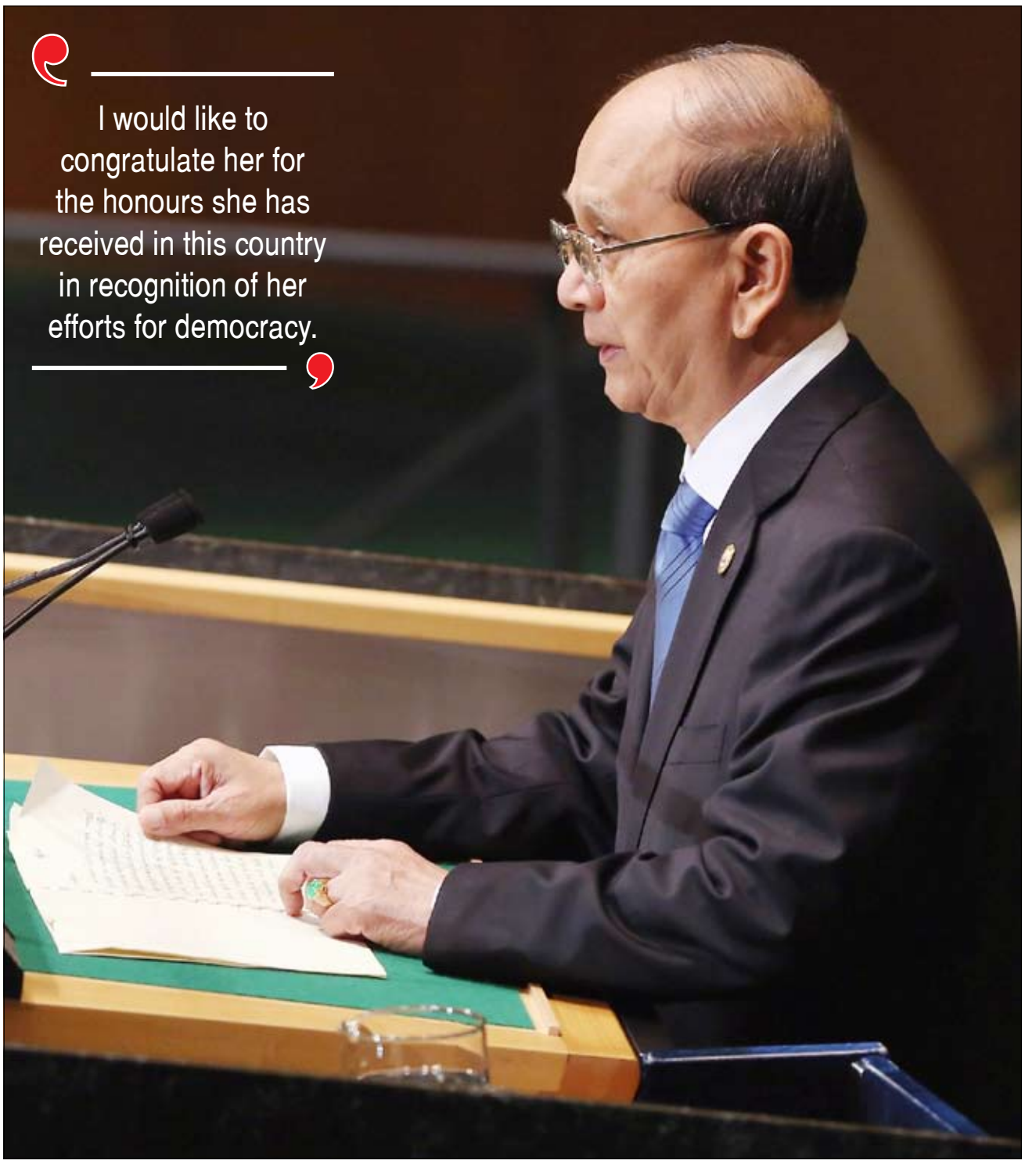
THE MYANMAR TIMES

October 1 - 7, 2012 | Myanmar's first international weekly | Volume 33, No. 646 1200 Kyats

# President pays UN tribute to Daw Suu

## U Thein Sein says he wants to 'completely end' Kachin conflict and calls for economic support




President U Thein Sein addresses the UN General Assembly in New York on September 27. *Pic: AFP*

UNITED NATIONS – President U Thein Sein made an unprecedented tribute to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's "efforts for democracy" and vowed to resolve ethnic strife in a landmark UN speech in New York last week.

U Thein Sein, the first Myanmar head of state to speak to the UN General Assembly, also told the annual gathering on September 28 that he wants to "completely end" a long-running war with the Kachin Independence Army.

U Thein Sein spoke as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi neared the end of a triumphant tour of the United States that some feared could overshadow the president.

But he told world leaders: "This week she is also in New York. As a Myanmar citizen I would like to congratulate her for the honours she has received in this country in recognition of her efforts for democracy."

Less than two years ago, his comments would have been unthinkable.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, was freed in November 2010 and is now a member of parliament pressing for domestic change as well as the lifting of international sanctions. The United States said it would ease some of its trade sanctions on September 27.

Highlighting recent elections, the release of political prisoners and the ending of media censorship, U Thein Sein stressed the "mutual tolerance" and "magnanimity" that now marks politics in Myanmar.

The state-run *New Light of Myanmar* took the step of publishing an English-language version of Thein Sein's speech in full, with praise of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi featuring on the front page, while state broadcasters aired the speech live.

The opposition leader met U Thein Sein at his New York hotel on September 26 and has expressed cautious optimism about the changes under way.

"There has been change, not yet all the changes necessary to make sure we are going to be a genuinely democratic society, but there have been changes," she said in one speech last week.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will go on to visit western states while a ministerial meeting on Myanmar that was due to take place in New York on September 28 could bring new international encouragement for Thein Sein's government.

The president stressed efforts being made by the quasi civilian government to end ethnic strife in Myanmar and said he hoped to end the war with the KIA in the north.

The president said agreement has been reached with 10 ethnic armed groups and that peace negotiations will "continue to reach a final peace agreement that would completely end the armed hostilities".

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# Ayeyarwady hluttaw moves to sack govt

IN DEPTH with Win Ko Ko Latt

AYEYARWADY Region Hluttaw MPs will put forward a motion to sack the regional government for not respecting the parliament and pressuring representatives not to ask difficult questions when the next session begins on November 8, the body's speaker said last week.

Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw Speaker U San Sint told *The Myanmar Times* that more than one-quarter of MPs had supported the proposal to discuss impeaching the government.

He said MPs were pushing for impeachment because the regional government allegedly infringed on the rights of hluttaw representatives and had tried to damage their standing with voters.

"For example, if hluttaw representatives ask questions, members of the regional government do not answer them properly," he said.

He said the regional government and its ministries had felt threatened by questions and motions from parliamentarians. The government has "hardly implemented anything", he said, while its ministries are neither transparent nor responsive to requests for information from parliament.

"In this situation representatives cannot do their duties well. However, I cannot discuss the issue in more detail prior to the hluttaw session because of [rules under the] hluttaw by-laws."

The dispute also raises questions about unity within the Union Solidarity and Development Party, as its members dominate both the government and hluttaw, holding 47 of the 54 seats open to elected MPs.

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# After impeachment, a balancing act

By Dominic J Nardi, Jr

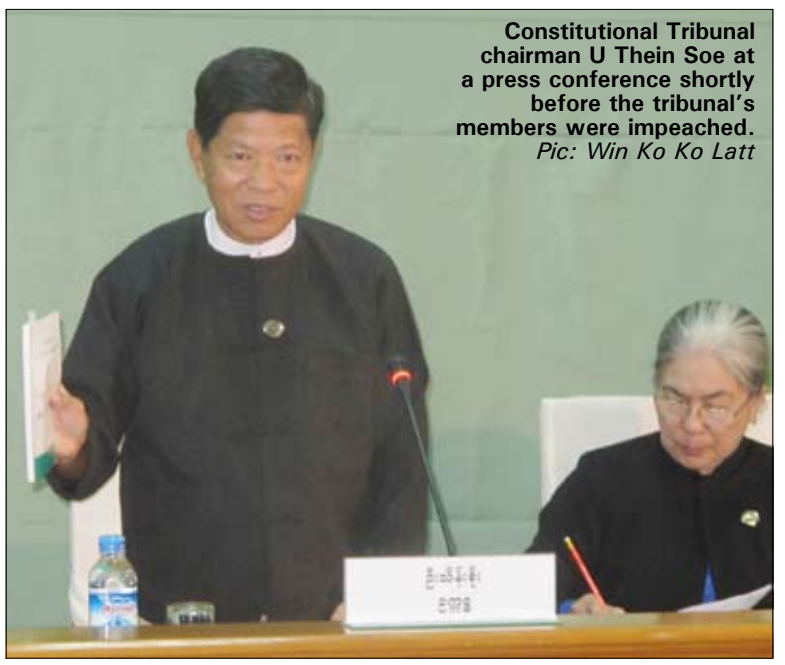
WITH the resignation of the nine Constitutional Tribunal members on September 6, Myanmar has survived its first constitutional crisis. The military did not intervene, even though military MPs had voted against impeachment. This is no mean feat for Myanmar's relatively young constitution. Many constitutional systems die young because the different branches of government cannot resolve their disagreements amicably. Nevertheless, as in any democracy, tensions between legislators and judges will never entirely go away. As such, now is an excellent time for a discussion about the impeachment process. While the political science literature does not provide a one-size-fits-all model, Myanmar can draw important lessons from other countries.

The Constitutional Tribunal could have an important role to play in Myanmar's peacemaking and democratisation process. Last year, at the request of the Supreme Court, the tribunal prohibited the Ministry of Home Affairs from allowing sub-township administrative officers to decide judicial cases. In December, the tribunal struck down portions of a law that would have effectively reduced the emoluments of state and region "national races affairs" ministers. Earlier this year, the tribunal received a petition from the speaker of the Mon State Hluttaw asking whether state legislation complied with the constitution. Moreover, under section 323, it appears the tribunal can hear some cases referred by ordinary courts, including interpretations of fundamental rights.

Because the Constitutional Tribunal has wide discretion in interpreting the constitution, it is important to have mechanisms, including impeachment, to ensure it does not abuse its authority or engage in corruption. According to the Comparative Constitutions Project database, created by professors Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton, about 70 percent of all constitutions in the world explicitly contain a mechanism to remove wayward judges. In a 2008 article in the *European Journal of Law and Economics*, Professor Stefan Voigt provides evidence that on average countries with judicial accountability mechanisms encourage economic growth by reducing judicial corruption.

However, the Constitutional Tribunal will not be able to carry out its functions if accountability mechanisms stifle judicial independence. Two requirements for judicial independence are judges who are insulated from the political branches of government and whose decisions are respected. Section 11 of Myanmar's 2008 constitution does state that the judiciary – including the Constitutional Tribunal – should be "separated, to the extent possible" from the executive and legislature. There is significant evidence that judicial independence can strengthen new democracies by guaranteeing that the government will follow the constitution. Businesses become more willing to invest and ethnic minorities less likely to rebel when they believe the constitution constrains government power. For this to happen, Myanmar's government and its citizens must have confidence that the appointment and impeachment process will not undermine the tribunal members' impartiality.

During the next few weeks, President U Thein Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint must each select three new tribunal members, after which the Pydaungsu Hluttaw must approve the nominees. Before doing so, they should take the opportunity to reconsider the process for screening and appointing tribunal members. When the original members were appointed in March 2011, there was no public discussion about the candidates or their credentials. However, Myanmar has changed dramatically since then. Both the legislature and executive have shown greater willingness to involve the public when making crucial decisions and have begun moving towards greater transparency. Moreover, under section 333(g) of the constitution, the Pydaungsu Hluttaw has a duty to evaluate the qualifications and "political, administrative, economic, and security outlook" of nominees.



Constitutional Tribunal chairman U Thein Soe at a press conference shortly before the tribunal's members were impeached. *Pic: Win Ko Ko Latt*

> **'Myanmar's government and citizens must have confidence that the appointment and impeachment process will not undermine the tribunal members' impartiality.'**

In many countries, legislative committees hold public hearings in which MPs interview judicial candidates in order to learn about their qualifications. For example, in Indonesia, the People's Consultative Assembly holds public "fit-and-proper tests" for Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court nominees. Legislators often ask nominees how they envision the court's role and whether they would give deference to the legislature. The legislature also invites non-government organisations to submit their opinions on the nominees. In a few cases, they successfully warned the legislature against appointing judges who had engaged in corruption. The MPs still make the final decision in secret, but do so with the benefit of hearing other opinions.

During public hearings, legislators must be careful not to undermine the appearance of judicial impartiality by pressuring judges to reveal how they would decide specific cases. In US judicial confirmation hearings, senators sometimes attack judicial nominees as a way of showing their support for certain political causes. In return, nominees refuse to answer any questions, making the entire proceeding unproductive. Fortunately, section 328 of Myanmar's constitution already encourages MPs to focus on qualifications when evaluating judicial nominees. As such, there is reason to hope that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw could hold hearings in a manner that encourages dialogue, not confrontation, between the legislature and judiciary.

Next, the government could clarify the grounds for impeachment. Under section 334(a) of the 2008 constitution, either the president or hluttaw can initiate impeachment proceedings against Constitutional Tribunal members for: 1) high treason; 2) breach of the constitution; 3) misconduct; 4) failure to meet the qualifications; or 5) inefficient discharge of duty. The phrase "breach of the constitution", which many MPs cited during the recent impeachment, is particularly vague. Does this mean the hluttaw can impeach tribunal members simply because they disagree with a particular decision? In practice, constitutional provisions are often frustratingly vague and thoughtful lawyers disagree about their meaning. The primary purpose of constitutional review is to provide a mechanism for interpreting those ambiguous provisions. As such, according to the Comparative Constitutions Project, only seven other constitutions in the world list breach of the constitution as an acceptable basis for impeaching judges.

In clarifying section 334, the hluttaw and president should define a standard that provides tribunal members with clear guidance. One option would be to adopt a criminal law standard, clarifying that tribunal members will only be impeached when they "knowingly and intentionally" issue incorrect constitutional decisions. Another option would be to describe particular types of behaviour that constitute a violation. Fortunately, clarifying section 334 would not necessarily require a constitutional amendment. Many other countries rely upon legislation, jurisprudence, or norms for guidance on the impeachment process. As former US Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist recounts in his book *Grand Inquests*, the acquittal of Justice Samuel Chase in 1805 set the precedent that Congress should not impeach justices merely because they disagree with the political impact of their decisions. Since then, US judges have only been impeached for legal or ethical misconduct.

Finally, most countries treat impeachment proceedings like formal legal trials. In December 2011, the Philippines House of Representatives impeached Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona. The bill of impeachment against Corona listed specific complaints, including corruption and inappropriate deference to former President Arroyo. As Philippine journalist Marites Vitug recounts in her new book *Hour Before Dawn*, the Senate essentially transformed itself into a trial court. Corona had his own defence lawyers and presented evidence on his behalf. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile warned both the prosecution and defence against unethical conduct. Enrile also issued formal opinions explaining his decisions to admit or exclude evidence. Ultimately, the Philippine Senate did convict Corona. While the process took several months, it allowed the prosecution to present clear evidence of corruption and convince the vast majority of Filipinos that Corona deserved impeachment.

I am not an astrologer, so I cannot predict when Myanmar's next constitutional crisis will arise. I can predict that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Constitutional Tribunal will not always agree on how to interpret the 2008 constitution, especially if the tribunal hears more disputes between the Union Government and state or region governments. With so few cases pending on the tribunal's docket, the president, hluttaw speakers, and hluttaw representatives have sufficient time to reconsider the process of appointing members to the tribunal. In addition, they should clarify the grounds for impeachment such that tribunal members have clear guidance. If the hluttaw ever votes to impeach the new members, MPs should be prepared to conduct full trial-like proceedings. Hopefully, by investing the time and effort now in reforms, the next time the hluttaw and Constitutional Tribunal disagree Myanmar can avoid political drama and focus on strengthening the rule of law.

*(Dominic J Nardi, Jr is a PhD student at the University of Michigan Department of Political Science. He received a JD from Georgetown University and an MA in Southeast Asian Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. His research focuses on judicial politics in Southeast Asia.)*

# Ministry tests for lead and arsenic in in Myeik water

By Aye Sapay Phyu

THE Ministry of Health and United Nations Children's Fund have taken about 700 drinking water samples from Myeik in Tanintharyi Region, where they suspect drinking water is contaminated with lead and arsenic, an official said.

Dr Kyi Lwin Oo, deputy director of the ministry's Occupational Health Division, said the samples were collected in early September but the results would not be released until November, when the division will hold a workshop on the issue.

While the high arsenic levels are likely natural, the reason for the presence of lead is still under investigation, he said.

"We took samples from every source of water for drinking and cooking in the town and tested the amount of lead and arsenic," he said. "People can suffer brain and nerve system problems and can even die because of lead poisoning. We have found cases of children under one year of age suffering from epilepsy without fever so we believe there is lead contamination in the town's water sources," he said.

He said people who drink water contaminated with arsenic can suffer skin problems.

He said the division had been testing for arsenic contamination in 26 townships in Ayeyarwady Region since 2003 and found that most of the almost 200,000 samples were highly contaminated.

"We retested water quality in Pantanaw, Kyaunggon, Kyonpyaw, Hinthada and Zalun in early of 2012 and found that arsenic contamination was about the same levels as earlier tests," he said.

The high arsenic levels in the delta are natural and occur when rainwater reacts with minerals in the soil.

Meanwhile, Dr Kyi Lwin Oo said the ministry has developed a Myanmar National Drinking Water Quality Standard, which sets standards for acceptable levels of bacteria, organic and inorganic matter and arsenic in drinking water.

He said similar standards for river water, groundwater and marine water should be developed, along with real time monitoring of water resources, in the interests of not only public health but also food security and environmental conservation.

# March organisers to fight charges

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin and Htoo Aung

Demonstrators hold signs calling for an end to the Kachin conflict near Inya Lake on September 21. *Pic: Ko Taik*

NINE people who face up to 10 years in prison for allegedly violating the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for their role in the International Day of Peace rally plan to submit appeal letters to the president and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

They have vowed to fight the charges, which were filed against them in each of the 10 townships through which the march passed.

The Yangon rally – one of a number of events held across the country to mark the day – was organised by 19 civil society groups and attracted hundreds of people, who called for an end to conflict in Kachin State and other parts of the country.

But it also caught the attention of Yangon Region Police Office, which declared it would charge the leaders of the demonstration under the section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law because police had refused to approve organisers' September 12 application to stage the march. Under the peaceful protest law, applications must be filed at least five days ahead of a planned rally.

Following the demonstration, the nine organisers were each charged with breaking the peaceful protest law in 10 townships. Each violation carries a potential jail term of one year, a fine of K30,000 or both.

Ma Khin Sandar Nyunt, a member of Peace Network, which was formed in May, said she stood by the decision to continue with the demonstration.

"The [police] asked me about our activities on Friday and I answered everything they asked truthfully. We don't think we violated the law; we think we did what was right for the people around the entire nation. So if they want to take us to court we'll face them according to the law," Ma Khin Sandar Nyunt said.

Ko Jaw Gun of the Kachin Peace Network said he was baffled by the decision to charge the protest leaders.

"The [police] did not allow us to go Nay Pyi Taw so we cancelled our plan based on their orders. But then they charged us for our activities in Yangon. I don't understand their actions," he said.

"We know we must obey the law so we tried to get permission [to protest] according to the law but they did not allow it. So we do not accept their accusation that we violated the law. We celebrated this day according to section 354 of the constitution," which states that every citizen has the right to assemble peacefully "if not contrary to the laws, enacted for union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality".

The charged protest leaders said they planned to issue a statement about the issue and send it to government leaders, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and heads of other political parties.

But Major Myint Htwe from Yangon Region Police Office defended the decision to charge the protesters, saying the police needed to uphold the law.

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## Two peace activists face court

TWO members of Kachin Peace Network appeared in court on September 28, one week after they were charged with breaking the peaceful protest law following a peace march in Yangon.

Inspector Tun Tun Win from Dagon township police station charged Ko Jaw Gon, leader of the Kachin Peace Network, and network member Ma May Sabae Phyu under section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law.

Dagon Township Court summoned two activists on September 27 for their role in the International Day of Peace march, which went ahead despite police rejecting applications to hold the event.

Judge Daw Khin Thant Sin asked the pair if they wanted to each submit the name of a guarantor for bail purposes, or act as their own guarantors. They chose the latter and will face a K1 million fine if they fail to appear in court when summoned.

"We don't want to submit the names of guarantors. We've already been bailed by signing a pledge to appear whenever we are summoned by the township court," Ko Jaw Gun said.

Nine people each face 10 charges from the September 21 march, with Ko Jaw Gun and Ma May Sabae Phyu the first to appear in court.

"This is the first time we've been summoned to court. If they summon us, we are ready to face them," Ma Khin Sandar Nyunt told *The Myanmar Times*. "The next day of the trial will be September 10."

– *Ei Ei Toe Lwin and Htoo Aung*

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# Yangon govt seeks K85b for 2012-13

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

THE Yangon Region government is facing a budget shortfall of about K85.677 billion (about US$100 million) for the 2012-13 financial year, chief minister U Myint Swe told the regional hluttaw last week.

He said the budget blowout was because of the construction of four overpasses in the city, which will collectively cost K49.315 billion, although K9.238 billion of that will come under the 2013-14 budget because the Shwegondine bridge is unlikely to be finished during 2012-13, which ends on March 31.

The Hledan junction bridge in Kamaryut township will cost K14.48 billion, Shwegondine in Bahan will cost K13.38 billion and two bridges in Bayintnaung are expected to cost K21.47 billion.

"We expect that the Shwegondine bridge will only be three-quarters finished in March so we've put some of the costs in [the budget for the] next financial year," U Myint Swe told the Yangon Region Hluttaw on September 27.

He said the Yangon Region government has requested K85.677 billion from the national government, which will be used to build the bridges and improve roads and water supply in the city.

Yangon Region Minister for Finance Daw San San Nwe said the Union Government had provided Yangon with K132 billion for 2012-13 but the government expected to spend K270 billion.

About K92.068 billion will be spent by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) in 2012-13, she said.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint said YCDC will begin supplying an extra 45 million gallons of water a day to the city from early 2013 when Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project 2 is completed.

YCDC will also work with local companies on other water supply improvement projects in 2013-14, he said.

"In our budget [for 2012-13], we will spend K4.907 billion on projects proposed by [Yangon Region] hluttaw representatives, mostly concerning roads and water supply," he said.

He said YCDC is also planning a project to supply water to Dala township and Thilawa Special Economic Zone, while road maintenance will be scaled up when YCDC receives an anticipated 1 billion yen ($12.88 million) loan from Japan.

**A passover at Shwegonedine junction in Bahan township will not be completed until the 2013-14 financial year.** *Pic: Yadanar*

Discussing some of his government's achievements in the year-and-a-half since it came to office, U Myint Swe said security had been "tightly" maintained to "protect the interests of residents". Meanwhile, 213 people had been convicted of involvement in 99 murder cases between February and September.

"We helped solve 598 labour disputes in industrial zones this year and we were able to create 115,841 jobs for Yangon residents," he said, adding that these were mostly in factories.

But residents said more priority needed to be given to improving transportation in the city.

"I spend almost two-and-a-half hours a day on the bus to get from my home [in Shwe Pyi Thar] to my office in downtown. That's five hours of my life wasted each day because of the shocking traffic," said Ko Win Zaw, 36.

From page 1

## President pays UN

The government and the KIA have held several rounds of talks and U Thein Sein said the two sides are "working to further strengthen confidence building measures".

"We consider any loss of life and property from either side in the armed conflict as a loss for the country," he said, in comments which again highlighted the startling changes in Myanmar.

The president said that deadly communal unrest in Rakhine State was one of the "unfortunate and unexpected issues" that his government had to confront.

Dozens of people have been killed in the unrest and an estimated 70,000 people have been left displaced in government-run camps and shelters.

The government has been criticised by Muslim nations for its handling of the crisis, but U Thein Sein said an independent commission would report on the strife and that "people living in our country, regardless of race, religion and gender, have the right to live in peace and security".

Answering international critics, he added: "Myanmar has the right to secure our borders and also to safeguard and protect our sovereignty. We will do our utmost to solve this issue in line with international norms." – *AFP*

## Ayeyarwady hluttaw

U San Sint said he had discussed the issue with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann – a senior USDP official – who urged him not to proceed with impeachment.

They subsequently reached an agreement under which the hluttaw would not impeach the government if it respected the wishes of representatives, if it allowed representatives to censure members of the government who make mistakes, if it stopped pressuring representatives to drop the impeachment motion and if it did not publicly release the names of MPs supporting impeachment, U San Sint said.

The terms of the agreement were also binding on central executive committee members of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, he said, and they subsequently violated the conditions by pressuring representatives to drop the motion and releasing a list of the names of MPs who signed the impeachment motion.

While U San Sint did not reveal which senior members had released the list, Chiang Mai-based *Irrawaddy* quoted USDP general secretary U Htay Oo as denying accusations that he threatened members of the regional assembly in Ayeyarwady Region.

He told the news outlet he attended the meeting in Nyaungdon township "to mediate a dispute among USDP members because the party's Central Committee had received many complaints".

"We don't want disagreements between our members. That's why I, on behalf of the party's Central Committee, went to negotiate with them and urge them to be united," U Htay Oo, a member of the Pyithu Hluttaw, was quoted as saying on September 27. "I didn't threaten anyone."

But U San Sint said relations were so tense between the region hluttaw and government that he was followed by members of Special Branch during a recent personal trip to Yegyi township in Ayeyarwady Region.

He said this violated section 353 of the constitution, which states: "Nothing shall, except in accord with existing laws, be detrimental to the life and personal freedom of any person."

But Daw Khin Saw Mu, one of two representatives for Kangyidaung in Ayeyarwady Region, said she didn't support impeachment: "Whatever has happened, I want this problem to be resolved without impeaching the government."

From page 3

## March organisers

"Everybody loves peace and the government loves peace too. The police force is just carrying out its duty under the law. [The protest organisers] could have appealled after we rejected their application but instead they just continued with their plan regardless of whether we had approved it. We aren't charging them because they are peace activists, we're charging them because they broke the rules," Major Myint Htwe said at a press conference on September 21.

He said police had refused the application to hold the march "because it involved a lot of people, who created disturbances and traffic jams".

He added that the Yangon Region Police Office had rejected 12 of 20 applications to demonstrate submitted since the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law came into effect.

The nine charged activists have signed a pledge to appear whenever they are summoned by police.

Township police station officials told *The Myanmar Times* last week they are still conducting their investigation into the march and when it is complete they will send their findings to the relevant township courts where prosecutors will decide whether to proceed with the charges.

"We investigated nine people and all of them have been released on bail. We'll follow the normal procedures and [whether the case proceeds] depends on the prosecutor," said Inspector U Win Shwe from Botahtaung township police station.

The nine charged protesters are Ko Moe Thway of Generation Wave, Ma Khin Sandar Nyunt, Ko Kyaw Bo Bo, Ko Jaw Gun, Ma Phwe Yu Mon of Mekong Peace Journey, Ma May Sabae Phyu of Kachin Peace Network, former political prisoner Ko Nay Myo Zin, and land rights activists Ko Wai Lu and U Win Cho.

U Win Cho said he was not one of the organisers of the march but had been charged anyway.

After being detained, U Win Cho was also charged with three offences related to land rights protests he had previously organised.

"I don't even know the groups that organised the march very well, I just participated as a citizen who wants to get peace," he said. "When we arrived at the police station, they charged me with other protests over land issues."

# US to lift import ban on Myanmar goods

**By Myat May Zin, Tim McLaughlin with AFP**

**Women work at a garment factory on the outskirts of Yangon on September 27.** *Pic: AFP*

THE United States will ease a ban on imports from Myanmar, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told President U Thein Sein on September 26, in a step that will remove one of the last major economic sanctions on the country.

The announcement was welcomed in Myanmar by politicians and exporters, who are keen to rekindle trade in garments and fisheries products that ground to a halt because of the ban.

The move, which the US government will carry out in conjunction with Congress, comes just over a week after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi started a historic visit to the United States by calling for an end to sanctions.

Ms Clinton told U Thein Sein that "the United States is taking the next step in normalising our commercial relationship" in recognition of Myanmar's reforms.

"We will begin the process of easing restrictions on imports of Burmese goods into the United States. We hope this will provide more opportunities for your people to sell their goods into our market."

The ban on imports from Myanmar was imposed by a 2003 act of Congress. Prior to the ban the US mostly imported hardwoods, gems, and garments.

US officials will now have to examine each sector with Congress and decide how best to go about easing the sanctions. However, with the US presidential elections taking place in early November, it could be some time before Congress takes up the issue of determining what items Myanmar should be allowed to export to the US.

U Thein Sein met Ms Clinton on September 26 – one day ahead of his address to the UN General Assembly – during a landmark visit that coincides with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's own US tour.

"The people of Myanmar are very pleased with the easing of economic sanctions by the United States. We are very grateful for the actions of the United States," the president told Ms Clinton when the two leaders met for the third time.

He also met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at his New York hotel on September 25, marking their first encounter overseas, according to state media. Their warm relationship is seen as a key factor in driving the reform process.

The move to ease the import restrictions comes after Washington lifted a blanket ban on US investment in Myanmar in July, paving the way for a major US trade delegation to visit just a few days later.

National League for Democracy spokesperson U Ohn Kyaing said the party welcomed the decision to lift the import ban, "although of course the people cannot get an immediate benefit from it … we do think it will be good in the long term."

One industry that seems set to benefit from the easing of US import bans is garment manufacturing, which generated US$829 million in export earnings in 2001 before declining sharply when sanctions were imposed in 2003.

Dr Aung Win, vice chairman of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, said the easing of the ban would be "a great chance" for exporters to tap the US market.

"Throughout the period of US sanctions, we could only export our products to Western markets indirectly through other countries and could not sell 'Made in Myanmar' products," he said.

With Myanmar also expected to soon benefit from lower tariffs on goods exported to the EU, the end of the US ban would likely prompt more foreign investment from Western firms in the garment sector, he said, adding that US and EU as "key garment markets".

"Garment makers from the US and some other Western nations have visited Myanmar recently and observed the market," he said.

"Thailand, South Korea and Japan are also interested in Myanmar's garment industry because it looks likely that the European Union will also give it access to tax-free imports as part of the Generalised System of Preferences for least-developed countries."

Most foreign operators in the sector are financed from Japan or South Korea, he said. The two countries account for about 70 percent of Myanmar's earnings from garment exports.

The sector employs about 200,000 people and that the figure is likely to grow rapidly after the US ends the import ban. But Dr Aung Win also cautioned that it would take the industry time to rebuild production back to pre-import ban levels.

"The industry has to prepare its infrastructure and workforce to accept big orders from the US. We have to reconfigure our facilities to meet US standards, as well as improve our labour relations," he added.

The beans and pulses sector also stands to benefit from the import ban ease, adding another potential export market to India, which is the destination for most of Myanmar's beans and pulses exports.

"India exports value-added beans and pulses [produced in Myanmar] to Western nations at healthy profit margins," said U Sai Ba Nyan, vice chairman of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

"We might also be able export to the US directly, which could open up a new market. But we also need to improve the quality of our products and add value to them. We export unrefined pulses to India, which processes them and exports them as value-added goods."

He added that potential exporters also needed to acquire International Organisation for Standardisation certificates to guarantee the quality of their goods.

Fisheries exporters could also find demand for their products in the US if they improve quality levels, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

"Actually Myanmar's marine products are already exported to the US via third-party countries," he said.

"The easing of US import bans sanctions would be a big motivation for producers but I don't think we're in a position to begin exporting immediately. We have many issues to resolve before we're ready to do that, especially in terms of food safety requirements," he said.

A spokesperson for the Myanmar Fisheries Products Processor and Exporters Association said US buyers would probably only be willing to import prawn and carp from Myanmar.

But while Myanmar exporters and US consumers stand to gain from the easing of the import ban, East Asian nations might lose out, a Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) spokesperson said.

"Japan and [South] Korea have enjoyed the advantage of producing in Myanmar. From now Myanmar companies will see more companies from the US and EU … we will lose some room and opportunity," he said.

"Japanese companies have been afraid of the lifting of US and EU import bans. Low wage workers in Myanmar have been an advantage for [South] Korean and Japanese companies. These countries will be big competition.

"US companies often place huge orders for one item, while Japanese companies are very cautious of quality and producing just one item while not being as quality conscious is easier. As soon as the import ban is lifted they [manufacturers] will want to change to US/EU companies," he said.

"I visited a local garment manufacturer and they are expecting a lot of orders from the US and EU now," he added.

During their meeting Ms Clinton and U Thein Sein also discussed political issues, including Myanmar's reconciliation process and the landmines that still litter much of the country's border areas.

Ms Clinton "noted that a lot of work still needs to be done", a senior State Department official said, adding that the chief US diplomat had again highlighted the issue of political prisoners.

She also again called on Myanmar to "cut off any kind of military relationship with North Korea".

The two also talked about tensions in western Rakhine state, where about 80 people have died in unrest since June.

# Few resources to manage rising rates of depression

Dr Ben Weinstein presents a certificate to a doctor on August 11. *Pic: Supplied*

By Yamon Phu Thit

MORE human and financial resources are needed if the mental health sector is to keep up with an apparent increase in mental health problems, experts have told *The Myanmar Times*.

While cautioning that there is no reliable data, experts say the prevalence of mental health problems, particularly depression, is increasing in Myanmar because of changing lifestyles.

Dr Zaw Sein Lwin, a retired medical superintendent from the Yangon Mental Health Hospital, said mental health diseases, such as depression, can be triggered by genetics, excessive drug and alcohol use or stress.

"Depression can occur when one too stressed because their wants and hopes do not meet the realities of life. Life today is more competitive and challenging and the gap between one's hopes and reality is often wider," said Dr Zaw Sein Lwin.

"People will also be more stressed because of cultural changes occurring within the country, including the increasing use of drugs and alcohol and social and economic problems."

To cope with these growing mental health issues, there is an urgent need to develop both mental health systems and human resources in the sector, Dr Ben Weinstein, a lecturer in the Graduate School of Psychology at Assumption University in Bangkok and a consulting clinical psychologist, told *The Myanmar Times* by email.

He suggested three areas that should be prioritised: building capacity immediately to start meeting current community needs; developing mental health systems for children, adults and families that are integrated to the healthcare system, schools and communities; and developing modern, scientific training programs to develop local mental health resources, including psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, and psychosocial workers.

"While depression is common all over the world, there are solutions," Dr Weinstein said.

"The most important thing is to develop the mental health sector and human resources so that people suffering from these common problems can receive up-to-date and effective treatments from local professionals in their community."

According to the 2007 WHO *Report on Mental Health System in Myanmar*, Myanmar's mental health sector is underdeveloped, especially compared to other ASEAN countries. The report said Myanmar had 84 practising psychiatrists and just four practising psychologists.

Neither WHO nor the Ministry of Health could provide more recent figures but one senior official from the Yangon Mental Health Hospital said the number of trained professionals was increasing.

Dr Zaw Sein Lwin said another issue in Myanmar is that mental health specialists generally only treat patients with medication. "We already know that depression is a major problem recently and increasing here. We've used medication but … it's not sufficient to give medication alone – we also need to give other guidance … [patients] want more than medication and want to know more [about their condition]."

While counselling can be an effective treatment for psychological problems, it is rarely used in Myanmar, said Dr Khin Aye Win, a retired head of the Psychology Department at Yangon University.

"Real counseling itself is not used here and it should be. We know this can be a great help to our community," she said.

To improve the skills and knowledge of local mental health specialists, Dr Weinstein visited Myanmar in May, July and August to lead training courses on cognitive-behaviour therapy. Twenty-seven people, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses and psychosocial workers from Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Bogale, Pyay, Mrauk U and Taungoo took part in the training, which was held at the Yangon YMCA.

Cognitive-behaviour therapy is a form of professional counselling that empowers people to employ their own thinking and behaviour to manage psychological problems like stress, depression, anxiety and trauma.

"We have never had this cognitive behavioural training here before. We only know the theory from books. We're glad that we have finally been able to introduce this valuable resource into Myanmar," Dr Khin Aye Win said.

Dr Weinstein said the course would help prepare Myanmar mental health professionals to support the needs of a modern society, including assisting people cope with stress and uncertainty.

# Jade mines the focus of fighting in Hpakant

By Bill O'Toole

TATMADAW and Kachin Independence Army soldiers are battling for control of Hpakant's lucrative jade mines, sources in the region said last week.

All mining operations ceased in May but aid workers in the region said Tatmadaw soldiers were sent in to guard the mines several weeks before fighting erupted in the township in late August, prompting at least 6000 people to seek refuge in temporary relief camps and many more to flee the area completely. "They are fighting to control the mines," said a senior aid worker for the Kachin Baptist Convention who is based in Myitkyina but regularly visits Hpakant. "Most of the rest of the area is under [KIA] control."

The KBC official said the Tatmadaw has deployed more than 300 troops to protect the mines, with more arriving by helicopter each day. The KIA has responded aggressively, he said. "Every day [the KIA] attacks the mines ... that is the main source of fighting."

Hpakant is the world's largest source of a precious, lustrous form of jade known as jadeite. The KIA controlled the mines for decades but the then-military government acquired the right to extract jade under a 1994 ceasefire. According to the All Kachin Youth and Student Movement, the township is home to more than 500 different mining operations, all of which are fully or partly owned by the government.

Though many Western nations have imposed sanctions in an attempt to stifle the trade, it remains one of Myanmar's most profitable exports, with biannual gem emporiums raising billions of dollars.

In addition to fighting the KIA, Tatmadaw soldiers, in cooperation with local administrative officials, are also battling to stop residents trespassing on the mine sites. Even with the mines shuttered, the fields are a potentially lucrative source of income; the mounds of upturned soil and pools of wastewater found near the larger mines often contain small, overlooked but valuable pieces of jade. For the many IDPs in Hpakant, who have little or no means to support themselves, searching for jade is an attractive option.

"Because right now there is no way to work [in Hpakant], the residents attempt to steal jade from the mines," said U Kyaw Kyaw, a Mandalay-based gem and jade trader familiar who visited Hpakant regularly until the closure of the mines in May.

U Cho, an activist from Kachin State who distributes aid in towns and relief camps in Hpakant, said he had seen local officials using brutal tactics to deter trespassers.

He described seeing police in the Hpakant town of Lone Khin arrest a group looking for jade near the mine. U Cho said that in addition to being transferred to prison, the suspects were beaten and had their motorbikes confiscated.

Despite the shutdown at the Hpakant jade fields, the price of jadeite has remained steady. Traders in the Mandalay gem market said they had enough stock for prices to remain stable for several months. Similarly, an official from a company with a mine in Hpakant, who asked not to be identified, said he was confident that there would be ample jade for the upcoming emporium in Nay Pyi Taw, which is expected to be held in November.

# Maintain ties with Myanmar, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urges exiles in Fort Wayne

By Jack Ronald

MYANMAR living in the United States would be welcomed back to their homeland to help build a better country, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told a crowd of about 7500 people in Fort Wayne, Indiana, last week.

Fort Wayne is home to an estimated 4000 to 4500 Myanmar refugees, while an estimated 7000 Chin reside in nearby Indianapolis.

"We cannot demand that you come back," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said on September 25. "But we should all work together."

Even those who have adopted US citizenship are "still connected to us and part of our country", she said.

Speaking at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, she urged members of Indiana's Myanmar community not to lose their connections to their country of birth.

"Please do not forget native traditions and language," she said. "Please take pride in your culture."

She urged the community to develop Burmese language courses so that future generations do not lose touch with the country and its culture.

Touching on reforms in Myanmar since her release from house arrest, she said the country was "now at the most delicate juncture.

"We are just at the beginning of the road," she said.

Two years ago, she said, the political situation was more black and white. With the government, under the leadership of President U Thein Sein, moving toward greater openness and reform, it has become more complex.

"It's not as simple as that now," she said. "It's far more subtle. It's far more difficult to sort out. ... In the end, real progress must be measured in the improvement in the lives of ordinary people."

Equal opportunities, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "are all dependent on our constitution. We have asked for three points, especially for the rule of law, a judiciary branch systematically established.

National League for Democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 27. *Pic: AFP*

"We need to make changes and amend our current constitution for peace, for long-lasting peace. ... This cannot be achieved instantly."

Myanmar's constitution guarantees 25 percent of seats in national and regional parliament for the military.

**On other issues:**

• The National League for Democracy leader said there's a need for education reform in Myanmar. An estimated 15pc of children do not attend school because they can't afford it. "We do need to change the educational system in Burma so that it is on the same level as the best in the world," she said. "The educational system collapsed under the military regime because they placed propaganda above genuine knowledge."

• She urged a negotiated peace to end ethnic conflicts and defuse the threat of civil war. "We are not yet the government of Burma," she said. "What we need is a negotiated settlement and amendments to the constitution that are acceptable to all the people."

• She said her involvement in politics was a natural consequence of her belief in democracy. "I chose to get into politics because I thought it was the right thing to do. ... Because I believe in democracy I believe that as a citizen of my country I had a duty to go into politics."

# 88 Generation mulls next move

By Didier Lauras

Political activist and 88 Generation leader Min Ko Naing speaks to supporters in Tharyarwaddy, Bago Region, on January 14 after being released in an amnesty. *Pic: AFP*

YANGON – Their youthful defiance of a military government that locked them up for years turned the "88 Generation" student activists into national heroes. As the country reforms, many wonder if it will also make them politicians.

Freed along with scores of other political prisoners in January, it did not take long for the movement's leader Min Ko Naing and his deputy Ko Ko Gyi to regain their fighting spirit.

"I want to change society," Ko Ko Gyi said in the group's small dilapidated Yangon headquarters, which plays daily host to a steady stream of monks, activists and foreign diplomats.

But it is not – so far – a political organisation, concentrating instead on grassroots activity while other veterans of the democracy movement, most notably Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, concentrate on their new parliamentary roles.

"We deeply consider what we should do for the future. Some of the leaders are actively engaged in politics and some remain in social work. We are trying to cooperate with political parties and social organisations," Ko Ko Gyi said.

The former protest leaders – whose 1988 mass demonstrations were the greatest test of the military's stranglehold on Myanmar – remain determined to "perform our duty", he said, although it remains to be seen exactly what their role might be.

As students two decades ago, the 88 Generation figures raised a huge movement against the military, with protests spreading from major universities to the streets of Yangon and then the whole country.

Reviled strongman Ne Win stepped down after several months of demonstrations, but the army kept its grip on the country and a huge August rally was crushed in a bloody crackdown that left at least 3000 people dead.

Despite their failure to topple the junta, the rallies planted the seeds of political struggle in the minds of a generation.

They also gave rise to the country's most famous dissidents, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of independence hero Aung San.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was swept up in the protests during a family visit to Myanmar from her home in Britain and soon became a prominent activist at the helm of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

Years later, dozens of heavyweights of the 80s remain at the forefront of the democracy movement.

But the context has changed dramatically.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, having supported her party's boycott of controversial 2010 polls, decided to participate in a landmark April by-election that saw her easily win a seat in parliament.

She is now setting her sights firmly on a 2015 general election that could bring the biggest transformation in the country's political landscape since the army seized power half a century ago.

The vote, which many expect to herald an NLD victory, may be the first in Myanmar to be truly labelled democratic.

Will the 88 Generation – whose leader Min Ko Naing is one of the most popular activists in Myanmar along with the more internationally renowned Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – contest the vote and accept the new order?

"It is not yet decided," Ko Ko Gyi said. "It would have a huge impact, whatever we decide."

Opinion is split among democracy groups, activists and commentators over the role these extremely influential people can play.

Some advocate a continued presence outside the political sphere, so that the group can continue to champion causes on the ground, such as worker and student rights.

But for other observers, their entry into the political mainstream is just a matter of time.

"Generation 88 is going to be a political party," said U Zaw Thet Htwe, a former journalist also released in January, adding that the only question is whether they will form their own party or integrate with the NLD.

"It depends on the discussions between them," he said, hinting at some political disagreements between the Generation 88 and NLD that would have to be resolved.

Ko Ko Gyi refused to be drawn on the speculation.

"If anyone wants to join politics, there are only two ways, to join old parties or to create a new one," he said, adding that the group needed time to gauge the workings of parliament, as well as the trajectory of the NLD.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is not an ordinary MP. She can speak out more than any other MP," he said.

But the NLD is still a relatively small force in the legislature, without sufficient numbers to really affect policy.

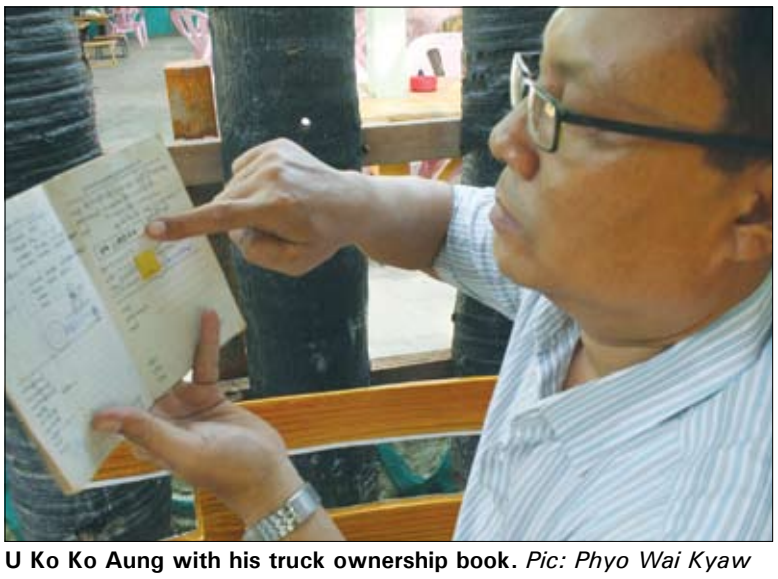
The opposition will have to put forward a thousand candidates for the national elections in three years' time. Whether the democratic old guard will join forces to contest the poll together has yet to be decided.

"We need to take our time," said Ko Ko Gyi.

– *AFP*

# Owner of seized truck files complaint

By Phyo Wai Kyaw



U Ko Ko Aung with his truck ownership book. *Pic: Phyo Wai Kyaw*

THE owner of a truck seized by the government in 2006 in northern Shan State has submitted complaints to parliamentary committees in an effort to receive compensation.

In May 2006, 99 trucks loaded with fertiliser were seized by the government between Muse 105 mile checkpoint and the Yepu checkpoint. Officials alleged that the drivers had underpaid the tax on the fertiliser, confiscated the trucks and arrested the drivers.

Former truck owner U Ko Ko Aung said that all the drivers and assistants received jail terms ranging from seven to 17 years, although most were released after one or two years. About 40 Custom officers were also jailed following the incident.

"We were transporting fertiliser from China to Mandalay and the tax problems were caused by the agent. They gave the [tax receipt] to us and we took it and showed the authorities when they checked our vehicles," U Ko Ko Aung said.

"Our drivers didn't know anything about the tax – it was the responsibility of the agent. We just get our transportation charges. We proved this clearly in the court but the drivers were sentenced [to prison terms]," he said.

"On September 1, I sent a letter together with the old case files to the Amyotha Hluttaw complaints committee, as well as the Stability, Peace and Tranquility Committee of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, requesting compensation from the government.

He said most of the trucks were owned by businesspeople from Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin in Mandalay Region and Nawngkhio, Hsipaw, Lashio, Kyaukme and Muse in Shan State. However, not all are seeking compensation.

"The trucks were six-, 10- and 12-wheel vehicles and the prices were K50 million to K80 million for a truck at that time," he said. "Some truck owners don't want to get involved in my activities because they think it will be difficult and don't want to spend money on it. If someone who lost their truck wants too participate, I warmly welcome them."

# Religions for Peace launched

By Cherry Thein

RELIGIOUS organisations have pledged to work together on humanitarian projects and efforts to defuse religious tension in conflict-hit communities.

Religions for Peace Myanmar, formed on September 13, comprises representatives from a number of major religious organisations, such as Ratana Metta, Myanmar Council of Churches and the Islamic Centre of Myanmar.

"Religious communities used to undertake humanitarian work separately – now we will collaborate to achieve a common goal," said U Myint Swe, chair of Religions for Peace Myanmar, adding that the group plans to launch health and education initiatives.

The inauguration of the organisation was attended by about 100 religious leaders, politicians, diplomats and civil society leaders from around the world.

Religions for Peace is an international coalition of religious representatives and is active in 70 countries. It has consultative status with the United Nations and was established in 1970.

U Myint Swe said the members of Religions for Peace Myanmar are concerned about what they believe is a growing intolerance and propensity to violence among young people in Myanmar.

"Although we come from different faiths, we are committed to fostering peaceful coexistence. We need to help to achieve peace lasting peace among ethnic groups – for the sake of all Myanmar's citizens," he said.

Al Haj U Aye Lwin from the Islamic Centre said religious and ethnic diversity should not be seen as a threat but as a strength.

"We live in a plural society and should appreciate the beauty of diversity. There is no development without peace and no peace without development," he said.

"Extremists in Rakhine State have made it difficult for members of different religions to live side by side."

"The situation will become very tense if authorities force people to live together, though I do believe communities are willing to listen to their religious leaders."

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung said at the ceremony: "If people from all religions act with mutual respect, peace will flourish in Myanmar."

# Five-year extension for Irrawaddy dolphin program

By Aye Sapay Phyu

DEPARTMENT of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Society have agreed to continue an Irrawaddy dolphin conservation project for at least another five years, officials said last week.

U Than Myint, WCS country program director, said the two sides are preparing a detailed proposal for future Irrawaddy Dolphin conservation work, as well as programs to protect other flora and fauna in coastal areas of Ayeyarwady and Taninthari regions and Rakhine State.

The extension was signed by DOF director general U Khin Ko Lay and Mr Colin Poole, Asia program director for WCS, in Nay Pyi Taw on September 11.

"The second [memorandum of understanding] will last for five years, until August 2017. It will result in an improvement in biodiversity conservation, including the Irrawaddy dolphin and other coastal species, such as dugong, coral reef and sea grass. We also plan to organise workshops to promote ecotourism based on cooperative fishing with dolphins in the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protected Area this year," U Than Myint said on September 26.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint said at the signing ceremony that during the period of the second agreement joint projects would be expanded to conservation and research in other freshwater and ocean areas, according to state media.

Irrawaddy dolphin research and observation efforts began in 2002, while in December 2005 the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protected Area, a 74-kilometre stretch of the Ayeyarwady River between Mingun and Kyaukmyaung in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, was created.

**Battery fishing in the Ayeyarwady River is hampering Irrawaddy dolphin conservation efforts, Wildlife Conservation Society and government officials say.** *Pic: Supplied*

The protected area was established to safeguard the dolphin population, which has been protected since 2004 under the Conservation on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, and to maintain the unique culture of human-dolphin cooperative fishing.

The first memorandum of understanding between WCS and the department was signed in 2007.

Conservationists said that while Irrawaddy Dolphin conservation efforts had made some progress, there are still a number of challenges, such as environmental degradation and illegal fishing.

"There are some positives, such as we found more baby dolphins but … we will see more improvement if there is better law enforcement. The director general of the Department of Fisheries said they plan to organise more effective patrol teams with the cooperation of township administrative office and law enforcement departments," U Than Myint said.

U Mya Than Tun, assistant director of the department's Environment and Endangered Aquatic Animal Conservation Unit, agreed that the prevalence of illegal fishing methods, including the use of poison and electricity, had negatively impacted on dolphin conservation efforts.

He said minister U Ohn Myint had instructed the department to control electric fishing in the protected area and the department's officials in Mandalay and Sagaing region would tackle the issue.

Meanwhile, U Than Myint said that he expected that Myanmar's political and economic reforms and its greater engagement with the international community would bring benefits for conservation work, including the Irrawaddy dolphin project.

"Conservation work requires collaboration from all levels of the community, especially people living in the immediate area. And for that you need to ensure they have sufficient income for their living. If we see more economic development in the conservation area as a result of the government's poverty alleviation policy, I believe local people will be more willing to collaborate in our conservation activities. I hope assistance from international bodies will bring more prosperity for our people," he said.

He said funding for conservation projects and the rule of law were important factors in protecting the country's biodiversity.

A WCS survey conducted in 2010 spotted 77 Irrawaddy dolphins living in the Ayeyarwady River, while the group estimates about 90 dolphins live in the river between Mandalay and Bhamo in southern Kachin State.

# Signs of change at state media

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

IN the latest sign of change in the Ministry of Information, state-run daily newspapers will begin printing in colour from the middle of October, sources at the papers said last week.

The change will apply to Myanmar-language *Kyemon* (Mirror) and *Myanma Ahlin* (New Light of Myanmar), as well the English-language *New Light of Myanmar*.

"I heard that they'll be publishing the newspapers in colour from October 18," said a journalist close to editorial staff at the state newspapers.

U Win Tin, a famous journalist and co-founder of the National League for Democracy, said state-run newspapers had failed to attract readers since the military coup of 1962. People only bought the papers to read page 15 – the obituary column – he said.

"State-run newspapers have a black name among readers. They should have reformed years ago. Change is good but … they should change the essence of the newspaper to give readers what they want," he said.

He suggested the state papers consider including more "people's voices and perspectives".

The change to colour printing is just the latest change under the new minister for information, U Aung Kyi. In a move that took many observers by surprise, state newspapers on September 21 published articles about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receiving the Congressional Gold Medal in United States on their back covers on September 19.

While Daw Aung San Suu Kyi entered the Pyithu Hluttaw in May, news about her was rarely published in state papers under previous information minister U Kyaw Hsan.

"The publication of articles about her trip in the state media is a reflection of the government's reform policy and its attitude towards the opposition party leader. We can see that state newspapers are being much more careful to writein an ethical way that is still in line with government policy," said Yeni, the editor of the Myanmar section at Chiang Mai-based *Irrawaddy*.

The recent coverage is in contrast to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's trip to Europe in June, which was not publicised in state media.

"I haven't read about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's activities in the state newspaper even though she became a hluttaw representative in April. Other local journals gave her a lot of coverage though," said Daw Tin Yee, a primary school teacher from North Okkalapa township.

# Director of Peace Nexus Foundation meets govt, politicians

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

THE executive director of the Swiss Peace Nexus Foundation visited Myanmar between September 23 and 29 for discussions on Myanmar's peace process.

Anne Gloor met 88 Generation student group leaders, members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and other politicians during the trip.

Ms Gloor, also the foundation's co-founder, held discussions with Union Minister U Aung Min, head of the government's peacemaking committee, on September 27.

U Nyo Ohn Myint, a peace facilitator between the government and armed groups, said: "The foundation is very experienced in conflict resolution and is willing to help Myanmar. Representatives will continue to hold consultations with participants of the peace process."

The general secretary of the Peace and Unity Party, U Myo Nyunt, said Ms Gloor said the foundation was willing to provide both financial and technical assistance.

"We held talks at the Peace Centre on September 26 and it was agreed that in areas such as Shan and Kachin states – where fighting continues – greater trust and compromise is needed from both sides. The best way forward is for the government to hold a Union Peace Convention that will allow all parties and the armed forces to express their views and experiences," he said.

The Peace Nexus Foundation was established in Switzerland in 2009.

# DPNS leader seeks return of exiled party

By Khin Su Wai and Hlaing Kyaw Soe

Pic: Khin Su Wai

U Aung Moe Zaw meets Mandalay journalists at Oriental House on September 21.

CHAIRMAN of the Democratic Party for a New Society U Aung Moe Zaw said the exiled group wants to return to Myanmar and officially register to participate in the formal political process.

He arrived in Myanmar just days after being removed from a government travel blacklist in late August.

"I admit that our party hasn't kept in touch with the Myanmar people for a long time. I arrived in Myanmar on September 3 for a 28-day visit. When I arrived, I met our members from Yangon," U Aung Moe Zaw told journalists in Mandalay on September 21.

The purpose of the visit was to meet government officials to discuss the party's possible return and also to meet with politicians and journalists to better understand the changes taking place in Myanmar and then compile a report for the party's central committee.

"In the meetings with government officials we discussed important matters, such as laws about illegal organisations, political prisoners, the president's calls for exiles to return home and the peace talks with armed groups," he said.

Democratic Party for a New Society was formed by Moethee Zun following the 1988 uprising as the political wing of the All Burma Students Union. It was later banned but the government removed it from a list of illegal organisations on September 1.

U Aung Moe Zaw said one purpose of the visit was to establish whether all exiled members of the party would be able to return to Myanmar without fear of being arrested.

# Parliament delegation learns from Congress

By Win Ko Ko Latt

HLUTTAW representatives say a recent eight-day study trip to the United States has given them an insight into the workings of Congress and can improve the activities of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The eight-member hluttaw delegation visited the US from September 8 to 15 at the invitation of senators Jim Webb and James Inhofe. It is believed to be the first Myanmar parliamentary delegation to the US in six decades.

And despite the fiercely partisan Congress attracting regular criticism at home and abroad, members of the Myanmar delegation welcomed the exposure to one of the world's leading democratic institutions.

"We benefited immensely from this trip because we had a chance to see how [US politicians] work," said Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee chairman U T Khun Myat, who led the delegation.

He said they studied not only the processes of Congress but how its members operate. They also met senators and answered questions on the reform process in Myanmar.

U T Khun Myat said the group will share its experiences with other representatives to help raise the standard of lawmaking in the hluttaw.

The National League for Democracy's Dr Zaw Myint Mg, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Kyaukpadaung, said members of the Myanmar delegation also quizzed members of Congress on whether they would lift sanctions against Myanmar, particularly the import ban.

"We told them we want sanctions to be lifted," he said, adding that members of Congress replied they will lift sanctions when further reforms are implemented.

The Myanmar delegation also included U Steven, a member of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee; U Maung Toe, secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Accounts Committee; and U Tin Mya and Colonel Hla Tun, both members of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Other delegates included U Steven Thar Bate, a member of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, and U Tun Kyaw, a member of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee. – *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*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Dated: 1st October, 2012

# Returning USAID promises cooperation

**By Thomas Kean**

**USAID mission director for Myanmar, Mr Chris Milligan, speaks at his swearing-in ceremony in Washington on August 29.** *Pic: USAID/Pat Adams*

THE director of the recently reopened United States Agency for International Development mission in Yangon last week pledged to engage with the government, other donors and civil society as it expands programs in Myanmar.

Mission director Chris Milligan said USAID, which operates in more than 80 countries across the globe and reopened its Myanmar office on July 1, would assess where the agency had "comparative advantages" before committing to new projects.

He said it was conscious of ensuring it does not overwhelm local capacity or overlap with other projects.

"We want to provide assistance as quickly as possible," he told *The Myanmar Times* in an interview on September 25. "We hope to be able to announce our strategic direction in the near future.

"Each country is different; the situation in Burma is unique. We don't want to come in and say we have all the answers. It's a matter of engaging and learning so that you can move forward."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced in April that the US would reopen the mission, which was shuttered following the 1988 protests. A former mission director, Terry Myers, was despatched to start initial consultations and lay the groundwork for Mr Milligan, who was sworn in on August 29 and arrived in Myanmar on September 7.

Many Western donors, including the humanitarian arms of the European Union, United Kingdom and Australia, have well-established presences in Myanmar and Mr Milligan seems sensitive to USAID's status as a relative latecomer to the scene.

But he also says that, despite the pull-out, USAID continued to support programs both inside the country and along the Thai-Myanmar border, focusing on infectious diseases, livelihoods, civil society development and internally displaced people. Its Myanmar budget has in recent years been about US$38 million, making it one of the larger bilateral donors, while it also provided about $85 million following Cyclone Nargis.

"In the past we had a limited level of engagement and our program met more immediate needs. Now we can focus on the longer-term development challenges ... deepen political and economic reforms and also deepen the participation in those reforms," said Mr Milligan, who has worked for USAID for more than 20 years, including lengthy stints in Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Indonesia following the fall of Suharto and, more recently, Iraq.

"We have had a very warm welcome, we've immediately been in donor coordination meetings and so on, and we are very appreciative of the willingness of everyone to coordinate. [In Myanmar] we have the opportunity to get it right from the beginning.

"There are great development challenges in health, rural development and food security ... there are challenges in institutional and human capacity but there are also opportunities."

One initial project will be a food security and agriculture assessment, the first phase of which is scheduled to begin in October. A USAID technical bureau, the Office of Transition Initiatives, which "supports US foreign policy objectives by helping local partners advance peace and democracy", according to its website, will also work within the Yangon mission. While he would not speculate on possible OTI activities, Mr Milligan said OTI has "the ability to mobilise assistance quickly to sustain reform".

In June, OTI sought applications for two positions in the Yangon mission and said its program will "address emerging issues and empower local partners potentially to include non-governmental organisations, civil society groups, media outlets, and local and national government offices to reduce or mitigate conflict, increase transparency and accountability, and foster positive political change". Meanwhile, in late July US international development firm Chemonics International, a regular recipient of USAID funding, advertised for a governance adviser for what it described as an "anticipated" OTI-funded Myanmar program.

Mr Milligan said USAID also wanted to work directly with Myanmar organisations but conceded that it might not be immediately possible because many lack the capacity to meet the agency's reporting requirements.

"Generally, US organisations may be more able to meet the fiduciary requirements of handling US government funds. That being said, we want to be able to move quickly to local organisations," he said.

"If they don't have the capacity to manage US government funds appropriately, then how can we help them build that capacity? Because there is a lot of expertise that exists here that maybe needs a little assistance. So that's one of the things that we'll be looking at. We want to ensure that we move quickly to local organisations.

"Having a mission allows us to reach out to local NGOs and assess their capacity and facilitate their development in that respect."

Other possible recipients of USAID funding are multi-donor trusts, such as the Three Millennium Development Goals fund and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust fund, better known as LIFT.

"We're currently reviewing that ... [we'll do it] if it's possible."

In a recent trip report on Myanmar, the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies said the US government's aid program should focus particularly on rule of law, transparency, and policies to govern the economy, protect the environment, and rein in corruption.

"The assistance should include training to increase the capacity of officials in parliament, the executive branch, and the judiciary and provide guidance on best practices for how these institutions should function to create conditions for political stability and democracy," the report stated.

It also recommended the US government coordinate with other donors to "leverage its support and provide targeted assistance", while also "join forces" with the private sector "to increase the funding available for these aid programs".

Despite the reopening of the mission, USAID's 2013 funding request for Myanmar of $38 million represents a slight drop on the $38.1 million estimated for 2012 and $38.5 million for 2011.

However, Mr Milligan said this was because the funding request was sent "before the reforms" in Myanmar got underway. "We can access regional funds or access funds from technical bureaus," such as OTI, he said.

The government has not commented publicly on the return of USAID, but a report on the agency's *Impact* blog about Mr Milligan's swearing-in ceremony in Washington quoted Myanmar's ambassador to the US, U Than Swe, as thanking the American people and government for their support, which he said was "of vital importance for my country's reform".

He also reportedly told Mr Milligan: "If you work together with our people, nothing is impossible."

# Drugs: a growing challenge

By Shwe Yinn Mar Oo

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.

Authorities in Myanmar say the problem is getting worse, while the flow of drugs from rebel-held areas of Shan State is reviving Myanmar's old reputation as a hub for narcotics production.

Although there are few available statistics, residents and aid workers in Shan State's bustling capital of Taunggyi say increasing numbers of young people are succumbing to the plethora of opiates and synthetic drugs produced locally.

The drug of choice is known as "formula" – a potent cocktail of cough medicine and opium that is taken as a drink -- although methamphetamine and heroin are also popular.

Addicts get high at university campuses, homes and even openly in some teashops, while residents report surging drug use during local festivals.

"It is like they can be popular only if they use drugs," said Taunggyi resident U Ye Naung, 33, of a new and growing generation of young users.

U Myo Aung Zan of the HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP) said "hero" worship of older addicts had created this burgeoning group of users – many still teenagers.

"The number of under-18 users is quite high now," he said.

A 2011 UN report on drug production the Asia-Pacific region found methamphetamine use rose in Myanmar each year since 2005, while heroin and opium showed a declining trend – although there has never been comprehensive research on the subject.

Rough government estimates put the number of drug users at 150,000, half of whom inject.

"I would strongly suspect that this is an underestimate but in the absence of any data on the situation it is hard to say for certain," United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) country director Jason Eligh said, adding his organisation is planning the first national study.

"If you visit different communities in this country where there are drug users ... you will probably find them saying that they know more people that use drugs," he said.

Myanmar last year grew 23 percent of the world's opium, second only to Afghanistan, with UNODC figures showing the area cultivated for poppy increased every year from 2007 to 2011.

In response to its drug problem, the US last week kept Myanmar on its annual drug trafficking "black list" accusing the country – along with Bolivia and Venezuela – of having "failed demonstrably" to fight the drug trade.

The country is also facing a surge in the production of methamphetamine – popular in the region in a tablet form known as "yaba" that is often crushed and smoked – made in small factories that are difficult to detect.

Methamphetamine "has a long history in the region", Mr Eligh said, explaining it is popular among people working long hours such as bus drivers, fishermen and factory employees.

A worker with the HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program (HAARP) refills a box with new syringes under a syringe-exchange program in Taunggyi. *Pic: AFP*

**'Drug seizures in Myanmar have increased, with more than 1.4 million amphetamine pills and 116 kilograms of heroin captured in July alone.'**

Drug seizures in Myanmar have increased, with more than 1.4 million amphetamine pills and 116 kilograms of heroin captured in July alone.

A police official in the drugs control department, who asked not to be named, said in August that the narcotics problem was "very dangerous now" and getting worse, with stimulant use spreading in Yangon and the border regions.

Thailand has also turned up diplomatic pressure on its neighbour – blaming armed groups on the border for a flood of drugs into the kingdom.

The drugs trade is closely linked to Myanmar's long-running insurgencies, with ethnic minority rebels widely thought to use drug profits to fund operations.

In May the government signed a deal to wipe out opium and other drug production in Shan State with a number of rebel groups currently engaged in ceasefire talks.

But authorities still face the "huge development challenge" of providing an alternative income for the estimated quarter million households that grow poppy, according to Mr Eligh.

He said the government estimates that over the next four years alone it will need US$500 million to support poor farmers in opium areas.

The drug issue also dovetails with a wider problem of chronic neglect of social care under the former military government, while the UN estimates that over a third of injecting drug users have HIV.

Over-stretched authorities give little help to addicts in Taunggyi, according to HAARP, and fail to provide heroin substitute methadone.

Drug-takers said the lack of methadone was helping to embed a culture of unsupervised substance abuse among the young.

"It will be harder to control them," said Sai Kyaw, a gaunt but chatty heroin addict whose name *AFP* has changed to protect his identity.

Sai Kyaw believes he contracted HIV from sharing needles due to a widespread superstition that if you take your own syringe to buy heroin, the dealer would not have any drugs.

After experimenting with drugs when he was 15, he started injecting heroin four years later.

Now 32, Sai Kyaw says his life has been marred by addiction, illness and prejudice.

"My father always told other relatives not to give money to me because it was like nurturing a poisonous plant," he said. – *AFP*

# Late monsoons increase risk of coral bleaching

By Aye Sapay Phyu

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.

"Transient temperature increases of only a few degrees above the local average maximum may prove lethal to many coral and even smaller increases may result in bleaching in a stress response characterized by loss of symbiotic algae (known as zoozanthilae). We found that coral bleaching in Myeik Archipelago was particularly bad in the late monsoon onset years of 2002 and 2010," Professor Nan Mya Han, head of the Marine Science Department at Myeik University, said at the workshop.

Research conducted by the department had found that coral in Myeik area could tolerate temperatures from 20-26 Celsius, while some healthy coral can withstand water temperatures of up to 33C.

"Extensive coral reef development is limited to warm water environment," she said.

More broadly, she said hydrographic conditions in Myanmar's coastal regions are heavily influenced by the monsoon climate. Additionally, the impact of man-made climate change is already being felt in marine areas, in the form of larger variations in water temperatures, increased concentrations of dissolved carbon dioxide and changes to currents.

She said marine ecosystems are a valuable economic resource for many people who live in coastal region and conservation and sustainable management is an urgent priority.

"It is not easy to control natural phenomenon but we can reduce the anthropogenic factors that lead to climate change, such as deforestation and pollution to air and water," she said.

Professor Nan Mya Han was speaking at the sixth workshop on monsoon onset monitoring and its social and ecosystem impact, known as MOMSEI, which was organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission regional secretariat for the Western Pacific, in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. Experts from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand took part in the September 10-11 workshop.

Dr Hrin Nei Thiam, director general of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, said the deviation of the Asian monsoon from its normal pattern had caused disasters, such as floods and droughts, that disrupted agriculture and displaced many people.

"Moreover, late monsoon onset leads to high sea surface temperature for an extended length and thus increases the risk of coral bleaching. It is vital to improve the monitoring capability on monsoon onset in the wider Southeast Asia region, particularly in terms of the social and ecosystem impacts," she said.

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# WHO issues action plea on drug-resistant malaria

HANOI – The World Health Organization said last week that governments in the Mekong region must act "urgently" to stop the spread of drug-resistant malaria which has emerged in parts of Myanmar and Vietnam.

There is growing evidence that the malaria parasite is becoming resistant to a frontline treatment, the anti-malarial drug artemisinin, in southern and central Vietnam and in southeastern Myanmar, the WHO said in a statement on September 27.

Drug-resistant malaria was found on the Thailand-Cambodia border eight years ago, and has since also been discovered along the Thailand-Myanmar border, said scientists.

WHO regional director Shin Young-soo said countries must "urgently address this issue before we put at risk not only the fragile gains we have made in malaria control but also our goal of a malaria-free Western Pacific Region".

Countries in the Mekong region must "intensify and expand" operations to contain and eliminate artemisinin-resistant malaria, Shin said at a WHO regional meeting in Hanoi. – *AFP*

A doctor consults with a patient at a private clinic in Yangon. *Pic: Yadanar*

# Govt to draft public health ethics policy

**By Shwe Yee Saw Myint**

THE Ministry of Health's Ethical Review Committee is developing a "bioethics" policy for the public health sector, a senior research official said last week.

The policy will ensure that research data is not used in ways that are considered unethical, said Dr Win Zaw, director of the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar).

"We only have basic standards for researchers doing health research in [government] departments. We do not have a policy and guidelines for situations when members of the public are involved in research so we are trying to develop guiding principles to prevent ethical violations," he said.

"We have discussed how to promote bioethics in the field of health, be it clinical, research or public health … and a Ministry of Health committee is trying to formulate a bioethics policy and a law in future."

The policy would be a set of norms and standards, while the law would ensure the policy is implemented and safeguarded.

He was speaking at a three-day bioethics workshop in Yangon on September 17 organised by the Ministry of Health's Ethical Review Committee and the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) in cooperation with experts from WHO, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

"Bioethics policy is so important at this time when the media is quick to focus on ethical violations, medical errors, wrongful operation, and weaknesses in healthcare financing. These problems lead to patients have less trust in healthcare providers," said Dr Myint Oo, secretary of the Committee of Medical Ethics at the General Practitioners' Society.

"Ethical violations can be found in the areas of healthcare resource allocation, drug promotion and clinical trials," he said.

One regular violation is companies circumventing the Food and Drug Law by having staff personally approach Food and Drug Administration officials for a special recommendation to distribute their products, said Dr Thiha, who has worked for a pharmaceutical company in Yangon for the past five years.

U Myo Zaw, a business manager at another pharmaceutical firm, said unethical practices in the industry had increased over the past decade because of more market competition. "Companies are competing to get in favour with physicians. They use many ways, such as giving special dinners and presents and sponsoring foreign trips to take medical examinations," he said.

Dr Myint Oo said another issue was specialists promoting themselves by adding the acronyms of non-competency based professional affiliations, such as Fellow of the International College of Surgeons (FICS) and Member of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine (MACTM), after their names. He said this is misleading for patients.

He said some foreign hospitals sponsor medical education events at hotels in Yangon and Mandalay in an attempt to get onside with Myanmar physicians, while visiting foreign doctors are also treating patients at hotels without being registered with the Myanmar Medical Council. "This is breaking the law and it is also ethically unacceptable. We should form 'patient protection societies' in a similar way that doctors are trying to form a 'physician protection society'," Dr Myint Oo said.

The ethics policy should also include measures on giving enough time for consultations and potentially how state health care is financed, with less of the burden placed on patients.

Another ethics issue is the widespread use of unregistered drugs.

"Right now we have no power to punish those violating ethical standards because we have no law to do so," said Dr Win Zaw.

# Yangon and Bago airport projects move forward

By Yu Yu Maw

THE Department of Civil Aviation is seeking private investors to help finance an upgrade of Yangon International Airport.

The airport's general manager, U Win Ko, said foreign firms could participate in the upgrade as a joint venture partner.

The government also plans to develop a new international airport for Yangon at Bago that is scheduled for completion in December 2016.

In the meantime, however, Yangon International Airport will be upgraded from its present capacity of 2.7 million passengers a year to 3.7 million in 2013 and five million when the upgrade is completed in 2015, U Win Ko said.

"Until the new airport is finished in 2016, Yangon International Airport will require further upgrades to handle the increasing number of passengers on international flights," Myanmar Tourism Federation secretary U Kyaw Htun said.

One step that has already been taken to improve the flow of passengers is an increase in immigration counters.

"There are now 21 immigration counters and more will be added if space permits. ... With more direct international flights starting, we hope to provide a fast and efficient service," said U Aung Thiha, assistant director of the Immigration Department.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transport held a meeting on September 17 to discuss progress on the prequalification phase for companies bidding for a contract to build Hanthawaddy International Airport near Bago.

Construction work at Hanthawaddy began in 1993 but ceased in 2004. The government is aiming to restart the shelved project in June 2013 for completion by December 2016.

In June this year, DCA issued an invitation in state-run media for prospective local and foreign investors to participate in a selection and tender process evaluation process.

"We received prequalification submissions from both local and international contractors and are in the process of selecting the companies that will be invited to place a project bid in October. It has taken some time but we are on schedule," DCA assistant director Daw Nweni Win Kyaw said.

The project will be implemented through either a public private partnership, a joint venture or a build, operate and transfer scheme, in accordance with Myanmar's foreign investment laws.

U Win Ko said the new airport will be able to handle at least seven million passengers a year. However tourism experts have cautioned that transport links will need to be improved to entice international tourists to an airport 77 kilometres (48 miles) northeast of Yangon.

The government is also seeking foreign and local private-sector partners to develop Mandalay International Airport.

Successful bidders will work alongside domestic authorities to upgrade facilities – including extending the runway – at the airport, which serves Myanmar's second-largest city and is one of three international airports in Myanmar.

**Passengers at Yangon International Airport.** *Pic: Ko Taik*

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Dated: 1st October, 2012

# What the government should learn from Changi, Suvarnabhumi

ASIAN FOCUS
IN DEPTH
with
Roger Milton

AMERICA'S interminable election campaign has spawned many quirky spin-offs and one has been a focus on the writer Ayn Rand.

It began when Paul Ryan, the Republican vice-presidential contender, extolled Rand's fiercely individualistic libertarian philosophy.

While it is not a recipe for a charitable way of life, it must be conceded that Rand's doorstopper books do contain odd nuggets of enlightenment.

In her novel *The Fountainhead*, for instance, she writes: "When I stop at a port, it's only for the sheer pleasure of leaving it."

This is a sentiment most people share when it comes to airports. No one likes to spend a second longer in them than is necessary.

Yet this basic truism has escaped those responsible for many of this region's airports, most notably Bangkok's relatively new Suvarnabhumi International.

Last month, the aviation consultancy Skytrax rated Suvarnabhumi down at 13th in its latest rankings of the world's best airports.

**'All any passenger wants is to get to the departure gate as quickly and calmly as possible.'**

It was no surprise. Nor was the fact that the top three places were again taken by South Korea's Incheon, Singapore's Changi and Hong Kong's Chep Lap Kok.

Suvarnabhumi is newer and more modern than that exemplary trio, so how come it lags so far behind?

The answer is that its planners ignored the Rand Rule and chose a design that is outwardly pretty and has lots of glitzy stores selling Gucci shoes, Prada handbags and Rolex watches but is an absolute pain to navigate.

Travellers get snarled up in the narrow walkways between all those big and mostly empty boutiques, and they lose patience waiting at over-crowded check-in counters and in the cramped security and immigration areas.

All any passenger wants is to get to the departure gate as quickly and calmly as possible. The architects forgot that.

No one cares about an airport's external appearance. Check out Changi, it looks like an assembly plant; but enter it and there is space and calmness and ease of movement.

Suvarnabhumi's shopping mall design forces travellers to crowd together and leaves little room for seating, let alone for checking emails or watching television.

Admittedly, after a barrage of complaints, things have improved – and will likely improve even more when the budget airlines move to Bangkok's old Don Mueang airport this week.

But there is no way Suvarnabhumi will ever match Changi or Chep Lap Kok.

Having used Singapore's air hub two or three times a year for more than two decades, its facilities and sense of harmony and order still amaze me.

Basically, it has lots of the very thing that airports like Bangkok, Jakarta and others lack: open spaces. It is what makes Changi and Chep Lap Kok so pleasant.

Hong Kong's airport, while not as homey as Changi, still rates as the best in this region and has the world's most spectacular and efficient high-speed rail service into the city.

The way attendants greet every train into Hong Kong Central with baggage trolleys for arriving passengers makes it seem as if the town is extending a welcome much as a doorman at the Ritz would do. No wonder Hong Kong has won the Skytrax award eight times in the past 12 years.

Malaysia's KLIA has won fringe awards for immigration and ground staff but overall it has the aura of a rather cold and under-used suburban museum.

Again, the blame lies with the planners, who, in the early 1990s, located the new Kuala Lumpur airport more than 70 kilometres from the city centre.

By flouting the Rand Rule in this way, they forced passengers to endure an hour's extra travelling time – and often far longer during KL's awful morning and evening rush hours.

Regrettably, those responsible for the new airport planned for Yangon, Hanthawady airport, have made the same disastrous mistake and placed it way out near Bago, some 80km from the city.

Will these guys never learn?

# Tokyo meet to pledge $1b support for Myanmar

TOKYO – Lenders will pledge US$1 billion for Myanmar when they meet in Tokyo next month, a report said on September 27, as the one-time pariah nation is increasingly welcomed back into the world community.

The report came as the United States said it was lifting the last major sanctions on the country, which is rapidly opening up following years of isolation.

Japanese business daily *Nikkei* said international bodies were readying the ground for the large-scale resumption of aid loans ahead of a meeting on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund in Tokyo early next month.

The World Bank, the IMF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are considering extending loans worth up to $900 million to support Myanmar's democratisation and economic development, the paper said.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation and other Japanese banks will likely offer bridging loans to Myanmar so that Myanmar can repay past debts, it said.

The total amount of fresh loans will reach about $1 billion, the paper reported.

Financial organisations such as the World Bank and the ADB were not able to offer aid to Myanmar as representatives from the United States opposed such plans in their board meetings, the *Nikkei* said.

Washington in July gave the green light to companies wanting to invest in Myanmar including in oil and gas, a largely undeveloped sector that is being eagerly eyed around the world.

Japan, as the largest single creditor country, will sponsor the loan scheme and call for the World Bank, the ADB and other creditors to waive part of their past loans to Myanmar, the *Mainichi Shimbun* earlier reported.

Tokyo in April agreed with Myanmar that it will forgive 300 billion yen ($3.9 billion) of the 500 billion yen it is owed.

Resource-poor Japan, with its export-reliant economy, is looking to foster growth in the resource-rich Mekong region, a part of the world that is also being courted by China.

Myanmar was long a global outcast, but has been rapidly rehabilitated since polls that saw the election of a nominally civilian government. – *AFP*

President U Thein Sein is greeted by attendees of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum in Nay Pyi Taw in mid-September. *Pic: Bothee*

# President stalls investment law: government official

By Shwe Yinn Mar Oo

YANGON – Myanmar's president has delayed an eagerly awaited foreign investment bill, an official said on September 24, asking for amendments to the law that aims to open up the long-isolated nation to overseas trade.

President U Thein Sein returned the draft law to parliament at the weekend "with remarks", according to U Zaw Htay in the presidential office.

"The president wanted to amend some of the provisions in the bill, which was approved by the Parliament," he told *AFP*.

Myanmar is seen by many investors as the next regional frontier market as businesses eye its huge natural resources, large population and strategic location between China and India.

A spate of reforms have seen the international community roll back many of the tough sanctions put in place to punish a brutal junta that ruled with an iron fist until it was replaced by a quasi-civilian regime last year.

Global corporate giants from Coca-Cola to General Electric have already begun to vie for a share of an expected economic boom in the impoverished nation.

But observers had expressed concern over so-called protectionist measures in the law, including that foreign firms would only be able to own up to a 50-percent stake in joint ventures with local partners.

U Myat Thinn Aung, vice chairman of Yoma bank, said the passage of the law had been complicated by disagreements between reformers in the president's camp and those wanting to go slowly, who have a majority in the fledgling parliament.

"If we protect our market, investors won't come. We have to open up otherwise we will be left behind," said the businessman, who is also a member of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The law will now be stalled for an unknown period of time, although the next sitting of parliament is expected to start in the third week of October.

Respected Yangon intellectual U Aung Tun Thet said the foreign investment legislation should not be seen as a "threat but as an opportunity" to attract much needed funds and expertise to an economy left in tatters after nearly 50 years of junta mismanagement.

"We need to jump start the economy. Period. The law is the vehicle," he said.

Observers say "cronies" of the former junta who grew rich thanks to their links to the generals opposed throwing the doors wide open to foreign rivals, while some local firms feared being swamped by overseas competition.

But MPs earlier this month agreed to a more liberal version of the law than had originally been proposed.

They altered a draft that would have allowed overseas firms to hold only up to 49pc of a joint venture and required a minimum investment of US$5 million, after concerns were raised that the funds required would preclude smaller deals.

U Thein Sein has vowed to put the economy at the centre of a new raft of reforms, following a series of dramatic political changes since almost half a century of outright military rule ended last year.

Myanmar has invited foreign firms to invest in the mining sector and signed a series of oil exploration deals with foreign companies. Critics say the rewards of the nation's energy bounty have so far only been shared among foreign investors and the regime, rather than its impoverished people. – *AFP*

# Visa edges closer to re-entering Myanmar

IN DEPTH
with
Tim McLaughlin

A customer uses a point of sale keypad during the Myanmar Payment Union launch in Yangon in mid-September. *Pic: Thiri Lu*

THE global payments technology company Visa has further detailed its plans for re-entering the Myanmar market after departing a decade ago.

In a presentation to Myanmar journalists by Visa director of corporate relations Gary Hamilton-Walker, the company announced on September 21 that it is in the process of reviewing 17 private banks for partnerships, and expects to re-establish its presence within the country by early 2013.

Mr Hamilton-Walker also said that Fundamo, a vendor of mobile financial services for the unbanked and under-banked, which is owned by Visa, would arrive in Myanmar in the next six to nine months.

Visa's arrival has been slowed by financial sanctions imposed on Myanmar by the United States.

Potential partner institutions, including its officials, must not appear on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List of targeted sanctions.

"We have to fully comply to the US State Department, they are the ones who give us the guidelines, which party and company that Visa can get with in Myanmar," said Somboon Krobteeranon, Visa country manager for Myanmar and Thailand.

At least two well-known banks will fall foul of these sanctions: Asia Green Development Bank, which is owned by flamboyant tycoon U Tay Za, and Ayeyarwady Bank, owned U Zaw Zaw, who holds stakes in lucrative mining projects and serves as chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation.

Both U Tay Za and U Zaw Zaw appear on the US blacklist.

Initially, Visa plans to target the influx of tourists that Myanmar is already beginning to receive International flight arrivals jumped 63pc in 2009-2010 and an additional 32pc in 2010-2011. At present tourists find themselves needing to carry large sums of cash, as the country has no ATMs that accept foreign bankcards.

"We know from experience that there will be an urgent requirement to provide a basic ATM network and point-of-sale terminals for international visitors arriving in Myanmar for business and pleasure – and that is where we will focus first," said Peter Maher, Visa group country manager for Southeast Asia and Australasia.

At a few of Yangon's upscale hotels, including the Parkroyal and Traders, it is possible to pay with Visa through a third party account at a Visa partner bank outside the country.

The banks are mainly in Thailand or Singapore. Transactions completed in this manner often carry a substantial fee.

**'We know from experience that there will be an urgent requirement to provide a basic ATM network and point-of-sale terminals for international visitors.'**

According to Mr Hamilton-Walker, once Visa is able to work with a local partner institution, these types of "informal" transactions will no longer take place.

Visa is also confident that its technology that connects individuals, financial institutions and governments in over 200 countries can spur economic development in financially underdeveloped Myanmar.

A 2010 study by Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, *The Impact of Electronic Payments on Economic Growth*, found that the switch from paying in cash to using electronic payment forms had greatly increased economic growth.

Electronic payment methods in 51 countries, that together made up 93pc of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), added US$1.1 trillion in real dollars to private consumption and GDP between 2003 and 2008, the study found.

Without card payments, real GDP growth would have been on average 0.2 pc less, down from 3.2pc to 3pc.

Myanmar's lack of infrastructure, particularly outside of Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, could allow Visa to leapfrog traditional electronic payment methods like cards and move straight into the mobile banking model in rural areas.

Fundamo will be a "major player", in this area, said Mr Hamilton-Walker. Fundamo was started in South Africa in 2000 and acquired by Visa in 2011 for about $110 million.

However, Visa will face a considerable challenge in winning the trust of Myanmar's cash dependent majority. Most citizens see purchasing assets such as properties, gold or cars as a safer option than investing in banks, with memories of the 2003 banking crisis fresh in the minds of consumers.

The company is hoping that trust will be built through a combination of the pre-existing Visa brand name, consumer confidence bolstered through choosing the correct local bank and a large scale educational outreach program.

"We also do a lot of educational materials. What is a debit card? What is a prepaid card? What is a credit card? How it affects you? How to manage it properly?" said Mr Hamilton-Walker.

"In an ideal world we would be talking with the central government, perhaps even as we start to introduce electronic payment into Myanmar, government consumer awareness programs. Show them what an electronic payment is. Show them how it is good for you. Show it is good for your family. How it is good for your community. How it is good for the country," he said.


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A farmer harvest paddy in Bago Region in August. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

# Myanmar agrees to join regional rice body

**By Min Zaw**

FIVE ASEAN members have agreed in principle to a proposal by Thailand to form the ASEAN Rice Federation, according to a statement from Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce.

The statement on the ministry's website was first reported by *Oryza News* on August 22.

Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos are likely to sign an agreement to establish the federation later this year. The federation's primary goals are to increase rice export prices by 10 percent each year and ensure food security in the region.

The five countries export a combined 20 million tonnes of rice annually – which accounts for nearly 70pc of total global exports.

Although Thailand's permanent commerce secretary, Yanyong Phuangrach, believes that the price increase would not affect consumers, the *Bangkok Post* reported on August 24 that the president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Korbsook Iamsuri, is concerned about a conflict of interest among ASEAN members – particularly major buyers Indonesia and the Philippines.

*Oryza News* reported that Lourdes Adriano from the Asian Development Bank said that a rice cartel modelled on the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would be unworkable in the long term because each of its members would compete to export the most.

"During his visit to Bangkok, President U Thein Sein agreed to in principle to joining the rice cartel, although how it will work in practice is yet to be finalised," central executive committee member of the Myanmar Rice Federation and acting president of the Myanmar Farmers Association Dr U Soe Tun told *The Myanmar Times*.

He said that a 10pc annual price rise has the potential to create supply issues domestically.

"Thailand proposed forming a cartel because its domestic rice prices are rising and it wants to export larger volumes of rice. However if we raise prices here, demand for Myanmar's rice may fall because its quality does not match that of other federation members. We need to consult farmers about whether a rice cartel is in the national interest. If the negatives are perceived to outweigh the benefits, we will bring this up with the government," he added.

## Rice price climbing

TRADERS in Yangon say rice prices are increasing because stockpiles are running low and the monsoon crop yields are expected to be significantly lower than previous years.

The price of a 49-kilogram bag of 25-percent broken grain *ehmeta* has increased by more than 13pc to K17,000 on September 20, from K15,000 a week earlier, while 5pc broken grain *pawsan* jumped by K1500 to K37,000 a bag in the same period.

A spokesperson for Mother's Son rice and edible oil trading company on Bogyoke Aung San Road said prices usually increase slightly in September.

"The month before the new harvest begins it's not uncommon for there to be a shortage as traders sell off their stockpiles.

"But some dealers this year are holding onto stock because they believe rice production is going to be lower this year, which is why prices started to increase from last week," he added.

In the first week of August the Myanmar Rice Federation sold 4600 tonnes of rice through a tender system to traders at an average price of K15,500 a bag to control the price in the market.

The tender came at a time when there were rumours that MRF was only selling buffer stock for export to five export companies, as *The Voice* journal reported on August 24.

Dr Soe Tun, an MRF central executive member, said the organisation conducts daily sales to regulate prices. "Buffer stock is sold to traders everyday from our warehouse at a set price," he said. "The aim is to regulate the market and traders can only buy 200 bags a day," he said.

MRF was selling buffer stock for K15,000 a bag until September 7 but reduced the price to K14,800 on September 10 because the price on the open market increased to K17,800 a bag.

– *Myat May Zin*

British Embassy Yangon

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**Fisherman unload their nets at Maungmakan beach near Dawei, in Tanintharyi Region, in March 2011.** *Pic: Myanmar Times Archive/Hein Latt Aung*

# Japan, Thailand to rescue Dawei

AFTER months of negotiations and failed promises, a proposed multi-billion dollar Myanmar port and special economic zone that could transform Southeast Asian trade appears back on track.

Thai banks aim to keep the project afloat with short-term loans until an expected Japanese loan of up to US$3.2 billion can be secured, officials and sources familiar with negotiations told *Reuters*.

Thailand's largest construction firm, Italian-Thai Development Pcl, signed a deal in 2010 to build a deep-sea port and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in southern Myanmar's coastal Dawei into Southeast Asia's largest industrial complex.

But the project foundered, as the Thai builder failed to secure $8.5 billion to finance construction of its first phase – roads, utilities and a port.

Underlining Dawei's strategic importance, Japan and Thailand have since intervened to rescue the project.

"Italian-Thai has had difficulty in mobilising the funding. So now the Thai government has effectively taken over the project," U Thaung Lwin, chairman of the Dawei SEZ told *Reuters*. "The next step is to invite Japan", which he said is committed to seeing the project succeed.

Since the Thai and Myanmar governments agreed on July 23 to connect Dawei to the Thai port of Laem Chabang, 100 kilometres southeast of Bangkok, Thai banks led by Bangkok Bank and Siam Commercial Bank have arranged a 10 billion baht ($325 million) bridging loan to sustain it for another 8-10 months, Somjet Thinaphong, managing director of the Dawei Development Co, an Ital-Thai unit, told *Reuters* in an interview.

That loan would be followed by a soft loan from the state-backed Japan Bank for International Cooperation to finance the basic port and road infrastructure needed to push the project forward, he added. A source involved in the negotiations said the soft loan could total $3.2 billion. U Thaung Lwin of the Dawei SEZ said he expected Japan to emerge as the project's biggest shareholder.

As Myanmar embarks on its most dramatic changes since a 1962 military coup in what was then Burma, mega-projects such as the $50 billion 250-square-kilometre Dawei SEZ hint at what lies ahead. Superhighways, steel mills, power plants, shipyards, refineries, pulp and paper mills and a petrochemical complex are part of it, as are two golf courses and a holiday resort.

Road and rail routes could link Dawei to neighbours China, India and other parts of Southeast Asia, allowing cargo to bypass the narrow and congested Strait of Malacca to forge shorter trade routes from the Middle East and Africa to China and Japan. The 10-member ASEAN bloc hopes Dawei will play an important role in its ambitions for a common market in 2015.

For Japan, a better-connected Southeast Asia makes it easier to sell its products and knit together a vast network of suppliers to Japanese-owned factories and manufacturing plants, which include autos and electronic goods.

"Before the year end, we will have major progress," Pisanu Suvanajata, Thailand's ambassador to Myanmar, said in an interview with *Reuters*.

Just months ago, the project was nearly left for dead, a casualty of simmering local resentment and fragile financial backing. About 30,000 people, mostly impoverished rice, cashew and rubber farmers living in thatch-roof huts, are slated to be moved during 10 years of planned construction.

In the Dawei region, many worry about the potential environmental toll and health risks from a project that would be four times bigger than Thailand's largest industrial estate, Map Ta Phut, where pollution between 1996 and 2009 may have contributed to at least 2000 cancer-related deaths, say environmental activists who sought legal action to halt the estate in 2009.

Emboldened by the government's surprise suspension of the $3.6 billion, Chinese-led Myitsone dam project last year after weeks of public outcry, residents have pushed hard against Dawei. In response, the government scrapped plans for a 4000 megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant. That's been replaced by plans for a "clean coal" plant that can generate 400MW, said U Thaung Lwin. So-called clean-coal technology involves capturing carbon dioxide and other toxic emissions, and either storing them deep underground or piping them to oil and gas fields.

"If it is clean coal technology, then we will allow it," he added. "Our president visited Japan and saw the clean coal technology at J-Power Group."

But that may not be enough to pacify local residents. Activists who have organised protests against Dawei say it is unclear what types of companies will set up there. U Thaung Lwin said he expected Nippon Steel and petrochemical makers to build factories in Dawei.

> **'Italian-Thai has had difficulty in mobilising the funding. So now the Thai government has effectively taken over the project.'**

Local activists raised a banner last week along a recently built highway from Dawei to Thailand that says: "Stop Building Another Map Ta Phut" in Dawei.

"I wish for the project to continue only if the local people agree to it," said U Saw Khu, chairman of a 12-village committee formed to study the project's impact on the area. He says Italian-Thai has not done enough to explain the potential pollution risks from the proposed industrial zone.

His and other villages have pored over maps that show where a proposed oil refinery and petrochemical factory will replace rice fields, cashew and rubber trees and jungle.

Once infrastructure is in place, Italian-Thai plans to allocate 17 percent of the complex to heavy industries including steel, petrochemicals and oil. It expects construction of the 400MW plant to take at least four years to set up. Gas and hydropower plant are expected to follow.

The project received a much-needed boost on July 23 when Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Myanmar President U Thein Sein pledged to open three additional border crossings along the Thai-Myanmar frontier to help with security and logistics. Ms Yingluck and U Thein Sein will meet again in October to discuss further support for Dawei.

Mr Pisanu said Thailand has served as a go-between for Italian-Thai and the Myanmar government as they renegotiate the 60-year concession signed by Italian-Thai in November 2010 to develop Dawei. Under that deal, Italian-Thai had a controlling 51pc stake in Dawei Development Corp. Max Myanmar Group, owned by tycoon U Zaw Zaw, had 25pc. The Myanmar government had the rest.

Italian-Thai said it would remain the biggest shareholder in the first phase of the project, but a new consortium is expected to emerge, with shares held by the Thai, Japanese and Myanmar governments along with some private companies.

"In the consortium, the Japanese government will take some share. For the Myanmar government, the share will be given to Japan," said U Thaung Lwin. "The Japanese government will help get the private sector involved."

Mr Somjet said he expected the share of U Zaw Zaw's powerful Max Myanmar to be diluted, but that the full terms are likely to be discussed at the next meeting between the Thai and Myanmar governments, tentatively scheduled for early October.

"Both the Thai and Myanmar governments would heavily get involved in the road-link and port simply because those are public projects and not totally commercial," said Mr Somjet.

"Financially, if governments get involved, they have to help make it a success." – *Reuters*

# Raw rattan in short supply: furniture makers

By Soe Sandar Oo

MAJOR rattan product manufacturers in Ayeyarwady Region are facing a shortage of raw rattan due to increasing border trade with China, say industry insiders.

"Our business has almost come to a complete stop because raw rattan is in such scarce supply," said U Saw Naing, managing director of Yegyi Rattan Products Producers Association. "Exports are a tenth of what they were during 2008-09. The company that used to provide us with raw rattan has switched to doing border trade with China, both legally and illegally," he said.

Rattan is mainly used to produce furniture and household items such as baskets and serving trays. About 75 villages of Yegyi township's 99 villages rely on rattan to derive an income, he said.

In 2009, more than 70 companies were operating in the sector but only 25 remain. Likewise, while there used to be 15 to 20 workshops supplying each company, now just a handful are doing so.

"Raw rattan prices have doubled since this time last year. We can't continue doing business if prices rise any further because exporters in Yangon will simply stop buying products from us," said exporter U Naing Oo.

"I hope the government will get the situation under control by increasing taxes on exported raw products," he said.

He added that the rise in raw material prices left producers unable to compete in price with counterparts in Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia.

"Purchase orders have been decreasing steadily because although the quality is in line with international standards, prices aren't competitive," he said.

U Naing Oo said Vietnam and Indonesia had placed caps on rattan exports to protect domestic producers.

U Khin Maung Tun, chairman of the Myanmar Rattan Products Producers and Exporters Association said that the country's rattan reserves could easily last another 30 years if exports of raw materials were halted.

"I hope a solution can be found because it's taking a toll on small- and medium-sized businesses and increasing unemployment," he said.

Rattan is grown in many areas of Myanmar, with the majority in Myitkyina and Bamaw in Kachin State, as well as Rakhine State and Bago Region.

"When financial sanctions were imposed by the Europe Union in 2003, we sold products to Thailand and Vietnam for export to the EU. We now have the chance to supply our goods directly, but without enough raw rattan, we are still unable to ship products with a 'Made in Myanmar' label," said U Khin Maung Tun.

A woman weaves a rattan serving tray in Yegyi township, Ayeyarwady Region, last week. *Pic: Thiri Lu*

# Heineken takeover of Tiger given approval

SINGAPORE – Heineken last week secured a Singapore group's approval for its takeover of the Tiger Beer brand, boosting the Dutch giant's share of the Asian market after a high-stakes tussle with a Thai rival.

Shareholders of Fraser and Neave (F&N), the parent of Asia Pacific Breweries (APB), approved Heineken's offer of S$5.6 billion (US$4.6 billion) for its 40 percent stake in APB, which has breweries in 14 markets including China.

Amsterdam-based Heineken is seeking to boost sales in fast-growing Asian economies as demand falls in mature western markets. It already held 42pc of APB, which also makes Bintang beer, the top brand in Indonesia.

"I declare the resolution carried," F&N chairman Lee Hsien Yang said after 98.73pc of shareholders voted for the deal, which is expected to be formally completed by late November.

Shareholder Simon Zee, 57, said the result was expected and he supported the takeover because it was "value for money" for people like him.

"I think Heineken will probably keep Tiger Beer, because Tiger Beer is an international brand name," he said, referring to some Singaporeans' fears that one of the city-state's best-known brands might fade away in the long term.

Heineken, which has been an F&N partner for 81 years, has publicly vowed to grow the Tiger Beer brand and APB's other businesses after the takeover.

One analyst said Heineken paid a steep price to fend off a challenge from a Thai faction in F&N, led by beverage billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, who eventually gave his approval to the sale after Heineken raised its offer.

"Heineken are paying a pretty penny for APB, at about 35 times its current earnings, which is very high," Justin Harper, an analyst at IG Markets Singapore, told *AFP*.

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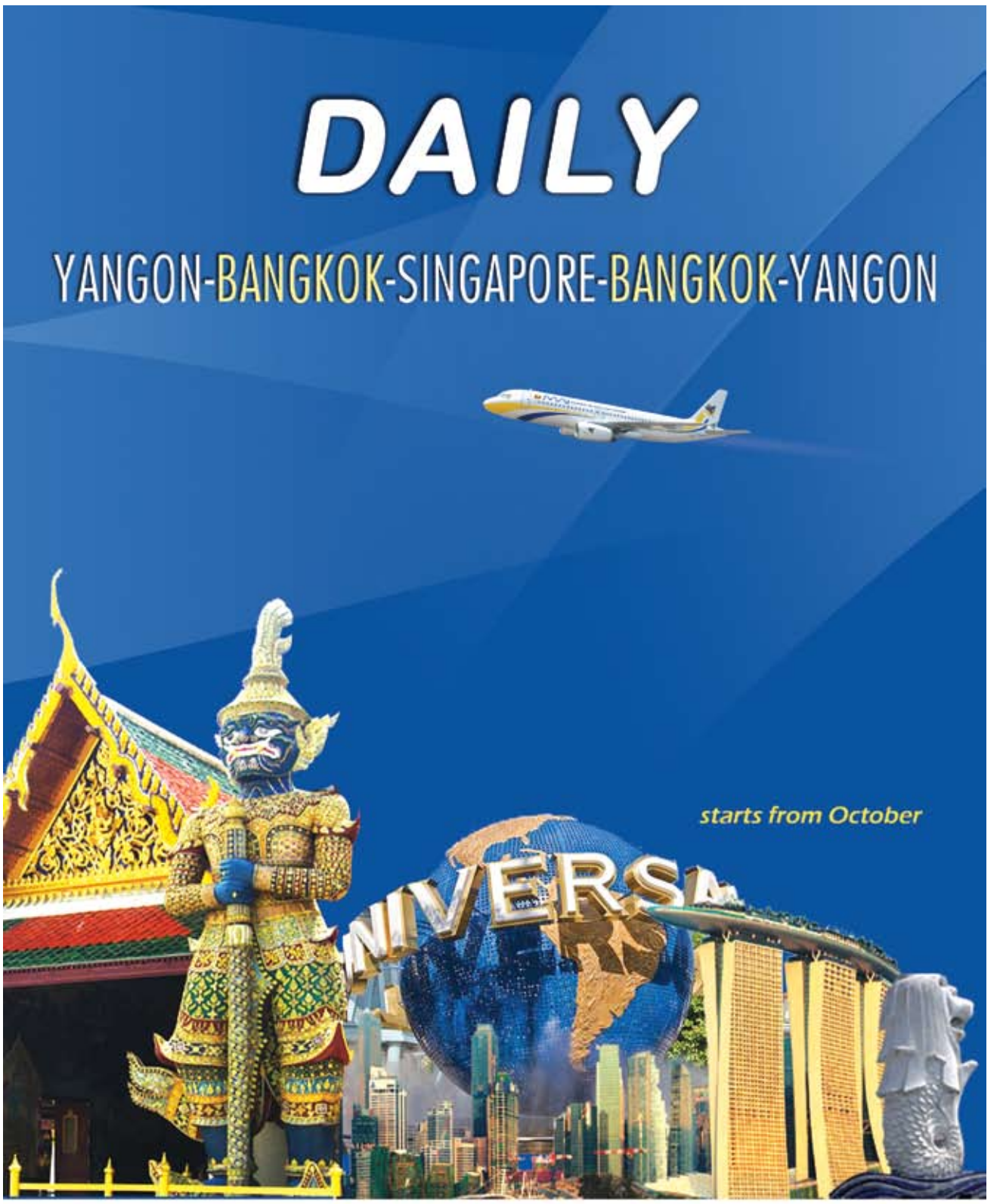
Dated: 1st October, 2012



# Nursery owners fight YCDC eviction

By Htar Htar Khin

Tenants at the Mindhama nursery compound in Mayangone talk during a meeting about their upcoming eviction. *Pic: Boothee*

HUNDREDS of tenants of the 8-acre Mindhama nursery and flower compound in Mayangone township say Yangon City Development Committee has told them to relocate to Thaketa to make way for a new central business district.

The tenants were informed verbally by YCDC officials in early July that they must relocate to a new site at Thaketa township by the end of October.

Many nurseries and florists have occupied plots at Mindhama for 12 years and the owners want to stay where they are.

U Ko Ko Lin, the owner of Thiri Flower House and a member of the Mindhama flower compound development committee, said tenants are worried that their businesses will not survive the move to a new location.

"All tenants have been told that they are being relocated to make space for a new project – a second central business district (CBD) in Yangon's north," he said.

"We're paying rental fees until the end of August and YCDC offices are not accepting new leases."

U Ko Ko Lin added that tenants have questioned what benefit the proposed development, which has not been announced by YCDC, would have for the city.

"We're not opposed to building a second CBD but would like to stay where we are. We've invested a lot of money in our businesses over 12 years and if we have to move we have to start from the beginning," he said.

U Ko Ko Lin said the head of YCDC's Parks and Gardens Department told tenants to move out during a July 5 meeting.

"The department head told us to leave by Thadingyut [at the end of October] but there was a follow-up announcement posted at a YCDC notice board in saying that leases would not be renewed," he said.

U Ko Ko Lin said the proposed site for relocation in Thaketa was not ideal.

"We've heard that we're being moved to a compound near View Point recreation park but I doubt that we'll be given the same size plots that we have," he said, adding that the Mindhama compound houses more than 500 businesses, which employ more than 3000 workers.

U Ko Ko Lin said tenants have sent letters protesting the relocation to President U Thein Sein, the Mayor of Yangon, the joint secretary of YCDC and the head of YCDC's Parks and Gardens Department in September.

He added that nurseries required good soil and clean water.

"Nurseries and market gardens require lots up upkeep and need sufficient light, quality soil and pure water.

"The proposed site is close to a big fuel filling station and there are gas pipelines nearby as well as high-voltage electricity cables. The ground water is a little salty and poorly suited for growing plants," he added.

Daw Ni War Lwin, the owner of Nwel Waddy Garden Supplies and Services, said she did not want to uproot her business and move.

**'We've invested a lot of money in our businesses over the past 12 years and if we have to move we have to start from the beginning.'**

"We want to stay where we are. Mindhama is close to good roads and we can easily truck in supplies, and send out plants and flowers," she said.

"If we are moved to Thaketa, it will make supplying our sub-outlets in Pale, Shwe Pyi Thar, Hlaing Tharyar and Insein more expensive," she said.

She said none of the tenants wanted to move.

"In the first three years our business had almost no demand but we survived – if we move we'll go backwards," she said.

U Phyo Zaw Min, the owner of Bagyi Phyo Orchid Nursery, said: "We've invested so much time and money in our business – this is our life."

"Relocating means we have to start over again," he said.

He added that it was unfair to move the nurseries and replace them with other businesses.

"Green areas are always necessary in cities – and that's what we have in Mayangone. I don't think it's fair to move us out of the way just to let other businesses come in and take our place.

"But if we are forced to move we'd like to know who's responsible for giving the order: Is it the mayor? Or the chief minister of Yangon?" he asked.

YCDC's Parks and Gardens Department refused to comment on the eviction when contacted by *The Myanmar Times* last week.

# Yee Shin seeks Zegyo Plaza partner

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

YEE Shin Company is seeking a joint venture partner or tenant for its Zegyo Plaza development in Mandalay, an official said last week.

The seven-storey Zegyo Plaza is on the corner of 26th and 85th streets, close to Zegyo Market, and was built in 2006.

"The plaza has a total of 70,000 square metres of space so is suitable for a shopping centre, supermarket, fashion shops, restaurant and play ground. Each level has 26,000 square feet and the frontage on 26th Street is 4000 square feet on each level, which would make this are suitable for offices," Daw Win Sandar Kyi, manager of Yee Shin, said on September 20.

"We are inviting a joint venture partner to work with us or a foreign or local company to rent the whole plaza, or individual floors except the ground floor," she said.

The ground floor of the plaza opened about five years ago and features 33 cosmetics, fashion and other retail outlets. Yee Shin plans to open a large electronics store in the building as well, Daw Win Sandar Kyi said.

The plaza has a 24-hour electricity and water supply, air-con system, two elevators and six escalators.

# FARFALLA

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# Toyota to release more hybrid cars

TOKYO – Auto giant Toyota on September 24 announced plans to unveil 21 new hybrid models and launch its latest all-electric vehicle this year in a bid to ramp up sales of environmentally friendly cars.

The firm said it would release the new auto models by the end of 2015 and "expects global sales of its hybrid vehicles to be at least one million units a year from 2013 to 2015".

Vice chairman Takeshi Uchiyamada said Toyota would continue focusing on hybrid technology.

"Above all, hybrids are very practical," he said. "So, we will continue to develop the hybrid as the core technology."

Toyota has been a pioneer of hybrid vehicles, which run on petrol and electricity, launching the original Prius model in 1997. Toyota's rivals are moving to embrace the nascent electric vehicle market.

The company said 14 models would be completely new, with the remainder being updates of existing vehicles. – *AFP*

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**Dated. October 1, 2012**

# California clears road for self-driving cars

**By Glenn Chapman**

SAN FRANCISCO – California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill on September 25 clearing the way for self-driving cars to jockey with human-operated vehicles to test the technology on the state's roads.

"Autonomous vehicles are another example of how California's technological leadership is turning today's science fiction into tomorrow's reality," Brown said during a signing ceremony at the Google campus in Mountain View.

"This law will allow California's pioneering engineers to safely test and implement this amazing new technology."

The legislation backed by state senator Alex Padilla lets driverless cars operate on public roads for testing purposes as long as licensed drivers are behind the wheels to take over if needed.

Google co-founder Sergey Brin heads a stealth team working on visionary innovations such as self-driving cars and eye glasses that mesh the online world with the real world.

Brown, Brin and Padilla took a ride in a Google self-driving car before the governor signed the bill into law.

**People look at a camera on top of a Google self-driving car at the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California on September 25.** *Pic: AFP*

"It obviously seems the stuff of science fiction," Brin said.

"It is a fascinating area to work on but it really has the power to change people's lives, which is why I am really excited about it."

The state of Nevada in May issued a licence plate giving Google's self-driving car the green light to travel along public roads there.

The modified Toyota Prius was issued a licenc e bearing an infinity sign next to the left of number "001" after demonstrating its auto-pilot capabilities on highways, neighbourhood streets and even the hectic "strip" in Las Vegas.

The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) proclaimed the licence the first for an autonomous vehicle in the United States.

The legislation signed by Brown on September 25 directs the California DMV to begin issuing licence plates for self-driving vehicles.

Brin said the Google cars have logged more than 300,000 miles, 50,000 of which were made without human drivers taking over at "critical moments".

A video posted at Google-owned YouTube showed a blind man using a self-driving car for errands.

"This can really enable huge classes of people effectively trapped or hampered to get around," Brin said while itemising benefits of self-driving cars, "Including those too young, too old, or sometimes too intoxicated."

Padilla said he took rides in self-driving cars, which he contended have the potential to create jobs, reduce air pollution, and save lives by avoiding accidents.

When a reporter asked Brown who gets the traffic citation when a driverless car ignores a red traffic signal, Brin said: "Self-driving cars do not run red lights."

Brin said Google wanted to have a broadened set of employees testing the cars by the end of this year and hoped the vehicles would be available in some form to the public in five years or less.

"You can count on one hand the number of years until ordinary people can experience this," Brin said.

Google has had "great conversations" with a variety of auto manufacturers and whatever it does with the technology would "involve partnerships with the industry". – *AFP*

# Online freedom sees setbacks

WASHINGTON – Online freedom has suffered setbacks in many countries, but also some gains, amid the Arab Spring uprisings and political upheaval in parts of the world, a new study showed.

The report by the research group Freedom House found that 20 countries "experienced a negative trajectory since January 2011" as authorities used newer, more sophisticated controls to quell dissent on the internet.

"The findings clearly show that threats to internet freedom are becoming more diverse," said Sanja Kelly, project director at Freedom House and co-author of the report released on September 24 for the period from January 2011 to May 2012.

"As authoritarian rulers see that blocked websites and high-profile arrests draw local and international condemnation, they are turning to murkier – but no less dangerous – methods for controlling online conversations."

The study found that Estonia had the highest level of online freedom of the 47 countries examined, while the United States ranked second.

Iran, Cuba, and China received the lowest scores and 10 other countries received a ranking of "not free" – Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Bahrain and Syria.

The worst declines, said the report, were in Bahrain, Egypt, and Jordan, reflecting "intensified censorship, arrests, and violence against bloggers".

It said online freedom was also hurt in Mexico "in the context of increasing threats of violence from organised crime", and in Ethiopia, "possibly reflecting a government effort to establish more sophisticated controls before allowing access to expand".

In Pakistan, the downgrade "reflected extreme punishments meted out for dissemination of allegedly blasphemous messages" and tighter censorship by regulators.

Improvements were cited in 14 countries, including some with "a dramatic regime change or political opening" such as Tunisia, Libya and Myanmar. But restrictions also eased in some other countries such as Georgia, Kenya, and Indonesia, where the report cited "a growing diversity of content and fewer cases of arrest or censorship than in previous years".

Fourteen countries were listed as "free", and 20 were labelled "partly free" in the report.

The report said China, which has the world's largest number of internet users, also has "the most advanced system of controls" and that it has become "even more restrictive".

It cited the 2011 detainment of dozens of activists and bloggers, who were held incommunicado for weeks before several were sentenced to prison.

The Beijing government "tightened controls over popular domestic microblogging platforms, pressuring key firms to more stringently censor political content and to register their users' real names", the report said.

It added that China appeared to be "an incubator for sophisticated restrictions", with governments such as Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Iran using China as a model for their own internet controls. – *AFP*

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Dated: 1st October, 2012

# Super-quake smashed records…and the earth's crust

PARIS – An 8.7 earthquake that struck west of Indonesia on April 11 was the biggest of its kind on record and confirms suspicions that a giant tectonic plate is breaking up, scientists said last week.

The earthquake, caused by an unprecedented quadruple-fault rupture, gave Earth's crustal mosaic such a shock that it unleashed tremors around the world nearly a week later, they said.

"We've never seen an earthquake like this," said Keith Koper, a geophysicist at the University of Utah in the western United States.

The quake occurred about 500 kilometres (300 miles) west of Sumatra in the middle of the Indo-Australian plate, a piece of Earth's crust that spans Australia, the eastern Indian Ocean and the Indian sub-continent.

It was initially reported as measuring 8.6 on the "Moment magnitude" scale.

But a new calculation places it at 8.7, which under this logarithmic scale means the energy release is 40 percent greater than thought, said a report in *Nature* on September 26.

It was the biggest "strike-slip" earthquake recorded, meaning a fault which opens laterally rather than up or down, and the 10th biggest quake of any kind in the last century.

It was followed two hours later by an 8.2 event on another fault a little further to the south and both were felt from India to Australia.

Earthquakes of such intensity are typically "subduction" quakes, where one tectonic plate slides beneath another at a plate boundary, causing vertical movement that can displace the sea and unleash a tsunami.

The 9.1 quake on December 26, 2004, off Sumatra, whose waves killed a quarter of a million people around the Indian Ocean, is one such example.

But the April 11 event caused no tsunamis because the movement was sideways. Seismologists believe there was a near-simultaneous rupturing of at least four faults, which ripped open one by one, within just 160 seconds.

Even more remarkable, though, was that the tremor occurred nowhere near a boundary between the plates which comprise Earth's crust.

Instead, it occurred in the heart of the Indo-Australian plate, tearing a gash up to 40 metres (yards) wide and confirming long-held suspicions that the plate is fragmenting.

Another study in *Nature* found that quakes occurred around the world for at least six days afterwards, but the biggest occurred in rural areas, not in urban areas where the outcome "could potentially have been disastrous," said Roland Burgmann of the University of California at Berkeley. – *AFP*

# US urges calm over territorial disputes

NEW YORK – The United States called on September 27 for cooler heads to prevail amid regional tensions over disputed island chains, saying it was vital for the world economy to preserve stability in Asia.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held a series of meetings with Asian leaders, including Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, and separate talks with the foreign ministers of all countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The stakes are high with simmering tensions between China and Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea, and a separate row over another archipelago in the South China Sea.

"I think it would be fair to say that all Asian leaders understand that this is the cockpit of the global economy," a senior State Department official said.

"With the United States still recovering, with Europe in a profound slowdown... it is essential that we maintain peace and stability in Asia," he added.

Tensions have escalated in the South China Sea with the Philippines and Vietnam accusing China of stepping up harassment of their fishermen and ships in a bid to exert Beijing's claims to virtually all of the strategic waterway.

ASEAN foreign ministers in July failed for the first time in the bloc's 45-year history to produce a joint communique at annual talks amid divisions over whether to stand up to China over the South China Sea row.

Brunei, which next year will serve as the ASEAN chair, is one of six nations with various claims – some of them overlapping – over the South China Sea.

Clinton has pushed for ASEAN and China to agree on a code of conduct that would manage disputes and prevent incidents at sea from escalating into conflicts.

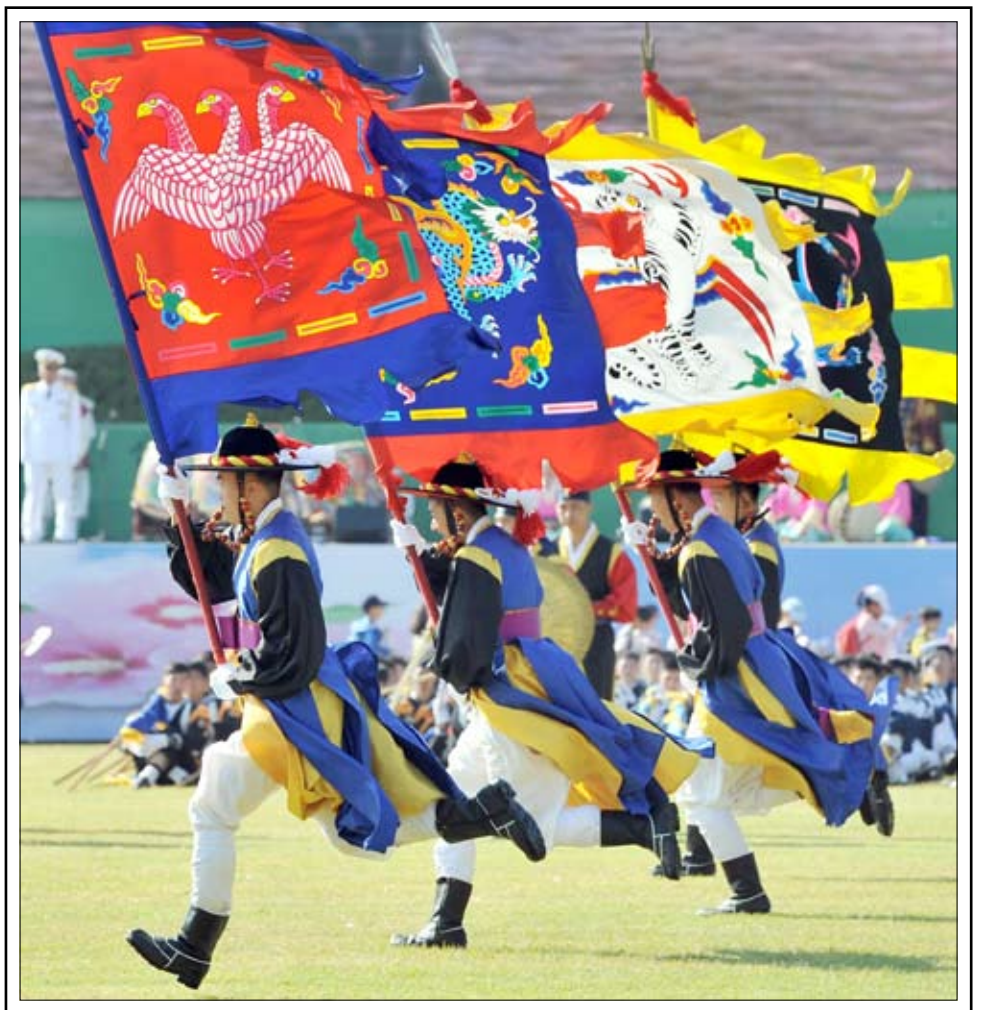
China is also embroiled in a dispute with Japan over an archipelago in the East China Sea that Beijing knows as the Diaoyu islands and Tokyo calls the Senkaku.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi late on September 27 accused Japan of stealing the disputed islands as he took the bitter territorial dispute to the UN General Assembly.

"They can in no way change the historical fact that Japan stole" the islands, Yang said in a speech.

Earlier on September 27, China criticised Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda for his "obstinate persistence" after he insisted there could be no compromise with Beijing on the ownership of Diaoyu islands. – *AFP*

• **Earlier report, P. 31.**



**South Korean soldiers in period costume perform traditional martial arts during a ceremony to mark the 64th Korea Armed Forces Day at the military headquarters at Gyeryong, about 140 kilometres south of Seoul, on September 25.** *Pic: AFP*

# Abbas says settlements are 'ethnic cleansing'

UNITED NATIONS – President Mahmud Abbas sought a new super observer UN status for Palestinians on September 27 as he condemned Israel's settlement campaign in the occupied territories as "ethnic cleansing."

One year after his emotional bid for full membership of the United Nations, Abbas returned to the UN General Assembly to warn that Israel's tactics were a sign that it "rejects the two-state solution."

He called on the UN Security Council to pass a binding resolution setting out a path to end the two-year deadlock in talks between the Palestinians and Israel.

Abbas also said he would seek a vote at the UN General Assembly in the coming months to approve Palestine as a "non-member state of the United Nations."

The United States has used its veto on the Security Council to block full UN membership for the Palestinians.

But no country can block a resolution in the General Assembly, where an overwhelming majority of the 193 members states would back Abbas.

Direct Israel-Palestinian negotiations have been frozen for two years. Abbas refuses talks, while Israel continues to build and approve new Jewish settlements.

"Developments over the past year have confirmed what we have persistently drawn attention to and warned of: the catastrophic danger of the racist Israeli settlement of our country, Palestine," Abbas said.

He said the new settlements and in and around Jerusalem and demolition of Palestinian homes are "a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people."

Israeli authorities say the houses they demolish are illegal. – *AFP*

# Israel demands limit on N-program

UNITED NATIONS – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew his Western allies a stark red line on September 27, pressuring them to act with a warning that Iran could have a bomb in less than a year.

Wielding a red marker pen and a cartoonish diagram of a round bomb with a fizzing fuse, Netanyahu told the UN General Assembly that the international community must put a limit on Iran's uranium enrichment.

He made no direct threat to launch a unilateral attack, but said Iran's enrichment facilities remain a credible "target" within a shrinking time window.

The United States is resisting demands to set a precise deadline for action, but foreign ministers from the major powers met after Netanyahu's speech and called for Iran to act "urgently" to answer their nuclear concerns.

"At this late hour, there is only one way to peacefully prevent Iran from getting atomic bombs – and that's by placing a clear red line on Iran's nuclear weapons program," Netanyahu told the 193-member UN assembly.

"The red line must be drawn on Iran's nuclear enrichment program because these enrichment facilities are the only nuclear installations that we can definitely see and credibly target."

**'Faced with a clear red line, Iran will back down.'**

The Israeli leader took his rough diagram of a bomb with him onto the UN stage and used a red marker to put his own limit on what Iran says is peaceful research for nuclear power.

Netanyahu claimed Iran is 70 percent of the way toward enriching enough uranium to put itself within reach of a weapon.

The Iranian government says it is enriching uranium to 20pc purity – a short technical step from the 90pc needed for a bomb – for a medical research reactor.

The United States and its allies say the effort hides a military goal.

"By next spring, at most by next summer at current enrichment rates – they will have finished the medium enrichment and moved on to the final stage," Netanyahu warned.

"From there, it's only a few months, possibly a few weeks, before they get enough enriched uranium for the first bomb."

"Faced with a clear red line, Iran will back down," he added. "Red lines don't lead to war, red lines prevent war."

Netanyahu's attack on Iran was one of the fiercest he has made so far. "To understand what the world would be like with a nuclear armed Iran, just imagine the world with a nuclear armed Al-Qaeda," he said.

The speech also added to pressure on Iran after US President Barack Obama said on September 25 that the United States would "do what we must do" to head off an Iranian bomb.

The UN Security Council has passed four rounds of sanctions against Iran while the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union have sought to negotiate with the Islamic state.

Foreign ministers from the group met after Netanyahu's speech.

"We discussed at length the need for Iran to take action urgently as we considered the Iranian nuclear issue," EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton told reporters.

– *AFP*

• **Related report, P. 25.**

# Science unlocks the secrets of a monster of the deep

PARIS – Biologists said last week said they had unlocked secrets about the vampire squid, a mysterious creature that feeds on the decaying dead in the unlit depths.

The squid is so weird that it is known as a "phylogenetic relic." It has the honour of occupying a taxononomic category all of its own, combining features of octopuses and squid in a unique evolutionary formula that has survived for millions of years.

As *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* – the "Squid from Hell" – it is the only species in the Order Vampyromorpha, where it was placed in 1903.

The 13-centimetre (five-inch) cephalopod lives in temperate and tropical oceans, inhabiting waters at depths between about 600 to 900 metres (2000-3000 feet), a niche habitat where at the lowest levels there is just enough oxygen to support life.

It uses huge 2.5-centimetre (one-inch) eyes to detect the slightest gleam of movement, and deploys dark-blue bioluminescence to cloak its jelly-like body from predators below when it drifts at higher depths.

Writing in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* on September 26, two scientists in California report on 30 years of chance encounters with vampire squid by robot submarine explorers, laboratory experiments and dissections.

Unlike its latter-day cousins, the vampire squad does eat living prey, they say.

Instead, examination of the squid's digestive tract and regurgitations suggest it is a "detritivore" – it dines on the corpses (or what remains of them) of larvae, crustaceans and zooplankton that sink gently to the ocean floor.

A bigger puzzle, though, is a feature of the vampire squid's mouth.

It opens up like an umbrella, comprising a web that encompasses eight octopus-like arms, studded with suckers and finger-like spines called cirri.

It also has a second pair of arms called retractile filaments that can reach out to lengths longers than that of the squid itself and can then be withdrawn into pockets within the web.

Unique to the vampire squid, these sticky filaments were long thought to be sensors to detect living prey and predators.

But the evidence says they are used to reach out and snare morsels of food, say Hendrik Joving and Bruce Robison at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

The scraps are then glued together into a little ball using mucus from secretory tissue in the suckers, and then transported to the squid's jaws by the cirri.

"Vampyroteuthis' feeding behaviour is unlike any other cephalopod," says the study with more than a touch of admiration.

– *AFP*

# Trial date set in phone hacking scandal

LONDON – Former *News of the World* editors Rebekah Brooks and Andy Coulson will go on trial for phone hacking at the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid in September 2013, a London court announced last week.

The September 26 decision leaves the scandal hanging over British Prime Minister David Cameron for another year because he is a close friend of Brooks and he employed Coulson as his director of communications.

A judge set the date after several defendants appeared at the Old Bailey court in London.

The phone-hacking scandal led to the closure of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's tabloid, which had a circulation of about 2.7 million, in July 2011.

Brooks, 44, is a former head of Murdoch's British newspaper wing News International, while Coulson, also 44, was the prime minister's media chief until January 2011.

Judge Adrian Fulford gave directions for the management of two separate cases: one relates to the illegal hacking of mobile phone voicemails, while the other is over alleged attempts to pervert the course of justice.

**Rupert Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks in London on July 10, 2011, when the *News of the World* printed its last edition, shut down because of the phone hacking scandal.** *Pic: AFP*

The proposed trial date was September 9, 2013, with a further preliminary hearing on December 12 and 13 this year, Fulford said.

Brooks and the other defendants spoke only to confirm their names and their bail was extended.

Appearing with Brooks and Coulson on the phone-hacking charges were the *News of the World*'s former news editor Greg Miskiw, former head of news Ian Edmondson, former chief reporter Neville Thurlbeck, reporter James Weatherup, and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Stuart Kuttner, the *News of the World*'s former managing editor, has also been charged with phone hacking but was not in court on September 26.

Police say the case involves the hacking of 600 people's voicemails, including Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and Manchester United footballer Wayne Rooney.

Separately, Brooks faces three charges of perverting the course of justice by removing boxes of material from the archive of News International (NI) and trying to hide documents, computers and other material from police.

The charges relate to the last days of the 168-year-old *News of the World* in July 2011, as Murdoch was shutting it down.

Rebekah Brooks' racehorse trainer husband Charlie Brooks, her personal assistant Cheryl Carter, her chauffeur Paul Edwards, NI head of security Mark Hanna, and Daryl Jorsling and Lee Sandell, who provided security for Brooks supplied by NI, also face one charge each. – *AFP*

# Global alert on mystery virus

LONDON – A Qatari man suffering from a mystery respiratory virus from the same family as the deadly disease SARS is on an artificial lung to keep him alive, a British hospital said on September 25.

The man, 49, was admitted to an intensive care unit in Doha on September 7 suffering from acute respiratory infection and kidney failure before being transferred to London by air ambulance on September 11.

He was in a critical condition at Guy's and St Thomas' hospital in London.

"The patient, who has been isolated, is receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (Ecmo) treatment, which delivers oxygen to the blood outside the body when the lungs are not able to," the hospital said in a statement.

A Saudi Arabian national died earlier this year from a virtually identical virus, the World Health Organisation has said.

The WHO confirmed in a global alert on September 24 that the new virus was in the coronavirus family which causes the common cold but can also include more severe illnesses including SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

SARS swept out of China in 2003, killing more than 800 people worldwide.

Britain's Health Protection Agency also said the virus was from the same family as SARS but said it was different to any previously identified in humans, adding that it caused "acute respiratory illness".

WHO spokesman Gregory Haertl said that what sets the new virus apart from SARS was that it caused rapid kidney failure.

He said that little was known about the new virus, adding that there were only two confirmed cases, which occurred three months apart and with no connection besides the fact that both men had links to Saudi Arabia.

"We don't know yet how it transmits... if it's human to human or animal to human," he said, adding that the virus might also provoke milder, and therefore undetected illness.

"We are very much in an investigative period," he said. – *AFP*

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## Briefs

### US filmmaker held in custody

LOS ANGELES – The alleged filmmaker behind the video that sparked protests in Muslim countries was arrested and detained without bond on September 27, as a US judge said she feared he would try to flee.

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, 55, the alleged director/producer of *Innocence of Muslims*, appeared in court in Los Angeles after being arrested for breaching the terms of his probation for a 2010 banking fraud conviction.

The court was told Nakoula had made false statements to probation officers and used at least three different names.

### Sudan accords earn praise

ADDIS ABABA – Sudan and South Sudan agreed security and oil agreements on September 27, drawing praise and relief from the international community for easing tensions after coming close to war in April.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir said the agreement "brings to an end the long conflict between our two countries," while his counterpart Omar al-Bashir said he would "seize the historic opportunity and journey towards building peace."

The breakthrough came at talks which began in the Ethiopian capital on September 23.

### Mugabe sets polls timetable

HARARE – - Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has set out plans for a constitutional referendum in November and elections in March.

Mugabe outlined the timetable in a High Court filing seen on September 27.

The elections could be a major step towards recasting Zimbabwe's troubled political scene, choosing a successor to the shaky power-sharing government formed three years ago between Mugabe and his political nemesis, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

### Mars rover finds stream bed

WASHINGTON – NASA's Curiosity rover, on Mars since August 6, has discovered gravel once carried by the waters of an ancient stream that "ran vigorously" through the area, the US space agency said on September 27.

Scientists had previously found other evidence of the presence of water on Mars, but this is the first time stream bed gravels have been discovered. – *AFP*

# Dead Syrian children a 'stain' on UN: Cameron

UNITED NATIONS – Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron said last week that the blood of children killed in the Syria conflict had become a "terrible stain" on the reputation of the United Nations.

Cameron's comments on September 26 were the latest in an onslaught by Western leaders pressing Russia and China to lift their veto on UN action against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"The future for Syria is a future without Assad," Cameron told the 193-member assembly, where he highlighted a report that outlined the horror suffered by children who have seen killings and been tortured in the conflict.

"The blood of these young children is a terrible stain on the reputation of this United Nations," Cameron said.

"And in particular, a stain on those who have failed to stand up to these atrocities and in some cases aided and abetted Assad's reign of terror."

Russia and China have three times vetoed UN Security Council resolutions which could have led to sanctions on Assad's government. Russia, Syria's main ally, and China have accused the West of seeking only regime change.

Cameron also pleaded for the international community to support the new governments which have emerged from the Arab revolutions.

"We cannot expect the damage of decades to be put right in a matter of months," he said.

"One year on, some believe that the Arab Spring is in danger of becoming an Arab Winter.

"They point to the riots on the streets, Syria's descent into a bloody civil war, the frustration at the lack of economic progress and the emergence of newly elected Islamist-led governments across the region."

Cameron said the doubters were wrong and that other countries should "keep the faith and redouble our support for open societies, and for people's demands for a job and a voice."

The British leader said that if the United Nations "is to have any value in the 21st Century we must now join together to support a rapid political transition" in Syria. – *AFP*

# Ahmadinejad blasts nuclear 'intimidation'

UNITED NATIONS – Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused the West and Israel of nuclear "intimidation" on September 26, after US President Barack Obama vowed to halt Tehran's alleged weapon program.

US and Israeli officials boycotted the Iranian's eighth annual address to the UN General Assembly, and while there was no repeat of the walk-outs of previous years, Ahmadinejad still had some harsh words for Tehran's foes.

"Arms race and intimidation by nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction by the hegemonic powers have become prevalent," he said in a 35-minute speech that ended with a smattering of applause.

"Continued threats by the uncivilised Zionists to resort to military action against our great nation are a clear example of this bitter reality," he added, in his only reference to Israel.

Western powers believe that Iran's uranium enrichment program is tooled to produce enough fissile matter to arm a nuclear weapon that would upset the balance of power in an already volatile Middle East.

Iran insists it has a right to civilian nuclear research and has defied international economic sanctions and clear threats from Israel that it would launch a pre-emptive strike rather than see Tehran get the bomb.

On September 25, Obama reiterated the United States' stance in robust terms, declaring that American will "do what we must" to prevent Iran from passing the nuclear threshold – increasing the chances of confrontation.

Ahmadinejad's last stay in New York as president was marked as usual by new condemnation of Israel which he refuses to mention by name, calling it the "uncultured Zionists" or a "fake regime".

The United States boycotted the UN speech because of his attacks.

"We've seen Mr Ahmadinejad once again use his trip to the UN not to address the legitimate aspirations of the Iranian people but to instead spout paranoid theories and repulsive slurs against Israel," said US spokeswoman Erin Pelton.

Israeli diplomats also stayed away, partly because their country is marking Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

Diplomats from Britain, France and Germany sat through Ahmadinejad's address, but found nothing in his speech to justify a repeat of the walkouts of previous years.

Earlier last week, Ahmadinejad homosexuals were supported by hardline capitalists who do not care about real human values.

In an interview on *CNN* on September 24, the Iranian president said that homosexuality is a "very ugly behaviour" that he said was banned by "all prophets and all religions and all faiths."

He said tolerating homosexuality had nothing to do with supporting human development.

"This kind of support of homosexuality is only engrained in the thoughts of hard-core capitalists and those who support the growth of capital only, rather than human values," the president said through an interpreter. – *AFP*

**Dean O'Malley demonstrates a water-powered jetpack flying device known as a JetLev at California's Newport Beach harbour on September 25. O'Malley will try to set a world record for a JetLev flight by making a 42-kilometre (26-mile) open ocean crossing from Newport Beach to Avalon, Catalina Island, on September 29.** *Pic: AFP*

# NATO patrols back to normal: US

WASHINGTON – NATO-led troops have resumed most joint operations with Afghan forces after commanders restricted patrols with their allies in Afghanistan due to a spike in insider attacks, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said on September 27.

The previous week, the International Security Assistance Force announced a scaling back of joint operations with its Afghan partners following a dramatic rise in so-called "green-on-blue" assaults, in which Afghan soldiers turn their weapons on their Western allies.

"I can now report to you that most ISAF units have returned to their normal partnered options at all levels," Panetta told a news conference.

But the Pentagon chief, who was joined by top US military officer General Martin Dempsey, could not provide details as to what percentage of joint operations had resumed.

Although the defence chiefs insisted the partnership was effectively back to normal, US military officers acknowledged that a new approval process that required two-star generals to endorse any joint patrols below the battalion level was still in place.

ISAF, responding to the insider assaults, had said on September 18 that joint patrols and other operations with Afghan troops would be carried out only at the battalion level and above, while activities with smaller units would have to be approved by two-star regional commanders.

The order has not been rescinded and the ISAF Joint Command "directive remains in effect," said Dempsey's spokesman, Colonel Dave Lapan. Panetta vowed that the insider threat would not derail plans to transfer security to Afghan forces by the end of 2014, paving the way for the withdrawal of most NATO combat forces.

The insider attacks pose a potential serious threat to the NATO war effort, which has portrayed the advising and training of Afghan forces as the key to the scheduled pullout of Western troops.

The Pentagon says 51 ISAF troops have been killed in 35 insider incidents this year, accounting for about 20 percent of all coalition casualties in the war.

Despite the rise in insider attacks, Panetta said the war against the Taliban was making headway and credited a US troop surge with turning the tide.

– *AFP*

# $30K payout agreed for pepper-sprayed students

LOS ANGELES – A California university has agreed to pay 21 students US$30,000 each in compensation for a police pepper spraying incident that sparked a storm last year, officials said on September 26.

The campus police chief at the University of California, Davis was placed on administrative leave after the incident last November, in which an officer fired pepper spray into the faces of a row of seated students who were protesting against budget cuts and tuition increases.

After months of legal wrangling over the incident, which was caught on camera, the University of California said a preliminary settlement has been reached.

"This settlement, not yet approved by the court, calls for the University of California to pay $30,000 to each of the 21 named plaintiffs and a total of $250,000 to their attorneys," it said in a statement.

If a judge approves the deal, the university will also provide a maximum of $100,000 to pay up to $20,000 each to individuals who "can prove they were either arrested or directly pepper-sprayed," it added.

Amateur video of the November protest showed an officer in riot gear walking along a line of students seated on the ground and pepper spraying them in the face, apparently for refusing to stand up and leave.

Even assuming a federal judge approves the settlement, it will be at least three months before any payouts are made. – *AFP*

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kg/Ks ~~1,000~~ 900

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Tomato Red
800g
pkt/Ks ~~780~~ 700

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Assorted Biscuit
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each/Ks ~~4,200~~ 3,780

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-Original
-Vegetable
180g
each/Ks ~~1,550~~ 1,400

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Milk Powder Vanilla
900g
Buy 1Tin, Get a free Glucerna Phone Bag.

**EQUAL**
Sweetener
-Calorie Sachet 50's
-Tablets 100's 85g
Buy Ks.5,000 & above, Get a free Equal Tea Set.

**QUAKER**
Quick Cooking Oatmeal
800g
Ks ~~3,780~~ 3,400

**TAI SUN**
Potato Chips Onion & Garlic
80g
Ks ~~850~~ 770

**MY BIS**
Nata De Co Co Pudding
-Lychee
-Honey Melon
-Mango
420g
each/Ks ~~1,250~~ 1,150

**HOSAN A+**
Aloe Pomo Drink
1.5ltr
Ks ~~1,950~~ 1,750

**JUICY ISLE**
100% Orange Juice
1ltr
Ks ~~2,150~~ 1,950

**BONCAFE**
Instant Coffee Colombian
200g
Ks ~~6,200~~ 5,580

**QUEEN**
Strawberry Jam
340g
Ks ~~1,300~~ 1,200

**PRESIDENT**
UHT Whipping Cream
1Ltr
Ks ~~6,900~~ 6,200

**KRAFT**
Cheddar Cheese Blue Box
250g
Ks ~~4,200~~ 3,780

**HEINZ**
Light Mayonnaise Original
420g
Ks ~~2,950~~ 2,650

**GOLDEN MOUNTAIN**
Tomato Ketchup
660g
Ks ~~1,000~~ 900

**HOSEN**
Rambutan with Pineapple
565g
Ks ~~2,280~~ 2,050

**NARCISSUS**
Whole Mushroom
400g
Ks ~~1,300~~ 1,170

**AYAM BRAND**
Processed Green Peas
425g
Ks ~~800~~ 720

**LIGO**
Mixed Vegetables
1Kg
Ks ~~3,000~~ 2,700

Green Peas
1Kg
Ks ~~3,250~~ 2,950

**BERTOLLI**
Classico Olive Oil
-1Ltr
-500ml
Ks ~~13,700~~ 12,300
Ks ~~7,600~~ 6,850

**AYEYARWADDY**
Peanut Oil
-1Ltr
-1Viss/3Viss/5Viss
Ks ~~3,150~~ 2,930
Ks ~~5,500~~ 5,120
Ks ~~16,600~~ 15,440
Ks ~~27,700~~ 25,760

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**MEDEX**
Anti Mosquito Patch
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Ks ~~4,100~~ 3,700

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Anthacne Gel
20gm
Ks ~~1,980~~ 1,800

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**SOFTLOVE**
Baby Diaper
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## PERSONAL CARE

**FOLLOW ME**
Green Tea Shampoo
-Volumizer
-Revitalizer
-Hydrating & Care
-Anti-Dandruff & Silky Control
-Hydrating & Volume Booster
750ml
each/Ks ~~11,500~~ 9,780
each/Ks ~~9,950~~ 8,460

**REVLON**
Age Defying
Make Up
-Normal/Combination 37ml
-Dry 37ml
-Super DNA Advanced 30ml
-Aging Foundation 9g
each/Ks ~~26,280~~ 21,020

**LOLANE**
Free Style Water Gel
250ml
Ks ~~2,350~~ 2,070

**C'CARE**
Deodorant Roll On
-Fresh & Clean 45ml
-White Whitening 45ml
Colour Up Cake
-Raspberry Brown
-Vanilla Pink 9g
each/Ks ~~3,450~~ 3,100
each/Ks ~~2,000~~ 1,800

**IMPERIAL LEATHER**
Bar Soap
-60g/150g
-125g
-200g
10% Off
Price range from Ks.180 to Ks.500

**BEAUTE LIFE**
Hair Serum
-Jojoba Oil
-Coconut Oil
-Evening Primrose Oil
100ml
each/Ks ~~3,900~~ 3,320

## CLEAN & FRESH

**GOOD CARE**
Sanitary
Napkin Normal
-Day 10's
-Supersorb Night 10's
-Ultra Thin Day 10's
-Ultra Thin Supersorb Night 10's
-Panty Liner Ultra Thin 30's
12% Off
Price range from Ks.790 to Ks.1,060

**FUJI**
Ultra Detergent Cream
-Blue Energy
-Scent Magic
1Kg/400g
each/Ks 550 500
each/Ks ~~1,350~~ 1,220

**COLORFUL MOOD**
Bathroom Tissue
3Ply 10's
Ks ~~3,100~~ 2,790

**FM**
Deodorant with Net
80g
each/Ks 400 360

**999**
Napkin Toilet Roll
-50's
-88g
-Big 6's
-480g
each/Ks 480 430
Ks ~~2,350~~ 2,120

## SUPERB DEALS

**LUMINARC**
Rotterdam Plain Drink Set
Ks ~~9,500~~ 8,550

**PHYOE**
Mosquito Net Roll
6x6.5x6.5ft
Ks ~~9,950~~ 9,000

**SIMPLE**
Bed Sheet
Bolster Case
Pillow Case
10% Off
Price range from Ks.1,600 to Ks.14,100

**HAPPY COOK**
Saucepot Non Stick G/Lid
20cm
22cm
Ks ~~8,700~~ 7,850
Ks ~~9,800~~ 8,800

CITY BOOKS & MUSIC

**AEK**
EVD Player
EVD-1986/G21
Ks ~~25,900~~ 23,300

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-Delicine 19Pcs
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-Feston White 19Pcs
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Drink Set
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-Boisson Tivoli Bling 5's
-Tivoli Cake n Iron 7's
-Tivoli Cake n Iron 5's
-Rotterdam Country Life 5's
-Rotterdam Fresh 5's

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## WILMAX

Deep Plate 9"
Dessert Plate 7"
Dinner Plate 10"
Soup Plate 9"
Rice Bowl 4.5"
Salad Bowl 6"/8"

5% Off

Price range from Ks.1,000 to Ks.3,800

## ARCUISINE

Round Casserole W/Lid
-0.75Ltr
-1.25Ltr

Ks 6,400 5,750

Ks 7,500 6,750

## ALGO

Bowl 21cm
Colander 20cm
Colander with Handle 21cm
Sink Corner

10% Off

Price range from Ks.1,150 to Ks.1,400

## CRAB

S/S Spoon & Fork
2's

Ks 2,100 1,890

## MAXIM

III Star
-Casserole 20cm
-Saucepot Non Stick W/Glass Cover 26cm
-Str Pan Non Stick 26cm
-Fry Pan Non Stick
(20cm/24cm/26cm/28cm)
-Madame Wok Pan Non Stick 32cm
-Wok Pan Non Stick 34cm
-Paris Fry Pan Non Stick Side Mark 28cm
-Vogue Grill Pan Non Stick Square 30cm
-Quattro Multi Purpose Pressure Cooker 6.5Ltr/9Ltr

10% Off

Price range from Ks.6,350 to Ks.44,500

## KOREA KING

Nano Frypan
-Non Stick 24cm/30cm
-Non Stick Deep 26cm
-Non Stick Deep W/Glass Lid & Heat Sensor 28cm
-Non Stick W/Glass Lid & Heat Sensor 24cm/26cm
-Non Stick Deep Non Stick Deep W/Glass Lid 26cm
-Nano Grill Pan Non Stick Square 30cm

10% Off

Price range from Ks.10,600 to Ks.23,800

## PAPILLA

Baking Tray 30cm
Egg Pan Non Stick 12cm/16cm/20cm
Fry Pan Non Stick 22cm/24cm/26cm/28cm

10% Off

Price range from Ks.4,950 to Ks.6,750

## ZEBRA

Loop Handle Pot 14cm
Round Tray 14"/16"/18"
Skimmer Focus 4.5"
Turner Focus
Turner Focus Long Handle
Whistling Kettle 3.5Ltr

4% Off

Price range from Ks.1,580 to Ks.17,000

## HAPPY COOK

Saucepot Non Stick G/Lid 16cm/18cm
Stockpot
-Aluminium 16cm/18cm/20cm/22cm/24cm/28cm
-Steel 14cm/18cm/22cm/26cm
Wok Pan Non Stick Side Handle Gold 32cm/36cm

10% Off

Price range from Ks.2,050 to Ks.9,600

## MAXIM

Sauce Pot Aluminium Champagne Gold
(20cm/22cm/24cm)

10% Off

Price range from Ks.8,150 to Ks.10,400

## SUPOR

Pressure Cooker Aluminium 22cm/24cm
Saucepot Aluminium W/Glass Cover 18cm/22cm/24cm

7% Off

Price range from Ks.11,900 to Ks.32,000

## BREEZE LIVING

-Spoon
-Spoon Slotted
-Spaghetti Server
-Skimmer
-Steaming Ladle
-Egg Shaper
-Ladle
-Potato

10% Off

Price range from Ks.1,480 to Ks.2,550

## NEW OCEAN

Turner
Fork
Ladle Nylon
Skimmer
Skimmer Nylon

10% Off

Price range from Ks.1,080 to Ks.2,600

## CHINESE

-Turner Nylon
-Slotted Nylon

Ks 800 720

## KIWI

Java Knife
(4"/5"/6"/7")

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Price range from Ks.600 to Ks.970

## BREAD KNIFE CARVING KNIFE

32cm

Ks 2,550 2,300

## CORKSCREW OPENER PROBUS CAN OPENER

Ks 3,000 2,700

Ks 1,350 1,200

## CHOPPING BOARD

Wooden
11.5"x7.5"
12"x8.5"

Ks 2,450 2,200

Ks 2,650 2,400

## LION STAR

Chopping Board
(S/M/L/XL)
Kitchen Scale
2kg/5kg
Orange Squeezer

10% Off

Price range from Ks.1,450 to Ks.6,850

## MEAT MINCER

JCW B10

Ks 11,600 10,500

## FARFALLA

Induction Whistling Kettle
3Ltr

Ks 12,200 11,400

## MISUSHITA

Electric Fry Pan
SGP-141

Ks 16,800 16,300

## FARFALLA

Multi Cooker
FMC-322

Ks 23,700 22,000

## MIDEA

Rice Cooker
MTR-18D

Ks 18,300 16,700

## MIDEA

Induction Cooker
MI-SV21DL

Ks 26,000 23,900

## IZOLA

Jar Pot
3.8Ltr
UP-LA385

Ks 35,500 32,000

## FARFALLA

Electric Kettle
1.2Ltr
FEK-1221S

Ks 15,400 14,300

## MISUKO

Blender
JBJ-101/103

Ks 16,000 14,500

## IZOLA

Food Processor
AD-855

Ks 15,500 14,000

## KYOTO

Single Hot Plate
No.369053A
1500W

Ks 14,000 12,700

## FIVE STAR

Portable Gas Cooker
MS-38005

Ks 14,000 13,100

## PANASONIC

Iron
NI-317I

Ks 11,000 10,500

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# The trauma of trafficking in India

By Simon Denyer

NEW DELHI – Every six minutes, a child goes missing in India.

They are boys like Irfan, drugged and abducted at the age of nine by two men on a motorbike as he walked home one day after playing with friends.

"It was living hell these past two years, trying to figure out where we could find him," said his father, Iqbal Ali.

More than 90,000 children are officially reported missing every year, revealed data compiled and released late last year by leading children's rights group Bachpan Bachao Andolan, which showed the problem was far greater than previously thought.

Up to 10 times that number are trafficked, said the group – boys and girls, most from poor families, torn from their parents, sometimes in return for cash, and forced to beg or work in farms, factories and homes, or sold for sex and marriage.

It is an epidemic that, until a few years ago, remained unreported and largely ignored by the authorities.

But years of tireless work by activists, a few crucial victories in court – and the shocking discovery of the bones of 17 slain girls and young women around a businessman's home in a suburb of New Delhi called Nithari in 2006 – have gradually put the issue on the nation's agenda.

India's 24-hour news channels have also played a role in highlighting the issue.

In recent weeks, footage from surveillance cameras has also been repeatedly broadcast on television, showing infants being brazenly snatched from train stations and hospital lobbies as parents slept nearby.

"A couple of decades ago, there was no understanding of the issue of missing children or trafficking for forced labour – child labour was not even considered a crime," said Bhuwan Ribhu, an activist for the children's rights group. "Though things are slowly changing, the biggest issue is the lack of political and administrative will to enforce the law, which is often outside the reach of the common person."

Irfan suffered perhaps the most common fate – kidnapped to satisfy India's insatiable demand for cheap, agricultural labour.

In India and many other developing countries, children often work in agriculture. What is only now becoming apparent is the huge trafficking industry that has grown up outside the law.

**'Maybe if I had the money to pay a bribe, they would have found my kid.'**

Irfan's story, though, has a happy ending. In August, after more than two years away, he finally made it home to his joyous parents, after climbing on a chair in the shed where he was held and breaking a window with an earthen vase to escape.

"I was supposed to bathe the buffalo, to feed them, to pick up the dung," he said, describing his life imprisoned in a room next to a buffalo shed outside the town of Mullanpur, about 320 kilometres (200 miles) northwest of Delhi.

"I was fed just once a day, just leftovers. When I used to shriek and make a fuss, they would tie my hands and feet at night."

After escaping, Irfan found shelter with another family for several months. Then, last month, as the media furore about missing children reached its peak, he saw photographs of his parents and himself on a TV show.

Only then did he journey back to the New Delhi district of Nangloi, the only address he had in his memory.

"I took the train to Delhi, and a bus to Nangloi," he said, "but when I arrived it had all changed. Before, there was no overpass, no metro. It looked like a completely different place to me."

After half an hour of wandering, Irfan says he bumped into a friend, who took him home.

"We were just overwhelmed with happiness," said his mother, Shabnam. "We went and got new clothes made for all of us. All his old clothes were too small, because he had grown so tall."

Kidnapping represents just the tip of the iceberg of a vast child-trafficking industry in India. Many young children are sold by their parents or enticed from them with the promise that they will be looked after and be able to send money home. Never registered as missing, many simply lose touch with their parents, working long hours in garment factories or making cheap jewellery.

Globally, trafficking of children for forced labour and sexual exploitation remains a "largely hidden crime," says the International Labor Organisation, with no reliable data even existing on the scale of the problem.

The ILO makes a "conservative estimate" that 5.5 million children around the world are trapped in forced labour, but in India alone the government uses estimates of five million to 12 million children forced to work.

**Irfan Ali, 11, with his father, Iqbal, in New Delhi on September 5. They were reunited in August, two years after Irfan was kidnapped and sold into forced labour.** *Pic: The Washington Post/Simon Denyer*

On a recent raid with activists and police, 36 children were rescued from a series of tiny rooms where they were making bangles for 10 hours, some for just $4 a month.

One was just six years old, the son of a rickshaw puller from the faraway city of Patna.

In August, the Indian government proposed a blanket ban on the employment of children younger than 14, building on a 2009 law that established a child's right to education until that age. Activists hailed the proposal, which needs parliamentary approval, as a major step forward, but warned that enforcement will remain a significant challenge.

The parents of several missing children interviewed in the past month said they had received little or no help from the police, largely, they said, because they were poor.

"The police were very cold. They just kept saying: 'A lot of kids are missing. What can we do?' " said Kunwar Pal, 48, whose son, Ravi, was 12 when he went missing two years ago after going for a ride his bicycle. "Maybe if I had the money to pay a bribe, they would have found my kid."

Nearly 450,000 cases of children trafficked for labour were reported in the past three years, but prosecutions were launched in just 25,000 of those cases and 3394 employers were convicted, official figures show.

– *The Washington Post*

# Silent killer exhumed as UN headquarters gets facelift

UNITED NATIONS – A silent killer that stalked Nikita Khrushchev, Yasser Arafat, Fidel Castro and other world leaders as they gave historic speeches has been exhumed from the United Nations headquarters.

Enough asbestos to bury a football field in more than five metres (16 feet) of lethal blue dust has been extracted from the building during a US$2-billion plus renovation aiming to turn it into a clean, green Manhattan landmark, said the chief architect.

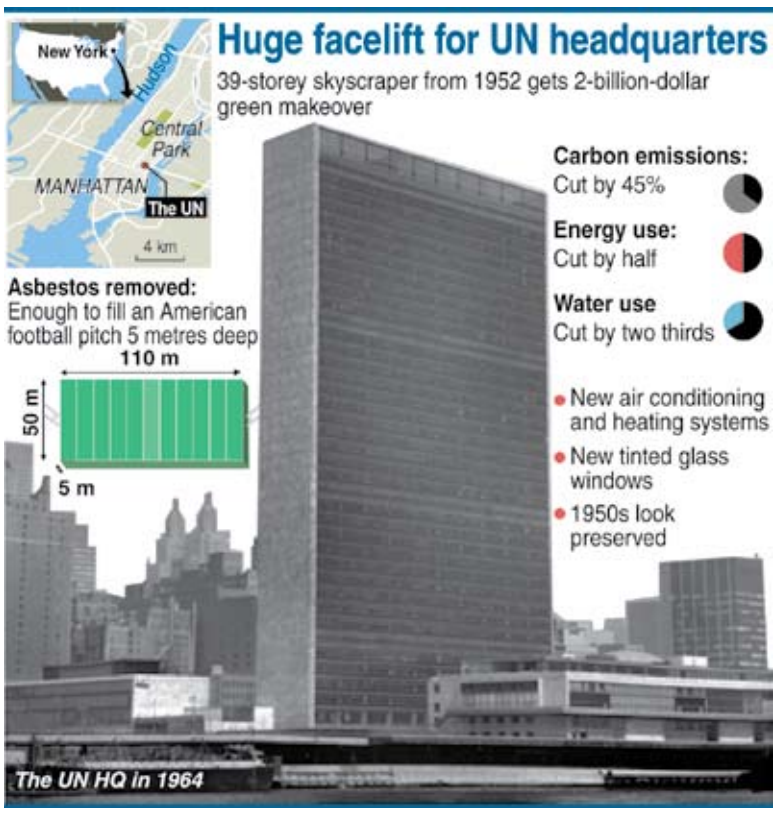
World leaders gathered for the annual UN debate last week in a gleaming modernist skyscraper, far from the gutted building they visited last year.

Tinted windows put on the outside and office occupancy sensors inside will help cut energy use by half. Rainwater harvesting and low-flow toilets will reduce water consumption by nearly two thirds. Carbon emissions will be cut by 45 percent.

The East River tower, designed by an international team including Brazil's Oscar Niemeyer and French-Swiss legend Le Corbusier, is marking its 60th anniversary and has long needed an injection of architectural botox.

The headquarters was built at a time when asbestos was ubiquitous, said Michael Adlerstein, the preservation architect leading the diplomatic and technical exploit.

"It was put on like mayonnaise. It was put on every pipe, every wall," he told *AFP*.




Had Soviet leader Khrushchev banged his shoe a bit harder during his angry 1960 speech to the General Assembly, had Palestinian icon Arafat fired the gun he held in his landmark 1974 address, the asbestos might have loosened.

But Adlerstein, who has also worked on the renovation of the nearby Statue of Liberty and of the Taj Mahal in India, stressed that the dust has been taken out in an "absolutely safe" operation that passed thousands of air quality tests.

The dust notorious for causing the deadly lung cancer known as mesothelioma is just one of many challenges tackled. There was also the task of getting debris out and hundreds of construction workers in each day, all while presidents and ministers carried on daily meetings.

"The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are wonderful monuments, but unlike the UN you could close them, you could do the work," said Adlerstein.

Electric and water pipes have regularly been cut by accident as the UN Security Council and other bodies meet. "You get quite an abrupt reaction from the people who are trying to run a meeting and their power goes off. It is far more complicated than anything I have attempted to do in terms of an historic site," he added.

The Security Council moved to a temporary home in the basement. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was exiled to a prefabricated office in the grounds of the complex.

There are about 3300 UN staff and they are moving back into the 39-floor skyscraper floor by floor. About 1100 had returned by last week. Ban should be back in his 38th floor office in November. The Security Council will return to its historic chamber in February.

**'It was put on like mayonnaise.'**

"The finished product will be quite a wonderful reflection of the way the UN looked in 1952," Adlerstein said.

To bolster its green credentials, new air conditioning, water and heating systems have been installed. Specially tinted glass will keep the air cooler in New York's sweltering summers and warmer in the long winters.

Nearly all the old glass and other debris has been smashed up and recycled. Much of the furniture is being re-used. On the 27th floor for conference rooms, imitation leather easy chairs and lounge tables look fresh out of a 1960s Madison Avenue advertising agency.

Eighty percent of the old building was private offices, now 80 percent is open plan.

"The old office space was traditional American corporate office space of the early 1950s," said Werner Schmidt, a UN information officer and veteran employee of the building in both its states.

"The doors were closed and the walls were high. There were eight different kinds of office configuration depending on where you were in the hierarchy. You had a big window or a small window or no window at all."

Adlerstein believes Le Corbusier and Neimeyer would approve of the work. "We have respected their design intent, we have respected their design execution. The historic character defining areas of the UN, the big hallways, the major rooms will look exactly the way they did in 1952." – *AFP*

# Eunuch research shows why women outlive men: study

WASHINGTON – Scientists said last week they have new evidence about why women live longer than men, from a study of historical data showing castrated Koreans far outlived their non-eunuch contemporaries.

The study, published in the scientific journal *Current Biology* on September 24 used detailed genealogical records of the Imperial nobility during Korea's Joseon dynasty, which spanned more than 500 years from the late 1300s to the early 1900s.

The data revealed that most men, including kings and royal family members, died in their late-40s or early-50s.

But noble-class eunuchs – men who were castrated either by accident or because of social benefits – lived, on average, to 70.

Study author Kyung-Jin Min of South Korea's Inha University, told *AFP* the reason is probably that manly hormone, testosterone:

"Testosterone is known to increase the incidence of coronary heart disease and reduce immune function in males," he said.

Castration "removes the source of male sex hormones," the study notes, adding the practice has already been proven to help many male animals live longer.

Castration also cuts off the possibility of reproduction, which Kyung-Jin noted could also be a factor.

According to "one of the leading theories of aging, aging occurs at the expense of reproduction," he said, because the body has limited energy that can be used either to keep up reproductive function, or else to keep up everything else.

But although the eunuchs could not father children biologically, they married, adopted and raised children, and generally lived lives similar to their non-castrated peers.

"In order to eliminate socioeconomic factors that could have affected lifespan, the lifespan of the eunuchs was compared to the lifespan of men from other *Yan-ban* (noble class) families with a similar socioeconomic status," Kyung-Jin said.

And "to exclude genetic factors that could have affected the lifespan, we compared the lifespan of eunuchs with multiple Yan-ban families."

Modern men looking to extend their lifespan could consider "testosterone reduction therapy," but Kyung-Jin said it's probably premature.

For one thing, it is not clear if it would have an effect if the therapy were started at an older age – the eunuchs were all castrated as children.

And for another, the therapy could have side effects that some men may feel make that longer life less worth living.

"We may need to consider the side effects of it," Kyung-Jin said, "mainly, reduction of sex drive in males." – *AFP*

# Obama, Romney battle for foreign policy advantage

UNITED NATIONS – President Barack Obama delivered an unapologetic defence of American values and his under-fire Arab Spring policy, speaking to US voters from a world stage at the UN General Assembly on September 25.

His Republican foe Mitt Romney also muscled in on the attention surrounding the annual diplomatic gathering, striking a statesmanlike pose at the nearby New York event of former president Bill Clinton's humanitarian organisation.

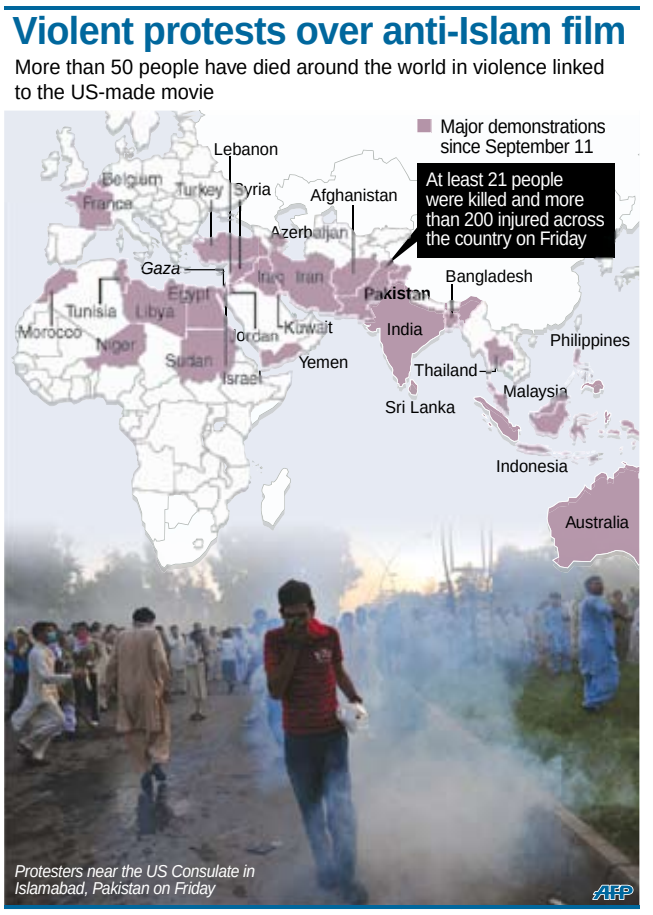
A week before they clash in their first presidential debate, and as the clock ticks down to the November 6 election with Obama enjoying a clear opinion poll edge, the rivals jousted for foreign policy advantage.

In his speech at the UN, the president eulogised ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, slain two weeks earlier, as the epitome of US and UN values, linked Arab Spring aspirations to founding American principles and highlighted progress amid tumult in the Middle East.

Obama stressed that the violence of recent weeks sparked by a YouTube trailer for an anti-Muslim film made on US soil did not "represent the views of the overwhelming majority of Muslims."

Quoting his hero Abraham Lincoln, Obama said he was convinced that "ultimately government 'of the people, by the people and for the people' is more likely to yield stability, prosperity and peace."

With an eye on critics led by Romney, who on September 24 said Washington should "shape" events in the Middle East, Obama insisted America "has not, and will not, seek to dictate the outcome of democratic transitions abroad."




The president however highlighted US action in Libya, support for a political transition in Yemen and backing for uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia.

He also delivered unequivocal backing for the bedrock US value of free speech, even when it offends other cultures, after critics said he went soft on US core freedoms after the eruption in the Muslim world.

He again condemned the "crude and disgusting video" deemed offensive to Islam and made in the United States which sparked outrage in the Muslim world but insisted it was no excuse for violence.

The president also warned Iran that if diplomacy does not change its behaviour, the United States would do "what we must" to prevent Tehran getting a nuclear bomb.

Romney did not allow Obama to have the spotlight to himself, speaking to the Clinton Global Initiative and laying out a plan to link US foreign aid to trade and private enterprise in the developing world.

The Republican then flew to Ohio, the crucial swing state where he trails Obama and which he needs to win if he is to have a viable path to the White House.

Campaigning in Vandalia, he accused Obama of trying to paper over deadly crises in the Middle East by calling them "bumps in the road," and of failing to stand up to Iran.

"Those developments include 20,000 people being killed in Syria, a Muslim Brotherhood president of Egypt, Iran on the cusp of becoming a nuclear power, and, of course, the assassination of our ambassador in Libya," Romney told *CNN*.

"I'm not sure whether any of those qualifies as a bump in the road. They certainly don't in my view," he added. – *AFP*

# BBC apologises after reporter discloses comments by queen

LONDON – The *BBC* publicly apologised to Queen Elizabeth II on September 25 after one of its reporters disclosed a private conversation with the monarch about a radical cleric facing extradition to the United States to face terrorism charges.

The apology came a day after Abu Hamza al-Masri lost an eight-year battle against deportation to the United States, where his alleged crimes include trying to establish a terrorist training camp in Oregan, and masterminding a plot to kidnap Westerners in Yemen.

The respected *BBC* security correspondent Frank Gardner said the queen had told him years ago she was upset that Masri – whose fiery, anti-Western sermons had made him the face of Islamic extremism in Britain – apparently could not be arrested. Gardner also said the queen had raised the issue with the government's then-home secretary.

Speaking on the Today Program, *BBC Radio 4*'s flagship news program, Gardner said: "Actually, I can tell you that the queen was pretty upset that there was no way to arrest him. She couldn't understand why. Surely there had been some law that he had broken? In the end, sure enough, there was. He was eventually convicted and sentenced for seven years for soliciting murder and racial hatred."

James Naughtie, a *BBC* journalist interviewing Gardner, responded, "That's a fascinating piece of information, Frank."

"Yes, I thought I'd drop that in. She told me," Gardner said.

Gardner elaborated on the queen's questioning of the situation, adding of Masri: "He was conducting these radical activities, and he called Britain a toilet. He was incredibly anti-British, and yet he was sucking up money from this country for a long time . . . and he was a huge embarrassment to Muslims, who condemned him."

Within hours of the Gardner interview, an embarrassed *BBC* issued a "breaking news alert" stating that "the conversation should have remained private and the *BBC* and Frank deeply regret this breach of confidence. It was wholly inappropriate. Frank is extremely sorry for the embarrassment caused and has apologised to the Palace."

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said it would not be commenting.

On September 24, Masri and four other men lost a last-ditch attempt to avoid extradition when the European Court of Human Rights upheld an earlier ruling that had concluded the men's human rights would not be violated at a US trial.

– *The Washington Post*

# UN help sought for Mali

UNITED NATIONS – French President Francois Hollande has urged the global community to help defuse a crisis in Mali by giving United Nations backing to a West African-led military intervention.

Hollande, making his first speech to the UN General Assembly, said on September 25 that Mali needs help to seize back territory from Islamist rebels, who captured the north and east of the country after a coup created a power vacuum in March. Hollande said the situation in the north "is unbearable and unacceptable."

Hollande reiterated that Paris was prepared to support any moves by African nations to confront the crisis.

Mali has sent a letter to the United Nations formally seeking authorisation for a West African-led military force, which French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has said would number about 3000 troops. – *AFP*

# Pussy Riot award move angers Moscow

MOSCOW – Russia condemned a group of European Parliament lawmakers last week for nominating jailed members of the punk band Pussy Riot for a rights prize, saying the move interfered with the Russian government's work.

The Russian foreign ministry issued a tough-worded statement after officials said earlier on September 25 that the three jailed members of the all-girl band had made the shortlist of five nominees for the European Parliament's prestigious Sakharov rights prize.

"The initiative by a group of European Parliament deputies can be considered nothing but a crude attempt to interfere with the work of the independent branch of the Russian government and an endeavour to question a decision of the court that delivered its verdict in due process," it said.

"We proceed from the fact that decisions of independent legal bodies including those in Russia should be respected," the statement added.

Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Yekaterina Samutsevich and Maria Alyokhina were sentenced in August to two years in a corrective labour facility for "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred".

The punishment, which caused a global outcry, came after the band burst into the country's main Orthodox cathedral to stage a protest against Russian leader Vladimir Putin in February.

"We hope that respect will be shown towards the memory of A. D. Sakharov as well as millions of Orthodox believers whose rights and feelings have been infringed upon as a result of the aforementioned illegal activities," the foreign ministry said.

Andrei Sakharov was a Soviet physicist and Nobel Peace Prize-winning dissident who for years defied the Soviet authorities.

Putin said earlier in September that Russia was obliged to protect the feelings of religious believers. – *AFP*

# Education in Asia: The challenge of relevance

## Home schooling on rise in China

BEIJING – Giving up his successful career as the head of a medical research firm to spend his days at home reading from children's story books was a tough choice for Zhang Qiaofeng.

But Zhang, one of a small but growing number of Chinese parents who are turning their backs on the country's rigidly exam-oriented state-run school system, felt he had no choice.

"China's education system has special problems," said Zhang, a graduate of one of the country's top universities.

"I want my son to receive a style of education which is much more participative, not just the teacher talking while students listen. Most of my son's time is set aside for following his interests, or playing."

From a small apartment on the outskirts of Beijing, Zhang teaches his son, Hongwu, for four hours a day, in contrast to the six hours of compulsory classes the seven-year-old used to sit through at primary school.

Zhang outlines a long list of complaints with China's education system, from what he calls its "obsession" with exam results to an overly authoritarian teaching style.

China has made impressive progress in rolling out universal education across the country, with urban areas such as Shanghai claiming a perfect school enrolment rate.

But many parents complain about the focus on rote learning and passing exams, which means that children spend long hours in class.

Lao Kaisheng, an education policy researcher at Beijing Normal University, said increasing numbers of Chinese parents were demanding more of a say in how their children were educated.

"There's been a rapid rise in home schooling, especially in the past few years," he told *AFP*.

"Parents who home school tend to have more strict requirements for their children's education, and feel that schools won't meet their children's individual needs."

No official figures are available for the proportion of Chinese parents educating their children at home, but Lao estimates it at less than one percent.

Zhang Hongwu, eight, during a reading lesson with his father Zhang Qiaofeng, who gave up a successful career to home school his son at their apartment in Beijing. *Pic: AFP*

One is Xu Xuejin, who moved from the booming eastern Chinese city of Zhejiang to the picturesque but sleepy southwestern town of Dali to provide a better environment for his two children.

"Chinese children are taught to compete from a young age," Xu told *AFP* by phone. "Students who can't compete are eliminated... there's too much pressure on them."

An internet discussion forum he started in 2010 for Chinese home schoolers to swap classroom materials and discuss educational theory now has more than 4000 registered members.

Worries about the legality of home schooling feature heavily on the forum – Chinese law states that children must be enrolled in school when aged seven and receive compulsory education for nine years.

"Chinese educational officials are split on the subject," said Lao. "Some want to force children back into schools while some would prefer to legalise home schooling, which is why there haven't been any new regulations."

Questions over the legality of home schooling have not deterred Zhang, who says he hopes his son will never return to a Chinese school.

"My son's Chinese and English skills are much higher than other children his age," said Zhang.

"I plan to teach my son at home until he's ready to attend university. I hope he can attend a great university like Harvard, Oxford or Cambridge, I'm 95 percent certain he can achieve that." – *AFP*

## Two-tier system under fire in Taiwan

TAIPEI – When Hsu Chung-hsin went to university three decades ago he became part of a small elite in Taiwan. Now virtually everyone can enter higher education. That, he thinks, is deplorable.

"It's become so easy. As long as you're willing to pay the tuition, you can go to university. That's no good," said Hsu, a legislator with a PhD in law from Cambridge.

"It doesn't influence the top universities. It's the low-end universities that are affected. Their quality is low. The teaching is not so serious and the students are not so hard-working."

Declining birth rates and an explosion in the number of universities – there are more than 160 for a population of 23 million – mean most high school students gain entry to higher education.

Taiwan had 1.35 million university students at the end of June 2012, showed Ministry of Education figures.

But the boom has serious downsides for Taiwan – with a polarised system resulting in many people receiving a sub-standard education that does not meet the overall needs of the economy.

The standard university entrance exam – once a dreaded rite of passage – has become little more than a formality. In 2011, the latest year for which figures are available, 90.4 percent of applicants gained admission.

**'It's become so easy.'**

That compares starkly with 1975, when just over a quarter of people made it past the exams, ensuring a Darwinian struggle for survival where the cream rose to the top.

"Some high school students take it really easy. If you just want to make it to university, any university, you'll be fine no matter what," said Abby Yao, 24, a psychology student at Fu Jen Catholic University.

"It's totally different from our parents' generation. Back then it was, like, one in four who could get into university."

There are still people who study as hard as ever. They are the ones striving to make it into the top universities, which educate roughly one third of the student body.

But the other two-thirds risk ending up on the wrong side of an increasingly polarised education system, with the good, mostly state-run, universities on one hand and the not-so-good, mostly private, ones on the other.

Many people enter university even though it might not be in their own long-term interests, said Kenneth Lin, an economist at National Chung Cheng University.

Hsu, from the small opposition party Taiwan Solidarity Union, said a university system divided into two distinct tiers is the opposite of what Taiwan needs.

Taiwan should give more people a vocational education, as it did in the early post-war years, he said.

"Although they had no degree, they had a special expertise, whether it was as a mechanic or an architect," he said.

"That was the basis for Taiwan's economic miracle from the 1960s to the 1990s. It provided a sufficient labour force for our industry."

The island needs to take a U-turn, Hsu said. Part of the reason for the plethora of universities is that many are upgraded vocational colleges and he believes the process needs to be reversed.

But turning them back into institutions that produce highly skilled workers will not be easy.

"The parents are the major difficulty. We have to persuade them not to hope that everyone of their children can become a lawyer or a doctor," Hsu said.

– *AFP*

## Indonesia: graduates fail to make grade in the labour market

JAKARTA – Indonesia's creaking university system is failing to keep pace with its booming economy, struggling to produce graduates equipped for modern working life in the Southeast Asian nation.

Investors have flocked to the fast-modernising country of 240 million people, attracted by its huge domestic market, rich natural resources and relatively low labour costs.

But badly resourced universities mean quality graduates are a rare commodity in Indonesia, where companies find it difficult to recruit people who can think critically and make a smooth transition into employment.

"University graduates often lack the necessary skills employers need," the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a recent report on education.

The report observed gaps in "thinking, technical and behavioural skills", based on a World Bank survey of employers, which found 20 percent to 25pc of graduates needed retraining on the job.

**'It's hard to believe some of these young professionals are graduates.'**

Indonesian universities are "lagging behind" those of other nations and lack global competitiveness, the OECD report said, in contrast to nations such as India that produce doctors, engineers and scientists whose skills are in demand worldwide.

None of Indonesia's 92 public universities or about 3000 private colleges appeared among the world's top 400 tertiary institutions in the latest *Times Higher Education* rankings, seen as one of the world's most authoritative sources of higher education information.

This is despite the fact that Indonesia is often placed on the same rung of development as BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – all of which made the list.

Headhunter Lina Marianti, who works for JAC Recruitment in Jakarta, said foreign employers reject more than half the graduates she recommends for corporate positions.

"We provide the best graduates, but even our best are unable to meet employers' expectations," Marianti told *AFP*.

"They complain that local graduates are not able to apply theory to practice. They lack analytical and leadership skills, and they have poor command of English and product knowledge."

Rina, a human resources manager for a foreign-based chemicals company, said that many students graduate in Indonesia without a positive work ethic.

"It's hard to believe some of these young professionals are graduates. They send blank emails with no cover letters to apply for jobs, don't turn up for interviews and resign via text message," said Rina, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"Many expect to be spoon-fed. They constantly need to be told what to do on the job."

Many affluent Indonesians circumvent the problems by going abroad to study and some win coveted scholarships, with more than 32,000 enrolled in overseas universities and colleges in 2009, show UNESCO's most recent figures.

High-ranking officials and successful businesspeople often have at least one degree from a foreign university on their CVs, with Australia, the United States, Germany and the Netherlands among the top destinations.

Indonesian International Education Consultants Association chairman Sumarjono Suwito said Indonesia was heading in the right direction, but suffered in comparison with its Asian rivals.

"Countries like China, India, Singapore, Malaysia and most recently Thailand have focused on education or have allocated ample funds to it," he said.

"In the last five years, Indonesia has been doing a lot of catching up, but progress is still slow."

The education sector is also hobbled by the corruption that is rife at all levels in the country.

Funds are misapropriated, poorly maintained school buildings collapse with sometimes fatal consequences and there is a widespread culture of cheating by school students just to get into tertiary education.

The frustrations are felt by students in the system, who complain their universities' facilities and lecturers are under par.

"Some of my lecturers postpone lessons and just don't turn up without letting anyone know," said University of Indonesia health administration student Lentari Pancar Wengi, 19. – *AFP*

# No compromise, says Japan

UNITED NATIONS – Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda insisted on September 26 there could be no compromise with China on the ownership of a disputed island chain and denounced attacks on Japanese interests.

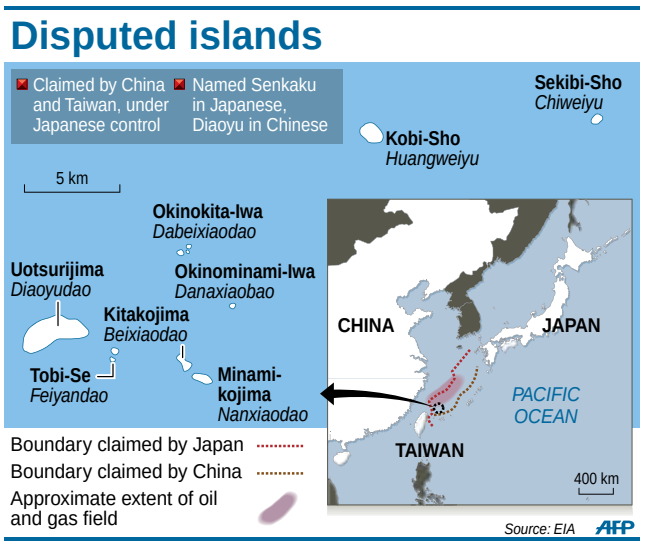
"So far as the Senkaku islands are concerned, they are an integral part of our territory in the light of history and of international law," Noda said, referring to an archipelago in the East China Sea that China knows as Diaoyu.

"It is very clear and there are no territorial issues as such. Therefore there cannot be any compromise that could mean any setback from this basic position. I have to make that very clear," he told reporters at the UN General Assembly in New York.

"The resolution of this issue should not be by force, but calmly, through reason and with respect for international law."

China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told his Japanese counterpart Koichiro Gemba at the UN on September 25 that Japan had been guilty of "severely infringing" its sovereignty, said Beijing's foreign ministry.

"The Chinese side will by no means tolerate any unilateral action by the Japanese side on the Diaoyu Islands," Yang told Gemba, said his office.




A Japanese official in New York confirmed to *AFP* that the talks had been "severe," but noted the two sides had agreed to maintain a dialogue.

The dispute erupted into an angry war of words between Beijing and Tokyo after the Japanese government took the previously privately-held islands into public ownership, but Noda insisted this move had been misinterpreted.

"Part of the Senkaku islands that was held by a private citizen was transferred to governmental possession in order to ensure the stable management of it," he said, according to an official translation.

"It is not a new acquisition. It was held under the private ownership of a Japanese citizen and was a transfer of ownership within Japanese law," he said, adding: "We have explained this to China at length."

"But it seems that China has yet to understand that and, because of that lack of understanding, there has been an attack or acts of violence and destruction against Japanese citizens and property there," he said.

"And we have conveyed clearly that in any circumstances violence is not to be condoned, and we strongly demanded China accord protection to Japanese citizens and property there," he added.

The attacks on Japanese factories and businesses have ostensibly been carried out spontaneously by patriotic crowds, but such protests are usually tightly policed in China, leading to suspicions of official collusion.

Japanese envoys in New York said they could see no reason why sovereignty over the islands should be in doubt, but Noda said Japan would be confident of victory if the case were referred to the International Court of Justice.

In a complicated three-way dispute, Taiwan also claims ownership of the chain.

Coast guard vessels from Japan and Taiwan duelled with water cannon on September 25 after dozens of Taiwanese fishing boats escorted by patrol ships sailed into waters around the islands for several hours. – *AFP*

# A milestone, yes, but no game-changer: analysts

BEIJING – The debut of China's first aircraft carrier marks a symbolic milestone for the growing military power, but analysts said the second-hand vessel remains far from a strategic game-changer.

China officially put the vessel into service on September 25 and China's military and political leadership have portrayed the 300-metre (990-foot) *Liaoning* as a quantum leap forward in naval capability at a time when the United States says it is making a strategic "pivot" toward Asia.

But without the rest of a battle group or the planes to go with it, the carrier is more of a symbolic first step that may give the navy some prestige but does not dramatically change its military options, analysts say.

At a commissioning ceremony in the northeastern port of Dalian, Premier Wen Jiabao called the carrier's launch a "milestone" in Chinese military history and weapons development.

Analysts note that China still lacks proven carrier-borne aircraft and that the second-hand retro-fitted ship brings China little closer to developing its own carrier force.

"This carrier is more of a stepping stone for further development," said Arthur Ding, a Taiwan-based expert on China's military.

Ding said the vessel would have a "psychological impact" on the region due to its symbolism, but was "unlikely to change the overall balance of power overnight" as it was intended mainly as a training platform for any future Chinese-made carrier.

Ukraine built the vessel for its navy in the 1980s, eventually selling its stripped-down hulk to Beijing in 1998. It was later towed to China, which installed engines and navigation systems.

But developing fixed-wing aircraft and training pilots capable of landing on the carrier is another matter, said Ralph Cossa, a military analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Honolulu.

"Carrier operations are not easy. Refitting the ship is one thing. Developing a carrier-based air wing is another," he said. – *AFP*

# Millions flee flooding in northeastern India

GUWAHATI, India – Rains hampered a military air operation to help flood victims in northeastern India, where more than two million people have been forced from their homes, officials said on September 26.

Disaster management chiefs overseeing the aid effort in Assam state also said the number of people killed in flood-related incidents had reached 18 with five more casualties reported in the previous 24 hours.

It is the third time this year that Assam has been hit by flooding.

Families stranded by the flood waters said they were close to starvation because the few aid packages that had been flown in were not enough to go round.

The defence ministry said heavy-lift helicopters were conducting up to 10 drops a day, each containing up to 1.5 tonnes of food, medicine and aid material.

But it admitted the relief operation was struggling because there was no let-up in the weather during what is the back-end of the monsoon season.

A bulletin from Assam's disaster management department said the number forced to flee their homes had risen to two million, up by about 200,000 on the previous figure.

Floodwaters have also submerged the 430-square-kilometre Kaziranga National Park, home to the world's largest concentration of one-horned rhinos. A 2012 census put the number there at 2290, in a global population of 3300.

Poachers took advantage of the chaos to kill one rhino, taking to 14 the number slaughtered this year.

– *AFP*

# 15-year sentence for Bo case police chief

CHENGDU, China – A former police chief who exposed a scandal that shocked China's ruling Communist Party was sentenced to 15 years in prison on September 24 for defection and other crimes.

Wang Lijun, 52, the right-hand man of top politician Bo Xilai, fled to the US consulate in Chengdu in February, sparking a crisis that saw Bo sacked and his wife found guilty of murder ahead of a generational transfer of power.

Wang's conviction and sentence were the latest move by the authorities to try to deal with the fall-out from the scandal ahead of the once-in-a-decade leadership transition at a Communist Party congress expected this month.

Wang, the former police chief of the sprawling metropolis of Chongqing, where Bo was the top Party official, was tried for defection, bribery, abuse of power and bending the law for selfish ends. He admitted all the charges.

Analysts said that it remained unclear whether the authorities would put Bo – once a contender to join the elite Politburo Standing Committee and one of the country's best-known politicians – on criminal trial.

Bo is being investigated by the Party for "serious" violations of discipline and has not been seen for months.

In a statement, the Intermediate People's Court in the southwestern city of Chengdu found Wang guilty on each count, adding that the circumstances of the bending-the-law offence were "very serious".

But it said that he was shown leniency because he had reported the role of Bo's wife, Gu Kailai, in the murder of British businessman Neil Heywood.

Pic: AFP/CCTV

**A grab taken from China's CCTV shows former police chief Wang Lijun in court on September 24.**

The court sentenced Wang to nine years for bribery, seven for bending the law, and two each for abuse of power and defection, but reduced the combined term to a total of 15 years, in accordance with Chinese law.

Wang said he would not appeal, the court added.

It was the final step in the downfall of a man who was once China's best-known crime fighter, with thousands of people arrested after Bo brought him in to lead an his anti-mafia campaign in Chongqing – which was also criticised for human rights abuses.

Relations between him and his patron turned sour early this year, months after Heywood, a close associate of Bo's family, was found dead in a Chongqing hotel room.

State media said that Wang initially agreed to help cover up the murder, but later confronted his boss about Gu's role in the poisoning and was slapped in the face.

Days later he fled to the consulate, where he sought asylum from US authorities, said an extensive trial report by the state-run *Xinhua* news agency.

But after 33 hours inside the building he left of his own accord and was taken to Beijing by security officials.

He was not seen again in public until his trial.

Gu was in August handed a suspended death sentence – usually commuted to life in prison – for Heywood's killing.

The *Xinhua* account of Wang's trial did not identify Bo by name but suggested he knew his wife was suspected of Heywood's murder but did nothing, leaving him open to possible prosecution and imprisonment for sheltering a criminal. – *AFP*

## Briefs

### Ai loses appeal

BEIJING – A Chinese court on September 27 rejected artist Ai Weiwei's appeal against a US$2.4 million fine for alleged tax evasion.

"No change in the original verdict," Ai told reporters after emerging from the Beijing court where the ruling was issued.

Ai, 55, had been seeking an open trial on the allegations of tax evasion by the company he founded, Fake Cultural Development, which had resulted in the fine by the Beijing tax bureau last year.

### FAO under fire

HONG KONG – Former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd has criticised the UN food agency for failing to do enough on food security.

Rudd told a conference in Hong Kong on September 27 that the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organisation needed to get its act together and not just release "another set of reports".

"The fact that we're having this kind of conference is an indictment of the failure of the FAO," he told the meeting – titled "Feeding the world: Asia's Prospect of Plenty" – organised by *The Economist* magazine.

### Daughter issues plea

HONG KONG – A gay Hong Kong woman on September 28 implored her tycoon father to rescind a US$65-million "marriage bounty" for any man who can win her heart.

"For your family's sanity's sake, Daddy please rescind the notice!!!!" Gigi Chao, 33, wrote on her Facebook page. Cecil Chao told the *South China Morning Post* that about 100 would-be suitors had contacted his office since he went public with his offer on September 26. – *AFP*

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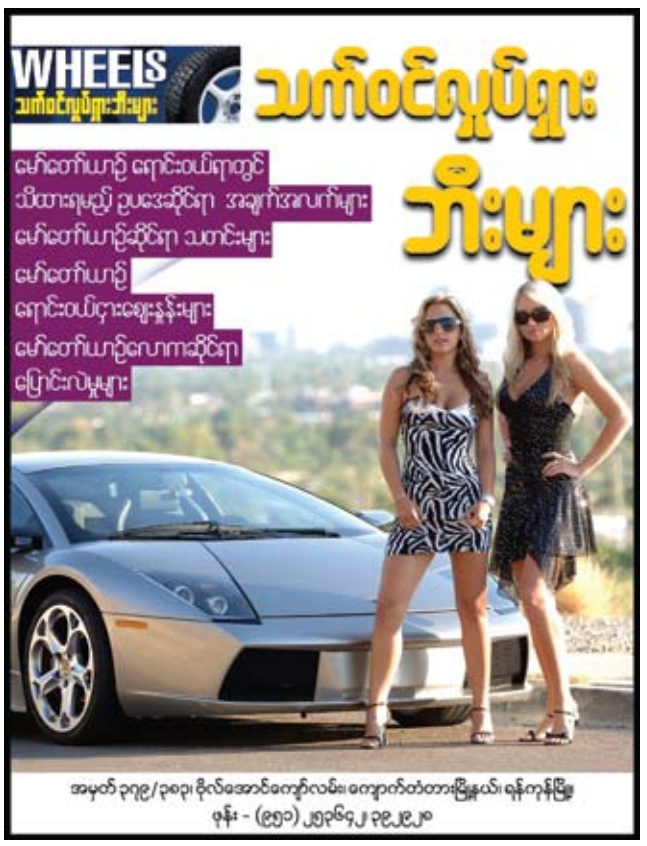

# Director makes nostalgic return home after 18 years

IN DEPTH
with
Zon Pann Pwint

THE literary and acting communities in Myanmar rejoiced last month at the homecoming on September 8 of well-known cartoonist, artist, writer and film director U Win Pe.

U Win Pe, now 78 years old, left Myanmar in 1994 when he was invited to attend the prestigious International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

He expected to return home at the end of the three-month program, but said he was "unwelcome" in Myanmar after discussing freedom of expression in Iowa.

"Instead, my stay lasted 18 years, out of the blue," he said. "I missed my country. I am very happy to be back home and I won't go back [to the US] again."

Faced with exile, U Win Pe moved to New York and worked as a freelance writer and painter. Many of his works were commissioned by the Open Society, a foundation run by American philanthropist George Soros aimed at fostering democracy, human rights and social reform.

U Win Pe also translated books about Myanmar written by foreign writers.

"During my stay in the US, I applied for a job at Radio Free Asia [RFA] when the station was founded. Being a movie director, I could arrange music with news for broadcasting. Presenting some features on Myanmar, I got a job for the Burmese language service in 1997, a month before it began to broadcast in February," he said.

"It was a chance to supply news that was blocked in my country."

He worked at RFA until 2005, and when he returned to Myanmar last month he arrived with assignments from Voice of America and British Broadcasting Corporation, for both of which he still works.

**U Win Pe.** *Pic: Yadanar*

U Win Pe said that learning classical music and painting were compulsory at his home from the time he was an infant. His parents insisted that he and his siblings study art and music — regardless of whether they were interested — until they were about 10 years old.

**'U Win Pe is a genius at storytelling. We watched his films as if we were listening to a story as our grandmother would tell it.'**

"To this day my hobbies include playing music, singing and painting, so I continue to pursue them. I started to paint since before I was sent to school," he said.

In 1956, at the age of 22, U Win Pe became a cartoonist at *Ludu* newspaper where he drew political cartoons commenting on the last years of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League government.

"I learned political science at university, and drawing cartoons was another hobby of mine, so I was offered the chance to work as foreign editor for the newspaper as well," he said.

Famous cartoonist Aw Pi Kyeh said he was happy about U Win Pe's return to Myanmar.

"I find his book of collected cartoons, *Win Pe and Ludu*, very appealing," Aw Pi Kyeh said. "He is good at drawing and has good ideas. He can philosophise on topics such as politics, social issues and economics."

"He used to sketch while waiting on-location. I met him in Mandalay after the 1988 uprising. He always kept a pen in his pocket. I asked him why he kept it in his pocket all the time, and he replied that he will be drawing cartoons for his entire life."

U Win Pe also did a stint as principal of Mandalay State School of Fine Arts, but resigned and started a career in film in 1973.

"All the films he directed were excellent," said well-known comedian U Zaganar. "Among them, my favourites are *Hninsi Ni Eain Mat* (Red Rose Dream), for which he won Best Director at the Myanmar Academy Awards in 1981, and *Ma Pyo Thi Moe* (Hanging Rain Cloud)."

U Zaganar said that when he made his historic visit to the US in January, the first Myanmar person he met was U Win Pe.

"He told me he wanted to return home and wanted to pay homage to Shwedagon Pagoda," U Zaganar said, adding that U Win Pe's return to Myanmar will be a great advantage for the domestic film industry.

"I asked for his help in making the biopic about Bogyoke Aung San now underway. U Win Pe is a genius at storytelling. We watched his films as if we were listening to a story as our grandmother would tell it. He created films that told a story," he said.

"U Win Pe once said that Myanmar films would not be globally recognised until the directors created dramatised documentaries, while they are also making feature films. This prediction has come true, because the locally produced works that have won international awards are dramatised documentaries," U Zaganar said.

U Win Pe became the first person from Myanmar to join the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Writer Teikkatho Phone Naing had been invited to attend in 1993 but could not participate for health reasons.

# Russian Buddhism show at Shwedagon

AN art and photo exhibition on Buddhism in Russia is being held at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon from September 21 to October 7.

Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay said the show, the first of its kind to be held in Myanmar, was organised at the request of the Russian ambassador to Myanmar, and aims to educate people in Myanmar on how Buddhism is protected and propagated in Russia.

"The majority of people in our country are Buddhists and they travel to other Buddhist countries such as Nepal, India and Sri Lanka on pilgrimage tours and to learn about the condition of the religion there. Similarly, they can learn about Buddhism in Russia through this exhibition," he said at the opening ceremony on September 21.

The first secretary of the Russian embassy in Yangon, Mr Alexey V Semenikhin, said he believed the exhibition would help people in Myanmar gain a better understanding of how Buddhism is practiced in his country.

"There are also Buddhists in Russia. They love to study, respect and believe in Buddhism. They make up about 1 percent of the country's population, which means there are more than 1 million Buddhists living in Russia," he said.

One Yangon resident who attended the exhibition, U Aung Moe, said he admired the way that Buddhism survived the communist era in Russia.

"Russia was once a communist country where taking refuge in religion was not allowed. I think suppression of worship delayed the development of the country and must have driven people crazy," he said. "But I'm happy to see that Buddhism endured, and that Buddhist culture and philosophy are now protected and preserved in the arts." — *Cherry Thein*

# Memorial concert for traditional composer

A MEMORIAL concert marking the 60th anniversary of the death of traditional composer U Saw Nyein will be held at the French Institute in Yangon on October 31.

U Saw Nyein gained fame writing songs for the Gi Ta Nat Than (the right place for music) traditional orchestra. He was also a cartoonist, artists and writer, and his science fiction novel *Ma Ra Na Maung Than* (songs of the death gong) was very popular during his lifetime.

But U Saw Nyein's life was cut short when he was stabbed to death in 1952 at the age of 27 while trying to break up a street brawl.

The memorial concert's organiser, Ko Theik Oo, said he was eager to hold the show because past attempts to showcase U Saw Nyein's work had met with difficulty.

"In 1977 we tried to hold a silver memorial concert for our great composer but it was postponed until 1979 due to a variety of problems. And the golden anniversary in 2002 was postponed for four years until 2006," Ko Theik Oo said.

"So for the 60th anniversary, we plan to hold it on the exact date that he passed away ... and we will dedicated the event to honouring the songs composed by U Saw Nyein, which still feel fresh," he said.

Entrance to the concert, which will start at 5pm, will be free. — *Nyein Ei Ei Htwe*

# Exiled artist hopeful of change

**By Shaun Randol**

NEW YORK — Artist Chaw Ei Thein spent a few days in a dank Myanmar jail for conducting a performance piece on the streets of Yangon. She fled to the United States in 2009 and was awarded political asylum.

We met in her one-bedroom apartment in Queens, which doubles as a studio for her and her roommate, another Myanmar artist. It's also where art@apt, a collective of Myanmar artists, gathers weekly to discuss art, politics and living far from home.

Space is tight. Chaw Ei Thein sleeps in a bunk bed. Paintings are stacked against the wall or tucked under the bed. The works on display are striking and reflect war and peace themes.

One corner is full of photographs, drawings and art dedicated to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who on September 22 addressed exiles in New York. Chaw Ei Thein and members of art@apt were part of the planning and welcoming committee.

Chaw Ei Thein, born in 1969, sits on a black leather couch, her hair pulled back into a bun, her hands resting lightly on her knees. Soft-spoken, she leans into every question as if to make sure she is heard.

**With the election of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to parliament, do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about your country's future?**

I am optimistic. But I don't trust the government. You can see now some parts of Burma, like in Kachin State or Rakhine State, that crises are still going on. Why are government troops and ethnic groups fighting if we are heading toward democracy?

**If you could change one thing in Myanmar right now, what would that be?**

Grant people the freedom of expression. The government should hear our voice so they can do what needs to be done for the people. Freedom of expression, that's what we need. As a foreigner, you may think things are changing in Burma. Even Hillary Clinton talks about how Burma has changed. But whenever I call my friends, my family, they say, "Don't see your country like others see it. It's not like that."

**How does Myanmar politics affect your art?**

**Chaw Ei Thein.** *Pic: Bloomberg News*

I am always thinking about my country, about brutality, and about how I lived under that system. Sometimes I really want to escape from those things, escape from myself. But whenever I try to create something, all those related issues come up. In Burma, you have to self-censor first. The same thing happens in New York. I lived under that situation for such a long time that self-censorship is second nature. When I try to create something, I cannot really explore.

**Do you want to go back?**

Yes, I have that plan, but I am now attending Hunter College. After that I will definitely go back. There are so many things to do.

**Do you consider yourself a political artist?**

I don't know if I am a political artist or not. Maybe. Most of the time I think about Burma, and I think about what we can do to be free from that regime. So most of my work is really about that. On the other hand, I make art about other issues, more personal issues, about seeing the world as a human being. We will die one day, so I am always thinking: "This is me. This is my time. Before I die, what can I contribute to the world?" I express what I don't like about society. I share with other people who do not have those experiences, what is happening in other areas, other countries, other parts of the world.

**Do you feel like an artist in exile?**

I feel something like that, exactly. I don't like it, but that is reality.

*— Bloomberg News*

# U Nu's life story published

**By Zon Pann Pwint**

AFTER a wait of more than three decades, the Myanmar-language autobiography of U Nu, who served as prime minister of Myanmar from 1948 to 1962, was officially published last month.

Requests to publish the book, titled *Tatay Sanay Tha* (Saturday Son), were denied by the Myanmar government for more than 30 years, although unauthorised versions have been in wide circulation in the country.

At the book launch held at House of Media and Entertainment (HOME) in Yangon on September 25, U Nu's daughter, Daw San San Nu, said her father wrote the book in Bangkok in 1969 and had it translated into English.

The English version was published in India in 1975.

"When my father returned to Myanmar in 1980, he tried in vain to publish the Myanmar-language version here. But officials said young readers would be spoiled by accounts of my father's naughty behaviour when he was young, so they didn't allow it to be published," Daw San San Nu said.

She said that many of U Nu's friends have tried over the years to get the book published; she made another attempt in 1995 to mark the centenary of U Nu's birth, but all efforts were in vain.

"Then in 2009 young writer Myay Hmone Lwin came to me and asked permission to publish the book. He said he liked it very much," Daw San San Nu said.

"He told me that young readers can catch pearls of wisdom from the book, that it was good for young readers even though government officials said it was bad for them."

Writer Chit U Nyo said at the launch ceremony that *Saturday Son* was valuable because it "provides the missing links in the search for history and politics that have been curtailed".

The book is priced at K8500.

# Theme songs for 2013 SEA Games announced

**By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe**

FIVE songs have been selected for the 27th Southeast Asian Games, which Myanmar will host in December 2013.

The winners from a pool of 93 composers were awarded cash prizes during a ceremony at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium on September 22.

U Tint Hsan, minister for sports and chairperson of Myanmar National Sports Committee, said that songs with mass appeal will continue to be sought in the lead-up to the games, which involves the 11 nations comprising Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

There are also plans to broadcast short films featuring the 27th SEA Games on local television channels.

"As the games are held every two years and nations rotate hosting the event, Myanmar will not have this opportunity for another 22 years. I am sure there is more musical talent for Myanmar to showcase — we are choosing songs that will remain in the hearts of audiences for a long time. I want this event to be the best it can possibly be," U Tint Hsan said.

In the song contest, the first prize of K2 million was awarded to composer Linn Htet for "Hla Pa Dae Arr Ka Zar Yae Yaung Sone U Yin" (Colourful Garden of Sport and Beauty).

The second prize went to composer Saleng for "Phate Khaw Pe" (Welcome), who received K1.5 million, while Aung Naing San's English composition "Win the Day" won the third prize of K1 million.

Two consolation prizes of K500,000 were given to Kyaw Lin Tun for "Shwe Yaung Lat Khote Than Myar" (Golden Applause) and Ma Phyo Aung Kyaw for her English song, "Together Forever Southeast Asia".

"I studied the songs of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and decided to compose a song about the sweet smiles of the Myanmar people and the sports we enjoy playing," said first-prize winner Ko Linn Htet.

"A song is too short to mention the many traditions, cultures and beautiful places in Myanmar, so I went for a simpler message," the 20-year-old added.

The lyrics to "Colourful Garden of Sport and Beauty" are accompanied by a Myanmar traditional orchestra, including violins.

"I'm not an athlete, but I wanted to contribute to the SEA Games, so I did so as a songwriter. But I didn't expect to win a prize," Ko Linn Htet said.

The judging committee of the theme songs was founded early this year and the competition was announced in March.

The three categories included theme songs, dance music and English-language songs.

The head of the judging committee, U Myint Moe Aung, said they would continue to look for additional songs for the SEA Games.

"While the winning songs are good, we look forward to hearing from talented composers who didn't participate in the competition. And listeners may contact the committee directly with feedback about the five songs selected," he said.

He said there are also songs that did not win prizes that will be performed by well-known local singers during the games.

## YOUR STARS

By Astrologer
Aung Myin Kyaw

**Aquarius** **Jan 20 - Feb 18**

You might think your emotions affect only yourself, but in reality their influence can be quite far-reaching. It is important to maintain proper mental balance to make good decisions. Beware of internal interference that could cause social communication to turn from positive to negative.

**Pisces** **Feb 19 - Mar 20**

Use friendship and knowledge to boost personal security. Your tendency to change direction in life requires great self-confidence. You might feel frustrated at times because of mental instability. Learn to use leading questions to get people to talk about their own interests.

**Aries** **March 21 - April 19**

The world is held in bondage by delusion, and no one can be free from the effects of karma. Your own life will have value as long as you attribute value to the lives of others by means of love, friendship and compassion. Living in silence can be of great benefit.

**Taurus** **April 20 - May 20**

Violating the environment and natural ways of life will lead to negative physical and psychological consequences. Never stop exploring your spiritual side, and rely on wisdom and courage to face disappointment in social relationships.

**Gemini** **May 21 - June 20**

Conditions are favourable for making your life more interesting and beautiful. Use the power of your intellect to start searching for new challenges. Never abandon your resolution and determination to beautify the nature of poor beings who need your help.

**Cancer** **June 22 - July 22**

Your mind needs to be free and healthy. It is wise to avoid taking advantage of doubtful opportunities. Never show your interest in sensual pleasures. Family affairs and social problems will take up your time, and you will find that you are very busy answering tiresome, stupid questions.

**Leo** **July 23 - Aug 22**

To be a social climber, you will have to throw lavish parties and pretend to adore elegant people. Old friends will misunderstand your romantic lifestyle. Don't use the pursuit of sensual pleasures as a excuse to avoid responsibility.

**Virgo** **Aug 23 - Sept 22**

Change your self-perception to focus on your potential and your strong points rather than your limitations. Remember that a smile costs less than electricity but gives light by which you can see hidden opportunities.

**Libra** **Sept 23 - Oct 22**

Cultivate lofty mental pictures according to your intelligence level. Never communicate to your boss, through words or deeds, that you are not ready for more responsibility. Go with solutions instead of problems, and showcase your talents to open the door to new opportunities.

**Scorpio** **Oct 23 - Nov 21**

Promotions are not trophies for yesterday's accomplishments, but rather means for reaching tomorrow's goals. Be willing to accept more work and responsibility, and trust that your extra effort will open more opportunities.

**Sagittarius** **Nov 22 - Dec 21**

When seeking partners for important projects, always look for people who are willing to get involved from their toes to their fingertips. The benefit of keeping your mouth shut is that you don't have to eat your own words.

**Capricorn** **Dec 22 - Jan 19**

Social communication is like networking to find your way to success. Associate with those leading themselves to new horizons and paradigms. Think deeply before welcoming a new opportunity that is coming your way.

*For a personal reading contact Aung Myin Kyaw, 4th Floor, 113 Thamain Bayan Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Tel: 0973135632, Email: williameaste@gmail.com*

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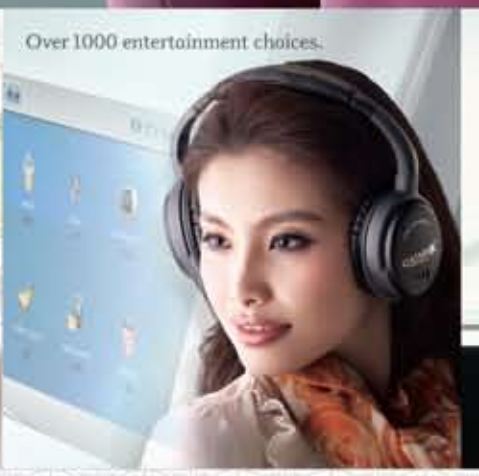

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SOCIALITE WITH NUAM BAWI

SOCIALITE kicked off her week on September 18 by dropping by a ceremony to introduce Condor and Hahn Air in Myanmar, and later attended the launch of Public Image Journal at Royal Rose, as well as The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show at Strand Hotel. The next day she enjoyed the dazzling excitement of the Epson new product launch at Chatrium Hotel, and followed that up a day later with the Sweety Home lucky draw, a press conference for the Champs Children Photo Competition, and the ABC beer launch at Sein Lan Soe Pyay. On September 22 Socialite witnessed with her very own eyes the groundbreaking launch of E-ticketing services by Air Bagan at Kandawgyi Palace, followed by an Oxy product launch and a donation ceremony by Revital to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation. And of course nothing short of the Apocalypse would have prevented her from attending the ERA technology smart pen launch at Junction Square and the celebration of the National Day of Saudi Arabia at Sedona Hotel.

**Chief Minister of Yangon Region H.E. U Myint Swe and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Mr. Talal M.S. Abdul Salam.** @ the celebration of the National Day of Saudi Arabia at Sedona Hotel

**Ma May Oo Han, Ko Thet Ko Ko Htike, Ma Thazin and Ma Sue** @ the celebration of the National Day of Saudi Arabia at Sedona Hotel

**Guests** @ the celebration of the National Day of Saudi Arabia at Sedona Hotel

**Officials** @ Air Bagan ISO Achievement and CRS & E-Ticketing Launch

**U Aung Kyaw Moe** @ Epson New Product Launch

**Guests** @ the celebration of the National Day of Saudi Arabia at Sedona Hotel

**Model** @ The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show

**Zaw Htoo Aung** @ The Public Image Journal Launch

**Daw Sao Thanda Noi** @ Air Bagan ISO Achievement and CRS & E-Ticketing Launch

**Model** @ Epson New Product Launch

**Khin Thet Thet Swe, Phyu Phyu Su Mar, Thin Thin Shwe, Ma Moh, Khin Thida Nwe and Kyu Kyu Htun** @ Sweety Home and Living Products Expo 2012

**Nandar Aung, Thiri Yadana Saw and Hla Saw Tun** @ Champs Children Photo Competition Press Conference

**Mr Christian Mosebach** @ Condor and Hahn Air Introduction in Myanmar

**Mr Francis** @ Epson New Product Launch

**Ngun Dawi Zing** @ Condor and Hahn Air Introduction in Myanmar

**Khin Maung Than, Mg Mg, Kyaw Thin, Tun Thike, Sai Shin, Sai Lone Ya, Laung Kyu, Sai Sar Lynn and Yaw Kyar Hlyan** @ Sweety Home and Living Products Expo 2012

**Min Ko Naing** @ Revital Vitamins Donation to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation

**Model** @ The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show

**Htun Eaindra Bo and Ei Chaw Po** @ Revital Vitamins Donation to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation

**U Myint Zaw** @ ABC Beer Launch in Myanmar

**Nandar Aung** @ Champs Children Photo Competition Press Conference

**Two kids performing** @ ERA Technology Smart Pen Launch

**Pyay Ti Oo and Eaindra Kyaw Zin** @ Revital Vitamins Donation to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation

**Khine Thazin Ngu Wah** @ Oxy Product Launch

**Guests** @ Air Bagan ISO Achievement and CRS & E-Ticketing Launch

**Sales girls** @ ERA Technology Smart Pen Launch

**Ei Phyo Oo, Ni Ni and Mon Myant** @ Condor and Hahn Air Introduction in Myanmar

**Daw Mya Seine Yee** @ ABC Beer Launch in Myanmar

**Models** @ ABC Beer Launch in Myanmar

**Models** @ ERA Technology Smart Pen Launch

**Ma Gee** @ The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show

**Maung Wuntha** @ The Public Image Journal Launch

**Soe Myat Thuzar and Wutt Hmone Shwe Yii** @ Revital Vitamins Donation to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation

**Min Naing Soe** @ The Public Image Journal Launch

**Ar-T** @ Oxy Product Launch

**Opening Ceremony of Lilawadee Spa** @ Hotel Ayeyarwady, May Pyi Taw on 12.9.12

**Me N Ma Girls** @ The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show

**Mr Eiji Koto** @ Epson New Product Launch

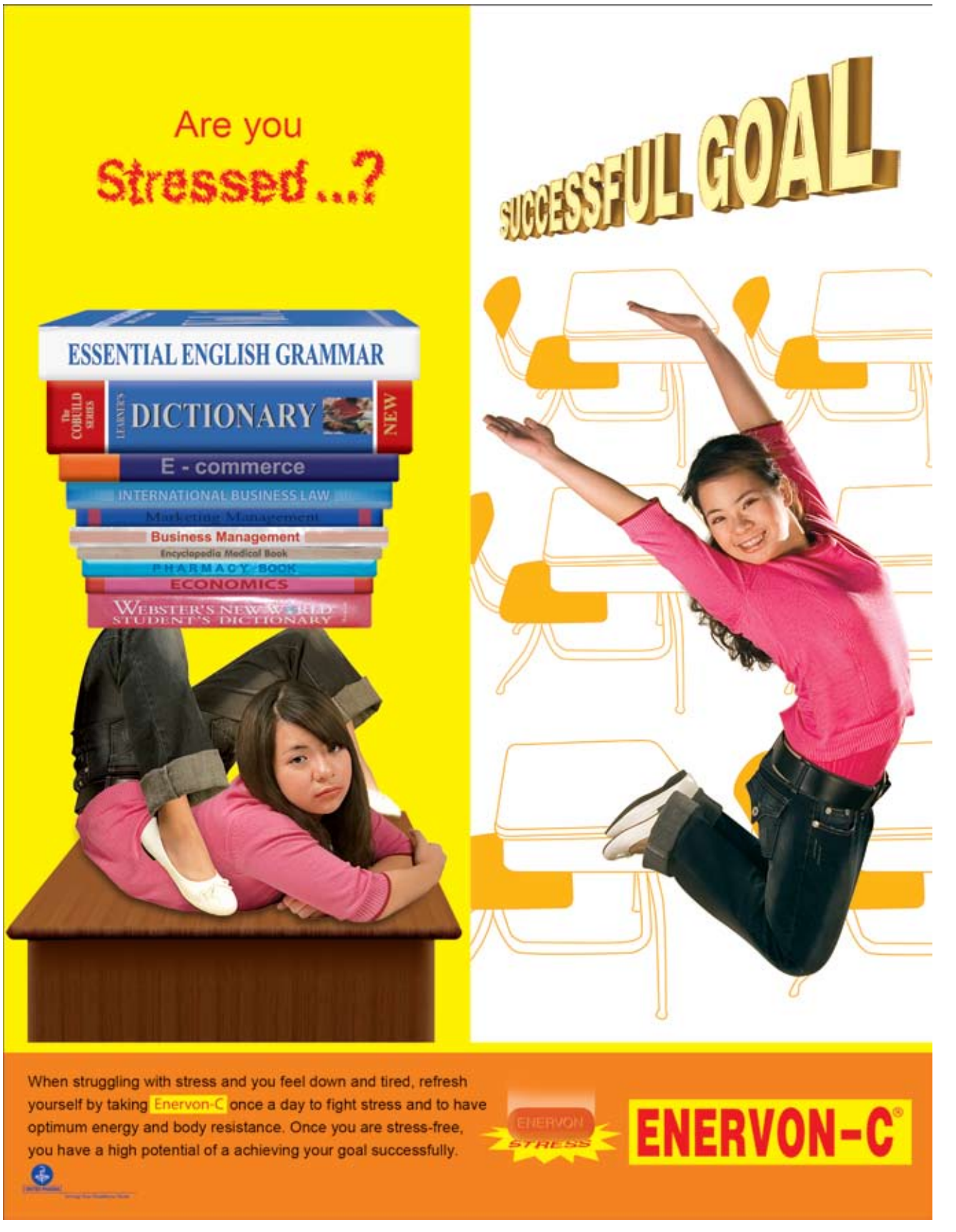
**Khine Thazin Yu Wah** @ Oxy Product Launch

**Model** @ ERA Technology Smart Pen Launch

**Yu Thandar Tin** @ Revital Vitamins Donation to Pyay Ti Oo Foundation

**Awn Seng** @ The Rich Gems Dressed to the Nines Fashion Show

**O; Chuo Senko** @ Oxy Product Launch



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## DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

### YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | 6T 111 | 07:00 | 07:55 |
| FRI | 6T 111 | 14:15 | 15:10 |

### NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | 6T 112 | 08:15 | 09:10 |
| FRI | 6T 112 | 17:05 | 18:00 |

### YANGON TO MANDALAY

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | YJ 911 | 09:15 | 10:40 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 15:35 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 727 | 11:00 | 12:55 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 14:20 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| | YJ 792 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| TUE | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 251 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 729 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 725 | 11:00 | 14:00 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | YJ 791 | 14:30 | 16:25 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| WED | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | 6T 331 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | YJ 911 | 09:15 | 10:40 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 15:35 |
| | W9 281 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 737 | 11:00 | 12:55 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 14:20 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| | YJ 792 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| THUR | YJ 201 | 06:00 | 07:25 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | W9 255 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 729 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | W9 015 | 11:15 | 13:00 |
| | K7 226 | 12:30 | 13:55 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| FRI | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 211 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | W9 255 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 727 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 14:20 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | 6T 111 | 14:15 | 15:40 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | YJ 791 | 14:30 | 16:25 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |
| SAT | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | 6T 341 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 15:35 |
| | YJ 601 | 10:45 | 12:10 |
| | W977601 | 10:45 | 12:10 |
| | W9 281 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 601 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 729 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| SUN | YJ 211 | 06:00 | 07:25 |
| | YH 917 | 06:10 | 08:30 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 08:20 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 08:25 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 909 | 06:30 | 07:55 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 251 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | W9 011 | 07:30 | 08:30 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | YH 737 | 11:00 | 12:55 |
| | YH 737 | 11:00 | 13:10 |
| | W9 015 | 11:15 | 13:00 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 15:25 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 15:55 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 16:45 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:55 |

### MANDALAY TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | W9 120 | 15:50 | 17:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YH 728 | 16:30 | 17:55 |
| | YJ 762 | 16:35 | 18:00 |
| | W9 110 | 17:05 | 18:05 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:50 | 19:55 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| TUE | YH 730 | 07:20 | 18:45 |
| | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | W9 252 | 14:05 | 15:30 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 762 | 16:35 | 18:00 |
| | 6T 502 | 16:35 | 18:40 |
| | W9 110 | 17:05 | 18:05 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| WED | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 332 | 08:45 | 10:10 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | W9 262 | 14:50 | 18:15 |
| | W9 120 | 15:50 | 17:25 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YH 738 | 17:10 | 18:35 |
| | YJ 752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | W9 7752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:50 | 19:55 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| THRU | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | YJ 201 | 10:30 | 11:55 |
| | W9 256 | 15:45 | 17:10 |
| | W9 016 | 15:50 | 17:35 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 762 | 16:35 | 18:00 |
| | 6T 502 | 16:35 | 18:40 |
| | YH 730 | 17:20 | 18:45 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| FRI | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | YJ 212 | 11:30 | 12:55 |
| | W9 256 | 15:45 | 17:10 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YH 728 | 16:30 | 17:55 |
| | W9 110 | 17:05 | 18:05 |
| | W9 7752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | YJ 752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:50 | 19:55 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| SAT | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | W9 262 | 14:50 | 18:15 |
| | W9 120 | 15:50 | 17:25 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 762 | 16:35 | 18:00 |
| | YJ 602 | 17:05 | 19:10 |
| | W977602 | 17:05 | 19:10 |
| | YH 730 | 17:20 | 18:45 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:20 | 19:25 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |
| SUN | YH 918 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 08:35 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 402 | 08:48 | 10:53 |
| | W9 144 | 08:50 | 10:15 |
| | W9 012 | 08:50 | 10:35 |
| | K7 223 | 09:10 | 11:30 |
| | YJ 212 | 11:00 | 12:25 |
| | W9 252 | 14:05 | 15:30 |
| | W9 016 | 15:50 | 17:35 |
| | W9 212 | 16:10 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 502 | 16:35 | 18:40 |
| | YH 738 | 17:10 | 18:35 |
| | YJ 752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | W9 7752 | 17:50 | 19:15 |
| | K7 623 | 18:40 | 20:05 |

### YANGON TO NYAUNG U

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | YJ 901 | 06:00 | 07:20 |
| | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| TUE | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | YH 711 | 10:30 | 12:35 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| WED | YJ 901 | 06:00 | 07:20 |
| | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| THUR | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | YH 711 | 10:30 | 12:35 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| FRI | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | 6T 451 | 10:45 | 12:05 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |
| SUN | YH 917 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | YJ 891 | 06:15 | 07:35 |
| | 6T 401 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | K7 222 | 06:20 | 07:40 |
| | W9 143 | 06:30 | 07:50 |
| | YH 909 | 07:00 | 08:35 |
| | W9 211 | 14:30 | 16:40 |

### NYAUNG U TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | YJ 902 | 07:35 | 08:55 |
| | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 792 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 18:35 | 19:55 |
| TUE | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:20 | 18:40 |
| | YJ 792 | 17:25 | 18:45 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| WED | YJ 902 | 07:35 | 08:55 |
| | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | 6T 342 | 16:30 | 17:50 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | YJ 792 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 18:35 | 19:55 |
| THUR | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:20 | 18:40 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| FRI | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:20 | 18:40 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| SAT | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | 6T 342 | 09:00 | 10:20 |
| | 6T 451 | 12:20 | 14:25 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 18:05 | 19:25 |
| SUN | W9 144 | 08:05 | 10:15 |
| | K7 223 | 08:05 | 11:30 |
| | YH 910 | 08:55 | 10:15 |
| | W9 212 | 16:55 | 18:15 |
| | 6T 502 | 17:20 | 18:40 |
| | YH 732 | 17:55 | 19:15 |

### YANGON TO MYITKYINA

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |
| TUE | W9 251 | 07:00 | 09:55 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |
| WED | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |
| THUR | YJ 201 | 06:00 | 08:50 |
| | W9 255 | 11:00 | 13:55 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRI | YJ 211 | 06:30 | 09:20 |
| | W9 255 | 11:00 | 13:55 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |
| SAT | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |
| SUN | YJ 211 | 06:00 | 08:50 |
| | W9 251 | 07:00 | 09:55 |
| | K7 622 | 14:00 | 16:55 |

### MYITKYINA TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| TUE | W9 252 | 12:35 | 15:30 |
| | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| WED | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| THUR | YJ 202 | 09:05 | 11:55 |
| | W9 258 | 14:15 | 17:10 |
| | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| FRI | W9 258 | 14:15 | 17:10 |
| | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| SAT | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |
| SUN | W9 252 | 12:35 | 15:30 |
| | K7 623 | 17:10 | 20:05 |

### YANGON TO HEHO

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 11:40 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 13:30 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 15:55 |
| | YJ 791 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | 6T 501 | 15:30 | 16:40 |
| TUE | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | K7 826 | 12:30 | 13:45 |
| | 6T 501 | 14:15 | 15:25 |
| | YJ 791 | 14:30 | 15:40 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 15:55 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| WED | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 11:40 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 13:30 |
| | YJ 791 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | 6T 501 | 15:30 | 16:40 |
| THUR | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | 6T 501 | 14:15 | 15:25 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | W9 015 | 15:15 | 12:10 |
| FRI | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | K7 824 | 12:15 | 13:30 |
| | YJ 791 | 14:30 | 15:40 |
| | W9 109 | 15:00 | 15:55 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | 6T 501 | 15:30 | 16:40 |
| SAT | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | W9 119 | 10:30 | 11:40 |
| | YJ 761 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | K7 826 | 12:30 | 13:45 |
| | 6T 501 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| SUN | W9 011 | 07:30 | 09:20 |
| | W9 7751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | YJ 751 | 11:00 | 12:10 |
| | 6T 501 | 14:15 | 15:25 |
| | YH 731 | 15:00 | 16:10 |
| | W9 016 | 16:40 | 17:35 |

### HEHO TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 120 | 15:05 | 17:15 |
| | W9 110 | 16:15 | 18:05 |
| | K7 825 | 18:10 | 19:25 |
| TUE | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 110 | 16:15 | 18:05 |
| | K7 827 | 16:30 | 17:45 |
| WED | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 009 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 120 | 15:05 | 17:15 |
| | K7 825 | 18:10 | 19:25 |
| THUR | YH 918 | 09:15 | 10:25 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 016 | 16:40 | 17:35 |

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRI | 6T 306 | 09:10 | 10:20 |
| | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | 6T 552 | 09:30 | 10:40 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 110 | 16:15 | 18:05 |
| | K7 825 | 18:10 | 19:25 |
| SAT | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | 6T 452 | 13:15 | 14:25 |
| | W9 120 | 15:05 | 17:15 |
| | K7 827 | 16:30 | 17:45 |
| SUN | YH 918 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | YJ 892 | 09:20 | 10:30 |
| | W9 012 | 09:40 | 10:35 |
| | 6T 402 | 09:43 | 10:53 |
| | K7 223 | 10:15 | 11:30 |
| | W9 016 | 16:40 | 17:35 |

### YANGON TO SITTWE

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | W9 307 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 607 | 11:15 | 12:40 |
| TUE | W9 307 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 611 | 07:30 | 08:55 |
| WED | W9 307 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 607 | 11:15 | 12:40 |
| THRU | W9 315 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 611 | 07:30 | 08:55 |
| FRI | W9 307 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 607 | 11:15 | 12:40 |
| SAT | 6T 605 | 11:30 | 13:30 |
| SUN | W9 307 | 07:00 | 08:25 |
| | 6T 611 | 07:30 | 08:55 |
| | K7 422 | 12:30 | 14:25 |

### SITTWE TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | W9 308 | 08:40 | 10:05 |
| | 6T 608 | 13:00 | 15:00 |
| TUE | W9 308 | 08:40 | 10:05 |
| | 6T 612 | 09:15 | 10:40 |
| WED | W9 308 | 08:40 | 10:05 |
| | 6T 608 | 13:00 | 15:00 |
| THUR | W9 316 | 08:40 | 10:25 |
| | 6T 612 | 09:15 | 10:40 |
| FRI | W9 308 | 08:40 | 10:05 |
| | 6T 608 | 13:00 | 15:00 |
| SAT | W9 316 | 08:40 | 10:25 |
| | 6T 606 | 13:50 | 15:15 |
| SUN | W9 308 | 08:40 | 10:05 |
| | 6T 612 | 09:15 | 10:40 |
| | K7 423 | 14:40 | 16:35 |

### YANGON TO MYEIK

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 333 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | 6T 707 | 11:30 | 13:30 |
| TUE | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | YJ 301 | 07:00 | 09:05 |
| | W9 333 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| WED | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 031 | 11:15 | 13:05 |
| | 6T 707 | 11:30 | 13:30 |
| THUR | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | 6T 707 | 11:30 | 13:30 |
| | YJ 301 | 12:15 | 14:20 |
| FRI | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 333 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| SAT | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | W9 031 | 11:15 | 13:05 |
| SUN | K7 319 | 06:30 | 08:35 |
| | 6T 707 | 11:30 | 13:30 |
| | YJ 301 | 12:45 | 14:50 |

### MYEIK TO YANGON

| Days | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| MON | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | W9 334 | 15:20 | 17:25 |
| | 6T 708 | 15:55 | 17:55 |
| TUE | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | YJ 302 | 11:20 | 13:25 |
| | W9 334 | 15:20 | 17:25 |
| WED | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | W9 032 | 13:25 | 14:35 |
| | 6T 708 | 15:55 | 17:55 |
| THUR | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | 6T 708 | 15:55 | 17:55 |
| FRI | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | W9 334 | 15:20 | 17:25 |
| | YJ 302 | 16:35 | 18:40 |
| SAT | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | W9 032 | 13:25 | 14:35 |
| SUN | K7 320 | 11:00 | 13:05 |
| | 6T 708 | 15:55 | 17:55 |

**Domestic**

6T = Air Mandalay
W9 = Air Bagan
YJ = Asian Wings
K7 = AIR KBZ
YH = Yangon Airways

**Subject to change without notice**

# The song of t

**By Peter Mandel**

IT'S sailing time. The *Royal Clipper* is ready; she twists her lines. The giant ship is humming herself some low-octave song. A hum that comes from the wind? It might be that. Or sounds from a sail that's not yet unfurled.

Ropes that seconds ago were asleep – coiled like boas in the deck's hot sun – start spinning and unspooling. Passengers scatter. Sailors crank and pull. The captain moves to his wheel.

I should be watching Bridgetown, Barbados, get smaller, little by little. Instead, I am staring up at just-hatched squares of canvas, diagram in hand. "Is that the mizzen-topgallant-staysail?" I ask as a wedge-like sheet comes down.

A man in a green Star Clippers cap takes a look at my chart. "Might be a jigger," he says. "Might be a jigger up there."

I notice a woman inching away from us. This type of talk could be contagious.

I'm at the start of my late-February Grenadine-island cruise aboard the Star Clippers line's *Royal Clipper*. The line has two smaller vessels, but the *Royal Clipper* – inspired by a 1902 tall ship and built in Rotterdam by a Swedish firm – claims to be the largest full-rigged sailing ship in the world.

With five masts and 42 confusing sails, the 133-metre-long (439-foot-long) ship can hold 227 passengers and allows them to watch and help out as the crew raises and trims sails and as the captain or mates turn the oak wheel on the always-open bridge. Some of the onboard activities have a nautical theme, such as lessons in splicing lines or tying knots.

I'd expected quarters to be pretty tight below deck, but as we roll toward our next port, Union Island, I discover that my cabin, with its varnished wood panelling, twin beds and marble-trimmed bathroom, looks a lot like those I've had on larger cruise ships.

When the dinner bell rings, I find out that the ship has a three-deck atrium and a multilevel dining room at its core. Eerie shadows from above show off the fact that the atrium's ceiling skylight doubles as the bottom of the swimming pool up on deck. Murals decorating the central staircase include the following: a boy in a sailor suit holding a spyglass; two seagulls perched on a railing; and a woman with enormous earrings serving fruit.

"Nice, isn't it?" says one of my tablemates, 73-year-old Gray Furey of Cincinnati, who, as a birthday present to himself, has signed on for his third *Royal Clipper* cruise. Furey has a pocket watch ("I just like them") and a penchant for Stella Artois beer.

Asked why he has come back again, Furey doesn't hesitate. "I remember watching the head bartender in the ship's talent show," he says. "He made the assistant bartender disappear. I'd never seen something like that so close."

Union Island's Chatham Bay doesn't look like much beyond a stretch of white-sand beach, but heading ashore on the *Royal Clipper*'s small, shuttle-like tender, I notice a few of the ship's French passengers bent over the railing and peering closely at the shallow turquoise water.

"Une tortue!" one shouts, and suddenly we can all see swimming turtles, heads bobbing up above the water so that they can catch their breath.

## Tourism Myanmar Update

**Discover Mandalay**
The Myanmar Marketing Committee is producing a new publication titled *Discover Mandalay*, with the aim of providing focused information on the former royal capital, and to encourage visitors to stay longer in the city. For more information and details on advertising in *Discover Mandalay*, contact Honey at the MMC Office by email (pr.officer@tourismmyanmar.org) or fax (+95-1-523-473).

**The Myanmar Marketing Committee (MMC), the marketing arm of Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board, aims to market and promote Myanmar as a destination to develop the Myanmar tourism industry. For more information and reference please visit our website at www.myanmar-tourism.com or contact the MMC Office at Diamond Condominium A, Room 904, Level 9, Building 497, Pyay Road, Kamaryut township, Yangon, Myanmar. Telephone and Fax: +951 523-473; Mobile: 09-502-9602 and 09-502-9603; Email: mtpb@mptmail.net.mm.**

## Domestic Airlines

### Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

### Air KBZ (K7)
33-49,Corner of Bank Street & Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Tsp,Yangon, Myanmar Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport) Fax: 372983

### Air Mandalay (6T)
146, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon Tel : 501520, 525488 (Head Office) 720309, 652753, 652754 (Airport Office), Fax: 525 937

### Asian Wings (AW)
No.34(A-1), Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Township,Yangon. Myanmar. Tel: 951 516654, 532253, 09-731-35991~3.Fax: 951 532333

### Yangon Airways(YH)
166, MMB Tower, Level 5, Upper Pansodan Rd, Mingalar Taung-nyunt Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264, Fax: 652 533.

# he 'Royal Clipper'

**The 'Royal Clipper' at full sail off the coast of St Lucia in the Caribbean.**
*Pic: The Washington Post/Peter Mandel*

When we reach Tobago Cays, the crew gets ready to barbecue lunch for us in the shade of some oleanders down on the sand. The *Royal Clipper*'s cruise director, Ximena C Dipp, knows five languages, and she is using at least three to handle questions about the menu.

"What will you be grilling out there?" asks one passenger. "Caribbean chicken?"

"Just curious," says another. "Will there be any corn?"

Sailing on a clipper ship makes people unusually hungry. And already we've gotten used to big buffet lunches on board and dinners with such elegant touches as risotto with scallops and marmalade-drizzled creme caramel.

Admiralty Bay in Bequia shows us a little pastel-coloured town. The biggest building is the tax office, the smallest a very popular bar called the Penthouse. I decide against having a beer here because I can't fit indoors. Instead, I pad around and wait for sunset sitting on top of an upturned rowboat. Here, as in Tobago, chunks of coral tumble in with the waves.

St Lucia, our final stop, is full of chickens circling around and checking out the port. I try to feed them some bread, and suddenly I am being followed by brown and red hens who are interested in more. I half-walk, half-jog, which startles a group of boys stretched out in the shade.

"I like the way you move, man," says one. "Like it, like it." Everyone smirks.

When it's time to pull out of port and set sail, we passengers stand in clusters on the *Royal Clipper*'s open bridge. If it's night time, we can see how the stars can make a chart to steer by. At sunset we look out at planets, scattered island lights and the silhouettes of far-off ships.

When we're allowed, we take our turns behind the wheel and try to spin it subtly enough to keep the ship on course. Sea salts may find this second nature, but for us, with tentative hands, it's hard. Keel and hull behave as if they can sense their short-lived freedom: The huge ship kicks like a bull, or bucks to the side until a crew member steps in.

On the day we're allowed to climb to one of the crow's nests, I do not go first. It's a gusty morning, and the ladder up the mainmast – it's made of ropes and cable – is swinging like a bell. I watch some German passengers climb. They hop from rung to rung. They don't look down.

"Not so difficult," says Christina Drewes of Hanover, Germany, after she's done.

"Were you nervous?" I ask.

"Never," says Drewes. "I've never climbed a mast before, but I dreamed about it. I read some books about sailing. Horatio Hornblower. Do you know that one?"

I do, I say. But I dream of falling.

Drewes stands back as I click onto the safety belt and step on the lowest rung. I move my hands and think that my legs and feet will follow. Other passengers are staring, which helps to make them go.

It's maybe halfway up that I hear it again. A kind of hum.

Maybe it's the wind. A wind that's strumming lines. That's making a ladder swing.

Or maybe it's the sail stretching out from the crow's nest, now only a few feet above. Definitely not the mizzen-topgallant-staysail, I think. Could it be a jigger? I'm just not sure.

When my hands feel wood instead of rope, I get some help from the crew to pull up onto the little platform and look around. Bow and stern. Starboard and port. All are perfectly arranged in what must be some detailed model of a ship far below.

The hum is louder here. I hear a crack from a flag. Something about a thump of sail sounds wrong.

I realize this: I am a better listener than before. I could learn this song.

– *The Washington Post*

## International Airlines

**Air Asia (FD)**
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Ground Flr, Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon. Tel: 251 885, 251 886.

**Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)**
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

**Air China (CA)**
Building (2), corner of Pyay Rd and Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Hotel Yangon, 8 miles, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 666112, 655882.

**Air India**
75, Shwe Bon Thar St, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175

**Bangkok Airways (PG)**
#0305, 3rd Fl, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119

**Malaysia Airlines (MH)**
335/357, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124

**Myanmar Airways International(8M)**
08-02, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305

**Silk Air(MI)**
339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, 2nd Floor, Sakura Tower, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 255 287~9 , Fax: 255 290

**Thai Airways (TG)**
Room No. 1101, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255491~6 Fax : 255223

**Vietnam Airlines (VN)**
#1702, Sakura Tower 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon. Fax 255086.
Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

| DAYS | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| **YANGON TO BANGKOK** | | | |
| MON | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| TUE | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| WED | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| THUR | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| FRI | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| SAT | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| SUN | PG 706 | 07:15 | 09:30 |
| | 8M 335 | 07:35 | 09:20 |
| | FD 3771 | 08:35 | 10:20 |
| | TG 304 | 09:50 | 11:45 |
| | PG 702 | 10:55 | 12:50 |
| | TG 302 | 14:55 | 16:50 |
| | 8M 331 | 16:30 | 18:15 |
| | PG 704 | 16:40 | 18:35 |
| | FD 3773 | 18:05 | 19:55 |
| | TG 306 | 19:45 | 21:40 |
| **YANGON TO SINGAPORE** | | | |
| MON | MI 519 | 00:25 | 05:00 |
| | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 6232 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | 3K 586 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| TUE | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 233 | 13:20 | 17:50 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| WED | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 6232 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | 3K 586 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| THUR | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 233 | 13:20 | 17:50 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| FRI | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 6232 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | 3K 586 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| SAT | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 6232 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | 3K 586 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| SUN | 8M 231 | 07:55 | 12:25 |
| | MI 511 | 10:10 | 14:45 |
| | 8M 6232 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | 3K 586 | 11:30 | 16:05 |
| | MI 517 | 16:40 | 21:15 |
| **YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR** | | | |
| MON | 8M 501 | 09:00 | 13:00 |
| | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| TUE | 8M 501 | 09:00 | 13:00 |
| | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| WED | 8M 501 | 09:00 | 13:00 |
| | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| THU | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| FRI | 8M 501 | 09:00 | 13:00 |
| | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| SAT | 8M 501 | 09:00 | 13:00 |
| | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| SUN | MH 741 | 12:15 | 16:30 |
| | AK 851 | 18:50 | 23:05 |
| **YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU** | | | |
| WED | CZ 3056 | 11:20 | 15:50 |
| THUR | 8M 711 | 08:40 | 13:15 |
| SAT | CZ 3056 | 11:20 | 15:50 |
| SUN | 8M 711 | 08:40 | 13:15 |
| **YANGON TO TAIPEI** | | | |
| MON | CI 7916 | 11:10 | 04:35 |
| TUE | CI 7916 | 11:10 | 04:35 |
| WED | CI 7916 | 11:10 | 04:35 |
| FRI | CI 7916 | 11:10 | 04:35 |
| **YANGON TO KUNMING** | | | |
| MON | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| TUE | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| | CA 906 | 14:15 | 17:35 |
| WED | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| | CA 906 | 14:15 | 17:35 |
| THUR | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| | CA 906 | 14:15 | 17:35 |
| SAT | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| | CA 906 | 14:15 | 17:35 |
| SUN | MU 2032 | 09:40 | 12:50 |
| | CA 906 | 14:15 | 17:35 |
| **YANGON TO KOLKATA** | | | |
| MON | AI 228 | 15:50 | 16:45 |
| FRI | AI 228 | 15:50 | 16:45 |
| **YANGON TO CHIANG MAI** | | | |
| THUR | W9 9607 | 14:20 | 16:10 |
| **YANGON TO HANOI** | | | |
| MON | VN 956 | 19:10 | 21:30 |
| WED | VN 956 | 19:10 | 21:30 |
| FRI | VN 956 | 19:10 | 21:30 |
| SAT | VN 956 | 19:10 | 21:30 |
| SUN | VN 956 | 19:10 | 21:30 |
| **YANGON TO HO CHI MINH** | | | |
| TUE | VN 942 | 14:25 | 17:10 |
| THUR | VN 942 | 14:25 | 17:10 |
| | W9 9607 | 14:35 | 16:05 |
| SUN | VN 942 | 14:25 | 17:10 |
| | W9 9607 | 14:35 | 16:05 |
| **YANGON TO GAYA** | | | |
| MON | 8M 601 | 12:25 | 13:45 |
| | AI 234 | 13:30 | 14:15 |
| WED | 8M 601 | 12:25 | 13:45 |
| FRI | 8M 601 | 12:25 | 13:45 |
| SAT | 8M 601 | 12:25 | 13:45 |

| DAYS | Flight | Dep | Arr |
|---|---|---|---|
| **BANGKOK TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| TUE | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| WED | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| THUR | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| FRI | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| SAT | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| SUN | FD 3770 | 07:15 | 08:00 |
| | TG 303 | 07:55 | 08:50 |
| | PG 701 | 09:15 | 10:05 |
| | 8M 336 | 10:40 | 11:25 |
| | TG 301 | 13:00 | 13:55 |
| | PG 703 | 15:00 | 15:50 |
| | FD 3772 | 16:50 | 17:35 |
| | TG 305 | 17:50 | 18:45 |
| | 8M 332 | 19:15 | 20:00 |
| | PG 705 | 20:15 | 21:30 |
| **SINGAPORE TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 3K 585 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 6231 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| TUE | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | 8M 234 | 18:50 | 20:20 |
| WED | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 3K 585 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 6231 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | 8M 234 | 18:50 | 20:20 |
| THUR | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | 8M 234 | 18:50 | 20:20 |
| FRI | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 3K 585 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 6231 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | MI 520 | 22:00 | 23:30 |
| SAT | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 3K 585 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 6231 | 09:10 | 10:40 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | MI 520 | 15:20 | 16:40 |
| SUN | MI 520 | 22:00 | 23:30 |
| | MI 512 | 07:55 | 09:20 |
| | 8M 232 | 13:25 | 14:55 |
| | MI 518 | 14:20 | 15:45 |
| | 8M 234 | 18:50 | 20:20 |
| **KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | 8M 502 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| TUE | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | 8M 502 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| WED | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | 8M 502 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| THU | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| FRI | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | 8M 502 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| SAT | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | 8M 502 | 14:00 | 15:00 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| SUN | MH 740 | 10:05 | 11:15 |
| | AK 850 | 17:10 | 18:20 |
| **GUANGZHOU TO YANGON** | | | |
| WED | CZ 3055 | 08:40 | 10:30 |
| THUR | 8M 712 | 14:15 | 15:50 |
| SAT | CZ 3055 | 08:40 | 10:30 |
| SUN | 8M 712 | 14:15 | 15:50 |
| **TAIPEI TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | CI 7915 | 07:15 | 10:10 |
| TUE | CI 7915 | 07:15 | 10:10 |
| WED | CI 7915 | 07:15 | 10:10 |
| FRI | CI 7915 | 07:15 | 10:10 |
| **KUNMING TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| TUE | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| | CA 905 | 12:40 | 13:15 |
| WED | CA 905 | 12:40 | 13:15 |
| | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| THUR | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| | CA 905 | 12:40 | 13:15 |
| SAT | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| | CA 905 | 12:40 | 13:15 |
| SUN | MU 2031 | 08:40 | 09:00 |
| | CA 905 | 12:40 | 13:15 |
| **KOLKATA TO YANGON** | | | |
| Mon | AI 227 | 10:00 | 12:45 |
| FRI | AI 227 | 10:00 | 12:45 |
| **CHIANG MAI TO YANGON** | | | |
| THUR | W9 9608 | 17:20 | 17:50 |
| **HANOI TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | VN 957 | 16:35 | 18:10 |
| WED | VN 957 | 16:35 | 18:10 |
| FRI | VN 957 | 16:35 | 18:10 |
| SAT | VN 957 | 16:35 | 18:10 |
| SUN | VN 957 | 16:35 | 18:10 |
| **HO CHI MINH TO YANGON** | | | |
| TUE | VN 943 | 11:40 | 13:25 |
| THUR | VN 943 | 11:40 | 13:25 |
| SUN | VN 943 | 11:40 | 13:25 |
| **GAYA TO YANGON** | | | |
| MON | 8M 602 | 14:45 | 17:55 |
| | AI 233 | 11:45 | 14:45 |
| WED | 8M 602 | 14:45 | 17:55 |
| FRI | 8M 602 | 14:45 | 17:55 |
| SAT | 8M 602 | 14:45 | 17:55 |

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FD & AK = Air Asia
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MI = Silk Air
VN = Vietnam Airline
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CZ = China Southern
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CA = Air China
IC = Indian Airlines Limited
W9 = Air Bagan
3K = Jet Star
AI = Air India

**Subject to change without notice**

# Phyo's Cooking Adventure

**Phyo cuts through culture to reveal life's true taste**

## A winning macaroni for masala lovers

I WOULD love to start my new food column with a recipe that has been a favourite in my husband's family for more than 30 years.

My husband John was always telling me about this dish, which combines macaroni, prawn and green pepper with curry powder. I finally asked my mother-in-law to share the recipe with me so I could start cooking it myself.

In the course of preparing this dish many times and experimenting with the ingredients, I created my own personalised version. It is very easy to make, and has a nice flavour. If you like curry with masala, you will love this recipe. The aroma and taste of the curry powder will certainly tickle your taste buds.

Since returning to Myanmar, I have updated the recipe for the Myanmar kitchen, since the original version required an oven for baking.

INGREDIENTS
(6 servings)
2 big onions (diced)
2 cups of chopped green peppers (cut into 3cm cubes)
8 ripe tomatoes
4 cups of cooked small macaroni
3½ teaspoons of curry powder
Chili flakes (optional)
2 tablespoons of Leggo tomato paste
3 tablespoons of olive oil
500 grams of prawns
Parmigiano grated cheese to serve

PREPARATION
De-shell the prawns and halve. Marinate them with ½ teaspoon of curry powder.

Prepare the pasta according to the package instructions. If you would like to have 4 cups of cooked macaroni, use 1½ cups of dry macaroni.

Boil the tomatoes until the skins are broken. When they are cool, peel and chop them finely in a chopper.

Sauté the diced onion in olive oil with medium heat. When the onions are translucent, add the tomato paste and fry for 2 minutes. Add the curry powder and stir for 2 more minutes. Then add the chopped tomatoes and cook for 8 minutes, or until the mixture starts to become dry. Add the green peppers and fry for 4 minutes.

Add 1 cup of water and bring it to a boil. When it starts to boil, reduce the heat and simmer the sauce for 8 minutes. When it becomes thicker, bring the heat back to medium, add the prawns and cook for another 4 minutes. Then switch off the heat, mix with pasta and leave for 2 to 3 minutes.

Salt and pepper for taste and serve with grated Parmigiano cheese and green salad.

GREEN SALAD
1 package of salad leaves
1 small onion (thinly sliced, washed and patted dry)
2 cloves of garlic
1 tablespoon of salad dressing (balsamic vinaigrette or balsamic dressing)
OR
1 tablespoon of olive oil
2 teaspoons of balsamic vinegar
A pinch of sugar
A pinch of salt
A few black peppers

Crush the garlic and mix with the salad dressing. If you are making your own dressing, mix the ingredients of the dressing in a jar and shake well. Then toss it with the salad leaves.

Most ingredients are available at the marketplace. Curry powder and balsamic vinaigrette can be found at bigger markets, while salad leaves and balsamic salad dressing are available at Sharky's delicatessen.

## Main Tips

Very ripe tomatoes can give a beautiful colour and nice flavour.

Make a small cross on the top of tomatoes before you boil them. This makes it very easy to peel the tomatoes.

After adding the curry powder, the longer you fry, the stronger the aroma. Two additional minutes of frying will result in a distinct smell, but be sure to continue stirring and be careful not to burn the mixture.

**QUAFFING QUOTE**

"The only real stumbling block is fear of failure. In cooking you've got to have a what-the-hell attitude." – Julia Child

**NEXT WEEK**

Next week's recipe will be Italian minestrone soup with seasonal vegetables, tomatoes and butter beans, accompanied by garlic bread.

## Red or White

**Prunotto Docletto D'Alba 2010**
This classic dry red wine from Italy's Piedmont region, notable for its fruity character, can be enjoyed through an entire meal.

Ks 14,100

Score BOX 8/10

**Villa Antinori Toscana 2009**
A mediocre vintage from a usually reliable producer, this white is suitable for everyday drinking, and is decent with grilled prawns.

Ks 13,100

Score BOX 6/10

## FOOD REVIEW

# The missing LinkAge

LINKAGE Restaurant and Art Gallery operates as a self-financing program run by local NGO Forever Humanitarian and Development Projects, to provide vocational training for street children in Yangon. Since August 2011 kids have been given cooking training, and the restaurant opened about two months ago.

This sounds great, but first you have to find the place, which can be complicated. It's located on the upper block of Mahabandoola Garden Street, but the sign is on the first floor rather than street level, so you have to crane your neck a bit as you search.

Once you climb the stairs you'll find yourself in a small but very pleasant dining area with five or six tables. The orange walls are hung salon-style with paintings by local artists, all of which are for sale. There's also a balcony, just big enough for a single small table, overlooking the street.

The menu included Myanmar, Chinese and European choices. We ordered Myanmar-style mutton curry (K2500), the tender meat cooked in a delicious, savoury brown gravy; grilled eggplant salad (K1000), which had a pleasant smoky flavour and plenty of fresh onions; and red snapper fish fillet with steamed vegetables (K3000), prepared with a tangy, relish-like sauce.

**LinkAge Restaurant and Art Gallery**
221 Mahabandoola Garden Street, 1st Floor,
Kyauktada township, Yangon

| | |
|---|---|
| Food: | 9 |
| Drink: | 6 |
| Atmosphere: | 8 |
| Service: | 7 |
| X Factor: | 8 |
| Value for money: | 9 |

Score BOX 8/10

The food, without exception, was excellent, particularly considering the very reasonable prices. Our bill for three mains, rice, two drinks and two freshly brewed coffees came to less than K10,000.

There were some weak links in the service. Many items on the drink menu were unavailable, we had to re-order one or two items before they were actually delivered to our table. Still, the young waiters were super-friendly without being overbearing, and they were obviously very keen to keep us happy.

Overall, considering the great atmosphere, tasty food and good value, it would not be surprising, in the coming months, to hear increasing numbers of locals and expats name LinkAge Restaurant and Art Gallery as one of their favourite places to eat in Yangon. – *DL*

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**BAHAN**, New University Avenue Rd, Condo 28' x 80', 2MB, 1BR, Nicely Apartment, Lift, Negotiable price: 3500 Lakhs, Call Maureen: 09-518-8320 (No Agts.).

**9 MILES**, 5minutes walk from Main Rd (Pyay Rd), Bonyarna Lane, (50"x 70")garden with including house, Can travel all seasons (Especially Rainy Season), (3500 Lakhs) no agent pls, Pls call : 09-73028726, 09-421029911)

**THINGANGYUN**, Brand New Apartment at Bawga Rd, 12.5' x 50' 100 lakhs to 250 lakhs . Ph: 09 500 2133

**THINGANKYUN**, 120, Pyi Taw Aye St, Lay Daung Kan Word, Ph: 09-730-95600 (Kyaw Sein Lwin) Third Flr (130 Lakhs) (Back of Main St)

**MONYWAR** , 1 Lot no.11/10,block no.90/92, 15 st, Thanlar, 2 between 2 & 4 st, Kywar nyo st, Pyi tharyar Qt, Meikhtilar . Ph 09 - 492-31696, Email: goodwill303164 @ gmail.com

## Want To Hire

**BAHAN,** Kanbawza Rd, Golden Valley . 3300 sqft compound. 2 storey building (1110 sqft). Upstairs: 1 master bed room (16x13.5 sqft) , 1 bed room (18x11 sqft), family room with small balcony Downstairs: Large living room, dining room with kitchen attached, 1 master bedroom (17x12 sqft) with staircase to upstairs inside). Lawn & plants at backyard, highly secure, best electricity in town, municipal (gyo- phyu water). Fully furnished, heater, air-conditions, fridge, washing machine. Asking for $ 1,500. Available immediately. Pls call –Myat@ 09-501-0816, Email: ixora2007@ gmail. com. No agent pls.

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| 1250 Sq Ft | Office Room | : 3rd Fl | (900/- Lakhs) |
| 1500 Sq Ft | Brand New Building | : 8th Fl | (900/-Lakhs) |
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# Employment

## Embassy

**DIPLOMATIC** Mission is looking for (1) **Secretary** - M 1post : Any Graduate. Age 25-40, At least 3 years experience in related field. English 4 skills & Good Computer skill, Can work overtime & able to travel (2)**Cook** -M/F 2 posts: Especially in Thai & Indian Food, (3) **Driver** - M 1 post, (4) **Maid** -1 post. Pls submit application CV & copies of educational certificate to 19(AB), Kan Yeik Thar St, Mayangone. Tel : 662992

## INGO Position

**THE INTERNATIONAL** HIV/AIDS Alliance is seeking (1) **Senior Programme Officer :** excellent interpersonal skills and a positive attitude to working with marginalised populations. Have a tertiary degree in a relevant field such as Public Health, Social sciences or Management & 4 years HIV/AIDS or NGO management experience. Fluent Myanmar & strong English skills are essential. Closing date : 4 October 2012. (2) **Consultant for development of Quality Assurance Document within CoC:** bachelor degree on Medicine & health, preferred Public Health. 3 years experience in public health sector. Solid understanding of Continuum of Care within Myanmar Country context. Solid understanding of the challenges faced by local organizations in working within CoC framework. Excellent in writing, editing & drafting skills in English. Pls send CV stating the consultation fees to the Country Director, Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance : 12/F, Pyi Thu St, 7 miles, Mayangone, Yangon or via email to admin@ alliance.org.mm by 10 Oct 2012..

**AMDA** is seeking **Microenterprise Development Specialist** - 1 Post in Meiktila Field Office: Extensive experience & knowledge in Microenterprise development (especially in BDS). Practical experience in ad business, either personally owned, or family business. University degree (Preferably postgraduate qualification in Business Administration, Rural Development, Economics). Excellent in English & Myanmar communication both spoken & written. Strong computer skill (Excel, word, Powerpoint, etc.). Pls enclose a C.V., copies of testimonials (references) & passport photo to Khin Nyo Yee, Senior Officer, Admin/ Finance Unit: 19-B, Thukhawaddy Rd, Yankin. Ph: 578353, Email:amda@mptmail.net.mm, Closing date: 5th October 2012

**SOLIDARITES** Int'l is seeking **Civil Engineer Supervisor** in Kyin Dwe base, Kanpetlet, Chin State: Civil Engineer Degree & 3 years of professional experience in civil engineering(especially in gravity flow system). Experience in Chin State will be an added value. Good comupter skills and practice of engineering software (e.g. AutoCAD). Pls submit application (CV, cover letter, references) by hand to the attention of: Aung Khant, Programme Manager, Kanpetlet, Southern Chin State (OR) 44-A, Tharyarwaddy Lane, Sayar San Ward, Bahan, Closing date : 30th September 2012.

**MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking **Technical Advisor** 1 Post in Nay Pyi Taw/ Yangon and frequently travel to field. Pls submit a letter of application letter with a recent photo, resume, and related necessary testimonials to U Khin Maung Hla, Executive Director, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Nay Pyi Taw, mrschrrecruitment @gmail.com, until the candidate identify.

**MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking **HR Officer** 1 Post in Nay Pyi Taw : Any Graduate with HR Diploma. 2 years experience. Good computer literate (Especially in MS Office). Effective English Language skills (oral/ written). Pls submit an application letter, 1 passport photo, C.V, Copy of Police Station Recommendation Letter, Copy of Health certificate, copy of NRC card, copy of Relevant Documents & Testimonials to Executive Director, Myanmar Red Cross Society National Headquarter, Nay Pyi Taw, mrschrrecruitment @gmail.com before 10th October 2012. Pls visit to www.myanmar-redcrosssociety.org,

**BURNET** Institute Myanmar is seeking (1) **Project Manager** (Education Program) 1 post **(2) Technical Officer** for QLMA (Quality, Learning, Monitoring & Accountability) 1 post. All positions will be based in Yangon. Detailed information can be assessed at Burnet Institute Myanmar office. Pls submit an application letter, curriculum vitae with recent passport photo and copies of relevant documents to: HR Officer : 226, 2nd Flr, Wizaya Plaza, U Wisara Rd, Bahan (OR) Email: burnet. myanmar @ gmail.com Clossing date: October 5, 2012.

**MEDECINS** du Monde (MDM) is seeking **Health Advisor**, 1 Post in Pyapon: public health background. Seniorlevel experience in behavioural change communication and/ or participatory rural appraisal in order to support the progress of the work by health team in the villages. 3 years of experience in an int'l context with a focus on public health, commu-nity health and/ or MNCH. Pls submit CV & a cover letter to MDM Country Coordination Office, Yangon:47-B, Po Sein St, Bahan. Ph: 542830, Email: ao.yangon. mdm @gmail.com, Closing date: 1st Oct, 2012.

## Local Position

**WANTED** urgently for foreign company. (1) Documentation Incharges/Assistant .( 2) Office helper. Essential - Good knowledge of computer, spoken English, 1- 2 years experience. Good salary.Call Ph no -09-731-64230 for walk in an interview with copy of CV.

**EXOTISSIMO** Travel Myanmar is looking for **Tour Operator** to correspond with overseas tour operator, travel agents and individual clients and prepare and submit tailor make itineraries and take care of all travel arrangements as necessary. 2 years work experience in tourism related field is preferred. Should have strong sales and customer service focus. Must possess computer proficiency and good communication in English. Pls send a detailed C.V with recent photo, expected salary & other relevant documents to: HR Manager: Exotissimo Travel Myanmar, 12th Flr MMB Tower, 166, Upper Pansodan St. Email: memecho@exotissimo.com

**BLUE BIRD HOTEL** (Bagan) is currently seeking (1) **Executive Chef** - M (2) **Chef de parte** - M (3) **Receptionist** - F (4) **Front Office Supervisor** - F (5) **Engineering Staff** (M&E) - M/F. Work Place is in Bagan. (6) **Admin Purchasing** - M/F (For Yangon Office). Pls contact us with your CV to No. 256/266, Rm : 10(D), Shine Tower, Seikkantha St (Upper), Kyauktada, Yangon. Bogyoke Aung San Rd. Ph: 398030, 09-731-40535, 09-505-2595

**MYANMAR WONDERS** Travel Ltd (Yangon) is looking for (1) **Travel Manager** - 3 years experience in related field, in preparing and creating tour programs, in managing quotation, being able to manage the team assisting with all areas of booking, able to work under pressure with good time management skill, good computer know-ledge (excel & words), fluent in English & French (written/spoken). (2) **Tour Operation** - must have experience in the related field, being able to handle all areas of bookings such as reservation for hotels, restaurants, guides, transportations, meals, work closely with suppliers on all reservations to ensure the smooth operation of travel programs, good computer knowledge (excel & words), good knowledge in English. French is advantage. Pls apply updated resume to 256/266, Rm 10(D), Seikkanthar St (Upper), Kyauktada. Ph: 398030, 09-731-40535

**RAFFLES** Hospital Patient Liaison Office (Diamond Aces Services Co., Ltd) is looking for **Medical Liaison Officer** - F 1 Post : M.B.,B.S Graduates. Excellent communcation & interpersonal skills. Good command of English. Must be familiar with Internet, Email, Microsoft Office Tools. Must be independent, well organized & self motivated. Pls submit full CV, recent color photo, NRC copy, degree certificate and copies of testimonials to 88(A), G Flr, 52nd St (Middle), Pazundaung.

**KOMATSU ASIA** & Pacific Pte Ltd , is urgently seeking **Driver** 1 post , with (red) licence & fulently experience in related fields. Pls submit CV with all relevant doucuments address to KAP Ltd : A -803, Mindhama condo, Mindhama Rd, Mayangone.

**OUR ENBIZASIA** Company based in Osaka, Japan is looking for (1).**HR Coordinator** 1 Post (2). **Web Developer** 1 Post (3). **Japanese Translators** - 5 Posts. Interested persons can send CV & related documents to under mentioned email within 2 weeks. For further information enquire by mail (or) Ph :09-513-77972. Email: pyaebright@ gmail.com,

**BONVOYAGE** Travels & Tours Co., Ltd is looking for (1) **Sales & Marketing Executive** - M/F 1 Post : Age 25 ~ 30 Any graduate, 3 year experience in Tourism industry. Must have skill Sales & Marketing development into the outbound and inbound travelling. Fluently speak in English, excellent, writing in English. Good knowledge computer skill MS Office, Internet & Email. (2) **Office Staff** - M 1 Post : Age 20 ~ 25. Any graduate, 1 year experience in Tourism industry. Must have knowledge computer skill MS Office, Internet & Email. Good speak in English. Pls send application letter with a current C.V to Bldg 4, Rm-004, Aung Chan Thar Housing, East Shwe Gone Daing Rd, Bahan. Ph : 951-8603600, 554100 (Ext:254), Email: bonvoyage-travelsandtours@gmail. com, info.bonvoyage-travel@gmail.com, Closing date : 15 October 2012. Kindly also mention your current/ last salary and benefits.

**THE WEDDING** Planner Good remuneration for high calibre person. (1). **Personal Assistant** - M/F 1 post : Age above 21, 1 year experience (as personal assistant or secretary or, in marketing or sales or purchasing sectors), ability to travel overseas, computer literate, proficient in English 4 skills, proficiency in Chinese /proficiency in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator and ability to drive are advantages. (2). **Brand Manager** - M/F 1 post: diploma or bachelor degree relating to marketing, good public relation skills, able to promote brand name, well-disciplined personnel, ability to give command as well as take command, long term commitment, 3 years in marketing field (3). **Accountant** - M/F 1 post : 3 years experience (4). **Sales Executive** - M/F 10 posts : passion in fashion, ability to sell, 1 year experience, commitment in your work, high emotional intelligence, work on basic salary plus commission. Pls send complete set of resume with 1 colour passport photo to viviennewang.vw@gmail. com or 127(A) , Sane Lei Kanthar Rd, Kamayut. Ph: 514 325.

**NATIONAL ENERGY** Group of companies is seeking (1) **Project Director** : B.E (Civil), 10 years experience (2) **M & E Engineer** - BE (EP), BE (Mechanical), BE (Mechatronic), 10 years experience (3) **Project Manager** - B.E (Civil) , 3 ~ 5 years experience (4) **Site Manager/ Engineer** - B.E (Civil ), 3 ~ 5 years experience (5) **Admin Manager** - Any graduate, BA (BM), 3 ~ 5 years experience (6) **Chinese Translator** Sound experience in related field, Should posses recognized certificate for Chinese language (7) **QC & QS Engineer** - B.E (Civil) 3 ~ 5 years experience (8) **Assistant Surveyor** -A.G.T.I (Mining) , BA (Geology) 2 years experience. Location for all positions - Kyauk Phyu constuction Project. Pls sebmit Email : ssa@ myanmaroffshoreltd. com, tps@myanmaroffshoreltd.com. Ph : 221134 , 218387

**SEINN LANN SO PYAY** Garden & Restaurant is looking for (1) **Marketing Executive / Personal Assistance to MD** - F 1 post : able to speak fluent English . Age 20 ~ 35. Self-motivated , Pleasant & outgoing personality . (2) **Office Staff** - M/F : age 16 ~ 30, experience incomputer knowledge, able to use word, excel, internet , email . Working hour : Office hour. Pls send update CV , recent photo to Seinn Lann So Pyay Garden, Inya Rd , Kamaryut. Ph: 502720

"**AN INTERNATIONAL** Media Company is urgently looking for qualified & experienced applicants to fill the following positions: (1). **Business Journal Editor** (2). **Writers & reporters** (3). **Freelance writers** Qualifications: Must be experienced and fluent in English & Myanmar send your CV to Tharaphu Decor Co., Ltd: 22 ( A ), Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan. Email:marchettiyangon@gmail.com. Ph: 951-8603288, 951 - 552886 Ext :105/ 106

**WE ARE** looking for (1) **Senior Accountant** : 3 years experience, K120000 ~ K150000 (2) **Junior Accountant** : K80000 ~ K100000 (3) **Networking** K100000 (4) **Electronic Technician** K100000 (5) **Graphic Designer** K120000 ~ K150000 (5) **Web Designer** K120000 ~ K150000 (6) **Web Developer** K120000 ~ K150000. Pls e-mail CV form to yoemeirosy39@gmail. com

**VISIBILITY DESIGN** (Myanmar) is looking for (1). **Project Manager** - 2 Posts : Bachelor's Degree preferable in Marketing & Advertising, Business Administration. MBA would be an advantage. 8 years experience in Marketing & Advertising Management.Excellent command of English. Computer literacy (2). **Project Executive** - 2 Posts: Bachelor's Degree preferable in Marketing & Advertising, Business Administration. DMA would be an advantage. 3 years experience in Marketing & Advertising sector. Ability to understand English (speaking/ writing). Computer literacy. Pls send a cover letter & a resume along with a recent photo, a copy or labor registration card, NRC card, current and expect salary, recommendations & testimonials to: 10, Thu Khi Tar St, Bauk Htaw, Yankin, Ph: 562010, 577614.

**ORYX** Int'l General Svc's Co., Ltd is seeking **Computer Operator** - F 2 Post : Good in English, 5 years experience in Internet, Email, Office Word, Excel, Pagemaker & Photoshop (2) **Office Staff -** F 2 Post : Good in English, age over 30, computer knowledge, above 5 years experience. (3) ***Admin Officer*** - F 1 Post: Good in English, leadership skills, age over 35, computer skills & knowledge of routine administration, strong personality, Able to work under stress situation, Salary will depend on experience & qualifi-cation. Submit your details resume to Rm 806, Yuzana Tower, Shwe Gone Daing Junction , Bahan, Tel: 558398, 09-430-66708

"**LOTTE** confectionery company is based in Korea. We are seeking the position for **Marketing & Operating Manager**. It is open for those who are active and able to work in dynamic workplace with creativity and sense of responsibility : University graduated. Must be able to speak, read & write English fluently. Good computer skill. 3~4 years experience preferred. Write your CV by English with photo and pls send via email to ms.susan4@gmail.com not later than 10 Oct 2012."

**V A C A N C Y** Announcement (For Local Service Only) We are a progressive international manufacturing company looking for talented and motivated individual to join our company. (1) Job Title: **Accountant** Position required : 1 post Requirements Essential Overall management of the budget in updating, monitoring, and reconciliation of monthly expenses by cost centres. Managing the cash flow in processing and dis-bursement of cash requirement of advances and settlement of advances and float monies. Management&updating Crop expenses by area of Farmers'Ledgears, leaf purchases, debts and Barn loan & Flue pipe balances. Updating & maintaining updated records of Farmer ledgers and Accounts Ledgers. Responsible for monitoring Leaf stocks, Agrochemical and Material stocks, fixed assets, and Crop equipment. Desirable **Age :** Age between 30-40. **Qualification :** Certified Public Accountant (CPA) **Experience :** At least 3 to 5 years relevant experience Proficient in Accounting. **Skills :** Strong computer skills, Able to communicate well with evels of people. Good Command of English. Awareness of fraud, ability to improving efficiency of the process by innovating new systems. Ability to travel to field areas to check on procedures. Positive working attitude and able to hard work to meet dead line. (2) Job Title : Assistant Accountant Position required : 1 post RequirementsEssential Handling, Processing of expenses claim bills, checked accuracy, completeness and validity. Disburse the money for day to day running expenses and receipt money recorded in daily cashbook. Desirable. **Age :** Age between 25-30. **Qualification :** B.com (or) LCCI Level III **Experience:** At least 2 years relevant experience Proficient in Accounting **Skills :** Strong computer skills, Able to communicate well with all levels of people. Good command of English. Willingness to contribute. Discreet, positive working attitude and able to hard work to meet dead line. Pls submit :a letter of application with full resume i.e. providing personal particulars, academic qualificat-ions, working experience, full contact address and telephone number (if any), together with a recent photograph , copy of NRC , labor registration card & recommenda-tion from local township police department and send to HR Department Virginia Park 38,No.3 Trunk Rd, Pyinmabin Industrial Estate, Mingaladon , Yangon, Closing date: 12 October 2012

**WE** are looking for (1) **Technical Sales Representative** - M/F 1 Post : (MBBS, B.Pharm, B.Med Tech & Above). Fluent in spoken & written English & computer knowledge in MS Office. Able to travel within the country as well as oversea. Must drive & have valid driving license. (2) **Sales Coordinator** - M/F 1 Post : (B.Agr. Sc and above). Fluent in English(spoken/ written) Computer knowledge in MS Office. Able to travel within the country as well as oversea. Must drive & have valid driving license. Pls submit application letter, 1 passport photo, CV with complete personal data including job experiences, educational certificates & character recommendation from police station to MY Associates Co., Ltd (IID), Rm (701), 7th Flr, Block (B), Dagon Centre, Pyay Rd, Myaynigone, Sanchaung. Ph: 510515, 525990.

**WE** are currently seeking dedicated & quality (1) **Secretary** - M/F 1 Post :Bachelor Degree Holder. Fluent in English. 2 years experiences. (2) **Admin/ HR Officer** - M/F 1 Post: Bachelor degree holder. Good command in English. (3) **Driver** - M 2 Posts: Driving License (Black or Red). 2 years experiences. Pls submit CV with 2 recent photos, copies of relevant qualifications, labor registration & copy of NRC to Myanmar Agri-Tech Ltd : Rm 504, 5th Flr, FMI Center : 380, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan. Ph: 240360 ext 1524. Only the person who meets the above criteria will be informed to interview. Call for immediate interview and bring along your resume.

**A FINE** Dining Int'l Standard Myanmar Restaurant is looking for (1) **Sales & Marketing Executive** - F 1 Post : Must be fluent in spoken English. Age 20 ~ 35. Pleasant and outgoing personality. Will provide food & transportation. (2) **Driver** - 1 Post : 3 years experience. Non alcoholic and personal hygiene are essential. Will provide food and accommodation. High salary for highly qualified person. Pls apply with update CV form, recent photo, Government labor registration, Copies of related data with NRC to 105/107, Kha Yae Bin Rd, Dagon Tsp, between Pyi Daung Su Yeik Thar (Halpin) Rd & Manawhari Rd / Ahlone Rd. Ph: 538895, 09-730-29973

**MEDICAL DOCTOR** - F 1 Post : Must have a minimum degree from university M.B.B.S with SA MA registeration. Age 25 ~ 30. Good communication in English. 2 years experience at medical field. Must be able to use computer, internet & microsoft application with excellent skills. Interested persons are invited to submit: CV with recent photo, copy of relevant certificates & documents, describe working experience from graduation till present & expected salary to iCare Medical Group: Rm (G-07), G Flr, Diamond Center, Ward-8, Pyay Rd, Kamayut , Ph: 532438, 532447, 09-513-6584,

**WE ARE** looking for experience professional with the creative, global thinking, pro-active & self motivated candidates as per the following positions; (1). **Manager** (Administration Department) - M/F 1 post (2). **Finance Manager** - F 1 post (3). **Chief Accountant** - F 1 post (4). **Marketing Supervisor** - M/F 1 post (5). **Sales Supervisor** - M/F 1 post (6). **Management Trainee** - M/F 5 posts (7). **Marketing Staff** - M/F 2 posts (8). **Sales Staff** -M/F 2 posts (9). **Office Staff** - M/F 2 posts (10).**Receptionist** - F 2 posts. All preferred to be able to speak English & ability to work well under pressure. Salary will depend on your experience & qualification. Pls submit CV (resume) with recent photo in MS word format, all copy/scan of academic certificates and NRC, within 3 weeks to info.74473@gmail. com .

**MANAGER, Liaison & Documentation**, required for Industrial House. Presentable & Commu-nicable M/F. Know-ledge of Myanmar Banking (MICB), & Government Departments in Yangon & Nay Pyi Taw. Will develop & lead team of capable Assistants. Knowledge of English. CV with 2 references. Pls call for Appointment01401093, 09- 49323284.

**WE ARE** currently seeking (1)**Secretary -** M/F 1 Post: Bachelor Degree Holder, Fluent in English, 2 years experiences (2)**Admin / HR Officer** - M/F 1 Post**:** Bachelor Degree holder, Good command in English, Multitasking, good communication, administrative & organizational skills are essential, (3)**Driver** - M 2 Posts : Driving license (Black or Red), 2 years experiences. Pls submit CV with 2 recent photos, copies of relevant qualifications, labor registration, & copy of NRC to Myanmar Agri -Tech Ltd. Rm-504, 5th Flr FMI Centre, 380, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan HO Office Ph:240360 ext-1524: 09-5009527,

**STAFF REQUIRED**, needs to be technologically savvy & has banking/ fsi experience, salary 2500USD to 3000USD, to be stationed in Yangon. At least 3 years experience, must include 2 references with contact details (one must be previous employer). Pls send resume to moelwin999 @gmail. com.

**GSI CO., LTD** is seeking : **Secretary** - F : Age 23 ~ 35, University Graduate Working hours : 8:30 am ~ 5:00pm. Language : Korean or Japanese Salary : Negotiation. Pls submit CV with other documents to No.2, Aung Thu Kha St, 9 Mile, Mayangone, Yangon. Ph : 661887. 0973186094

## Job Wanted

**VOLUNTEER JOB** I would like to work it.But for **part time**.If any other would like to join,I will feel pleasure at all. My free times are Wed day's afternoon and Saturday whole day.Warmly Welcome for your good news. If you would like to contact me, here is! Ph: 09 4210 37619

**VOLUNTEER JOB**! Behavior Change Communication . i'm looking for (BCC) Volunteer Job! I have 2 years experience in HIV/ AIDS , STI & IDU field , I'm also graduated from local university. If u want to known detail information , Pl Contact this ph no &email; zawmaihkum111@gmail. com, Ph: 09-4210 74658.

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# The Essentials

## EMBASSIES

**Australia** 88, Strand Road, Yangon. tel : 251810, 251797, 251798, 251809, 246462, 246463, fax: 246159

**Bangladesh** 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. tel: 515275, 526144, fax: 515273, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

**Brazil** 56, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 507225, 507251, 507482. fax: 507483. email: Administ.yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

**Brunei** 317/319, U Wizara Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. tel: 526985, 524285, fax: 512854 email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

**Cambodia** 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 549609, 540964, fax: 541462, email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

**China** 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 221280, 221281, 224025, 224097, 221926, fax: 227019, 228319

**Egypt** 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 222886, 222887, fax: 222865, email: egyembyangon@mptmail.net.mm

**France** 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 212178, 212520, 212523, 212528, 212532, fax: 212527, email: ambaf rance. rangoun@diplomatie.fr

**Germany** 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 548951, 548952, fax: 548899 email: info@rangun.diplo.de

**India** 545-547, Merchant Street, Yangon. tel: 391219, 388412, 243972, fax: 254086, 250164, 388414, email: indiaembassy @mptmail.net.mm

**Indonesia** 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 254465, 254469, 229750, fax: 254468, email: kukygn@indonesia.com.mm

**Israel** 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

**Italy** 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang.mail@esteri.it

**Japan** 100, Natmauk Road, Yangon. tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

Embassy of the **State of Kuwait** Chatrium Hotel, Rm: No.416, 418, 420, 422, 40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe Tsp, Tel: 544500.

**North Korea** 77C, Shin Saw Pu Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. tel: 512642, 510205, fax: 510206

**South Korea** 97 University Avenue, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 527142-4, 515190, fax: 513286, email: myanmar@mofat.go.kr

**Lao** 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, 220251, 220230, fax: 221840, email: mwkyangon@mptmail.net.mm

**Nepal** 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb@mptmail.net.mm

**Pakistan** A-4, diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Road, Yangon. tel: 222881 (Chancery Exchange) fax: 221147, email: pakistan@ myanmar.com.mm

**Philippines** 50, Sayasan Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 558149-151, fax: 558154, email: p.e.yangon@gmail.com

**Russian** 38, Sagawa Road, Yangon. tel: 241955, 254161, fax: 241953, email: rusinmyan@mptmail .net.mm

**Serbia** No. 114-A, Inya Road, P.O.Box No. 943-Yangon. tel: 515282, 515283, fax: 504274, email: serbemb@yangon.net.mm

**Singapore** 238, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 559001, fax: 559002, 559922, email: singemb_ ygn@_ sgmfa. gov.sg

**Sri Lanka** 34 Taw Win Road, Yangon. tel: 222812, fax: 221509, email: slembassy.yangon@gmail.com, info@slembyangon.org, www.slembyangon.org

**Thailand** 94 Pyay Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. tel: 226721, 226728, 226824, fax: 221713

**United Kingdom** 80 Kanna Road, Yangon. tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, 370863, 370864, 370865, fax: 370866

**United States of America** 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Yangon. tel: 536509, 535756, 538038, fax: 650306

**Vietnam** Building No. 72, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. tel: 511305, fax: 514897, email: vnemb myr@cybertech.net.mm

**Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia** No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung Tsp. tel : 01-536153, 516952, fax : 01-516951

## UNITED NATIONS

**ILO Liaison** Officer Rm (M1212~1220), 12 Fl-A, Traders Hotel. 223, tel: 242 393, 242811. fax: 242594.

**IOM** 12th Flr, Traders Hotel, 223, tel: 252560 ext. 5002

**UNAIDS** Rm: (1223~1231), 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. tel: 252361, 252362, 252498. fax: 252364.

**UNDCP** 11-A, Malikha St, Mayangone tsp. tel: 666903, 664539. fax: 651334.

**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. fax 524031.

**UNIAP** Rm: 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel.tel: 254852, 254853.

**UNIC** 6, Natmauk St., BHN tel: 52910~19

**UNICEF** 14~15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, KTDA. tel: 375527~32, fax: 375552 email: unicef.yangon@unicef.org, www.unicef.org/myanmar.

**UNODC** 11-A, Malikha Rd., Ward 7, MYGN. tel: 666903, 660556, 660538, 660398, 664539, fax: 651334. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org www.unodc.org./myanmar/

**UNOPS** Inya Lake Hotel, 3rd floor, 37, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 951-657281~7. Fax: 657279.

**UNRC** 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE tel: 542911~19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator), fax: 292739, 544531.

**WFP** 3rd-flr, Inya Lake Hotel, 37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 657011~6 (6-lines) Ext: 2000.

**WHO** 12A Fl, Traders Hotel. tel:250583.

**ASEAN** Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Township. Ph: 225258.

**FAO** Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673. fax: 641561.

# 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.

# General Listing

## ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS

**Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon**
40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe. tel: 544500. fax: 544400.

**Clover hotel**
No.7A, Wingabar Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : (951) 546313, 430245. 09-731-77781~4. Fax : (01) 546313. www.cloverhotel.asia. info@cloverhotel.asia

**Confort Inn**
4, Shweli Rd, Bet: Inya Rd & U Wisara Rd, Kamaryut, tel: 525781, 526872

**Golden Aye Yeik Mon Hotel**
4, Padauk Lane, 4th Word, Aye Yeik Mon Housing, Hlaing. tel: 681706.

**Hotel Yangon**
No. 91/93, 8th Mile Junction, Mayangone. tel : 01-667708, 667688.

**Inya Lake Resort Hotel** 37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

**Orchid Hotel**
91, Anawrahta street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, . Tel: 399930, 399990, 901061~65. E-mail: orchidhotel@myanmar.com.mm.

**PANDA hotel**
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

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294-300, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Tsp. tel: 253077.

**PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar**
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 250388. fax: 252478. email: enquiry.prygn@parkroyalhotels.com Website: parkroyalhotels.com.

**Savoy Hotel**
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**Seasons of Yangon** Yangon Int'l Airport Compound. tel: 666699.

**Sweet Hotel**
73, Damazedi Road, San Chaung Tsp, Ph: 539152

**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. fax: 227995.

**Thamada Hotel**
5, Alan Pya Phaya Rd, Dagon. tel: 243639, 243640, 243641.

**Traders Hotel**
223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.

**Winner Inn**
42, Than Lwin Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 503734, 524387. email: reservation@winnerinnmyanmar.com

**Yangon YMCA**
263, Mahabandoola Rd, Botataung Tsp. tel: 294128,

**Yuzana Hotel**
130, Shwegondaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, tel : 01-549600, 543367

**Yuzana Garden Hotel**
44, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, tel : 01-248944

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**Marina Residence**
8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 6506 51~4. fax: 650630.

**MiCasa Hotel Apartments**
17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. tel: 650933. fax: 650960.

**Sakura Residence**
9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

**The Grand Mee Ya Hta Executive Residence**
372, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp. tel 951-256355 (25 lines).

**Yangon City Villa (Residence)**
Pyay Rd, 8 Mile Junction, MYGN, tel: 513101

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**General**
83-91, G-F, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Tsp, tel : 706223, 371906

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**Saya Min Thoun Dara Astrologer**
No(2), Maha Wizaya Pagoda North Stairway, Dagon Tsp. tel: 296184

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www.inya1.com

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www.advertising-myanmar.com

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Email: augustine@myanmar.com.mm.

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Traders Hotel, 5th Floor
Tel: 242828,Ext: Coreana.
Sedona Hotel, Mandalay Ground Fl. Tel: 02-36488, Ext: Coreana

**Inya Day Spa**
16/2, Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 537907, 503375.

**Lemon Day Spa**
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Tel: 514848, 09-732-08476.
E.mail: lemondayspa.2011@gmail.com

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**La Source Beauty Spa**
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tel: 512 380, 511 252.
Sedona Hotel, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 666 900

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**Spa & Botique Fashion**
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theredscarf99@gmail.com

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Tel: 951-951-701719~20, 527667, 531030, 531041, 530694. Fax: 527667, 531030. http//www.toyobatterymyanmar.com.

## BOOK STORES

**Innwa Book Store**
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Tel. 389838, 243216, 374324, 514387

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La Brasserie

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#223, Sule Pagoda Rd.
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905, 9th floor, Modern Iron Market(Thanzay Condo) Lanmadaw St. Tel: 707822.

**NLEC**
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## FITNESS CENTRE

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**The Yangon GYM**
Summit Parkview Hotel
350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp.
tel: 211888, 211966.

**Traders Health Club.**
Level 5, Traders Hotel Yangon#223 Sule Pagoda Rd, Tel: 951 242828 Ext: 6561

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Res: 067-414813, 09-492-09039. Email : eternal@mptmail.net.mm

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Tel: 09.731 800 30

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Dagon Tsp, YGN.
Tel: 09.431 432 34.

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Email: rosanafloral.ygn@gmail.com

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Tel: 516827, 523653, 516795.
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Email: legandarymyr@mptmail.net .mm
www.LMSL-shipping.com

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# Giroud breaks duck for Arsenal

LONDON – Olivier Giroud ended his Arsenal goal drought as the Gunners swept into the League Cup fourth round with a 6-1 demolition of Coventry at the Emirates Stadium on September 26.

Giroud had gone six matches without scoring following his pre-season move from Montpellier, but the France striker was finally on the scoresheet with the first goal of Arsenal's emphatic third round win.

Even though he netted his long-awaited first Arsenal goal, it was still a far from convincing evening for Giroud who wasted a chance to double his goal tally when his second half penalty was saved.

Arsenal were still far too strong for League One strugglers Coventry and further goals from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Andrey Arshavin, Ignasi Miquel and Theo Walcott, who struck twice, emphasised the hosts' superiority.

By the time Callum Ball scored for Coventry late in the second half, there was no way back for Mark Robins' side.

It could have been different if Stephen Elliott had converted a great chance to open the scoring for the visitors in the early stages.

But Giroud finally delivered in the 39th minute as he beat the offside trap and kept his composure to chip over the onrushing Joe Murphy.

But the striker fluffed his chance for a second after Reece Brown mistimed his clearance and then fouled Arshavin in the penalty area.

Giroud stepped up but his low penalty was saved superbly by Murphy, diving low to his right.

Arsenal doubled their lead in the 57th minute when England winger Oxlade-Chamberlain fired home from 22 metres.

Then Oxlade-Chamberlain and Giroud combined to set up Arshavin to score on his first start of the season six minutes later.

Gunners midfielder Emmanuel Frimpong was introduced from the bench with 15 minutes to go, making his return from a long-term knee injury sustained when on-loan at Wolves last season.

And Arsenal made it 4-0 in the 74th minute when Nico Yennaris played a through-ball to Walcott, who burst clear of the defence to slot home.

Substitute Ball reacted quicker than the Arsenal defence to reduce the deficit with a close-range effort in the 78th minute.

But Spanish defender Miquel climbed at the back post to head home Arshavin's pinpoint cross for his first Arsenal goal two minutes later and Walcott completed the rout in the 90th minute.

**Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud scores the opening goal past Coventry City's goalkeeper Joe Murphy during their League Cup third round football match at the Emirates Stadium, London on September 26.** *Pic: AFP*

# Mancini bemoans treatment from rival managers

**By Graham Chase**

MANCHESTER – Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini believes he is being treated unfairly by his Premier League counterparts.

Mancini had a touchline row with Aston Villa boss Paul Lambert during City's 4-2 League Cup third round defeat at Eastlands on September 25, in the latest of a long line of managerial disagreements involving the City chief.

The Italian has rowed with Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, Everton's David Moyes, Stoke manager Tony Pulis and QPR boss Mark Hughes.

His argument with Lambert came after he remonstrated with fourth official Martin Atkinson when Joe Bennett fouled Gareth Barry.

And the former Inter Milan coach thinks that other managers treat him differently but can not explain why.

"I am tired of this manager because I didn't say anything to him," Mancini said. "I asked the fourth official if it was a yellow card without moving my hands.

"Some managers go to bigger stadiums and they don't say anything. I am tired of this, very tired.

"I am tired of their behaviour and it's better that some managers shut up because I didn't speak with this manager. I asked the fourth official if it was a yellow card and I thought the referee had left his yellow cards in the dressing room.

"Every time that I say something they complain. I didn't say anything but after when they go for example Old Trafford they never say anything.

"I don't know why. I am Italian but I don't know the reason. I didn't say anything to him, only with the fourth official."

Mancini's team have only won twice in their seven matches, which has seen them concede 14 goals.

The Premier League champions have also failed to win any of their last four matches and Mancini is sure about where his team's problems lie.

"We need to work with our defenders because they don't work well at this moment," he added.

"It's clear there are four competitions to go for, but this is the only competition we didn't win and because of this we wanted to stay in.

"We are missing this cup and we are disappointed with this.

"We're not playing well and our play is not quick. We want to have one more touch every time and it's no good."

Mancini also confirmed that City's England midfielder Jack Rodwell, who had been due to start the match, had sustained a groin injury in the warm-up.

City took the lead with Mario Balotelli's first goal of the season but saw Gareth Barry's own-goal pull Villa level.

When Aleksander Kolarov fired in a free-kick, Villa replied again with Gabriel Agbonlahor's strike earning extra-time.

Six minutes into the extra period Charles N'Zogbia scored Villa's third goal before Agbhonlahor added the fourth.

Villa manager Lambert has only seen his side win once in the Premier League since he took charge in the summer.

But the former Norwich boss feels they are making significant improvements despite losing 4-1 at Southampton at the weekend.

"It's a massive result for us and we were excellent right from the off," he said.

"For 45 minutes we played well on September 22 [against Southampton] and you get games where you can't put your finger on what went wrong.

"It was a huge effort from us here and we didn't deserve to go a goal behind.

"We showed character to come back twice and go on and win the game and we're delighted with the performance." – *AFP*

**Manchester City defender Aleksandar Kolarov (right) shoots to score the second goal during their League Cup third round football match against Aston Villa at The Etihad stadium in Manchester on September 25.** *Pic: AFP*

# United beat Newcastle, holders Liverpool advance

LONDON – Manchester United moved into the League Cup fourth round with a 2-1 win over Newcastle, while holders Liverpool fought back to seal a 2-1 victory at West Bromwich Albion on September 26.

United, looking to win the League Cup for the fifth time, made a host of changes from the side that won at Liverpool on September 23.

However, they still fielded a strong side including Wayne Rooney, back from a month out with a thigh injury, and Darren Fletcher, who was starting for the first time in 10 months after recovering from a bowel condition.

United's Anderson broke the deadlock in the 44th minute when the Brazilian midfielder drove his shot past Rob Elliot.

Tom Cleverley put United further ahead in the 58th minute as the England midfielder curled home his first goal for United.

Papiss Demba Cisse came off the bench to reduce the deficit with a header four minutes later, but Sir Alex Ferguson's side survived a late barrage of Newcastle pressure to go through.

"I'm very pleased," Ferguson said. "Newcastle probably had a stronger team than us physically but we played some fantastic football and I think we deserved to win."

Rooney added: "I feel good, obviously it's always difficult in your first game back after a few weeks but it's great to get the minutes under my belt and hopefully that can benefit me."

At the Hawthorns, Brendan Rodgers' Liverpool made a terrible start when Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones spilled a free-kick and Gabriel Tamas pounced to score from close range in the third minute.

But Turkey midfielder Nuri Sahin equalised in the 17th minute with his first Liverpool goal, a long-range effort that Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster should have saved.

And Sahin ensured Liverpool, who made 11 changes from the United defeat, stole the victory when the on-loan Real Madrid star turned in Oussama Assaidi's cross in the 82nd minute.

"It was an outstanding performance," Rodgers said. "I'm not surprised as our performance level has been good all season."

Elsewhere, Tottenham brushed aside League One side Carlisle with a 3-0 victory at Brunton Park.

Villas-Boas's side took the lead in the 37th minute when defender Jan Vertonghen scored his first Spurs goal.

Andros Townsend doubled Tottenham's lead with a fine solo effort in the 53rd minute and Gylfi Sigurdsson completed the romp with his first goal for the club just before full-time. – *AFP*

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### Mon to Friday

| Yangon → Nay Pyi Taw | | Nay Pyi Taw → Yangon | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Dep** | **Arr** | **Dep** | **Arr** |
| 7:45am | 8:45am | 9:15am | 10:15am |
| 11:30am | 12:30pm | 13:00pm | 14:00pm |
| 16:00pm | 17:00pm | 17:30pm | 18:30pm |

### Saturday

| Yangon → Nay Pyi Taw | | Nay Pyi Taw → Yangon | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Dep** | **Arr** | **Dep** | **Arr** |
| 8:00am | 9:00am | 10:00am | 11:00am |

### Sunday

| Yangon → Nay Pyi Taw | | Nay Pyi Taw → Yangon | |
|---|---|---|---|
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# Myanmar lose AFF women's final

**By Kyaw Zin Hlaing**

VIETNAM beat Myanmar to take the women's football Asian Football Federation Championships for the second time on September 22, leaving the runners up reflecting on their second successive final defeat.

Myanmar had made it to the final last year, but were beaten 2-1 by Thailand in Vientiane, Laos.

The game, which was held in the Thong Hant stadium in Vietnam's capital Ho Chi Minh, ended in a goalless draw after the two teams battled for 120 minutes, and had to be decided in a penalty shootout. Vietnam clinched the title 4-3 on penalties, proving too tough an opponent in this tournament for the Myanmar ladies who had previously looked strong competitors.

Myanmar had prepared for the tournament with a two-week training schedule in Japan, playing against clubs from the women's J League and Japanese university teams, and it looked to have paid off in the early stages.

Myanmar was drawn in group A with Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines while the group B was comprised of Thailand, Malaysia and Laos.

Myanmar trounced the Philippines 3-0 in the opening match and then humiliated Singapore 11-0, but Vietnam proved to be their nemesis, beating them 2-1 in the last group match.

The result meant that Myanmar went through second to face group B leaders, Thailand.

However, they were able to avenge their previous year's final loss and dump Thailand out of the competition in a hard fought 1-0 win.

Vietnam continued to look formidable, hammering Laos 7-0 to set up the final with Myanmar.

Myanmar matched the hosts with a resilient performance, faring better than their previous game, but still ended their tournament in agony with the harsh reality of a penalty shootout.

Khin Moe Wei and the captain, Khin Marlar Tun, both missed their spot kicks, sinking Myanmar hearts for the second year.

Despite the loss, the team has built a solid reputation in the AFF tournament, having won two championship titles in 2004 and 2007 and now two times runner-up in 2011 and 2012.

The Myanmar Football Federation honoured the squad on their return with a K15 million bonus.

"I am satisfied with the team's performance in the tournament, showing great skill and even defeating the region's footballing giant, Thailand, in the semis," said U Zaw Zaw, the president of the Myanamr Football Federation.

"It was just bad luck in the penalty shoot-out at the end. I can see a promising future for the Myanmar women's team after this tournament and I hope they can successfully win gold in next year's Southeast Asian Games here in Myanmar," he said.

Myanmar will host the 27th Southeast Asian Games in December 2013 and MFF announced the current AFF women's team will be the backbone for the SEA Games squad.

**Competitors prepare to attack during the 10th Thaing (Banto) competition at Aung San Stadium on September 25.** *Pic: Kyaw Zin Hlaing*

# Myanmar adapts to Vietnam martial style

**By Aung Si Hein**

THE Myanmar Thaing Federation (MTF) gave its preparations for next year's SEA Games a welcome boost by holding the country's 10th Thaing (Banto) competition at Yangon's Aung San Indoor Stadium on 22 -26 September.

Myanmar agreed to a Vietnam proposal to have their version of the traditional martial art used for the 2013 SEA Games held in Myanmar during a preliminary meeting in Naypyidaw on June 13.

The Vietnamese version, called Vovinam, is akin to the Myanmar martial art, and as such is seen as needing only a slight revision and learning of the rules for Myanmar athletes. Despite the fighting aspect of the sport being largely the same, Vovinam has a more elaborate performance side as well, which requires greater understanding of its rules and form.

To make the adaptation process easier, MTF plan to hire four Vietnamese instructors, two for Vovinam fighting and two for Vovinam performance for the end of October.

Ahead of the Vovinam training session in October, the Myanmar Thaing competition was held to identify 50 promising male and female athletes out of over 280 contestants.

Twenty teams participated in the competition, one team filling half the arena to display a Thaing self-defence performance, while fighting bouts between two contestants, both for men and women were held in the other half.

The self-defence performance is arguably more entertaining to newcomers, offering the look of a choreographed fight scene in a movie.

Vovinam has nine types, ranging from one-to-one self defence to one against four using multiple weapons.

Thaing fighting, in contrast, has seven types, categorised by seven weight standards in which fighters use their hands, elbows and kicks, similar to Myanmar kickboxing. However, the sport is more characteristically fluid and milder than kickboxing.

The fighters are allowed only five attacks in each approach and in every retreat they must show one Thaing movement out of seven to change the momentum of the fight.

"Myanmar Thaing Banto is a gentler sport to boxing. Yesterday professional kickboxers took part in the competition. Although they are strong and skillful, they lost to Thaing athletes on points. While boxers try to knock down the opponent to win, Thaing players gain points by kicking the body and immediately retreating," U Aung Naing Oo, associate secretary of Myanmar Thaing Federation told *The Myanmar Times*.

In previous SEA Games, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Laos and Indonesia were the only participating countries for Vivonam, but for the 2013 SEA Games, Myanmar and Singapore will also compete.