"MYANMAR TIMES" NEWS ARTICLES, 17-24 SEPTEMBER 2012

Peace marchers face charges
By Ei Ei Toe Lwin and Htoo Aung | Monday, 24 September 2012

Hundreds of people calling for an end to the conflict in Kachin State and elsewhere in Myanmar marched peacefully through Yangon on September 21 as part of events held throughout the country to mark the International Day of Peace.

Read more...

‘The Voice’ defendants plead not guilty to defamation
By Sandar Lwin | Monday, 24 September 2012

The editor-in-chief and publisher of The Voice pleaded not guilty to defamation charges last week, after a Yangon court found the publication might have committed an offence against the Ministry of Mines.

Read more...

US fetes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
By AFP | Monday, 24 September 2012

WASHINGTON – The United States lifted sanctions on President U Thein Sein and Thura U Shwe Mann as the Congress hailed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a hero of democracy in a lavish ceremony unthinkable only months ago.

Read more...

Almost 100 prisoners of conscience freed: activists
By Ei Ei Toe Lwin | Monday, 24 September 2012

Almost 100 prisoners of conscience were freed as part of an amnesty for 514 prisoners last week but at least 200 remain behind bars, the Former Political Prisoners Group said.

Read more...

HRW calls for prisoner monitoring mechanism
By Thomas Kean | Monday, 24 September 2012

Human Rights Watch has called for the formation of a monitoring mechanism to identify prisoners of conscience in Myanmar’s prisons, following the release of more than 500 prisoners in an amnesty last week.

Read more...

Rakhine investigation team discusses first visit
By Ei Ei Toe Lwin | Monday, 24 September 2012

The head of the Rakhine Investigation Commission last week pledged his team would find a solution to the conflict in Rakhine State that is acceptable to the international community.
ABSDF survivors, relatives prepare petition and lawsuit

By Khin Su Wai   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

Survivors of a massacre of All Burma Students’ Democratic Front members in Kachin State in 1992 have launched a petition calling for the perpetrators of the killings to be brought to justice.

UN special adviser ends latest visit

By May Sandy   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

Cooperation with the United Nations and the situation in Rakhine State were among the topics discussed when the UN Secretary General’s special adviser on Myanmar, Vijay Nambiar, met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw earlier this month.

Condor schedules first Euro flight for November

By Zaw Win Than   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

German leisure carrier Condor will start its weekly direct service from Frankfurt to Yangon on November 6 the airline announced last week.

88 group leaders finally get passports

By Naw Say Phaw Waa   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

Eighteen members of the 88 Generation student group received passports last week after a wait of six months, but not before leader Min Ko Naing boycotted a planned trip to the United States over the issue.

Free hotel booking at Yangon airport

By Yu Yu Maw   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

Visitors to Myanmar can now book hotel rooms in Yangon upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, said a spokesperson at the airport’s information counter.

IWT seeks some private investment

By Thiha Toe   |   Monday, 24 September 2012

Companies can invest in four areas in cooperation with state-run Inland Water Transportation, an official said last week. U Myint Swe, head of the Maritime Department at IWT, said investment was possible in building new IWT vessels, repairing old vessels and building warehouses and ports on IWT land.
Partners invited for Mandalay airport

By Thiha Toe | Monday, 24 September 2012

The Ministry of Transport is inviting private investors to help it turn Mandalay International Airport into a major regional logistics hub. “We are conducting a valuation of the Mandalay International Airport ahead of private sector involvement,” Department of Civil Aviation director general U Tin Naing Htun said at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on September 11.

Hluttaw speaker promises independence for judiciary

By Sandar Lwin | Monday, 24 September 2012

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann has called on members of the judiciary to “bravely” carry out their responsibilities, pledging that they will not be dismissed for implementing laws properly.

Democracy day marked in capital for second year

By Soe Than Lynn | Monday, 24 September 2012

Orders, directives and laws that do not reflect the desires of Myanmar citizens are not compatible with democracy and could lead to dictatorship, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann warned during a ceremony to mark International Democracy Day on September 15.

Senior bureaucrats on the move in another reshuffle

By Kyaw Hsu Mon | Monday, 24 September 2012

The reshuffle of some top departmental officials last week is part of President U Thein Sein’s efforts to improve the bureaucracy, analysts said.

Tatmadaw also needs to reform: ASEAN

By Nan Tin Htwe | Monday, 24 September 2012

The Tatmadaw cannot be left out of the reform process in Myanmar as the armed forces will continue to play a “very significant role” in the country’s future, a senior officer from the ASEAN Secretariat said on September 14.

SNLD leader to attend UN General Assembly

By Kyaw Hsu Mon | Monday, 24 September 2012
Shan Nationalities League for Democracy leader U Khun Htun Oo will attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month as part of President U Thein Sein’s delegation, the party announced last week.

Read more...

**New round of Kachin peace talks stalled by disagreement on venue**

By Soe Than Lynn | Monday, 24 September 2012

Negotiations for a new round peace talks between the government and Kachin Independence Army have stalled, with both sides unable to agree on a venue, Kachin political leaders familiar with the talks said last week.

Read more...

**Mekong murder suspects plead guilty: Xinhua**

By AFP | Monday, 24 September 2012

BEIJING – A gang leader accused of masterminding the murder of 13 Chinese sailors on the Mekong River last year has pleaded guilty at a trial in southwest China, state media said on September 22.

Read more.

**Call issued for history curriculum changes**

By Yhoon Hnin Phyu | Monday, 24 September 2012

The curricula for history courses at state-run schools and universities in Myanmar must be updated to more accurately reflect the country’s past and present, participants in an education seminar said on September 8.

Read more...

**Press body re-formed following complaints**

By Kyaw Hsu Mon | Monday, 24 September 2012

A Recently formed interim press council has been reorganised to alleviate journalists’ concerns that it was neither transparent nor representative, deputy chairman U Soe Thein, better known as Maung Wuntha, said last week.

Read more...

**Hpakant IDPs denied access to assistance**

By Bill O’Toole | Monday, 24 September 2012

Escalating conflict in Kachin State’s Hpakant township has left thousands of people displaced and with little assistance, several sources said last week.

Read more...

**Community groups to lobby for better aged care this week**

By Aye Sapay Phyu | Monday, 24 September 2012
Community-based aged care groups plan to use the International Day of Older Persons on October 1 to encourage the president to guarantee aged rights, representatives of the groups said last week.

Read more...

**New party sets target of putting farmers in hluttaw**

By Win Ko Ko Latt  |  Monday, 24 September 2012

Putting “real” farmers in the hluttaw: that’s the aim of the Myanmar Farmers Development Party, which is in the process of being registered and plans to the contest the 2015 general election.

Read more...

**MPs upbeat as fourth session ends**

By Soe Than Lynn  |  Monday, 24 September 2012

Hluttaw representatives have given a mostly positive assessment of the fourth session of parliament but expressed regret that a dispute over the status of parliamentary committees ended with the Constitutional Tribunal’s impeachment.

Read more...

**VOA travellers holding up immigration queues**

By Yu Yu Maw  |  Monday, 24 September 2012

VISA on arrival queues at Yangon International Airport are being held up by passengers with incomplete documentation, an immigration department official said last week.

Read more...

**Yangon marks International Day of Peace**

By The Myanmar Times  |  Monday, 24 September 2012

Read more...

**Rakhine parties discuss possible merger**

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin  |  Thursday, 20 September 2012

Two Rakhine political parties are in discussions over a potential merger, the heads of both parties said last week. Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) chairman U Aye Thar Aung invited officials from the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) to engage in talks over the possible union.

Read more...

**Condor schedules first flight for November**

By Zaw Win Than  |  Thursday, 20 September 2012

German leisure carrier Condor will start its weekly direct service from Frankfurt to Yangon on November 6, the
Civil society readies for International Day of Peace

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin | Thursday, 20 September 2012

Preparations are underway to celebrate International Day of Peace around the nation on September 21. Sixteen civil society groups are collaborating to host activities that call for an end to civil war in Myanmar.

Read more...

Human rights group calls for prisoner monitoring body

By Thomas Kean | Thursday, 20 September 2012

Human Rights Watch has called for the formation of a monitoring mechanism to identify prisoners of conscience in Myanmar’s prisons, following the release of more than 500 prisoners in an amnesty last week.

Read more...

Democracy day marked in Nay Pyi Taw

By Soe Than Lynn | Thursday, 20 September 2012

Orders, directives and laws that do not reflect the desires of Myanmar citizens are not compatible with democracy and could lead to dictatorship, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann warned during a ceremony to mark International Democracy Day on September 15.

Read more...

Myanmar facing growing drug challenge

By AFP | Tuesday, 18 September 2012

TAUNGGYI – Surging production in the poppy fields and methamphetamine factories of Myanmar's remote borderlands is stoking fears of a drug crisis that is sweeping young people into addiction.

Read more...

Call for history curriculum change

By Yhoon Hnin Phyu | Tuesday, 18 September 2012

The curricula for history courses at state-run schools and universities in Myanmar must be updated to more accurately reflect the country’s past and present, participants in an education seminar said on September 8.

Read more...

Saudi Arabia to grant 5000 Hajj visas

By May Sandy | Tuesday, 18 September 2012

The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj has granted 5000 visas for Myanmar citizens to go on the Hajj pilgrimage this year, the Saudi embassy in Yangon said last week.
**MMA to launch ambulance services in October**

By Yamon Phu Thit | Tuesday, 18 September 2012

The Myanmar Medical Association will launch a non-profit foundation to provide 24-hour pre-hospital care and ambulance services in the Yangon area on October 1, the group’s president said last week.

**SNLD leader to attend UN General Assembly with president**

By Kyaw Hsu Mon | Tuesday, 18 September 2012

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy leader U Khun Htun Oo will attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month as part of President U Thein Sein’s delegation, the party announced last week.

**‘Help us build a new Myanmar’**

By Thomas Kean and Stuart Deed | Monday, 17 September 2012

The head of the investment commission has encouraged representatives from hundreds of foreign firms to invest and help build “a new Myanmar”, amid continued uncertainty over planned amendments to the foreign investment law.

**Shift in forced labour complaints from govt to private sector**

By Thomas Kean | Monday, 17 September 2012

A Growing number of complaints submitted to the International Labour Organisation’s forced labour complaints mechanism concern the private sector, the organisation’s liaison officer in Yangon said last week.

**Time to review the state of our higher education**

By Dr Nyi Win Hman | Monday, 17 September 2012

A University is a community of teachers and scholars who both impart knowledge as well as extend it by inquiry and research. Acquiring and searching for knowledge is the business of higher education.

**Telecoms giants jostle ahead of licence tender**

By Victoria Bruce | Monday, 17 September 2012

The government is close to selecting an international consultant to oversee an upcoming tender for telecommunications licences, having shortlisted five companies from a pool of 64.
applicants, sources said last week.

Conference depends on ethnic groups: U Aung Min

By Kyaw Hsu Mon  |  Monday, 17 September 2012

Whether a national peace conference is held in 2014 depends on the leaders of ethnic groups, a senior government peace negotiator said last week.

Arrests in Monywa as mine protests escalate

By Soe Sandar Oo and Phyo Wai Kyaw with AFP  |  Monday, 17 September 2012

Hundreds of Myanmar villagers protesting a Chinese co-owned copper mine vowed to continue their fight against the project last week despite arrests of demonstrators and orders for the rally to move.

U Thein Sein to make first US trip as president

By AFP  |  Monday, 17 September 2012

NAY PYI TAW – President U Thein Sein is to visit the United States for the first time as president, officials said, after Washington waived visa restrictions.

BBC pushes for Myanmar presence

By Thomas Kean and Nan Tin Htwe  |  Monday, 17 September 2012

State-owned enterprises to become public firms: ministry

By Thiha Toe  |  Monday, 17 September 2012

The Ministry of Transport is pushing its state-owned enterprises to generate annual income of K38 billion this financial year, ahead of a planned “corporatisation” of the state firms.

Govt warns of urbanisation issues

By Noe Noe Aung  |  Monday, 17 September 2012
Economic reform is likely to unleash socio-economic problems in Yangon as the city’s urban area expands, a senior government official said last week at the launch of a sustainable land management workshop in Yangon.

Refugees may go home in 2013
By AFP | Monday, 17 September 2012

BANGKOK – About 120,000 Myanmar refugees in Thailand may return home within a year, the kingdom’s National Security Council said last week, following recent talks between the two nations.

Government makes pledge on safety of negotiators
By Ei Ei Toe Lwin | Monday, 17 September 2012

The head of the government team involved in peace talks with ethnic groups has given an assurance that their negotiators will not be charged under the provisions of the Unlawful Association Act.

UNHCR unable to access refugees
By May Sandy | Monday, 17 September 2012

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been unable to access Chinese border areas to confirm reports that since mid-August 5000 Kachin refugees have been sent back to Myanmar from China, a spokesperson from the agency said at a press briefing in Geneva on September 7.

Indonesia Red Cross lends hand in Rakhine
By Yamon Phu Thit | Monday, 17 September 2012

The Myanmar Red Cross Society will cooperate with the Indonesian Red Cross in providing humanitarian support for people affected by unrest in Rakhine State, MRCS president Dr Tha Hla Shwe announced at a signing ceremony in Yangon on September 8.

Young doctors face job shortage
By Shwe Yee Saw Myint | Monday, 17 September 2012

Many graduate doctors are struggling to find jobs in the under-resourced state health system, despite a four-fold budget increase this financial year, sources say.

Public IT company to be established
By Zaw Win Than and Kyaw Hsu Mon | Monday, 17 September 2012
Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will join with a number of private firms to establish a public IT company “very soon”, one of the major shareholders in the new venture said on the sidelines of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum.

Read more...

**US to submit statement on ASEAN relations**

By Kyaw Hsu Mon | Monday, 17 September 2012

A Career ambassador from the United States said recommendations concerning US relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will be submitted to officials from the 10-nation regional grouping during the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November.

Read more...

**UN special adviser meets President in Nay Pyi Taw**

By May Sandy | Monday, 17 September 2012

Cooperation with the United Nations and the situation in Rakhine State were among the topics discussed when the UN Secretary General's special adviser on Myanmar, Mr Vijay Nambiar, met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw last week.

Read more...

**Late monsoons increase risk coral bleaching**

By Aye Sapay Phyu | Monday, 17 September 2012

Late starts to the monsoon season, which are becoming increasingly regular in Myanmar, are heightening the risk of coral bleaching in the Andaman Sea, experts said at a workshop on monsoon onset monitoring and its social and ecosystem impact in Yangon last week.

Read more...