Monywa, protesters find they are not alone

Opposition to a Chinese and Tatmadaw-backed copper mine project in the Monywa region has escalated recently following months of simmering tension. The movement has created numerous local heroes, such as Ma Aye Net and Ma Thwe Thwe Win, dubbed the “iron ladies” in a recent New York Times article.

But as they seek to galvanise opposition to the project, Monywa residents are benefiting from the assistance and guidance of lawyers and activists from across Myanmar.

“Mandalay people have given us strong support, Yangon people have given us strong support ... the artists, writers, lawyers, and student activists are helping us very greatly,” said U Ant Maung, a leader of the protest movement and owner of Monywa’s Chindwin bookstore.

The protesters are campaigning against the proposed expansion of a copper mine that is jointly backed by military-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and Wanbao Copper Mining, a subsidiary of state-owned Chinese arms manufacturer Norinco. The expansion would affect 26 villages, with at least 440 households forced to move for the mine.

Since last December, about 1000 people in the project area have been relocated to government-built housing, which residents complain is of poor quality. They have also received no farmland to compensate for the fields lost to the mine expansion.

U Tun Myint Aung, a member of the 88 Generation student group based in Yangon, has been helping the protesters by arranging

NLD plans youth assembly

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

THE National League for Democracy will hold a youth assembly following a nationwide party gathering later this year as part of efforts to encourage the emergence of young leaders, spokesperson U Nyan Win said last week.

He said the idea had been first suggested by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in 2003 when she was under house arrest and the NLD leader plans to oversee the assembly.

“We have a plan to hold a separate assembly with only young people, including youth members, after the national assembly,” U Nyan Win said.

“The assembly will be for people under 30. In the party, there are now some members of the central committee in their early 30s who we can call young people but the youth assembly will be for those under 30,” he said.

U Nyan Win said the party’s senior members acknowledged the need to foster a new generation of leaders. “In terms of overall leadership duties, young people will be given a proportionate number of positions in future,” he said.

Patron U Tin Oo said senior members had been leading training sessions for young members to improve their political knowledge and prepare them for leadership roles.

As The Myanmar Times reported last week, the NLD is preparing to hold its first general assembly since its establishment on September 27, 1988. To select delegates for the assembly, which is scheduled for later this year, mini assemblies are being held at branch offices.

However, the selection process at the quarter and village level has been controversial, with some members labelling it undemocratic.

“This system is only being used for the assembly so we are telling people not to see it as a permanent thing. We also don’t accept their claim that the selection process for commission members is not democratic ... we are assigning responsibility for the event to the people who are the most capable,” U Nyan Win said. – Translated by Thiri Min Htet
Najib, the vacillator, facing election defeat

Ali Rustam, the chief minister of Malaysia’s small state of Melaka, is a son of the most creepy, corrupt and boring politicians I have ever interviewed.

Between a dead slug and Ali Rustam, I’ll take the dead slug any day.

But lo and behold, the man may have a headless last week by inviting 130,000 people to a lavish bash for his son’s wedding, which he claims cost “only” US$200,000, but others say he spent back more than $500,000.

Either way, with his political boss, Prime Minister Najib Razak, poised to call a national election premised on prudent economic management, it was an act of astonishing naiveté.

It did, however, illustrate how Najib’s United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) has descended to a vessel for Ali Rustam-like wallflowers who are afraid to say boo to a goose, let alone espouse bold new ideas.

The outrage over the matrimonial extravaganza made more sense of Najib as he agoges over an election date.

The PM’s natural inclination is to take as much time as possible before making a decision — or before avoiding making a decision.

Facing taunts that he is running scared, Najib’s leadership is already being questioned within UMNO, as well as throughout the country.

Many in the minority Chinese and Indian communities have lost faith in him due to his pandering to the Malay majority and his one-step forward, two-steps back reforms.

If the Front does not fare better than it did in 2008, Najib is sure to face strong pressure to step down and make way for an elder, more decisive leader.

Right now, his chances look rather slim, particularly in the key state of Selangor, which is the political and economic hub of the nation.

He rashly promised to lead it back into the Front fold after Mahathir was won by the Anwar-led Alliance four years ago, but few analysts think there is much chance of that happening.

In fact, the opposition has performed well there, as it has in Penang. And it has a rock solid grip on Kelantan and may even retake Perak.

Meanwhile, over in East Malaysia, traditionally emiasised by the Front, the Chinese opposition party looks sure to pick up seats, particularly in Sarawak.

So, whether Najib vacillates to the very last or runoff the polls after the Haji ends next month, it is an even bet whether he will be PM this time next year.

No lack of inspiration in ‘new’ Myanmar

By Thomas Kean

EAGLE-EYED readers may have noticed something different about last week’s edition of The Myanmar Times: the biting wit of cartoonist Harn Lay.

His take on the apparent discord between the Tatmadaw and the government on the nation’s peace process ruffled a few feathers inside military HQ but we expect no loss from Harn Lay, who worked at The Irrawaddy for eight years, until 2011, and has lived in Chiang Mai since 2012.

He recently joined The Myanmar Times as a regular contributor and said last week he plans to continue “question the reality” of the political, economic and social changes taking place in Myanmar, which offer “more inspiration for my cartoons than the government” and sent them to exile media. His favourites — like last week’s effort—are those where the picture, rather than words, does the talking. “Everyone can easily understand (the cartoon) just by taking a look,” he said.

Yet Harn Lay also enjoys drawing for children and, in between contributing to the Bangkok Post and Shan Herald Agency for News, self-publishes a Shan-language monthly cartoon journal, Dawn, which is distributed in Shan State.

He dreams of returning to Myanmar but like many exiles fears the government’s invitation to come home is just “lip service”.

“I want the authorities to enact a law that can guarantee the safety of exiles who go back inside. I believe in the law more than lip service.”

Harn Lay began his career as a cartoonist in the Mong Tai Army, when he drew cartoons “poking fun at government” and sent them to exile media. His favourites — like last week’s effort—are those where the picture, rather than words, does the talking. “Everyone can easily understand (the cartoon) just by taking a look,” he said.

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**NLD targets overhaul for ‘ruined’ education system**

**By Zaw Win Than**

The National League for Democracy will make reform of the education system and “urgent” priority, party leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said last week.

Speaking to the media for the first time since returning from the United States, she said she also wanted to re-establish Yangon University as a “prestigious” tertiary institution.

She said the education system has been “ruined” during the past 50 years and this had affected her party’s ability to identify and promote talented young politicians.

“We are trying to stand as a responsible political party [and] we need more talented young people for our party,” she said on October 8 at the NLD headquarters in Yangon.

“But whenever we look for talented young people, we face many difficulties and problems. The main problem is our education system, which has been ruined over the past 50 years... it is so hard to find talented and knowledgeable young people. This doesn’t mean our people are not smart, this means the education system is poor... so we should try to improve this bad situation and we urgently need to upgrade our education system.”

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she is planning to introduce a number of education projects, including education for disadvantaged children and vocational training, in a number of cities.

“Our basic education system is not properly educating our children. And there are increasing numbers of children who do not attend school at all. When I was in New York, I attended a discussion on ‘Education for all Children.’ I have some plans to introduce that project here. I hope to start it very soon,” she said.

She also stressed the importance of rebuilding the higher education system.

“Apart from basic and higher education, we also should focus on vocational institutes, especially for those who don’t complete a degree or those who don’t finish school... For this project, we also have some donors,” she said.

The first of these vocational institutes is likely to be established in her constituency of Kawhmu, in rural Yangon Region.

“We will start work after we get approval from the authorities. If that goes smoothly, we will try to open similar institutes in other cities,” she said, adding that the program was supported by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also said she has a “strong desire” to re-establish Yangon University as a seat of higher education.

**More page 4**

I have courage to be president, says Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

**By Zaw Win Than**

ALTHOUGH the 2015 general election is still three years away, National League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said last week she is ready to be the country’s next president if the people want her to take the job.

“As the leader of a political party, I must have the courage to be president. So if the people want me then I will do so,” she said in response to a question about President U Thein Sein’s recent comments to the British Broadcasting Corporation that he could accept Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as president.

However, in an interview with the New York Times, the president clarified that this would require a change to the constitution, which, under the current parliamentary setup, would require at least some support from military and Union Solidarity and Development Party representatives.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at the October 8 press conference she will push for several changes to the constitution, including the eligibility criteria for the president.

“To amend the constitution, we will do it in parliament. It is one of our policies since we contested the by-elections and we will carefully try to amend it. It is not only for me to be president; we also have some others things to amend,” she said.

Meanwhile, the NLD leader said the purposes of her visit to the United States were to express thanks for the country’s support for democratic change in Myanmar and to explain the country’s situation and needs.

She said US Congress had also supported Myanmar for “many long years” by placing sanctions on the country “because they wanted human rights and democracy in our country.”

“They supported us a lot. That’s why I went to the US to say thanks to the US government, members of parliament and the administration, and also to some non-government organisations. These organisations also supported the development of democracy and human rights in our country,” she added.

During her trip, she said she told people Myanmar is moving towards democracy.

“As I used to mention frequently, we haven’t got democracy in our country. We can’t say our system is a democratic system. I made this trip because I wanted to explain that we are now on the path to democracy,” she said.

“This path to democracy is not really smooth and easy. We need to make it smooth ourselves,” she said.
By El Toe Lwin

The International Trade Union Confederation plans to open an office in Myanmar to help workersdevise their rights under the country’s general secretary said last week.

“I will talk to the government to open our office in here to support the improvement of workers in Myanmar,” Ms Suwar Burrow said during a meeting with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Commerce and Industry on October 8.

“We will negotiate with the minister for labour as much as we can and we will explain why it is one company and workers, and want to build the capacity of the country’s workers and educate them about workers’ rights.”

The meeting was attended by UMFCI chairman U Win Aung, as well as representatives of workers and land labor rights activists.

Ms Burrow, who was recently removed from a government task force for getting the chance to visit Myanmar and speak about workers’ rights was a “very special guest for me”.

When I was leader of a trade union in Australia your government told me I was a very dangerous woman, I wasn’t allowed to come and visit. But Ms Burrow and some of your brothers and sisters in countries around the world, it’s really possible for us to be able to negotiate a way forward,” she said.

Meanwhile, it was pleased the government had accepted ITUC as a consultative partner and not an opponent.

The ITUC is the world’s largest trade union organization and was formed on November 1, 2006. It has 165 members in more than 150 countries.

“If we have decent work, it is good for business, it is good for workers, it is also good for the government,” she said. “We also need to be able to join a trade union, earn a minimum wage and negotiate for fair pay.”

U Maing Maung, head of the National Federation of Trade Unions of Burma, said he planned to meet with members of the parliament to discuss a proposal to set a minimum wage.

“We will emphasise awareness-raising and organizing trade unions in Myanmar. Workers don’t think they can claim their basic rights in the right way,” he said.

UMFCI members also supported the principle of providing “dignity work” for Myanmar citizens.

“We want to inform you that we don’t tolerate business owners who exploit workers. We will also support the ITUC and would like to cooperate with your organisation for improving the work environment in Myanmar,” the UMFCI chairman said.

In Myanmar, mine opponents get help from across Myanmar

Chinese newspaper Global Times, a senior official from Waiban based at Myawady called “Chen” accused political groups of using the unrest for “political gains.”

“There were obviously some NGOs and democratic groups making use of the locals for public attention and political gains,” he told the paper in an article headline “Unfairly accused.”

U Maung Thwin said he also believes the protests are a way for the government to achieve their goal, as, unlike the suspended Myatma Dinga, he does not think the mine expansion can be stopped.

Dagonair, a budget sister airline of Hong Kong’s flag carrier Cathay Pacific, will operate the Airbus A321 aircraft. – AFP
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Eyes on USDP ahead of session

By Thomas Kean and Soe Than Lynn

UNION Solidarity and Development Party MPs are planning to take a more active role when the fifth hluttaw session convenes this week.

A number of representatives from the party have met constituents in recent weeks to get feedback and suggestions, which will be executed at the party conference in Nay Pyi Taw on October 14-17, ahead of the opening of the fifth session on October 19.

During the first four sessions of the national legislature, opposition representatives submit in the majority of proposals and questions but is likely to change in the coming weeks, said U Ko Gyi, the USDP member for the Pyithu Hluttaw seat of Aungmyaytharzan in Mandalay.

“We have made a concerted effort to meet with the public during the hluttaw recess and we will discuss the feedback at the forthcoming USDP convention. Based on that we will submit [questions and proposals] for the fifth session,” he told The Myanmar Times last week after a public meeting in Mandalay.

He said this marked a “different” approach for the party, which is looking to rebuild its support for the forthcoming general election following a trouncing in by-elections earlier this year.

“Most people in my constituency raised the issues of crime reduction, waste disposal – which will be executed and judiciary in terms of rule of law, municipal issues and a small infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. Relatively few expressed concern about health and education,” said U Ko Gyi, a respected businessman in the Mandalay region and commodities trading sector.

Some township and district level officials have pledged to resolve these problems and said there is no need for them to submit them to the hluttaw.

But they also admitted that they couldn’t do anything without the approval of their superiors, so we will submit them to the parliament of Myanmar.

MPs say the large amount of time dedicated to the foreign investment law and impeachment of the Constitutional Tribunal in the four sessions has created a significant backlog of unanswered questions and proposals yet to be discussed.

U Khine Maung Yi, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Ahlone, said he expected a proposal he submitted during the last session on consumer protection would be heard in the coming weeks.

“Some of the products imported from neighbouring countries that are dangerous not only for Myanmar consumers, but also business owners,” said the National Democratic Force representative, adding that the law would help to “protect small-and medium-sized enterprises”.

Land issues and the activities of the parliamentary commission investigating land disputes are also likely to feature prominently during the session, he said.

But he said many issues MPs have raised in the hluttaw to date have been relatively trivial and should instead be discussed in state and region parliaments.

“There are as many problems in our country but representatives are not asking about them. They don’t do it. Why? They are afraid of their party leader, their government and afraid of losing their seat,” he said.

The session will also be closely watched by prospective foreign investors, as long-awaited amendments to the foreign investment law will almost certainly be finalised.

First submitted to parliament in early 2012, the amendments were delayed because of private sector concerns they were too friendly to foreign investors. The Pyidaungus Hluttaw finally approved the amendments on September 7 but President U Thein Sein has returned them to parliament with recommended amendments.

U Sai Naung Hsi, vice chairman of the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, said he anticipated there would be “heated debate among more than 600 MPs as to whether the public is satisfied with the foreign investment law”.

However, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Kyaukme said he was most interested in how the USDP would perform following its party convention.

“The entry to the hluttaw of more than 40 National League for Democracy parliamentarians was the main point of interest during the fourth session but now that interest will shift to what effect the outcome of the USDP convention will have on the party MPs. The USDP is the dominant party so there’s obviously a lot of curiosity about who will lead it in the future,” he said.

He said his party did not plan to submit many proposals and would only pursue submitted questions that had been forwarded by the speaker directly to the concerned party, adding that these are normally answered faster.

“But regional bodies, such as bus lines associations and municipal committees, are badly in need of restructuring as they are hotbeds of centralisation and officials often exploit their power. Bills to reduce this kind of centralisation should be introduced at the regional level but if the problems are not resolved in the regional hluttaw we plan to submit to the Pyithu Hluttaw,” he said.

Initially derided as a “rubber stamp”, the Pyidaungus Hluttaw has surprised many observers, particularly with its ability to act as a check and balance on the government.

While the USDP controls the majority of seats, this has not stopped opposition legislators from having a significant influence on legislation.

But independent analyst Richard Horsey said the administrative system in the parliament is weak and “the mechanics of lawmaking is still very rudimentary”.

“The transparency of the process needs improvement. For example, hearings are few and not conducted systematically. It’s also very hard to know which bills have been submitted, which have been discussed, and what their status is,” he said.

He said the entry of NLD representatives into the parliament after the general election has been relatively smooth, with little confrontation between the opposition and USDP.

The NLD representatives “have been surprised by how active the hluttaw is, its ability to challenge the government, and the generally constructive tone of the debates”, he said.

“They have brought new perspectives to the discussions but … they are also struggling, I think, to define their position on all the very detailed issues that are discussed. Policy formulation is not something the NLD has done very much in the past, and it will take time to build its capacity in this area.”

Rep flags changes to protest legislation

By Win Ko Ko Latt

PYITHU Hluttaw representative U Thein Nyunt said Tuesday that he is likely to submit amendments to Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law in 2013.

“[It is not that I will submit [amendments] after the upcoming hluttaw session. I am waiting and watching the present situation of peaceful protests],” he said, adding that it will depend on what happens to protesters charged for allegedly violating the law.

He said he will collect data on the problems associated with the peaceful protest law, particularly the dismissal of applications to protest.

“[I know why applications to hold peaceful protests were rejected] I will be able to evaluate the law better … at the moment I have to rely on the media for this information,” he said.

He said people do not fully understand the law, while by-laws issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August are “restrictive”.

He said citizens have the right to appeal to regional police officials if their applications are rejected but so far most appeals were rejected as such.

He said the most significant weakness of the law is that it does not specify how to appeal to the regional police officials if applications are rejected by them.

B ecause many applications to protest are rejected, protesters are pressing on with illegal rallies and then organisers are being charged under section 18 of the law.

He said he proposed an amendment to the law when it was in the parliament that would have provided for the appointment of region security ministers in charge of granting permission for protests.

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Anger over room rates hits UMTA

By Yu Yu Maw

ANGER over soaring hotel room rates in Yangon spilled over to the annual general meeting of a leading travel industry association last week, with some Union of Myanmar Travel Association members accusing senior officials of not doing enough to tackle the issue.

Representatives from 70 travel companies also protested against the association's self-nomination system and the new Executive Committee was only finalised after two additional representatives were selected by their peers. Originally scheduled for 9 am to midday, the October 7 meeting ran five hours overtime.

Twenty-nine Executive Committee members were sworn in, with Dr U Aung Myat Kyaw taking over as chairman from U Mg Mg Swe and some other committee members.

“We all like the EC system and the new Executive Committee was finally agreed upon after two additional representatives were selected by their peers,” said Daw Sabei Aung, managing director of Nature Dream and U Maung Maung Win from Win Ocean Travels.

The meeting threatened to disintegrate into farce when heavy rain hit the area early on October 7.

Incumbent chairman U Mg Mg Swe responded by saying that the self-nomination system had been agreed upon by EC members.

“And I went and talked with the Ministry [of Hotels and Tourism] about the hotel room rate and occupancy problems. I always kept in touch with the ministry … we held meetings with local and foreign-owned hotels to negotiate the issue. I accept that every problem within the UMTA is my responsibility. I am confident that I have done my job properly for the UMTA and I am happy to resign,” he said.

However, this had serious consequences when heavy rain hit the area early on October 3, with some quarters inundated by more than 1 metre of water.

“Residents come by vehicle or on foot to throw garbage in the drain at night. The drain has been silted up and so overflows when it rains. A garbage collection vehicle comes just once every two weeks. Even when it comes, it drives off before we can run out of our houses,” said resident Daw Khin Than of ward three.

“No one has ever come to check on the cause of the flood in the wards. We’ve been facing this problem for about five years,” she said.

She said wards two, three and nine, along with Naungkwehl ward, faced flooding whenever there was heavy rain, and water regularly rose up to about three feet in height.

“There was heavy rain on October 3 and everyone had trouble that morning … we had to clear the drains ourselves so that the water level would go down,” Daw Khin Than added.

Pyin Oo Lwin residents blame garbage collection for flooding

By Phyoo Wai Kyaw

RESIDENTS have blamed severe flooding in the downtown area of Pyin Oo Lwin on the town’s poor garbage collection, which has encouraged people to throw their trash in its main drains.

Municipal garbage collection in the Mandalay Region town, famed for its cool climate and historic homes, is insufficient so many people throw their trash in Shwe Gae drain, which flows through the downtown area, residents say.

However, this had serious consequences when heavy rain hit the area early on October 3, with some quarters inundated by more than 1 metre of water.

“Residents come by vehicle or on foot to throw garbage in the drain at night. The drain has been silted up and so overflowed when it rained. A garbage collection vehicle comes just once every two weeks. Even when it comes, it drives off before we can run out of our houses,” said resident Daw Khin Than of ward three.

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Global Fund invites new HIV and TB funding applications

YANGON – Health workers in Myanmar are confident that efforts to narrow the country’s huge gap between those found to be infected and those able to access treatment for HIV/AIDS are back on track after the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria invited the country to apply for additional funding.

I would not have dreamt that this was possible last November,” said Mr Peter Paul de Groote, head of mission for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Myanmar, referring to the Global Fund’s cancellation of funding that health workers in Myanmar were relying on to expand access to antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Instead, MSF has been forced to turn away people in need of ART. “It’s a trauma for patients sent away and for our staff,” said Mr de Groote.

The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates 18,000 people die of AIDS-related illnesses annually in Myanmar.

The agency’s coordinator for Myanmar, Mr Eamonn Murphy, said new funds will allow the country to close a “treatment gap”, where only one-third of the 120,000 people nationwide who need ART receive it.

Health officials drafted a “concept note” outlining how additional funding might be used, which will be reviewed by the Global Fund’s board, Mr Murphy said. It offers two scenarios: the first ensures 85 percent of those who need ART receive it by 2015; while with the second, 76pc of those with CD4 counts of 350 or below are eligible for ART at MSF clinics (the main provider of ART nationwide), while the World Health Organisation (WHO) advises treatment for everyone whose CD4 counts are 350 or below. A CD4 count is one way of measuring the strength of a patient’s immune system as well as how advanced an HIV infection is.

Besides expanding ART access, the government is also applying for additional money to combat tuberculosis (TB). The country’s TB prevalence is nearly three times the global average and twice the regional average, according to a 2010 survey by the country’s TB program and WHO.

A spokesman for the Global Fund said the current Global Fund support to fight TB in Myanmar was granted in 2009, based on old data that underestimated prevalence by about 50pc, according to WHO. – IRVIN

Correction

In the October 8 edition of The Myanmar Times, the article ‘Ministry allocates K2 billion for HIV treatment’ incorrectly stated that the government had allocated K2 billion for antiretroviral therapy in 2012-13. The actual figure is K200 million. We regret any confusion caused by this error.

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By Noe Noe Aung

BUDDHIST monks held protests in Yangon on October 8 following the torching of at least 10 Buddhist temples and 40 homes in southern Bangladesh in late September.

Hundreds of Buddhist monks gathered in front of People’s Park in Yangon before moving to the Bangladesh embassy to express their dismay at recent events across the border.

“I was extremely upset when I saw pictures of Buddhist temples and images destroyed and vandalised,” said U Thawblin, who preferred not to disclose the name of the monastery where he resides.

The latest wave of tensions began when Bangladeshis, Muslims retaliated against a photo of a burned Quran that was allegedly posted on Facebook by a local Buddhist boy on September 29, Reuters news agency reported.

The boy and his mother were escorted by police shortly after violence broke out in Cox’s Bazar.

I am very upset that Muslims destroyed Buddhist temples and images in Bangladesh, but I don’t want to respond with anger. I just want peace,” he said.

However there is widespread objection to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) office being established in Myanmar,” he added.

The representative office would coordinate rehabilitation in conflict-hit Rakhine State.

Hundreds of monks and members of the public took part in the protest, carrying placards reading, “Stop destroying Buddhist temples in Bangladesh,” “Stop killing Buddhist monks” and “Don’t allow the OIC office to be built in Myanmar.”

After protesting in front of the Bangladesh embassy, the Buddhist monks moved to the United States embassy on University Avenue.

U Parmaukkha gave a wreath to an embassy representative to express sorrow for the death of US ambassador to Libya, Mr Christopher Stevens, who was killed in Benghazi on September 11.
Seminar reps draft recommendations for extractive sectors

By Staff Writers

CorporatE soCial responsibility and the Ruggie Guidelines – Principles for Business and Human Rights were the focus of a seminar held in Yangon last week.

The two-day seminar attracted about 50 participants and was held at the Chatrium Hotel on October 8 and 9. The event, attracted government, industry and civil society participants and was jointly organised by the United Nations – the Sustainable Development Knowledge Network, also with the Centre for Social Responsibility for Mining, part of the University of Queensland’s Sustainable Minerals Institute.

The seminar was supported by the Australian government through the 2012 AusAID Human Rights Small Grants program.

At a previous seminar on doing business in Myanmar on August 18, John Ruggie, the United Nations secretary-general’s special representative on business and human rights, said future investors in the country would need to conduct “heightened” due diligence before commencing operations.

Participants at the October 8-9 event discussed many issues associated with extractive industries in Myanmar, looking at case studies from other resource-rich countries and brainstormed possible solutions applicable to the Myanmar context.

Presenters gave overviews of standards and codes relevant to extractive industries, corporate social responsibility and the guiding principles for business and human rights.

Ruggie also placed on the concept of “Free Prior and Informed Consent” for communities, as well as indigenous rights issues, labor law matters, resettlement issues and transparency.

During the closing sessions of the seminar participants jointly agreed on a set of seven recommendations aimed at reducing conflict and improving performance in the extractive industries. The recommendations included a tripartite dialogue between government, business and communities to improve communication, understanding and opportunities to facilitate further national development, and community participation and consent in the decision-making process, which participants agreed would help overcome many of the negative issues resulting from extractive projects.

Attention to land, livelihood, environmental, gender, cultural heritage, benefit sharing, safety, community harm and community protection issues are considered particularly important, participants said, adding that best practice corporate social responsibility – and specifically a focus on respect for all human rights – under the Ruggie Framework will greatly reduce the negative impacts.

Participants agreed to promote the recommendations to senior ministerial figures and to meet again for discussions on corporate social responsibility in the extractive industries.

NLD to push for further changes to investment law

By Zaw Win Than

NATIONAL League for Democracy parliamentarians are planning to push for further amendments to the foreign investment law as it is currently being revised. The bill, which was introduced by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on September 7, is now being studied by a parliamentary bill committee.

Speaking at the press conference on October 8 at the NLD headquarters, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said last week.

Speaking at the press conference on October 8 at the NLD headquarters, she said she will discuss the amendments in parliament with other MPs but confident the changes will be approved.

“Regarding the investment law, we have discussed with some international economists and some businessmen who aren’t really happy with the draft law. I’m also not really happy with it. But since the president has opted to return it to parliament, I believe we will be able to amend some parts of the draft,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

She said foreign investment should only be allowed after careful consideration.

“There are many people who want to invest business in Myanmar but if we accept all the investors we will have to face some problems. We should be very careful and choose the best … kind of investment that will benefit both the future of our country as well as (foreign) businesses,” she said.

She also warned the party would speak out if foreign companies partnered with “unfriendly person or organisations”. “We won’t be silent. We will spread news about it. We consider this one of our duties. This is also the duty of the media. For the future of our country, the role of media is very important and the media has a responsibility to spread the right information widely. "As I told you all before the by-election, we want investment that can create jobs for our people. "We would like to see the kind of investment that will empower people and the kind of investment that will teach them work skills."
Architecture show held in Mandalay

By Kyay Hmon Win

THE Association of Myanmar Architects marked its 10th anniversary with an exhibition of works from 39 architects at Mandalay’s City Hall from October 12 to 14.

The “Architecture for the People” exhibition also included a history of Myanmar’s works of architecture from the country’s past, and a display of professional buildings and technologies.

Well-known architects from Yangon, while nine were from Mandalay.

Both new and old works of 39 architects are exhibited. The show includes educational and commercial architecture, residential architecture, traditional architectural and interior design,” said U Zin Min Swe, vice-chairman of the Association of Myanmar Architects’ Mandalay branch.

Copies of designs of monuments, schools and houses were handed out free of charge to the visiters.

U Zin Min Swe said the show was the first architecture-related exhibition in the city targeting people outside the building industry.

“The land has shows like this every year and we hope to do that in the future,” he said.

Association vice chairman U San Oo said a similar show had been held in Yangon April.

We chose Mandalay to hold this exhibition because of the city’s large population and status as the second-largest city in Myanmar. The Association of Architects of Myanmar is well established in Yangon but is less strong in Mandalay.

So we want to increase awareness of our profession among the public and introduce the works of professionals from the industry,” he said.

The association also plans to hold an exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw later this year, he added.

The Mandalay branch of the association was established in August 2011 with 12 members and was officially established in August 2012.

Membership is open to Myanmar citizens who are trained architects and environmentalists from any number of provinces workshops.

Thai foundation donates prosthetic limbs to 138 people in Yangon

By Shwe Yee Saw Myint

ALMOST 140 amputees, including many soldiers who lost limbs because of land mines, received free prosthetic legs at a donation ceremony on October 7.

The legs were donated by the Prostheses Foundation, established by the royal family of Thailand, in cooperation with Mahasaisakthakha Temple and Aung San Suu Kyi Mogok Vijayasana Meditation Centre in Yangon’s Thaketa township, where the ceremony was held.

“The majority of amputees are poor and unable to afford artificial legs. About 50 percent of people here are soldiers, they were injured while they were on the battlefield, while others have been involved in work and some were born without limbs. Altogether 138 people came to this donation ceremony,” Venerable Aung San Suu Kyi Sawdaw Ashin San Da Thiri told The Myanmar Times after the event.

“Many of the amputees came from other parts of Myanmar to the donation ceremony in Yangon and they have been waiting a long time to get artificial legs. They are very lucky because we can’t make these prosthetic legs in Myanmar and they are very expensive. We send them to Thailand and enable them to work again.

Thailand has shows like this every year and we hope to do that in the future,” he said.

San Oo said a similar show had been held in Thailand last year, adding that prosthetic legs can’t make their lives perfect again.

It was the foundation’s second donation in Myanmar, after they donated artificial legs at Tachileik, Shan State, in 2004, said assistant professor Dr Therdchai Jivavate, secretary general of the Prostheses Foundation.

The foundation was established to provide free artificial legs to poor amputees and in the process improve the quality of their lives and enable them to work again.

The foundation plans to return to Myanmar in 2014, Saydaw Ashin San Da Thiri said.

Religious ceremony planned for oldest woman’s birthday

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

A THREE-DAY religious ceremony known as taya pwe will be held this weekend to mark the birthday of Myanmar’s oldest person.

Daw Mya Kyi from Pauk Chai Kone village in Amarapura township, Mandalay Region, will turn 120 this month and will be the world’s oldest person.

The ceremony will be preceded by workshops in the lead up, Sayardaw U Tikha from Pauk Chai Kone village and well-known monk from Warkhinkone monastery in Chanayetharannen township has arranged ceremonies in Pauk Chai Kone from October 19 to 21.

“Daw Mya Kyi is still healthy and we take good care of her. Her birthday is October 21 and we are planning to contact Daw Dr Ardisa, Pearl Sayardaw Baddala Pyinnya Urwunthar and others from the village to preach each day. We invited organizers who want to help provide transportation from Mandalay downtown to Pauk Chai Kone and Daw U Kyaw Soe from nearby Mawlamyine village in Amarapura.

Those who want to donate to Daw Mya Kyi’s birthday can contact U Kyaw Soe (09-9103-9912), U Hla Win (02-68300) or U Nyo Tun (09-9100-9806).

Daw Mya Kyi stays alone in a small house in the rural village, but she is known and respected in the village. Despite her incredible longevity – only eleven Calvins of France, who died on August 4, 1997, is the person to have lived for 114 days, has been confirmed as living longer – Daw Mya Kyi is the oldest person recognised by international groups such as Guinness World Records or Group or Guinness World Records.
Farmers, companies near land agreement

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

FARMERS whose land was acquired for a mechanised farming zone in East Dagon township have reached a preliminary agreement with four private companies to engage in contract farming. Nearly all of the 30 points in the agreement were finalised on October 11 with the assistance of a parliamentary commission investigating land disputes. Under the agreement, farmers will engage in contract farming with the companies. A handful of points on which the two sides are yet to agree will be finalised on October 15.

"Both sides agreed nearly all points except how to split the profits for contract farming and compensation for those who don't want to contract farm," said commission member U Aung Zin, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Paukdaung.

The companies are pushing for 60 percent of the profits from the contract farming.

"We want to have an even profit for the profit," said U Aung Win, the unofficial leader of the East Dagon farmers. He lost 40 acres of the project, which is officially known as Model Special Mechanised Farming Zone 1.

"Another point is compensation. We want K700,000 for those who are not able to keep farming. Some lack money to do so, while other are old or just don't want to do it anymore," he said.

"We really want to do contract farming with the companies but we should think about those who are not willing as well. The companies made an appointment with us to discuss the outstanding two points on (October 15)," U Aung Zin said.

The government created the East Dagon zone and another zone in Dagon Seikkan township three years ago and assigned 16 companies, including Yunna, National Prosperity Company and Nine Seas Trading, to establish mechanised farming operations. Each company received 500 acres on a 30-year lease.

Nearly 1000 farmers from East Dagon and Dagon Seikkan submitted a complaint over the acquisition to the commission, which was formed earlier this year, and asked for their help in resolving the dispute with the 16 companies.

U Aung Zin said the commission would negotiate between companies and farmers in zone one once the agreement for zone one is finalized.

"We started to investigate these disputes in September. We met with government departments and then companies and farmers. We actually went to the disputed areas. We organised three meetings with both sides to discuss the issue together in detail," U Aung Zin said.

"But a final decision hasn't been made. Hopefully we can get a definite answer on (October 15)," he said.

But officials from the companies said they would not agree to pay K700,000 an acre compensation as proposed by the farmers.

"We have already informed them of our decision. We are giving them time to think it over," U Aung Than Oo, managing director of Nine Seas Trading, told The Myanmar Times on October 12.

He said that resolving the dispute in zone two would be more problematic because the farmers there don't want to do contract farming.

Daw Nandy Lynn, chief executive officer of National Prosperity Company, said the companies had invested significant amounts of money in the land.

"This project was assigned by the government. All companies have invested many millions in this project and all of our works have been implemented with the agreement of the government. So [farmers] should not come to us for compensation, they should discuss it with the government," said Daw Nandy an an ad hoc compensation with the commission.

U Aung Zin said the commission was not a decision-making body but instead facilitates an agreement between the two sides and reports the situation to the hluttaw.

"We are negotiators and compensation for those who are close to me about the protest. I didn't urge them because I am doing this without permission from the authorities. I didn't apply because the authorities said I'm not eligible [to hold a protest] because of the 10 charges I am already facing for breaching the protest law," U Aung Zin said.

The October 11-12 event attracted about 100 agribusiness industry delegates and was organised by Singapore's Centre for Management Technology.

"I staged this protest against [Commercial Farm Asia], I will send our demands to that forum in person because I'm not sure they will take notice of our demand letter," he said. He said he was unable to get permission to hold a legal protest because he is already facing 10 counts of breaking the peaceful protest law as a result of his work with farmers involved in land ownership disputes.

"I just informed the farmers and those who are close to me about the protest. I didn't urge them because I am doing this without permission from the authorities. I didn't apply because the authorities said I'm not eligible [to hold a protest] because of the 10 charges I am already facing for breaching the protest law," Daw Nandy Lynn said.

"We warmly welcome investors to invest in Myanmar," she said, adding that the country's large areas of farmland and low labour costs presented attractive opportunities.

The government particularly wants to promote investment in industrial crops, such as rubber and palm oil, the report said.
By Soe Than Lynn and Win Ko Ko Latt

The Union Solidarity and Development Party will appoint a new chairman to replace U Thein Sein at the party’s October 14-17 assembly, with one senior member telling The Myanmar Times Thura U Shwe Mann has been chosen for the job.

The party member, who asked not to be named, said the chairman position would probably be finalized on October 16.

General secretary U Htay Oo told The Myanmar Times on October 13 that the party will appoint a chairman at the township, district and region or state level to improve organisation. Only secretaries are currently appointed.

He said the main aim of the assembly was to prepare for the 2015 general election.

“Not holding the convention is not only about laying the groundwork for winning the election but also to identify what needs to be done for the benefit of the people. Regardless of the outcome of the election, we will have to do this. For example, we continue to serve people even in constituencies where our candidates lost,” he said.

While the USDP has invited representatives of 10 other political parties to the assembly, there was no invitation for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy.

HUNDREDS of workers from Taw Win timber factory protested outside the Taw Win headquarters on Yangon’s U Wisara Road last week, calling for a meeting with the company’s managing director to discuss their grievances.

“We are mainly calling for equal opportunities between all workers in the factory because managers treat the workers unfairly,” U Htet Ko Ko, secretary of the workers’ union at Taw Win timber factory, said during the October 8 protest.

“Many workers are focusing on who will be the new leaders,” he said.

Political analysts said last week that if Thura U Shwe Mann, the current vice chairman, is appointed the party’s leader, general secretary U Htay Oo will likely become the vice chairman.

Some current central executive committee members are expected to retire because of poor health and are expected to be replaced by younger members.

“We can’t meet with them now. There is a director responsible for the factory and also there is a foreman. Today these workers are here because they don’t listen and they don’t care about the director and foreman. If I go to them and solve the problem, it will undermine the authority of the director and the foreman,” U Ko Ko Htwe said.

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“There is a director responsible for the factory and also there is a foreman. Today these workers are here because they don’t listen and they don’t care about the director and foreman. If I go to them and solve the problem, it will undermine the authority of the director and the foreman. They won’t be able to control the workers in the future,” U Ko Ko Htwe said.

“Held with the convention, the workers who try harder and are better qualified will get more chances. I like workers who really try hard to do their job well and who have ability. So I think the managers in the factory should speak up.”

U Htet Ko Ko said the company’s managers at the timber factory had treated workers fairly.

“arbitrarily, and without a fair trial, the workers to the relevant official or a list of officials of Labour. So if there is something I need to do for the workers that I’m not doing already, they will tell me,” he said.

Workers previously protested on September 14 and September 24, demanding not only a fair work environment but also Social Security Board cards and a negotiating team formed with the approval of the Ministry of Labour, among other things.

“We made a contract with management on September 25. They really did most of the things they agreed to do, except for equal opportunities for workers and the Social Security Board card,” said timber factory worker U Wai Win.

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DEPUTY Secretary of State William Burns will visit Myanmar this week as part of a tour of five Asian countries, the US State Department said.

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Mr Burns will be the highest-ranking US official to visit Myanmar since Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in December.

Before arriving in Myanmar, Mr Burns will travel to Japan, South Korea and China. He will visit India on October 18 – Zaw Win Than

Mandalay-based environmental group Scinyyango has called on the government to halt an oil and gas pipeline project in the interests of the country.

The pipelines, which will run from Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State to Yunnan Province in China, are joint projects between China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).

However, Scinyyango said ownership and management of the pipelines was out of Myanmar’s control.

Companies from South Korea and India are also investors in the natural gas pipeline.

“We have already studied the project from the east bank of the Ayeayarwady River to the Myanmar-China border. The project has many weak points for Myanmar. There’s no transparency, no environmental impact assessment and social impact assessment. The main weak point is that Myanmar has no chance to manage or own the project. CNPC will hold 50.9 percent of the project,” Scinyyango leader U Tin Thit said on October 8.

“We are cooperating with other environmental groups and planning to collect signatures from the people for a petition calling on the government to reconsider the project,” he said.

“We should not allow another country (China) to totally control such a strategic project. The profit from the project is so huge for the other country. Myanmar should discuss management and ownership issues with the company (CNPC) again.”

Other environmental groups have studied the pipeline project from the west bank of the Ayeayarwady to Kyaukpyu, he said, adding that about 20 groups were involved in the monitoring project.

He said many lakes, creeks, roads and forest reserves had been negatively affected by the project, while residents were also upset over the different amounts of compensation paid for acquired land.

Farmers from Namkhana village in Namkhana got $22.26 million, he said.

The oil pipeline is being built at a cost of US$1.56 billion, while the estimated cost of the gas pipeline is $1.04 billion.

A spokesperson for the Friendship Association for the Myanmar-China Pipeline Project, a group abolished by the companies building the two pipelines to communicate with the media, said that while CNPC subsidiaries had 50.9 percent stakes in both pipelines, “management is decided by the board … which consists of representatives from all shareholders.”

The CNPC subsidiaries are also “under the supervision of (Ministry of) Energy and MOGE.” All the issues decided by the board shall be approved by MOGE. In other words, this project is fully under control of Ministry of Energy,” the spokesperson said.

In terms of compensation for land, the spokesperson said the “compensation price shall be agreed and confirmed by the land owner themselves before signing the transition agreement and receiving the compensation. So I think there might be some misunderstanding there.”

She said the project would also have significant economic benefits and would employ thousands of Myanmar workers. More than half of the 800 employees are Myanmar and this will rise in coming years, she said.

The Myanmar government will receive $13.8 million each year as a right of way fee, as well as transit fees for the oil and gas that goes through each pipeline. For the oil pipeline, this will be $1 a tonne, or about $20 million each year, she said.

“Besides those direct economic returns, the impressive dividend of the project to MOGE and tax income from the project can also add a fortune to Myanmar government. One more thing worth mentioning is that all the assets of the project shall belong to Myanmar government when the project is completed, if the shareholders won’t conduct the project,” she said. – Additional reporting by Thomas Koen

EVA Airways launches first flights to Yangon

EVA Airways, Taiwan’s second largest airline, launched its direct flight service to Yangon yesterday, the airline said in its Facebook page.

The airline said it planned to launch direct flights to foreign countries, the US State Department said.

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88 Gen calls for less defence spending

By Si Thu Lwin

88 Generation leader Ko Mya Aye said last week he disagreed with the slogan, “Only the Tatmadaw is strong enough to defend our country.” He also called for less spending on defence and more on health.

“I also want to see our Tatmadaw as a strong force. But I think the idea behind the slogan is too strong, and the people will not accept it,” Ko Mya Aye said at a meeting on peace and transparency at Kyaukse Town Hall on October 3 that was attended by about 2000 people.

The former prisoner of conscience said he was not against the Tatmadaw and instead wanted “to see the Tatmadaw amend their slogan … is wrong. I don’t think this slogan … is wrong. I don’t think it is a strong force. But I think the slogan is too strong, and the people will not accept it,” Ko Mya Aye said at a meeting on peace and transparency at Kyaukse Town Hall on October 3 that was attended by about 2000 people.

The event was part of a short tour of Mandalay Region earlier this month that saw 88 Generation leaders hold similar meetings in Mandalay on October 2 and Pyaywhe and Yamethin on October 3.

A third complaint, filed against Salingyi township official U Zaw Moe Aung and U Myint Aung, a project officer from UMEHL and Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper, for allegedly “collaborating and abusing their authority by introducing” a curfew around the mine under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, was rejected.

Ko Han Win Aung said the villagers filed complaints against Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper for allegedly “insulting and treating very rudely to the villagers” and UMEHL, for allegedly taking land by force and threatening to harm villagers who complained about the dumping of earth on their farmland.

Ko Han Win Aung said police officers only allowed four or five people to stay at the station at one time to write or sign complaints.

The residents filed formal complaints with Salingyi township police against Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper, Upper Mandalay Holdings Limited and Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, a military-owned company involved in the project, on October 8.

U Hla Ngwe, administrator for Salingyi township, told some of the complainants the following day he would accept the complaint and forward it to the court, said Ko Han Win Aung from the Political Prisoners’ Families Beneficial Network.

“UMEHL didn’t break any laws … We are ready to defend ourselves,” he said.

Meanwhile, residents of affected villages plan to hold a public meeting near the site of a planned expansion at Letpadaung in the middle of October, Ko Han Win Aung said.

“This public assembly is to peacefully protest and encourage the government to act on the desire of the public, who are suffering because of the Letpadaung project,” he said.

Residents of affected villages plan to hold a public meeting near the site of a planned expansion at Letpadaung in the middle of October, Ko Han Win Aung said.

“We didn’t break any laws and we didn’t incorrectly use our authority to oppress them. If they want to charge us, this is their right. If they think they are right, they can do it. We are ready to defend ourselves,” he said.

The Tatmadaw’s vision is to increase both fixed and mobile surprise checks, an official from the Mandalay Region Traffic Police Force said last week.

However, the number of road deaths and injuries continues to increase, especially higher than for the whole of 2011 which caused 142 deaths and injuring 551.

In 2011 there were 310 accidents, with 133 killed and 440 injured. But so far this year is already 271 accidents, 68 deaths and 271 injured.

Residents attributed the increase in traffic deaths to the dramatic increase in motorbikes and cars on the country’s roads in recent years.

Traffic accidents are now an everyday risk. Not only is the number of motorbikes rising enormously but there has also been a surge in motor vehicles. There’s no balance between the capacity of the roads and the number of vehicles using them. I think this should be changed by the last time they allow people to register ‘back door’ and ‘motorbikes’, said Ko Aung Min Tun, 30, a private tutor in Mandalay township.

The Tatmadaw “should also be more supervisory measures, including more traffic police armed with better equipment.”

Letpadaung complaints accepted

By New Say Phaw Waa

OFFICIALS in Salingyi township have accepted three complaints filed by residents from 26 villages near the town who don’t want to mine in Sagaing Region who have complained against the mine project’s backers.

The residents filed formal complaints with Salingyi township police against Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper, Upper Mandalay Holdings Limited and Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, a military-owned company involved in the project, on October 8.

U Hla Ngwe, administrator for Salingyi township, told some of the complainants the following day he would accept the complaint and forward it to the court, said Ko Han Win Aung from the Political Prisoners’ Families Beneficial Network.

The event was part of a short tour of Mandalay Region earlier this month that saw 88 Generation leaders hold similar meetings in Mandalay on October 2 and Pyaywhe and Yamethin on October 3.

A second complaint, filed against Salingyi township official U Zaw Moe Aung and U Myint Aung, a project officer from UMEHL and Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper, for allegedly “collaborating and abusing their authority by introducing” a curfew around the mine under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, was rejected.

Ko Han Win Aung said the villagers filed complaints against UMEHL and Myanmar Wanba Mining Copper for allegedly “insulting and treating very rudely to the villagers” and UMEHL, for allegedly taking land by force and threatening to harm villagers who complained about the dumping of earth on their farmland.

Ko Han Win Aung said police officers only allowed four or five people to stay at the station at one time to write or sign complaints.

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“UMEHL didn’t break any laws … We are ready to defend ourselves,” he said.

Meanwhile, residents of affected villages plan to hold a public meeting near the site of a planned expansion at Letpadaung in the middle of October, Ko Han Win Aung said.

This public assembly is to peacefully protest and encourage the government to act on the desire of the public, who are suffering because of the Letpadaung project, he said.

Representatives of labour unions, student unions, environment conservation organisations, the judiciary and other groups will be invited, he said.
Vendors reject market plan

By Sithu Lwin

VENDORS from Tagundaing Market in Mandalay’s Pyigyitagun township have told region hluttaw representatives they are against a plan to remodel the market.

The vendors met Mandalay Region Hluttaw MPs on October 9 to discuss the planned refurbishment.

“We don’t accept the plan to remodel the market. It will cause difficulties for vendors and customers while the building is being reconstructed. Afterwards, we will have to pay for new stalls and we don’t have the money for the construction,” textile seller Ko Thein Htoo told The Myanmar Times.

Vendors from Sagaing, Paleik and Taungthaman areas near Pyigyitagun come to the market to sell vegetables, fish and meat, mostly between 6am and 10am.

“The market has been here about nine years and the building is still in good condition. It doesn’t need to be rebuilt yet. But there are relatively fewer buyers in this market than others in Mandalay; our income is meagre and just enough for our family’s survival,” said vendor Daw Chit.

The market has 457 temporary stalls and 133 permanent stalls on 0.81 acres.

U Thein Hla, one of two region hluttaw representatives for Pyigyitagun, said he would respect the wishes of the vendors.

“I come to this market nearly everyday and I asked the hluttaw to rebuild it because [protests] continued on May 21,” he said.

Protest organisers were first interviewed by Bureau of Special Investigation officials on May 23 and told of the charges in early October.

“The minister only promised not to sue but now a case was opened against six people,” she said.

One of the charged demonstrators, U Min Htet Nyein Chan, said the filing of charges “suggests there has been no change among rank and file officials”.

U Sein Hla, a legal consultant based in Mandalay, said the six should be pardoned and given “an educative talk” because the alleged offence happened during the period after the peaceful protest law had been promulgated but before by-laws had been introduced.

“This is nonsense. It is a misuse of the law.”
SEOUl – A Seoul newspaper last published graphic, never-before-seen pictures of the bloody aftermath of North Korea’s 1983 bid to assassinate South Korean president Chun Doo-Hwan with a bomb attack in Myanmar.

The images were taken by official government photographer Kim Sang-Yeong, who had kept them private at the personal request of then-president Chun to avoid upsetting the relatives of the victims.

Chun survived the October 9 bombing at Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon, which killed 21 people including three senior politicians in his presidential entourage.

The main photo, published on the front page of the Chosun Ilbo on October 11, showed mangled bodies, bleeding from shrapnel wounds and lying in the debris of the collapsed mausoleum, with South Korean embassy staff scrambling to find survivors.

Chun’s life was spared thanks to traffic congestion. He was only minutes away from the mausoleum when the bomb, concealed in the roof, went off just above the gathered presidential entourage.

Chosun Ilbo said other pictures taken by Kim, showing burning bodies and bloodied victims screaming for help, had still been deemed too graphic to print.

“We were lined up, waiting for the president’s arrival,” Kim told the daily.

“Then there was an ear-splitting thump and I passed out. When I came back to my senses, there was just blood, shouting and the stench of burning flesh and rubble.”

There were ministers dying on the ground. I thought, ‘Oh, God, how could this happen?’ and then started clicking away with my camera,” he said.

After handing his camera to a security guard, Kim lost consciousness again and the next time he woke he was in a hospital bed.

Among the dead was foreign minister Lee Boon-Seok, as well as the deputy prime minister and industry minister.

Another 14 South Korean presidential advisors, journalists, and security officials were killed, along with four Myanmar nationals.

The Chosun Ilbo has been running a campaign to build a monument to the victims of the bombing, and Kim said he had handed the photos to the newspaper to help fund the raising.

The front-page photo, at Kim’s request, was printed in black-and-white, and the upturned face of one of the dead victims was censored.

Another colour photo showed Myanmar security officials tending to a blood-spattered South Korean journalist who survived.

In their investigation into the bombing, Myanmar police identified three North Korean agents who had come aboard a ship to Yangon and received explosives in the North Korean embassy.

Two days after the bombing, two of the agents were arrested and a third managed to kill three soldiers before being cornered and shot dead. One of the arrested was later executed, while the other received a life sentence after confessing that he had handed out the attack under orders from Pyongyang.

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Phone: 372416
Dated: 15th October, 2012

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The Myanmar Times

Party still considering model village in Htatabin

By Noe Noe Aung

THE National Democratic Force is considering a proposal from one of its members to establish a village to resettle homeless people in Yangon Region’s Htatabin township, party spokesman U Khin Maung Sae said.

“We will first investigate the feasibility of the idea, then we will see how we can assist the community.”

In an earlier interview, U Khin Maung Sae indicated the proposal was favourable to the party and was already under discussion.

“We need a complete proposal so we can hold a meeting with the local committee to decide for that. I think in the old proposal, he missed mentioning his plan to make land for that. We need to consider how many areas we need and what the village plans are. Also we need a rough plan for the village. To get it from the Yangon Region government, the plan needs to be complete,” U Khin Maung Sae said on October 16.

When The Myanmar Times contacted U Myint Thein last week, it was told he was in hospital undergoing surgery.

For U Myint Thein, U Khin Maung Sae is the chairman of U Kyin Maung Sae’s party, which is considered a part of the opposition to the UPDF.

The party is planning to create a model village in the Htatabin area of Rangon.

U Khin Maung Sae said he believed the project could get underway within a year.

“We are thinking of ways to help the poor. And I think this is one way we can really make a difference.”

“After we make a decision among party members, the project proposal will be presented to the Yangon Region Government and Union Government. If it is approved, we can implement the project within one year.”

U Myint Thein told The Myanmar Times last month he got the idea for the project when considering party activities in Htatabin and wanted to create a model village to help them and contribute to poverty alleviation,” U Myint Thein said.

He said the village would have a school, clinic and water supply, and would also provide ready-made houses for the poor.

“We don’t want to help too many people. If we give out houses, they will not have permission to leave the village,” he said.

“There might be disagreements between members (over the project) but we are all working for the same purpose. I think it is a positive decision,” he said.
Ayeyarwady fish rights violence escalates, two killed

By Soe Sandar Oo and Htoo Aung

THE Ayeyarwady Region hluttaw has urged the regional government to resolve conflicts over fishing resources in the delta “for the sake of peace and tranquility.”

Conflict between businesses licensed to fish in freshwater lakes and residents from nearby villages has been an ongoing problem in Kyonpyaw, Hinthada, Paphan and Maung township, and resulted in two people in Kyonpyaw being shot dead by police on September 29.

At the opening of the fourth session of the Ayeyarwady Region hluttaw on October 8, speaker U San Sint asked the regional government to explain the issue to the parliament on October 10. However, the responsible minister failed to front the parliament.

“We won’t give up on this issue. We will continue to push for the government until we get a clear decision,” U San Sint said last week.

“Similar cases [of violence] can happen again at any time, that’s why the region government should take preventative measures,” he said.

“This case concerns the peace and tranquility of the whole of Ayeyarwady Region. But information about the violence in some areas of Ayeyarwady Region has not been provided to the hluttaw or regional government.

“The problems lead to conflict and so we need to talk about this issue in the hluttaw. In Bogale township, for example, there was a case where a fisherman was shot and attacked the police station over this.”

Region hluttaw representative for Kyonpyaw U Than Tun said local officials are struggling to resolve the conflicts between fish lake owners and villagers that are sweeping Ayeyarwady Region. “We’re facing the problem of two being shot and killed on the spot … This is my urgent proposal,” he said.

U Than Tun, the hluttaw representative for Thapawng township, said the shooting incident raises questions about whether there are enough well-trained police to resolve social unrest without resorting to violence.

“I think we need to find out whether the police are good enough to try to resolve a conflict involving 200 people,” he said. “But they should not kill people regardless of the circumstances.”

U Win Kyaw, general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, said the fishing licences date back to the colonial era and are a source of tax revenue for the regional government.

“The villagers do not have the rights to fish in the lakes … if they don’t obey the law and it is not enforced, that can discourage investment. I am also worried that the government will get less tax revenue,” he said.

He said the lakes have previously been administered by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries but responsibility was transferred to regional governments in 2011 after their creation under the 2008 constitution. He said the conflict, therefore, took place in state rather than federal territory.

“The village owners buy the rights to fish in the lakes through a tender system but he said some people have been taking advantage of lax security to steal fish from the ponds.

“The law has never allowed villagers to catch fish in the lakes … if they don’t obey the law and it is not enforced, that can discourage investment. I am also worried that the government will get less tax revenue,” he said.

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President U Thein Sein and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak are welcomed by children waving the national flags of Myanmar and South Korea in Seoul on October 9.

South Korea, government agree to strengthen economic relations

SEOUL – President U Thein Sein agreed last week with his South Korean counterpart Lee Myung-Bak to negotiate an investment guarantee pact, during talks which focused on economic ties.

The two leaders signed a framework agreement on aid for Myanmar and agreed to strengthen cooperation in energy and resources development, infrastructure and construction. Mr Lee’s office said in a statement on October 9.

They also pledged cooperation in gas development and power plant projects in Myanmar.

Earlier this month a South Korean consortium signed a deal to build a 500-megawatt power plant and electricity transmission networks by 2015 in Yangon’s Thaketa township.

U Thein Sein arrived on October 8 for a three-day state visit that included a tour of military-related companies on October 10. In May, Mr Lee became the first South Korean president to visit Myanmar since a North Korean attempt to assassinate one of his predecessors in Yangon in 1983.

Then-president Chun Doo-Hwan narrowly escaped a bomb attack by North Korean agents that left 17 South Koreans dead.

Myanmar has in recent years cultivated closer ties with North Korea but during his visit Mr Lee secured an undertaking from U Thein Sein that his government would refrain from further weapons purchases from Pyongyang. – AFP

Shwedagon on track for another record year

THE annual record for foreign visitors at Shwedagon Pagoda is set to be broken this month, with 212,973 visitors recorded to the end of September, just shy of the record of 225,381 set in 2011.

The 20,442 foreign visitors recorded in September also represented an increase of about 9600 on the same time last year.

“Visitors to Shwedagon Pagoda continue to rise day by day and have increased significantly on last year. We need barely 10,000 more visitors to break the full year record,” said a member of the pagoda’s board of trustees.

He said Thais were the most frequent visitors, followed by tourists from China, South Korea, Japan and France.

Shwedagon saw a sharp drop in visitors in 2008 but numbers have since recovered, increasing about 30pc in 2011. The pagoda received US$1.13 million in admission fees in 2011, while $1.06 has been received this year to the end of September, trustees said. – Yu Yu Maw, translated by Zar Zar Soe

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Kids benefit from Canadian connection

By Eva Cohen

WHEN Rick Chase first began helping refugees from Myanmar settle in Vancouver, Canada, he never realised how much bigger his involvement with the country would become. A couple of years later, he has dedicated himself to helping impoverished children in Myanmar and lives in Yangon with his wife and young children.

The streets of Yangon are a world away from the familiarity of Canada and the Chase family has been involved in a program where it produces soymilk for children who used to be in the refugee camps. He had no hint that there would be a connection to Canada.

"We are able to make fortified soy cookies with a formula from a Canadian company called Sprinkles," Mr Chase said. "The formula is very beneficial and prevents beriberi in children, a Vitamin B deficient disease that can lead to death."

While daily life in Myanmar is not always easy, Mr Chase said his family had settled in relatively well.

"My wife teaches at an international school and my kids attend the same school and go with her every day," Mr Chase said. "They're learning Burmese because they enjoy playing with their Burmese friends. As well, having come from Vancouver, a multicultural city, we were always around people from many different nationalities so that exposure has made it easier to adapt here."

While Canada recently appointed an ambassador to Myanmar and announced plans to open an embassy, trade between the two countries is minimal and Mr Chase jokes that the sample bottles of soy milk he brought from Canada represent his country's first exports to Myanmar since sanctions were lifted.

He has high hopes that a strong relationship can be forged between Canada and Myanmar, with the Canadian government having completed one trade mission in early September and flagging the opening of a trade commission.

"When Canada announced the embassy (would open) it was a surprise to us, as even the month before we had no hint that there would be one, and we

NPT hotels told to build presidential suites before SEA Games

By Yu Yu Maw

HOTELS in Nay Pyi Taw have been told to build at least one presidential suite before the city hosts major events in 2013 and 2014, said U Htay Aung, Minister of Hotels and Tourism on September 25.

The minister said only five of 60 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw had presidential suites.

"We need to have at least 21 presidential suites in Nay Pyi Taw – therefore existing hotels and those under construction will be required to add at least one presidential suite," U Htay Aung told a meeting of hotel general managers, adding that the suites needed to be ready by October 2013.

He also criticised the quality of the rooms at some of the newly built hotels.

"Due to insufficient budgets, a number of hoteliers – some with little experience in the industry – have built hotels with the maximum possible number of rooms, at the expense of quality and international standards."

In 2013, Myanmar will host the 27th Southeast Asian Games, as well as scores of ASEAN meetings in 2014 when the country chairs the regional bloc.

"It is important to arrange big events in Nay Pyi Taw for delegates attending the summit conference and other events that will be attended by foreign heads of state and other dignitaries," U Htay Aung said.

The meeting involved representatives from 60 hotels as well as another 24 firms that have proposed building hotels in a planned third hotel zone.

The general managers of the hotels were instructed to provide the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism with progress reports on construction of the suites.

While demand for rooms in Nay Pyi Taw is low outside a few major events, the minister said he believed that business would pick up when more regular meetings, conferences and forums are held in the capital.

The general manager of Sky Palace Hotel, U Thura, said hotels could cash in on this anticipated growth by adding facilities such as ballrooms where major events could be held.

"If investors can manage the expense of building a ballroom in their hotels, a significant amount of revenue could be generated," he said.
Foreign buyers queue for another natural resource

By Bill O’Toole

MYANMAR is famous around the world for the quality of its natural resources, including gems and jade, tea and oil and gas. But it is also gaining renown for another natural product: hair.

Cherished Hair, a wig and weave outlet based in the United Kingdom, proudly boasts of its fine selection of Myanmar hair.

“Burmese hair is a cross between Chinese and Indian hair. It is healthy, resilient, and full bodied. It is naturally straight with a slight curl at the end. Burmese hair is well suited for people of African descent.”

Hair from Myanmar began about 20 years ago, with most going to China. However, in the past five years, as demand from trendy boutiques such as Cherished Hair has become more apparent, hair exports have become a lucrative business. While no export figures are for the sector are thought to exist, Myanmar retailers will typically demand a minimum order of about $40,000, excluding shipping, when dealing with foreign buyers, according to www.alibaba.com, a trading website.

While several large companies, such as Global Hair from South Korea, are looking to corner the market, they all face the same problem: a steady supply of human hair is hard to find.

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Pho Khwan, who runs a hair shop with his mother. Twice a year she visits the market to sell the freshly shorn hair of novice nuns from her monastery, using the proceeds to cover food costs and other projects.

“Pho Khwan, who runs a hair shop with his mother. Twice a year she visits the market to sell the freshly shorn hair of novice nuns from her monastery, using the proceeds to cover food costs and other projects.”

You know how to fight?” said one of the workers, who has worked in the industry for 20 years and asked not to be named. “You have to fight if you want to be in this business.”

On the same block, Daw Danathoeing, the head nun in a nearby monastery, is a long-time supplier to U Pho Khwan. He’s won many contracts by a fight if you want to be in this business. He said it comes with the territory of being a hair trader.

While the hard-won business is ambitious, and wants to enter new markets such as the United States and Europe, he said he believes natural hair from countries such as Myanmar will in future be replaced by synthetic hair because natural hair suppliers will be unable to meet demand for wigs and weaves, especially from Africa.

But at Insein Market, U Pho Khwan doesn’t seem too bothered by the prospect of synthetic hair replacing his natural supplies.

A woman sells hair at Insein Market in Yangon’s Insein township. Pic: Pinky

Hair from South Korea, is a cross between Chinese and Indian hair. It is healthy, resilient, and full bodied. It is naturally straight with a slight curl at the end.

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Rumours could disrupt investment, say bankers

By Aye Thidar Kyaw

RUMOURS of a run on one of the nation’s largest private lenders have unsettled the banking industry at a time when foreign investors are eyeing the country, sources said last week.

Myanmar’s economic and political reforms since President U Thein Sein took office in March 2011 have lately started yielding positive results in attracting foreign investment from Japan, South Korea and Western nations that have coincided with the easing of economic sanctions by the United States and the European Union.

But last week’s run on Kanbawza Bank, instigated by rumours that spread through the internet, might undermine foreign confidence in Myanmar. The Central Bank of Myanmar held a press conference in Yangon on October 6 to debunk the rumours surrounding Kanbawza Bank and restore calm to the sector.

Kanbawza Bank chairman U Aung Ko Win, who was rumoured to have been arrested last week, faced the rumours head-on, declaring that the bank is back to normal during a meeting with the press on October 10.

He said the rumours might have been spread to prevent foreign investment and halt economic reform. He said the country’s banking industry is in chaos, foreign investors and the whole financial sector will be confused as well,” U Aung Ko Win said.

He said Kanbawza and other private banks owe government-issued treasury bonds to be used as liquidity in emergencies, adding that the bank had to cover withdrawals last week, even though the Central Bank had authorised it to sell up to 80pc.

Co-operative Bank’s managing director U Pe Myint said domestic banks had to work hard to retain the public’s trust after the banking crisis in 2003, adding that rumours of bank runs were not uncommon.

“We did not have a huge problem [in 2003] because we were able to act in time,” he said.

Deputy director general of the Central Bank U Win Thaw said it is gradually allowing domestic banks to offer more services to bring them into line with international standards, while strengthening security requirements to prevent problems.

“We will upgrade the domestic banking system after the Central Bank Law is approved by parliament,” he said, adding that the law will likely be submitted to parliament during the next sitting in late October.

However, banking sources said the Central Bank’s regulations are too strict and stopped the banks from developing the capital and experience they require to expand.

And although the Central Bank approved private banks to enter joint ventures with international banks in June, no agreements have resulted so far, several private bankers said.

U Than Cho, a senior managing director with Kanbawza Bank, said a legal framework for joint ventures has not been enacted and foreign investors are waiting until the laws have been passed.

Dr Sean Turnell, an associate professor of economics at Australia’s Macquarie University and a commentator on Myanmar’s economy, said there has been much progress in the banking sector over the past couple of years, with new institutions and the implementation of many new services. However, he said the industry remains small in comparison with neighbouring countries and domestic companies struggled to access banking credit.

He said Myanmar has low ratios of credit to gross domestic product (GDP) and deposits to GDP compared to its neighbours and peers in Southeast Asia.

“There needs to be reform of regulation to match international best practices. Banking reform is about reducing risk, so quick reforming is best,” he said.

“Manyam’s banks need to be given greater freedoms in their lending decisions, the interest rates they can charge and the number of branches they can open,” he said.

Strong prudential regulation is good for banking but Myanmar has many old and obsolete laws from the socialist era that greatly inhibit legitimate banking activities.4

Private companies take up electricity generation offer

By Sithu Lwin and Soe Sandar Oo

A PRIVATE firm plans to invest up to K2 billion ($1.4 million) to improve electricity supply in Mandalay’s Chanmyathazi township, following the regional government’s decision to partly liberalise the sector.

Pacific Company began upgrading the electricity infrastructure in the township in August after winning a contract from the Mandalay Region government.

“We have been collecting data on the power requirements [in Chanmyathazi] since we were designated as a power supply company,” said U Than Naing, deputy chief engineer of Pacific Company.

Chanmyathazi has more than 36,000 households and consumers about 18 megawatts ($2.3 million) of power.

U Than Naing said Pacific was consulting with foreign companies to ensure it could provide adequate power supply for customers.

We have a pressing need to install 22 (11Kv) transformers,” said Mr Naing, adding that the law for private investment will be submitted to parliament as soon as possible.

The company will change the cables, build substations and install new transformers. Only then will the lost power be restored and the state will get some more revenue.

Complaints about power supply in Chanmyathazi and should be submitted to the Mandalay Region government (09-9104-9014), 59th Street substation (02-80179) and 49th Street substation on (02-80321).

Meanwhile, Myanmar Powergrid’s Swarna Company has won a contract to combat nationwide power shortfall.

Government calls for private investment in electricity generation to combat nationwide power shortfall

By Aye Thidar Kyaw

The Myanmar government is calling for private investment in the country’s electricity generation to combat nationwide power shortfall.

By Sithu Lwin and Soe Sandar Oo

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Every carpetbagger has his day

Consultants and advisers flock to Yangon to take part in gold rush-like climate taking shape in Myanmar

**The Myanmar Times**

_October 15, 2012_**_22_**

_See how many consultants – people who claim to know Myanmar and the right people to speak to in order to get a deal done – are in attendance._

A simple Google search reveals pages of links for companies and individuals attempting to sell their knowledge of Myanmar. Websites have been hastily set up using pictures of Myanmar's icons that list services, along with informative newsletters and business cards which have been uploaded onto the internet.

But what exactly is a consultant? Anybody with enough cash to print up a stack of name cards and call themselves a consultant – it's a gloriously ambiguous job description that by itself means nothing.

Myanmar economist and editor of the World Economic Journal U Khin Maung Nyo said during the Myanmar/Pyi Taw Update conference at the Australian National University in May 2011 that there were no experts on the country's economy.

"If someone tells you that he is quite learned about Myanmar's economy it is a lie, don't believe him or me," he said in comment that triggered ripples of laughter from the crowd. "Nobody understands Myanmar's economy. If someone says that he doesn't understand Myanmar's economy then he understands Myanmar."

For long-term expats, the situation is somewhat comical – one even labelled the flood of incoming financial consultants, who have arrived just as the country has bloomed, as 'expertunists'. The same expat said he was part of a three-person meeting recently with another alleged expert who refused to answer a straight question: How long had he been in Myanmar?

Simon Turnbull, an associate professor of economics at Australia's Macquarie University and probably the most quoted non-Myanmar expert on Myanmar's economy, said the lack of publicly available information on Myanmar's economy made it vulnerable to "carpetbaggers".

"This problem certainly is a dimension not too difficult to pick up to what sometimes appears to be a gold rush of carpetbaggers, all with their eyes firmly affixed on the main chance," he said.

Mr. Turnbull suggested that the best remedy for the situation is to 'create an economy as open and liberal as possible, in which special favours and monopolies are minimised'.

"What we are seeing in Myanmar today reminds me of the early 1990s when not too difficult to pick up such vibrations around the bars of 2-3 star international class hotels in Yangon where speculators are likely to stay," he said.

"But Suu Kyi will have gathered from the less than supportive comments of delegates at the World Economic Forum in Bangkok, as well as from blue-chip companies like those in the recent UK trade and investment mission, that serious investors are prudent, cautious and not given to exuberant statements. I have heard no expressions of myself."

However, there are also a number of significant differences, he said.

"People do their research rather well," he said. "People that have contacted SPA, say will tell you what they know as well as a hell of what they don't know," he said.

"People have more information from professionals who have been here – they know what they are doing. They have better access to advice," he said, adding that websites established by government ministries also provided incoming foreign investors with information that had not been previously available.

Mr. Tippetts said the make-up of the incoming foreigners is different: In the mid-90s there were no Chinese investors, the Japanese companies were cautious and the South Koreans were aggressive.

He added that a number of Western investors had entered Myanmar with grand plans – and hefty bank balances – but most had left with experience and little to show for it.

"Everybody was chasing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow but nobody actually did anything," he said.

Mr. Tippetts said those investors who survived followed a different route, worked with a small investment and maintained a low profile.

In 1995, big investments did not work in Myanmar unless you were in the oil and gas business," he said. "This time around, real estate-related opportunities and tourism investments in hotels, and infrastructure development will offer much greater opportunities."
Capital starved agri businesses need help to compete: rice body

By Myat May Zin

MYANMAR must invest heavily in its infrastructure and add value to its exports to compete internationally and gain access to Western markets, industry sources say.

Recent comments by the European Union and United States government that import bans and restrictions on Myanmar’s products will be eased have increased the likelihood that Myanmar is competing in those markets but the country needs to reduce transport costs and add value to its exports, they said.

“Mindanao’s major exports are natural gas, agricultural products such as rice and beans and processed fisheries products, garments and timber,” said nearly all the country as raw products that have seen little value adding, which would require significant investment in technology and infrastructure.

Minister for Commerce U Win Myint encouraged companies to find ways to add value to their products in comments he made at the annual general meeting of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) in Nay Pyi Taw in August.

“We will try to encourage local firms to export value-added products, which create jobs and can lead to faster development of SMEs,” he said.

Myanmar faces strong competition from Thailand and Vietnam in its stated aim of boosting rice exports. However, the nation is hamstrung by inadequate capital for farmers, antiquated mills and high transport fees, said rice exporters.

U Ye Min Aung, MRF general secretary, said all aspects of the industry needed investment.

“We need higher standard milling machines to export high quality products,” he said during an October 8 interview.

“We also have to promote post-harvest technologies but our fundamental needs are to reduce transport costs and ensure that there are enough containers – sometimes we face a shortage of containers for shipping and can’t export goods on time,” he said.

Myanmar is the world’s second-largest exporter of beans and pulses after Canada. But exports to the main buyer, India, have decreased in the past two years, said Dr Myan Lin, abee exporting officer and central executive member of the Myanmar Pulse and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

“Exchange rate control is a problem that Myanmar will have to overcome to export to markets such as the US,” he said.

“We expect that we’ll be able to export to US soon but we’re not ready,” he said. “The US market is strongly concerned about quality.

“We need to target the Indian populations in the US to export dried half peas because these are the same as used by farmers meet US safety standards,” he said.

“And transport fees in Myanmar are too high. Sometimes the cost of shipping a product from harvest areas to Yangon for export is the same as the purchase price.”

Fisheries sector not ready for Western markets: MFF

By Soe Sandar Oo and Myat Nyin Aye

MYANMAR’S fisheries sector is not ready to take advantage of the proposed easing of sanctions by the European Union and United States, exporters said last week.

“Even though it looks like sanctions will be eased, it is just an announcement made at high levels of the government. We need practical measures needed to make it reality has not been taken,” said U Han Tun, general co-secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, during a weekly meeting on October 9.

“We can start getting ready for when we can export to Western markets, even though we’re not ready to export this fish to the EU,” he said.

Vietnam is the main sea bass supplier to the EU, he said.

However, Vietnam also exported 8000 tonnes a year of freshwater prawn to the US before the sanctions were imposed in 2003, he said.

He added that Western consumers mostly prefer saltwater prawn, as well as tilapia and sea bass.

U Han Tun said the US imports at least 500,000 tonnes of saltwater prawn a year, while China exports 300,000 tonnes of tilapia to the US a year.

He added that Myanmar could also start exporting sea bass to the EU if is allowed to access the globalised system of preferences (GSP) for least developed countries, adding to the 240,000 tonnes supplied by Vietnam annually.

“Vietnam is the main sea bass supplier to the international market. But Myanmar still has chance for export this fish to the EU,” he said.

However, there are other non-tax barriers that might prevent exports from Myanmar to the EU and US that are intended to protect domestic companies, he said.

U Han Tun said Vietnamese exporters have previously been subjected to testing by US authorities.

U Win Kyaw, MFF general secretary, said adding Myanmar onto the GSP list would provide quick profit exporters and – increase competition.

However, he said the demand would likely outweigh supply.

“We need to do more market research to identify which species are wanted by different markets. There’s not much point trying to export to the EU and US markets because demand for that species in weak,” he said.

“The US market is strongly concerned about quality,” he said.

“We should farm carp in smaller quantities because it’s a relatively safe market for us,” he said.

Daw Toe Nandar Tin, spokesperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Products Exporters and Processors Association, said the industry was battling a number of other problems that hindered its ability to make high-quality products.

“Exporters need 24-hour electricity to make fisheries products, as well as a stable exchange rate,” she said.

“GSP is a dream for us and has not been implemented yet,” she added.

“Our aim is to get exports back to the levels they were before sanctions were imposed in 2003 for the first step,” she said.

However, U Soe Win, chair of the meeting and an MFF member, said that not only exporters but also producers need to start preparing for when remaining sanctions are dropped.

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Huawei’s Myanmar plans in the spotlight after US report aired

By Tim McLaughlin

A SCATHING US congressional report issued on October 8 has added an unexpected wrinkle to Myanmar’s already chaotic telecoms race.

The 50-page report, published by the Intelligence Committee of America’s House of Representatives, states that China-based Huawei Technologies Ltd and ZTE Corp pose a credible security threat given both companies’ lack of accountability. It ties Huawei to China’s Communist Party.

The report urged US consumers to look elsewhere for telecoms gear and mobile phones, has landed the two companies in an extraordinary public relations battle.

“Private sector entities in the United States have strongly encouraged the Department of Commerce to manage and put in place a policy and advocacy strategy to effectively deal with China’s long-term security risks associated with doing business with either ZTE or Huawei,” the report said.

“Based on available classified and unclassified findings to Prime Minister and Huawei representative, ZTE cannot be trusted to be free of foreign government influence and thus pose a potential threat to the United States and to our systems,” it added.

Huawei, the world’s second-largest provider of telecommunications equipment and mobile phones, has long stood out as one of the most aggressive competitors vying for a piece of Myanmar’s critically undersupplied and highly lucrative telecoms sector.

In 2010, 100 people in Myanmar only 1.2% has access to a fixed telephone line, and 0.03 has broadband internet access, according to the Asian Development Bank. Estimates of mobile phone penetration are between 10 and 15 percent.

Days after the report’s release the ripple effect was being felt at Huawei’s office inside the US embassy. The US government gave strong signals on October 8 that it would extend a license to Huawei from helping to construct a planned secure Canadian telecoms network, citing “security concerns.”

Sir Malcolm Rifkind of UK’s intelligence and Security Committee confirmed on October 10 that the committee will be looking into Huawei’s dealings with BT Group PLC. They will deliver a report of their findings in November.

Meanwhile, members of Myanmar’s Ministry of the Communications, Posts and Telegraphs refused to comment due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Huawei representatives remained confident that the company’s US troubles were not damage its attempts to win one of Myanmar’s two lucrative telecoms contracts. The companies could be awarded as early as 2013.

The report also claims that Myanmar mobile operator MPT has a workforce of 260 employees in Myanmar, 70pc of whom are Myanmar nationals.

“I think in Myanmar, no, no impact,” said Chen Xiao Yang, the director of the public relations department for Huawei working in Yangon. He added that a “coloured opinion” of China in the US could be at least partially responsible for the allegations in the report, a feeling shared by many in the Chinese media.

“US government must be committed to stopping all long-term investor in Myanmar, providing innovative products and service for our development people, and being a responsible investor, tax payer and good corporate citizen,” Mr Xiao Yang said in a post interview email.

Though Huawei has had a presence in Myanmar since 2003 the company has lacked the name recognition of its competitors, especially in Myanmar’s competitive smart-phone sector.

One of the first industry experts to comment on their agreement or Huawei’s performance in Myanmar was Sten Halvorson, an expert in political risk.

Mr Halvorson said it could be enough shake the already chaotic telecoms sector in Myanmar.

“Hurricane is an important player in the telecoms sector. They have a good local presence and are growing quickly,” he said.

Halvorson also warned that the allegations could be at least partially responsible for the future of Huawei and ZTE in the US.

Huawei has a strong presence in Myanmar operating completely priced mobile telephones. Ph: Brothet

CLOSING DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 2012

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Policy and Communications Manager

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic Myanmar national.

The Role:

The post holder will play a leading role to design, manage and put in place a policy and advocacy strategy that will inform our programme design and lead to clear messages around the changes. Our policy papers are necessary to address poverty in Myanmar. This includes developing consistent position, situation analytics, influencing stakeholders and how can change can come about in Myanmar, managing research, developing clear communication strategies for the Myanmar programme. The role will also provide technical advice, capacity building and specialist guidance across the organization and to key partners.

The Candidate:

We are looking for someone who has a keen interest in the changes happening in Myanmar. You will want to work with others to be a catalyst for change. You will have a keen interest and a desire to develop ideas and policies that can support the process of overcoming poverty in Myanmar. You will feel comfortable not just representing Oxfam at high level meetings with the government, but also be aware of the different audiences and be able to influence them.

To find out more about Oxfam, conditions of appointment, key responsibilities and competencies requirement of this role and to apply, visit http://www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs and quote ref: INT5709.

How to Apply:

To apply: Human Resources Department by email: myanmar.resource.center@oxfam.org, or by post: Oxfam Myanmar, PO Box 792, Oxfam office, no.(16), 1st Floor, West Shwe Gyi Tower, 4th Street, West Shwe Gyi Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon. Office Tel: +95 1 379632, Fax: +95 1 379632, Email: cv@oxfammyanmar.com

Closing Date: 20 October 2012.

We regret that only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

[Advertised positions: Policy and Communications Manager, 2 x Assistant Teachers (Chemistry and Computer Science), 2 x Teacher (IGCSE teachers), 1 x Teacher (English and Myanmar translator), 1 x Teacher (Physics and Myanmar Language), 1 x Teacher (Mathematics and Myanmar Language).]

Traders Hotel Yangon
Vacancy
Communications/Public Relations Manager

Requirement:

- Minimum one year’s experience in a similar position
- Oral and written fluency in English
- Thorough knowledge of printing, advertising tasks, full proficiency in basic desktop publishing
- Excellent network of media contacts
- Strong interpersonal and organisational skills
- Must be proficient in English
- Strong Classroom Management Skills
- A minimum of 5 years experience in IGCSE classes (IGCSE teachers)
- Near-native English speaking teachers with a good command of spoken and written English.

Closing Date: 30 November 2012.
**IMF cuts Asian growth forecast to 6.7 percent**

HONG KONG – The IMF on October 9 cut its growth forecasts for developing Asia, blaming a slowdown in Europe and the United States, and warned that China’s attempts to boost its economy had not taken hold.

It also cut the outlook on Japan, saying disaster reconstruction spending would tail off and lead to weaker growth next year.

The International Monetary Fund’s World Economic Outlook came at the start of a week that saw it and the World Bank hold their annual meetings in Japan, ahead of a meeting of the Group of Seven nations.

It also reinforces concerns expressed by the World Bank on October 8 and Asian Development Bank on October 3 as they cut their regional forecasts, citing global weaknesses.

The IMF said growth for developing Asia would be 6.7 percent this year and 7.2pc next. That compares with 7.8pc this year and 7.5pc next year.

**IMF cuts growth forecast for 2012**

The IMF said growth for developing Asia would be 6.7 percent this year and 7.2pc next. That compares with 7.8pc this year and 7.5pc next year.

**Compared with the region’s growth performance in recent years, the near-term and medium-term outlooks are less buoyant,” the report said.**

**This view reflects weaker anticipated external demand resulting from the tepid growth prospects in major advanced economies and a downturn in China’s and India’s growth prospects.”**

**It warned a worsening of the eurozone debt crisis and the world economy of a territorial feud between China and Japan, earlier this month IMF chief Christine Lagarde said the dispute could not be allowed to fester.**

**Speaking to Japanese media, she said the two sides should show tolerance for the good of the world.”**

**Local businesses will pay less interest if international SME banks agree to reduce interest rates,” the minister said.**

**Loans are essential to business, as we are trying to resolve these issues,” said U Ye Myint, Chief Minister for Mandalay Region.**

**Ke Kyaw Gyi said: “The current lending policy makes it difficult for local businesses to flourish. The minister’s suggestion to extend the loan period should be taken into effect as soon as possible. It’s important for Myanmar to ready itself for 2015, when ASEAN becomes a free trade zone.”**
By Dan Levy and Heather Perlberg

SAN FRANCISCO – California, the state that led the nation into the housing boom and bust with some of the most reckless subprime mortgage lending, is now leading the way out.

A plunge in new defaults in California helped push US foreclosures filings to the lowest level in almost five years, according to RealtyTrac Inc, a seller of home-loan data. Across the country, 531,576 properties received notices of default, auction or repossession in the third quarter, down 13 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 2007. One in every 249 households got a filing, RealtyTrac said.

California, the birthplace of subprime mortgage lending, saw an explosion of foreclosures thanks to such industry innovations as “no-doc” loans that required no proof of income. The state’s recovery is mirrored by US home values that rose 1.2pc in July from a year earlier, according to the S&P/Case Shiller index of property prices.

It was the second straight 12-month advance and the biggest jump for the real estate gauge since August 2004.

“We’re starting to see improvement in some of the hardest hit areas, strong demand, competitive bidding on properties and rising prices,” Sean O’Toole, chief executive officer of ForeclosureRadar.com, which tracks sales of foreclosed properties, said in a telephone interview.

The gains are moving in tandem with foreclosure declines as lenders control the flow of bank-owned homes that come to market, crimping inventory and pushing up prices, said Daren Blomquist of Irvine, California-based RealtyTrac.

Initial filings in September fell in 31 states, led by California, the most-populous US state, which dropped to a 6-month low. Defaults dropped 45pc from a year earlier in Florida, 34pc in Arizona, 22pc in Michigan and 21pc in Georgia, RealtyTrac said.

Home sales in California’s biggest population centers climbed in August to the highest level since 2006, according to real estate research firm DataQuick.

Median house and condominium prices in six Southern California counties jumped 11pc from a year earlier to US$400,000, while values in nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area gained 11pc to US$610,000, the San Diego-based company said.

“Much of the pickup reflects a confluence of trends we’ve seen for months, like the unloading of distressed properties in high-value markets and high levels of cash and investor buying,” DataQuick president John Walsh said in a Sept. 13 statement about the Southern California sales surge.

KB Home is seeing “dramatic improvement” in California, where strength in the coastal markets, including the Bay Area and Orange County, is spreading across the state, KB Home president John Walsh said last month.

“We’re starting to see improvement in some of the hardest hit areas, strong demand, competitive bidding on properties and rising prices,” said John Walsh, KB Home president.

The West Coast is KB Home’s biggest market.

“It’s simply a different market than it was six months ago in the inland areas as inventories have declined significantly and prices are now rising,” Merger said.

The Los Angeles-based homebuilder gained 121pc this year to October 10, compared with the 70pc advance for the 11-member Standard & Poor’s 1500 Homebuilding index.

New home-orders in the US are likely to remain robust, according to Barclays. “We expect building product companies to remain profitable, driven by rising prices,” Sean O’Toole, chief executive officer of Radian Group Inc, said in a report.

The mortgage industry, which lowered underwriting standards to increase loan volume and fuel price momentum in the new home construction market and offset by continued weakness in discretionary housing products,” Barclays analysts led by Vincent Foley wrote in a note to investors on October 12.

KB Home is the largest homebuilder in the US and one of the country’s top banks, including JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America, agreed to a $25 billion settlement in October of 50 states participated in a probe of fraudulent paperwork used to repossess homes.

“The mortgage industry, which lowered underwriting standards to increase loan volume and fuel price

Driving the recovery in California has been the relative speed it has worked through foreclosures, in part because home repossessions there don’t require judicial review as they do in about half of US states, said Iry Zelman, chief executive officer of Zelman & Associates LLC. There are 24 non-judicial states, according to RealtyTrac.

A new California law that takes effect January 1 may make it harder for lenders to repossess homes, which could delay the clearing of distressed homes and a swifter statewide recovery, Blomquist, a RealtyTrac vice president, said in an interview.

“We don’t see that changing in California,” Zelman said in a telephone interview.

California home sales tenders to securitization. Foreclosures rose to 530,000 units in 2013 for the third consecutive year of gains, the August-based Realtors group forecasts. Estimated sales of 525,300 in 2012 would represent a 5.1pc jump from 2011.

“Pent-up demand and first-time buyers will compete with investors and all-cash offers on lower-priced properties, while multiple offers and aggressive bidding will continue to be the norm in mid- to upper-price range homes,” according to Appleton-Young’s forecast.

The mortgage industry, which lowered underwriting standards to increase loan volume and fuel price growth, used so-called robo-signers to handle the flow of foreclosures that followed.

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BEIJING – Violent forced evictions are increasing in China as local governments seek to pay off debts by seizing land and selling usage rights to property developers, Amnesty International said in a report released on October 11.

The report, “Standing Their Ground”, said growing numbers of Chinese have been forced from their homes in both rural and urban areas, with evictees sometimes beaten, imprisoned, or even killed at the hands of authorities.

“The pace of forced evictions has only accelerated over the past three years,” said the report, which the human rights group said was based on media reports and interviews with rights activists, lawyers and academics.

It said the increase in evictions stemmed in part from a construction boom stoked by a government stimulus program implemented to ward off the effects of the 2008 financial crisis. The loosening of credit allowed local governments to take out loans on an “unprecedented scale”, but local governments soon found themselves unable to continue financing the projects, so they sank deeper into debt, Amnesty said.

China’s local-level governments are heavily dependent on revenue from land development projects, causing them to step up evictions to pave the way for such developments, the report said. “In order to reduce their debt burden, they increasingly find their interests aligned with those of real estate developers,” it said. All land in China is owned by the state or rural collectives. There is no private land ownership, but China’s local-level governments are heavily dependent on revenue from land development projects, causing them to step up evictions to pave the way for such developments, the report said. “In order to reduce their debt burden, they increasingly find their interests aligned with those of real estate developers,” it said.

The report said that the regulations did not cover homeowners in rural areas, where forced evictions are widespread, and were unevenly enforced by Chinese courts.

“Courts seldom accept forced eviction cases. When they do, they rarely rule in favour of the victim because judges do not want to anger their superiors,” it said. China has seen widespread urban demolition and conversion of rural land for housing over the past few decades, as the economy has grown and cities have expanded dramatically during a period of rapid economic growth. "The maximum tenure of all new residential property loans will be capped at 35 years. In addition, loans exceeding 30 years tenure will face significantly tighter loan-to-value limits." People play basketball in front of the Pinnacle at Duxton, a public housing development in Singapore, in January 2010. Pic: AFP

The report said that eviction campaigns sanctioned by local governments, “often employ coercive tactics in violation of international law”, including "physical intimidation and a range of violent acts".

"There needs to be an end to such evictions," the report said. Evictions to pave the way for such developments, the report said. "In order to reduce their debt burden, they increasingly find their interests aligned with those of real estate developers," it said.

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"The maximum tenure of all new residential property loans will be capped at 35 years. In addition, loans exceeding 30 years tenure will face significantly tighter loan-to-value limits." People play basketball in front of the Pinnacle at Duxton, a public housing development in Singapore, in January 2010. Pic: AFP
Pioneers unlocked cell door

**PARIS – For most of the 20th century, scientists were puzzled by how cells in our body are able to sense and react to external conditions.**

How, for example, do cardiac cells know how to raise their heart rate when we are startled?

Over decades, a concept evolved that cell surfaces are dotted with tiny protein-coupled receptors. These respond to body chemistry and external conditions, both light and dark, essentially giving instructions to the cells on what to do.

But it was work in the 1980s and 1990s that earned the Nobel Chemistry Prize for Americans Robert Lefkowitz and Brian Kobilka, that gave flesh to this theory and it is this platform for drug research.

**G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) are known to influence everything from sight, smell, taste to blood pressure, pain tolerance and vision.**

They tell the inside of cells about conditions on the outside world.

In present-day computers, the smallest unit of information is a qubit, which takes the value of either 0 or 1. But the basic unit in a quantum computer, called a qubit, can be 0 and 1 at the same time. Each extra qubit doubles the amount of data that can be processed simultaneously, making a quantum computer exponentially faster than a classical computer.

**Two share physics prize for capturing a quantum ghost**

PARIS – Quantum physics is a truly strange thing. Even Einstein said so.

He complained that quantum states were “spooky action” at a distance. “It was as if we were travelling backwards in time,” he said.

In 1935, Einstein, Podolsky, and Rosen wrote a paper arguing that quantum mechanics was not complete – that there must be hidden variables that could create a more natural explanation of the phenomena.

These traps are useful for observing the hitherto unknown state of quantum, but they could also be used as a secure communication channel for the much-touted quantum computer.

**State to be examined and measured**

In 2012, the Haroche group at the Ecole Normale Supérieure institute in Paris, told AFP: “These traps are useful for observing the hitherto unknown state of quantum, but they could also be used as a secure communication channel for the much-touted quantum computer.”

State to be examined and measured...
Teary tributes in Bali

JIMBARAN, Indonesia – Hundreds of survivors and relatives of the dead on October 12 paid tearful tributes to the 202 people killed in the Bali bombings 10 years ago, when Islamist extremists unleashed terror on hordes of holidaymakers.

The victims of the suicide bomb attacks on two packed nightspots included 88 Australians and 38 Indonesians.

In an emotional ceremony attended by families and survivors, shaded themselves under Australian flags as they listened solemnly to a roll call of the dead, some crying or leaning on loved ones’ shoulders as they observed a minute’s silence.

In a poignant address, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard recognised the terrible legacy of the attacks, saying “wounds and scars abound, healed and unhealed, but nothing can replace the empty seat at your table”.

Indonesia, which has the world’s biggest Muslim population, won praise for its response to the bombings.

“Indonesia is a country that is rooted in its history, and has a very very strong sense of humanity prevails over hatred”, the ceremony included prayers from Christian, Hindu and Muslim leaders.

In the 10 years since the 2002 attacks, all of the leading Bali perpetrators have been executed, killed by police or jailed. – AFP

Turkey-Syria tensions raise fears of regional conflict

DAMASCUS – The United States has accused Russia of aiding the Syrian regime as “morally bankrupt”.

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland refused to disclose to reporters what exactly had been in the cargo seized from a Syrian passenger plane.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, however, that the Syrian Air plane intercepted by Turkey on a flight from Moscow to Damascus was carrying a cargo of dual-purpose radar equipment and insisted Russia did not violate any laws.

“This cargo was electrical technical equipment for radar stations, this is dual-purpose equipment, but is not forbidden by any international conventions,” Lavrov said.

Nuland acknowledged that Russia had not violated any embargo on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his government, but said “the policy’s still morally bankrupt”.

“Everybody else on the Security Council is doing what it can unilaterally to ensure that the Assad regime is not getting support from the outside,” she said in Washington.

“We have been saying for almost a year now, that no responsible country ought to be aiding and abetting the war machine of the Assad regime.”

As fighting raged on the ground, the risks in the Syria conflict between the neighbours, which have exchanged cross-border fire amid fears the civil war could spark a regional conflagration.

Amid the growing alarm, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle was due in NATO partner Turkey on October 13 for talks with his counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu.

“It is important that no one pours oil on the fire. We are counting on moderation and de-escalation,” the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on October 12.

The Syrian foreign ministry accused Turkey of assisting the rebels.

The Observatory says more than 10,000 people have died in Syria since the revolt began on March 15, 2012. – AFP

Briefly

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan – Pakistanis prayed at mosques throughout the country on October 12 for the security of a school girl shot in the head by the Taliban as doctors said the next two days were critical for her chances of recovery.

WASHINGTON – Japan’s ambassador in Washington said on October 11 that his country’s security treaty with the United States has served as a deterrent in a territorial dispute between Tokyo and China.

MOSCOW – Russia is the only player able to halt Iran’s nuclear program without the use of force or crippling sanctions, Israel’s parliamentary speaker, Reuven Rivlin, told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on October 11.

PARIS – A French prosecutor said on October 11 that a homegrown group of Islamist extremists is the biggest threat the country has faced since the Algerian-based GIA carried out a series of deadly bombings in the 1990s. – AFP

The award is, however, a surprise at a time when European policy is still reeling from its most daunting challenge in decades amid deep rifts between a south drowning in debt and a wealthier north, between a south drowning in debt and a wealthier north.

The Observatory says more than 32,000 people have died in Syria on October 12, including 28 civilians.

Whether that begrudging assistance will keep the European project afloat remains to be seen, but the European Union has broadened the gulf already felt between citizens in the different member states and a Brussels long seen as too distant and bureaucratic.

Desp. recurrent disputes, the 27-member EU has become the biggest common market in the world, allowing free circulation of goods, people, services and capital.

Turkey had fought three wars. Today war between Germany and France is unthinkable. This shows how, through well-targeted efforts and by building up mutual confidence, historical enemies can up mutual confidence, efforts and by building how, through well-aimed efforts and by building

Terrorists in Bali

JIMBARAN, Indonesia – Hundreds of survivors and relatives of the dead on October 12 paid tearful tributes to the 202 people killed in the Bali bombings 10 years ago, when Islamist extremists unleashed terror on hordes of holidaymakers.

The victims of the suicide bomb attacks on two packed nightspots included 88 Australians and 38 Indonesians.

In an emotional ceremony attended by families and survivors, shaded themselves under Australian flags as they listened solemnly to a roll call of the dead, some crying or leaning on loved ones’ shoulders as they observed a minute’s silence.

In a poignant address, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard recognised the terrible legacy of the attacks, saying “wounds and scars abound, healed and unhealed, but nothing can replace the empty seat at your table”.

Indonesia, which has the world’s biggest Muslim population, won praise for its response to the bombings.

“Indonesia is a country that is rooted in its history, and has a very very strong sense of humanity prevails over hatred”, the ceremony included prayers from Christian, Hindu and Muslim leaders.

In the 10 years since the 2002 attacks, all of the leading Bali perpetrators have been executed, killed by police or jailed. – AFP

Turkey-Syria tensions raise fears of regional conflict

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Huawei slams US report as ‘exercise in China-bashing’

WASHINGTON – Chinese tech giant Huawei last week called a congressional report warning of security risks from its telecom equipment “an exercise in China-bashing” as US lawmakers held firm to their allegations.

A US spokesman for Huawei said the report by the House Intelligence Committee, which warned of national security risks from equipment from Huawei and fellow Chinese firm ZTE, was “utterly lacking in substance.”

“Washington has publicly denies the allegations in the report,” the spokesman, William Lee, told reporters on a conference call on October 10.

Plummer said Huawei requested the congressional investigation a year ago in an effort to clear the air and help provide a better understanding of how the telecom equipment industry shares a “global supply chain” that may lead to security vulnerabilities.

“The report utterly ignores these facts and dismisses 10 months of open information sharing,” he said.

“This report is little more than an exercise in China-bashing and misguided protectionism,”

Plummer said that if the committee’s recommendations to block access to Huawei and ZTE products were acted on, “it would set a monstrous market distorting precedent that could be used against American companies doing business overseas.”

Because rival vendors based in the US and Europe use much of the same components, he said the idea of blocking a single company to improve cybersecurity was “an exercise in China-bashing.”

The comments came as Beijing reacted to the US decision to bring to Washington to “set aside prejudices” and “do things that will benefit China and the US,” said committee chairman Mike Rogers.

Any bug, beacon or backdoor put into our critical systems could allow for a catastrophic and devastating domino effect of failures throughout our networks. As this report shows, we have serious concerns about Huawei and ZTE,”

Separately, Representative Dutch Ruppersberger, the ranking Democrat on the panel, echoed those comments, saying, “It is our responsibility on the Intelligence Committee to protect our country’s national security. As this report shows, we have serious concerns about Huawei and ZTE.”

Wolf added that “it would be unwise for any American company or government agency to use Huawei or ZTE products.”

Both Huawei and ZTE have repeatedly denied any ties with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army and have accused the US of mounting attacks on Western interests and as most other Western nations withdrew from the Libyan conflict.

Cargoby capsule docks with ISS

WASHINGTON – A capsule on a privately-run re-supply mission successfully docked with the International Space Station on October 10, the US space agency NASA said.

SpaceX, the private company owned by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, launched the unmanned Dragon capsule on October 7 on a Falcon 9 rocket from an air base in Cape Canaveral, Florida near the Kennedy Space Center.

The mission was the first of a dozen ISS supply runs that NASA has contracted to SpaceX under a four-year, US$1.6 billion contract, fulfilling a role once carried out by NASA’s now retired shuttle fleet.

The capsule was carrying equipment and materials for scientific experiments that are conducted and hosted by the space station’s six-member crew. – AFP

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Romney savours poll surge

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mitt Romney backers taunted Barack Obama with chants of “four more weeks” as their candidate surged into the lead in US polls last week, propelled by his debate win on October 3.

With both candidates campaigning in perennial kingmaker state Ohio, top Obama aides put a brave face on the president’s slide, insisting he had always known his re-election bid would be tough.

New polls released on October 9 showed the delayed impact of Romney’s debate triumph the previous week in Denver.

For the first time since he accepted the Republican Party nomination, Romney topped the widely-read poll of polls conducted by the RealClearPolitics website, albeit by only 0.7 points.

He led Obama by two points in daily tracking polls by Gallup and Investors Business Daily, but the pair were tied in another tracking poll, by Rasmussen.

“The president and the news media have already written off the election,” Romney told a crowd of about 12,000 people in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, his largest rally to date in Ohio.

“I think the right chant ought to be for them: Four more weeks! Four more weeks!” he added, in a play on the “Four more years” chant reserved for incumbents.

“I actually think the people have heard what he had to say,” Romney said of Obama, “and it’s time for them to see him leave the White House and to say goodbye to him on November 6.

“Romney’s rise in the polls is in part reflected his tactic towards the political centre during the debate, a shift he continued on October 9 by telling an Iowa newspaper he had no plans to introduce legislation restricting abortion.

Despite the clear bounce in Romney support, national polls are only one reflection of the race, and the campaigns are more interested in the eight or so swing states that will decide the election.

A welcome respite for the president’s campaign, struggling to shake off the fallout of a listless debate performance, a CNN/ORC poll showed Obama holding steady at 51 to 47 percent among likely voters.

No Republican has ever become president without winning Ohio.

US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney addresses a campaign rally in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, on October 9. Pic: AFP

Obama hits back over Iraq troop pullout

WASHINGTON – Mitt Romney promises to end the war in Iraq if he wins the White House, but on October 9, warning that America did not need a another president who started wars with no plan to end them.

Obama pounced on Romney’s comments, which echoed a major foreign policy speech the previous day that the president had failed to secure Iraqi agreement for a residual US troop presence after the withdrawal of US troops Iraq.

“Governor Romney said it was tragic to end the war in Iraq. I disagree. I think bringing our troops home to their families was the right thing to do,” Obama told a crowd of 15,000-strong crowd in Columbus, Ohio.

“If he’d gotten his way, those troops would still be in Iraq, he said, and it was “double down on that belief. He said ending that war was a mistake.

“Obama, you can’t turn a page on the failed policies of the past if you’re promising to repeat them.

“We cannot afford to go back to a foreign policy that gets us into wars with no plan to end them. We’re moving forward, not going back.”

Obama is promising to end the Afghan war in the same “responsible” way as he said he ended the Iraq war.

Republican critics have argued that the failure of the administration to secure a residual US force in Iraq cost America influence in Baghdad and contributed to current instability in the country.

AFP

Re-elected Chavez pledges to become a ‘better president’

MEXICO CITY – A major coup for the Mexican opposition was taken to a funeral home at Salinas in northern Coahuila state soon after they were killed in a shootout on October 9 as it emerged that the body of the slain leader of the drug cartels drug cartels had been stolen from a funeral parlor.

Heriberto Lazcano was Mexico’s second most-wanted man and his killing was the government’s biggest blow against drug cartels since it deployed federal troops to fight them in 2006.

Lazcano’s corpse and that of another man were taken to a funeral home at Salinas in northern Coahuila state soon after they were killed in a shootout on October 9.

But a gang of heavily- armed men wearing facemasks later entered the funeral parlor and took the government’s biggest blow against drug cartels since it deployed federal troops to fight them in 2006.

Crime boss’s body stolen

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Aung San Suu Kyi ordered to pay $150,000

by the Russian authorities to divide the group would not work and that her “negative” attitude toward President Vladimir Putin and his moga authoritarian project remained unchanged.

The situation in the country has deteriorated “beyond performance and the trial itself is a testimony to that,” she said in the interview.

Sammusztsevich said she had been treated well in prison and that Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova were being held up very well despite being “very, very upset” at being separated from their young children.

Earlier, all three had defended the cathedral’s innocence, telling the court their performance was aimed at the Russian president and not religious believers. – AFP

September 11. Gbowee, who says her aspiration nation.

Let us here in this hall, here in this government, together in this country make this a fresh start, let’s build an aspiration nation. Let’s get Britain on the rise,” Cameron said to a standing ovation.

The speech was billed as a make-or-break moment for Cameron’s leadership, with the centre-right Conservatives behind in the opinion polls and divided over their coalition with the smaller centrist Liberal Democrats.

The coalition came to power in May 2010 but halfway through its term the deficit is still high and the country is in a double dip recession.

Cameron said there were more “painful decisions” awaiting Britain.

“Now I know you are asking whether the plan is working. And here’s the truth: the damage was worse than we thought, and it’s taking longer than we hoped,” he said.

“We’ve been a global race where, today, and that means an hour of reckoning for countries like ours. Sink or swim, do or decline.”

Cameron announced Thursday that plans to cut the budget deficit and bring peace, would be 50%.
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Dated: 15th October, 2012
Bangladesh arrests suspect in violence

DHAKA – Bangladesh police said on October 11 they had arrested the alleged key instigator of a wave of anti-Buddhist violence that left more than 20 temples damaged last month.

Police detained Abdul Muktadir, a 19-year-old Muslim from the port city of Chittagong, on charges that he downloaded and spread anti-Islam photos taken from the Facebook account of a Buddhist in the southeastern town of Ramu.

Muktadir saw the photos after the Buddhist tucked “like” on an “Insult Allah” page.

On the night of September 29, Muktadir distributed the photos to a desktop computer and then showed them to local people, triggering the violence against the area’s Buddhist community”, said local police chief Salim Jahan.

Hours later a crowd of Muslims estimated at 25,000 gathered in Ramu in the Cox’s Bazaar district to protest. Some later attacked Buddhist temples and houses.

Police say more than 20 temples were torched in Cox’s Bazaar and neighbouring districts in what Buddhist leaders described as the worst violence targeting the tiny minority in Bangladesh.

Buddhists comprise less than one percent of Bangladesh’s 153 million mostly Muslim population.

Experts urge caution over RF peace plan

MANILA – A final resolution to a decades-long Muslim rebellion in the Philippines is a long way off with many tough issues yet to be resolved, experts cautioned on October 8, a day after a peace roadmap was unveiled.

President Benigno Aquino raised hopes of ending the conflict when he announced the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had agreed on a blueprint for achieving peace before his term ended in 2016.

Under the plan, the MILF’s 12,000 soldiers would lay down their arms and the group would give up its claims for an independent homeland in the southern Philippines, in return for the creation of a Philippine autonomous region.

However both sides acknowledged that many of the most sensitive points of contention still needed to be addressed, while experts questioned what a final agreement could be.

Injecting an element of doubt, a senior executive after she was unaccounted for on October 12, police said.

There had been fears for about half a dozen coastal towns and the islands of the social networking site in the early hours of October 11, destroying more than 30,000 dwellings, the government’s Disaster Management Bureau said.

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Briefs

PHINOM PENH — Radio Free Asia has accused the government of intimidation after officials summoned the station and froze its US-funded broadcaster Voice of the Myanmar Times, accusing them of their “professionalism”.

“The meeting was nothing but a recent attempt to discourage broadcasters from voicing their criticisms on the government,” RFA said in a statement sent to AFP on October 10 after the meeting.

“The Cambodian government clearly does not understand the value of a free press or the important role of independent media if it thinks it can intimidate RFA and dictate what it can or cannot report on.”

Past attempts by the Thai government to suppress the press have been condemned by rights’ groups.

Yet there is a fear the authorities could try again, and authorities have been accused of an anti-government bias.

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BANGKOK – Thailand’s Supreme Court on October 12 ruled that a warrant for ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra, in the latest abuse of power charges brought against the former leader, was legal.

Thaksin, who was removed from power in a 2006 military coup and lives abroad to avoid a separate jail term for corruption, is one of 27 defendants facing trial over loans issued by the state-run Krung Thai Bank when he was prime minister.

Storms toll rises in Bangladesh

DHAKA – The death toll from tropical storms that battered southern Bangladesh rose to at least 26 on October 12, police said.

Small boats were sunk and about half a dozen coastal towns and the islands of the social networking site in the early hours of October 11, destroying more than 30,000 dwellings, the government’s Disaster Management Bureau said.

There had been fears for up to 1,500 fishermen who were unaccounted for on October 11 but police re- ported no such figure down to about 60.

Arrest warrant issued for Thaksin

SINGAPORE – Singspore’s state-linked labour movement, the Central Provident Fund, sacked a senior executive after she was arrested and racially charged comments on Facebook that caused outrage across the city-state.

Amy Cheong, an ethnic Chinese female employee, was subsequently fired for a breach of membership of the National Trades Union Congress, was sacked one day after posting remarks on the state’s approved social networking site about the country’s Malay minority.

Expertise urged caution over RF peace plan

Philippine President Benigno Aquino at a news conference on October 7 after the roadmap was announced. Pic: AFP

implementation before Aquino stood down.

“There are real differences between those two parties that they need to thrash out,” Steve Rood, Philippine country director for the Asia Foundation and a formal monitor of the peace talks, said before a final resolution was possible before Aquino stood down. “If I was bet to do it, I would bet it can be done,” Rood told AFP, but that wealth sharing remained a major obstacle. – AFP

BANGKOK – Two Thai royalists suspects on October 8 were granted bail over a landmark legal case against the kingdom’s controversial royal majesty rules.

The Constitutional Court, as it ruled on October 7, said the constitution upholds the royal majesty rules as a court of law.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino at a news conference on October 7 after the roadmap was announced. Pic: AFP

Aquino said on October 7 that the people in the planned new autonomous region would have a “fair and equitable” share of its wealth, but that wealth sharing remained a major obstacle. – AFP
Disgust as Taliban shoots young Pakistani activist

PESHAWAR, Pakistan – A Pakistani child activist shot in the head by the Taliban is slowly improving but will remain sedated in intensive care for at least another 24 hours, a relative said on October 11.

The shooting of Malala Yousafzai, 14, on a school bus in the Swat valley on October 9 has been described worldwide and by the Pakistani authorities, who have offered a reward of more than US$100,000 for the gunman.

Two of her school friends were also injured. There are mounting questions about how the attack could have happened and why the perpetrators simply walked away in an area with a visible police and army presence.

"Doctors have told us her condition is improving," said Mehmoodul Hasan, one of Malala’s relatives at the military hospital in the northwestern city where she is being treated.

"She has been given sedatives for the next 24 hours and after that doctors will examine her and tell us about her condition," Hasan told AFP.

US President Barack Obama, UN chief Ban Ki-moon and Pakistani leaders have expressed horror at the attack on a girl who campaigned for the right to education, and the Taliban have been fighting the Pakistani Taliban since 2007.

On October 10, doctors successfully removed a bullet lodged near her shoulder, where it moved after entering her head.

Pakistani media has said Malala was made to fly her head, but military sources told AFP she was too ill to travel.

"The Taliban, who have killed thousands of people across Pakistan in the last five years and destroyed hundreds of girls’ schools, have issued a statement denouncing the attack but say any female who dares to oppose them should be killed," Malala’s father told AFP.

"The international community is ready to do everything that is possible to support Afghan and Pakistani efforts to prevent a collapse after NATO troops withdraw in 2014," said Abraham A. Rondeaux, the spokesman of International Crisis Group, on September 24.

"The Western-backed administration could fall apart, particularly if presidential elections in 2014 were fraudulent or rigged.

But a presidential spokesman dismissed the report as “nonsense and garbage.”

Kabul counting on “strong” support from the international community beyond 2014, the spokesman, Hamid Erm, said on October 9.

"I don’t think the UN envoy for Afghanistan, told a news conference that he did not think election rigging was a major concern.

"We do not have a strong commitment from the international community beyond 2014, which has been a problem," he said.

Karzai, who has been Afghanistan’s only leader since the US invasion brought down the Taliban, wants "honest, sincere” support from the international community after 2014, told a news conference that he did not think election rigging was a major concern.

"We do not have a strong commitment from the international community beyond 2014, which has been a problem," he said.

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"We do not have a strong commitment from the international community beyond 2014, which has been a problem," he said.

But analysts fear he could try to maintain power, through a proxy, if not directly.

His presidential re-election is expected by the US, India and Pakistan, but directly.

Fraudulent election or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.
The Indonesian miracle: Five myths

By Richard Dobbs, Fraser Thompson and Ariif Budiman

WHEN most people think of Indonesia today, they think of beach resorts on the famously teeming cities, but this country of 240 million and counting is a much more modern, diversified, and dynamic economy than many international investors and companies assume. To make the most of Indonesia’s vast potential, they’re going to need to think about the archipelago — and putting these five myths to bed is a good place to start.

“Indonesia’s economy is unstable.”

Hardly. Far from being unstable, Indonesia has been growing steadily at an impressive rate of 4 percent to 6pc during the past 10 years — less volatile than the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, or any other developed country for that matter. Indonesia’s government debt has fallen by 70pc in just a decade and is now at a level lower than in 8pc of developed economies. Inflation, which was over 20pc 10 years ago, stands at 8pc, comparable with more mature economies, such as South Africa and Turkey. Indonesia’s overall economic management has also shown remarkable improvement. The World Bank’s Global Economic Prospects ranked Indonesia 25th out of 139 countries for macroeconomic stability in 2012, up sharply from 80th in 2007. For comparison, Brazil ranked 62nd and India ranked 99th.

“Not much happens outside Jakarta.”

Not true anymore. Indonesia’s sprawling capital city contributes up to one-quarter of the archipelago’s entire cross domestic product (GDP). But Jakarta’s isolation is waning. A large number of medium-sized and small cities are growing faster than the capital and will be ever more important hot spots for foreign investors and companies looking for opportunities. Urbanisation is spreading in Indonesia and is an increasingly important growth stimulus. By 2030, more than 70pc of the population is likely to live in an urban area, up from just over half today. Between 2010 and 2030, more than 30 million people are expected to move from rural to urban areas. Cities with populations between two and five million — such as Bekasi and Surabaya — are growing at 8pc. Indias population could account together for 2pc of GDP by 2030. In fact, about 90pc of the 250pc of the fastest-growing cities will be outside the islands where Jakarta is located, by 2030.

“Indonesia is nothing but beaches, Bali, teeming cities and festivals, such as this one featuring traditional masks, at the Lang, in East Java.”

Many outsiders have been confounded about Indonesia and its potential, say the authors of this report. Pic: AFP

“Indonesia is more than beaches, Bali, teeming cities and festivals, such as this one featuring traditional masks, at the Lang, in East Java.”

Indonesia could be the third largest economy in the world by 2030. But Jakarta’s dominance of Indonesia’s economy is not driven by its large industrial base. Indonesia’s exports are exceptionally diverse (other than for medicinal use). That is a testament to the diversity of the country’s natural resources, which is why Indonesia is one of the world’s largest producers and exporters of palm oil, the second-largest producer of coal, and the second-largest producer of cocoa and tin. And has the fourth- and seventh-largest reserves of nickel and bauxite, respectively, according to the government. Indonesia also has the world’s largest geothermal resources. And, Indonesia has large endowments of crude oil and natural gas. But mining, can only account for 1pc of Indonesia’s nominal GDP — the same in Russia. In fact, Indonesia has been a net importer of oil since 2004. If it were to come as a major surprise to many observers that half of Indonesia’s GDP comes from service sectors such as financial services — specifically savings and investment — retail, and telecommunications. Indonesia is already the fourth-largest user of Facebook in the world — where Jakarta is located, by 2030.

“Indonesia is nothing but beaches, Bali, teeming cities and festivals, such as this one featuring traditional masks, at the Lang, in East Java.”

Bo case ‘relentlessly pursued’, says official

BEIJING — China’s top political officer told politicians on Sunday that investigating the disgraced politician Bo Xilai has been “relentlessly pursued” and not allowed to root out corruption, state media reported on October 7.

The comments by Hu Qiaoqiang, a member of the Politburo, the nine-man Communist Party’s top policy-making body, came in a news report on China, indicated that the party would take a hard line on Bo and China’s graft-probed politicians and officials across the country, meeting next month.

“We have thoroughly looked into the investigation of cases as the main priority of our work and maintained strong momentum to punish corruption,” Xinhua quoted Hu as saying. “However, no matter how they are, will be followed relentlessly and will never escape punishment.”

The congress will signal the start of a calming and expanding population that could total 280 million by 2030, up from 240 million today. And demographics are likely to support growth for some time to come, contributing 2.4pc to overall economic growth until 2030. But it’s not primarily people that are driving Indonesia’s growth — it’s productivity. In the coming decade, Indonesia’s labour productivity has been responsible for more than 20pc of the country’s annual growth, with the largest contributions coming from wholesale and retail trade, transport equipment and apparel, telecommunication services and transport and telecommunications. Indonesia’s productivity growth needs to be 60pc higher than it has been since 2000. That is challenging but not impossible. Indonesia’s domestic-focussed strategy boosts productivity and removes barriers to higher productivity. In addition, Indonesia has three key sectors — consumer services, business services and resources — and raises skills across the economy, lowering the productivity for that matter. Indonesian productivity is even more insulated from future shocks.

“Population growth is behind Indonesia’s economic rise.”

Beijing’s McKinsey: Indonesia is at a critical juncture. Its economy needs to be more impressively driven by productivity in the past decade than many outsiders — and even Indonesians themselves — think. But to build on this performance, Indonesia will need a productivity revolution in any sectors of the economy. Today, the country’s productivity remains the world’s 10th largest, but there is a large gap between Indonesia’s full dynamism, which could jump to seventh by 2030. The reason is that excess of the G-7 group of the world’s leading economies.

(Richard Dobbs is a director of the McKinsey Global Institute, where Fraser Thompson is a senior fellow. Ariif Budiman is president director of McKinsey Indonesia).
By Carol Huang

BEIJING – Chinese dissidents last week assailed Mo Yan’s Nobel literature prize as a dishonorable vindication of the Communist Party’s control of creative expression, by the author of being a stooge of officialdom.

While China continued to bask in the prize with an official forum, unpressed books on the country about politics and economics.

“It was difficult to find out about Myanmar writers,” he said. “I had started dreaming about the idea of a book project about Burmese poetry.”

Mr Byrne said he eventually asked Vicky Bowman, a former British ambassador to Myanmar, about Myanmar poets, which led him to publish a translated poem by Saw Wai in his own literary magazine, the Wolf.

Even then, Mr Byrne said the only Myanmar poet he was aware of was Saw Wai, Min Tho, and Saw Gyi.

Saw Wai had gained the attention of the Western world on February 14, 2008, when the BBC transmitted his poem about porn star general Than Shwe.

“I don’t know anybody in particular, but I wasn’t satisfied when people referred to Saw Wai as ‘the poet of Myanmar.’” Mr Byrne said. “I felt that there must be many other people who wrote modern poetry in Myanmar, and I wanted to find out what the differences were between Saw Wai and these other poets.”

In late 2006 he published five more works by Myanmar poets Mya Phye, Phone Thet, Han Na Ri in The Wolf, and asked Htein Lin and Ms Bowman to write an introduction about modern poetry in Myanmar.

“I made contact with poet Yu Thoe Noe to translate the poems of Min Thu Wun and Zaw Gyi, and I still need to work on modern Myanmar poets. When I read more poetry, by Zeyar Aung and then Khin Aung Aye, these really woke me up,” he said.

Mr Byrne said he received a scholarship to study in New York in 2008 and 2009, but he continued following his idea to publish a collection of Myanmar poetry.

“It was very hard work choosing poems for the book. We couldn’t even make decisions about whether to choose former great poets or young modern poets.”

In the end they chose some poets from the World War II era, and some younger contemporary poets. They translated about 900 pages worth of poetry, but only 300 pages made it into the anthology.

“To translate, Ko Ko Thet and Zaw Gyi worked every day and checked every line, word and syllable to make sure we got a perfect translation. The translation can change the meaning of the entire poem, and we wanted to be faithful to the poet,” Mr Byrne said.

“Next year the book will be available in Myanmar, which is very important for me. Now we are trying to get permission. But it is available on the internet as an e-book for everyone to read.”

Poet Maung Pyiitt Minn said he was contacted in 2010 about permission to include his work in Books Will Crow.

“That at time my poems were already translated into English and ready for publication. The editors also asked me about other contemporary poets who have waited too long for this prize. I’m really glad to be published and happy that the world will know Myanmar poetry.”

Maung Pyiitt Minn said there were two ways to translate poetry: word for word, or changing some of the words to retain the overall meaning.

“Some translations look better, but they can destroy the poem by losing the meaning. But other translations can actually add meaning to the story,” he said, adding: “I think the collection can cover some Myanmar poets but many more are left out. This is not the mistake of the editors though because they can only include a limited number of pages.”

He said he was looking forward to the publication of Books Will Crow in Myanmar, which will prompt some changes in Myanmar’s poetry landscape.

The country closed its doors for more than 50 years, and even poets were unable to make contact with other countries. At the same time, our contemporary poets continued to try to improve their own. Now the door is open for Myanmar poets, and I think it will help us develop our work,” he said.

James Byrne at New Zero Art Space on October 11. Pic: Yadanar
**Traditional style makes comeback**

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

**DURING** her historic trips to Europe and the United States earlier this year, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had the opportunity of not only to educate the rest of the world about the suffering of her people and her home country, but also to showcase Myanmar clothing and ethnic garments on the global stage.

Her elegant, traditional blouses with Westernised sleeves were widely seen throughout the world, but few people outside of Myanmar knew that they were designed and sewn by a group of physically disabled dressmakers.

The designer and principal of New Fashion Designer Group, U Tin Toe, has recruited eight women suffering from poliomyelitis from different regions of the country, to help them develop distinguished careers as dressmakers regardless of their disabilities.

The dressmakers designed and sewed seven blouses in different colours, and sent them as an unsolicited gift to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In her reply, she wrote, "I'm still collecting material," Nyein Chan Su said. "I'm not sure about the timing."

**"We have seen that the various costume designs worn by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have also attracted the interest of young Myanmar women."

He said most local fashion shows are based on traditional themes, which also helps lessen the popularity of "strapless gowns and short skirts".

"Creativity is very important. We might design an outfit that young women will be influenced by the clothing worn by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi."

"Young women started wearing skimpy clothing without cultural barriers. Though the story of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's clothing was presented in Inle Lake, it is very wonderful."

She said that every year a group of enthusiastic local designers showcases traditional clothing on Myanmar television, which falls on July 6, and this year she showcased costumes with long sleeves and longyi, with intricate patterns. "It fosters an interest in traditional costumes and results in a decrease in wearing short skirts."

"Even if local young women dress in longyi and traditional cloth, they design coats and long skirts using traditional and ethnic garments," Yin Thu Su said.

"The show features 12 large photographs printed on vinyl, with highlight added using acrylic ink. The images consist of archival photos of Nyein Chan Su's aunt, Toe Toe Lwin, who was a famous actress in the 1970s, and was never talking about her film career. But I want to use new technology to show photos for people to know her history," Nyein Chan Su said.

"My aunt stopped making movies in the 1980s, and now she's in her 60s and I want to show people what she chose to do in her life," Nyein Chan Su said.

"She has already used vinyl prints and acrylic ink in some previous shows, including "Nat-O6 Series" (2006) "People Series". Artworks at the exhibition are for sale at prices ranging from US$800 to $1500."

**TIMEOUT**

**October 15 - 21, 2012**
Pedigree Burmese cats pounce back in Shan State

By By Kelly Macnamara

They're known for their sleek good looks, alluring eyes and sunny disposition, but one group of animals that could use a bit of a PR exercise are Myanmar's only indigenous cat breed, the Burmese. 

Although large dogs might be a bit trickier if looking for an apartment, staff have become sceptical about pets in Yangon. There's no problem for renters to have pets in Yangon, but Ms Trudel said "it's not a problem for renters to have cats to keep hold of because it was "a gift from a monk."
The hotelier is involved with an array of preservation projects and from a monk."}

"People seem to love pets here," one expat said.

"Our landlady sent her daughter into the ceiling to rescue our cat; our gardener keeps an eye out for them as do our taxi drivers smile and tickle the dogs rather than driving off," she said.

"Our staff love our dog because they think they will miss him when we leave," another expat said.


A record of the microchip number is also essential. In Bangkok, Suvarnabhumi Airport has a departmental export section, which is better known as the "free zone" although it's a 15 minute drive from the airport. Queues can also be long. Therefore it's too risky trying to get a license on the day of departure, regardless of who Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in perfect health. As a result, the cats and their owners we ended up missing a flight because of this omission. 

From Yangon for Australia, Singapore or Japan, travel agencies can island nations, as well as many parts of the European continent, where cat at home or abroad, I was told to check specifics process altogether.

Dr Nyun, a veterinarian at the Myanmar Times said that owners should get a licence from government-registered animal shelters and local Inle Lake, including nine monks, to bring their cat to a destination country at least three months in advance -- it's wise to check specifics process altogether.

Airlines requirements differ. Westminster Kennel Club says "there's no room for "pets and smelly, or noisy pets, to check-in to welcome on any airline, Dr Nyun cautions. "It's out of the question of the issue of sale and transport.

He said that over-seated animals have been declared "unfit and thus temporarily in observation in Bangkok's quarantine area for a few days.

Dr Nyun recommends keeping a pet in its travelling cage for a couple of hours prior to departure to get used to it.

If the pet isn't used to the cage, the pet will appear to be fairly aggressive and will refuse to do "the right thing," she said.

I didn't make any friends on the flight to Bangkok in my hotel room, I was told, as well as to ensure that when the time comes to leave Yangon, an export licence will be available.

"Parvo virus and heartworm are extremely prevalent here," one expat cautioned. "I've lost a couple of dogs to both: parvo and heartworm."

As for renting, a real estate agent in Yangon, named Moe said, "it's a problem for renters to have cats to keep hold of because it was "a gift from a monk."
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Afghan filmmakers fear ruin of cinematic history

By Matthew Scott

BANGLA, South Korea — Afghanistan filmmaker Siddiq Barmak remembers watching helplessly as reel upon reel of film footage disappeared, outside and burned in the streets of Kabul, the Taliban took power in Afghanistan.

He also remembers the effect of new censorship laws and thousands of films from destruction after the extremist forces marched into Kabul in 1996.

Barmak and other Afghan filmmakers last week said it was time to say Afghanistan’s film history was being lost to government inaction and concerns about security alone.

“Without worrying of all us now is that the Taliban, the people who tried to destroy our cinema, are being defeated and taking again as becoming part of the government,” said Barmak. “We haven’t a war that we can do and cannot forget this.”

Barmak was joined by director Lalit Ahmad and producer Ibrahim Arify, who heads the government-backed Afghan Film Commission.

The filmmakers attended the Busan Film Festival last week in a bid to save an Afghanistan National Film Archive as it faces an uncertain future.

The six films that comprised “The Rise of the Ashes,” included rewrites of Barmak and Ahmad’s work, all of which were in danger from the wrath of the Taliban.

But many more reels remain in need of urgent repair, they say, with time taking its toll on old film stock.

“The situation is critical,” said Barmak, winner of a Golden Globe award in 2004 for Osama.

“We need help or our country’s film history, which is also the history of our country and its people, will be lost.”

Barmak was working at Afghan Film, the state-owned corporation overseeing the national film industry and archive, when the Taliban began to implement its strict rule and attempted to destroy old film footage.

Cinemas across the country were closed and the screening of films banned under the Taliban’s enforcement of Sharia law.

Were it not for the quick intervention of archive staff, the building’s entire contents of feature films and more than 8000 hours of newsreel footage dating back to before World War II would have been lost.

Usually light is needed to bring cinema to life, but in this case it was darkness that came to the nation’s history.

“Luckily some of the film was moved overseas and we are still working on getting with France’s Institute of Audiovisual Institute,” said Arify.

But we are facing a serious crisis as we have nothing to save and help to restore and save all of what we have. That’s why we are here in Busan asking for help, from anyone who will listen,” he explained.

Afghan cinema has a rich history dating back to before the country’s then-royal family commissioned an Azerbaijani to make newsreels back from their international travels.

Afghan Film’s first feature film Love and Friendship was produced in 1946 and by the early 1960s, Afghan Film had begun to educate film students and support local productions.

Many Afghan filmmakers of the time took cinema studies in Russia, Iran and Pakistan, due to the lack of formal film education opportunities in their homeland.

Barmak was one, heading to Moscow where he studied cinema at the Moscow Film Institute.

He was in Moscow when Russian tanks invaded Afghanistan in 1979 but had returned to Kabul by the time the Taliban took power after the Soviet withdrawal.

How for their transportation fees, sport activities, competitions and prizes, ” U Dia Bhun, chairperson of the International Friendship Group on October 11 donated K6.8 million to Special Olympics Myanmar, said the organisation was founded in 2004 and now has about 400 members.

The disabled children train every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 6.30am to 7pm at various venues throughout Yangon — Aung San Stadium, Thawmaunna Stadium and Mingalar Don Stadium — as an effort on their specific sport.

These children compete not only at national events but also at international competitions.” We Nano Win Pyone said.

“They have participated in Singapore two times, in 2005 and 2009, and twice in Bangkok and Cambodia. They won second prize for football and first prize for personal talent at the Indochina games in Bangkok in 2005.”

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

THE Third Blue Wind Multimedia Art Festival for female artists will be held in November 19, with highlights including a directing workshop led by Finnish cinematographer Pekka Niskanen.

First held in 2010, the festival has attracted 130 artists and filmmakers, with workshops, speakers, installation artists, writers, poets and editors. This year, for the first time, foreign artists will also be invited to participate in the festival.

The 2010 edition was held in Hong Kong and Myanmar, and 2011’s edition was hosted in Berlin.

“We are trying to invite female artists, whether they are working in contemporary, multimedia art with all their hearts. We don’t want to exclude any of them,” said Daw Phyu Mon told The Myanmar Times.

“In the past we restricted only our artwork to women, but the censorship rules but this year we invited female artists from China and Vietnam to join our festival,” Daw Phyu Mon said.

Mr Niskanen’s workshop will focus on movie directing and the ways of thinking about and approaching filmmaking. Anyone interested to attend the workshop can contact the festival director at bluewindmyanmar@gmail.com.

“I studied filmmaking with Mr Niskanen in 2009 and we still keep in touch. So when I mentioned the art festival, he was interested in discussing contemporary art with our local artists,” Daw Phyu Mon said.

“We want our multimedia art festival to be like an open area, where everyone is welcome who is interested in contemporary art.”

Festival promotes artwork by women

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

The next national sports competition for disabled children will be held on November 15 and 16 at Aung San Stadium, with events including boce, chess, and archery, and on November 17 and 18 a football tournament will be held at Thawmaunna Stadium with teams from Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Even Chong-Foliot, chairperson of the International Friendship Group on October 11 donated K6.8 million to Special Olympics Myanmar, said the organisation was founded in 2004 and now has about 400 members.

The disabled children train almost every day, with the world to know that she has been a two-time winner in 2005 and 2009, and twice in 2009 and 2011.

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By Pinky

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Prime time for pasta primavera

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 ½ cups of frozen peas
- 4.5 g
- You can use 25 centimetre slices
- 250 grams of prosciutto
- Cut into strips
- 2 tablespoon of olive oil
- 1 ½ cups of cooking cream
- 1 cup of salt-reduced chicken stock
- 600 grams of how pasta
- ¾ cup of freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Few more extra to serve

**PREPARATION**
Cook the peas in lightly salted boiling water until tender. Drain and soak in cold water for a few minutes.

Add the olive oil into the frying pan and sauté the shallots with medium heat for 1 minute. Add the prosciutto and sauté for 2 more minutes or until the shallots are wilted.

Add a generous grind of black pepper and pour the cream and chicken stock into the pan. Let them bubble up and gently boil for 3 minutes without covering. Put the pea back into the pan and mix them very well. Make sure the peas are thoroughly heated, and not too sticky, when combined with the pasta.

**SALT AND BLACK PEPPER**

**NUTRITIONAL CONTENT**

- **Marjoram**
- **81st Street between 26th and 27th Sts, Mandalay.**
- **Visit us at www.facebook.com/Phyos.cooking.**
- **For dessert, the lassi, either plain or with fruit, makes for a satisfying end to a meal.**

**Red Wine**

Yellow Tail Shiraz 2010

Fruity with a hint of spice and liquorice, this severely average Shiraz might attract those who enjoy a bogging sweet aperitif.

**White Wine**

Jacobi's Creek Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2008

Although this vintage is a bit past its prime, the combination of lemon, grapefruit and tropical fruit flavours is enjoyable with antipasto or fresh salads.

**Atmosphere:** 7

**Drink:** 7

**Food:** 9

**Value for money:** 9

**X Factor:** 8

**Score BOX** 8/10

For a break from the Chinese restaurants that have come to dominate Mandalay’s dining culture, look no further than Chanae Tarzan in downtown. Specialising in vegetarian Nepali food, the small establishment is a favourite among locals and appears to be catching on in Mandalay’s burgeoning tourist scene.

**The choices are almost all variations on daal and paratha bread. Perhaps I’m revealing how uncoutnical my palate is, but I’ve found that when taken home and given a few hours in the refrigerator, they become delicious cold.**

**While Mandalay is not considered a must-see destination for travellers, Chanae Tarzan is just one small example of how much there is to be discovered in this former capital city.**

**Main Tips**

The prosciutto can be replaced with ham. Don’t let the sauce bubble up too long, and also don’t boil it too hot. You can use them in this recipe for bow pasta and creamy sauce, or pasta primavera.

**QUAFFING QUOTE**

“Food to me is the ultimate nurturer and the best way I know of giving one’s time and effort and care to others.”

— Maggie Beer (Australian cook and restaurateur)
The weather is finally improving in Yangon, which means that Socialite will have more and more events to attend as the season progresses. She kicked off the month on October 1 with a gathering of doctors at Coriander Leaf restaurant at the International Hotel, and the next day she attended the graduation ceremony for Edulink Australia at IBC Centre. On September 3 she dropped by Parkroyal Hotel for a VCD launch by Wine Su Khine Thein. The next day Socialite took a rare day off, then hit the ground running on September 5 and kept on going, straight through the Republic of Korea’s National Day and Armed Forces Day celebration at Sedona Hotel, a press conference for Qatar Airways at Strand Hotel and Cobra energy drink launch at Parkroyal Hotel. The next morning she enjoyed a bowl of kyae oh at YKKO’s new branch in Lanmadaw township, and then continued on to Inya Lake Hotel for the Star Resources certificate awarding ceremony.
### Domestic Flight Schedules

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### Discover Mandalay

The Myanmar Marketing Committee is producing a new publication titled Discover Mandalay, which aims to provide 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 the MMCE Office by email (mmce@myanmartourism.org) or fax (+95-1-523-473).
endour by the sea

After capturing Caesarea in 1251, King Louis IX of France added most of the fortifications visible today in the Israeli seaside town. A quaint area of shops, restaurants and cafes has been built into the Crusader ruins. Pic: Donit Lambrouz/Caesarea Development Corp

We’re looking for what attracted the Romans – that unique position on the Med. So we head back the short distance to Netanya to find a silent Balcony Hotel, the night before, leaving the next day to explore Caesarea.

Netanya, named after Nathan Strauss, a prominent Jewish American merchant and philanthropist who owned Macy’s department store, is spread over more than 1,600 acres (6 kilometers) of sandy beach and is less than 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Tel Aviv. But it couldn’t have seemed farther from its freewheeling secular neighbour just to the south. Netanya is the Israeli coast’s quietest, more religious, more conservative ally native to Tel Aviv.

To look for a hotel, we take a winding road to Netanya’s HaRishonim Promenade, the picturesque cliff above the beach, and quickly find the King Solomon. Billed as Netanya’s best, it sits right above the promenade, its small, brightly coursed overhangs perfectly framed all facing the sea. Yep, they have a room with a balcony; it’s dated, but in a kind of funky way. And unbelievably, we can park our car out front.

We move to our sixth-floor room, and go out to our balcony, a sea of religious Jews dressed in long skirts, headscarves and hats, as usual, and are arriving for an open-air classical concert below us

On the promenade, just as a balcony sun is setting over the sea. We sit on our balcony and listen to some quite classical music while the string section blazing orange.

For dinner, we walk along the promenade to the centre of Netanya, where all the sites are. It’s all Russian and French as well as Hebrew. Netanya has a history it could feel about, like some Black Sea resort that time forgot. It’s fun for an evening, though, when you’re discovering Israel, and far cheaper than Tel Aviv. We have a good meal. The promenade is lovely and full of families.

The next morning, we head out to Caesarea early, to roam the ruins before the sun gets too hot.

Caesarea’s remains are still more than two miles of the coast, extending from the Roman theatre to the south to the Crusader city in the north. Among the ruins from the Roman period, we’re particularly struck by the Herodian Amphitheatre, the huge, U-shaped entertainment venue once used for chariot racing, sporting events and other shows. Smack dab on the Mediterranean, it has seating for about 10,000 spectators.

Herod’s royal harbour, known as Sebastos, is largely gone, but archaeologists believe that it included three basins, a huge breakwater hundreds of metres from the shore and a gigantic tower, possibly a lighthouse, to guide visitors into the protected harbour. It’s not hard to see why King Herod invested this money to honour his imperial Roman partner.

Walking through the Roman ruins, you reach the Crusader city; after capturing Caesarea in 1251, King Louis IX of France added most of the fortifications visible today. A quaint area of shops, restaurants and cafes – all dramatically lit at night – has been built into the Crusader ruins. It’s a perfect rest stop for coffee, lunch or dinner after a day, morning or afternoon of sightseeing.

A 19-minute movie in the Crusader city and an interactive display explain how Caesarea developed over time. And also most of the coastline.

After all that history, the Med beckons. And the Caesarea Beach Club is right there on a narrow stretch of beautiful beach. Fits the bill nicely for the remainder of the afternoon.

First, a late lunch on the white wicker sofas overlooking the site of Herod’s harbour. And then the late afternoon in the sun, lolling in the warm water in the small bay.

And lots of educational reading in the guidebook about the Romans in the Crusaders, too, of course.

– The Washington Post

International Airlines

**Air Asia (FD)**
33, Alay Frya Pagoda Rd, Groumd Floor, Pak-Khlong Talat Hotel, Yangon. Tel: 02-546-251, Fax: 02-531-866

**Air India**
45, Alay Frya Pagoda Rd and 2nd Floor, Sakar Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-kaipa, Yangon. Tel: 02-325-241, 256, Fax: 02-531-866

**Bangkok Airways**
55/30, 3rd Floor, Sakar Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-kaipa, Yangon. Tel: 02-331-099, 100, Fax: 02-531-909

**Malaysia Airlines**
339/25, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pakkadon Top, Yangon. Tel: 02-24707 ext. 100, 121, 122 Fax: 02-331-909

**Myanmar Airways International (BM)**
68-1, Sakar Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-kaipa, Yangon. Tel: 02-256, Fax: 02-531-866

**Silk Air (MI)**
339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, 2nd Floor, Sakar Tower, Pakkadon Top, Yangon. Tel: 02-357-717, Fax: 02-531-909

**Thai Airways (TG)**
Room No. 1101, Sakar Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-kaipa, Yangon. Fax: 02-256, 251-909

**Vietnam Airlines (VN)**
4170, Sakar Tower 23, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-kaipa, Yangon. Fax: 02-256, 251-909

**Travel to Bagan by train**

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**Travel to Mandalay by train**

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Roger Moore’s Bond had serious fun
By Jason Horowitz

“I NEVER do this,” David Horowitz, a public relations executive for United Artists, the studio that picked up British actor Roger Moore at Kennedy Airport. “Can I have your autograph for my eight-year-old son?”

It was 1986, and Moore was in New York City to do some publicity for the network. That year, he had starred, at age 58, in a show that had debuted the year before, at a House that read, “To Jason, the glossy’s upper right-hand corner that read, “To Jason, the film’s protagonist, a recurring redneck sheriff of shepherding Moore around the set. That combination made you for your existence, and you must choose. The challenge is to discover your strengths and use them wisely, without any expectation of reward.

Pisces  Feb 19 - Mar 20
Your attention is more likely to fall outside of your immediate social circle. You may be more interested in the secrets of your enemy, which you can use to your own advantage. Wisdom means understanding the artificiality of social pretence to plant the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of others to your betterment. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

Scorpio  Oct 23 - Nov 22
The line between poverty and prosperity lies in your estate. Conditions are generally in your favour, and your attention is more likely to fall outside of your immediate social circle. You may be more interested in the secrets of your enemy, which you can use to your own advantage. Wisdom means understanding the artificiality of social pretence to plant the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of others to your betterment. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
This is a wonderful honey that can cure all of your physical ailments. Love makes all things possible. The balance of knowledge and wisdom. Love is the key to unlocking the secrets of the universe. Be sure to take advantage of it.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
This is the art of doing nothing. Stay alone in your corner. What you can do is to focus on meditation. Understand clearly about the balance of knowledge and wisdom. Love is the key to unlocking the secrets of the universe. Be sure to take advantage of it.

Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18
You might consider abstract thinking as impractical, but it can lead to discoveries that have practical consequences. Small social challenges, which could require you to think outside the box and use your problem-solving skills to their fullest potential, will come your way. Be courageous enough to take on these challenges and make a difference. Be sure to take advantage of your strong analytical skills to make a difference.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22
The line between poverty and prosperity lies in your estate. Conditions are generally in your favour, and your attention is more likely to fall outside of your immediate social circle. You may be more interested in the secrets of your enemy, which you can use to your own advantage. Wisdom means understanding the artificiality of social pretence to plant the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of others to your betterment. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

Taurus April 20 - May 20
You might be torn between an emotional dilemma and a social challenge, which could require you to work beyond the point of exhaustion before the situation is settled. Action might not always bring you happiness but there can be no happiness without action.

Gemini  May 21 - June 20
Feelings of discomfort and dissatisfaction can change your character, and probably for the better. All things depend on each other for their existence, and you must choose a positive path toward a new beginning. Action might not always bring you happiness but there can be no happiness without action.

Cancer June 21 - July 22
Practise logical thinking rather than exploring the art of doing nothing. Stay alone in your corner. What you can do is to focus on meditation. Understand clearly about the balance of knowledge and wisdom. Love is the key to unlocking the secrets of the universe. Be sure to take advantage of it.

Aries March 21 - April 19
Now might be a good time to retreat to your estate. Conditions are generally in your favour, and your attention is more likely to fall outside of your immediate social circle. You may be more interested in the secrets of your enemy, which you can use to your own advantage. Wisdom means understanding the artificiality of social pretence to plant the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of others to your betterment. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

Leo July 23 - Aug 22
Manage your time according to your own rules so that high-risk ventures will provide maximum return. Strong spiritual awareness is required to maintain the right decisions in your professional life.

Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22
Your career path is closely tied to your abilities and your sensitive nature. Develop your spiritual awareness so that you can benefit from the wellspring of the heart and soul. Your way to prosperity can be found by launching a business venture with old friends.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22
Inactivity would be lethal to you and cause painful boredom. Be courageous enough to take risks in communication to frame your social life for the better. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22
A sweet tongue and honeyed lips can reveal the secrets of your enemy, which you can use to your own advantage. Wisdom means understanding the artificiality of social pretence to plant the seeds of doubt and suspicion in the minds of others to your betterment. Do not allow the artificial to dominate your life. Instead, use it to your own advantage.

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Microsoft Office 2010,
Adobe Acrobat Reader,
Google Chrome,
Dropbox,
Skype,
Moodle,
GitHub,
GitLab.

Contact Information:

Name: John Doe
Phone: 555-444-3333
Email: john.doe@example.com

Software Installation:

We offer full installation and support for the software listed above. Our team of experienced professionals will ensure that your software is installed correctly and efficiently.

Custom Software Development:

We also develop custom software solutions to meet your unique needs.

Contact us today to discuss your requirements and how we can help you.

Software Installation:

We provide full installation and support for the software listed above.

Contact Information:

Name: Jane Smith
Phone: 555-444-3333
Email: jane.smith@example.com

Software Development:

We develop custom software solutions to meet your unique needs.

Contact us today to discuss your requirements and how we can help you.

Software Installation:

We offer full installation and support for the software listed above.

Contact Information:

Name: Michael Johnson
Phone: 555-444-3333
Email: michael.johnson@example.com

Software Development:

We develop custom software solutions to meet your unique needs.

Contact us today to discuss your requirements and how we can help you.

Software Installation:

We provide full installation and support for the software listed above.

Contact Information:

Name: Sara Davis
Phone: 555-444-3333
Email: sara.davis@example.com

Software Development:

We develop custom software solutions to meet your unique needs.

Contact us today to discuss your requirements and how we can help you.
WE ARE looking for a qualified Administrators.

All interested/applicants must have self motived, fluently speaking English, have relevant experience and be able to communicate in English.

For further details please call 09-732-193017 (Mr. Than Tun) or 094-94237078 (Ms. Thida).

Job Position: Administrator

Salary: 1,300 USD

APPLICATIONS should reach the office before 12th Oct 2012.

WE ARE looking for a qualified Test Driver.

All interested/applicants must have self motived, fluently speaking English, have relevant experience and be able to communicate in English.

For further details please call 09-732-193017 (Mr. Than Tun) or 094-94237078 (Ms. Thida).

Job Position: Test Driver

Salary: 1,300 USD

APPLICATIONS should reach the office before 12th Oct 2012.
Black Canyon Coffee & International Thai Cuisine

Tel: 09-732-7609

Heaven Pizza

Tel: 09-850-1893

Panswells Express Cafe

238, Arlino Rd, Arlino Township

Tel: 09-732-7609

Horizon Int'l School

Tel: 544500

25, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd

Tel: 09-732-7609

Royal Garden

Nal Mook Road, Kandawgyi Natural Park, Bahan Township

Tel: 544500

Signature

Tel: 544120 Roundabout, about Bahan Township

Tel: 544500

Kohaku Japanese Restaurant

Chairman Hotel Royal Lake Yangon

43, Nam Maw Road

Tel: 544200 ext 6321

Enchanting and Romantic, a Bliss on the Lake

42/B, U Tun Nyi Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon

Tel: 01-645-516, 649795

Email: sparyangon@gmail.com

Traders Gourmet Corner

Level 1, Traders Hotel

223, Sule Pagoda Road, Sankarada Township

Tel: 249280 ext 6303

Traders Gallery Bar

Level 1, Traders Hotel

223, Sule Pagoda Road

Tel: 249280 ext 6303

Monsoon Restaurant & Bar

B & S 8977, Than Byoe Road, Botataung Township

Tel: 09-9451-9688

Western Park

Thakhat Mya Park, Ahlone Township

Tel: 09-43126571

YKKO

28, Saya San Road, Bahan Township

Tel: 01-541-9118

KUAN

111, Yaw Kaung Road, Kyauktada Township

Tel: 09-735-7609, 5367725, 501427

Fax: 09-950-4116

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MELBOURNE – Tennis officials on October 11 said they held constructive talks with players agitating for a greater share of revenue at the Australian Open, a day after Andy Murray played down a boycott threat.

While organizers of the season’s opening major boosted prize money to a record Aus$30 million (US$31.1 million) as they responded to a push by players to gain a higher percentage of prize money.

At issue is the pay of lower-ranked players, who often exit in the first round after making the long journey Down Under.

Tennis Australia chief executive Steve Wood said he met with the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and Player Council on the sidelines of the Shanghai Masters about a fairer distribution of the prize money, and talks were productive.

“Tennis Australia has had some very constructive and positive discussions with the ATP and the Player Council,” he said in a statement.

“We believe we have been well received and are buoyant about the future.

“We have talked about our long-term plans for player compensation, including further significant increases, and the feedback we have received from the ATP and the players has been positive.”

While this year players pocketed £77m (more than $100m) for a first-round defeat at the Australian Open, some top players take ends meet during the year as they pay for much of their own expenses.

Without a high profile, they are rests, future sponsorship deals that could help sustain their careers.

Players Council president Roger Federer on Sunday cautiously welcomed the move to boost prize money, but said he was not sure it was significant enough to quell player unrest over the long-running row.

However, on Wednesday Murray said he and other players never viewed a strike as a realistic option.

“From all the players I’ve spoken to so far, everyone’s been very happy with the increases in the prize money and their plan over the next few years, as well,” said the Briton.

While the prize money break-up has yet to be revealed, Australian Open director Craig Tiley last week said increases would be weighted towards those who lose in the early rounds.

More talks are scheduled to take place before a final decision is made, Wood said.

“We have plans for further discussions regarding distribution and will also be having talks with the WTA to get their feedback,” he said.

“Our intention has always been to make a major contribution toward improving the compensation of professional tennis players to make their profession more viable throughout their ranks. The attitude of the players has been very positive.”

The Australian Open is played at Melbourne Park in January. – AFP

UNICEF VACANCY
Community Planning Officer, NOA (Temporary Assignment)

UNICEF Myanmar requires a dynamic, motivated, creative and committed individual to support scale-up of community-led total sanitation (CLTS) activities to accelerate the development of community self-planning toward ODF status, facilitate and monitor the CLTS process where necessary in communities. The Community Planning Officer will be involved in the planning, process and promotion of CLTS community level planning, process and promotion in the concerned areas.

Objectives of the position:

- To support communities to become familiar with the concept, methodology and processes required in assisting communities in Myanmar to become Open Defecation Free; assist and monitor CLTS through CLTS promotion processes by working closely with implementing partners and government counterparts; monitor and assess the implementation of WASH in Schools programme; provide reports on CLTS progress and arising issues/problems; rectify deviations and problems with guidance from WASH Section; undertake regular visits to project sites, assess local conditions and resources; report outcome of analysis and prepare corrective actions; attend meetings, prepare notes and take follow-up actions; collect and analyze data for situation analysis, planning, management, monitoring and evaluation.

Qualifications and Experiences:

- University Degree in Civil or Public Health Engineering, Social Sciences; specific training on or in water, sanitation, hygiene, community-based planning and programming for young people desirable; three years progressively responsible professional work experience in WASH including water, sanitation and hygiene education in communities; current knowledge of social programming policies and procedures in international development cooperation; current knowledge of development issues, policies in WASH sector in Myanmar; analytical skills with ability to compile analysis data and present results through tables and visual mapping; versatility, judgment, reality and the ability to work in a team; demonstrated ability to take initiative, drive and passion; negotiating, communication and advocacy skills; sensitive to gender and equity issues; ability to work in an international and multicultural environment; good knowledge of computer management and applications; fluency in English and Burmese.

Qualified and interested candidates should submit CV and a cover letter to HR Unit, UMT House, 10th Floor, 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, by 25 October 2012. Applications may be sent electronically to: jobs.yangon@unicef.org

Note: Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for further review.

SAUER appoint first female team principal

YEONGAM, South Korea – Monisha Kaltenborn became the first woman team principal in Formula One on October 11 when she took control of Sauber with immediate effect after her predecessor stepped down from day-to-day management.

Peter Sauber had always made it clear that he did not wish to be running the team, which he built more than four decades ago, when he turned 70. He will be 69 on October 13.

Sauber will continue in his capacity as president of the board of directors of all Sauber Group companies and remain responsible for the group’s direction, a team statement said.

“We decided a long time ago that Monisha would take over from me, but we left the timing open,” Sauber, one of the biggest names in Formula One, said in the statement.

“Now is a good time for both of us, so this is the right moment to pass on the baton. After all, there have been a number of races I’ve been yet to attend – most recently the Japanese Grand Prix, where the team put in an excellent performance.

“I’m in no doubt that Monisha has all the necessary skills to be an outstanding team principal, and I’m equally certain she will ensure that the values underpinning the company live on. That is very important to me.”

Kaltenborn, 41, an Austrian of Indian origin, joined the company in 2000 to run the legal department, was appointed a member of the board of management not long afterwards and took over as CEO of Sauber Motorsport AG in January 2010.

In late 2011 Peter Sauber transferred a third of the company’s shares into her name.

“Naturally I’m very aware of the major responsibility I have for Peter Sauber’s racing team,” said Kaltenborn in the statement.

“He founded the team over 40 years ago, and in the spring it will be 20 years since Sauber lined up for its debut Formula One grand prix. We are the fourth-oldest team in Formula One.

“To build up a project like this and keep it alive in a difficult environment is a tremendous achievement. I have set my sights high and am committed to taking the team forward as Peter Sauber would want and leading it on to success.”

Sauber are sixth in the constructors’ championship with five races to go, still hopeful that Korean Grand Prix to be held on October 14.

Sergio Perez, the Sauber driver who is set for a move to McLaren next season, said: “Monisha is very capable of treating people the right way so I wish her the very best.

“I will always be very thankful to Peter. He gave me the opportunity to show my talent. I’m very thankful.” – AFP

London – Wayne Rooney is to become a father for the second time.

LONDON – Wayne Rooney is to become a father for the second time this week. The England and Manchester United footballer’s wife, Coleen, has revealed on Twitter.

She told her 840,000 followers that the couple were expecting their second child, a brother or sister for son Kai, who was born in November 2009.

“A few people guessed, so news is out!,” Mo. Wayne and K are thrilled that we are expecting addition to our family around May time,” she tweeted.

“It’s still only early but bursting with excitement! Also wanted the news to come from us, before anyone else!” added the expectant mother.

The childhood sweethearts from Liverpool, now both 26, wed in a lavish ceremony in June 2008, but their relationship has come under scrutiny in the past following newspaper reports that Rooney used prostitutes.

“We, Wayne and Coleen, and their families are thrilled and delighted that Korean is expecting their second child,” Coleen’s spokesman for the couple said.

“They wanted to share the great news on their popular social networking website because they knew why Coleen tweeted the news ahead of any speculation.”

“Everyone’s a thrilled for them.” – AFP

Sauber-Ferrari driver Sergio Perez of Mexico drives his car during the qualifying session of the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at the Suzuka circuit on October 6, 2012. Pic: AFP
England stars given code of conduct

BURTON UPON TRENT, United Kingdom – England’s stars are to be given a code of conduct to bring them in line with other major sporting bodies in an attempt to govern their behaviour when they are on and off international duty.

The new disciplinary procedures were outlined to England’s players for the first time when they met on October 8 at the new National Football Centre in Burton to prepare for October 12 World Cup qualifier against San Marino.

The scheme marks the culmination of eight months of work by Club England Managing Director Adrian Bevington and his fellow board members -- Director of Football Development Trevor Brooking, General Secretary Alex Horne and FA chairman David Bernstein -- and they stressed the decision was not a knee-jerk reaction to any recent indiscretions by England players such as Ashley Cole.

The new procedure was first outlined to the England squad when they met on October 8 at the new National Football Centre in Burton to prepare for October 12 World Cup qualifier against San Marino. The scheme marks the culmination of eight months of work by Club England Managing Director Adrian Bevington and his fellow board members -- Director of Football Development Trevor Brooking, General Secretary Alex Horne and FA chairman David Bernstein -- and they stressed the decision was not a knee-jerk reaction to any recent indiscretions by England players such as Ashley Cole.

Chelsea defender Cole has been charged by the FA for labeling the English game’s governing body “a bunch of twats” last week in response to the questioning of his evidence in the John Terry racial abuse hearing. Bernstein confirmed: “Clearly in the past we’ve been hampered by not having a code and therefore some things have been less clear than they might have been.

The new code was approved at a recent board meeting and the first team has now heard in detail what it contains.

‘It doesn’t contain a list of possible offences and tariffs because in the real world you never know what is around the corner. But the players are now clear there are real consequences if they don’t (adhere to the code).’ Bevington added: ‘This week is the first time we have sat down with the players and set out some basic guiding principles of what we expect from them as a group. ‘I think we should have been doing this in years gone by and I take part responsibility for that.’

The six-page code of conduct is expected to mirror regulations in place with the Rugby Football Union, England and Wales Cricket Board and individual club regulations that players are already signed up to.

It will be rolled out in the near future and has been agreed by managers of all England teams including senior team coach Roy Hodgson.

The document will cover three main areas: players’ behaviour when they are on England duty, their conduct when not with the national team and the process with how any breaches will be dealt with.

Bernstein denied that the modern day players see themselves above the law and explained the need for a code of conduct when he added: England players should have responsibility. They are incredible role models with very high profiles and this should have been in place years and years ago.

‘There has been a lack of clarity (in the past), which might have led to a bit of fuzziness. But one thing about these guys is their desire to play for and do well for England.’ – AFP

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KABUL – After more than 30 years of war, extremism and ethnic infighting, Afghans might at last have found something everyone can agree on – a passion for football.

The Afghan Premier League (APL), the country’s first fully professional competition, is reaching its climax, with the final next Friday, after a month of gripping the war-torn nation from the presidential palace to the ordinary worker.

Created from scratch by lovers of the beautiful game and given financial backing by some of Afghanistan’s biggest companies, the APL has burst into Afghan life with a mix of big ambitions and a little chaos.

If there were any doubts about fans’ willingness to go to matches in a country where Taliban bombings have targeted large gatherings in the past, the first match on September 18 quickly dispelled them.

A huge crowd stormed the gates of the Afghan Football Federation stadium in Kabul, and police resorted to lashing out with the faithful on the terraces were not the only ones to enjoy the match – the APL fixtures have been shown live on two channels, with commentary in Afghanistan’s two main languages.

Afghanistan had a league before the APL but it was little known and not broadcast – a far cry from the banks of TV cameras following every kick and tackle of the new tournament.

And the APL’s connection to television goes beyond live matches.

A reality show, “Maidan Saba” (Green Field), had fans get involved in the selection process for their local team and turn Sunday footballers into professionals – albeit not paid ones.

“The show got a fantastic reception. We had 3,000 to 4,000 candidates” for each of the eight teams representing the country’s main areas, said producer Mohibat Lashkari.

Viewers watched as the would-be stars raced in the mud, jumped with weights on their feet and were grilled by psychologists.

All the staples of reality TV were there.

The tales of woe: “My dad wanted to be a footballer but he never made it. I want to fight for his dream.” Thevacuous pep talks: “Up to now, you’ve played for yourselves. Now you’re playing for the team.”

Even a sort of confessional, where players divulged their hopes and fears to the camera.

After seeing the players put through their paces, viewers voted by SMS for which three players should join the 15 chosen by coaches for each of the eight teams.

The lucky ones are from all ethnic groups, an important factor in a country where friction between different peoples has long been a cause of violence.

APL commissioner Said Shafiq Gawari told AFP he was proud of what they had achieved in a country ravaged by more than 30 years of war and said the league offered hope for the future.

“A huge part of the Afghan population are young people. They’re under 25. We would like to send our message to the majority of Afghans, and to the world, that Afghans can play together, we have teams composed of different groups,” he said.

All the APL games are being played in Kabul to try to minimise the security risk, and the tournament has even had the blessing of the Taliban.

“In Kandahar, we had a filming going on. A huge member of the insurgency came to the set saying that they would not disturb the project as it’s good for the country,” said Chris McLeonald, an adviser to the APL.

Football was one of the few types of entertainment not banned by the Taliban during their 1996-2001 rule. The insurgents took advantage of the popularity of the game to spread out punishments and executions at half-time during matches.

Whether it can help heal the wounds caused by decades of war remains to be seen, but now the APL’s popularity is evidence that the distraction it brings is very welcome. – AFP

New professional league grips zealous Afghan soccer fans

Myanmar dominates kickboxing event

By Kyaw Zin Hlaing

TWO Myanmar kickboxers knocked out their opponents while another drew during the Let Hway Challenge Fight between Myanmar and the Philippines at Yangon’s Theinphyu Stadium on October 7.

Fighters Tway Mashaung and Thetti Aung accounted for their traditional sport is,” he said.

have the chance to see what our traditional sport is,” said producer Mokhtar Lashkari.

are evenly matched and we won’t have to worry about the Filipinos,” he said.

Although the Myanmar side was triumphant in the tournament, fans were not satisfied with the short fights and felt that the Filipino side was greatly outmatched.

“I am happy with our fighters but I prefer watching the fights between local fighters because they are evenly matched and we have the chance to see what our traditional sport is,” said producer Mokhtar Lashkari.

Winners Tway Mashaung and Thetti Aung are scheduled to fight on October 25 in Kandawgyi Park.