoured by this system, which is likely to grant it a greater number of MPs from 2016 to 2021.

The NLD should be aware, though, that democrats around the world generally see the proportional representation system as being more democratic

the people of Myanmar could not be served better.

If all of this, or at least some of this, happened, and if further high-level meetings were to take place, then a vibrant and healthy political campaign could start. This would mean that each political party would need to design a realistic political platform based on its vision for the future.

The issues that would need to be included in such platforms are many, including reforming the state, the education system, the healthcare system, the economy, the justice system and so on.

Mael Raynaud is an independent analyst who has researched Myanmar politics since 2002. This article was originally published in the Indo-Pacific Review.

It is time for local NGOs to grow up and boost capacity

ADAM MCCARTY
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MYANMAR is blessed with a large number of caring and dedicated locally owned and locally run non-government organisations (LNGOs).

There was a blossoming of these groups after Cyclone Nargis, and the whole philosophy of charity and giving that underpins their work fits very comfortably with the Buddhist principles shared by most Myanmar citizens.

Yet the vast majority of these LNGOs lack one thing: project management capacity.

Most Myanmar LNGOs lack the skills required for the implementation of large-scale projects, because they have not had the opportunity to develop these thus far.

As a consequence of this capacity

gap, they have to rely on the international NGOs, who win the large projects and then hire LNGOs as subcontractors.

That worked well post-Nargis, when the total volume of official development assistance (ODA) was modest and most donors only funded “humanitarian assistance”. Now, however, the ODA scene has dramatically changed, and so must LNGOs if they want to grow and have an impact.

Donors would love to pour money into LNGOs, but they know that LNGOs lack the full range of project management capacities: writing winning proposals, ensuring financial accountability across complex projects, designing and running professional monitoring and evaluation systems, and producing impressive progress and impact reports.

This LNGO capacity gap urgently needs to be filled. There have been some

modest efforts in this direction thus far. The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) and the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), for example, have funded small projects that explicitly build such local capacities in relevant LNGOs.

NUFFIC funded MDF Training and Consultancy, a global company that strengthens the capacity of various actors in the field of international cooperation, to provide a comprehensive capacity-building package for Golden Plain, a local NGO that aims to increase the productivity of Myanmar’s poor farming households.

The assistance included formal training courses, consultant mentoring, a study tour to Vietnam, and follow-up visits to assist with proposals and new projects. Formal training was on human

resources management, results-based management and proposal writing.

Golden Plain wants to grow into a stronger and independent NGO, leading their own large projects to support the livelihoods and food security of rural households.

After Golden Plain received the assistance, its founder U Maung Maung Htwe reported that “the program has really opened our eyes ... We are confident that our projects will be more effective and sustainable from now on.”

To help Myanmar make the next step in its development process, more donors should make the effort to explicitly build LNGO capacities.

Even better, rather than the present piecemeal approach, international-standard training facilities should be established in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw for LNGO staff and gov-

ernment officials respectively.

Donors could pool funding, and an international tender would source the foreign training organisations to run the facilities over five years.

LNGOs could be given “vouchers” to spend on a menu of courses and technical assistance, thus making it demanded. Certain LNGOs would be prioritised for detailed capacity building and mentoring assistance, which could be spread over some years.

Without such a comprehensive and systematic approach to urgently building local capacities, LNGOs will remain meek, small-scale subcontractors for many more years.

Adam McCarty is the chief economist at Mekong Economics based in Hanoi, Vietnam.

FEATURE



Students stand in front of the school in Shwe Kyin Yay village. Photo: Than Naing Soe

From carrying bamboo to book bags

How a nursing student visited a village in Mandalay Region, founded a school and gave a generation of kids a chance at a better life.



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IN Mandalay Region's Patheingyi township, where the base of the Shan Plateau meets the eastern edge of the central lowlands, lies the village of Shwe Kyin Yay.

Although it is blessed with beautiful vistas, the village lacks electricity, reliable transport links and, until a few

years ago, a promising future for its youth.

Although the town is just 24 kilometres (15 miles) from Mandalay, no villagers from Shwe Kyin Yay have ever attended university. The literacy rate is low, and until 2007 there was not even a school.

The only "education" most of the children had was from learning how to cut bamboo and pick mushrooms. A typical backwater village, you might say, but one whose fortunes were changed not by government intervention but by a chance visit by a local traveller.

The visitor was Ma Win Win Myat.

In 2007 she was a 24-year-old student studying to become an auxiliary nurse. She and a few friends, fancying a break from their books, passed through Shwe Kyin Yay in their quest for bit of mountain air.

"Our four friends from the [nursing] course climbed Mount Mya Kha Nauk and Mount Sein Kha Nauk at that time. Then we stayed one night in the village," Ma Win Win Myat said.

Apart from the mountains, what caught her eye were the groups of children tramping into the forest each morning carrying knives and string to cut bamboo shoots and bundle them up.

When Ma Win Win Myat discovered that they did not go to school, she gave out her phone number to the parents, requesting that they call her if they wanted their children to get an education.

The phone calls started coming in, and Ma Win Win Myat responded by establishing a centre for learning on the ground floor of Shukhinthar Monastery.

It boasted a blackboard and mats where children could sit, and in the first year attracted 87 students of different ages from Shwe Kyin Yay village, Yay Taw village and households living in huts on the hillsides.

"I arranged different kinds of classes according to age. Some were taught on the ground floor of the monastery, others were taught under the shady tree outside," Ma Win Win Myat said.

News of these young students attracted more trekkers from the city,

'I arranged different kinds of classes according to age. Some were taught on the ground floor of the monastery, others were taught under the shady tree outside.'

Ma Win Win Myat

this time a mountaineering group from Yadanabon University.

"They found that some children had to learn under shady trees. They asked me what they could do to help. I told them it would be best to build a school," Ma Win Win Myat said.

Led by a lecturer from Yadanabon University named Daw Than Myint, the mountaineers built a four-room schoolhouse in September 2007.

Later that year, after her nursing course was completed, Ma Win Win Myat made a momentous decision in her life: She moved to Shwe Kyin Yay and started teaching Myanmar, English, mathematics, history and geography classes.

For someone accustomed to the big city, it was not an easy move to make. Simple food, bad transportation, no healthcare, and little communication with her family and friends constantly tempted her to return.

But whenever the children cried out "don't leave us, teacher", Ma Win Win Myat was won over and was convinced to stay.

"Children from the village are poor. They had no certificate although they finished primary education because it was not a government-recognised school [at the beginning]," she said.

State recognition was finally achieved in 2011 with help from U Zawtika, the senior monk at Shukhinthar Monastery, who convinced the Ministry of Religious Affairs that the school should be made official.

The following year it expanded from a primary school to a middle school with help from Yadanabon University students and donations from individuals. Today there are seven teachers educating 184 students from kindergarten through seventh standard.

"I'm happy when I see the school is bigger. But we can only be half happy because the hired teachers are from the lowlands and can't stay here long-term," said Ma Win Win Myat, now 32.

"Someday I want to return to my hometown of Thapayay Hla in Madaya township, but I'll only do so when a generation of educated students is produced by the school in Shwe Kyin Yay village."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun



Ma Win Win Myat teaches a class in Shwe Kyin Yay village, Mandalay Region.

Photo: Than Naing Soe

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Residents spurn low-cost housing move

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UP to 5000 households face eviction as they defy government attempts to rehouse them in low-cost apartments they say are too expensive. The residents, in Zee Oak and Kangyikone villages in Patheingyi township, Mandalay Region, demand the right to stay where they are.

Mandalay City Development Committee has built 1344 low-priced homes in Mya Yi Nandar ward in Chan Mya Tharsi township to be sold to residents in the two villages. The authorities say the residents do not have legal possession of their current homes because the ownership documents are invalid.

Residents insist they are not budging. “We can’t afford the low-cost apartments, and we don’t want to live there anyway. We can hardly afford to live in our current tiny houses. If we have to borrow again to buy a new home, we will be forced deeper into debt,” Zee Oak resident Daw Than Hla Swe told *The Myanmar Times*.

According to the Department of City Planning and Land Administration, residents with home ownership documents now deemed to be invalid will have first priority to buy one of the 1344 new apartments, ahead of pensioners, disabled people and

the widowed families of Tatmadaw members, starting from October 20.

Residents in Kangyikone said the authorities never objected when plots in the village went on sale in 2005, and had issued family certificates for those addresses. But two years ago, the plots were designated as “wrongful transactions”.

“We are citizens too. The authorities are responsible for housing the homeless. Nearly 5000 households

‘We can’t afford these new apartments and we don’t want to live there.’

Daw Mya Sint
Kangyikone village resident

are going to be turned out of their homes. We can’t afford these new apartments and we don’t want to live there. We just want to go on living peacefully where we are now,” said Daw Mya Sint of Kangyikone village.

The new apartments are selling for K6 million to K12 million.



Residents from Kan Gyi Kone and Zee Oak villages attend a meeting on a proposed move to low-cost housing. Photo: Si Thu Lwin

Buyers can arrange hire purchase agreements from Myanmar Oriental Bank, Yadanarphone Bank or the Construction and Housing Develop-

ment Bank, with a 30 percent down payment. They must also live in the apartment themselves and not resell within five years.

The flats range in size from 484 square feet to 572 square feet and are housed in a four-storey complex. - Translation by Zar Zar Soe

Students continue education protest

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STUDENTS have pledged to keep opposing the National Education Law signed last week by President U Thein Sein despite repeated protests.

They staged a march on October 31 from Mandalay’s Dhamma Tharla Hall at the corner of 31st and 84th streets to the Zeigyo Market.

“The law affects every student across the country and oppresses us all. That’s why we’ll keep demonstrating against it,” said Ma Poe Poe, chair of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions.

Protesters were also demanding the release of farmers jailed in land-grab disputes and under the law on peaceful protest.

Student unions from southern and eastern districts of Yangon Region, Monywa district, Meiktila district, Kyaukse Technology University and Mandalay Yadanarbon University took part in the protest.

“We will never accept this law,” said Ko Swe Lin Tun, chair of Mandalay district’s students’ union. “All student unions continuously opposed it. It was imposed by the central government and restricts student rights. It can’t guarantee the democratic education that students are longing for.”

Ko Aung Maing San of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions said the government had ignored repeated nationwide protests by students ever since the bill was first introduced. “Student unions will always fight unjust treatment,” said another student at the protest. “We will speak out against any unfairness and we’ll keep opposing the law too.” - Translation by Zar Zar Soe



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Phone: 372416

Dated: 10th November, 2014



The Manaw Festival grounds in Myitkyina. Photo: Douglas Long

Manaw Festival set to return to Kachin State



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MYITKYINA'S multiday Manaw Festival will be held January 5 to 11, 2015, organisers have announced, following a three-year hiatus due to instability in Kachin State.

Formerly an annual tradition, the celebration of Kachin culture was last held in 2011, with subsequent years seeing cancellations due to ongoing conflict in the area between government troops and ethnic armed groups.

Organiser U La Kha La Aung said the decision to go ahead this year was

made after Kachin State Chief Minister La John Ngan Sai held a meeting with the Traditional Culture Committee, state ministers, state hluttaw representatives and community elders.

While it's the first time the event has been held in the post-military junta period, not everyone is sure the time is right for the festival's return, U La Kha La Aung said.

"Some did not attend the meeting and they oppose it," he said. "They think that the Manaw Festival is like a kind of funfair. They are saying it is holding a funfair when there are refugees because of war."

Among those on record in opposition to reviving the festival under current conditions is the secretary of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (Myitkyina), In Khwam Tan Goon, who said he didn't want the event held

while conflict is ongoing.

U La Kha La Aung said the festival will be helmed by nearly 400 volunteers, with costs pegged at around K350 million to be met by donors.

"We are collecting donation money from wealthy people in Kachin State for the funds," he said. "Each person will donate from K500,000 to K1 million or even K50 million. We will hold [the festival] with funds which they donate."

In addition to local residents, large companies with involvement in local industry will be tapped to contribute.

The Manaw Festival begins January 5, with the first few days consisting of rehearsals and fairs, as well as stage shows in the evening. The festival proper kicks off January 8.

- Translation by Khant Lin Oo

Community policing program aims to gain the trust of the public

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"MAY I help you?"

Such is the friendly tone police officers are seeking to assume in dealing with the public as the force reinvents itself as a community service, while shedding a rather more sinister reputation.

As it marks its 50th anniversary, the Yangon Police Force is trying out the more democratic model of community policing that many developed countries employ and, since December 2013, it has benefited from a European Union training program worth €10 million (K13.2 billion).

Swedish police officers have trained 18 officers in community policing in Yangon's Mingalar Taung Nyunt township, which has one of the highest crime rates in Yangon. The pilot project encourages residents to work with the police in detecting and preventing

crime, which would also mean fewer police are needed. An additional 400 Yangon officers have received crowd management training to ensure people can exercise their right to protest while preventing outbreaks of communal violence.

"The point is to get people to trust and rely on the police," said Police Lieutenant Colonel Myint Htwe. But fears that some officers are capable of beating suspects could undermine the community policing approach.

400

Number of Yangon police officers who have received crowd management training

Last September, the Asian Legal Resource Centre, an NGO that advises the UN's human rights agency, said, "Police torture in Myanmar remains unchanged ... Human rights abuse in Myanmar ... continues even after government reform."

Police Lt Col Myint Htwe said people were unaware of the difficulties officers face every day, including having to buy stationery and attend crime scenes at their own expense for lack of an adequate budget, which he said explained the levels of bribery and corruption in the force.

Budget increases since April 2013 now allow police cars 30 gallons a month, allowing them to deal with the 30 to 40 cases that a station will receive each day, and offering hope for a reduction in bribery, he said.

"Corruption is illegal and will not be tolerated," Yangon Region Police Captain Pyae Sone told *The Myanmar Times*. "We will take action on any complaint we receive."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

Daw Suu Kyi to visit China soon

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi will make her first official visit to China next month, the National League for Democracy said on November 4, as the veteran activist reaches out to a powerful ally of the former junta.

The Nobel laureate, who plans to lead her party into elections next year seen as the litmus test of Myanmar's transition toward democracy, will travel to China within weeks, her party said.

"It is true that there is a trip planned to China in December," a senior member of the NLD told AFP, asking to remain unnamed.

He said it was not yet clear who Daw Suu Kyi would be meeting.

Daw Suu Kyi, who has publicly stated her wish to become president if rules currently barring her from the job are removed, has previously suggested the relationship with Beijing is crucial to her country.

'We have to get along with the neighbouring country whether we like it or not.'

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
NLD leader

China is a major investor in resource-rich Myanmar and was a key ally when the country languished in isolation under the junta.

But it has seen its influence wane as Myanmar's reforms have thrust it into the global spotlight.

Changes, including allowing Daw Suu Kyi and her party into parliament and freeing most political prisoners, have seen Western sanctions largely swept away and caused a wave of international investors to rush to the country.

But projects to tap the nation's abundant natural resources for export to China have sparked particular resentment as the country opens up.

Myanmar's president suspended a Chinese-backed mega-dam in September 2011 after a public outcry.

Daw Suu Kyi drew flak for defending a controversial Chinese-backed copper mine in March 2013, urging local people to drop calls for its closure because it would harm the local and national economy.

"We have to get along with the neighbouring country whether we like it or not," she told angry villagers at the time.

But the 69-year-old politician, who spent a total of 15 years under house arrest during military rule, also risked provoking China's anger when she met the Dalai Lama on the sidelines of a Prague rights conference in September 2013.

- AFP



IN PICTURES

PHOTO: YU YU

Shiite Muslim men flagellate themselves during the Ashura Festival in Yangon on November 7. Ashura marks the peak of 10 days of mourning for the death of Imam Hussein, one of the most revered figures in Shiite Islam.



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Views

Reporter's death raises questions about army reforms



SITHU AUNG MYINT

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ON October 4, Myanmar citizen and freelance journalist Ko Par Gyi was shot and killed by the Myanmar army (Tatmadaw) in Mon State's Kyaikmaraw township.

According to a statement from the Tatmadaw – which was issued on October 23, long after Ko Par Gyi's wife had notified the media that her husband was missing – the journalist was killed because he tried to run away while under military detention.

The shooting has raised a chorus of protests from political activists, such as the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society), who are determined to reveal the truth of what happened on that day. From the start, such investigations were certain to affect the image of Tatmadaw one way or another.

Tatmadaw sent its statement to Myanmar's Interim Press Council, claiming that Ko Par Gyi was actually Captain Aung Naing, an information officer for the Klothoobaw Karen Organisation (KKO) headed by the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army's (DKBA) tactical commander General Saw San Aung.

It has not yet been confirmed whether Ko Par Gyi, whose real name is Ko Aung Kyaw Naing, was affiliated with an armed group. According to reports on social networks and in private newspapers, however, Ko Par Gyi was once a member of Thone Yaung Che, a group that took responsibility for the security of National League for Democracy (NLD) chair Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

After that, he began earning his living as a freelance journalist, focusing on Thailand-Myanmar border issues. But one point that cannot be denied was that he was a Myanmar citizen.

Skirmishes between the Tatmadaw and the DKBA started in Kyaikmaraw township on September 26 when Myanmar soldiers posted in a government-controlled area prohibited DKBA members from entering the zone while carrying weapons, an act that would have violated the current ceasefire agreement between the two sides. The DKBA members responded by opening fire on the government troops.

Several people were injured in the fight, and the DKBA detained some police officers, local militia members and government soldiers. The prisoners were soon set free, but the DKBA seized more than 10 guns. New skirmishes erupted when Tatmadaw troops surrounded and opened fire on the DKBA group as it attempted to retreat from the area with the confiscated weapons.

On the morning of September 30, a team of police officers and Tatmadaw soldiers arrested Ko Par Gyi at a ferry in Kyaikmaraw township. The journalist was carrying no weapons, and the Kyaikmaraw ferry

was nowhere close to where the skirmishes had occurred.

If Ko Par Gyi was in fact a member of an armed group, he must be considered a prisoner of war who was arrested while carrying no weapons. He could have also been sent to a local police station and put on trial. But this was not done. Instead, the prisoner was interrogated for four days by police and soldiers assigned to the local military unit.

After that, Ko Par Gyi was still not sent to court but was transferred on October 4 to an army column assigned to march through the countryside. This raises the question about whether this is appropriate treatment for arrested citizens or prisoners of war.

It's worth noting the Tatmadaw's history of violating human rights. It is widely known, for example, that the army has in the past made a practice of forcing citizens to act as porters for their military operations. Villagers and prisoners have been forced to carry loads, guide soldiers through the jungle and clear minefields by walking in front of marching columns.

There are also many documented cases of military units using captured members of ethnic armed groups as human mine-clearers and as human shields who are placed in the line of fire. Prisoners who were disliked by the soldiers were shot to death under the pretext that they tried to run away.

The death of Ko Par Gyi provides a hint that the lawlessness of the past has not entirely disappeared.

When the government started making reforms, the Tatmadaw followed suit with some worthy reforms of its own: It stopped recruiting child soldiers, and returned underage soldiers to their parents. It stopped using forced labour, and there have been no recent reports of prisoners being used to clear mines.

But the death of Ko Par Gyi provides a hint that the lawlessness of the past has not entirely disappeared.

The Tatmadaw's statement of October 23 contained contradictions, and raised many suspicions and doubts. Do they have the right to send an arrested citizen or prisoner of war to the battlefield? Does the law allow this?

There are very important questions that the Tatmadaw needs to answer, and it must let its answers be widely known.

They must admit, for example, whether an instructor or a military unit made a mistake.

The very image of the Tatmadaw, which claims to be undergoing reforms, is at stake in the matter of Ko Par Gyi, a Myanmar citizen who was shot and killed while under the care of a government military unit.

– Translation by Thiri Min Htun

Indian PM on mission India's strengths to My

TRIDIVESH SINGH MAINI

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ON November 11, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a 10-day visit to Myanmar, Australia and Fiji – his longest overseas trip since taking office in May.

All eyes will be on the East Asia Summit in Myanmar, as well as the G-20 Summit in Australia. Significantly, Mr Modi will also be the first PM to visit Australia in 28 years.

Mr Modi's first stop Myanmar is important for a number of reasons.

Firstly, Myanmar is India's link to Southeast Asia, and thus a crucial component of India's Look East Policy, now named Act East by the current Indian government.

Over the past two decades, successive governments have made assiduous efforts to reach out to Myanmar, realising its strategic importance in the context of India's ties with Southeast Asia.

While the late Rajiv Gandhi, as prime minister, did visit the country in 1987, the real opening-up toward Myanmar took place in the early 1990s during the Narasimha Rao government. Mr Rao, the architect of India's Look East Policy, realised that India needed to adopt a more pragmatic approach toward Myanmar.

Economic relations between both countries were thus initiated, and the first important step was a trade agreement signed in 1994 that gave a strong fillip to the relationship. Trade began between Moreh in Manipur State and Tamu in Myanmar, and between Champhai in Mizoram State and Rhion across the border.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Myanmar in 2012 with reasonable success: 12 memoranda of understanding were signed, including for the development of the Indo-Myanmar border, an increase in airline services between the countries, and assistance for setting up centres for research in information technology and agriculture.

Yet a lot remains to be desired regarding India's economic ties with Myanmar, as well as regarding connectivity between the two countries.

A number of projects were started that have not been completed, the most important being the Kaladan Multi-modal Transport Project – which will connect Calcutta with Sittwe Port – and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.

Infrastructure at border posts is lacking – the Moreh-Tamu crossing is in dire need of an upgrade – and bus service between Imphal and Mandalay, which was to begin in October, has still not commenced.

Secondly, while India has been helping Myanmar build institutional capacity and strengthen sectors like information technology, this work often gets overshadowed by the forays of other countries, especially China.

As of June 2014, Chinese foreign direct investment in Myanmar was US\$14 billion annually. Major projects initiated by China include the Myitsone dam, the Tarpein hydroelectric project, the Kyaukphyu-Kunming oil pipeline, the Letpadaung copper mine and the Tagaung nickel mine.

Chinese trade with Myanmar



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during a public rally in Mumbai on

stands at \$6 billion a year, while Indian trade with Myanmar was touching \$2 billion as of 2013. While Indian investment has risen – it was over \$270 million as of August 2013 – it is nowhere near China's mammoth investment.

It is pertinent to point out that the assistance granted by China is purely commercial in nature, and the terms and conditions of loans are quite stringent. By comparison, Indian assistance is more liberal.

Lately there has also been some resentment against the Chinese, which is clearly reinforced by Myanmar's refusal to accept a loan of \$2 billion for a highway connecting Kyaukphyu with Ruili due to protests by locals.

Connectivity with Kyaukphpu is important for China, since it would help create an alternative to the Malacca Straits for the transportation of oil from Africa and the Persian Gulf to China.

Apart from its strategic and economic importance, Myanmar is also important for India because it is a fellow member of BIMSTEC, along with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal. Both Myanmar and India are also part of the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM).

Will Mr Modi take on China directly?

Like in Bhutan and Nepal, it is expected that the Indian prime minister will focus on strengthening connectivity while also providing assistance in institutional development.

Mr Modi would send a clear message that while India may not match up to China in economic prowess, it certainly has a major advantage in the context of strong institutions.

Apart from conventional assistance, and the development of government and educational insti-

tutions, Mr Modi should focus on Indian assistance for monuments that reflect the shared history of both countries, as he did in Nepal.

There should also be a focus on integrating India's northeastern states with Myanmar, as China has done in the case of Yunnan Province.

Thirdly, ever since taking his post in May, Mr Modi has sent clear signals that he wants to reach out to Indians settled overseas.

Unfortunately, Indians in Myanmar have been neglected by the government of India. According to Myanmar's 1983 census, the number of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) living there was in excess of 400,000, more than half of whom were stateless.

These PIOs were from numerous ethnicities and a number of states, including Bihar, Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. It is time that those who are stateless are helped by the government of India, and the relevant state governments must also help them to reestablish ties with their country of origin.

Finally, it would make sense to find synergies with other countries that have a strong presence in Myanmar, including Japan and Thailand.

It is pertinent to point out that Japan in recent times has increased its presence in Myanmar. The approach being followed by Japan is similar to that of India: The terms and conditions of assistance are not as stringent as those of some other countries.

With India-Japan ties growing from strength to strength, and with Japan planning to invest in India's northeast, that country can provide assistance to India in connectivity between the northeast and Myanmar.

Synergies can also be found with other countries like Singapore

to sell anmar



October 4. Photo: AFP

that are increasing their presence in Myanmar. This will help ensure that no single country has an unnecessary stranglehold.

Mr Modi has equipped himself well in the sphere of diplomacy. His emphasis on connectivity and building on shared values with neighbours is applicable in Myanmar. It remains to be seen whether he can hard-sell India's strengths effectively and also infuse the necessary dynamism into the economic and strategic relationship between the two countries.

.....

Tridivesh Singh Maini is a senior research associate with the Jindal School of International Affairs in Sonepat, India.

In Singapore, the end of an era looms for the long-ruling People's Action Party

Recent elections show that the PAP, riven by corruption and incompetence, is losing the trust of the public



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ALL good things come to an end, and in little Singapore it is evident that the long rule of the People's Action Party is drawing to a close.

It may take a couple of election cycles, perhaps 10 to 15 years, but as most political pundits, including many affiliated with the PAP, now openly admit, it is a prospect that appears inevitable.

And for many native-born Singaporeans – who, thanks to the party's immigration policies, now face becoming a minority in their own country – it brings a sense of astonishment and a kind of thrilling trepidation.

After all, this is the party formed by that heroic battle-axe Lee Kuan Yew and his “Old Guard” coterie back in the 1950s, and which is now helmed by his equally savvy son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

It is a party that has won back-to-back elections for more than half a century and just as consistently has formed governments that have topped surveys as the cleanest and most efficient in the world.

So what has gone wrong?

Well, the overlong tenure in office has bred arrogance and a measure of complacency, which in turn has allowed corruption and incompetence to become shockingly common.

It is no longer a surprise to hear about high-ranking Singaporean officials taking bribes, or to learn about security lapses and chronic breakdowns in the public transport system.

The fact that PAP ministers

overseeing the decline continued to pay themselves the world's highest salaries out of the public purse made more and more Singaporeans start to turn away from the party.

That was reflected in the stunning reversals suffered by the PAP in the 2011 general election and the near loss of its candidate in the subsequent presidential vote.

After these setbacks, the PAP made cosmetic changes and tried to put on a happy face, but it did little good. In a by-election last year, the former safe seat of Punggol East fell to the opposition in an anti-PAP swing of 13.5 percent.

Soon afterward, social commentator Catherine Lim wrote an open letter to PM Lee, saying, “We are in the midst of a crisis where the people no longer trust their government, and the government no longer cares about regaining their trust.”

She accused Mr Lee of heading an “all-powerful, vindictive government” which, she said, “has already widened the original disconnect between the PAP and the people into an almost unbridgeable chasm.”

Since then, the disconnect has widened even further, and a slew of nominally pro-PAP establishment figures has begun to muse about the prospect of the party's demise.

Last month, the flamboyant businessman Ho Kwon Ping, the chair of Banyan Tree Holdings, which runs high-end hotels and resorts across the region, got into the act.

A former journalist turned tycoon, Mr Ho spoke at length about how the PAP might forfeit its stranglehold on parliament within 15 years and could lose power a decade after that.

Aside from local factors, he bolstered his argument by reference to global trends showing that ruling parties in democracies historically lapse after 50 to 75 years; the PAP is now smack in the middle of that range.

He claimed that almost everyone he knew had concurred,

except about “how many years it would take before the PAP would lose an election and how many terms it would stay out of power before bouncing back”.

It was a pretty radical statement, especially by a Singaporean whose lucrative business has thrived under PAP rule and whose wife once served in parliament.

Certainly, it suggests that internal party splits, ongoing corruption scandals, stagnant growth and a loss of market competitiveness – all reasons Mr Ho gave for a potential early exit from power by the PAP – are well founded.

It is no longer a surprise to hear about high-ranking Singaporean officials taking bribes, or to learn about security lapses and chronic breakdowns in the public transport system.

Toss in growing foreign worker problems and interracial divisiveness that led to a lethal riot in the city-state's Little India district last December, and the government's woes appear perfectly understandable.

Still, Mr Ho did moderate his scalding comments by saying the PAP would likely prevail in the next election or two and thus overtake the record of 71 years that Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party clocked up in power.

He claimed this was because the PAP has not yet exhibited signs of moral exhaustion and the sort of incipient decay seen in

other long-ruling political parties. Of course, if Mr Ho had been braver he would not have used far-off Mexico as his comparative, but rather other entrenched parties in the region, such as those in Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam.

They have certainly shown signs of moral and operational decrepitude and largely survive in power by curtailing opposition voices – as, of course, Singapore has always done, most ruthlessly under Lee Kuan Yew.

Mr Ho also took pains to cover his backside by claiming that despite a few scandals involving mid-level bureaucrats, there was no evidence of mounting corruption in Singapore's public life.

That is a stretch, to put it mildly, given recent cases that have indicted the head of the Central Narcotics Bureau, the director of the Civil Defence Force and senior officials from the Singapore Land Authority.

Indeed, as Mr Ho went on and referred to the “very popular” PM Lee, it became clear that his speech was more of a rallying cry to PAP faithful than a pre-funeral lament.

Like certain other “approved” opinionators, such as Kishore Mahbubani and Chan Heng Chee, both former ambassadors turned think-tank boffins, Mr Ho – unlike the braver Catherine Lim – clearly supports the PAP regime.

His typically acerbic tocsin, and that of others of his ilk, may well help the party to stagger on for another decade or so, but that is all it will do.

For, like its nefarious Mexican counterpart whose record it will indeed doubtless break, the PAP will also soon bite the dust.

Indeed, wondering why Singaporeans have voted for the party for so long recalls what Curly, one of the Three Stooges, said when asked why he kept banging his head against a wall.

He replied, “Because it feels so good when I stop.”

That is how most Singaporeans will likely feel when they finally cease voting for the tired old PAP.



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Business

United Amara frets bank run as owner's father blacklisted



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UNITED Amara Bank has moved to head off a potential bank run after U Aung Thaung, father of its majority owner U Nay Aung, was placed on the US blacklist.

U Aung Thaung is a former Minister of Industry and a sitting member of

parliament. The United States Treasury placed him on its blacklist on October 31, claiming he is blocking key reforms in Myanmar.

"Aung Thaung is actively attempting to undermine recent economic and political reforms in Burma [Myanmar] and has been implicated in previous attacks on Burma's democratic opposition," the Treasury said in a statement.

By being named on the blacklist, US people and corporations will require special permission to do business with U Aung Thaung.

United Amara Bank, as well as the IGE Group conglomerate, is majority owned by U Aung Thaung's son U Nay Aung. The bank itself is not a target of the sanctions, said United Amara Bank chief executive U Than Win Swe.

While U Nay Aung did not attend a November 4 press conference, U Than Win Swe said at the press conference the bank has adequate reserves to meet withdrawals by customers.

Withdrawals from the bank began outpacing deposits on November 4, with K26 billion (US\$22 million) being taken out and K16 billion being deposited, from withdrawals of K41 billion and deposits of K44 billion on November 3.

The bank's current deposits sit at K440 billion and it has outstanding loans of K230 billion.

"Although there was a K10 billion gap [with more withdrawals than deposits], we are confident in our liquidity ratio and we can manage the situation. Customers don't need to worry; the Central Bank is also watching," he said.

'We are ready to protect [United Amara bank] under the law.'

U Win Thaw

Central Bank of Myanmar official

Other Myanmar banks have in the past faced runs on deposits triggered by news events.

Market leader Kanbawza bank was faced with a bank run in late 2012 stemming from untrue claims in social media that its chair U Aung Ko Win had been arrested. Kanbawza and the Central Bank of Myanmar then moved to address these concerns and shored up confidence in the bank.

Central Bank deputy director general U Win Thaw said the Central Bank is ready to step in to guarantee United Amara's deposits if there is a difficult situation.

"We are ready to protect it under the law. We have checked the board of directors, and I can guarantee customers will not lose their money because of any bad reputation of the directors," said U Win Thaw.

— Additional reporting by AFP



There are more deposits leaving than coming at United Amara. Photo: Thiri Lu



IN PICTURES

Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

Trucks get ready to make the front lines for the government see "The uphill struggle with"

Room prices spike

EI EI THU

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A SURGE of visitors expected to arrive in the nation's capital for the coming ASEAN Summit has led some local hotels to double or triple the cost of their rooms.

While Nay Pyi Taw hotels are often quiet when there is no major event in town, this is set to change from November 11 to 13 when first the ASEAN Business and Investment Forum and then the ASEAN Summit take place in the city.

Not everyone supports some hotels' move to increase prices by a factor of two or three.

Shwe Hinthar hotel is similar to many in that it has more than doubled its room charges from November 7 to 17.

It normally charges US\$45 for foreigners and K40,000 for locals, but it is charging between \$100 and \$120 a night for the period, said an employee.

Even with the price raise Shwe Hinthar doesn't have a high vacancy rate, "so if customers want a room they should book in advance with our front office to be sure of a room," he said.

After November 17 the hotel will almost immediately lower its room cost, and is also considering a 20

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Women entrepreneurs find the funding to get businesses running

BUSINESS 26



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PROPERTY 32

Exchange Rates (November 7 close)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Euro	K1243	K1261
Malaysia Ringitt	K302	K303
Singapore Dollar	K785	K793
Thai Baht	K31	K33
US Dollar	K1014	K1020



ne crossing at 105 Mile Zone near Muse. 105 Mile is the
ent’s efforts to prevent smuggling with China. For more
h smugglers” on page 24.

ike with summit

percent discount on regular prices as a promotion.

Shwe Hinthar is not the only hotel planning a price increase.

Excel Capital hotel has also increased its prices, with normal rooms going from K35,000 to K50,000, while its higher-end rooms have risen from K42,000 to K70,000.

The price increase is particularly for the ASEAN summits, though it whether prices will decrease again after the summit is over is uncertain, said employee Ma Soe Thandar Tun.

Nay Pyi Taw attracts few tourists, mostly gathering visitors for meetings with government officials or for conventions, such as the ASEAN Summits.

High-profile guests such as US President Barack Obama are expected to attend this week’s summit, though after the meetings end Nay Pyi Taw will likely have some difficulty attracting enough visitors to keep the city’s hotels full.

Future leisure tourists will not be much affected by the price spike, according to U Hla Aye, managing director of Shan Yoma Travel and Tours Company.

“It depends on market demand, but the summit will not last the whole year, so prices will be down after its over,” he said. “Nay Pyi Taw hotel prices are generally lower than last year, even for package

tours, because so many hotels are opening there.”

Union of Myanmar Travel Association joint secretary general U Tin Tun Aung said he advocated against too much of a price increase during the summit, as Nay Pyi Taw will be gradually developing in the future.

“Room prices will increase due to market demand, but it won’t be extreme because that would affect the image of our country,” he said.

Visitors should consider staying in Taungoo in Bago Region or Tatkon in Mandalay Region if Nay Pyi Taw hotels are too expensive, instead of paying the high prices, he added.

Not all hotels have increased prices.

Some have avoided doing so by request of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, as they will play host to ASEAN delegates.

Park Royal Hotel Nay Pyi Taw front office manager U Nyi Nyi Swe said the hotel has sold its rooms at its normal price of \$180 for a single room and \$220 for a double room.

“Our hotel is full with ASEAN delegates under a set price by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and there’s no more vacancy,” he said.

Thingaha hotel Nay Pyi Taw has similarly not changed the prices of \$85 to \$95 it normally charges, as it has been fully booked by the ministry, an employee said.

Businesses push for government to prop up falling rice market



ZAW HTIKE

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THE government is contemplating stepping in to the rice market to prevent too much drop in price for the staple crop.

Rice prices have declined about 20 percent so far this year on international markets, but the local situation has been exasperated as China, Myanmar’s largest rice export market, began preventing its important bilateral rice trade with Myanmar in late September.

Although the main harvest is still about a month away from beginning, farmers are worried they will face much lower prices than anticipated months ago when they planted the rice. Many invested in inputs like fertiliser and equipment anticipating a higher price than what the market currently commands.

The Myanmar Farmers Association said the government is planning to use a body called the National Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee to step in and buy stock in an attempt to maintain prices.

The committee is composed of officials from the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Rice Federation and Central Cooperative Association, with support from the Myanmar Agri-business Public Company, according to a Myanmar Farmers Association press release issued November 3.

U Maung Aung, an adviser to the commerce ministry, said the committee was formed prior to the Farmers’ Interests Promotions Bill, which passed on October 12, 2013. “We will buy rice through the National Rice Reserves Supervisory Committee. It will start soon and it will buy a lot of rice,” he said. The farmers’ interest bill allows for another method that could be used to purchase rice paddy, but it cannot be actively used until after a set of follow-up by-laws are issued, he added.

‘This year is a terribly hard time for farmers.’

U Thein Aung
Myanmar Freedom Farmers League

Farmers are keen to receive government support to halt the rice price plunge.

The MFA says the committee will buy rice at K350,000 per 100 baskets (about 2.05 tonnes), calculated to be just above the break-even point for many farmers.

However, farmers say rises in labour costs over the past year have squeezed margins and pushed production costs to just about that level, meaning farmers will barely be covering expenses at that price.

U Thein Aung, the chair of the

Freedom Farmers’ League, said, “The cost of harvesting alone is about K70,000, about double last year. Then we paid our workers K3500, and now it’s K5000 per day.”

The current market price of paddy is about K300,000 per 100 baskets, down from well over K400,000 per 100 baskets it fetched before the Chinese crackdown.

Chinese buyers, particularly in remote Yunnan Province, had been offering above-international market prices given the logistical challenge of shipping there. While most of Myanmar’s exports had gone to Africa and the Middle East, over the last two years China had emerged as the largest export market. However, Chinese authorities, which considers the trade to be illegal but had been allowing the trade, began seizing shipments in late September, putting a halt to the trade, even as progress was being made to negotiated the necessary agreements to legalise the trade.

Farmers’ woes have been compounded by heavy unseasonable rain, the result of a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. “Many acres of paddy fields have been flooded. This year is a terribly hard time for farmers,” said U Thein Aung.

Although rice insiders say it is important that prices are supported, some say it would be better to proceed with the bylaws already passed.

Myanmar Rice Federation executive member U Myo Thura Aye said he supports efforts to prop up rice prices, adding it would be better to wait for the Farmers’ Interest Promotion Bill bylaws to be circulated first.



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Regional differences persist for dairy industry

SU PHYO WIN

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MILK is twice as expensive in Yangon as Mandalay, as fewer cows and more people make fresh dairy a scarcer commodity in Myanmar's largest city.

There is more pasture-land near Mandalay Region to support milk cows and successful processing facilities like the Mya Ba Yin condensed milk factory that supplies the city's tea shops.

In Yangon, fresh milk costs K1400 per viss (1 litre is equal to 0.65 viss), though K1100 or K1200 if bought from the farm. But in Mandalay it costs K500 to K600 a viss direct from farmers, said U Than Lwin, a Yangon township-level official with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

"The largest market is in Yangon, so there ought to be a dairy zone near the city," he said. "Rather than making a dairy zone in upper Myanmar - although the weather is good for cattle - we need to find closer locations where the industry can exist."

'The largest market is in Yangon, so there ought to be a dairy zone near the city.'

U Than Lwin
Livestock government official

U Than Lwin said there are a small number of companies such as U Phan War, Ngwe Sin Paeal and Super Cow that have farms near to Yangon, though they're usually small, with 200 to 1000 cows each.

The number of milk cows in the country has also dwindled. Myanmar's first artificial insemination program for cows took place in 1975-76, marking the beginning of a boom in cows to up to 800,000 animals 10 years ago.

However, the number has since dwindled to an estimated 150,000 cows, as the market began opening to imports of foreign-produced milk powder, and forage prices made raising the animals uneconomical.

Cattle have also become increasingly valuable in nearby China and Thailand. While one local dairy cow costs about K500,000, the price can rise to K1 to K2 million in the border areas, where both butchered meat and live animals are smuggled to neighbouring countries, said U Aye Thuang, a district administrator in Maubin town, Ayeyarwady Region.

Farmers have transitioned away from dairy cows to draft animals, particularly as they require less feed than their milk-giving-cousins. With dairy demand still relatively low, farmers can use the draft animals in the field, said U Aye Thuang.

The meat of draft cattle is also better than dairy cows, he added.

U Aye Thuang said prioritising rice farming means there is less area to grow cattle feed. There is also not much infrastructure at present in Ayeyarwady Region to assist with a dairy industry.

Growth coming for dair

SU PHYO WIN

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THE dairy is set to grow significantly on rising domestic incomes, with domestic consumption set to double in the next eight years, according to experts. Poorer segments of society consume little dairy, but experience from neighbouring countries show that products like yogurt, milk and ice cream are snapped up quickly as incomes expand.

With growing foreign interest from firms like Thailand's large producer Dutch Mill, the dairy industry is set for take-off, said U Than Hla, executive advisor of the Myanmar Livestock Federation. More than 150,000 cows in Myanmar are producing milk for consumption, leading to the rise of domestic brands like Ngwe Sin Parel and Arr Man. However, production usually takes place on small-scale farms, and processing quality is still relatively low.

A robust dairy sector will require growing income levels - an experience other regional countries such as Vietnam and China have also undergone.

"To look at the prospects for dairy sector development, we need to look at middle and high incomes because they have strong demand - people with lower incomes can also consume dairy products but it will be difficult for them," said Jan van der Lee, senior adviser at Netherland's Wageningen University and Research Centre.

The dairy industry has also gained interest from leading Myanmar business. Singapore-listed Yoma Strategic Holdings signed a memorandum of understanding in March with First Myanmar Investment public company and PMM Partners to develop a local dairy business. The investment is expected to be of US\$46 million over five years.

Meeting the milk market

While domestic dairy consumption is set to double in eight years, it is not a given local farmers and processors will benefit. Unless the domestic industry improves, increase consumption could be met by imports, and a large number of hurdles presently stand in the way of dairy farmers and factories. Mr van der Lee visited Myanmar through a program support by the Myanmar Livestock Federation, Wageningen University's Livestock Research Institute and the Dutch



Kyaukse township dairy cows forage in a p

government, looking at what needs to be done to improve the industry.

"We see that the sector will grow, and policies are needed on the farm level and on the company level," he said. Farmers need to have access to

MUSE, SHAN STATE

Struggling with smugglers on t



KHIN SU WAI

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THE Muse customs zone seized 150 motorcycles on November 3 in the wake of a government ultimatum announcing plans to get tough on illegal motorbike imports.

It's the first time in two years that the 105 Mile customs zone has been able to make such a seizure of illegally imported motorcycles, and while it's a start, the rarity of the case highlights the challenges customs officials face in stemming illegal trade.

Although officials were able to take action in this case and seize the 150 bikes, it is a drop in the bucket of the millions of motorbikes that have been brought into the country illegally. Over four-fifths of the 4.05 million registered motorbikes have been illegally imported, a trade which needs to stop, deputy railways minister U Chan Maung said in parliament in October.

U Tin Ye Win, director of the 105 Mile Zone, told *The Myanmar Times* in an exclusive interview that official and unofficial trade is becoming big business in Muse, a border city in northern Shan State across from the Chinese city of Ruili, which is often called Shweli.

"From the time of U Ne Win until now, the trading rules haven't been followed," he said. "If they did, there would be no black market."

The city has become Myanmar's biggest overland trade link, with April through September 2014 official recorded trade at about \$2.6 billion. Bilateral trade through Muse in the same period last year was \$1.783 billion.

The sheer volume of the trade is evident in the hundreds of trucks passing through the Mein Way border gate in the centre of Muse every day. However, customs procedures are actually applied several kilometres away at the 105 Mile Zone on the outskirts of the



U Tin Ye Win, director of Shan State's 105 Mile customs Zone, means business.

Photo: Aung Htay Hlaing

city. At the zone, officials say they do what they can to grapple with illegal trade.

The Ministries of Commerce and of Finance have made a priority of cutting down the size of the black market. Partly this is an effort to generate more tax revenue, as Myanmar's tax revenue to GDP ratio is the lowest among ASEAN members.

Official trade volumes have been on the upswing in Myanmar. Total foreign trade was worth \$24.9 billion in 2013-14, which is expected to climb to \$30 billion in the current fiscal year. Increasing taxes collected on trade is an obvious way to generate more state revenue.

Still, smugglers are clever, and there are a wide range of ways to illicitly get goods across the border. Random small-scale seizures of smuggled goods are relatively common. On the same day U Tin Ye Win's team caught the 150 motorcycles, it also found a personal car illegally attempting to import 1000 mobile phones.

Although customs officials are cracking down on illegal trade, they are often outnumbered. From October 1 to October 27 a total of 8735 trucks

carrying exports were processed through 105 Mile, carrying goods like jade, timber, fish and beans.

The 105 Mile Zone has 288 state employees in various capacities, with a team of 70 members who have duties including attempting to prevent illicit trade - of whom 12 are from the Ministry of Commerce, with the others from law enforcement organisations and various government departments.

For the six months from April to September a total of K28 million of illegal exports were seized, along with K29 million of illegal imports, in a total of 672 separate case - meaning the average haul of illegal goods was about K80,000.

U Tin Ye Win said customs officials face challenges from the locations they can cover and from the number of people that can be used.

Only about 8 out of every 800 trucks are checked through a spot-checking method - meaning many are not checked. Given the tightness of the truckers' fraternity, many complain when their illegal goods are seized but other more egregious truckers get away with smuggling.

"We don't have the details that

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y consumption as incomes begin to rise



asture. Photo: Staff

land to provide grass and forage to cattle, but also need support and advice. However, land around Yangon is currently used for rice and vegetable production, but if a local dairy industry is going to grow, it will require more

local land given over to cattle. Areas like Mandalay have more grassland available to support cattle farmers. “You cannot produce milk in Kachin State and consume it in Yangon,” said Mr van der Lee.

One of the biggest competitors to fresh milk will be imported milk powder. As it is convenient and lasts longer, it can be difficult to compete with, particularly if it is accepted as a similar product to fresh milk.

While powdered milk doesn’t spoil, fresh milk needs to be produced from cows close to factories. Domestic production will also soon be challenged by duty-free imports from other ASEAN countries under the 2015 Free Trade area, making it difficult to foster a domestic industry. A ban on imports would likely be counterproductive anyway, as it would protect a potentially unviable domestic industry.

“If you have better farming practices and farmers know what to do, and if we can produce more forage and cattle get healthier and can produce more milk, then farmers will get more income and dairy production will grow,” he said.

Mr van der Lee said foreign competitors such as Nestle may open factories here, but if they are not sourcing locally, it will not have significant trickle-down effects on the economy. “This is a challenge for the dairy sector and the farming community,” he said. Producers like Nestle require consistent production if they are to produce locally – otherwise they are forced to import.

“There are a lot of local investors

in places like Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon,” he said. “We see a lot of businesses starting farms and producing milk.”

Dairy production is still quite low, requiring improvements in areas like land and water availability, electricity and feed supply to improve domestic milk production.

These are also the areas that need to be improved to attract foreign investment to the sector. Currently more than half of milk in the main dairy areas of Sagaing and Mandalay Region are used to produce condensed milk at local factories. Locally produced milk is often less healthy and includes more sugar than comparable regional produce, highlighting the need for fresh milk production.

One way to increase the amount of domestic dairy consumption is to

promote it among young people, as it is particularly beneficial for children, said Mr van der Lee.

Convincing farmers to switch from rice to feed

Although there are strong growth prospects for the domestic dairy industry, it has significant hurdles to overcome. U Kyaw Ko Ko Khaing, a Thone Khwa township-level officer with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Yangon region, said many farmers at present view growing rice and beans as more profitable than growing the grass necessary to feed cattle. Although Thone Khwa township is only about 24 miles (38 kilometres) from Yangon city, it may be tough to convince farmers to change their crop.

“Farmers choose to cultivate rice and beans rather than producing milk because the crops are easier to grow and gain a profit,” he said. U Than Hla said he supported policies that promoted rural development, such as access to land and increasing rural electricity supplies.

“There’s no need to ban imports to promote local milk production growth, but to compete with international brands, policies should be aimed at promoting local milk production in areas such as taxation,” he said.

‘You cannot produce milk in Kachin State and consume it in Yangon.’

Jan van der Lee
Livestock expert

he border

traders have,” he said. “If I receive the correct information, I will take action.”

Frequently, traders deliberately undervalue the amount of goods they are carrying in a bid to pay less tax.

U Tin Ye Win said one truck carrying seasoning powder came through the 105 Mile Zone, with its manifest claiming it was carrying 2.5 tonnes. “But in my experience the truck can carry far more, so we made an official keep track of the truck for 10 days. When it came again to collect goods, we followed it and seized its load to check,” he said.

Traders also frequently avoid official crossings altogether. While Muse is the portal for official trade, the border between China and Myanmar is relatively porous. Boats make a short crossing when the border is a river, while trucks can use small roads, often located out of reach of government areas in conflict areas, to get around customs.

Perhaps most frustrating for U Tin Ye Win, though, is the difficulty of reaching the owners of the trucks and goods when smuggled goods are caught.

Most of the time customs agents are simply able to charge the drivers and labourers, never reaching the truck owners, trade financiers and ultimate beneficiaries. “In our country, if the laws were effective there would be no black market,” he said. “I don’t want to arrest 100 labourers to get 10 owners.”

Meanwhile, traders say the process of importing and exporting is not cheap. In addition to customs levies, there are a range of fees for the process. Truck drivers told *The Myanmar Times* they pay a K5000 fine for excess tonnage; there is also a K800 per tonne labour fee, while agents cost about K30,000 and are vital for receiving approval.

While U Tin Ye Win was reluctant to talk about the complicity of customs officials, it can also be a significant factor in illegal trade.

What’s clear, though, is that Muse and Myanmar need to get better at taxing trade if they are going to generate more revenue from customs.

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Women in business and the search for funding



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MA Su Whin Wha reckoned she needed a mentor if her business was ever going to get off the ground.

She's a budding entrepreneur, looking to open a coffee shop with a literary bent. She's worked through the business plan and received training on the nuances of being a small business owner, but that's not enough - the project needs funding, or it will only ever be a dream.

There's a burgeoning coffee-sipping scene in Yangon, and Ma Su Whin Wha said she thinks her shop will be set apart by containing a wide array of books for patrons to read while at the shop. Still, without attracting financing, she will never succeed.

To find that mentor that can help her develop her ideas into a pitch-worthy concept, she is participating in a local project designed to foster woman-run businesses.

Ma Su Whin Wha is one of about 20 women participating in Project W, a Yangon startup incubator run created Partnership for Change, the Kavli Fondet and Project Hub Yangon. The project aims to put the women entrepreneurs with an idea through business training, at the end producing viable business plans that are ready for funding.

"I'm about 60 percent on the way to implementing my ideas," she said. "The training has given me self-confidence and good new ideas."

Through mentorship provided by the project, she has found gaps in her knowledge of the food and beverage industry, and will be working with a foreign-owned coffee shop to learn more about what it takes to be successful.

Still, that is no guarantee her coffee shop will get off the ground.

Ma Su Whin Wha will have to make her pitch to potential investors at the project's end. Some of the entrepreneurs could receive financing from investors connected through the program, while others will need to explore outside funding and other projects may not need much capital initially.

It's this phase that Ma Su Whin Wha said she is most worried about. However, Project W has already helped her find a potential partner.

While she is still discussing the terms of an agreement, she said she is hopeful about the idea's future prospects.

Another entrepreneur is 21-year-old Ma Su Wai Yee. She studied in the United States, before she came back to Yangon. She now works as an intern at Myanmar Marketing Research and Development

(MMRD). She's keen to get into fashion design, targeting women between 20 and 35 years old.

With a family background in management in the garment sector, she has some knowledge of clothing manufacture. What she said she was missing was business knowledge - how to transform her dream into a profitable entity.

Ma Su Wai Yee has been working on a daily plan of what she needs to do to launch her business, skills she wouldn't have had unless she'd participated.

"There is a chance for women to start a business, even if they have the ability and talent but don't know how to start," she said.

Allison Morris, co-founder of Project Hub, which is one of Project W's organisers, said its goal to build strong women entrepreneurs and encourage their interest in the field.

It can be difficult in Myanmar to promote women entrepreneurs, as they face specific challenges like social pressures to be home at a certain point in the evening. But on

the whole, women have plenty of potential to be strong entrepreneurs.

"We will make stronger and more confident women," said Ms Morris.

Ma Su Wai Yee checks out some of her handiwork - samples for a future business venture.
Photo: Supplied



INTERVIEW

OCBC builds anew with 60 years' history

SINGAPORE'S OCBC Bank has 60 years of experience banking in Myanmar as it looks to build its presence following its licence win last month.

Tan Chor Sen, OCBC's international head, said having a Myanmar branch is important as the country is the next up-and-coming destination for business in the region.

"We are possibly the only foreign bank that is coming back to Myanmar to re-establish a branch presence in Myanmar," he said in a telephone interview on November 3.

A forerunner of OCBC first established a Yangon branch in 1923. OCBC itself was born out of three banks on the Malayan peninsula during the Great Depression, and had a presence in Myanmar until the 1963 bank nationalisations, including founding a second Myanmar branch in Lashio, Shan State in 1939 to tap trade with China.

It re-opened in Myanmar with a representative office in 1994, and was one of nine successful applicants for a foreign banking licence on October 1.

Following its licence win, the bank is looking to assist with bringing in foreign direct investment, but also working with local financial institutions.

"So it's an extension of activities supporting our customers to invest in potentially a highly attractive, high

growth country," he said.

OCBC has already supported loans to local business in the last two years.

Mr Tan highlighted an S\$22 million (US\$17 million) loan to Sian Mian Pte, the procurement arm of Shwe Taung Group, to purchase 100 SCANIA buses for intra-country use, as well as its participation with four other foreign banks to arrange US\$85 million in financing to telecoms tower company Pan Asia Majestic Eagle.



Tan Chor Sen. Photo: Supplied

Foreign banks will have restricted licences at first, for instance limiting them to one branch and preventing them from retail banking.

Mr Tan said these restrictions will likely be gradually eased, as confidence grows in the services the foreign banks

can bring to the market.

Still, the initial charter of the bank licence is quite clear, said Mr Tan.

OCBC must support the inflow of foreign investment. Its foreign clients are particularly keen on areas such as infrastructure, manufacturing and resource development. The bank must help the development of the domestic financial sector.

Some local bankers have also been vocal in their opposition to foreign banks entering Myanmar, claiming it creates a situation where important financial decisions are not always made with Myanmar's best interests in mind.

Mr Tan said OCBC has a good relationship with local banks, built on years of collaboration and training. However, doing business in Myanmar presents its own challenges.

"We have a good track record in the country," he said. "It is still a frontier market, it is still an emerging market, and so, one would expect policy adjustment to match the different challenges that they face opening up to different players. But all in, we don't expect too many surprises."

"Historically we have had strong links to the country. With the right framework, the right systems, we would like to be a key contributor to Myanmar." - *Jeremy Mullins*



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Chevrolet opens flagship showroom

AYE NYEIN WIN

ayenyeinwin.mcm@gmail.com

A SECOND American automaker has set up its flagship Yangon showroom as the new car race continues to grow.

Chevrolet, a division of giant manufacturer General Motors, opened its main showroom in Pazundaung township through a joint venture between Singapore's Alpine Group and Myanmar's AA Medical Group.

It joins US rival Ford and a range of other international automakers with increased presence in Myanmar since changes to rules on new car imports in early 2013.

Pacific Alpine's Myanmar managing director U Zaw Moe Khaing said its Spin model will be made in Indonesia and imported to Myanmar. He added there is strong interest in the Chevrolet brand, and it has already sold about 140 units through a smaller showroom in Hledan township.

"This is highly encouraging given the market is still new," he said.

The Pazundaung township showroom will provide sales, service and spare parts, and claims to be Chevrolet's largest such centre in Southeast Asia.

"This is a significant step forward for our plans in Southeast Asia, particularly in a growing market like Myanmar," said General Motors Southeast Asia operations president Tim Zimmerman. "With the increasing affluence of Myanmar people, prospects in this market are positive."

Chevrolet sold 82,981 units in ASEAN in 2013, and is counting on its latest Spin model for local growth. The basic model for the seven-seat vehicle costs US\$36,000, and is imported from a GM manufacturing facility in Indonesia.

It also distributes the Cruze compact sedan, Colorado midsize pickup truck and Trailblazer SUV in Myanmar.



The crowd reacts to K-pop stars as they arrive for a Yangon concert. Photo: Zarni Phyo



MYAT
NOE OO

myatnoe.mcm@gmail.com

K-POP has swept Asia. The music, the style, the fashion are everywhere, and Myanmar is no different as its trendy youth join in on the craze.

While Psy, the flagbearer of Korean pop music, is still frequently the background tune to the Yangon festival or supermarket experience, he's far from the only the act to have caught the local imagination.

Groups like Exo and Girls Generation are also particularly popular in the K-pop genre, a type of music which is set apart by its fusion of various Western and Eastern styles into a distinctively trendy, energetic sound.

The K-pop trend has developed its own cultural following. Keen K-pop aficionados, or K-poppers, follow the associated music and television programs closely, but for many their interests do not stop there. Fans also monitor their favourite Korean stars for fashion tips and accessory options, although local clothing shops haven't

always been attuned to the style.

"I like to wear accessories from singers I see in photos. I enjoy them, and always buy these kinds of accessories," said Ma Wai, a self-describer K-popper.

"I'm always on the lookout for fashion changes."

She is particularly keen on buying accessories like bags and jewellery she sees being worn by her Korean idols, as well as their branded products.

With enough fashion-conscious consumers like Ma Wai in Myanmar, businesspeople are beginning to see an opportunity.

Those interested in K-pop tend to be young and digitally oriented. Many shops such as Dream Land inside Ruby Mart in Kyauktada township start as online stores before opening a bricks-and-mortar location. Although the shop get foot traffic, many customers still come across it first online.

"We started with an online store and then began opening shops," said the Dream Land owner. Customers check out its products online. If they like them, they order the products and pick them up at the stores.

While most of Dream Land's shoppers are youth, the owner said the best customers are adults buying gifts

for their children.

However, it's largely a young persons' trend. K-poppers form an identifiable community in Myanmar and frequently communicate with each other in online forums such as Facebook, trading information on where to shop and what to buy.

Although K-pop is catching on locally, nearly all the products of that style sold in must be imported.

Ma Ri Ri, owner of Cherry RiRi store on Mandalay's 32nd Street, said customers can get agitated if they have to wait too long for products, adding after two weeks of waiting she begins receiving complaints.

Still, Mandalay represents something of a new frontier for K-pop. While it's more common in Yangon, which is the scene of so many concerts and shops catering to fans, the music has made relatively less impact so far in Myanmar's second-largest city.

"I think there may be only two or three K-pop shops in all of Mandalay," she said. "Mandalay residents are only now starting to learn about and use the products. But Yangon has a lot more buyers, and I sell there on a wholesale level."

While there is only one Cherry RiRi store in Mandalay at present, she

would like to open more locations.

Ma Ri Ri said she also followed a template of opening an online store first, then opening the shop four months later when the company's name was firmly established.

It's not only K-pop-style clothing and accessories that are in demand. Customers are also keen to buy products closely associated with various singers.

Self-professed K-popper Ma Wai said she is on the lookout for bags, key chains and pillows with photos of her favourite artists, as well as the products they endorse.

Ma Wai said some of her friends will spend up to K100,000 in one shopping excursion if they're feeling rich.

While this is a large sum of money for her, Ma Wai said he parents don't object too much. They are also fans of Korean popular culture, after a fashion - though of television dramas rather than pop music. "Older people are beginning to accept Korean culture, so they are less reluctant to have K-poppers as children," she said.

It's tough to say if K-pop is a fad or if it's here to stay, but it is certain business are generating a lot of custom by catering to young peoples' trends.

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TOKYO

Stimulus as Abenomics hits a wall

A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue and white jacket, is looking at a large sign. The sign is white with black and red text. It says 'LUCKY COUPON' in large red letters at the top. Below that, in smaller black text, it says '今すぐ使える空くじナシのクーポン' (Coupon that can be used immediately without scratch-off). Then, in large red letters, it says '表示価格より最大' (Maximum from displayed price) followed by '50% OFF' in very large red letters. At the bottom, it lists '10% / 20% / 30% / 40%' in black, followed by 'のチャンスも!' (Chance also!). There is a small red square logo at the bottom left of the sign. The background is a blurred outdoor scene.

LUCKY COUPON
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10% / 20% / 30% / 40%
のチャンスも!

Is Japan's stimulus round the lucky ticket for economic growth? Photo: AFP

When the program was launched, Mr Abe's revival plan was cheered by some and it seemed to be working well – sending the yen tumbling against the dollar and the stock market surging to a six-year high by



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INTERVIEW

Largest sovereign fund mulls China riddle

ONCE a year, the man running the world's biggest sovereign wealth fund travels around China for a week.

Though assets from that country make up only about 1.5 percent of the US\$860 billion Norwegian wealth fund's portfolio, Yngve Slyngstad, its chief executive officer, says almost all investment decisions are affected by what happens in China.

Understanding what's poised to become the world's largest economy is crucial for Mr Slyngstad as he manages a fund that Norway predicts will reach \$1 trillion in less than three years. He'll be in China this month, visiting Beijing and other cities.

"Every time I come back, my perception of China has changed," Mr Slyngstad, 52, said in an interview in his fifth-floor office in Oslo. "There has been more and more of a question mark over what's the next step for that economy. The uncertainty among investors is partially due to the very simple fact that it's more difficult to know what's happening in that large economy than in any other."

The composition of the global economy, including the future of

emerging markets such as Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, will be decided in China, Mr Slyngstad says. Yet growth in China, which by some calculations is already bigger than the US economy, is slowing and the lack of transparency is making it hard for investors to understand exactly why.

Mr Slyngstad, who last year visited Shenzhen, Hangzhou and the Shandong province, is looking for investments to channel billions of dollars in Norway's oil cash. He has been lobbying the Chinese government to allow the fund a bigger quota than the \$1.5 billion it's permitted to place in Chinese A shares.

"The reason why I spend some time going around there is because it's less of a homogenous economy than is widely perceived," he said. "We as a fund have a strong interest in China and still a strong belief in the importance of the development of that economy."

The fund can also invest in China through listed companies in Hong Kong. Its exposure to the country amounted to 2.7pc of its stocks in the third quarter, up from 2.5pc at the end 2013. Holdings include oil producer

and explorer PetroChina and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, the world's largest lender by assets.

Norges Bank Investment Management, which runs the fund as part the central bank, owned 1.3pc of global stocks at the end of last year. Norway's Finance Ministry has set the broad guidelines at 60pc in equities, 35pc in bonds and the rest in real estate.

Figuring out how to invest in China is just one of many hurdles. Mr Slyngstad said one of the main worries now is how monetary policy will affect his investment decisions. Continued turmoil in Europe and distortions in credit markets also cause concern. Old rules don't always apply as the very nature of the capital markets has changed, he said.

"A continuous lowering of interest rates in many countries and unwillingness of some countries to step up and move interest rates back again has actually in some way structurally moved the whole capital market interest away from the bond market and toward the currency market," Mr Slyngstad said. The fund is also expanding its bond investing to include more currencies in an

effort to increase returns.

Mr Slyngstad said the fund is now "less invested in" credit markets after excess liquidity distorted prices. He's adjusting the portfolio even after corporate bonds were the fund's best performing asset class in the third quarter.

"It seems like spreads are coming in but it's a secondary effect of monetary policy that from our reading has increased the need for pondering," he said.

Mr Slyngstad is also watching how the Ebola crisis will unfold. "In general, the possibility of a pandemic is underestimated in the market," he said.

After working as head of equities, Mr Slyngstad became CEO of the fund at the beginning of 2008 and says his tenure has coincided with a "fascinating period" in financial markets.

The financial crisis - during which the fund has bought up cheap securities everyone else was selling - has challenged truths about investment management, monetary policy, the economy and the financial markets, he said. It has showed that the financial industry has the capacity to heal itself, with

or without the help of regulators, according to Mr Slyngstad.

The power of the crisis could be called "Schumpeterian creative destruction," said Mr Slyngstad, who has studied German philosophy.

"Crisis within the financial sector also serves a purpose," he said.

"You have to be careful about something that without a crisis looks stable, but may also turn stagnant."

Bloomberg



Yngve Slyngstad.
Photo: Bloomberg

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **NTT Communications Kabushiki Kaisha**, (also trading as NTT Communications Corporation) a company organized under the laws of Japan and having its principal office at 1-6 Uchisaiwai-cho, 1-chome Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



(Reg: Nos. IV/12427/2014 & IV/6534/2009)

in respect of :- "Telecommunication machines and apparatus; electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; computer software; computer programs; computer software applications, downloadable; computer network servers; computer hardware; computers; computer terminals." - Class: 9

"Telephone directory information; telecommunications gateway services, namely, providing telecommunications connections to a global computer network; digital interactive communication, namely, digital transmission of interactive television, audio, print documents, messages (not including computer games) via globally interconnected computer networks; integrated services digital network; television broadcasting; cable television broadcasting; transmission of news in visual image and text to reporters and news agencies via cable television broadcasting and closed circuit television; audio and video teleconferencing; electronic transmission of messages; electronic voice messaging; facsimile transmission; telephone communication services; telecommunication services, namely, electronic transmission of data, images, and documents via computer terminals; data and voice telecommunication; computer-aided transmission of messages, data and images; satellite communication services; transmission of images by communication satellites; providing information relating to telecommunications, data communications, and broadcasting; providing information on telephone numbers; providing information in a wide variety of fields by telecommunications; communications by telephone, telegraph, computer terminal, videotext, provision of VAN (value-added network) communications; teletext services; radio paging services; telephone paging services; teleprinting; rental and leasing of telecommunication equipment; providing a value-added communication network, including on-line retail services via satellites or telecommunication circuit; communication by

telephone, communication by facsimile, communication by computer, satellite communication services; rental of telecommunication equipment, consultancy for telecommunication networks, providing utilization rights of telecommunication networks; electronic data interchange; telegraph services." Class: - 38

"Computer services, namely, leasing access time to computer databases, providing a web site, home page and bulletin board all featuring research and reference materials in the field of business, finance, news, weather, sports, entertainment, travel, shopping, computing, computer software, music, theater, movies, hobbies, computer support education, life styles and general interest; computerized on-line retail services for a wide variety of goods; computerized ordering via telephone and computer terminals for a wide variety of goods; consultation, design, research and development, in the fields of computer systems, computer networks, telecommunication, computer networks, intercommunication systems, broadcasting; updating of computer software; computer services, namely, providing interactive access to a global computer information network for the transfer and dissemination of a wide range of information; computer services, namely, providing on-line access to computer databases in the field of business, computer, culture and other topics of general interest; computer programming for others; rental and leasing of computers; rental of computer software; providing computer software in the field of business, computer, culture, electronic commerce and a wide range of fields that may be downloaded from a global computer network; designing and hosting home pages on a computer network for others; providing an integrated company information database; leasing or providing access time to computer databases/web sites/ home pages of others in the fields of business, computer, culture, finance, news, weather, sports, games, music, theater, movies, entertainment, travel, shopping, hobbies and other topics of general interest via a globally connected computer network; construction drafting, architectural design, engineering, drafting, research and development of products for others technical analysis and testing of products for others; technical analysis, testing and consultation in the fields of construction and operation of networks, integration services of global, international, and personal computer local area communication networks; design and development for others in the field of telecommunication installations and telecommunications networks providing information in a wide variety of topics of public interest via an interactive computer communication network and global computer network;

providing information in a wide variety of fields by means of a global computer information network; consultation in the fields of intellectual property, computer hardware, and architecture; providing information in the fields of natural science and social science, restaurants, cosmetology, laws, cooking, computers, computer programs, geography, weather and fashion; providing facilities for exhibition; providing multiple-user access to a computer or electronic bulletin board in the fields of fashion, entertainment, health, lifestyle and other topics of general interest; computer services, namely, providing on-line newspaper articles and documentary information in a variety of fields; computer services, namely, providing on-line magazines in the fields of fashion, entertainment, health, lifestyle and other topics of general interest; providing access to an on-line database for chat room activities being real-time interaction with other computer users concerning topics of general interest; inspection of electrical facilities maintained in buildings; computer services, namely, leasing or providing access time to a computer database, web sites, home pages, and/or bulletin boards of others; computer consultancy services; computer programming; design of networks and telecommunication installations; cloud computing; electronic data storage; server hosting; rental of web servers; rental of memory areas of the Internet servers; off-site data backup; monitoring of computer systems by remote access; computer virus protection services; computer system analysis; designing, planning, configuration, expansion or addition of functions and maintenance of communication network systems; encryption of electronic data; computer software design; installation of computer software; maintenance of computer software; software as a service [SaaS]; providing computer programs; hosting computer sites [websites]; technical advice relating to performance and operation of computers and computer software; computer technology support services, namely, help desk services; consultancy in the field of computer networks and applications; computer software consultancy." Class: 42

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **NTT Communications Kabushiki Kaisha**,
(also trading as NTT Communications Corporation)
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 10th November, 2014



JOB WATCH



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT CALL FOR CVS: USAID/OTI PROGRAM GRANTS MANAGER

Background: DAI, an international consulting firm based in the United States, is currently accepting applications from candidates for a Grants Manager position to support the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Transitions Initiatives (OTI)-funded program. The USAID/OTI is working with civil society, the Government, and other stakeholders to foster more participatory and inclusive reform and peace processes.

Responsibilities: The Grants Manager will:

- In coordination with the Regional Program Managers and Program Development Officers, participate in the revision of budgets for proposed grantee activities in order to improve the objectives, focus, efficiency and feasibility of grants to be approved.
- In consultation with the potential grantee partner as well as with the Program Development Officers and/or Procurement and Logistics Officer, develop a monitoring and evaluation process for inclusion in each grant that is likely to be approved.
- Work with Program Development Officers to ensure that the subsequent grant agreements accurately reflect approved activities.
- Draft all grant agreements for signature by the Chief of Party or her designee and ensure that all associated documentation such as the Proposal Competition and Grant Negotiation memos have been completed by the relevant parties.
- Monitor the implementation progress of each grant along with the Procurement and Logistics Specialists (as necessary)
- Provide regular updates for staff on grant status and ensures proper information entry in Activity Database.
- Draft grant-related correspondence (letters of receipt, issue letters, rejection letters, closeout letters etc.).
- Maintains all grant files
- Inputs information into and ensures accuracy of project Activity Database and DAI management systems.
- Reviews and approves grant documentation prior to close out of grant activities.
- Collect information and data on the implementation progress of each grant and give input on implementation issues to the Program Development Officer for inclusion in the written evaluations of completed grants.
- Other duties as assigned by the Deputy Chief of Party and/or Regional Program Managers that are consistent with the overall focus of the assignment.

Qualifications:

- University degree in relevant field preferred.
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in related role required.
- Relevant experience working on donor-funded projects in a related role highly preferred.
- Experience with grants or small grants under contract programs required.
- Strong computer skills (MS Office suite) required.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- English language fluency required.

Interested and qualified candidates should e-mail CV and cover letter to

DAIRecruit@dai.com

Submissions must be received by Sunday, November 16, 2014

JOB VACANCY

Programme Officer

Salary range 745.000 – 1.404.000 Kyats per month
(Depending on skills and experiences)



DanChurchAid (DCA) is an international development and humanitarian organisation working in more than 20 countries. Currently DCA is seeking to recruit a qualified person to fill the position of Programme Officer based in Yangon with extensive travel to field. Myanmar National with a minimum of 5-year INGO experience working with local civil society/faith based/ church based organizations are preferred for the position. A detailed Job Description is available on request from Ms. Hlaing Phyu Min, hpmi@dca.dk

The applicants should submit motivated application (why are you qualified for this position), CV and contact details of two referees with any other relevant documentation to HR Unit by email hpmi@dca.dk and mkum@dca.dk not later than 15th November 2014. Women are encouraged to apply. Please quote reference: 'DCA Programme Officer – application'. (Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.)

Communications Young Professional

Interested in writing news stories, managing Facebook and Twitter, and organising events?

The United Nations development Programme is looking for a Communications Young Professional to join its team. This opportunity provides on the job training and builds the skills of a young graduate.



Requirements:

- 1) Bachelors degree in Journalism, Communications, Public Relations or related field;
- 2) 1-2 years of experience in journalism or communications field desirable
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Duration: One year, renewable subject to performance.

Location: Yangon, some travel outside of Yangon required

Visit our website for the full job description:

https://jobs-admin.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?job_id=51098

Note: Only applications submitted through the website will be accepted.

Applications close: **Nov 17**

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a Japanese governmental organisation responsible for implementing Official Development Assistance (ODA) such as Technical Cooperation, ODA Loans and Grant Aid in developing countries, Myanmar Office is seeking qualified Myanmar nationals for the post of Programme Assistants and Secretary for its expanded works in Myanmar.

1) Programme Assistant: Job Description - The Programme Assistant will work closely with Programme Officers and be responsible for:-

- Assisting in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development Projects and Programs
- Organising seminars and workshops
- Undertaking public relations activities
- Assisting in data collection, compilation, data analysis and writing reports
- Handling operation and logistic matters

Eligible candidate for Programme Assistant should possess following qualifications:

- University Graduate
- Fluent in English (Reading, Writing, Speaking)
- Age less than 45 years
- Good relationship with Myanmar governmental offices
- Ability to work in a team and maintain harmonious relationship with other staff
- More than 5 years of working experience in the organisation/s
- Good computer skills and knowledge of Word, Excel & Power Point

2) Secretary: Job Description- The Secretary shall work closely with Programme Officers and Programme Assistants and be responsible for:-

- Assisting in preparation of official documents
- Assisting in organising seminars and workshops
- Making arrangements for meeting and appointments
- Performing logistic arrangements for experts and mission
- Handling documentation and filing

Eligible candidate for Secretary should possess following qualifications:

- University Graduate
- Fluent in English (Reading, Writing, Speaking)
- Age less than 30 years
- Ability to work in a team and maintain harmonious relations with other staff
- 2 ~ 3 years working experience in organisation/s
- Good computer skills and knowledge of Word, Excel & Power Point

Duration of assignment: From first week of December 2014 (negotiable), yearly renewal upon satisfactory performance.

How to apply: Qualified and interested persons are requested to send the applications with updated C.V, educational credentials and references to JICA Myanmar Office, Room 701, 7th Floor, Sakura Tower, No. 339, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, not later than **5:00 p.m., November 21, 2015.**

Note: Only short listed candidates will be contacted for subsequent interviews.

Property

BUSINESS EDITOR: Jeremy Mullins | jeremymullins7@gmail.com



Strand Road construction workers scoop up a shovel-full.
Photo: Kaung Htet

Few engineers join ASEAN initiative



MYAT
NYEIN AYE

myatnyeinae11092@gmail.com

MORE local engineers ought to register with the ASEAN Engineer Registry, which aims to allow local engineers to take part in projects in other countries, according to officials from the Myanmar Engineers Society.

Not all engineers say joining up is necessary to work abroad, though it may help those with no international experience get work in other ASEAN countries.

Some 426 Myanmar engineers have registered over the last 12 years, with about 90 engineers registering in the last year, the society's statistics show.

"If Myanmar engineers register at the ASEAN level, they have a chance to take advantage of the free flow of service in other ASEAN countries," said Daw Si Than, vice president of

Myanmar Engineers Society.

"But here, engineers are not used to registering, even though engineers participating in the Engineering Society has some knowledge about the benefits," she said.

Registering with the ASEAN body is not as simple as putting a signature on paper. Engineers must have graduated from a university with an engineering degree, must have seven years' experience, and must write a test and submit their work experience to the society.

"An engineer who wants to join the ASEAN Engineer Registry must be at the ASEAN level, that's why we have to scrutinise the applications," Daw Si Than said. "Some are engineers but don't work in engineering, and others are working engineers but do not formally study the subject."

However, some engineers said they were not aware of the registry, adding they did not see the benefit of the institution.

Ma Swe Zin Htun has worked as an engineer in Singapore for about seven years, but added that with her existing

credentials she was not problem working in any country she wants.

"I have joined the ASEAN Engineer Registry and I don't think it's required. There are many [Myanmar] engineers in Singapore and Thailand already."

Ma Swe Zin Htun said Singapore has likely the highest standards in ASEAN for its engineers. However, for Myanmar engineers looking to move abroad, the registry may help them find foreign work, she added.

Myanmar Engineering Society joint secretary general U Winn Maung said joining up will be particularly useful when the ASEAN Free Trade Area and ASEAN Economic Community kicks in next year.

Engineers will then have more opportunity to relocate around the region.

Another body called the Myanmar Engineering Council is also set to manage the engineers who are allowed to work on high-rise projects. The council aims to allow those who are able to join the ASEAN Engineer Registry to take part in high-rise construction, said U Winn Maung.

SINGAPORE

High-end Sentosa

AUSTRALIAN hedge-fund manager Stephen Fisher says he was lucky to have bought his luxury home on Sentosa, a Singapore resort island that has attracted the wealthy, in 2005, before property curbs kicked in.

"I would be very wary of buying a second property in Singapore as I would have to pay higher taxes, which makes it less attractive," said Mr Fisher, 50, chair of First Degree Global Asset Management.

Sentosa, where Australia's richest woman, Gina Rinehart, and telecommunications billionaire Bhupendra Kumar Modi have homes, is losing its appeal. Taxes as high as 18 percent on foreigners buying property, begun in 2013, have depressed prices and sales.

Condominium prices in the residential enclaves that line the seafront with sweeping views across the Singapore Strait are near their lowest levels since the end of 2006 based on 15 transactions, according to Maybank Kim Eng Securities Pte. Some bungalows are being sold for more than 50pc below the peak in 2012, Urban Redevelopment Authority, or URA, data show.

Singapore has been trying to rein in the property market since 2009, with the toughest measures, including stricter lending, introduced last year. The island-state is unlikely to ease the curbs until "a meaningful correction" takes place, Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said on October 28.

"The way prices have fallen is like during the crisis time" in 2008, Alan Cheong, a Singapore-based director at broker Savills Plc, said, referring to values on Sentosa Island. "The measures have impacted demand and we are seeing a diversion of interest by foreigners away from here."

Home prices on Sentosa have fallen about 40pc since 2012, compared with a 28pc drop in 2008, Mr Cheong said.

Among the government's curbs have been a cap on debt at 60pc of a borrower's income and higher stamp duties on home purchases. Additional taxes for foreigners buying residential property were raised to 15pc in 2013 from 10pc, on top of the basic buyer's stamp duty rate of about 3pc. All home sellers need to pay 16pc in levies if



It's not just boats in Sentosa harbour that

they sell within the first year.



Singapore home prices reached a record high in the third quarter last year amid low interest rates. They have fallen every quarter since, sliding 3.8pc in the longest stretch of declines since the global financial crisis in 2008.

In 2004, the island-state eased rules to allow foreigners to buy land for development on Sentosa, luring buyers from Australia to Russia. Sentosa Cove, home to marinas and sprawling houses, became the first location where foreigners were allowed to own stand-alone homes with easy approval from the Singapore Land Authority.

"The curbs were to help the Singaporeans, but in the process they are also curtailing the growth prospects of the country," Mr Modi, who estimates his net worth at \$2 billion, said in a phone interview. "The government needs to differentiate between global and local citizens."

Mr Modi owns two properties in Sentosa, which means peace and tranquility in Malay.

Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest

Invitation to bidding For provision of English training

On behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung – BMZ) the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is providing technical assistance in Myanmar. The Financial Sector Development (FSD) is supporting the banking sector with a special focus on SME-finance.

Objective of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to strengthen the English language skills of selected employees of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union, so that they can adequately communicate in their increasingly international work environment.

Deliverables and Reporting

The consultant prepares and conducts English language classes (3 levels) for up to 60 officers in total. Target group for the classes are the employees of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union. Each class takes place two times a week in the premises of existing training school of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Two classes are for junior officers and one class focuses on senior officers.

Classes will take place from 1 March to 14 July 2015, as well as from 17 August to, 31 December 2015.

Written offer

The consultant provides a written offer. This includes the approach and concept for the language classes, references of relevant past assignments, CVs of the teaching staff as well as a financial offer, entailing all relevant costs

Terms of payment


GIZ will reimburse only the amount as per the training provider's quotation (offer). Please make sure all relevant costs are stated in the offer.

If you are interested in providing your offer, please send an email latest by November 7, 2014 with the reference "request for further information for English training for Auditor General officeto:giz-myanmar@giz.deThe deadline for offers (quotation) is November 20, 2014 17:00 Yangon time.

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“We are confident ... we can manage the situation. Customers don’t need to worry, the Central Bank is also watching.”

— U Than Win Swe, United Amara chief executive, on the bank’s financial soundness

Chinese diplomats accused of ivory spree

WORLD 44

Sentosa homes losing appeal



are setting sail – high-end owners are less keen on the area, too. Photo: Bloomberg

person in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, owns two apartments in the Seven Palms Sentosa Cove project, Ms Rinehart’s closely held Hancock Prospecting Pty confirmed. A company associated with Rinehart bought the apartments for S\$57.2 million (US\$44 million), *The Business Times* reported in July 2012.

Sentosa, connected to Singapore by a 710-metre (0.5 mile) causeway, was once a military base and housed a prisoner-of-war camp during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

In the 1970s, the Singapore government decided to develop the 500-hectare (1236-acre) island into a holiday resort to boost tourism. Resorts World Sentosa, built by Genting Singapore Plc for S\$7 billion in 2010, houses one of the city-state’s two casinos and Southeast Asia’s only Universal Studios theme park.

The curbs have made home buying prohibitive for foreign investors, said Donald Han, managing

director of Chestertons, a real estate broker in Singapore.

Homes larger than 2000 square feet that cost between S\$4 million and S\$5 million have been hit the hardest by the stamp duties on purchases and sales, Mr Han said.

Prices of some condominiums slumped as much as 45pc from 2007, when they were first sold, at auctions earlier this year by banks that repossessed them, according to Maybank Kim Eng.

A bungalow on 11,280 square feet of land on Treasure Island in Sentosa Cove was sold for 53pc below the peak this year, while a 7,341-square-foot property on Paradise Island was priced 39pc below the record S\$3,214 per square foot, URA data showed.

Homes purchased after 2006 and sold in the last 12 months lost between 5pc and 21pc of their value, Ng Wee Siang, a Singapore-based analyst at Maybank Kim Eng estimates.

“It’s now taking two to three months longer to sell,” Mok Sze Sze, head of auctions in Singapore at broker Jones Lang LaSalle Inc, said.

Sentosa has nine condominium projects. The first four sold during the early recovery of Singapore’s property market in 2004 and 2005 for an average price of about S\$1600 per square foot, according to the Maybank Kim Eng report. The remaining five were sold later for more than S\$2600 per square foot. Higher-priced projects are at a greater risk of a correction, according to Maybank’s Kim Eng Ng.

Apartment prices on Sentosa have dropped about 43pc from two years ago, data compiled by real estate research firm StreetSine Pte showed. Two units at Turquoise, a high-end condominium on the south side of the island developed by Ho Bee Land Ltd., changed hands at 45pc discounts to their initial prices in the second quarter, as banks sold them off in auctions, Maybank Kim Eng said.

Shares of Ho Bee slid 1pc at the close of trading in Singapore, extending declines this year to 6.6pc. The benchmark Straits Times Index added 3.9pc this year.

A couple of units at the Marina Collection, a premium project, were put up for auction earlier this year by banks which repossessed the properties after the owners couldn’t make the mortgage payments, Jones Lang LaSalle’s Mok said.

Secondary home sales in Singapore have been slowing, hitting the lowest since 2003 in the first quarter, before recovering, according to the URA.

High-net-worth buyers “will wait and pick and choose the right time to enter the market,” Mr Mok said. “They have other alternatives overseas, so that’s pulling away funds.”

Mr Fisher the hedge-fund manager questions the need for the property curbs.

“I don’t think there was a bubble so there was no need for such measures,” Mr Fisher said. “It’s rational pricing for real estate in Singapore because the country is getting richer and there isn’t much land around.”

— Bloomberg

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Pretty in Mandalay pink

Things are a little different in Mandalay. It’s a refreshing city after crowded Yangon, the seat of traditional Myanmar culture and home to a burgeoning property market all its own.

Taking pride in its traditions, there isn’t the level of construction happening that Yangon is seeing. However, new buildings are going up all the time. Naturally, there’re some hits, and some misses.

This week’s house, near busy 82nd Street in the southwest of Mandalay’s Mahar Aung Myay township, is promising for those who don’t mind an unconventional home. That’s pink.

Obviously making the most of a narrow plot, it has a bedroom on both the first and second floors, along with bathrooms, while the living room and dining room are on the ground floor. It has a useful flat roof for drying clothes, late-night beers or rising above the mosquitoes.

The house is new but ready to move in to. It has water and electricity, and it located near the city’s famous jade market as well as its landmark Mahamuni Pagoda. If you get there early enough, you can see an important daily ceremony at its statue, which includes brushing the Buddha’s teeth.

The building has a lease of 30 years. It’s on a 14 foot by 45 foot compound, and the construction is solid, if a little different. – By Kyaw Ko Ko, translation by Thiri Min Htun

Location : Between 82nd and 83rd, and 40th and 41st streets, Mahar Aung Myay township, Mandalay
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Translation marathon to aid young peoples' financial literacy

CATHERINE TRAUTWEIN
newsroom@mmmtimes.com

FOR the third time in Myanmar, volunteers will race the clock to translate the maximum number of educational videos they can into Myanmar language. Ooredoo and Khan Academy Burmese Translation (KABT) are putting on another Translate-a-Thon, supported by MasterCard, the telco announced November 4.

The event has teams of three speeding to translate videos from Khan Academy, the online educational platform featuring thousands. All volunteers get a free meal, t-shirt and gifts, according to the event's website, which also notes special prizes will go to those that BYO laptops or headphones, or take to Facebook to talk about the event. Translating longer finance videos merit special prizes as well from MasterCard, according to an Ooredoo Myanmar rep.

The Translate-a-thon marks part two of a month-long campaign to translate more than 400 economic and finance videos, with part one a translation push through the MasterCard Intern Program set up with Ideabox, Ooredoo's entrepreneurial arm.

MasterCard has dedicated \$10,000 to facilitate the Myanmar

'Youth in Myanmar are lagging behind their peers in money management.'

Antonio Corro
MasterCard country manager

translation of economic and finance videos, according to an Ooredoo press release.

"Our research on financial literacy amongst youth in Asia Pacific shows that youth in Myanmar are lagging behind their peers in the region in money management, indicating that more education is required on this front," said Antonio Corro, MasterCard's country manager for Thailand and Myanmar.

KABT's mission is to bring 1000 translated Khan Academy videos to Myanmar each year. The Translate-a-thon aims to produce about 300 new translated videos with an emphasis on those that are finance-focused, according to an Ooredoo rep.

Ooredoo also said it is working on a mobile app to help people get connected to the translated videos.

Two previous Translate-a-thons in August - one in Yangon and one in Mandalay - have contributed 355 Khan Academy videos on math, science, computer programming, health and finance to the Myanmar language stockpile, according to Ooredoo.

"Myanmar's people have a huge appetite for learning and we are committed to making education opportunities more accessible to the nation," Ooredoo Myanmar CEO Ross Cormack said in a statement. "Financial literacy is critical to sustainable community development and to sustaining the incredible progress and development we have seen to date."

What used to be "all Greek" could help turn Khan Academy video viewers into financial literacy geeks through the help of volunteers. The Translate-a-thon is slated for November 15, with the competition running from 9am to 6pm at the Ideabox office in MAC Tower.

Shopping 2.0: Myanmar h



KYAY MOHN WIN

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SOME companies have simplified shopping online down to just one click. In Myanmar, it's not that simple - but that hasn't stopped people from taking their business to online stores.

For the past few years, connectivity in Myanmar has been scaling and the practice of selling clothes, electronic devices and other products has gained popularity in the country, particularly in Yangon. Now, as more and more people go mobile with Ooredoo, Telenor and MPT, customers have an easier time shopping online on consumer websites and Facebook.

And while shopping in Myanmar's second largest-city usually takes the traditional form, with people heading to stores to buy whatever they need in person, those living in Mandalay have also shown a budding interest in online shopping - a process that for them involves searching for goods online, making orders, settling payments via banks and waiting a week to 10 days for purchases to be delivered.

Ma Nan Lae Lae Soe opened her clothing shop Hello Queen in 2007. Driven by the encouragement of regular customers from all over Myanmar, this past year she tested out an online store.

"My customers are not only from Mandalay, but also other cities such as Taunggyi, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Monywa and Myintkyina," she said. "I used to connect with them and send photos of new designs available at my shop via Viber. Then they suggested [I set up] an online store."

She has created a Facebook account for Hello Queen, which she uses to post photos and prices for clothes and to take orders. Her



Virtual window shoppers check out a page for the Mandalay clothing store Hello Queen.

online store also offers delivery service to homes or bus stations for those that buy items costing K50,000 or more.

Ma Nan Lae Lae Soe said more people know about her shop in Mandalay than before and that sales are up. She notes an online store can reach a wider audience than advertising in newspapers and magazines.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Su Pyi Kyi Thar Hlaing created an online fashion store not to sell her own styles, but to connect friends with all the web has to offer for fun.

"I'm often tired of searching for updated designs at shopping malls and other fashion shops, but I can find them on the internet's stores," she said.

Ma Su Pyi Kyi Thar Hlaing said she often buys clothing online and then shares pictures of purchases on Facebook. "My friends who like the

way I dress request I order from online stores on their behalf," she said, adding it's been about six months since she started shopping for others. Now she has regular customers.

Though she has established an online shopping page called Unicorn and Rainbow, she posts content and takes orders through her personal Facebook account.

Clearly, customers are interested in browsing and buying online. However, shopping on the web does carry risks for both vendors and consumers in Myanmar, where neither online nor mobile banking has been established.

Instead of waiting for payment, in the past Ma Nan Lae Lae Soe had customers pay up front. "I used to send customers bills via Viber and then ask them to transfer money from their nearest bank," she said. "After about two days, I delivered

Entrepreneurship week aims to get businesses going

CATHERINE TRAUTWEIN
newsroom@mmmtimes.com

STARTUP incubator Project Hub Yangon is hosting Myanmar's third Global Entrepreneurship Week, which from November 15-23 will urge people in Yangon, Taunggyi and Mandalay to get down to business.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) launched out of the U.S. in 2008 and now sees more than 20,000 events go on in 135 countries. In Myanmar, the array of panels, trainings and more seeks to educate and motivate entrepreneurs under the theme "Let's get started, Myanmar".

"The week's discussions and events are designed to inspire and better equip current and future entrepreneurs with knowledge and resources to start their businesses," said Project Hub Yangon co-founder Allison Morris at a press briefing November 4. "We came up with this theme after talking with one of our partners at Myanmar Business Executives who was really excited about GEW and was saying, 'I just wish more people would start something, just do it already.'"

GEW Myanmar 2014 marks the first time events will take place outside of Yangon. Taunggyi's entrepreneurship day comes courtesy of German government-owned development organisation GIZ, which is sponsoring the event along with the United States Agency for International Development



Hundreds of people turned out for last year's GEW events, like this small and medium enterprises forum. Photo: Supplied

(USAID). Meanwhile, Apex Management School will bring about a seminar on entrepreneurship in Mandalay.

Ms Morris also said this year's events, which include the first-ever observance of Women's Entrepreneurship Day, a Burmese-language event put on by the Myanmar Youth Professional Club, and a spotlight on rural entrepreneurship with Yangon-based school Opportunities Now, are "more diverse than ever".

Inclusivity can play an important role in Myanmar's burgeoning

economy. Chris Milligan, Burma Mission Director at USAID, said the country's reforms have opened up a new economic and political space in the nation - one entrepreneurs can use to produce financial and social benefits that push Myanmar to its full potential.

"We know that it's going to take time, that the country was closed off for a long time, and reforms will be messy ... but the important thing is that the people of this country are linked into the reforms so that they

can own [and] help shape [them]," Mr Milligan said. "Entrepreneurs are an important part of that because when they get out there and try to set up a business, when they find out what the obstacles are, they can communicate them up."

Mr Milligan said it takes an average of 11 separate actions and 72 days to start up a business in Myanmar, and that cooperation is necessary to ease this process and support entrepreneurs. This year, USAID will sponsor events including a social en-

terprise expo and startup town hall during GEW.

"[Global Entrepreneurship Week] is important because it brings people together to say, 'This is what we can do to respond to these new opportunities and these are the things we have to do to keep moving forward,'" Mr Milligan said.

Anyone can attend the week's entrepreneurship events, as they cost nothing and are open to all. Both English and Myanmar language events will take place.

leads to the web



Photo: Si Thu Lwin

the item to the customer's home or a bus station."

Meanwhile, the online looks themselves present challenges, as consumers can have trouble deciding what to buy based on photos. Sizing, as well as garment quality and appearance, can prove tricky as well for both buyers and sellers.

If a piece of clothing that gets ordered comes in too big, vendors can potentially size it down. But if it's too small, they can't sell it to the original intended customer; instead they have to sell it elsewhere or give it away.

Ma Ei Lay, who opened Mandalay's Little Things She Needs Fashion Shop in 2011, said she doesn't like online shopping but will incorporate it into her business soon to accede customer demand.

"I don't like [online shopping] because the colours of some clothes

are not the same as in the photos ... Then, there are delays in the delivery system," she said.

And though the World Wide Web can connect customers with the stuff they can't find anywhere else, Ma Ei Lay doesn't recommend buying it all.

"Online shopping is better to buy things that are difficult to buy in the market, but it can't be convenient to buy everything there," she said. "I never order clothes for myself. I ordered beds and pillows."

But the downsides to starting an online business - problems with payment and potential lost sales - are met by practical upsides such as a low barrier to entry, according to Su Pyi Kyi Thar Hlaing, who said she started up her online store with K1 million.

"Most people who don't have enough money to open a shop are [going online to run businesses] at a manageable size," Ma Ei Lay said.

The ticket price of starting a business presents a major obstacle to all entrepreneurs, while launching one virtually means cutting costs on rent and staff, as owners don't have to pay for online property.

Online shopping and online selling can make sales easier for vendors and customers. But it won't replace traditional buying altogether, especially in Mandalay, where according to Ma Nan Le Le Soe, people can get most of the things they need on 73rd Street, 35th Street, 69th Street and at Diamond Plaza.

But no matter how convenient a stroll to a store, Ma Ei Lay thinks that in time people will start shopping online. It's a sign of the times, one linked to the spread of connectivity over Myanmar.

"At the moment, there are affordable phones ... Internet can be used by people from all social strata," she said. "Online shopping will [get] gradually popular in Mandalay."

- Translation by Thiri Min Htun and Zar Zar Soe

Telenor teams up with Opera in data duet

AUNG KYAW NYUNT
aungkyawnyunt28@gmail.com

TELENOR Myanmar has teamed with Norway-based software company Opera to help customers surf the web more cheaply, the telco announced November 1.

The partnership accompanies Telenor Group's "internet for all" initiative as well as its mass market-focused strategy in Myanmar. Opera's browser, Opera Mini, makes web pages up to 90 percent smaller to reduce their data payload and help customers squeeze value from prepaid plans.

Telenor Myanmar CEO Petter Furberg said the firm has prioritised improving the domestic internet experience, which has led to the partnership with Opera.

More than 250 million people globally engage with Opera Mini, which Telenor customers can down-

load at no charge and use to access Facebook Zero and free Wikipedia, according to the telco.

"Opera works with Telenor around the world to provide faster and better Internet access for all and to simplify the way people get access to the web," said Opera Software CEO Lars Boilesen.

At least one customer said the smaller browser made an impact on savings.

"I can use more data because the Opera Mini browser reduces the file size of web pages," said Ko Pyae Phyto, a Telenor user. "Data charges can be reduced and mobile phone bill expenses are less than before."

Telenor's service, covering both 2G and 3G spectrums, went live in Yangon October 26 and has been turned on in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw for more than a month.

"Betting Tips" SMS

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No-smoke smoking

by Myo Satt

E-cigarettes are controversial. Some jurisdictions have banned them outright and some have embraced them, while in other places, including Myanmar, they occupy a legal grey area. Research the health risks first, but here are a few of the different models that are available on the Yangon market.

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A light model available in different colours.
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EVOD
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- Translation by Thiri Min Htun

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WASHINGTON

Ending sectarian rule key to beating IS, US says

THE commander of the US war against Islamic State jihadists has said the key to winning the fight will be ending Baghdad's sectarian rule, not how many American troops are on the ground.

General Lloyd Austin, who runs the air war against the IS group as head of Central Command, said he would be prepared to recommend more US troops if he concluded it was necessary, but stressed the Iraqi government's treatment of Sunnis would be the decisive factor in the outcome of the conflict.

"But I'll tell you sir, if the governmental piece of this doesn't work, if the Iraqi leadership cannot find themselves to be inclusive of the Sunnis and the Kurds, no matter how many troops you put on the ground, this is not going to work," Mr Austin said at an event organized by the Atlantic Council think tank.

But Mr Austin said he was hopeful a new government under Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi would reach out to the disaffected Sunni community, and that the situation in Iraq would be "different" this time than it was for American forces occupying the country from 2003 to 2011.

"I think this is different. I think it's different because number one there is a different government in place and I think the Iraqis should have learned from the lessons of the past," Mr Austin said.

"I think the initial indications that I'm seeing from Prime Minister Abadi and from the minister of defense are very positive."

The four-star general said the IS group was able to sweep through Iraq partly by taking advantage of the Sunni population's alienation from Baghdad's Shiite-dominated government.

"Absent resistance from the Sunnis who viewed ISIL [IS] as a vehicle for bringing about change in their government, Sunnis simply refused to fight," he said.

About 1400 US troops are now deployed in Iraq, with roughly 600 advisers assisting Iraqi and Kurdish forces and 800 forces protecting the American embassy and the Baghdad airport.

For their part, US forces are trying to apply lessons learned from the last mission in Iraq, he said.

"The first lesson is to not alienate the people that you're trying to help," he said.

"And so from the very start we were very careful about our air campaign in terms of who we were killing and who we were not killing."

Mr Austin said he was not aware of any confirmed case of civilian deaths from the air campaign launched on August 8, which has involved hundreds of bombing raids and more than a thousand bombs and missiles.

However, independent rights groups have reported civilian casualties from some strikes.



Iraqi soldiers stand guard as Shiite Muslims attend the reenactment of the Battle of Karbala during the Ashura commemorations on November 4 in Baghdad. Photo: AFP



WASHINGTON

Death threats issued shooting claims by for

After breaking a code of silence to say he was the man who shot dead the notorious

A FORMER US Navy SEAL who took part in the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound broke cover last week, claiming to be the man who fired the fatal shot which killed the al-Qaeda leader.

Robert O'Neill, 38, told *The Washington Post* he shot bin Laden in the forehead at his hideout in the Pakistani garrison city of Abbottabad three years ago.

Jihadists were reported to have swiftly issued a death threat against him following the revelations.

The former commando told the paper he decided to come forward ahead of planned media appearances next week when his identity was disclosed by SOFREP, a website operated by former SEALs.

SOFREP's revelation was in protest at Mr O'Neill's decision to reveal his role in the mission.

The highly decorated Montana native told *The Washington Post* that he was near the head of the column of US soldiers that raided bin Laden's compound, adding that at least two other SEALs fired shots.

The newspaper said two SEAL team members had corroborated his identity.

SITE, which monitors jihadists websites and media, said calls have now been issued for the killing of Mr O'Neill.

In postings on Twitter and the al-Minbar Jihadi Media forum, jihadists distributed pictures of

Mr O'Neill and messages in Arabic and English addressing lone wolves to take revenge for the former al-Qaeda leader, SITE said.

"One jihadist wrote in Arabic, for example, 'We will send

'I just rolled past him into the room ... there was bin Laden standing there. He had his hands on a woman's shoulders pushing her ahead.'

Robert O'Neill
Former SEAL

the picture to the lone wolves in America, this Robert O'Neill, who killed Sheikh Usama bin Laden...," SITE said.

Another posted in both languages said, "To our loved ones among the Muslims in the United States of America, this is your chance for Paradise, the width of which is the heavens and the earth," SITE added.

Mr O'Neill is set to appear in a

documentary on the Fox network next week.

At bin Laden's compound, Mr O'Neill was located in the number two position for the attack on the Al-Qaeda leader's bedroom.

Bin Laden briefly appeared at the door but the SEAL in front of Mr O'Neill apparently missed his shot.

"I rolled past him into the room, just inside the doorway," Mr O'Neill said. "There was bin Laden, standing there. He had his hands on a woman's shoulders, pushing her ahead."

Mr O'Neill said he could clearly identify bin Laden through his night-vision scope, despite the darkness of the room, and he fired.

The onetime SEAL said it was clear that bin Laden was dead as his skull was split.

Mr O'Neill is the second member of the elite unit involved in the bin Laden raid to go public, in a move which has dismayed military brass and serving SEALs who maintain a fierce code of silence.

Matt Bissonnette published his account of the raid, *No Easy Day* in 2012 under the pseudonym Mark Owen.

Mr Bissonnette appeared to take issue with Mr O'Neill's version of events in an interview with NBC News.

"Two different people telling two different stories for two different reasons," Mr Bissonnette said. "Whatever he says, he says. I

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Dated: 10 November 2014



Victory for Malaysia's transgender campaigners

WORLD 40

Philippines slowly recovering from Typhoon Haiyan

WORLD 42



Guard recalls the day the Berlin Wall fell 25 years ago

WORLD 47

IN PICTURES

Photo: AFP

US President Barack Obama holds a press conference in the White House on November 5. Mr Obama held the press conference one day after his Democratic party was defeated in midterm elections. "Obviously, Republicans had a good night and they deserve credit for running good campaigns," he said, after Republicans took control of the Senate and strengthened their hold on the House of Representatives. Mr Obama will be in Myanmar this week to attend an ASEAN meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

TOKYO

Abe and Xi finally agree to summit

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping were due to hold their first summit this week, reports said on November 7, after more than two years of animosity between Asia's two biggest economies.

The countries have "agreed to arrange a summit" in Beijing on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Japan's national broadcaster NHK said.

Private network Fuji TV had a similar story.

"Now that we have shared understanding toward a summit meeting, we will start making concrete arrangements for it," a Japanese government source was quoted as telling the broadcaster.

Tokyo has long been pressing for such a meeting but Beijing has resisted, with the two sides locked in a territorial dispute and still at odds over World War II history.

As a condition for the meet, China, which has painted Mr Abe as a dangerous revisionist, had reportedly been demanding that he swear not to repeat a visit to a Tokyo shrine that honours fallen soldiers, including a number of war criminals.

It has also been calling for Japan to acknowledge the existence of a dispute

over the Tokyo-controlled Senkaku islands, which it calls the Diaoyus, where paramilitary vessels from both sides have sparred over recent years.

Japan has until now rebuffed the calls, but similarly worded statements issued on November 7 suggested there had been some accommodation on the thorny island issue, although it appeared to fall short of an explicit acknowledgement.

"The two sides have acknowledged that different positions exist between them regarding the tensions which have emerged in recent years over the Diaoyu Islands and some waters in the East China Sea," the English-language version from China said.

They "agreed to prevent the situation from aggravating through dialogue and consultation and establish crisis management mechanisms to avoid contingencies".

In what appeared to be a reference to Mr Abe's visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine, the statement said: "In the spirit of 'facing history squarely and looking forward to the future', the two sides have reached some agreement on overcoming political obstacles in the bilateral relations."

China has repeatedly called on Japan to "face history squarely", while

Tokyo frequently urges Beijing to look to the future. Neither side's official pronouncements made any reference to a summit.

Speaking earlier on October 7, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, insisted Tokyo would not compromise on points of principle – the disputed islands and a pledge to stay away from the shrine – but said there needed to be dialogue. – AFP



A book about Chinese President Xi Jinping is seen on a reporter's desk in at the APEC summit in Beijing on November 5. Photo: AFP

after bin Laden mer Navy SEAL

al-Qaeda leader Robert O'Neil has recieved jihadist threats

don't want to touch that."

The Washington Post said Mr O'Neill had long agonised over whether to go public but finally decided to do so after concerns that others would leak his identity.

His name was already known in military circles, by members of Congress and at least two news organisations.

He finally decided to come forward after meeting with relatives of victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

Mr O'Neill said he decided on the spot to speak about how bin Laden died.

"The families told me it helped bring them some closure," Mr O'Neill told The Washington Post.

But his decision has been met

with anger from some of his SEAL colleagues.

In an October 31 letter to the Naval Special Warfare Command ranks, Force Master Chief Michael Magaraci and Rear Admiral Brian Losey stressed that a "critical tenet" of the force was to "not advertise the nature of my work nor seek recognition for my action".

Mr O'Neill had already served nearly 15 years as a SEAL by the time of the raid on bin Laden's compound, and was serving in the elite SEAL Team Six unit.

In 2009, he served on a mission to rescue a ship captain from pirates off the coast of Somalia. The events at that time were used as the basis of a film starring Tom Hanks as the captain, Richard Phillips.

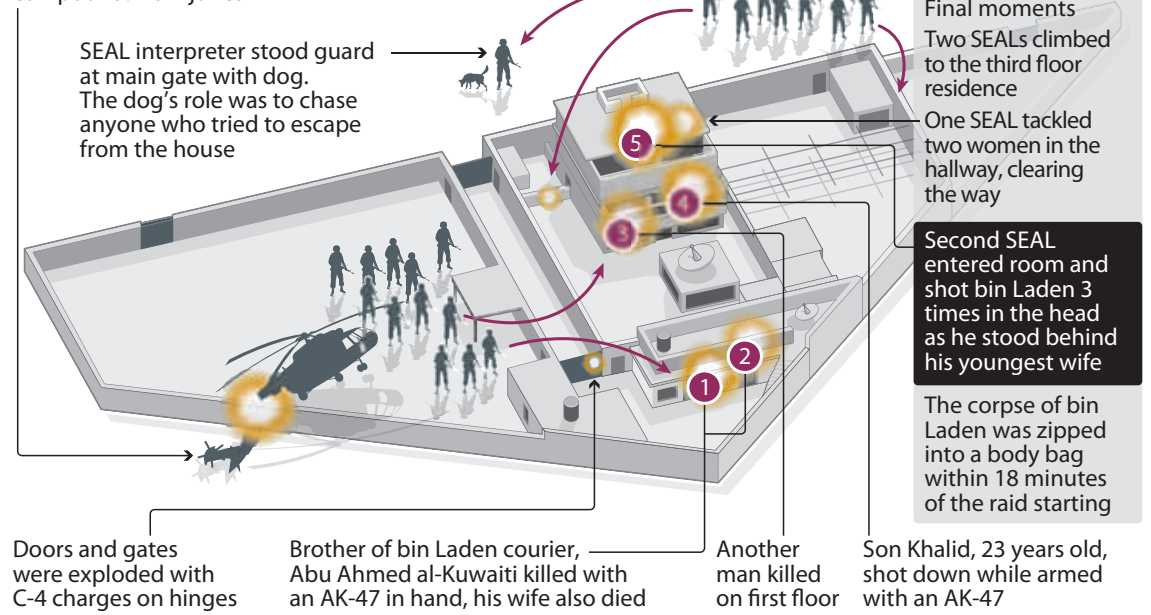
– AFP

The 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound

Two Black Hawk helicopters carrying US Navy SEALs flew from Jalalabad, Afghanistan to Abbottabad in Pakistan

1 am, May 2 2011

First Black Hawk crashed because of air pressure conditions created by warm air and high walls of the compound. No injuries



Sources: New Yorker/NavalTimes/media reports

AFP

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PUTRAJAYA

Transgender activist Nisha Ayub (right) greets a colleague outside the court of appeals in Putrajaya in Malaysia on November 7. Photo: AFP

Cross-dressing ban is ruled 'unconstitutional'

THREE Malaysian transgender people have won their landmark bid to overturn an Islamic anti-cross-dressing law in the conservative Muslim-majority nation.

A three-judge appeals court panel ruled on November 7 that a state provision that bars Muslim men from dressing as women was unconstitutional, saying it "deprives the appellants of the right to live with dignity".

"It has the effect of denying the appellants and other sufferers of GID [gender identity disorder] to move freely in public places. This is degrading, oppressive and inhuman," judge Hishamudin Yunus said.

The verdict overturns a 2012 lower court ruling, which had dismissed the challenge by the three appellants, Muslims who were born male but identify as women, over their arrest four years ago under the law in southern Negri Sembilan state.

Malaysia has a double-track court system with state Islamic laws governing civil matters for Muslims, who account for 60 percent of the country's 30 million people.

Under state Islamic laws, men dressing or acting as women is punishable by up to three years in jail. Some Malaysian states also outlaw cross-dressing by women.

Aston Paiva, the plaintiffs' lawyer, said the ruling could be used to challenge any arrest of transgender people throughout Malaysia.

"It's quite historic. This will be a precedent. This court binds all other high courts," Mr Paiva said.

A Negri Sembilan state legal advisor declined comment on whether his side would seek to appeal the verdict to a higher court.

"I am happy we won the case. I feel more relaxed now," one of the plaintiffs said. "I have waited for this."

She and the other two plaintiffs have shied away from any public appearances and were not in court.

The case is the first attempt to overturn the prohibition on cross-dressing in the Southeast Asian nation, where homosexuality and transgender lifestyles remain taboo, and questioning Islamic laws is sensitive.

Human Rights Watch in September called on the government to repeal all laws that criminalise transgender lifestyles after the US-based group found that transgender people face systematic and constant repression, harassment,

mistreatment, social ostracism and "risk arrest every day".

Human Rights Watch said in a report that transgender people in Malaysia face worsening persecution due to the steady rise of conservative Islamic attitudes.

The abuses include arrest, physical and sexual assault and extortion by authorities, shaming by forcing transgender women to strip in public, and barriers to healthcare, employment and education.

Authorities face no accountability in their treatment of transgender people, the report added.

Nisha Ayub, a transgender activist, said the November 7 ruling was a "critical moment" for her community.

"The fight will still be there ... [but] at least now the trans community know that they have their rights to challenge the law," she said. "It will encourage them to come out rather than being oppressed."

Activists and transgender people say that in the past attitudes were fairly tolerant in the historically moderate Muslim country. But religious minorities and other critics have increasingly expressed fears about the spread of conservative Islamic attitudes.

Some Malaysian transgender people undergo sex-change surgery. But even then, they are unable to legally change their names and genders, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, complicating access to public services. - AFP

'This will be a precedent. This court binds all other high courts.'

Aston Paiva
Lawyer for plaintiffs

KUALA LUMPUR

Government hackers hit US news agency over timber graft story

The US-based Environment News Service on November 7 accused Malaysian government hackers of shutting down its website after it ran a story on a new book implicating a senior politician in alleged graft.

"The attack on our site came from a Malaysian government entity as identified by their IP address," Sunny Lewis, editor-in-chief of Environment News Service (ENS), said in an email statement, adding the attack shut down its servers for two hours.

The hacking came after the news service ran a story about plans to publish Lukas Straumann's book, *Money Logging: On the Trail of the*

Asian Timber Mafia despite demands by a law firm representing Abdul Taib Mahmud, a stalwart of the ruling coalition, to withhold publication.

Mr Taib, 78, governor of Sarawak state and a powerful member of the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, has faced mounting accusations of enriching himself and his cronies through a stranglehold on the state's economy, charges which he denies.

The book *Money Logging* investigates the massive destruction of the Borneo rainforest by Malaysian loggers, described by former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown as "probably the biggest envi-

ronmental crime of our times".

Malaysian officials were not immediately available for comment.

Sarawak is among Malaysia's poorest states, but Swiss-based forest protection group Bruno Manser Fund (BMF) says Mr Taib could be worth as much as \$15 billion, which would make him one of the world's richest people.

Authorities in Sarawak have previously threatened to jam Radio Free Sarawak broadcasts that focus on alleged graft by the state government.

The service was founded by Mr Brown's sister-in-law Clare Rewcastle Brown. - AFP

TOKYO

Local govt OKs first reactor restarts

MORE than three years after the Fukushima disaster, the final obstacle to restarting two nuclear reactors in Japan was removed on October 7 when local politicians granted their approval for a plant in the south to go back online.

The green light from the assembly and governor of Kagoshima prefecture, in the south of the country, marked a victory for the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe which has faced significant public opposition to its drive to re-fire nuclear power.

“I want to inform the economy, trade and industry minister about my understanding of the government’s policy to push for restarting nuclear power plants,” Governor Yuichiro Ito told a news conference, adding he had considered “various situations comprehensively”.

Mr Ito’s finely parsed statement, which offers apparently reluctant support for a policy that is out of his hands, is typical of Japanese politicians dealing with the hot potato of nuclear power in a country now largely hostile to it.

The local go-ahead came after the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) said in September it believed the two units at Sendai met toughened safety standards introduced after the Fukushima accident.

The actual restart, however, is likely to be delayed until next year as technical procedures are still under way, including more NRA approvals for remedial work at the site.

Japan’s entire stable of nuclear power stations were gradually switched off after the tsunami-sparked catastrophe at Fukushima, when the breakdown of cooling systems sent reactors into meltdown.

Two were briefly restarted in 2012 but their power-down last September heralded an entirely nuclear-free Japan.

While Prime Minister Abe’s government and much of industry is keen to get back to atomic generation, largely because of the soaring costs of dollar denominated fossil fuels to an economy with a plunging currency, the public is largely unconvinced. – AFP

BEIJING

APEC restrictions ‘worse than prison’, says rights activist

CHINESE authorities have imposed restrictions “worse than prison” on activists ahead of an international diplomatic meeting in Beijing, a leading dissident said on November 7, after Washington voiced “deep concern” over human rights in the country.

The measures imposed on dissidents ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering due to start on November 10 are the worst since a smothering security clampdown for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, said activist Hu Jia.

Mr Hu has campaigned on environmental and HIV-related causes, among others, and was previously jailed for three years on subversion charges.

He has since intermittently been under house arrest, with his latest confinement coming after he voiced support for pro-democracy protests in the southern Chinese city of Hong Kong.

“The restrictions I’ve faced under house arrest during APEC are worse than when I was in prison,” he said. “At least then I had the right to see my family and loved ones.”

Police had planned to escort him to Shenzhen to visit his daughter for her seventh birthday – she lives with his ex-wife – and ensure he was not in Beijing during the high-profile meeting, a process of forced holidays known among activists as “being travelled”.

But the trip was cancelled at the last minute after he had already bought presents and a cake.

“This is her first birthday since entering primary school,” Mr Hu said, fighting back tears. “I just wanted to be with her, light some candles and sing ‘Happy Birthday.’”

Mr Hu’s comments came just hours after the White House released a statement by National Security Advisor Susan Rice expressing “the administration’s deep concern regarding the treatment of human rights defenders” in China.

Ms Rice made the comments while discussing “the deterioration of China’s human rights situation” with American and Chinese advocates in Washington, the White House said.

Mr Kerry, who is in Beijing for a foreign ministers’ meeting ahead of



Workers install a billboard for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing on November 7. Photo: AFP

the summit, said earlier this week that the US-China relationship was the “most consequential” in the world.

But he warned it needed to be “carefully managed”.

President Barack Obama was due in Beijing on November 10 for the summit of leaders from the 21 APEC member economies, after which he will have meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The two major powers have clashed repeatedly over a range of issues, with Beijing last month warning Washington to keep out of events in Hong Kong, which has seen weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations.

Since Mr Xi took power last year, China’s Communist party has strengthened its grip on anyone

seen as a challenge to its power, and rights advocates complain of increasing oppression.

China has imposed tight security in the capital to ensure the APEC gathering goes off without a hitch, while also setting tight traffic restrictions, ordering factories to close, and declaring a six-day public sector holiday in an effort to eliminate Beijing’s notorious pollution.

“The Chinese government has disrupted more lives with restrictions during APEC than protesters blocking the road in Hong Kong during Occupy Central,” Mr Hu said.

Guzaili Nu’er, the wife of Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti, who was convicted of separatism in September and sentenced to life imprisonment, has been under surveillance for months.

“I’ve been at home today since it’s the beginning of the six-day holiday, I went out just now to buy some things at the supermarket, and I saw that they were there,” she told said, referring to government security agents.

“Every time I go out, they ask me where I’m going,” she added. “So, I don’t go out.”

Three people briefly evaded officers around the APEC convention centre venue to vent their anger over a grievance in the northern province of Shanxi.

They were questioned by police, who accused them of putting up a poster, next to which the Chinese character for ‘injustice’ had been painted.

One of the trio was seen by AFP being led into a police van. – AFP

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DAGAMI

Rocky road to recovery one year after Typhoon Haiyan

PHILIPPINE communities shattered by Super Typhoon Haiyan a year ago are starting to bustle again as a mega reconstruction effort takes root, but millions of survivors still endure brutal poverty and are dangerously exposed to the next big storm.

More than 7350 people perished as Haiyan tore in off the Pacific Ocean on November 8, 2013, with the strongest winds ever recorded on land, and generated tsunami-like storm surges more than two-storeys high.

The typhoon smashed into a giant stretch of central Philippine islands that were home to 14 million people, laying waste to farming and fishing communities that were already among the nation's poorest.

In some ways, the recovery has been remarkable.

Tacloban, the biggest city in the region and among the worst hit, again resembles many other chaotic Philippine urban hubs, with traffic jams, busy market stalls, packed shopping malls and queues at fast-food outlets.

In the countryside, lush green paddies are testament to successful rice planting campaigns that have sustained millions, while local and international aid agencies are helping to build thousands of new houses.

"We're really happy, things will be a lot more comfortable," Marianito Abrematea, 57, a farmer in the tiny village of Dagami, said as he took a break from building his new, concrete-brick house funded by the Red Cross.

Like nearly all his 300 neighbours, Mr Abrematea's house was destroyed in the storm and he has been living for the past year in a hut made of thatched palm leaves.

"Now we'll have houses of GI sheets [corrugated iron] and con-



A relative attends the graves of storm victims in front of San Joaquin Church in Palo, near Tacloban, Philippines on October 15. Photo: AFP

crete, we won't be so scared."

Billions of dollars from the government and aid groups are being poured into the typhoon-hit region in an effort to help people living there, who make up more than 10 percent of the Philippine population.

Some of the big successes of the campaign have been the restoration of electricity within a few months, quick replanting of crops and sanitation programs that prevented major outbreaks of killer diseases.

The determination of the survivors to quickly rebuild their lives, and not become reliant on aid, has astonished many foreign relief workers.

"The resilience of the Filipino people is amazing, they are like phoenix birds," Camelia Marinescu, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies chief in Tacloban, said.

Yet, there are no miracle short

cuts to the grinding slog of recovery and the reality is many millions of people face years, or even the rest of their lives, enduring Haiyan-exacerbated misery.

The government's masterplan envisages moving roughly 1 million people away from coastal areas that are deemed vulnerable to storm surges by the middle of 2016, when President Benigno Aquino's term ends.

However those plans have already fallen behind schedule, amid problems in finding new land that is safe and suitable for 205,000 new homes, and frustration is building at the speed of the reconstruction program.

"The pace is not very fast. It's snail-paced unfortunately," Vangie Esperas, a councillor with the Tacloban government, said as she toured a fledgling new town with temporary shelters but no running water or power.

"Many of our brothers and sisters are still living in tents and some of them are in temporary shelters."

Mr Aquino has also expressed frustration at some of the delays, which is partly due to an infamous government bureaucracy, recently labelling some of the setbacks "absurd".

Mother-of-six Maria Marites Manilag is among thousands of people living in an officially declared "danger zone" along the coast near Tacloban, but has not heard from any government official whether she will be relocated.

"I get scared every time the winds blow strong and there is news of an approaching typhoon. We live in fear. We want to move to somewhere safe," Ms Manilag, 47, said.

The government also acknowledges the region's economy will take many years to recover, largely because the two most important sectors, coconut farming and fishing industries, were ruined for millions of people. The average household income in the region was already 25 percent less than the national average before the typhoon, according to government data, and this has significantly worsened.

"There's no question in my mind the poor are poorer than they were before the typhoon," Save the Children Philippine country director Ned Olney said.

And for many survivors who lost family or friends, the grieving will never end.

Tens of thousands of people were expected to descend on mass graves, where bodies were dumped chaotically in the weeks after the disaster to prevent disease, for highly emotional vigils on the one-year anniversary. - AFP

SEOUL

Ferry chief 'should be jailed for 15 years'

SOUTH Korean prosecutors on November 6 demanded a 15-year jail term for the president of the firm which operated the sunken Sewol ferry, holding him partly responsible for the disaster that killed more than 300 people.

Kim Han-Sik, CEO of Chonghaejin Marine Co, has been on trial in the southern city of Gwangju on charges of criminal negligence and embezzlement.

"We ask for 15 years in prison for the accused, taking into account the scale of the disaster, his status and responsibility for causing the disaster", senior prosecutor Park Jae-Eok said.

Prosecutors also demanded jail sentences of between four and six years for 10 others on trial alongside Mr Kim on charges of criminal negligence. They included six officials from the company, two from a freight-handling firm and two port management officials at Incheon Port.

The 6825-tonne Sewol ferry was carrying 476 people, most of them high school students on an organised trip, when it capsized off the southern coast on April 16.

"Chonghaejin executives only pursued commercial gains, ignoring passenger safety. They show little repentance, only seeking to shift the blame to each other," Mr Park said in court.

Mr Kim, 71, is charged with allowing the ship to be routinely overloaded and its container cargo to be left unsecured to the deck in breach of safety standards.

Mr Kim has denied accountability, saying he had been merely a salaried employee under the thumb of company owner Yoo Byung-Eun, whom Mr Kim said was deeply involved in the hands-on operations of the company.

'Chonghaejin only pursued personal gains, ignoring passenger safety'

Park Jae-Eok
Senior Prosecutor

Mr Kim also faces charges that he had diverted some US\$2.6 million from Chonghaejin Marine for four years until the disaster struck and funnelled it to Mr Yoo, Mr Yoo's other companies and Mr Yoo's family members.

Following the disaster, Mr Yoo became the target of a massive manhunt. His badly decomposed body was found in June but an autopsy failed to determine the cause of death. Mr Kim insisted he had been unaware that the ship's balance had been severely compromised as a result of illegal renovations early last year to increase its passenger capacity. He also denied being aware that it had been overloaded.

In a separate trial in the western port of Incheon, Mr Yoo's eldest son Yoo Dae-Kyun was sentenced on October 5 to three years in prison for embezzlement.

Yoo Dae-Kyun was found guilty of syphoning off some \$7.2 million from Chonghaejin Marine and its six sister companies between 2002 and late last year.

Last month, prosecutors demanded the death penalty for the ferry's captain Lee Joon-Seok, branding him an unrepentant liar who abandoned the more than 300 people who died in the disaster. - AFP

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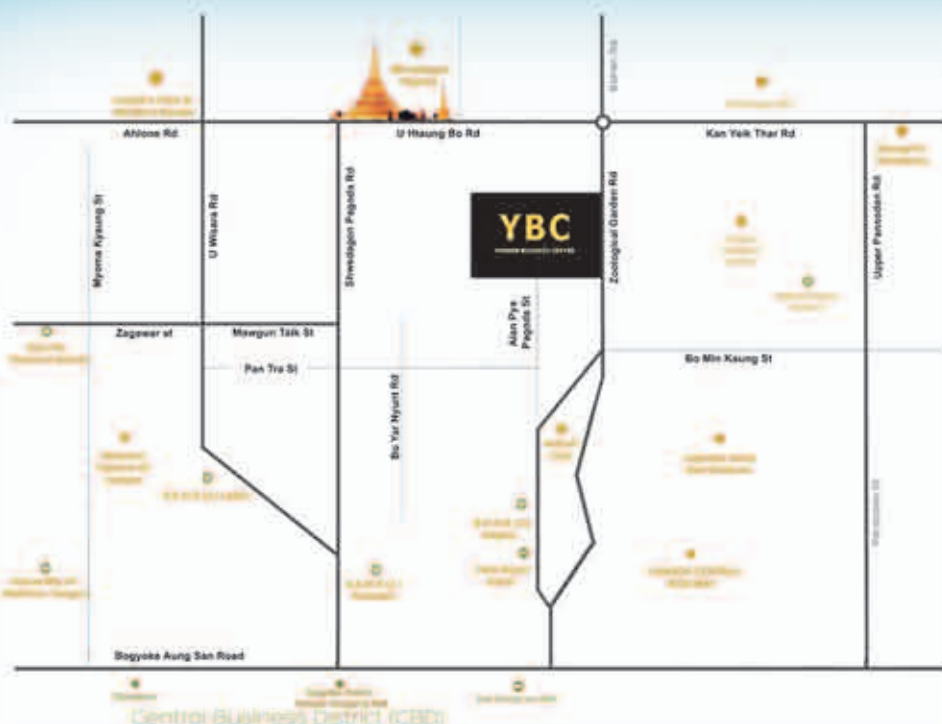
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BEIJING

Diplomats go on ivory spree during Xi's visit

DIPLOMATIC and military staff from China went on buying sprees for illegal ivory while on official visits to East Africa, sending prices soaring, an environmental activist group reported on November 6.

Tens of thousands of elephants are estimated to be slaughtered in Africa each year to feed rising Asian demand for ivory products, mostly from China, the continent's biggest trading partner.

When Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Tanzania in March 2013, members of his government and business delegation bought so much ivory that local prices doubled to US\$700 per kilogram, the UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) said in a report, citing ivory traders in the city of Dar es Salaam.

"When the guest[s] come, the whole delegation, that's the time when the business goes up," the EIA quoted a vendor named Suleiman as saying.

The traders alleged that the buyers took advantage of a lack of security checks for diplomatic visitors to smuggle their purchases back to China on Mr Xi's plane.

Similar sales were made on a previous trip by China's former President Hu Jintao, the report said, adding that Chinese embassy staff have been "major buyers", since at least 2006.

A Chinese navy visit to Tanzania last year by vessels returning from anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden "prompted a surge in business for Dar es Salaam-based ivory traders", it said.

A Chinese national named Yu Bo was arrested during the naval visit as he attempted to enter the city's port in a lorry containing 81 elephant tusks, hidden under wooden carvings, which he planned to deliver to two mid-ranking Chinese naval officers, the EIA said.

Mr Yu was convicted by a local court in March and sentenced to 20 years in jail, it added.

Tanzania, which has large reserves of natural gas, is a key ally of China in East Africa, and its President Jakaya



Illegally imported ivory products confiscated by Yunnan police are displayed in Kunming on January 22. Photo: AFP

Kikwete reportedly signed deals with the Asian giant worth \$1.7 billion while on a visit to Beijing last month.

Tanzania had about 142,000 elephants when Mr Kikwete took office in 2005, the EIA said, adding that by 2015 the population is likely to have plummeted to about 55,000 as a result of poaching.

Almost all ivory sales were banned

in 1989 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which both China and Tanzania are signatories.

Politicians from Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party and well-connected business people are also involved in the ivory trade, with most demand coming from

China, the EIA said.

The EIA report did say that enforcement of the ban on ivory sales had slightly improved last year, with smuggling syndicates growing "more cautious", after Mr Yu's conviction, as well as a high-profile raid.

Police found 706 ivory tusks weighing over 1.8 tonnes at a house in Dar es Salaam last November, along with three Chinese nationals who were detained at the scene after trying to pay a \$50,000 bribe, the EIA said.

Meng Xianlin, a Chinese forestry administration official who oversees Beijing's commitments under CITES told AFP that the claims made in the EIA's report were "baloney".

"I have not heard of such a matter," he said, adding, "Do not hype this up."

China often says that it pays "great attention" to the protection of endangered wildlife, and in recent years has carried out several high-profile arrests of smugglers caught in its territory, along with a televised incineration of seized ivory.

The environmental group WWF estimated that around 25,000 African elephants were hunted for ivory in 2011, predicting that the toll would rise. There could be as few as 470,000 left, according to the group. - AFP

\$700

Cost per kilo of ivory in Tanzania after Chinese diplomats' spending saw prices double

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **P.T. Sari Incofood Corporation** a company organized under the laws of Indonesia and having its principal office at Desa Tanjung Morawa B, Kabupaten Deli Serdang, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:-



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(Reg: No. IV/6339/2013)

The above two trademarks are in respect of:- "Coffee, instant coffee, coffee extracts, coffee beverages, chocolate beverages, mixtures of coffee, cocoa, chocolate, cereal, confectionery, candies, creamer for coffee, biscuits"- Int'l Class: 30



(Reg: No. IV/11174/2013)



(Reg: No. IV/11172/2013)



(Reg: No. IV/11173/2013)

The above three trademarks are in respect of:- "Coffee, instant coffee, flavored instant coffee, coffee-based beverages, coffee extracts, mixtures of coffee, creamer for coffee, non-dairy creamer, tea, instant tea, chocolate, chocolate-based beverages, cereal, biscuits, candies, confectionery" Int'l Class: 30



(Reg: No. IV/11170/2013)



(Reg: No. IV/11168/2013)

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(Reg: No. IV/11171/2013)

in respect of:- "Tea, instant tea, lemon tea, tea-based beverages, tea mixture products, tea products" Int'l Class: 30



(Reg: No. IV/11169/2013)

in respect of:- "Tea, instant tea, tea-based beverages, tea mixture products, tea beverages with milk, milk products, non-dairy creamer, cereal, biscuits, candies, confectionery" Int'l Class: 30



(Reg: No. IV/9695/2014)

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"Temporary accommodations, cafes, cafeterias, coffee shops, snack bars, restaurants, services for providing food and drinks." Int'l Class: 43

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **P.T. Sari Incofood Corporation**
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Phone: 372416
Dated: 10th November, 2014

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(Also Trading as Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd.)

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 10th November, 2014

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Phaser

(Reg: No. IV/12447/2014)

ApeosPort

(Reg: No. IV/12448/2014)

ApeosWare

(Reg: No. IV/12449/2014)

DocuScan

(Reg: No. IV/12450/2014)

DocuWorks

(Reg: No. IV/12451/2014)

The above five trademarks are in respect of:-

“Electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; telecommunication machines and apparatus; computer peripheral devices; photographic, electrostatic or thermic copying machines; printers for computers; scanners; facsimile machines; computer software; computer programs; print servers; communication servers (computer hardware); multifunctional devices which incorporate any combination of copier, facsimile, scanner and printer functions; plotters; computers; computer display monitors.” Class: 9

SkyDesk

(Reg: No. IV/12452/2014)

in respect of :- “Electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; telecommunication machines and apparatus; computer peripheral devices; photographic, electrostatic or thermic copying machines; printers for computers; scanners; facsimile machines; computer software; computer programs; print servers; communication servers (computer hardware); multifunctional devices which incorporate any combination of copier, facsimile, scanner and printer functions; plotters; computers; computer display monitors.” Class: 9

“Computer system design and maintenance of computer systems; providing computer programs; software as a service [SaaS]; rental of computer software; computer rental; cloud computing; electronic data storage; server hosting; off-site data backup; maintenance of computer software; updating of computer software; monitoring of computer systems by remote access; computer virus protection services; consultancy and advisory services; all relating to computer systems and computer software for printing.” Class: 42

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U Kyi Win Associates
for **Fuji Xerox Kabushiki Kaisha (Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.)**

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 10th November, 2014

BANGKOK

Swedish co-founder of The Pirate Bay website Fredrik Neij (centre) is escorted by Thai immigration police officers at Don Mueng airport in Bangkok on November 5. Photo: AFP

The Pirate Bay founder arrested on Thai border

THE Swedish co-founder of The Pirate Bay website was taken to Bangkok last week following his arrest in north-east Thailand, with police from Stockholm waiting to press for his deportation to serve a jail term for copyright infringement.

Fredrik Neij, 36, was stopped late on November 3 at the border with Laos wearing the same short-sleeved shirt as in a wanted poster issued to immigration officials by the Swedish embassy.

Mr Neij was accompanied by several Thai police officers as he arrived at Bangkok's second airport on October 5, his hands restrained and covered by a folded T-shirt.

After being detained for an unknown period of time in Bangkok he would be “handed over to Swedish authorities”, Police Colonel Panlop Suriyakul na Ayutthaya said.

Founded in 2003, The Pirate Bay allows users to dodge copyright fees and share music, film and other files using bit torrent technology, or peer-to-peer links offered on the site.

Mr Neij was the last of the original founders of The Pirate Bay, still used by millions across the globe, to remain at large after a 2009 conviction.

His arrest is a symbolic blow to a global community of online sharers of films and music, which the movie and music industry decries as systemic theft that costs billions in lost revenue each year.

The site's founders Mr Neij, Gottfrid Svartholm Warg and Peter Sunde were convicted in 2009 and sentenced to a year in jail for promoting copyright infringement with the website. Site financier Carl Lundstroem was also handed a year in prison.

All except Mr Warg had their sentences reduced on appeal.

But they were also ordered to pay a total of 46 million kronor (US\$6.9 million) in damages for copyright infringement to the music and movie industry.

Mr Neij's lawyer said his client moved to Asia before his conviction and often reported back to Sweden for court dates and then during an appeal against the sentence in 2010. But he fled to Laos before the appeal court reached its verdict, living a low-key life in the capital Vientiane with his Laotian wife.

“He lived a normal family life,” his lawyer Jonas Nilsson said, adding he has several children.

Thailand and Sweden do not have an

‘He said he is merely a computer programmer.’

Panlop Suriyakul na Ayutthaya
Thai police colonel

extradition deal but have agreed to work to deport him swiftly.

Details of his arrest emerged last week revealing he had been spotted at the Nong Khai border, where immigration staff said he was wearing the same distinctive shirt as in the photo circulated to them.

“It was easy to spot him,” police officer Panlop said, adding Mr Neij had lived in Laos for at least three years but had entered Thailand 27 times. He is believed to own a property in the Thai resort area of Phuket.

“He said he is merely a computer programmer,” Police Colonel Mr Panlop said.

Mr Neij is the second of The Pirate Bay's founders to go to ground in South-east Asia following their conviction.

Mr Warg vanished after failing to attend a 2010 appeal hearing in Sweden, meaning his one-year sentence was upheld, while an international warrant was issued for his arrest. He was deported from Cambodia in the autumn of 2012 after Swedish authorities tracked him down and was later handed over to Denmark, where he stood trial for hacking the files of a technology company as well as the police force.

On November 2 he was sentenced to three-and-a-half-years in jail in Denmark after he was found guilty of “hacking and aggravated vandalism”.

In late May this year, Mr Sunde was arrested in southern Sweden after two years on the run. – AFP

SINGAPORE

Phone-scam victim paid by outraged locals

SINGAPOREANS outraged by an electronics shop that left a Vietnamese tourist in tears after a phone-sale scam have raised thousands of dollars to compensate him, a crowdfunding site showed last week.

Factory worker Pham Van Thoai, 28, on November 3 forked out Sg\$950 (US\$730) to buy a new iPhone 6 in the Sim Lim Square electronics mall, which has long been known to be a place where tourists are preyed on by unscrupulous merchants.

But employees of the “Mobile Air” store refused to allow him to leave with the phone unless he paid an additional Sg\$1500 in “warranty fees”. He was eventually given a partial refund of Sg\$400, with no phone in hand, after police intervention.

A video widely shared on social media showed Mr Pham kneeling down and begging the shop owner and

employees for his full cash payment while they laughed at him.

Singapore media reports said Mr Pham earns the equivalent of \$160 a month in Vietnam and had saved up for months to buy the latest iPhone for his girlfriend.

A crowdfunding campaign launched on the Indiegogo portal to buy Mr Pham an iPhone 6 reached \$11,000 by midday November 6, with more than 1400 donors.

“This is not OK, this is not right. We are NOT a nation of thieves and cheats,” wrote Singaporean technology entrepreneur Gabriel Kang, who initiated the campaign a day after the incident.

“While we cannot undo those traumatic and humiliating scenes he has had to endure, we can try to make things right. Let's give the man an iPhone 6!” Mr Kang wrote

on the campaign site.

Despite the huge amount collected on his behalf, Mr Pham said he would only accept the amount he had to forfeit at the store.

“I will accept only \$550 donated by kind people. Nothing more. I'm grateful for all your kindness but I do not want to take more than what I've lost,” he told the Chinese-language *Lianhe Zaobao* newspaper.

The incident has touched a raw nerve in wealthy, tech-savvy Singapore, which depends heavily on tourism revenues. The city-state of 5.5 million people attracted nearly 16 million tourists in 2013.

The six-storey Sim Lim Square mall has a bad reputation for a small number of rogue retailers who prey on unsuspecting tourists looking to purchase the latest gadgets before returning home. – AFP

BERLIN

After 25 years guard recalls opening Wall

“IT’S not me who opened the Wall. It’s the East German citizens who gathered that evening,” says Harald Jaeger.

He might not feel he deserves the accolade, but the former East German border guard, and, at the time, loyal follower of the embattled communist regime, has gone down in history as the man responsible for the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Amid total confusion and without clear orders from on high, Mr Jaeger made the snap decision to open the barrier at the Bornholmer Strasse border crossing between East and West Berlin on the night of November 9, 1989.

Euphoric East Germans, who had massed there through the cold evening, flooded into the West, peacefully bringing down the Iron Curtain after 28 years of Berlin’s division by the iconic symbol of the Cold War.

Twenty-five years later, Mr Jaeger, now 71, still recalls the disbelief he felt hearing the words that drew the crowd in the first place.

Out of the blue, a communist official had declared on TV that East Germans could now travel abroad “immediately, without delay”.



Harald Jaeger. Photo: AFP

“I almost choked on my bread roll,” he said. “I didn’t believe my ears and said to myself, ‘But what stupidity has just been announced?’”

The lieutenant colonel, who was also attached to the Stasi secret police, had worked for the East German border police for 28 years, and was the deputy chief at the Bornholmer Strasse crossing in the north of East Berlin.

The East German protest movement had been snowballing for weeks, and the border posts were on alert. But Mr Jaeger said that nothing on that day, November 9, had pointed to the fact that history would be made that night.

He had anticipated a normal shift, taking over responsibility for 14 officers from 6pm local time, when his boss knocked off and went home.

At the canteen, however, where Mr Jaeger was eating supper, things quickly changed when he watched the TV coverage of the unexpected and apparently unscripted announcement giving the green light for travel to the West.

He rushed back to his post, he said, where colleagues were at first sceptical, thinking he’d been mistaken, and so he telephoned his superior hoping for clarification.

“You’re calling because of such a stupid thing?” his boss grumbled down the line, instructing Mr Jaeger to simply send the citizens home if they did not have the necessary travel authorisation to cross the border.

The trickle of curious East Germans congregating outside his office window



West Berliners crowd in front of the Berlin Wall as they watch East German border guards demolishing a section of the wall in order to open a new crossing point near the Potsdamer Platz on November 11 1989. Photo: AFP

gradually grew bigger, and people began shouting, “Let us leave!”

In a panic, Mr Jaeger rang his boss back. But he recalls being told by his superior, “I have no order from above. I have no instructions to give you.”

The crowd kept swelling and by around 9pm, the access road to the border crossing was blocked by the mass of people.

Mr Jaeger picked up the phone again and shouted down the line, “We have to do something!”

Mr Jaeger then received orders to identify the most agitated members of the crowd and let them alone cross into the West, in the hope that this would

calm the mass of people.

“But that had the opposite effect. The crowd became increasingly agitated,” Mr Jaeger said, recalling his fear of a stampede in which citizens would be crushed.

“That’s when I said to myself: ‘Now it’s for you to act. Whatever happens, we have to let the East German citizens cross the border,’” he said.

At around 11:30 pm, he gave the fateful order, “Open the barrier.”

Initially, his men stood glued to the spot, dumbfounded, and so he repeated his instruction.

Even 25 years on, recounting the tale from the sofa in his small two-room

apartment in a village north of Berlin, he becomes emotional as he remembers the white and red barrier being opened.

“I had never seen such euphoria, and I’ve never seen it since,” he said, smiling.

But he was quick to add that the credit goes to the power of the people who had gathered that night.

“The only thing I can be credited with is that it happened without any blood being spilled.”

At dawn on November 10, when his shift finally ended, Mr Jaeger said he rang his sister.

“It’s me who opened the border last night,” he told her.

“You did well,” she replied. – AFP

NOV. 13-16 2014

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GET YOUR FINGERS ON IT

the pulse

That's a sin against art.

No, we don't need bright lights here.

Director Mg Wunna's ‘Tender are the feet’ has Tokyo premier



KAUNG HTET

THE late Maung Wunna's film *Che phawa daw nu nu* (*Tender are the Feet*) scored plaudits at the 27th Tokyo International Film Festival at the end of October for its style and quality, observers have reported.

The film, which has also been shown at international festivals in Germany and Cambodia, was screened in the Memory Section.

Maung Wunna's son, Okka, who attended the Tokyo festival, told *The Myanmar Times*, "This is the second film made by my father in 1973. His first film was *Katipar phanat see shwe htee hsaung* (*Wearing Velvet Slipper under a Golden Umbrella*), which won an academy award in Myanmar."

Directors Thu Thu Shein and Ko Theikdi, who also attended, said they were enormously impressed with the work, which reflects the years Maung Wunna spent in a drama troupe.

"Maung Wunna himself worked in the theatre for three years," said Ma Thu Thu Shein.

Ko Theikdi add, "He is one of those directors who inspire us. His neo-realistic style, using non-actors in real locations outside the studio, is appealing to an international audience."

Tender are the Feet follows a theatrical troupe behind the scenes, and features Zaw Lwin and

Shumawa San San Aye, supported by Bagyi Aung Soe, Aung Pyay and May Nwe.

Okka, who is also a film director, said, "The movie didn't get much attention at the time. This sort of character-centred movie was not very popular. People could go to the theatre, and didn't feel they needed to see films about the theatre."

A Myanmar expatriate in Tokyo said, "I was delighted to see this movie again. I look forward to seeing more Myanmar movies next year."

Kenji Ishizaka, program director of the Tokyo film festival, said he chose *Tender are the Feet* after seeing it played in Berlin in 2013.

"I'm happy it was selected, but I feel sad too because I can't tell my father about his achievement or learn from his experience," said Okka said.

Maung Wunna died in January 2011 at the age of 64. He won awards for *Wearing Velvet Slipper under a Golden Umbrella* (1971) and *Khun hnit sint ah-lwan* (*Seventh Degree Multiple Sorrow*) (1990). His son Okka starred in his film *Pan tway ne wai* (*Miss Wai Filled with Flowers*) (1975).

Translation by Thiri Min Htun and Zar Zar Soe



What's on

NOVEMBER 10 - 16

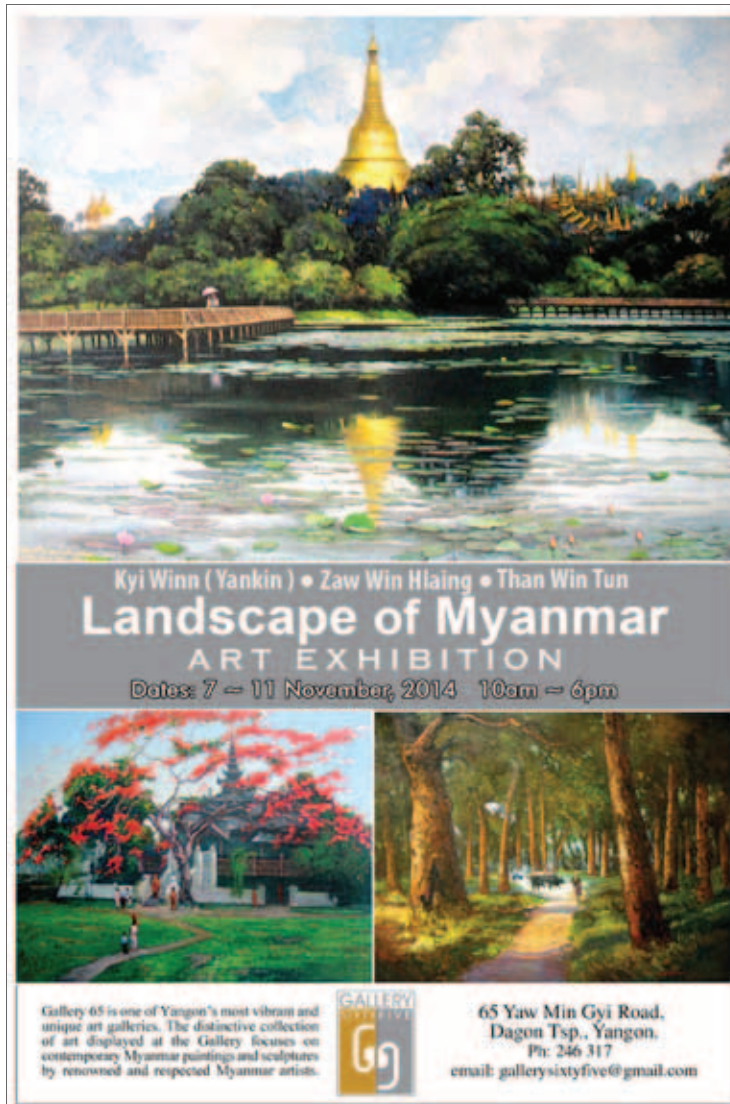
Got an event?
List it in What's On!
whatsonmt@gmail.com

ART

Nov 15-23 "Silent Sweat" featuring Than Kyaw Htay's paintings, videos and installations, River Gallery II, Chindwin Chambers, 33/35, 37th & 38th St, 6-8 pm
Nov 7-11 "Landscape of Myanmar" oils and acrylics paintings of Kyi Win (Yankin), Zaw Win Hlaing, & Than Win Tun, Gallery 65, No. 65, Yaw Min Gyi Road, 10am-7pm

FILM

Nov 14-16 & Proud Yangon LGBT Film Festival, performed with 33 long and short films from 12 Asean countries including Myanmar, Institute Francais, 340 Pyay Road, Sanchaung
Start times at Mingalar (1, 2), Top Royal, Shae Shaung (1,2) and Nay Pyi Taw cinemas are 10 am, noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm.
Start times at Junction Square and Maw Tin are 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm daily and 7 pm and 9:30 pm on Friday and Saturday.
Start times at Mingalar San Pya are 10 am, 12:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm.
Nay Pyi Taw Cinema, near Sule pagoda
Fury. Directed by David Ayer. 2014 American war film set during World War II.
The Pirates. Directed by Lee Seok-hoon. 2014 South Korean period adventure film.
Dracula Untold. Directed by Gary Shore. 2014 dark fantasy action film.
Mingalar Cinema 1, at Theingyi Zay, Latha, *Happy New Year*. Directed by Farah Khan. A 2014 Indian caper action comedy film.
Mingalar Cinema 2, at Dagon Center 2, Myae Ni Gone
Fury.
Shae Shaung Cinema, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada
John Wick. Directed by David Leitch and Chad Stahelski. 2014 American action thriller film.
Bang Bang. Directed by Siddharth Anand. A 2014 Bollywood 2D action thriller film.
Junction Square Cineplex, Kamaryut
Annabelle. Directed by Kevin Carraway. 2014 American horror film.
Babadook. Directed by Jennifer Kent. A 2014 Australian horror film.
Junction Mawtin, Lanmadaw
Babadook
Mingalar San Pya Cineplex, Phone Gyi Street and Anawrahta, Lanmadaw
Fury.
Happy New Year.
John Wick.



Art by Aung Kyi Soe is on show at Nawaday Tharlar Gallery until November 7.

MUSIC

Sept 5-Dec 31 Live Music. Thiripyitsaya Sky Bistro, 20th Floor, Sakura Tower, 7 - 10 pm
Nov 10 Monday Blues, Mojo Bar, 135 Inya Road, Bahan, 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm
Nov 12 Live Music, 50th street bar, 9-13, 50th street, Botahtaung, 8 pm

MISC

Nov 11 Gallery conversation and drinks. Pansodan Gallery, 289 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada, 7 pm-late
Nov 13 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



MOSCOW

Oliver Stone wants to make Putin film

US director Oliver Stone wants to make a documentary about Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said on a visit to Moscow, where he is working on a film about fugitive whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The controversial film-maker has already made a documentary about his relationship with the former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, as well as *'My Friend Hugo'*, a tribute to the late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

"I would interview [Putin] to show the point of view that Americans don't want to hear about," Stone told RIA-Novosti news agency. "I would like to make a documentary about him."

Stone met Putin earlier last week after an event in a Moscow theatre.

The three-time Oscar nominated director of *'Platoon'*, *'Wall Street'* and *'JFK'* has been flying back and forth to Russia to make a film about

Snowden, recently tapping actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt for the role.

"We are working on the screenplay of the film" which is partly based on a book written by Snowden's Russian lawyer Anatoliy Kucherena, he told RIA Novosti.

"We hope to begin shooting at the beginning of next year, since we have been working on the screenplay for almost a year and we are very happy that everything is working out."

Kucherena told AFP that he and Stone are poring over the screenplay now. "I think it turned out really well," he said, adding that Snowden has also approved of the choice of the actor to play him.

"I discussed [Gordon-Levitt] with Snowden, and he said it is up to the screenwriter and director."

"He is not against [the movie], who would be against a movie about themselves?" Kucherena said.

"We have a trusting relationship [with Stone]," Kucherena said. "At first we were suspicious of each other."

Edward Snowden has been living in Russia since June 2013 after becoming stranded at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after flying from Hong Kong where he revealed the extent of the US global surveillance program.

Accorded refugee status, he has been staying at an undisclosed location ever since, where he has been visited by his American girlfriend Lindsay Mills. They have been exploring Russia and going to the theatre together, Kucherena told AFP last month.

Stone previously said he is working on a movie about the Ukraine conflict, which has led to the worst crisis in Russia's relations with the West since the Cold War. - AFP

The Global Gossip



Turns out he did start the fire. Photo: AFP

William Joel is the hardest working man in rock

Billy Joel is set to break his own record for the most straight performances at New York's famed Madison Square Garden after he announced on Friday a 13th show on his latest tour.

The 65-year-old 'Piano Man' announced a new show at the arena for January 9 in Midtown Manhattan, one of the most prestigious venues for big-ticket artists.

Since January this year, the New York native's 12 previous appearances at Madison Square Garden have all sold out the 18,200-seat arena. Concert chart Billboard Boxscore estimated that Joel's first 10 shows grossed more than \$20 million.

Joel previously set the record with a 12-show run in 2006, beating out another top American performer Bruce Springsteen.



Murder charges against AC/DC drummer 'collapse'

A murder-for-hire case against AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd collapsed last week when New Zealand prosecutors found there was insufficient evidence to proceed, just 24 hours after police filed the sensational charges.

In a major embarrassment for the police, authorities said a charge of "attempt to procure murder" against Rudd had been withdrawn.

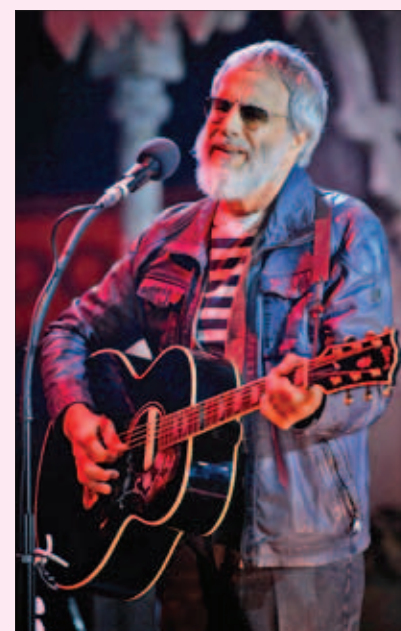
However, the 60-year-old rocker is still accused of drug possession and threatening to kill, which carries a jail term of up to seven years.

Even with the primary charge dropped, the case still represents the second blow to AC/DC this year, after dementia forced founding member Malcolm Young to retire in September and move into a Sydney care facility.

But the heavy rock pioneers are vowing to play on, with a new album and tour coming up.



Dark wizard Andre Leon Talley attends an art opening in New York last week. Photo: AFP



Yusef Islam performing in London. Photo: AFP

Cat Stevens returns, Insha'Allah!

Four decades ago, folk legend Cat Stevens converted to Islam, changed his name to Yusuf Islam and all-but-vanished from the stage. Now he is back, with a world tour hoping to bridge the gap between his two identities.

Despite scepticism from some fellow Muslims about his musical return, Yusuf told AFP in an interview that he sees no contradiction between faith and performance.

"I was getting criticism from the Muslim community: Why are you picking up a guitar again? What's happening to you?" he said as he began a string of European gigs ahead of his first US tour in more than 35 years.

"I say: Listen to me, this is part of Islamic civilisation, we have lost our contact with it, we lost our vibrant approach to life and to culture."

BERLIN

A visit to the Suu Kyi portrait in Berlin



ZON PANN PWINT

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LAST week, a delegation from *The Myanmar Times* travelling in Berlin had the chance to enjoy the art of Victor Landeta, a graffiti artist who specialises in large scale grey portraits of historical figures like Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, Landeta painted these famous faces on recovered pieces of the wall itself. The installation is located in Teltow Stadt, Brandenburg, a 30-minute train drive from central Berlin.

Speaking to *The Myanmar Times*, Landeta said having the wall itself as his medium was a key aspect of the piece. Though he came up with the idea several years ago, he said he was only able to

begin late last year as sufficientlty large pieces of the infamous wall were hard to obtain.

His first portrait was Willy Brandt -German statesman and politician and former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany -, then Nelson Mandela - South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and politician - and then Aung San Suu kyi. The artist visited Myanmar in 2011 and he remains interested in the country.

He said he often fields questions from European tourists who are completely unaware of who Suu Kyi is.

“They really like the whole serial, but to be honest Aung San Suu Kyi is not so well known by everyone in Europe so many people ask me who this woman is,” he said, adding that he is happy his art can raise awareness for the cause of democracy in Myanmar.

Our group took pictures in front of the series of the lifelike portraits after chatting with the artist and other locals. We were told by a veteran journalist from *Taz* newspaper we are first Myanmar group to visit the site.



Victor Landeta’s installation outside of Berlin uses pieces of the Berline Wall. Photo: Zon Pann Pwint

WASHINGTON

Animal groups outraged over ‘Snake eats man’ TV stunt

A YOUNG American naturalist, filmmaker and adventurer in the Amazon set off an internet stir on November 6 after he claimed he offered himself for dinner to a giant snake for a TV show.

“I’m Paul Rosolie and I’m about to be the first person to be eaten alive by an anaconda,” he said in a 30-second video on Twitter promoting a new show, “Eaten Alive”, to be telecast on the Discovery Channel on December 7.

A longer teaser posted by the

network on YouTube shows Rosolie donning “a custom-built snake-proof suit” to enter the belly of the fearsome reptilian beast head-first.

“It’s a tease and a promo for now,” a Discovery Channel spokesperson told AFP, adding that further details about the show – to be aired worldwide by the reality TV cable channel – would be released “soonish”.

On his Twitter feed, Rosolie told his followers, “If u know me - I would never hurt a living thing. But

you’ll have to watch #EatenAlive to find out how it goes down!”

Social media and tabloid websites jumped on the story, but animal rights group PETA, fearing for the welfare of the snake, demanded that Discovery pull the show.

“Whatever the filmmaker has planned, the snake will likely pay the ultimate price, as animals usually do when they’re used for entertainment,” it said.

Green anacondas, native to

tropical South America, are among the biggest snakes in the world. The one seen in the “Eaten Alive” teaser required at least seven men to hold it.

Earlier this year, Rosolie – who divides his time between New York, India and Peru – published a book about his adventures, titled: *‘Mother of God: An Extraordinary Journey into the Uncharted Tributaries of the Western Amazon.’*

In 2013 he won a short-film award at the UN Forum on Forests

for his documentary “An Unseen World,” according to a biographical blurb on the website of publisher Harper Collins.

But PETA dismissed him as “a pseudo ‘wildlife expert’”

“Making this snake use up energy by swallowing this fool and then possibly regurgitating him would have left the poor animal exhausted and deprived of the energy that he or she needs,” said its deputy general counsel Delcianna Winders. – *AFP*



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Fast food's

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HAS globalisation put us on the fast-food track to obesity? Nutritionists – and food traditionalists – fear the wholesale transition in this country from mohinga, curry and vegetable dishes to burgers, pizza and fries in recent years is clogging our arteries and piling on the pounds.

“In Yangon or Mandalay, most mothers have to work outside the home now. We don’t have the time to cook healthy food. I grab fried chicken and burgers for my children,” says Daw Kyi Kyi Aye, 56, who works for her family business.

Her mother would prepare delicious and healthy vegetable salads, chicken vermicelli soup, fish, beans and rice soup every day, and the family could live on her father’s income, she said, while few fast-food restaurants were available.

Supermarkets and shopping centres are also proliferating, along with ready-made food products loaded with calories, sodium and fat.

Accountant Daw Lay Lay Myint, 53, works six days a week from 9am to 5pm. “I cook for my family only once a week,” says the mother of three.

What are the biggest culprits? Chicken is hardly a novelty food for Myanmar. But international fast-food type fried chicken is. Fried foods can block arteries and lead to strokes and Alzheimer’s because they contain saturated fat, cholesterol and excess carbohydrates, critics say. According to Wikipedia, one piece of fried chicken contains 3.3 grams of saturated fat and 320 calories, out of the 1800 calories most adults require. Not all fats are bad for your health. But saturated animal fats found in butter and red meat can raise low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels, threatening heart disease and strokes.

Potatoes are packed with nutrients and antioxidants, but



WEEKLY PREDICTIONS

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AQUARIUS | Jan 20 – Feb 18



Trust makes comfort so much easier. You should live to be consistently happy while staying true to your morals. Don't be scared by the flames of withering injustice and try to end the long night of captivity. Know that time is the wisest of all counsellors. Give yourself full permission to relax by letting go of tension.

TAURUS | Apr 20 – May 20



When a person with experience meets a person with money, the person with experience will get the money every time. Remember your past, and the next several months will be lucrative.

LEO | July 23 – Aug 22



People with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear. Know that deciding what to be is more important than deciding what to do. Your mind should be changed through observation and not argument. Take your time, you will need it to reach the next turning point in your life.

SCORPIO | Oct 23 – Nov 21



Participation builds team spirit, enhance morale, and helps everyone feel important. Know that recognition is one way to give meaning to a person's existence. You will gain more by being honest and transparent than by being cunning and crafty.

PISCES | Feb 19 – March 20



Understand that life tests the big dreamers and the passionate revolutionaries. Give up nothing. Finding a social balance may be difficult in the coming month, but keep asking the hard questions.

GEMINI | May 21 – June 20



You have to understand yourself well before finishing your journey. Relying on your own philosophy may not solve your problems. Know that little people usually cause trouble. Listen to, learn and understand everything.

VIRGO | Aug 23 – Sept 22



All of us have problems and we cannot get far from those problems. Your inquisitive nature and talkative habits will not be good in future social relations. Use your intuition before jumping into new experiences.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov 22 – Dec 21



There is a world of difference between a person who has a big problem and a person who makes a problem big. . What happens to you and what happens in you should be viewed as separate events. Concentrate on your own attitude instead of outcomes.

ARIES | Mar 21 – Apr 19



There must have a good balance equilibrium in your mind-set. When you set up obstacles, impediments and delays in your conscious mind, you are sure to be denying the wisdom and intelligence resident in your subconscious. Begin to think from the standpoint of the eternal truths and not from the standpoint of fear.

CANCER | June 21 – July 22



Trust your subconscious completely, look to your dreams for consul. Remarkable answers will be given to you. Know that ignorance of mental and spiritual law is the cause of all marital unhappiness.

LIBRA | Sept 23 – Oct 22



We cannot control the negative atmosphere of the world, but we can control the atmosphere of our own minds. You must find value in what you're doing. Motivation comes not by activity alone, but by the desire to reach the end.

CAPRICORN | Dec 22 – Jan 19



Seeing goals become reality is fulfilling, so beware of demotivation. Don't belittle or manipulate anyone. Remember that it takes millions of positive comments to balance one negative.

hidden cost

are less healthful when deep-fried in artery-clogging fat. Moreover, fries can cause cancer, according to Dr Nu Nu Nge, a nutritionist. She said when a potato is cooked to a temperature above 248 degrees, it produces a cancer-causing chemical called acrylamide. It also contains 312 calories and 2.3g saturated fat per 100 grams.

“People should know what they are eating. Fried foods can endanger health,” says Dr Nu Nu Nge, nutrition coordinator for Save the Children.

Take burgers, increasingly commonly available here. The combination of more than 9g of fat and 19g of carbohydrates in a burger can amount to more than 400 calories, raising blood sugar levels and the risk of obesity. Fried meat, mayonnaise (11g of fat and 100 calories per tablespoon) and cheese (up to 400 calories per 100g) will make you fat if you indulge often enough.

For dessert, there are doughnuts, which are particularly attractive to children. Sugar, maple glazing

and sweet sprinklings mean a 100g doughnut contains 452 calories, 13g of saturated fat and 19mg of cholesterol.

“Type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, is becoming more common here. Children prefer fast food to the meals their mother used to cook. That’s why fast food is the bestselling item in school canteens,” said Dr Nu Nu Nge.

Not that traditional Myanmar food is free of oil. Most traditional dishes are very fatty, often prepared with palm oil, which is cheap at K1600 a viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg or 3.6 lbs). The Ministry of Health has warned that excess palm oil consumption can lead to obesity, cancer, strokes and diabetes.

While international fast-food outlets are proliferating here, there are few nutritionists in Myanmar, nor any university department or institute specialising in nutrition.

“We need more nutritionists. If we don’t educate people about the food they eat we should be concerned about the future,” says Dr Nu Nu Nge.

Photos: Yu Yu



ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်းကြောင့် သူတစ်ပါးမျက်နှာမပျက်စေဖို့
ကိုနိုဒင်းကိုဆောင်ထားပါ



ချောင်းဆိုးကင်းစင် ပြုစုပျက်စီးမှုကို
ကိုနိုဒင်း

ကိုနိုဒင်းဆေးသည် ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်းများကို
သက်သာပျောက်ကင်းစေရုံသာမက
ခွဲသလိပ်များကို အလွယ်တကူ ချေဖျက်နိုင်ပါသည်။

Shwebo celebrates 100th Kahtein festival with music, carnivals and good works



Two monks admire the displays. Photo: Stuart Allen Becker

STUART ALAN BECKER
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WHEN you take off for Shwebo from Mandalay's 90th Street bus station on the last day before the Tazaungdaing full moon – as I did last Wednesday – it's tough to get a seat, but worth it when you see the historic origin city of the Konbaung Dynasty in full bloom.

Across the Sagaing Bridge from Mandalay and up a tree-lined road (about 110 kilometers or 64 miles) north to Shwebo, you see offerings to monks line both sides of Lan Ma Daw Street in a Kahtein celebration that's unique in all Myanmar – and takes place in this city where King Alaungpaya established the last line of great Burmese kings in 1752.

Kahtein celebrations mark the end of the rainy season and finish with the Tazaungdaing full moon Festival which passed on November 6. The unique tradition in Shwebo is that donations are pooled into a lottery called *Nyut Ma Gyi* whereby one of the city's 77 monasteries gets the largest share of the donations. This year, in honour of the 100th anniversary of the tradition, two monasteries received of the top donations prize: Shwe Dar Monetary and West Ma Soe Yain Monetary.



Mother and daughter checkout the main street. Photo: Stuart Allen Becker

Each year, nearly all citizens of Shwebo mark the end of 'Vassa' or Buddhist lent with displays of offerings along the town's main road for a few hundred meters. They pay respect to the city's monks at the moment when these holy men emerge from the pagodas following three months of staying inside for the rainy season, often with their robes in need of replacement.

The Kahtein tradition is common across the world of Theravada Buddhism, but in the city of Shwebo

the lottery donation system originated in 1910 – with only four years missed: three of them during WW2, and one in 1988 – making November 6, 2014, the 100th anniversary of the tradition.

Taking time to explain the Shwebo traditions, Principal Monk Tay Za Di Pa Ti of the Shwe Chin Thae Monastery said that in order to qualify for the big *Nyut Ma Gyi*, the people who support individual monasteries have to participate in the traditional robe donations for three consecutive years. Following three consistent annual robe donations, it becomes eligible to participate in the *Nyut Ma Gyi* lottery.

One lifelong Shwebo resident, Arthur Aung, said the tradition is not merely religious, but an expression of the uniqueness of Shwebo culture.

"This is for our lives and it makes us feel better," he said. "We are especially proud of this."

The other important annual Shwebo event is the annual Myodauk Pagoda festival every September, one of the largest of its kind in Upper Myanmar.

Three days before the full moon, offerings start to appear along Lan Ma Daw Street, reaching a peak this year on November 5, when thousands of Shwebo family groups stroll down looking at the offerings, not only from individuals and families, but from schools, businesses, agricultural brokers, social organisations and even political parties.

As afternoon passed into evening, small carnivals were set up along the side streets for the youngsters while bandstands around downtown started playing music.

While people strolling down the street can see what everyone else donated, there's no competition according to locals. Everybody is in the spirit of giving and they honor the gifts of others, large or small.

Local resident Arthur Aung, who works for the local private TWS School, one of two private schools in Shwebo – says it's the spirit of giving in unity that gives Shwebo people their sense of pride.

"No one cares if you donate or not. This is just voluntary. It depends on your wish and your donation. We are never jealous of each other. We donate as much as we can. That's why we love this festival. We are sharing feelings of other donations," he said. "It is a pleasure for us."



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Shan Noodles



Photo: Phyo



PHYO ARBIDANS
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WHEN I started this column, I thought that it would be just cooking, writing, and good times. But lately, as we here at the kitchen have been taking on exciting new projects like building a database of all past recipes, things have gotten pretty hectic. For all of us busy cooks out there, this week I have chosen to share my quick 30 minutes Shan noodles recipe. This particular variation is based on a quick recipe I made for my husband while we were on holiday in Austalia. Here it is – My Sydney Shan noodles.

- Quick ‘30 minute’ Shan Noodles Sydney version (6 servings)**
- 2 tins of whole peeled tomatoes
 - 1 onion (sliced)
 - 1 Chinese nutmeg (shauk-kaw-pan-kaw; available in Chinatown grocery shop)
 - ¼ teaspoon chili powder
 - ¼ cup vegetable oil
 - ½ teaspoon salt

Blend or mash the tomatoes into small pieces. Add the oil into the fry pan and heat at medium. Crush the Chinese nutmeg gently and add carefully them into the frying pan. Do the same with the sliced onions. Add the tomatoes paste into the pan and let the sauce until it boils. When it starts bubbling, turn down the heat. Cover them with lid and let simmer for 15 minutes. Add salt for taste. When the water is nearly evaporated, bring the heat back. Leave sizzling for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. The paste should be consistent and smooth.

- Accompanying soup**
- 2.5 liters chicken stock
 - 2 slices ginger
 - 2 cloves garlic (bruised)
 - ½ of a sheet of dried pickled soy bean (grilled)/optional
 - 1 small shallot (cut into 6 wedges)
 - 2 teaspoons ground white pepper
- Add chicken stock, garlic, ginger and soy bean sheet into the pot and cook at medium heat. When the mix starts bubbling, salt



The finished Shan noodles. Photo: Phyo

for taste and add white ground pepper, then let simmer for 15 minutes.

Preparations for noodles
Soak the dried noodles cold water for 15 minutes or prepare the noodles as per package instructions. Boil the water in a pot with a tablespoon of salt at medium heat. When the broth is boiling, turn the heat down. Dip, or blanch, the noodles in a hot water just before serving.

Other sides

Fried pickled soy bean cake

- Garlic oil (3 cloves of garlic (sliced) fried in a 1/4 cup of oil till they become golden)
- ¼ cup Kikkoman soy sauce
- 1/3 cup Shan garlic pickle (diced)
- 1/3 cup peanuts (crushed)
- Chilli flakes (to serve)
- Ground white peppers (to serve)

Preparations
Dip a handful of noodles in boiling water for 10-15 seconds. Then drain well. Add the noodles into a bowl with 2 teaspoon of pickled

soy bean powder, 1 teaspoon of diced pickled garlic, 2 teaspoons of soy sauce, 2 tablespoons of tomatoes paste, 1 ½ teaspoon of ground peanuts, 1 teaspoon of garlic oil and mix well.

Grill them on open fire for 2-3 minutes on each side, grind them well to powder. Serve with extra pickled garlic, pickled mustard (Shan Chin) and soup.



Chinese Nutmeg. Photo: Phyo



Photos: Staff



Restaurant Review

Burgers in the shadow of Shwedagon

A FEW short years ago, who would have thought Yangon would be boasting not one, but several fast food options? This week in we’re exploring the menu at Freshness Burger, a Japanese chain recently arrived on U Wisara Road.

First, the all important question: How are the burgers?

The classic cheeseburger is quite satisfying in that way that only fast food can be. The beef tastes like real beef, and the cooks are more than generous with the proportions. Each patty comes topped with grilled onions that are especially tasty.

More adventurous eaters may be tempted by the bacon omellett burger, but save your money. Despite the fantastic name, the bacon omelet burger fails as both an omelet and a burger.

The few strips of bacon taste like they are many steps removed from anything resembling actual meat, and the eggs taste like they should be in military rations.

The fries were adequate, but be warned: they bare no resemblance to the fat, glistening potato wedges prominently advertised on the menu.

As for the drinks, Freshness has several kinds of Coke products on the fountain, as well as a variety of fruit smoothies. *The Pulse* can heartily recommend the banana shake.

Omellett burgers aside, Freshness Burger has food that can easily stand with anything at Lotteria or Mary Brown, and the staff are perfectly friendly and attentive. The only real problem with the establishment is its location.

The restaurant is located in the “Myanmar Culture Valley” directly across from Shwedagon Pagoda on U Wisara road. Said “culture valley” is a string of restaurants and outlet stores so Western, corporate and devoid of personality that it would likely depress even the most rabid free-marketeer.

The obvious and only plus is that shoppers and diners can go about their business with a tremendous view of one of the holiest sites in all of Buddhism. Freshness, however, is located on the *other* side of the building, overlooking a parking lot.

This adds up to a poor X-factor. The ambiance is just too drab to make for a pleasant eating experience, and the food is just not good enough to justify the trip. Here’s hoping that Freshness Burger opens another branch downtown, otherwise they may just get lost in the shuffle.

Freshness Burger

People’s Park, U Wisara Road
Open 9am-9pm daily

Restaurant Rating
★★★★★

Food	7
Beverage	8
Service	9
Value for money	7
X-factor	4



Jessica Da Da



HE Mr Murat Yavuz Ates, U Khin Ye and wife

The 91st Anniversary of Republic of Turkey

The 91st Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey was held at Chatrium Hotel on October 29 and families of Embassies attended the ceremony.



Thet Mon Myint and husband



Attendees

Memory Reprice Myanmar

The film festival of Memory Reprice Myanmar was held at French Institute on October 28, the former films of Myanmar screened and many film-makers joined the event.



Attendees



Myo Kyawt Myaing and wife



Mr Bhattarai, Mr Pokhrel and family



Sai, Brice, Steven and Charlie



Khin Zar Chi Kyaw

Hlwan Paing and





Kyaw Htut Swe and Nan Thu Zar



Sai Sai Kham Leng



Moe Zat Wine

Shwe FM 5th anniversary

One of the local FMs, Shwe was held their 5th anniversary, together with prizing of Radio Awards on 1st November at No. 41, B in Tarmwe township. Celebrities and their fans joined the exciting ceremony to welcome the winners.



Bobby Soxer



U Lu Kyar, U Zaw Mang and U Kyaw Kyaw Oo



Daw San San Ye and Daw Thant Zin Myint



Jennifer and Daw Seng Nan

Myanmar Seilone Company's Myat Min Galar Residence dinner

The Dinner by Myanmar Seilone Company was held at Yangon Sailing Club on November 1 and members and families attended.



Min Thu Kha



Ko Tun Thet Aung and Ma Zon Kay Khine



U Zaw Sai

WWF-Myanmar office opening

World Wildlife Fund- Myanmar office opening ceremony was held on 1st November on its office address Than Taman street, Dagon Township.



Ma Mya Mya Nwe



Ma May Moe Wah and Mr Lee David Poston



Ms Michelle Owen



Ms Hana Helsingen



TUBORG

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DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW				NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
FMI A1	1,2,3,4,5	7:15	8:15	FMI A2	1,2,3,4,5	8:35	9:35
FMI B1	1,2,3,4,5	10:45	11:45	FMI B2	1,2,3,4,5	13:30	14:30
FMI C1	1,2,3,4,5	17:00	18:00	FMI C2	1,2,3,4,5	18:20	19:20

YANGON TO MANDALAY				MANDALAY TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 111	Daily	5:50	7:55	YH 910	1,2,3,4,5,7	7:40	9:45
7Y 133	2,5,7	5:55	8:00	Y5 233	1,2,4,5,6	7:50	9:00
Y5 775	1,2,4,5,6	6:00	7:10	Y5 233	3,7	7:50	9:20
Y5 775	3,7	6:00	7:30	7Y 112	Daily	8:10	10:05
YH 909	1,2,3,4,5,7	6:00	7:40	7Y 134	2,5,7	8:15	10:10
K7 262	Daily	6:00	8:10	K7 262	Daily	8:25	12:25
YH 917	6	6:00	7:40	YH 918	1,2,3,4,5,7	8:30	10:45
YH 917	1,2,3,4,5,7	6:10	8:30	W9 201	Daily	8:40	10:35
6T 401	Daily	6:20	8:30	6T 402	Daily	8:45	10:50
YH 831	6	7:00	8:40	YH 918	6	9:10	11:05
W9 201	Daily	7:00	8:25	K7 244	1,3,5,6,7	9:55	13:00
K7 266	Daily	8:00	10:05	K7 267	Daily	10:20	12:25
K7 244	1,3,5,6,7	8:15	9:40	6T 807	2,4,6,7	13:45	17:45
7Y 815	3	10:30	11:55	YH 832	6	13:50	15:15
7Y 813	7	10:30	11:55	7Y 816	1,4,6	15:00	18:45
YH 835	7	10:30	12:10	7Y 708	2,5	15:00	19:18
7Y 707	2,5	10:30	14:45	YH 912	2	15:30	17:25
7Y 815	1,4,6	10:30	14:45	6T 806	1,3,5	15:45	17:45
YH 911	2	11:00	12:40	7Y 814	7	16:00	17:25
YH 831	4	11:00	12:40	YH 832	4	16:00	17:25
YH 729	2,4	11:15	14:15	YH 830	5	16:00	17:25
YH 737	3,5,7	11:15	13:25	7Y 816	3	16:40	18:05
W9 251	2,5	11:30	12:55	K7 225/7Y 242	Daily	16:50	19:00
YH 729	6	11:30	14:30	YH 836	7	16:50	18:15
YH 829	5	11:30	13:10	YJ 152/W9 7152	1,3,6	17:05	18:30
6T 807	2,4,6,7	11:30	13:30	Y5 776	Daily	17:10	18:20
6T 805	1,3,5	11:30	15:30	YJ 211/W9 7211	7	17:10	19:15
K7 822	2,4,7	12:30	16:55	W9 211	4	17:10	19:15
YJ 151/W9 7151	1,3,6	13:00	16:45	7Y 222	Daily	17:10	19:15
K7 622	1,3,5,7	13:00	14:25	K7 823	2,4,7	17:10	18:35
K7 226	2,4,6	13:30	14:55	YH 732	1,2,3,4,7	17:10	19:15
K7 224/7Y 241	Daily	14:30	16:35	K7 227	2,4,6	17:20	18:45
YH 731	1,2,3,4,7	15:00	17:10	YH 738	3,5,7	17:25	18:50
7Y 221	Daily	15:00	16:55	K7 623	1,3,5,7	17:40	19:05
Y5 234	Daily	15:20	16:30	YH 730	6	17:50	19:15
YJ 211/W9 7211	7	15:30	16:55	6T 502	Daily	17:50	19:55
W9 211	4	15:30	16:55	YH 732	5,6	17:40	19:45
YH 731	5,6	15:30	17:40	YH 730	2,4	18:00	19:25
6T 501	Daily	15:30	17:30	W9 252	2,5	18:15	19:40

YANGON TO NYAUNG U				NYAUNG U TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 111	Daily	5:50	7:10	7Y 111	Daily	7:25	10:05
7Y 241	1,3,4,6	5:55	7:15	7Y 241	1,3,4,6	7:30	10:30
K7 262	Daily	6:00	7:20	YH 918	1,2,3,4,5,7	7:45	10:45
YH 909	1,2,3,4,5,7	6:00	8:25	YJ 141/W9 7141	Daily	7:55	10:55
YH 917	6	6:00	8:25	6T 401	Daily	7:55	10:50
YH 917	1,2,3,4,5,7	6:10	7:45	YH 634	3,7	8:05	10:10
YH 909	6	6:10	7:45	6T 351	Daily	8:05	11:10
YJ 141/W9 7141	Daily	6:20	7:40	YH 910	1,2,3,4,5,7	8:25	9:45
6T 401	Daily	6:20	7:40	YH 918	5	8:25	11:05
6T 351	Daily	6:30	7:50	K7 242	Daily	8:35	11:45
YH 633	1,2,5,7	7:00	8:35	YH 634	1,2,3,4,5,7	8:35	10:40
K7 242	Daily	7:00	8:20	YH 910	5	9:35	10:55
Y5 649	Daily	10:30	11:50	K7 263	Daily	11:05	12:25
K7 224/7Y 241	Daily	14:30	17:25	Y5 650	Daily	13:55	15:15
YH 731	1,2,3,4,7	15:00	17:55	K7 265	Daily	17:25	18:45
K7 264	Daily	15:00	17:10	K7 225/7Y 242	Daily	17:40	19:00
7Y 221	Daily	15:00	17:40	YJ 129/W9 7129	2,5	17:50	19:10
YJ 129/W9 7129	2,5	15:30	17:35	W9 129	1,3,6	17:50	19:10
W9 129	1,3,6	15:30	17:35	7Y 222	Daily	17:55	19:15
W9 211	4	15:30	17:40	YH 732	1,2,3,4,7	17:55	19:15
YH 731	5,6	15:30	18:25	YH 732	5,6	18:25	19:45
				6T 502	Daily	18:35	19:55

YANGON TO MYITKYINA				MYITKYINA TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
YH 835	1	7:00	9:40	YH 832	6	12:25	15:15
YH 831	6	7:00	10:35	YH 832	4	14:35	17:25
YH 835	7	10:30	13:35	YH 830	5	14:35	17:25
YH 831	4	11:00	14:35	YH 836	7	15:25	18:15
W9 251	2,5	11:30	14:25	K7 623	1,3,5,7	16:10	19:05
YH 829	5	11:30	14:35	YH 827	3	16:40	19:05
YJ 151/W9 7151	1,3,6	13:00	15:15	W9 252	2,5	16:45	19:40
K7 622	1,3,5,7	13:00	15:55				
YH 826	3	14:00	16:40				

YANGON TO HEHO				HEHO TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 111	Daily	5:50	8:40	7Y 242	1,3,4,6	8:25	10:30
7Y 241	1,3,4,6	5:55	8:10	YJ 141/W9 7141	Daily	8:50	10:55
7Y 133	2,5,7	5:55	8:45	7Y 112	Daily	8:55	10:05
K7 262	Daily	6:00	9:55	7Y 134	2,5,7	9:00	10:10

YH 917	6	6:00	9:55	6T 352	Daily	9:00	11:10
YH 917	1,2,3,4,5,7	6:10	9:35	W9 201	Daily	9:25	10:35
YJ 141/W9 7141	Daily	6:20	8:35	K7 243	Daily	9:30	11:45
6T 401	Daily	6:20	9:20	YH 634	1,2,3,5,7	9:30	10:40
6T 351	Daily	6:30	8:45	YH 918	1,2,3,4,5,7	9:35	10:45
K7 242	Daily	7:00	9:15	6T 402	Daily	9:35	10:50
W9 201	Daily	7:00	9:10	YH 918	5	9:55	11:05
YH 633	1,2,3,5,7	7:00	9:30	K7 263	Daily	10:10	12:25
K7 266	Daily	8:00	9:15	K7 245	1,3,5,6,7	10:45	13:00
K7 244	1,3,5,6,7	8:15	10:30	K7 267	Daily	11:10	12:25
Y5 649	Daily	10:30	12:45	YH 506	1,2,3,4,5	11:55	14:00
7Y 815	3	10:30	12:40	7Y 241	2	12:00	14:05
7Y 813	7	10:30	12:40	YH 506	6	12:55	15:00
7Y 815	1,4,6	10:30	14:00	7Y 816	1,4,6	14:15	18:45
7Y 241	2	10:35	11:45	7Y 813	7	15:15	17:25
YH 505	1,2,3,4,5	10:30	11:55	7Y 816	3	15:55	18:05
YH 737	3,7	11:15	12:40	K7 224/7Y 241	Daily	16:00	19:00
6T 805	1,3,5	11:30	12:40	K7 829	1,3,5	16:10	17:25
6T 807	2,4,6,7	11:30	12:40	K7 823	2,4,7	16:20	18:35
YH 505	6	11:30	12:55	7Y 221	Daily	16:25	19:15
K7 828	1,3,5	12:30	13:45	YH 732	1,2,3,4,7	16:25	19:15
K7 822	2,4,7	12:30	13:45	K7 264	Daily	16:30	18:45
K7 224/7Y 241	Daily	14:30	15:45	6T 806	1,3,5	16:35	17:45
YH 731	1,2,3,4,7	15:00	16:25	6T 808	2,4,6,7	16:35	17:45
K7 264	Daily	15:00	16:25	YH 738	3,5,7	16:40	18:50
7Y 221	Daily	15:00	16:10	YJ 129/W9 7129	2,5	16:55	19:10
YJ 129/W9 7129	2,5	15:30	16:40	W9 129	1,3,6	16:55	19:10
W9 129	1,3,6	15:30	16:40	6T 502	Daily	16:55	19:55
6T 501	Daily	15:30	16:40	YH 732	5,6	16:55	19:45
YH 731	5,6	15:30	16:55				

YANGON TO MYEIK				MYEIK TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
Y5 325	1,5	6:45	8:15	Y5 326	1,5	8:35	10:05
K7 319	2,4,6	7:00	9:05	K7 320	2,4,6	11:30	13:35
Y5 325	2	15:30	17:00	Y5 326	2	17:15	18:45

YANGON TO SITTWE				SITTWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 445	3,4,6	11:00	12:50	7Y 446	3,4,6	13:05	14:25
6T 605	Daily	11:15	13:10	YJ 309/W9 7309	5	13:10	14:55
YJ 309/W9 7309	5	11:30	12:55	W9 309	1,3,6	13:10	14:55
W9 309	1,3,6	11:30	12:55	6T 606	Daily	13:30	14:50
K7 422	Daily	13:00	14:55	K7 423	Daily	15:10	16:30

YANGON TO THANDWE				THANDWE TO YANGON			
Flight	Days	Dep	Arr	Flight	Days	Dep	Arr
7Y 241	1,3,4,6	5:55	9:25	7Y 242	1,3,4,6	9:40	10:30
YJ 141/W9 7141	1,2,3,4,5	6:20	9:50	YJ 141/W9 7141	Daily	10:05	10:55
YJ 141/W9 7141	6	6:20	8:35	6T 352	Daily	10:15	11:10
6T 351	Daily	6:30	10:00	K7 243	Daily	10:50	11:45
K7 242	Daily	7:00	10:35	K7 245	1,3,5,6,7	12:05	13:00
K7 244	1,3,5,6,7	8:15	11:50	7Y 445	3,4,6	12:05	14:25
YH 505	1,2,3,4,5	10:30	13:10	6T 605	Daily	12:25	14:50
7Y 241	2	10:35	13:00	Y5 312/W9 7312	4	12:50	13:40
7Y 445	3,4,6	11:00	11:50	YH 506	1,2,3,4,5	13:10	14:00
6T 605	Daily	11:15	12:10	7Y 242	2	13:15	14:05
YJ 311/W9 7311	2	11:30	13:20	YJ 311/W9 7311	2	13:35	14:25
YJ 309/W9 7309	5	11:30	13:50	YJ 309/W9 7309	5	14:05	14:55
W9 309	1,3,6	11:30	13:50	W9 309	1,3,6	14:05	14:55
YH 505	6	11:30	14:10	YH 506	6	14:10	15:00
Y5 311/W9 7311	4	11:45	12:35	K7 423	3	14:10	16:30
K7 422	Daily	13:00	13:35	K7 422	1,2,4,5,6,7	14:10	16:30
Y5 421	1,2,4,6	15:45	16:40	Y5 422	1,3,4,6	16:55	17:50

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	
Y5 237	Daily	19:00	20:50	
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 2233	Daily	9:45	14:15	
TR 2823	Daily	9:45	2:35	
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	

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	1,2,3,4,6,7	01:10	5:45	
KA 251	5	01:30	5:55	

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 2233	1,2,4,5,6	7:50	14:15	

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	
Y5 238	Daily	21:30	22:20	
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	
TR 2822	Daily	7:20	8:45	
Y5 2234	Daily	7:20	8:50	
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	
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	1,2,3,5,6,7	21:40	23:30	
KA 252	4	01:50	00:30+1	

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

IT ALL FITS By Gary Cooper

ACROSS

- 1 Pilgrim to Mecca
- 5 Country singer Tucker
- 10 Computer maker
- 14 ___ Bator, Mongolia
- 15 Nabisco cookies
- 16 Tree trunk
- 17 In accord
- 19 Produced offspring
- 20 Birdlike
- 21 Zip
- 23 Some facial growths
- 26 Not waste
- 27 Ball in a socket
- 28 "Three's Company" couple
- 29 Beyond preoccupy
- 31 Sound booster, briefly
- 32 Hawaiian tuber
- 34 Green Teletubby
- 37 Lean-eater of rhyme
- 40 Large, grassy area
- 41 Old tablet material
- 42 Excelled
- 43 Computer info
- 45 Egg concoction
- 46 Made a metallic sound
- 48 Compact canine
- 51 Cause of inflation?
- 53 Wine cask
- 54 Followers of the cruel Marquis
- 55 Excessively prim and proper
- 57 Capital east of Jerusalem
- 58 Restore to well-being
- 59 Concord
- 64 "What's gotten ___ you?"
- 65 Type of rechargeable battery
- 66 Singer Turner
- 67 Like a billionaire's pockets
- 68 Greece marketplace
- 69 Violist's clef

DOWN

- 1 "Come again?"
- 2 ___ grecque (cooked in olive oil and lemons)
- 3 Jelly holder
- 4 Con

5 Most ritzy

6 Met expectations?

7 Advertising sign

8 "That means ___!"

9 Gauge

10 French clergyman

11 Exchanges letters

12 Mournful poem

13 Change color again

18 "Your turn"

22 Longs for

23 Astroturf alternative

24 Get-up-and-go

25 Suitable

26 Depth charge target

29 Mountain nymph of Greek myth

30 Be in session

33 Mayflower Compact signer

35 Schnozz

36 They perform safe jobs

38 Darth, at one time

39 Bivouac shelters

44 San Francisco Bay city

47 Georgetown is its capital

49 One who raised Cain

50 Woods filled with conifers

51 Greenfly, e.g.

52 "Goodnight" girl of song

54 Apply liberally, as jelly

56 Zero-star meal

57 With a bow, musically

60 Musician's booking

61 Zero, in soccer

62 It can be explosive

63 ___ Tome and Principe

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
			20						21	22				
23	24	25						26				27		
28							29				30			
31					32	33				34			35	36
37			38	39		40				41				
42						43			44			45		
		46				47			48	49	50			
51	52			53				54						
55			56				57							
58					59	60					61	62	63	
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



CALVIN AND HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON

SUDOKU PACIFIC

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

					5		1	7
	2			3		9		
9	5			6		4		
4	3				7		9	
				9				
	9		2				7	3
		1		7			3	5
		9		8			4	
5	6		4					

11/13

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.

SPYWARE

Solution: 8 letters

T	T	D	O	N	L	O	A	D	P	P	D	G	A	
R	A	A	A	D	W	A	R	E	U	S	E	R	N	F
A	D	R	E	T	F	E	H	T	K	L	R	P	I	F
C	S	E	G	R	A	A	R	M	L	C	S	P	K	I
K	U	S	E	E	H	A	E	A	I	S	O	I	N	L
I	O	W	R	P	T	T	T	N	S	P	N	L	A	I
N	I	O	O	S	S	S	T	S	U	F	E	N	B	A
G	C	R	T	Y	N	E	L	P	O	R	S	O	T	T
N	I	B	S	I	R	L	S	R	A	U	C	I	C	E
I	L	S	E	N	A	W	M	W	R	O	R	T	E	L
Z	A	R	E	W	O	A	T	F	L	W	W	C	T	B
E	M	T	E	D	T	F	I	L	O	R	E	E	A	
E	L	R	N	I	O	N	E	L	L	I	A	F	D	S
R	I	I	O	S	G	C	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	I
F	W	N	F	D	T	N	A	C	S	U	R	I	V	D

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11/10

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5	3	8	6	7	9	1	7	2
3	7	1	9	4	2	5	6	8
4	9	5	8	6	3	2	1	7
8	6	2	7	5	1	9	3	7
2	8	7	1	9	7	3	5	6
9	5	6	4	3	8	7	2	1
3	1	3	5	2	6	4	8	9

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Bangladesh 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. Tel: 515275, 526144, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

Brazil 56, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 507225, 507251. email: Administ. yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

Brunei 17, Kanbawza Avenue, Golden Velly (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 566985, 503978. email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

Cambodia 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 549609, 540964. email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

Canada 9th 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, Khabauang Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

Italy 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. Tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang. mail@esteri.it

Japan 100, Natmauk Rd, Yangon. Tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

Kuwait 62-B, Shwe Taung Kyar St, Bahan Tsp. Tel : 01-230-9542, 230-9543. Fax : 01-230-5836.

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

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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, 10th 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.

General Listing

ACCOMMODATION- HOTELS



ASIA PLAZA HOTEL YANGON

No. 277, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Corner of 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : (951) 391070, 391071. Reservation@391070 (Ext) 1910, 106. Fax : (951) 391375. Email : hotelasiaplaza@gmail.com

Avenue 64 Hotel

No. 64 (G), Kyitewine Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 09-8631392, 01 656913-9



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

(21st Downtown)

66-70, 21st 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, 8th 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 Street, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. +95-1-212454-9. www. hotel-mgm.com



No. 205, Corner of Wadan Street & Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon. Myanmar. Tel: (95-1) 212850 ~ 3, 229358 ~ 61, Fax: (95-1) 212854. info@myanmarpandahotel.com http://www. myanmarpandahotel.com

PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar

33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 250388. fax: 252478. email: enquiry.prygn@parkroyalhotels.com.



Royal White Elephant Hotel No-11, Kan Street, Hlaing Tsp. Yangon, Myanmar. (+95-1) 500822, 503986. www.rwehotel.com

Savoy Hotel

129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp. tel: 526289, 526298,

Sedona Hotel

Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

Strand Hotel

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



ACCOMMODATION LONG TERM

Golden Hill Towers

24-26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel: 558556. ghtower@mptmail.net.mm.



Novotel Yangon

Pyay Rd, Near Hledan Bridge, Kamayut Tsp, Tel: 951- 255 819-838

For more information about these listings, Please Contact - classified.mcm@gmail.com

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance ☎tel: 295133.
 Fire ☎tel: 191, 252011, 252022.
 Police emergency ☎tel: 199.
 Police headquarters ☎tel: 282541, 284764.
 Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368
Traffic Control Branch ☎tel:298651
Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.
Immigration ☎tel: 286434.
Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390
Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605
Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.
Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.

Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.
Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.
Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.
Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.
Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

ELECTRICITY

Power Station ☎tel:414235

POST OFFICE

General Post Office
39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

YANGON PORT

Shipping (Coastal vessels) ☎tel: 382722

RAILWAYS

Railways information
☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.

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THE MYANMAR TIMES NOVEMBER 10 - 16, 2014

Marina Residence
8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd,
Mayangone Tsp.
tel: 6506 51-4. fax: 650630.

Sakura Residence
9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp.
tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS (NAY PYI TAW)

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123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd,
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YANGON
La Source Beauty Spa
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Tel: 512380, 511252
Beauty Bar by La Source
Room 11004, Sedona Hotel,
Tel : 666 900 Ext : 7167
MANDALAY
La Source Beauty Spa
13/13, Mya Sandar St,
bet: 26-27, bet: 62-63,
Chanaye Tharzan Tsp.
Tel : 09-4440-24496.
www.lasourcebeautyspa.com

Lemon Day Spa

No. 96 F, Inya Road,
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fax: 524580. email: info@
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MONUMENT TOYS

• 150 Dhamazedi Rd.,
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• 15(B), Departure Lounge,
Yangon Int'l Airport.
• # 87/2, Crn of 26th & 27th
St, 77th St, Chan Aye Thar
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Language

LANGUAGE Proficiency, Effective & Scientific way Tutor, Translator, Interpreter, (Such languages: Hindi, Sanskrit, Bengali, Nepali, English & Myanmar) R.S. Verma, B.Sc. (Bot), Yangon, (UFL-English), Yangon. Email: rsverma.myanmar@gmail

BURMESE Speaking for foreigners : In-home tutoring. email:

burmese.tutor2014@gmail.com

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 & writing skills. I use Singaporean text books & Chinese speaking/ conversation books for teaching speaking, reading & writing in Mandarin. I'm available Monday-Sunday with a flexible schedule. I also teaching Myanmar Language to all Foreigner. For more details please call the number below. If I don't answer please send me a SMS.

ENGLISH (home tuition) speaking, grammar, issue. letter, academic writing. SAT. TOEFL. IELT. GCE, IGCSE. GMAT four skills. local & international school. English : English for Japanese children & adult - home tuition : courses are avail e now. You can contact to Saya U Kyi Sin (Mumyint Thar) Ph: 09-4210-67-375, www.kyisinplb.blogspot.com

WE CAN teach Korea Language Basic & 4 skills for all. Ph: 09-2505-65793, 09-4210-06072.

FRENCH, 4 skills & spoken French, Home visit & intensive classes. Daw 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 & 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 & Chinese speaking/ conversation books for teaching speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin. I'm available Monday-Sunday with a flexible schedule. I also teaching Myanmar language to all Foreigner. For more details please call the number below. If I don't answer please send me a SMS and I will get back to you as soon as possible. May: 095-9-516-2988.

PROFESSIONAL English Teacher (MBA, UK), MA (English), BA (English), Dip: ELT 09-254214864. Only Evening and Weekend class available.

I AM available to teach English to any and all ages. I have experience with students in primary, secondary school and Asian adults wanting to enter the global workforce. I can also do SAT prep for secondary students who are trying to build their international college resume. I am able to design a curriculum based on your particular needs. Email: steffanilorraine@gmail.com

training. 61, 1A Flr, 13 St, Bet : Anawrahta Rd & Mahabandoola Rd, Landmadaw tsp. Ph: 09-4316-6443.

Travel

CENTURION AUTO : Corporate Car Rental offers transfer / daily / monthly / fleets throughout Myanmar. Vehicle amenities include English-speaking drivers, Wi-Fi Internet, full international insurance and full time concierge. Contact us anytime for further info. (p) +95.1.571.586*info@centurionauto.com, www.centurionauto.com.

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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

Training



We provide the following Training, CISCO, CCNA, CCNP, MICROSOFT, MCSA, MCSE, LAB, EC-COUNCIL CEH, SECURITY ADMIN. www.facebook.com/imcscompany, 09-4500-16040.

MYANMAR Access International provides the following services. ISO Implementation Programme. Human Resource Development Programme. Hospitality Management Programme. Project Management Programme. English Training Programme. If you are interested, please contact us at 09-731-18749, 09-732-40764 or email : zinminpon@gmail.com, kaungsanthu1994@gmail.com

ROYAL JOURNEYS, Learn English for life : How to make English part of your lifestyle, English communication skills, Business English, Hospitality & tourism Management, Management leadership & superior

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.

Public Notices

AMDA Myanmar Country Office moved to a new location on 7th October, 2014. The new office address : (1) New Office Address: AMDA Myanmar Country Office : 73/A (1), University Avenue Road, Golden valley (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 513224.

Housing for Rent

PRIME Hill Business Square: Well-equipped OFFICE SPACE for LEASE. PRIME HILL BUSINESS SQUARE, developed by Chiyoda & Public Works Co.,Ltd., No. 60, Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road. Ph: 01-382710 (#20109), 09-250065905, 09-420112473, phbscare@cpw.com.mm

BAHAN, (1) New University Avenue Rd, 1750 sqft, 1 MBR, 2 BR, 4 A/C, Furn for rent US\$ 2800 (2) New University Avenue Rd, 1250 sqft, 1 MBR, 1 BR, 3 A/C, US\$ 1300 (3) Pearl Condo, 1750 sqft, 1 MBR, 2 BR, f.f US\$ 3000. Maureen : 09-518-8320

YANKIN, Yankin Center, 1750 sqft, 1 MBR, 2 BR, 4 A/C, Furn for rent US\$ 2800 (2) New University Avenue Rd, 1250 sqft, 1 MBR, 1 BR, 3 A/C, US\$ 1300 (3) Pearl Condo, 1750 sqft, 1 MBR, 2 BR, f.f US\$ 3000. Maureen : 09-518-8320

BAHAN, Near Chadrium Hotel, Po Sein Rd, 2 RC house, 3 Rooms with Toilet, 3 AC, Cable phones, wide car prking. US\$ 2500 per month. Ph: 09-312-87827. 09-2500-26350.

MAWLAMYINE. 2RC (water+electricity included), 60'x80', on Bogyoke Aung San Rd, near Mawlamyine University. Price: negotiable. Ph: 09-515-8738

PEARL Condominium, building-C, Kabaaye Pagoda Rd, 1MB, 2B, 3AC, 1250 Sqft, Fully Furnished, nice view. 1800 US\$. Available on 20th November. Contact: 09-42011-2828, 09-42115-1862.

CONDO: Dagon Tsp, Near Parkroyal Hotel, 2050 Sqft, 3 bed room with Toilet, bath tub, hot water available, 5AC, Lift, Fully furnished (2250 USD) per month, Please contact: 09-2500-26350.

M A Y N I G O N E, Sanchaung, Min St, First Flr, all furniture, one bed room, one kitchen, one bathroom, (The balony) 1RC, 1(month) 600US, Shan Shan Ph: 09-731-92603, Moe Hein Ph: 09-4250-18442

KAMARYUT, Bayint Naung Tower, 1500 sqft, 1 MBR & 2 SBR. Fully furnished. 12 lakhs. Negotiable. Contact: phyuphyu.077@gmail.com Ph: 09-503-2952, 09-730-75900.

BAHAN, Near Chatrium Hotel, Po Sein Rd, 2RC, house, 3 Rooms with Toilet, 3AC, 2 Cable Phones, wide carparking, (USD 2500) per month, Ph: 09-2500-26350.

DAGON, Near Parkroyal Hotel, 1250 Sqft, One bed room with Toilet, one single bed room with balcony, 3AC, 1 cable phone, Lift, internet, Fully Furnished, (1200 USD) per month, Ph: 09-2500-26350.

(1) **PANSODAN TOWER**, 1800sqft, 2 Rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 lifts (2). Mingalardon industry zone, 2-Acre, 100'x100', 2 story, 80'x80', Store Ph: 09-731-54071, 01-530756.

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). Mingalardon industry zone, factory 2RC, 100'x100', 80'x80'. Ph: 09-731-54071, 01-530-756.

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 3100 sqm available over 5 floors in a 12-storey building with car park, restaurant, multi function 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, 2lift, basement car park, generator, fully furnished, USD 5000/ month (3) Tower C2, 2220sqft, 2MBR, 2SR, 6AC, 2lift, 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.

Housing for Sale

INSEIN, Sawbuayigone, 45,000 sqft. Two storey building with landline phone. contact: phyuphyu.077@gmail.com Ph: 09-503-2952, 09-730-75900.

(1) **HIAING**, Ywama kyaung lane, 0.8 Acre, Land only, (2). Mingalardon industry zone, land only. Ph: 09-731-54071, 01-530756.

NGAPALI BEACH Front, Good location, Nice view in Linthar village, Hotel land 1.75 Acre. Contact to 09-204-2457.

SANCHAUNG, 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 Boyarmyunt 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)



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Employment

UN Position

THE UNITED NATIONS World Food Programme, is seeking (1) **Communications & Reports Officer** NO-B, Yangon. http://www.themimu.info/jobs-for-myanmar-nationals. Please email the applications with UN P-11 to wfpmyanmar.vacancy@wfp.org COB 12 November 2014.

THE UNITED NATIONS World Food Program me, is seeking (1) **Programme Officer/ Head of Sub Office** (NOB), Kachin State. For more information, please visit to http://www.themimu.info/jobs-for-myanmar-nationals. Please email the applications with UN P-11 to wfpmyanmar.vacancy@wfp.org COB 11 November 2014.

EmbassyPosition

THE ITALIAN Embassy in Yangon is seeking candidates for 1 position as **“Administrative Assistant”**, requiring previous experience in secretariat and administrative tasks. Very good English and Myanmar knowledge (spoken and written) is required. Knowledge of Italian language will also be valued; candidates shall therefore declare in the application form if they intend to participate in the Italian language test. Candidates must submit by December 1st, 2014 an application form, available at the Embassy and at: www.ambyangon.esteri.it, to: Italian Embassy, 3 Inya Myaing Rd, Golden Valley, Bahan, Yangon or to: archivio.yangon@esteri.it Applicants shall be: at least 18 years old; in good health; high-school equivalent degree; resident in Myanmar for at least 2 years. For queries, call: 01.527100 ext. 0

Ingo Position

THE INT'L Rescue Committee (IRC) is seeking **Hygiene Promotion Officer** 1 post in Loikaw & Shadaw Tsp- Kayah State : University bachelor degree, 3 years experience on WASH promotion. Favorable to person with knowledge on community health promotion. Good in English language. Fluent Kayah language and one of the local dialect skills is desirable. Good practice on MS word and 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 : 11 November 2014.

THE KOREA Int'l Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Myanmar Office offers job opportunity for the posts of **Program Officer and Receptionist**. For more details, please visit to http://www.facebook.com/koica.myanmar and www.themimu.info/jobs-for-myanmar-nationals and please contact to KOICA Myanmar Officer at 01-539572, 01-538204.

WORLD CONCERN Myanmar is seeking (1) **Finance Manager** - 1 post (2) **Monitoring and Evaluation Manager** - 1 post in Yangon. Reporting to Country Director (3) **Program Area Manager** in Lashio Office, Shan Program. Reporting to Senior Program Coordinator. Interested local candidates should clearly indicate the post title with an updated CV to HR/Admin Department, World

Concern Myanmar, No (477/479), Aye Yeikthar 2nd Lane, 6th& 7th Flrs, New University Avenue Rd, Bahan or send to wcm.hr1@gmail.com, Ph. 01-401554, 01-557355. Closing Date : 15th November, 2014

(1) **COMMUNITY Based First Aid (CBFA) Training Officer** - 1 Post (2) **Communication Officer** - 1 Post (3) **Admin Assistant** (Malaria) 1 Post (4) **Livelihood Officer** - 2 Posts (5) **Logistics Officer** 1 Post (6) **Program Support Officer** - 1 Post. (6) **Assistant Manager** (IT) 1 Post. (7) **Finance Officer** (OPP) 1 Post. (8) **Site Engineer** (Sun Rural Health Centre) - 2 Posts. (9) **Assistant Manager** (IT) 1 post in Nay Pyi Taw: BE (IT) B.C.Sc or IADCS. MCSE, CCNA & IT Diploma. Experience in SQL server database & web development. 5 years experience in IT field. Knowledge of the Microsoft Virtual Server platform and accociated System Centre services. Please send application letter, CV & related documents to (Head Office) Yazatingaha Rd, Dekkhinathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. Ormrshrrecruitment@gmail.com www.myanmarredcrosssociety.org

GIZ is seeking **National Expert in Banking & Finance** - 1 post in Yangon. Contract Period: 1st January 2015 – 31st December 2015 (Extendable) : A University Degree in Economics, Business Administration, Banking or other relevant field; 3` 5 years experience in the banking industry (national or international) or another international organization working in a similar field; Be able to work independently & goal oriented; Have excellent communication, organizational and administration skills. Working experience in multi-cultural environments is a plus; Fluent in English and Myanmar language, including technical banking vocabulary; Very good computer skills. An established network to key stakeholders in the banking sector is a strong advantage. GIZ offers a competitive salary & a social benefits package. Please send application letter along with non-returnable recent CV & contact detail of two referees to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Int'ernationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH : 45, Inya Myaing

Rd, Golden Valley (2) Ward, Bahan, Yangon, OR EMail: recruit-myanmar@giz.de Please sent in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Local Positions

INTERNATIONAL Rice Research Institute is hiring a **Specialist-Agricultural engineering**, based at Yangon, can only be filled by citizens & permanent residents of Myanmar. Requirements: Diploma of Technology in agricultural engineering, mechanical engineering or related field, 7 years relevant experience working with urea briquette machines or related field. Bachelor's degree in Technology in agricultural engineering , mechanical engineering or related field with 5 years of relevant work experience with urea briquette machines or related field. Master's degree in Technology in agricultural engineering, mechanical engineering or related field with minimum 3 years of relevant work experience with urea briquette machines or related field. Please submit application on-line through jobs.irri.org (goto "search the IRRI job board" & look for "Junior Specialist - Training and Outreach" - click "apply for job"). IRRI is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values diversity. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

THE International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is seeking Int'l Fertilizer & Development Center (IFDC): 1) **Junior Specialist**- Training and Outreach, (2) **Specialist - Agricultural Engineering** (Mechanical Engineering), (3) **Senior Specialist** - Agricultural Research & Development (Extension/ Communication). For more information about these job opportunities and for interested candidates to apply on-line please visit jobs.irri.org (goto "search the IRRI job board" and look for the position titles above, click "apply for job"). Please submit application to No.21, Baw Ga St, (9 Mile) Ward 5, Mayagone, Yangon.

KH HOTEL Yangon is currently seeking (1) **HR Manager** - M/F 1 Post : Any degree, MBA or Diploma in HRM will be advantage, 3 years in related field, Responsible for the full spectrum of HR management & development (2) **HR Assistant** - M/F 2 Posts : Any graduate, 2 years experience in HR field, Will be use in (Word, Excel, Page Maker, Internet Email etc..)

Skillful in Myanmar (3) **Receptionists** - M/F 5 Posts : Graduated in any fields, Good communication skills, English language skill, Computer literate, 1 year experience. (4) **M&E Technicians** - M 3 Posts : Related certificates or a Diploma or B.Tech, 1 year experience in hospitality industry, Must work shift duty, responsible for the full spectrum of HR management & development. (5) **Bartender** - M 3 Posts : 1 year experience, Good bar knowledge. (6) **Housekeeping** - M/F 5 Posts : 1 year experience, Good communication skills. (7) **Restaurant Manager** - M 1 Post : Any graduated, 3 years experience, Good communication skills. Pls submit CV with relevant documents to (28), 7 Miles, Pyay Rd, Mayagone, Yangon. 01-652989, 01-653358.

MARUAT Construction Co., Ltd. (Flooring & Waller & Tile installation, Decorations & Construction for house, Apartment) is seeking **Site Engineer**: BE (Civil or Archi), Must speak English very well. Better minimum Experience ~ between 3 & 5 years at site engineer position. Salary ~ More than k\$ ~ 500,000... It is totally depend on qualification. Contact Person ~ Ei Ei, Ph: 09- 4210- 84 764. Email: january.snow81@gmail.com

KELVIN CHIA Yangon Ltd is seeking **Lawyer** : LLB or law degree is required, Fluent in English and Myanmar, Strong knowledge about corporate laws & regulations, Ability to take initiative and willing to be "hands on" where needed, Ability to work independently, as well as to work as part of a team, It is an advantage to have a knowledge of and/or experience in Contract and Property law, Myanmar Telecom law, regulations and litigation preferred. Interested candidate please send CV to ppo@kcyangon.com with Last drawn, expected salary & availability period. | Units No. 1505, 1508 to 1509 | 15th Floor Sakura Tower | 339 Bogoyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada. Ph: 255399, 255411-Ext:113 www.kcyangon.com

NEC Corporation a leading ICT supplier, having Headquarter in Japan, is looking for **Sales Manager** : Excellent understanding of the local telecom environment and main ICT technologies. 3 years at as sales position with a major

ICT vendor, Telecom operator or ICT Solution company; Proven track record in sales; University degree; Good in English; PC literate, Sufficient foundation in communication systems technology. Preferred Qualification & experience requirements, Innovative & creative, Social ability & interpersonal skills, Intellectual ability & Strategic thinking, Accountable & committed, Passionate to win, Perseverant, Result oriented. Please forward detail C.V to a-hnin@necmyanmar.com.mm or 02-10 (Level-2), Union Business Center, Nat Mauk Rd, Bo Cho Quarter, Bahan, Yangon, Tel: 01- 8603432.

BELMOND Governors Residence is looking for (1) **Boutique Manager** (Able to handle the guest services and public relations, ability to check the stock , inventory as well as daily sales and holding a graduate or diploma degree, preferable in Boutique or Sales experience) Electrician & Technician for Maintenance Department (2) **SPA Therapist** (3) **Waiter / Waitress**. Belmont Shwe Kyet Yet Tour is looking for (1) **Tour Desk Sales** (2) **Ticketing Officer** (3) **Reservations Officer** . Kindly contact to Human Resources for the above opening positions. Tel : 229860 Email : ayeaye.linn@belmond.com

ALL ACCESS Myanmar Co., Ltd. is seeking (1) **Proficient Japanese**

Language Graduates - M/F (2) **Marketing Staff** - M. Please submit CV with necessary documents to Rm (GA-2), Building No. C, Pearl Condo, Kabaaye Pagoda Rd, Bahan. Tel : (95) 11 222 638, (95) 9 250 893 969

GREAT GOLDEN Glory Co., Ltd is seeking (1) **Technical Sales Representative** - M/F 1 post : B.E.(Chemical) or B.Sc (Chemistry, IC or Microbiology), Age 25~35 years, Experience in Food & beverage industries is an advantage. (2) **Assistance Accountant** F - 1 post : BA.Eco or B.Com, LCCI (Level 1, 2) , Age 25 ~ 30 years, 1 year experience in related field. For all posts: Fluent in English, Good computer skill, Please submit CV with necessary documents to 85~87, 3rd Flr, 32nd St, Pabedan tsp, Yangon. Ph: 387366, 387431, Email: 3g@gglogy.com.mm

CHATRIUM HOTEL Royal Lake Yangon – Leading Five Star Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar with its headquarter in Bangkok, is now seeking (1). **Sales Manager** - F 1 Post (2). **Secretary** (Sales & Marketing) F 1 Post : (3). **Sales Coordinator** - M/F 1 Post (4). **Receptionist** - F 1 Post (5). **Admin Assistant** - F 1 Post (6). **Telephone Operator** - M/F 1 Post (7). **Bellman** - M 1 Post (8). **Technician** M 1 Post (9). **Steward** - M 1 Post. Please apply with full CV/Resume indicating position of interest, qualifications, educational background, employment records and

recent photo not later than 20.11.2014. Only short-listed candidates will be notified by phone for interview. Email : hr.chry@chatrium.com Ph: 01-544500, 01-544500, HR Dept. Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon, No.40, Natmauk Rd, Tamwe Tsp. Yangon.

YOMA FLEET is seeking **Fleet Maintenance Controller**, You will be experienced with : Preventative maintenance, Panel repairs, Warranty repairs, Leading people. Apply online: www.yomafleet.com Yangon

YOMA FLEET is looking for **Operations Manager Customer Service Representative**, Mobile Truck Mechanic, Mobile Tire Specialist, Hikers (Drivers with a great attitude) Apply online: www.yomafleet.com Yangon, Mandalay Nay Pyi Taw

MYTCL is currently looking for (Monywa, Minesite) (1) **Engineering Services Superintendent** (G0/G1.) - M 1 post (2). **Maintenance Superintendent** (G0/G1.) - M 1 post : Age 50. Fluency in the English. Overseas experience an asset. Experience currently working in the Mining industry. 10 years of operational engineering. Computer literate, Auto CAD and proficient in using spread sheets, databases and power point etc. (3). **Senior Mechanical Engineer** (G3.) - M 2 posts (4). **Senior Electrical Engineer** (G3.) - M 2

posts (5). **Senior Civil Engineer** (G3.) - M 1 post: Under 50. Tertiary Degree required in associated department. Experience in the mining industry. 7 years in a position as a qualified and practicing Engineer, being able to demonstrate increasing responsibility within his specialty, covering all technical and managerial aspects of the planning, design and management of services and projects implementation. Excellent in English. Computer literacy & Auto CAD 3D drawings & Graphic. (6). **Mechanical Engineer** (G4.) - M/F 1 post (7). **Electrical Engineer** (G5.) - M/F 1 post : Age under 50. Experience in the Mining industry. Excellent communication skills. Computer literacy, Auto CAD 3D drawings & Graphic. (8) **English Teacher** – Mine Site (G5/G6.) M/F 1 post : Age under 50. Fluency in English. A tertiary degree. B.A. (English) preferred. Tertiary qualifications in humanities or similar, with excellent in English. Computer literacy. Please submit application with CV, copies of relevant certificate for education and one passport photo to Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Ltd Site Office Yangon Office : S & K Mine Site, Salingyi Tsp, Monywa. 70 (I) Bo Chein St, Pyay Rd, HR Department. Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 071 22226 , 071 22523 Tel : 01 514194~7 Contact Person : Mr. Glenn R. Wallis, email : gwallis@yangtse.com.mm



Golden Myanmar Airlines Public Co., Ltd. (GMA) Vacancy Announcement

Commercial Department	Female /Male	(1) Post
Chief Commercial Officer		

GMA's preferred low-cost airline, delivering the lowest air fares with the highest consumer value, to price sensitive consumers looking to recruit a Chief Commercial Officer based in Yangon, Myanmar

Job Description and Duties
Responsible for setting-up and managing Pricing, Yield Management, Scheduling, Advertising, PR, Sales, Reservations, Promotion, distribution, market strategies, GSA Management, planning, forecasting, and all related activities and Responsibility of P&L.

Reporting to: The president / CEO

Qualifications
CCO plays an important role in the overall success of the company; therefore the following qualifications and experiences are required:

- University Degree
- A minimum of 10 years of progressive hands-on experience in the airline industry,
- A minimum of 5 years management experience
- In-depth knowledge of the various functional aspects of a airline commercial department

Requirement
Ideal candidate should be familiar with Myanmar Aviation and Passenger / Route profiles Knowledge of designing and improving relevant airline-related commercial processes Previous experience in a start-up phase would be of advantage Self starter, should have proven ability to plan and accomplish commercial tasks Myanmar Local Candidate is more preferable

Requested foreign Languages : English: proficiency level in four skills

Personal and relationship competences:
Effective interpersonal, coaching, consulting and project management skills Strong organizational skills and attention to detail. Company offers a competitive compensation package plus transportation and other benefits according to GMA Staff handbook policy.

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, Labor Registration copy
- Certificate of graduation, copy of License, census copy, recommendation from Township & Police

Kindly indicate on the back of the envelope: sender's name, address and contact telephone number, and at the bottom left hand corner on the front of the envelope, mark you're applying position. All application must be received not later than **25 November 2014 at 5:00 PM** at GMA office address below: **3th Floor, Saya San Plaza, Corner of New University Avenue and Saya San Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Phone: + 95 1 401484, 09-8604035, 37~38 (Ext: 123 & 128).**

As a leading education institution, we are guided by clear values for the achievement of organisational objectives to provide quality education through professional and efficient services. We emphasize the creation of a knowledge-based workforce by producing graduates who possess prestigious academic qualifications, skills competency and confidence.

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(Senior Lecturer / Lecturer)

M.B.,B.S qualified doctors with at least 3 years postgraduation in Master of Medicine (M.Med) in related fields or MRCP/FRCP/FRCS/MRCOG/FRCOG or its equivalent.

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Note: Candidates are preferred to have at least three years of teaching experience in the disciplines concerned.

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TOKYO

Japan officials 'astonished' by Tomita theft denial

The continuing saga of the embattled swimmer took a bizarre turn last week, when the 25-year-old star retracted his previous confession in the theft of a journalist's camera

THE Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) reacted with "astonishment" on November 7 after disgraced swimmer Naoya Tomita denied stealing a journalist's camera at the Asian Games in September, despite previously confessing to the crime.

The 25-year-old, arrested by South Korean police after being identified by poolside security videos, has been banned from competition for 18 months.

But in a bizarre twist he held a news conference on November 6 at which he claimed an unidentified person had put the camera in his bag.

'He has made a lot of excuses, but he already admitted to the crime after being questioned.'

Yashiro Nakamori
JOC director

"If someone puts an object in your bag, the first thing you would do is check inside," JOC international relations director Yasuhiro Nakamori told AFP.

"If you're scared of it being an explosive or something suspicious you would inform a team official," he added.

Tomita has said he confessed to stealing the US\$7600 camera only because he feared he would not be allowed to return to Japan.

"He was identified from the security videos by a JOC official and from the pictures seen putting the camera into the bag," Nakamori said.

Nakamori also denied claims by Tomita's lawyer that Japanese officials abandoned his client.

"He received support from Japanese officials and Japanese embassy staff," said Nakamori, who also brushed off allegations from Tomita's legal team that the interpreter provided for the swimmer in Incheon did not speak sufficient Japanese.

"He made a lot of excuses, but he already admitted to the crime after being questioned and he signed the charge sheet after checking that the contents were accurate."

"The interpreter fully understood the legal language and explained it to Tomita, while JOC staff were also on hand to assist. We're astonished by his claims."

Tomita, once touted as a successor to Japanese breaststroke king Kosuke Kitajima and gold medallist at the 2010 Asian Games, bowed deeply and apologised for embarrassing his teammates after being released from police custody and paying a fine of one million won (\$915).

"I didn't steal the camera," he told reporters in central Nagoya as Japanese officials watched in disbelief on television in Tokyo.

"Maybe my heart was weak."

Tomita claimed a man grabbed his arm and shoved the camera into his bag, adding, "I thought it was rubbish. At big competitions, athletes often exchange pin badges - I thought it was something like that."

Nakamori insisted the only way Tomita's 18-month ban could be reduced would be if the ruling was overturned in a Korean court.

"The case was tried in Korea and the verdict handed down there," he said.

"His only recourse is through the Korean courts. If he's successful, then and only then will we revisit his suspension." - AFP



Tomita bows to reporters at a press conference. Photo: AFP

BANGKOK

'Time for change is now,' IOC

OLYMPICS chief Thomas Bach urged delegates to seize the chance for change last week and approve a wide-ranging revamp of the games likely to include a shake-up of the sports contested and a new TV channel.

Bach was addressing about 1000 representatives at the Association of National Olympic Committees general assembly (ANOC) in Bangkok, ahead of the release of 40 proposals which will be voted on next month.

"The time for change is now. It is not the time to start the discussion again and again," the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president said.

"We have been discussing for one year ... Now is the time for agreeing on something."

IOC delegates will learn the full detail of the proposals in two days time and they will be published this week

before being put to a vote at the IOC's extraordinary session in Monaco on December 8.

"We have to take this opportunity now to drive these changes. Now we are sitting in the driver's seat of the bus," said Bach.

"If we don't make these changes now, others will drive this bus and we will have to sit on the back seat of the bus and have to hope that the driver is going in the right direction."

Measures under discussion include a year-round digital TV channel and an end to the limit on the number of sports contested, with host cities also able to propose sports.

Hosting bids will have to focus on the event's legacy to each city. The revamp is also aimed at putting the focus on athletes and youth, and improving the IOC's organisation and structure.

Bach, who has ambitions of placing the Olympics at the heart of modern "society" - a word he mentioned some 20 times - said the time was ripe for a makeover after successful Games at London and Sochi.

"The reason to change is because we are successful, because if you don't change when you are successful, the time will come and will come very fast when you are forced to change," he said.

"We can already see some challenges on the horizon ... If we miss this opportunity, then the window of opportunity will be closed."

The 204-member ANOC is an umbrella grouping of the world's national Olympic committees led by the influential Kuwaiti Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who also heads the Olympic Council of Asia. - AFP

SEOUL

Surveillance of baseball players under fire

SOUTH Korea's human rights watchdog on November 7 said it would launch an investigation into allegations that a pro baseball club secretly spied on its players.

It emerged earlier last week that team officials had monitored players via closed-circuit TV cameras installed at hotels where they stayed for away games, prompting the resignation of team president Choi Ha-Jin and two other top club officials.

"Because of the serious repercussions, we decided to launch an investigation today," a spokesperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea told AFP.

The state human rights watchdog will see whether there was any breach

of privacy laws, she said.

Choi admitted he had ordered the surveillance of the players between April and June this year in order to keep track of their whereabouts at night after games, but claimed players were told beforehand that they would be monitored.

Players, however, said they hadn't known about the cameras.

Pro baseball is South Korea's most popular spectator sport. The Lotte Giants, based in the southern port of Busan, take pride in their enthusiastic fans, but spectators have fallen in numbers from a peak of 1.37 million in 2008 to 830,000 this year.

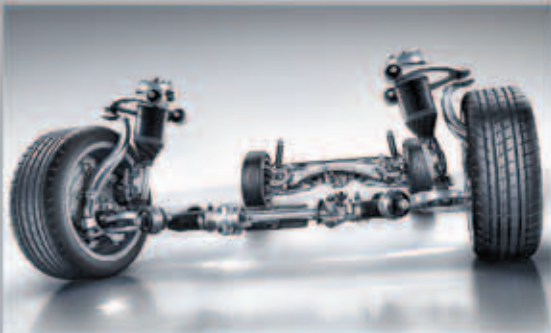
The Giants came seventh place in this year's nine-team pennant race.

- AFP



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Sport

Surveillance of baseball players in S Korea revealed

SPORT 66

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S America to feel fallout from FIFA ban

FIFA'S move to ban Third Party Ownership in football will badly hit clubs in Brazil and Argentina, the major traders in global talent such as Neymar and Colombian star Radamel Falcao, experts say.

About 90 percent of players in Brazil's top division are linked to Third Party Ownership (TPO) arrangements where rights to a player are controlled by investment funds and other opaque companies that buy up rising stars, according to a KPMG consultancy study.

Brazil accounted for more than 5,500 international transfers between 2011 and July this year, making it the world football commodities leader. Argentina was second with more than 2,600 players moving across borders.

But the two countries have some of the world's most indebted clubs, which is why they are most prone to TPO. Brazilian and Argentinian clubs have told FIFA they could not survive without Third Party cash.

"There has never been so much money in Brazilian football, but the clubs are very indebted," said Eduardo Carlezzo, a Sao Paulo lawyer specialising in sport. "This economic situation means the clubs need investors to recruit."

When Neymar moved from Brazilian club Santos to Barcelona in 2013, or Falcao went from River Plate in Argentina to FC Porto in 2009, the European clubs had to haggle with clubs and investors.

Many outside investors treat players "under a slave regime because they say that as they have the player's economic rights they can decide his future", said Carlos Soto, president of the Chilean professional footballers union.

Jackson Ibarguen was a former under-20 player for Colombia when



Neymar boots it in Barcelona. Photo: AFP

he was ordered to play in Bosnia from 2008 to 2013. Ibarguen said he was not paid a full wage and was stopped from moving away by his TPO owner.

FIFA's executive committee voted in September to ban TPO deals though world body president Sepp Blatter said there would be a transitional period before it is eliminated.

The transition will last up to four years, according to FIFA officials, and a working party will recommend the steps to be taken by December. FIFA said this week that a final solution should be announced at the world body's congress in May.

FIFA has had to act under pressure from Europe's governing body, UEFA, which had indicated that TPO players could be banned from the Champions League. The English, French and Polish leagues have already banned such deals.

Third party ownership "threatens the integrity of our competitions," according to UEFA president Michel Platini.

"It damages football's image, poses a long-term threat to clubs' finances, and even raises questions about human dignity," he added.

"FIFA's announcement aims to eliminate the vultures from around

football," said Paraguayan expert Alberto Candia, who has been involved in international transfers.

But Carlezzo said that in the short term "the impact will be strong and negative for Brazilian clubs." But in the medium term they will get back 100 percent ownership of rights to players.

The ban will force a major reform of ownership in Argentina, where investigators are looking into possible tax evasion in the past transfers of 444 players, including Sergio "Kun" Agüero, now at Manchester City, and Javier Mascherano, who is currently with Barcelona. - AFP

Myanmar boxers fend off international challengers

KYAW ZIN HLAING

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ON November 2, a crack team of local fighters beat back a group of international challengers at Thein Phyu stadium in Yangon, winning six out of the seven matches.

The Myanmar team faced pugilists from Canada, Brazil, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand at the exhibition match.

In the main event, boxing champion Tun Tun Min knocked out the 2013 World Muay Thai Council champion Matthew in the third round. Tun Tun Min used powerful jabs and deadly kicks to subdue the fighting Canuck.

In other match-ups, the 2013 SEA Games gold medallist Too Too got a technical knock-out on Mathias Robin from Brazil in the second round. Though the Brazilian fighter is both taller and stronger than Too Too, the local hero managed to used controlled, strategic blows to win the day.

Tha Pyay Nyo knocked out Thai fighter Narongchai Munwiangch in first round, while Kyar Pouk knocked out Mongolia's Gantotok in the second round.

However, the Mongolians had their revenge when their fighter Batbayar knocked out Saw El Lay in the fourth round.



Robin goes down for the count.

Photo: Thiri Lu

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