THE MYANMAR TIMES

Sanctions to success

Special report - November 2012

United States President Barack Obama's historic visit to Myanmar

Featuring:

Commentary from leading analysts

Reactions to Obama's election victory from ASEAN ambassadors in Myanmar

Burma or Myanmar: Will the US make the switch?

Memoirs of visits by three former US presidents

Could Obama help end Myanmar's armed conflicts?

A Yangon astrologer looks at Obama's second term

Dunlopillo moments LORENZO LIVING STARTS HERE.... SHERIDAN
Let's Celebrate with all our exclusive brands in this New Year!
Welcome to Casabella Enjoy Luxury Home Furnishing 664363
OSIM Inspiring well-being KETTLER Sports & Fitness GERMANY LifeFitness USA

Obama's visit: a bold, courageous and risky move

PHOTO: AFP

By
Roger Mitton

IN politics, as in sex, timing is everything. And United States President Barack Obama not only has an exquisite sense of timing, but also the cojones to act upon it.

Forty-eight hours after winning a second term in the White House, he announced his decision to become the first sitting president to visit Cambodia and Myanmar.

It is a bold, courageous and risky move, but it holds the prospect of major rewards to those nations, as well as to the US itself – and to this region as a whole.

His short trip, which will include one other stop in Thailand, confirms Mr Obama's first-term pledge to re-engage with Southeast Asia and to "pivot" his administration towards Asia.

Reversing the neglect sadly displayed by his predecessor, Mr Obama has ensured that members of his team have attended all important meetings and summits in the region. Now the president himself is doing the same and giving Southeast Asia the personal attention it needs and desperately craves.

Let's be clear, this is no rah-rah victory visit to bask in adulation and grab some relaxation, sunshine and zesty food after the ardours of a long election campaign.

On the contrary, the president's itinerary is focused on key strategic goals and the imperative to start his second term on a high note and let the world know that Asia will be the epicentre of his foreign policy.

Why kick off with Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand? After all, China, Japan and South Korea are more powerful and more important to the US than any member of ASEAN.

Well, yes, but Mr Obama has sussed out that the best way to deal with China and other major powers is to create an Asia-Pacific framework that spurs Beijing to play by the neighbourhood's rules. And since the key to the 'hood is ASEAN, he is aiming, rightly, to boost ties with all its members.

First off, as befits a Nobel Peace Prize laureate whose pre-eminent concerns are democracy and human rights, he is starting that process by visiting the region's most challenging trio.

Thailand's latest government faces constant threats from non-elected forces, Cambodia drifts towards an ever more oppressive one-party state, and Myanmar wobbles perilously as it speed-skates towards democracy.

Mr Obama will need all his powers to help guide this trio onto the right path and encourage them to set an example to dictatorial Vietnam and Laos – while not appearing to elbow aside China.

Not only will these goals create tension for Mr Obama, but so too will the sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea – the very issue that caused ASEAN's July ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh to break up in rancour.

As if all this were not enough, Obama's visit invites criticism that it will reward half-baked reforms and lessen the incentive for leaders to undertake the hard yakka ahead. Myanmar dissidents, for instance, say it is wrong for the president to visit when there are still hundreds of political prisoners, clashes in Kachin state and appalling carnage in Rakhine.

Most, however, believe Mr Obama will help more by going ahead and letting his hosts know that a more enhanced civil society and better human rights are key conditions for improved ties with the US.

When he arrives in Myanmar, President Obama is sure to get a rapturous welcome from a populace expecting him to advocate more liberalisation, while applauding the reforms already enacted.

In doing so, he must remember that those sweeping reforms, unthinkable when he first took office, were undertaken despite American sanctions, not because of them.

It is a crucial point, as is the fact that the reforms were also propelled by a desire to dampen domination by China – which will be peeved by this high-profile visit to a border country it views as a gateway to Africa and the Gulf.

But Washington will let the Chinese bleat, while Mr Obama lets everyone know that he represents the start of something new: That America is back in Myanmar and back for good.

As for Cambodia, where he will attend the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN-US Leaders Meeting, Mr Obama may find the group confabs a lot easier to handle than his encounter with Prime Minister Hun Sen.

For, if the president remains true to form, he must address the way Cambodia, under Prime Minister Hun Sen's increasingly intolerant and nepotistic regime, has been backsliding on civil liberties.

Last week, the international NGO, Human Rights Watch, urged Mr Obama to challenge Mr Hun Sen to explain the continued extrajudicial murders of dissidents, journalists and environmental activists.

On top of that, Washington fears Phnom Penh has fallen so much under the sway of China that Beijing now has the ability to compel Cambodia to do its bidding on foreign policy within ASEAN.

That said, China's support did not help Cambodia's recent bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council – it was rebuffed because too many countries recoiled at the behaviour of Mr Hun Sen's government.

While alluding to these key concerns, Mr Obama can offer some balance by noting that the US is Cambodia's biggest trading partner and that there is fruitful cooperation on many fronts, including counter-terrorism.

As for Thailand, the most enduring US treaty ally in Asia, Mr Obama will want to revitalise a special relationship that has soured somewhat after the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2006 coup in Bangkok.

It will be no easy task, partly because of Thailand's historically close ties with China and partly because the country remains politically divided at home.

On that point, Mr Obama will hope to bolster the current freely-elected government which has come under ominous threats from non-elected elites and military-aligned figures.

Then, finally, at the EAS, America's president, having just been re-elected, will be in a position of strength, while other nations, like China, Japan and South Korea, will have lame-duck leaders who will soon be gone.

That will enable Mr Obama to bestride the summit and send a clear and strong clarion call of commitment to this region from a leader who has proclaimed himself "America's first Pacific President." ■

SANCTIONS TO SUCCESS: A SPECIAL REPORT

Editors:
Myo Lwin, Jessica Mudditt

Writers:
Roger Mitton, Derek Tonkin, Tim McLaughlin, Jessica Mudditt, Douglas Long, Pinky Robert Taylor, Justin Heifetz, Nehginpao Kipgen

Photography:
Kaung Htet, AFP

Layout & Design:
Tun Min Soe, Tin Zaw Htway, Ko Pxyo,

For enquiries and feedback:
myolwin@myanmartimes.com.mm, jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Creeping tigers, intelligent elephants and befriending communists: memoirs of visits by three former US presidents

By Tim McLaughlin

WHEN the wheels of Air Force One touch down at Yangon International Airport, United States President Barack Obama will become the first serving US President to visit Myanmar.

Three previous US presidents have visited Myanmar prior to taking office or after exiting it. Richard Nixon did both.

The experiences of former presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Herbert Hoover and Richard Nixon had in Myanmar are documented in personal writings and news reports, which offer fascinating and sometimes humorous accounts of a nation as it was seen by some of America's most famous politicians.

In 1877 former president Ulysses S. Grant embarked on an around-the-world tour that took over two years to complete. The tour was a reputational rebuilding tool for Grant, whose second term as president from 1872 to 1877 was marred by scandals and widespread corruption.

By March 1879 Grant had made it to Myanmar via India. He departed Calcutta by boat, arriving in Yangon to meet with Charles Aitchison, Chief Commissioner of the British Crown Colony of Burma.

Modern aviation will ensure that President Obama arrives much more quickly, but at the expense of the leisurely card games enjoyed by Grant.

"During the day we loll, read and play Boston to while away the day," wrote Mr Grant of his trip in his personal journals, which were later published as the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 29: October 1, 1878 – September 30, 1880.*

Mr Grant was struck by the "gay colors" worn by the Burmese on the streets of Yangon, a city then of just 100,000. In it he saw tremendous potential: a new railway line had just been finished and another was nearing completion.

"With these roads and the navigable river… for some eight hundred miles to the interior, I predict that Rangoon will outstrip either Calcutta or Bombay - in wealth by 10 years and in population by 25," predicted Mr Grant.

India's rigid caste system and the limited rights it afforded women had deeply troubled Mr Grant.

Of Myanmar's female population, Mr Grant wrote, "Females are not shut up, but visit and receive visits. They act as salesmen and do business as frely [sic] as in Europe."

He added, "The Burmese are not bigoted and do not object to the intermarriage of their race or religion with people of any other race or religion."

> "I stole a day off... at Mandalay to absorb the atmosphere of the only truly happy and cheerful race in all Asia – the Burmese," said Mr Hoover.

Grant departed Yangon and travelled to Mawlamyine, at the mouth of the Thanlwin River, where he marveled at the power of elephants used for timber logging.

"The intelligence shewn [sic] by these beasts looks like reason rather than instinct. Their strength is too wonderful," wrote Mr Grant.

Despite Grant's positive impression of Myanmar, the country was under siege by the British Crown, which had already claimed half the country. The Burmese still controlled Upper Myanmar, which was ruled by King Thibaw.

An article from *The New York Times* published in 1879 described the flashpoint for the dispute, "The origin of trouble between the Burmese and the British Resident at Mandalay is that the latter protects, and refuses to deliver up to slaughter, two royal Princes and their families, who have taken refuge at the Residency."

Despite simmering tensions, major conflict would be held at bay until the Third Anglo-Burmese War broke out in November 1885. By this time Grant's journey was long over.

Herbert Hoover, who entered the Oval Office in 1929, visited Myanmar in 1905, during his pre-political years as a successful mining engineer.

In *The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Years of Adventure 1874-1920,* Mr Hoover tells of how he became aware of mining prospects in Myanmar through a chance encounter with Mr A. C. Martin, a railway contractor in Burma, during a trip between Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

While making his way north to Mandalay before visiting Hsipaw in Shan State, Mr Hoover was enraptured by the people he encountered along the way.

"I stole a day off at Rangoon to visit the Shwedaung [sic] Pagoda, and later on, a day or two at Mandalay to absorb the atmosphere of the only truly happy and cheerful race in all Asia—the Burmese," said Mr Hoover.

Mr Hoover's itinerary included crawling through abandoned mine shafts by candlelight where he had a close brush with a Bengali tiger. The moment had the makings of an H. Rider Haggard tale and Mr Obama's planned speech at Yangon University is certainly a less treacherous scheduling choice.

Mr Hoover returned to Myanmar in 1907, spending three months here with his wife, two young sons and sister-in-law. At the outbreak of the First World War, Hoover sold his interest in the Burma Mine Company.

Forty-five years passed before another would-be US president visited Myanmar. Richard Nixon, vice president under Dwight D. Eisenhower, rang the bells at Shwedagon Pagoda in 1953.

The most memorable moment of Mr Nixon's visit came when he encountered anti-American protestors in Pegu, now Bago, 80 kilometres northeast of Yangon.

From left to right: Unknown female, Myanmar President Dr Ba OO, former President Richard Nixon and former First Lady Pat Nixon at Shwedagon Pagoda in 1953. PHOTO SOURCE: UNKNOWN

The incident, recalled by Mr Nixon in *RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon,* cited this as a formative moment in his approach to addressing the issue of Communism.

Against the advice of his security detail he waded into a crowd of protestors holding signs "Go back Warmonger." Anti-American sentiment was running high in Asia at the end of the Korea War. When Mr Nixon found who he thought to be the leader of the protest, he introduced himself, then asked why the man was so upset.

According to an article from the United Press in 1953, "Vice President Richard M. Nixon took the wind out of the Burmese Communist sails today by marching smilingly into the middle of an anti-American demonstration and shaking hands all around."

"The experience bolstered my instinctive belief that the only way to deal with Communists is to stand up to them. Otherwise they will exploit your politeness as weakness. They will try to make you afraid and then take advantage of your fears. Fear is the primary weapon of Communists," Mr Nixon wrote.

Mr Nixon returned to Myanmar in 1985: it was 11 years after the Watergate scandal prematurely ended his second term as president. The visit was hardly covered by the press, as the country began to close itself off from journalists.

A short article by the Associated Press noted that Mr Nixon's second trip was in keeping with Myanmar superstition that he would return.

"Local belief has it that visitors who ring the bell [at Shwedagon Pagoda] will return to Burma," the article stated.

Mr Nixon met with General Ne Win, the chief architect of the "Burmese Path to Socialism," which was largely responsible for plunging the country from prosperity into poverty.

The legacy of General Ne Win's rule continues to the present day. However with considerable momentum moving forward in the reforms process, President Obama will be meeting a leader who has shown a desire to enact lasting change. ■

Could Obama help end Myanmar's armed conflicts?

By Nehginpao Kipgen

Kachin refugees in Laiza Hospital. PHOTO: KAUNG HTET

THE fast pace of improved US-Myanmar bilateral relations has surprised many observers and analysts alike. While many welcome Obama's visit, there are others who criticise the timing of such a high-level visit.

There are valid points to both arguments. On a positive note, the visit shows the US' continued support for human rights and democratic reforms. The visit could also boost the initiatives of President U Thein Sein in the midst of some military hardliners who are critical of the democratic reform process.

The visit could also provide incentives for both Rakhine state and the central government to help end the ongoing conflict. Obama could use the visit to urge both the government and the opposition to work concertedly for a solution. The visit could also be a morale boost for democracy advocates and other civil society groups to strengthen their activities.

On the other hand, armed conflict is unabated in Kachin state and there are thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons. As of October 31, 2012, there are an estimated 283 political prisoners according to the Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Some are concerned that Obama's visit could overshadow the ongoing conflicts and that the US leverage to influence the Myanmar government for further democratic reforms might be weakened.

While the Obama administration should be given credit for pursuing a dual-track policy that has opened the door for diplomacy, one must also acknowledge the contribution of the Republican administration under President George Bush. Among others, the Bush administration successfully placed Myanmar in the formal agenda of the United Nations Security Council.

> While many welcome Obama's visit, there are others who criticise the timing of such a high-level visit . . .

Recent political developments have shown that Myanmar has embarked on a new phase of politics. However, one should not be over-optimistic about its future prospects.

Challenges and uncertainties remain – uncertainties over free and fair elections and issues pertaining to autonomy.

Despite these lingering uncertainties, there is room for national reconciliation if the central government led by ethnic Myanmar and ethnic minorities cooperate. In order for mutual trust to develop, minority problems need to be resolved. President Obama should emphasise the urgency for such a solution. The US must understand that minority problems outweigh differences between the NLD and the military.

There is every reason to be optimistic about the political changes in Myanmar. However, given the nature of Myanmar's historical problems, there is also reason to be cautious about potential long-term solutions.

Nehginpao Kipgen is general secretary of the US-based Kuki International Forum. His latest research article entitled "US-Myanmar Relations: Change of Politics under Bush and Obama Administrations" is scheduled for publication in the Strategic Analysis journal by Routledge in March 2013. ■

The symbolism of Obama's visit to Myanmar

By Derek Tonkin

UNITED STATES President Barack Obama's visit to Myanmar has particular symbolic importance. It is recognition at the highest level that Myanmar has embarked on a process of political and economic reform. The President has outstanding concerns on issues such as ethnic violence and political prisoners, but his visit is also a major step on the road towards the full normalisation of relations. US-Myanmar relations might even now be said to have normalised, because there are no longer any taboo subjects and on core US concerns like North Korea, the page has for all practical purposes been turned.

Even so, the US remains in some ways the odd man out among Western countries. Congress is yet to repeal or even amend their complex legislative measures on sanctions. The progress made in easing restrictions has been due solely to actions on behalf of Mr Obama, notably waivers of existing legislation. However due to the complexity of the US legislative and executive process, progress remains slow.

One acid test is the reacceptance in Myanmar of international credit and debit cards, though this is unlikely to occur before 2013. There is also continuing uncertainty about financial transfers into Myanmar from the US, which would normally be routed through New York. Will US authorities allow payments made to companies and organisations where Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) are thought by the US to be involved in the transit process? The question is an interesting one, because it is no longer contrary to European Union laws.

Mr Obama sees progress in Myanmar as a success story for US policy, but the prime initiative has all along come from President Thein Sein. US sanctions amounted to virtual economic warfare against the country, which is why the reformist government of Myanmar wishes to see an end to all sanctions as soon as possible, because they continue to have an impact on living standards. There is little evidence to suggest that US measures coaxed Myanmar towards reform.

US foreign policy is often based on "conditionality," expressed in the case of Myanmar as "action for action", but this smacks of "benchmarks" and puts the US in the role of playing God. President Obama may well be personally inclined to be proactive in the relationship by supporting Myanmar to achieve the goals and ideals which they have themselves set, notably the ASEAN chair in 2014 and the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. But Congress is still wedded to the reactive process and is reluctant to repeal legislation due to a concern that it might only have to be re-imposed one day.

The visit to Myanmar is part of a pursuit by the US to increase its focus on the Asia-Pacific region, which will be played out at the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, where Mr Obama will meet Vladimir Putin, Wen Jiabao and other ASEAN and regional leaders. The world will be watching how the visits to Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia play out. They should not be seen as a distraction from serious fiscal and economic issues facing the US President on the domestic front, but more as evidence of his growing confidence in a region where it is possible for the US to make realistic and tangible progress.

Derek Tonkin is a prominent Myanmar analyst and a former British ambassador to Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. Mr Tonkin is also chairperson of Network Myanmar. ■

MYANMAR AND THE US IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD

PHOTOS: AFP

START WORKING SMART...

eko

Office Solution

Subsidiary of
NatRay Co.,Ltd

Bld-A2 ,Gr-Fl,
Shwe Gabar Housing,
Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp,
Yangon.

652391, 09-73108896

email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm

HAVE YOUR SAY: What do you think about President Obama visiting Myanmar?

While many are going gaga over President Obama's visit to Myanmar – the first by a sitting US president – some media reports have claimed the reaction is more lukewarm. Pinky from the *The Myanmar Times* took to the streets to find out what people think…

PHOTO: AFP

Ko Win Tun, a 35-year-old shoe-repairer

"His visit is a good sign for the country. It means that Myanmar is being treated like any other country. And it will be good for business."

U Ko Ko Oo, a 45-year-old businessperson

"The visit could open up a lot of business opportunities. For the past few years, business in Myanmar has been in serious trouble. American involvement is going to be better than Chinese involvement. But at the end of the day, what matters is what the government is going to do."

Ma Ei Ei Khing, a 28-year-old part-time translator

"I'm looking forward to his visit, but on the other hand, there will also be disadvantages. Americans and other foreigners will come to Myanmar for tourism or on business: this might improve the country, but I'm afraid some local people could lose out on opportunities if foreigners gain too much influence."

Daw Aye Myint, a 42-year-old convenience shop owner

"It could be good, but it's too soon to tell. It depends on the government."

U Mg Mg Win, a 40-year-old businessperson

"It's really good that he's coming. This will build a strong relationship between our two countries, and will lead to a lot of improvements."

Mg Win (taxi driver, 34)

"His visit will bring a lot of business, which is good for the country's economy. When business improves, so will the country."

John, a 16-year-old student

"I had no idea that Obama's coming and have no interest in it."

Flag flurry over Obama's visit. PHOTO: AFP

Burma or Myanmar: Will the US make the switch?

By Jessica Mudditt

DURING my first language lesson in Yangon with my teacher Zar Chi and a fellow student from the United States, the "Burma" versus "Myanmar" question arose. Our topic that evening was "Making Friends" so we were learning how to ask and respond to questions about national and ethnic origin. When I mentioned that I was surprised to have seen references to "Rangoon" rather than Yangon on the US embassy's website, Nathalie said – with complete sincerity – "That's because the US is a country that believes in human rights."

Yet to me, "Rangoon" conjures up the gin and tonics sipped on the balcony of the British Club in the 1920s (albeit in Katha and not the capital), described so hauntingly by George Orwell in *Burmese Days*. Like Yangon, Burma is a British name; a corruption of Bamar, which is actually the colloquial term for Myanmar. Both historically refer to the majority Bamar ethnic group, which today comprises about 68 percent of a population that includes some 130 ethnic minorities. Colonisers and invaders, whether the British, the Mughals or so on, often had difficulty pronouncing indigenous place names: Like a young child who creates their own version of a three-syllable name, it often sticks.

Myanmar's former military rulers changed the country's official name from Burma to Myanmar in 1989, which they claimed better represented the country's ethnic diversity. However this remains hotly disputed.

When I arrived in the country four months ago, I was a staunch "Burmist," because in years past, the BBC and other Western media outlets – not to mention Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – had instilled in me a political, pro-democracy association with the word. However I quickly learnt to mimic my local colleagues and friends, the vast majority of whom refer to the language and people as Myanmar (which I also learnt is pronounced *Me-An-Mah*). When speaking to expats, I sometimes (somewhat guiltily) revert to Burma. Among politically minded people living outside the country – mostly in the US and the United Kingdom, using the "M-word" is likely to result in icy stares and a huffy change of subject.

As Mark Farmener, of Burma Campaign UK told the BBC in 2011, "Often you can tell where someone's sympathies lie if they use Burma or Myanmar. Myanmar is a kind of indicator of countries that are soft on the regime."

However this perception is changing, as is the country itself.

Nevertheless, among the less travelled (including my Melbourne-based travel agent in 2006), "Myanmar" often results in blank stares – a fact several Myanmar people acknowledged when interviewed.

"I say Burma when I travel overseas," said a citizen called Aung Min.

Although Germany officially uses Myanmar, as does the United Nations, ASEAN, Russia, Norway, China, India (itself also officially known as Bharat in its constitution), Australia and Japan, a German tourist in Yangon called Yudith told *The Myanmar Times*, "I've heard it's politically incorrect to say Myanmar. Informally, in Germany we call it *Birma*."

Her friend Ran chipped in, "If I knew what I should call [the country], that would be really good."

Although the names confound many well-meaning foreigners, the majority of locals interviewed by *The Myanmar Times* said they were totally unaware that Myanmar and Burma have different political connotations in the West.

Aung Min, 49, said, "I like the sound of Myanmar. Most Myanmar people prefer it, as well as Yangon. It's easier to pronounce."

However he did say that his friends sometimes argue about which name should be used – although Zar Chi's parents accept Myanmar, she said that many older people remain fond of Burma.

A former government officer, 73-year-old Ram Gopal, told *The Myanmar Times*, "I like the name Myanmar, because I like the government. I had no problem with Burma being a British name, but whatever the government does, I like."

Twenty-two-year-old Naw Naw explained things a little differently.

She said, "We usually say Burma whenever we speak in English, and always have, so many wondered why the government changed the name to Myanmar for English use. However my opinions on the issue aren't very strong – I just see people, not a label."

> "… there is no escape from 'Myanmar' in terms of formal UN procedures and diplomatic protocol, since Diplomatic Notes or Credentials using 'Burma' are simply 'returned to sender.'"

Naw Naw added that citizens' identity cards never state "Myanmar" as a nationality – in Naw Naw's case, it says, Bamar + Mon + Karen, because her father is Karen and her mother is both Mon and Bamar.

"It's confusing," she said with a shrug.

A former insurgent whose ethnicity is Mon and Bamar who spent 10 years living in the jungle told *The Myanmar Times*, "People inside the country have called it Myanmar for a very long time, so at the time the name was changed it was no big deal to us. It was more about the army trying to control everything. I would accept either name if it were put to a vote. I didn't like it when the government told people like Daw Aung San Suu Kyi not to say Burma."

Until pre-publication censorship was abolished in August this year, the word 'Burma' was prohibited in news reports.

The former insurgent said, "The government has stopped telling people what to call the country and little by little, other countries are beginning to use Myanmar. But both names are problematic: Burma was inherited from the British and when the military government took over, the name was changed to Myanmar. The young generation is confused."

And yet the confusion isn't new. When the independence movement took root in the 1930s, there was no consensus among nationalists about whether to use Bamar or Myanma (incidentally, the 'r' is still often dropped today).

Zaw Win, 30, said he has grown up knowing the country as Myanmar and the term is his preference – but he remains saddened that the national flag was changed in 2010, because the stripes of the previous one represented the 14 provinces of the country, whereas the design of the new flag is meaningless to him.

The former insurgent said that some ethnic minorities believe that Myanmar, like Burma, only represents the majority ethnic group. Neither is totally representative of the estimated population of 55 million – though few countries' names in this world can claim to be so either.

He also pointed out that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says Myanmar when speaking in the Myanmar language, but uses Burma when speaking in English: a fact little known to many in the West.

Mr Derek Tonkin, a prominent Myanmar analyst and former British diplomat, told *The Myanmar Times* that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is "taking a softer line" on the Burma versus Myanmar issue.

Mr Tonkin said, "While in the US, she said it was more a generational thing and because she belonged to the older generation, she prefers to call the country Burma. That's a shift, but the fact remains that there is no escape from 'Myanmar' in terms of formal UN procedures and diplomatic protocol, since Diplomatic Notes or Credentials using 'Burma' are simply 'returned to sender.'"

During US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Myanmar last year, she said neither Burma nor Myanmar, but instead referred to it as "the country". The EU also dodges a decision by officially calling it Burma/Myanmar.

Zar Chi said, "It's frustrating. Other countries should respect our official name."

In recent times, the linguistic waters of international relations have been further muddied due to Myanmar's rapid, albeit incomplete, series of political reforms that began with elections and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release from house arrest in 2010. The same year, *Burma Campaign UK* ended its call for tourists to boycott the country. Today, Myanmar is welcoming US President Obama, whom *Vanity Fair* described in 2009 as "the most famous living person in the history of the world." The significance of the visit from the very man who repopularised the true meaning of "change" cannot be underestimated.

Whilst life in Myanmar remains a daily struggle for millions, Mr Obama would be the first to acknowledge that life in America can also be calamitous, and I believe he would seek to work together with Myanmar to improve the lot of both nations, while respecting the name of a sovereign, non-military-led nation. For as Louis Armstrong famously concluded about the metaphorical difference between saying potatoes or potahtos and tomatoes or tomahtos in *Let's call the whole thing off*, "For we know we need each other, so we better call the calling off off!" ■

US President Barack Obama waves at supporters during a campaign rally in Aurora, Colorado, on November 4, 2012. PHOTO: AFP

Four years ago, Yangon astrologist predicted Obama's second term

By
Douglas Long

AMERICAN computer expert Nate Silver has received plenty of attention for his use of mathematics to predict, a few months ahead of time, that Barack Obama had a 90.9 percent chance of winning re-election in November 2012.

Sounds marginally impressive, but the fact is that a Yangon resident beat Mr Silver to the punch by nearly four years, using quite different methodology to determine well in advance that Mr Obama actually enjoyed 100 percent certainty of victory in this year's election.

In early January 2009 *The Myanmar Times* received an unsolicited, hand-scrawled note from a local astrologist. In the letter, Aung Myin Kyaw (also known as Williameast) explained that he had read the star charts for Mr Obama with the aim of paying his respects to the incoming United States president, due to be inaugurated on January 20 of that year.

"I came up with the idea to predict the future of Barack Obama, just to honour and encourage him in his political role as a great leader," Aung Myin Kyaw told *The Myanmar Times* in an email interview at the time.

His main prediction stated that Mr Obama would, without doubt, win re-election in 2012. As we now know, this forecast ended up falling on the correct side of the 50/50 divide.

Aung Myin Kyaw, who has been studying and practicing the astrology of what he calls "eastern and western cosmology" for nearly 40 years, explained that the reading – based on Mr Obama's date, time and place of birth – showed that the planets Saturn and Jupiter played key roles in foreseeing how his presidency would unfold.

"Saturn, the so-called Evil One, is actually in a very positive and effective position in Obama's zodiac. This is a very good planet for Obama because of its powerful position and relation to others," the astrologist was quoted as saying in an article published in *The Myanmar Times* just a week before his inauguration.

"And because of the great power of Jupiter, Obama will surely win re-election in four years."

Aung Myin Kyaw said the strong influence of Jupiter – a planet that stands for peace, ease and wisdom – also ensured that Mr Obama would be a "fortunate and lucky" political leader.

However, the astrologist warned that he also foresaw an assassination attempt on President Obama sometime during his second term, most likely in the years 2014 or 2015, but that the president would escape unharmed.

"An assassination attempt will be carried out but it will be unsuccessful. There will be no bloodshed and the president will escape from any enemies," he said.

In April 2011, on the occasion of the release of Mr Obama's "long form" birth certificate, Aung Myin Kyaw felt compelled to update the horoscope. He reiterated that a second term as president of the US was unquestionably in the stars for the incumbent.

> Mr Obama can rely on a "spiritual awakening" to make positive changes in an atmosphere characterised by a "deficit of trust"

"President Barack Obama will always encourage others to ask the hard questions, rather than simply accepting what seems apparent on the surface. His Jupiter also represents the soul's need to grow, improve and experience more," the astrologist said.

"Saturn rules all foundations and matter, and integrates soul and spirit into reality" with the result that "Mr Barack Obama is sure to continue his second term role as president of the US government with a spirit that is positively contagious to all others".

This interim horoscope likewise showed that President Obama's luck would hold throughout his prospective second term: "There's still a chance that he could face an attempt on his life, but there is no chance that it will succeed," Aung Myin Kyaw soothsaid.

The astrologist has now conducted a third reading, following this month's election, providing greater detail about the ways in which the President's second term in office will be influenced by the alignment of the heavenly bodies.

Aung Myin Kyaw started by sending his congratulations to Mr Obama for winning a second term in the White House, but warned that "all is in a state of flux and nothing is stationary".

According to the reading, from September 13, 2012, to September 16, 2015, the influence of Saturn means that Mr Obama can rely on a "spiritual awakening" to make positive changes in an atmosphere characterised by a "deficit of trust".

The president will also be called upon to use his "virtue and intellectual power" to prevent technological competition from "leading to a meaningless war".

A new influence, this one from Mercury, will take precedence from September 16, 2015, to May 25, 2018, leading to a "great process" that will result in "changes in international relations".

"A historic opportunity will make Mr Obama great" during that time, although the president must be sure to keep lines of communication open to maintain his "perspective of the world" as well as his "perspicacious quality".

Aung Myin Kyaw also broke down the Saturn-influenced portion of the presidency into more discrete chronological segments, as follows:

September 13, 2012, to March 4, 2013: "Powerful management will be your main role."

March 4, 2013, to August 7, 2013: "International political controversies must be reconciled using your knowledge and wisdom."

August 7, 2013, to April 10, 2014: "Learning and observation should be your best policy. Let others go first."

April 10, 2014, to June 4, 2014: "You will be victorious in social communications."

June 4, 2014, to September 4, 2014: "You will enjoy financial results and personal prosperity."

September 4, 2014, November 7, 2014: "Unexpected contradictions and hidden plots will affect you."

November 7, 2014, to April 19, 2015: "An assassination attempt can disturb you, but you will escape without harm or injury."

April 19, 2015, to September 16, 2015: "Good fortune will make you comfortable, respected and esteemed."

Given Aung Myin Kyaw's proven track record in predicting the outcome of US presidential elections – he's one for one, even without the use of highfalutin computer models or mathematics – Mr Obama would do well to take note of these heaven-sent insights and act accordingly. ■

Bilateral relations: then and now

By Robert H. Taylor

Presiden U Thein Sein addresses the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2012 in New York City. . PHOTO: AFP

THE visit of President Barack Obama to Yangon is obviously a major event in Myanmar-United States relations. Despite the fact that the United States Congress has yet to repeal various sanction legislation on Myanmar, the visit is like a seal of approval on the government of President Thein Sein, at least for those who believe "the West is the Best". In addition to messing up Yangon traffic for a few hours, the visit will also give the US President some good pictures for his eventual top-selling memoirs. His predecessor, George W. Bush, though he used to talk about Myanmar as a big problem, actually failed to mention the country in his memoirs. George W. Bush's timing was bad. If only the government of Myanmar had held the national elections in 2006, rather than 2010, it would be Mr Bush who might have had the photo opportunities.

From the point of view of President Obama's diary secretary, dropping in on Myanmar while in the neighbourhood, while seeing top US Southeast Asian ally Thailand, and attending the East Asia summit in Cambodia, makes sense. It saves travel time and checks off three obligations with one long haul trip, thus saving the strapped American tax payer a bit of lolly. It is also a chance to remind China that the United States under Obama is taking a stand for its Asian interests which, of course, it would like to expand in Myanmar. It might even encourage some American trade and investment in Myanmar so that the United States can make some money, something it does not have much of, relatively speaking, these days.

> States have long memories and long planning horizons and the will to power does not lapse with time.

The last big day to mark on our calendars for American presidents meeting Myanmar heads of government was the 1966 State Visit by Myanmar Socialist Programme Party Chairman U Ne Win to Washington, D. C. Then President Lyndon Johnson was hunkering down in the White House in the midst of America's losing war in Vietnam and looking to prove to a sceptical world that the United States defended the rights of small states to remain independent. Little came from the visit, but President Johnson subsequently described his private and off-the-record conversations with Chairman Ne Win as one of his most stimulating meetings with a foreign head of state during his time in the White House.

After the visit, the American press was impressed, almost to the point of disbelief, that Chairman Ne Win did not ask for American aid. He asked for nothing but to be left alone. Informally, however, the United States proved to be cooperative with Myanmar, particularly in the provision of military training. When subsequently Myanmar's relations with China deteriorated during the Cultural Revolution, the United States had the good sense to stay out of the conflict in order not to make a bad situation worse.

President Harry Truman secretly authorised, not even telling his Secretary of State, the Central Intelligence Agency to arm and support, with Thailand and Taiwan, the KMT troops which fled across the border with Yunnan in 1949. His idea was that they would provide a diversion to Chinese forces engaged in the Korean War, at the other end of China. The KMT did little of that, but they posed problems for Myanmar's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and gave rise to the drug trade, which is one of the continuing legacies of US-Myanmar relations.

Even before Myanmar gained its independence, United States presidents gave thought to Myanmar from time to time. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared to British Prime Minister Churchill during World War Two that he did not like the Burmese. His sweeping aspersion on a population approaching 20 million was based on a single encounter with then Myanmar Premier U Saw. U Saw had flown to London and Washington on the cusp of the Japanese invasion of Southeast Asia in order to convince Prime Minister Churchill to promise dominion status to Myanmar in exchange for Burmese support for the British war effort. When Churchill said no deal, U Saw flew on to Washington and tried to bargain with US President Franklin Roosevelt.

His offer was essentially, "You, Mr President, get Churchill to change his mind and promise me dominion status or independence after the war, and I will stop taxing the American military equipment you are shipping up the Burma Road via Yangon to your allies in China, the KMT government of Chiang Kai-shek." President Roosevelt rejected the offer and U Saw flew off in time to get bombed on at Pearl Harbour before flying back to Yangon via Europe. However, he contacted the Japanese in Lisbon, Portugal, and thanks to American Naval Intelligence, spent the remainder of the war in a British prison in Uganda.

PHOTO: AFP

American presidents before President Franklin D. Roosevelt thought little of Myanmar, if at all. Then part of the British Indian empire, if they thought about Myanmar, it was as part of the problem of British imperialism, not Myanmar as such. An exception, however, was President Herbert Hoover. The President who is best known for having had the bad luck to be in office at the time of the 1929 Wall Street crash and the commencement of the 1930s worldwide recession, which included the Saya San Rebellion as a side show, Herbert Hoover was a mining engineer before entering politics during World War I. He made millions of dollars over a 10 year period in London, amongst other things, developing the Namtu-Bawdwin Mines in the Shan states. Americans had long seen Myanmar as a fabled place of mineral resources from which to make money and it is doubtful that has changed. However, it would be churlish not to think that President Obama is visiting for loftier motives.

In 2012, with President Obama entering his second and last four years in office, the reorientation of US foreign policy away from the Middle East and back to East and Southeast Asia is bound to be further advanced. Just as the United States appeared to ignore South and Southeast Asia during the Bush years, with the President concentrating on Iraq, Afghanistan and the larger Middle East, the Obama administration has tried to redevelop links with Asia. This is for good economic and strategic reasons.

Economically, India, China and the countries of Southeast Asia are the most economically dynamic of any in the world today. With Europe economically moribund and the Middle East an area of increasing political instability, the best regions for the development of trade and investment are in Asia. Besides, much of America's debt is held by Asian economies, especially China, and the future of that debt may spell the future of the United States.

Strategically, the United States government has seen the Pacific Ocean as an American lake since the end of World War II. With the nominal demilitarisation of Japan, the United States faced no challengers from the Indian Ocean to San Francisco Bay. Now China is beginning to develop its sea power and strategic interests beyond its border. China has also been astute in utilising its financial and cultural power to win friends and gain influence in Southeast Asia while reminding Japan that it is not the only country with interests in Northeast Asia.

States have long memories and long planning horizons and the will to power does not lapse with time. Though China today is largely militarily incapable of projecting power far from its shores, in time that can change, and the United States wants to forestall that possibility. Whether there is any reason to be so concerned is a question that is not asked in Washington or Beijing. Perhaps it should and save everyone a lot of grief, in addition to traffic jams. Meanwhile, Myanmar might as well go along for the ride, though beware of the destination. Ask for a seat near the exit.

Robert H. Taylor is Visiting Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, and the author of The State in Myanmar and *Mayeiya Thow Hto: Hpauk Kyaw Hlwa: Hmu Hnin Ahkya: Myanma Naingngan yei Hsaung Pa Mya.* ■

Reactions to President Obama's victory and visit from three ASEAN ambassadors to Myanmar

By
Justin Heifetz

As President Obama begins his tour of Southeast Asia less than two weeks after his re-election, ASEAN eagerly anticipates a renewed focus on human rights and economic development as the US looks to strengthen ties with the region. Amid election-time fears that US foreign policy would turn to China and pass over the region, Mr Obama's visits to Thailand and Cambodia – and particularly his historic visit to Myanmar – have strengthened the ASEAN community's commitment to foster lasting, beneficial multilateral relations. Ambassadors to Myanmar representing Indonesia, Lao and Viet Nam discuss how Mr Obama's re-election will shape their countries and ASEAN.

INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR SEBASTIANUS SUMARSONO

What is your reaction to President Obama's re-election?
On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Indonesia, and also personally, the result of the presidential election in the United States is welcomed. I am sure that Mr Obama's re-election as president will enhance and strengthen the relationship between Indonesia and the US in the years to come in various aspects, such as political security, economics and socio-cultural relations.

How will President Obama's re-election benefit ASEAN?
The interactions between President Obama with ASEAN leaders, including the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, have been established during the last four years in many forums, including the East Asia Summit.

President Obama is knowledgeable and appreciative of ASEAN as one of the main regional organisations in Southeast Asia. He has continuously shown his commitment in statements that support the realisation of an ASEAN community by 2015.

How has President Obama benefited the development of Indonesia – and how do you expect his re-election to shape the development of Indonesia?
Indonesia welcomes the re-election of Mr Obama as the US President up to 2016. The continuation of Obama as the US President will further strengthen the bilateral relationships between the US and Indonesia, particularly as one of the comprehensive partners of the US.

On the regional level, Indonesia believes that President Obama will continue his active participation and support for ASEAN.

As for the global and multilateral levels, there is no doubt that the US, together with other countries, including Indonesia, will continue to pursue common efforts in the G-20, APEC and other international forums.

Given President Obama's history and special connection with Indonesia, does his re-election have special importance for the country?
We cannot deny that President Obama's history and special connection with Indonesia has helped to develop close relationships between Indonesia and the US during the last four years. Thus far, President Obama has very comfortably developed close contacts with Indonesia, especially with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. It is not wrong to say that President Obama has helped to define and sustain the US' role in relations with Indonesia.

For Indonesia, the re-election of President Obama is a blessing and should be optimised for supporting Indonesian interests at national, regional and multilateral levels, such as the recent concern of ASEAN member countries on the South China Sea dispute.

Furthermore, President Obama's experiences of having lived and studied in Indonesia have developed a genuine friendship with the country, which will never be forgotten by Indonesia.

However, it should be remembered that President Obama is still an American, and a president of a very big country who will look after the interests of his own country while also considering global issues.

I wish President Obama every success during his presidency. ■

LAO AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR NILAHATH SAYARATH

What is your reaction to President Obama's re-election?
Both the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Choummaly Sayasone, and I send a message of congratulations to President Obama for his election victory. We praise him highly for the cooperation and bilateral relations he has fostered between the United States and the Lao PDR during years past, and we look forward to boosting these relations further. I look forward to President Obama reaffirming his willingness to cooperate with the Lao PDR and his efforts to achieve global peace, international cooperation and sustainable development. The relationship between the US and the Lao PDR has been especially strong for the past four years during Mr Obama's presidency. We now look forward to more success in terms of cooperation and in turn, the prosperity of the Lao people.

How will Mr Obama's re-election benefit ASEAN?
President Obama's re-election will bring positive change to the ASEAN member states, and especially the Lao PDR, because he will focus on the region as part of his foreign policy. We look forward to his continued visits to Southeast Asia and the development of diplomatic relations with the US.

How has President Obama benefited the development of the Lao PDR?
Cooperation between the Lao PDR and the US under President Obama has led to progress in many areas, the most obvious being an official visit to the US by Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR in 2010.

Also, the historic visit to Lao made by Ms Hillary Clinton in July 2012 brought renewed progress to our bilateral relations.

Under President Obama, the US lifted Lao PDR from EXIM Bank's blacklist, signed the treaty on Open Sky, helped the country to remove unexploded ordinances and crack down on drugs. President Obama also supported the Lao PDR in applying for World Trade Organisation membership.

How will Obama's re-election benefit Lao PDR?
The Lao PDR hopes that in President Obama's second term, the US will continue to cooperate with our country. We hope to see similar positive developments for the common benefit of the people of both nations – for sustainable development, world peace and international cooperation. ■

VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR CHU CONG PHUNG

What is your reaction to President Obama's re-election?
President Obama's victory made not only his own people happy, but also the international community. President Obama has received countless accolades and whole-hearted congratulations from around the globe since his re-election.

In my view, President Obama led the United States during his first term with success, improving both internal and external affairs. I believe that during his second term, President Obama will continue to lead the nation forward – as he made clear in his presidential campaign and his speech after the election results were announced.

Like other ASEAN nations and the international community, the leaders of Vietnam congratulate President Obama on his re-election. The leaders of Viet Nam express their best wishes to the President and hope that he will keep the US moving forward in its contributions to global development and stability.

How will President Obama's re-election benefit ASEAN?
ASEAN is emerging as one of the most important players in Asia and the world. The relationship between ASEAN and the US – one if its strategic partners – will be continuously strengthened under President Obama. During President Obama's first term, he actively improved the relationship between ASEAN and the US – especially the relationship between Myanmar and the US. ASEAN nations are highly appreciative of President Obama's active and important role in developing ASEAN-US relations.

Recently, the US has been implementing foreign policy that prioritises the Asia-Pacific region and is actively engaged in stabilising regional security. As a result, the ASEAN community will definitely attract attention and support from President Obama's government over the next four years. His visit to three ASEAN member states this month – including Myanmar – clearly demonstrates the President's commitment to ASEAN.

How will President Obama's re-election shape bilateral relations with Viet Nam?
Similar to the people of Myanmar, the people of Viet Nam welcome any president elected by the American people. In my personal view, based on President Obama's great achievements during his first term, he has a clear understanding of how to further enhance and foster the mutually beneficial relationship between Viet Nam and the US, while understanding the multi-faceted complexities that exist. ■

ကမ္ဘာ့ နံပါတ် (၁) အဆင့်မြင့်ရေချိုးခန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများ

World's no.1 bathroom fittings and sanitary wares.

CLAYTAN
AUSTRALIA

GROHE
ENJOY WATER®

Caroma®
design for life

Special Promotion @

BUILDING MATERIALS EXHIBITION. MCC HALL ,YANGON.

23-26 Nov 2012. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

by BMAX

Now Available at :

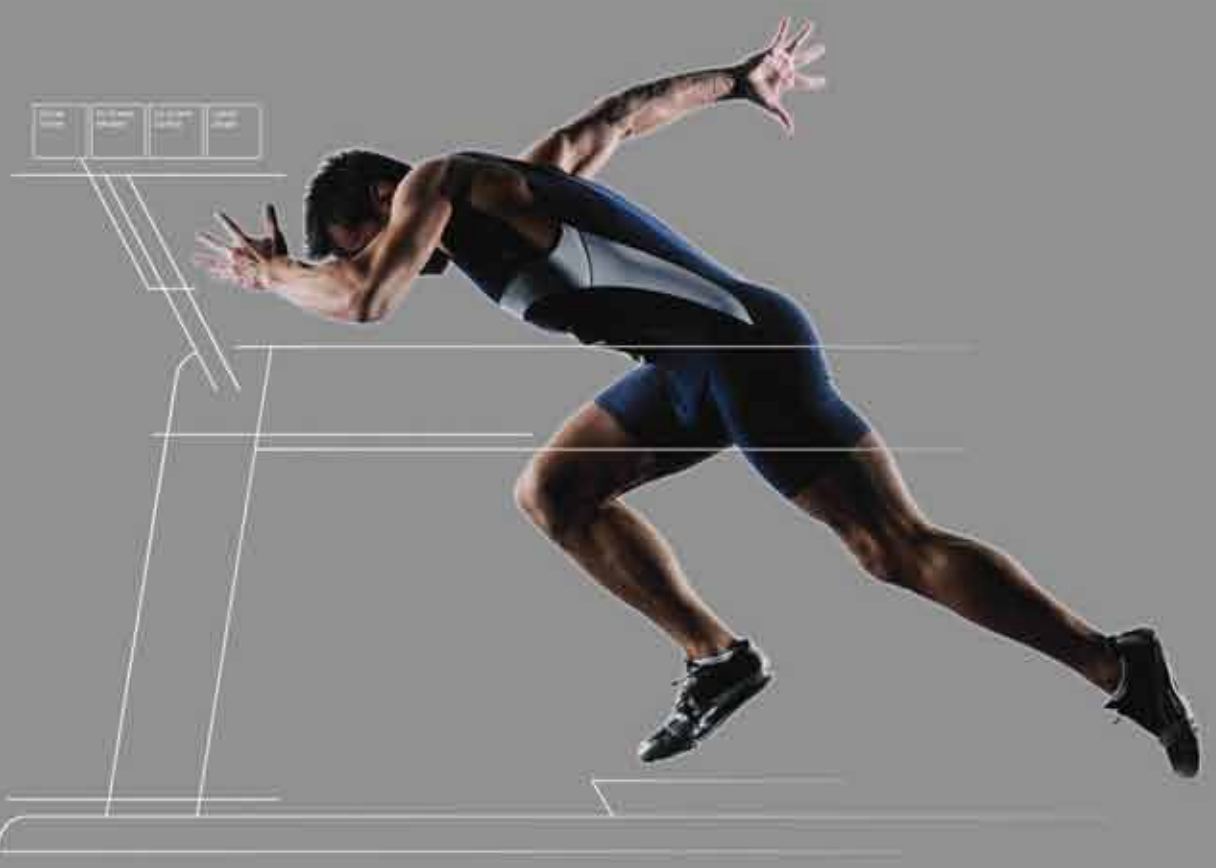
No. 79-B3/B3, East Shwe Gone Dine, Near SSC Women's Center, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 01-401 083, 09-730 56736, 09 512 8882, 09-730 11100, 09-510 8802.
Email : grohe.myanmar@gmail.com www.caroma.com.au www.grohe.com www.claytangroup.com
Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/grohemyanmar

LifeFitness U.S.A

WHAT WE LIVE FOR

Brought to you by **NatRay** Sports & Fitness

World No.1 Fitness Equipment Brand Now in Myanmar!



LIFE FITNESS 95T Treadmill

LIFE FITNESS 95X Cross Trainer

COMMERCIAL FITNESS EQUIPMENTS

OUR SERVICES

- COMMERCIAL LAYOUT PLAN DESIGN & CONSULTING
- FITNESS EQUIPMENT
- FITNESS FLOORING
- GYM MANAGEMENT
- OPERATION LEASE
- 2D LAYOUT PLANNING
- 3D VISUALIZATION
- SERVICES & MAINTENANCE

HOME GYM EQUIPMENTS

Special Promotion!

UP TO 20% OFF

UNTIL END DECEMBER

Life Fitness T-7

Life Fitness X8

Life Fitness G7

Sole Distributor : NatRay Co.,Ltd.

SHOWROOM • Grand Mee Yahta Executive Residence, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Yangon.Tel : *256 355, 240289*

• *Casabella* Home Furnishing Centre: No.22, Pyay Rd, 9 mile, Yangon. Tel: 664 363, 660769

SERVICE CENTRE • Room 503, FMI Centre, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 240 289 Email: sports@natraygroup.com

Hotline : 09 501 3416

Vile vines: We review Yangon's 'best' boxed wines Page 38

THE MYANMAR TIMES 1200 Kyats

No. 653: November 19 - 25, 2012 Heartbeat of The Nation www.mmtimes.com

'We don't want to miss this moment'

White House hopes visit will give 'tremendous boost' to reforms

WASHINGTON – The White House said last week that it hoped President Barack Obama's landmark visit would offer a "tremendous boost" to reforms underway but insisted he was clear-eyed about the country's challenges.

Freshly re-elected Barack Obama will become the first sitting US president to visit Myanmar on November 19, on a trip that would have been unthinkable at the start of his presidency.

"This is really a moment that we didn't want to miss," national security adviser Tom Donilon said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on November 15, calling the changes in Myanmar "really remarkable".

"We think this is a moment where the president really can attempt to lock in the progress that's been made and really give a tremendous boost ... to the reform movement and the democratisation movement in Burma," he said.

"It's also important for the government of Burma, frankly, that has taken these steps, to see the president responding positively and reinforcing them," he said.

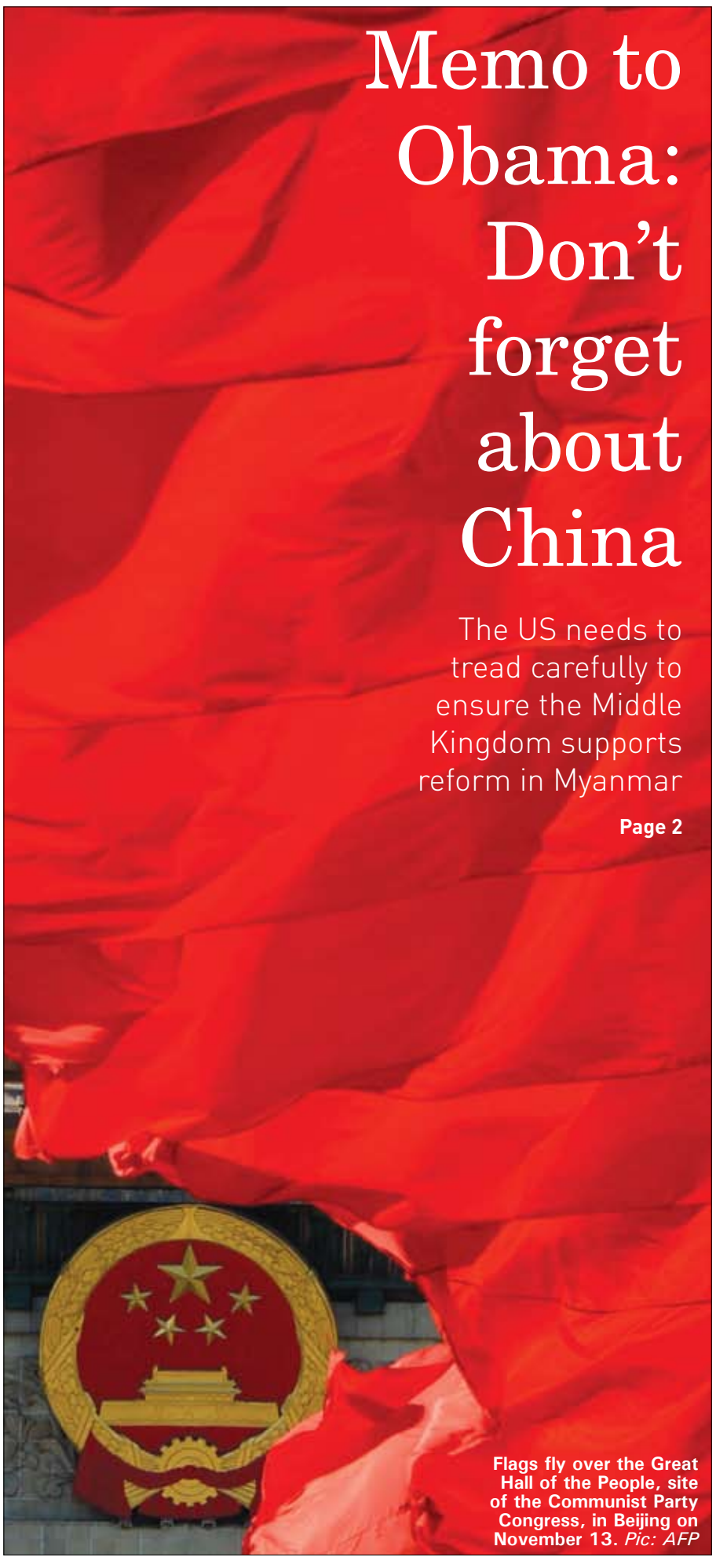
Some rights groups have charged that President Obama is going too soon to Myanmar, saying he could have used the prospect of his trip as an incentive to encourage further reform in a country where the military still plays a major role.

"We're not naive about this. We absolutely are aware of the dangers of backsliding and, if that takes place, we'll respond accordingly," Mr Donilon said.

Mr Donilon said that President Obama would press for actions including the unconditional release of political prisoners. Myanmar on November 15 pardoned hundreds more prisoners, but activists said that nearly all were ordinary criminals and accused the government of carrying out a stunt ahead of the US president's visit.

Mr Donilon, echoing remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said President Obama would press Myanmar's leaders to improve the treatment of the Rohingya, a Muslim group in the Buddhist-majority nation.

On his lightning visit, President Obama will meet President U Thein Sein, who initiated the reforms, and Nobel Prize-winning opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was elected to parliament on April 1 after spending a total of almost 15 years under house arrest. – *AFP*



Memo to Obama: Don't forget about China

The US needs to tread carefully to ensure the Middle Kingdom supports reform in Myanmar

Page 2

Flags fly over the Great Hall of the People, site of the Communist Party Congress, in Beijing on November 13. *Pic: AFP*

US eases import ban, targets Asia World, Htoo Group firms

By Zaw Win Than

THE United States on November 16 removed a ban on the import of all Myanmar products except jade and rubies, three days ahead of President Barack Obama's historic visit.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced in September that the US would begin the process of easing restrictions on the importation of Myanmar goods in response to "substantial and significant" reforms that have taken place since President U Thein Sein took office in March 2011.

A joint statement by US State Department and Department of Treasury on November 16 announcing the removal of the import ban described the move as "another step in the normalisation of our bilateral economic relationship".

The statement noted that both the government and National League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the import ban to be eased and said the move is intended to support the government's ongoing reform efforts and to encourage further change, as well as to offer new opportunities for Myanmar and American businesses.

The statement cited a number of reform steps, including the release of hundreds of political prisoners, removal of pre-publication censorship requirements for the press and enacting of a labour law that permits the formation of unions.

However, the statement said that because of "concerns about some areas of trade with respect to Myanmar", the waiver does not affect the ban on the importation of jadeite and rubies mined or extracted from Myanmar and articles of jewellery containing them.

"The US government is closely monitoring and supporting Burma's progress on reform, and the core authorities underlying our sanctions remain in place. Despite

More page 4

China: a hidden danger in the reform process

Hostesses wait in Tiananmen Square as delegates arrive at the Great Hall of the People for the start of the closing ceremony of the Communist Party Congress in Beijing on November 14. *Pic: AFP*

By Josh Gordon

UNITED States President Barack Obama visits Myanmar this week. This milestone is one of many over the past year of reform for the once-pariah state also known as Burma. These reforms and the consequent improvement of US-Myanmar relations appear to be an unalloyed good. In the past year the reformist government of Present U Thein Sein has released many political prisoners, allowed progressively greater political participation by the democratic opposition and made significant progress towards ending ethnic insurgencies that have troubled the country for decades.

As Myanmar has reformed, the US, which once imposed a harsh sanctions regime, has sought to encourage and support the process. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Myanmar in December 2011. The US has lifted or suspended most of its economic sanctions. This, in turn, paves the way for aid, investment and advice from the US, its allies, and multilateral financial institutions. For US and Western firms Myanmar holds the promise of rapid-growth investment opportunities in an underserved market of 60 million people. But behind these positive developments lurks a danger: the sensitivity and potential reaction of China, Myanmar's neighbour to the north, to increased US involvement.

For China, the relationship with Myanmar has economic and strategic value. Myanmar is a market for Chinese goods. Myanmar also supplies or will supply China with primary products ranging from agricultural and fisheries to minerals and natural gas. China is also deeply involved in infrastructure construction in Myanmar, including several hydropower projects and a special economic zone in Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State. China is also building gas and oil pipelines and a transportation corridor across Myanmar from Kyaukpyu to Ruili, on the China border. The natural gas will come from fields off Myanmar's west coast but the oil will be brought from Africa and the Middle East. The pipeline allows China to bypass the Strait of Malacca, a potential choke-point subject to control by the US Navy.

Chinese descriptions of China-Myanmar relations invariably stress harmony between the two peoples from time immemorial. These often use the Burmese word "Pauk Paw" for the special fraternal nature of the relationship. This narrative glosses over historical conflicts, the last of which ended only in the mid-1980s when China shifted from supporting revolution to encouraging trade. China's vision of "Pauk Paw" harmony also papers over the anti-Chinese sentiment prevalent in Myanmar. The perception in Myanmar is that Chinese companies use bribes and the Chinese government's support for Myanmar at the United Nations to obtain preferential concessions for resource and infrastructure projects. This popular view holds that the Myanmar military, the Tatmadaw, has been selling out the nation to the Chinese.

As long as the Tatmadaw was exercising dictatorial authority, the model that Chinese companies brought to Myanmar worked, as it does in China. In China the key to any project is having good government connections. There is no need to develop relations with affected locals, civil society or other stakeholders. When the political situation in Myanmar changed and the new civilianised government began to make reforms that reflected popular will, Chinese projects, not having developed support among non-government stakeholders, were vulnerable. In fact, despite precursors, the reform period in Myanmar can be dated from the September 30, 2011 presidential decision to suspend work on the main dam (of seven) in the Chinese-backed Myitsone Hydropower Project.

Despite public outcry against the Myitsone project over its perceived negative impact on the natural environment and cultural heritage, less than a month before the suspension Myanmar's Minister for Electric Power 1, U Zaw Min, told the press: "We will not back down just because environmental groups are against it." He may have actually been correct, as the suspension appears to have had more to do with the perception of the project as Chinese exploitation. In a country suffering from chronic power shortages, 90 percent of the electricity produced was to be sold to China.

More recently protests against the expansion of a Chinese-operated copper mine at Letpadaung in central Myanmar have drawn national and international attention. The Chinese pipeline project has been criticised by local and exile non-government organisations over land use, compensation and environmental problems. International NGOs have criticised it for construction in conflict zones, and members of the democratic opposition have privately called the project a violation of Myanmar's national sovereignty.

Many Chinese policy intellectuals see the improvement of US-Myanmar relations, the reform process in Myanmar, and problems for Chinese projects there as part of a US-directed plot to contain China. Yuan Peng of the American Research Centre at the China Institute of Contemporary International Affairs (CICIR) wrote in the July 31 overseas edition of the *People's Daily* that "the US will avail itself of various non-military means to delay or hinder China's progressive rise". Yuan said these include "[s]trengthening alliances and enhancing partnerships while undermining China's relationships with the North Korea, Pakistan and Myanmar". The Obama administration's "Pivot to Asia" has only fed this dominant and paranoid strain in Chinese thought.

'Support from China and Chinese companies for Myanmar's reforms and development will help quicken and deepen their implementation.'

Why should Chinese anxiety about improvement in US-Myanmar relations matter? It might be tempting to see problems that Chinese projects have as just desserts for not taking account of a broad range of stakeholder interests. But Myanmar and China share a long border and, despite a slowdown in its growth, China is still an economic powerhouse. Its influence in Myanmar will continue to be large. Support from China and Chinese companies for Myanmar's reforms and development will help quicken and deepen their implementation. Opposition could contribute to their stagnation.

What should President Obama do on his visit to Myanmar to assuage Chinese anxiety? First, he should make clear that China-US-Myanmar relations are not a zero-sum game in which any gain for the US is a loss for China. Myanmar needs support from the US, China, ASEAN and its other neighbours to successfully implement sustainable and equitable reforms. Second, President Obama should frame US support for reform in terms that the Chinese use: stability and "win-win" outcomes. Reform in Myanmar will make the country more stable and a more stable Myanmar will better protect China's long-term interests by pushing Chinese investors to reach out to stakeholders. Chinese support for reform in Myanmar will result in a "win-win-win" situation which benefits Myanmar, the US and China.

(*Josh Gordon is a PhD candidate in anthropology at Yale University and his dissertation research is on Chinese identity in the China-Myanmar borderlands. Josh has been conducting research in Myanmar since 2003, and has conducted fieldwork both in Myanmar and on the China-Myanmar border. He has also worked as a project consultant for Chinese companies researching investments in Myanmar's energy sector.)*

Dean pays tribute to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's bravery

By Tim McLaughlin

FORMER chairman of the United States' Democratic Party and governor of Vermont Howard Dean last week applauded Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for attempting to make the difficult transition from dissident to politician.

Dr Dean is on the board of directors of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), a non-profit, non-partisan organisation working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. He spent four days in Myanmar, from November 10 to 13, visiting local landmarks and delivering speeches at the International School of Yangon and American Center.

"It is a very hard thing to do," Dr Dean told *The Myanmar Times* when asked about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's decision to enter mainstream politics.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate spent almost 15 years under house arrest and was released in November 2010, just six days after a controversial general election that her party, the National League for Democracy, boycotted. In late 2011 the NLD decided to re-register and contest by-elections in April, in which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won a seat in the Pyithu Hluttaw.

"It is incredibly admirable and not without risks," said Dr Dean. "In a lot of ways it is easier to be a martyr."

However, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been criticized in some quarters for working too closely with the military-backed government, which features many former generals, and the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party. Others have condemned her for not taking a more direct stand on the recent communal unrest in Rakhine State.

"If you get your hands dirty, you can make some real progress," Dr Dean said of the cross-party wrangling and concessions that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will need to undertake in the interest of pushing the country's reform process forward.

"There is much more that needs to be done. Clearly much more," he said of the challenges facing the country.

According to Dr Dean, these challenges will include establishing an independent judiciary, implementing the amended foreign investment law and equality for all ethnic groups.

Dr Dean said he believes that inclusion of more women in national politics will be important for the country to succeed and in this regard he said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has helped lead the way.

"I do think that it helps to have people of the country used to the idea that a woman can govern, but it is not enough," said Dr Dean. "In these times you are not going to succeed if you ignore one half of your work force, or potential workforce."

Speaking just over a week before the arrival in Myanmar of US President Barack Obama, Dr Dean acknowledged the importance of the president's trip.

"It's a big deal," he said. "It essentially says we will use the carrot, not the stick."

Dr Dean's post-political career also includes a position on business news channel CNBC as a political commentator, where he had a close view of President Obama's successful re-election campaign, a feat he called "extraordinary".

"The Obama machine has been spectacular," he said.

Dr Dean served six terms as governor of Vermont from 1991 until 2003. In 2004 he made an unsuccessful bid for the White House, failing to secure the Democratic Party nomination that eventually went to John Kerry of Massachusetts.

Dr Dean then served as the chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2005 until 2009.

Support democracy, Daw Suu urges India

NEW DELHI – National League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi last week urged the people of India to help her country secure democracy as she paid her first visit for 25 years.

"We have not yet achieved the goal of democracy," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said during a speech in New Delhi on November 14.

"We are still trying, and we hope that in this last and most difficult phase the people of India will stand by us."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also expressed her sadness that India, which was previously one of her strongest supporters, changed tack in the 1990s and began to engage the military government at a time when it was a pariah in the West.

"I have been asked whether I was disappointed that India had not stood staunchly by us throughout the years of our struggle for democracy," she said.

"I was saddened to feel that ... India had drawn away from us during our very difficult days.

"Disappointment is not something we can indulge in," she added, in a veiled criticism of the Indian government as she delivered a lecture in memory of the country's first post-independence prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Nobel Peace Prize-winner had earlier held talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who hailed her "indomitable courage".

"Our good wishes are with you as indeed with your struggle for democracy," Mr Singh said in comments reported by the *Press Trust of India* news agency.

Mr Singh had invited Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to New Delhi when he visited Myanmar in May to try to boost trade and counter the influence of regional rival China.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives the Nehru Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on November 14. *Pic: AFP*

India shares a 1640 kilometre (1020 mile) border with Myanmar, and the two former British colonies have a long shared history.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's father, General Aung San, was a personal friend of Nehru.

Mr Singh's government is keen to rebuild ties with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who led her party to a landslide victory in by-elections in April.

Her release, the end to military rule last year and the prospect of nationwide elections in 2015 have enabled Myanmar to re-establish links with the West. US President Barack Obama is due to visit this week.

President U Thein Sein has vowed to put the economy at the centre of a new wave of reforms.

But in an interview with *The Hindu* newspaper on November 13, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cautioned India against getting carried away about the changes across its border.

"It's [got] to be able to take a good hard look at what is really happening," she told the Indian daily.

"Not to be over-optimistic, at the same time to be encouraging of what needs to be encouraged; because I think too much optimism doesn't help because then you ignore what is going wrong."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi acknowledged that businesses were keen to tap the opportunities across India's eastern border in competition with Chinese counterparts but added that "investment has to be done in the right way".

During the four-day trip, Suu Kyi also visited parliament and inspected rural development projects.

– *AFP*

No political prisoners released in Nov 15 amnesty: activists

By Zaw Win Than

NONE of the prisoners released in advance of President Barack Obama's historic November 19 visit were considered political prisoners, human rights activists say.

As of November 15, President U Thein Sein had granted an amnesty to 452 prisoners, including a number of foreigners, under the constitution. But a spokesperson for the Former Political Prisoners' Association said it was disappointing none were prisoners of conscience.

"According to our records, a total of 231 political prisoners are still left in prison. None of them were included in this amnesty," said U Thet Oo.

He said the amnesty was extended only to those who had less than six months remaining on their sentences, as well as sick and disabled inmates, gamblers and foreigners.

"It is strange that they released prisoners just before Obama's visit," National League for Democracy spokesperson U Ohn Kyaing said.

"They should have done it before and showed their genuine will to give the amnesty," he said, adding that it was unclear if any NLD members were among those being freed.

State-run media said the prisoners were set free for "establishing the stability of the state and eternal peace, on humanitarian grounds, to turn them into citizens who do their bit in nation-building ... and for prolonging friendship with neighbouring countries". The report said the government would extradite the foreign prisoners.

'They should have done [the amnesty] before and showed their genuine will to give the amnesty.'

In October 2011, the government released about 200 prisoners of conscience, followed by about 300 in January, including prominent 88 Generation leaders.

In July, President U Thein Sein freed 46 prisoners, 22 of whom were prisoners of conscience, while dozens more dissidents were released in September, just before the president's historic visit to the United Nations in New York.

Estimates of the number remaining behind bars vary but the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a Thailand-based campaign group, put the figure at 283 in a list posted on its website on October 31.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in July that more than 300 prisoners of conscience remained behind bars.

"According to our records, about 330 political prisoners are still waiting to be released. We will continue to urge the government to release all of them," she said.

Campaigners including New York-based Human Rights Watch cast doubt on the motivation for the latest amnesty, which comes as President Obama will on November 19 become the first sitting US president to visit Myanmar, where he will meet President U Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"It seems there is a new game in Burma, which is the political prisoners game," said Human Rights Watch deputy Asia director Phil Robertson, calling the release "cynical" and lacking in transparency.

– *With AFP*

THE MYANMARTIMES
mmtimes.com

Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief (MTE)
Ross Dunkley
rsdunkley@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer & Editor-in-Chief (MTM)
Dr. Tin Tun Oo
drtto@myanmartimes.com.mm

Chief Operating Officer – U Wai Linn
wailin@myanmartimes.com.mm

EDITORIAL
newsroom@myanmartimes.com.mm
Editor MTE – Thomas Kean
tdkean@gmail.com
Editor MTM – U Zaw Myint
editormtm@myanmartimes.com.mm
Editor Special Publications – U Myo Lwin
myolwin@myanmartimes.com.mm
Deputy Editor MTM – U Sann Oo
Business Editor MTE – Stuart Deed
stuart.deed@gmail.com
Business Editor MTM – U Tin Moe Aung
Property Editor MTM – Htar Htar Khin
property@myanmartimes.com.mm
World Editor MTE – Geoffrey Goddard
geoffrey@myanmartimes.com.mm
Timeout and Travel Editor MTE – Douglas Long
editors@myanmartimes.com.mm
Timeout Editor MTM – Moh Moh Thaw
mohthaw@gmail.com

Deputy News Editor – Kyaw Hsu Mon
Chief Political Reporter – U Soe Than Lynn
Contributing Editor – Ma Thanegi
ma.thanegi19@gmail.com
Head of Translation Dept – U Ko Ko

Head of Photographics – Kaung Htet
Photographers – Yadanar, Boothee

Book Publishing Consultant Editor – Col Hla Moe (Retd)
Editor: U Win Tun

Mandalay Bureau Chief – U Aung Shin
koshumgtha@gmail.com
Nay Pyi Taw Bureau Chief – U Soe Than Lynn
soethanlynn@gmail.com

PRODUCTION
production@myanmartimes.com.mm
Head of Production & Press Scrutiny Liaison – U Aung Kyaw Oo (1)
Head of Graphic Design – U Tin Zaw Htway

MCM PRINTING
printing@myanmartimes.com.mm
Head of Department – U Htay Maung
Warehouse Manager – U Ye Linn Htay
Factory Administrator – U Aung Kyaw Oo (3)
Factory Foreman – U Tin Win

ADVERTISING
advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm
National Sales Director
Daw Khin Thandar Htay
sales-director@myanmartimes.com.mm
Account Director – U Nyi Nyi Tun
Classifieds Manager – Daw Khin Mon Mon Yi
classified@myanmartimes.com.mm

ADMIN & FINANCE
Finance Manager – Daw Mon Mon Tha Saing
finance@myanmartimes.com.mm
HR Manager – Daw Nang Maisy
administration@myanmartimes.com.mm

Publisher – Dr Tin Tun Oo, Permit No: 04143

Systems Manager – U Khin Maung Thaw
webmaster@myanmartimes.com.mm

DISTRIBUTION & CIRCULATION
Manager – U Ko Ko Aung
distmgr@myanmartimes.com.mm
circulation@myanmartimes.com.mm

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES
Telephone: (01) 253 642, 392 928
Facsimile: (01) 254 158
Email: administration@myanmartimes.com.mm

The Myanmar Times is owned by Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd and printed by MCM Commercial Printing (licence provided by Swesone Media (08102) with approval from MCM Ltd and by Shwe Zin Press (0368) with approval from MCM Ltd). The title The Myanmar Times, in either English or Myanmar languages, its associated logos or devices and the contents of this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of the Managing Director of Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd.

MCM

Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd.
www.mmtimes.com

Head Office: 379/383 Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Telephone: (01) 253 642, 392 928
Facsimile: (01) 392 706

Mandalay Bureau: No.178, 74th Street, (Bet. 31st & 32nd streets) Chan Aye Thar San Township, Mandalay.
Tel: (02) 24450, 24460, 65391, 65392
Fax: (02) 24460
Email: mdybranch@myanmartimes.com.mm

Nay Pyi Taw Bureau: No. 10/72 Bo Tauk Htein St, Yan Aung (1) Quarter, Nay Pyi Taw-Pyinmana.
Tel: (067) 23064, 23065
Email: capitalbureau@myanmartimes.com.mm

Miners begin march to NPT

By Naw Say Phaw Waa

MINERS from the Moehti Moemi goldmining region of Mandalay Region's Yamethin township are walking from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, where they plan to protest in front of government buildings and a company office.

On November 8, 85 of the miners set off from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw after holding three protests in the former capital, said Ko Youte Kyi, a member of the group.

They expect to arrive in Nay Pyi Taw around November 20, where they will seek permission to protest in front of the Ministry of Mines, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the office of Myanmar National Prosperity, the company with which they are embroiled in a long-running dispute over an agreement to mine gold at Moehti Moemi.

Myanmar National Prosperity won a tender to mine gold in the area in late 2011. But in June, workers from the hundreds of small mines at Moehti Moemi began protesting after the company allegedly reneged on an earlier verbal agreement to split all gold found in the area 50-50.

Myanmar National Prosperity officials reportedly made the promise to the small mining companies and individual miners in December 2011, saying they could excavate gold from the area for the duration of its five-year contract with the government.

After holding several illegal protests in the mining area, the miners applied for permission to demonstrate in Yamethin but were rejected twice. About 30 of them then protested in front of Myanmar National Prosperity office in Yangon on November 3, 6 and 8, after which they decided to walk to Nay Pyi Taw.

The group slept at Htaukkyant War Cemetery on November 8 and the next evening stayed at a monastery in Bago. The following day they slept at a National League for Democracy office and then on November 13 stayed in Nyaunglebin, said Ko Nay Aung Htet, another of the miners. By November 16 they had progressed to Taungoo.

Miners from the Moehti Moemi region of Yamethin township protest outside the headquarters of Myanmar National Prosperity in Yangon earlier this month. *Pic: Boothee*

"The reasons why we walked to Nay Pyi Taw are to show the public that we are protesting as well as that we can't afford [to travel a different way]. Also, Nay Pyi Taw is close to Yamethin, so we can just walk back to where we stay afterwards. We are not protesting while we walk, we just walk normally," Ko Nay Aung Htet told *The Myanmar Times* last week. "When we arrive in Nay Pyi Taw we will apply for permission to protest."

He said the group had received assistance from members of the clergy, administrative officials, NLD members and even Special Branch officials.

"Instead of blocking our way, the government officials helped us out," said Ko Yaute Kyi. "Some members from the NLD helped us by walking with us. Some of them gave us some medicine. However, the type of people helping us has changed from one town to the next."

Ko Thaw Lin, a senior member of the Myanmar Science and Arts University Network who has been helping the miners, said he was "very worried" about the safety of the group.

"They have nothing. I'm worried some of them might collapse because of exhaustion … I'm also worried they could be arrested."

Swedish PM highlights CSR in Yangon

By Tim McLaughlin

FREDRIK Reinfeldt last week became the first prime minister of Sweden to visit to Myanmar and used the opportunity to play up the corporate social responsibility credentials of his country's firms.

Mr Reinfeldt, who has served as prime minister since 2006, also met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw. Speaking at the Forum for Responsible Business and CSR on November 13, Mr Reinfeldt said he believed that reforms in Myanmar must be undertaken in a responsible manner.

"It is also very important to ensure that the reforms are socially, economically and environmentally responsible," Mr Reinfeldt said.

He described Sweden's CSR guidelines as, "Respect for human rights, including workers' rights, respect for the environment, anti-corruption and freedom of the internet."

While Mr Reinfeldt said Swedish companies could have a positive influence on Myanmar businesses, he admitted that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to responsible business. He said firms should aim to minimise the negative impacts of their activities while maximising the positive impacts.

Mr Reinfeldt and Swedish Minister for Trade Ewa Bjorling spoke before an address by Elaine Weidman, director of sustainability at Ericsson, which is positioning itself to take advantage of an anticipated liberalisation of Myanmar's telecommunications sector.

Ericsson could use the boost. The company announced on November 7 that it would cut 1550 jobs in Sweden following a 42 percent drop in net profit in the third quarter of this year.

Stockholm-based Ericsson is the world's largest producer of mobile telecommunications equipment. The company opened an office in Yangon in June to tap into Myanmar's relatively undeveloped telecoms sector, 14 years after it left the country over human rights concerns.

Stressing a "triple bottom line" approach that looks at the social, economic and environmental impacts of business ventures, Ms Weidman presented a report titled *The Potential Economic Impact of Mobile Communications in Myanmar*. The study was undertaken in conjunction with the Deloitte.

The forum was organised by the International Council of Swedish Industry, a non-profit organisation run by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

From page 1

positive changes, the United States remains concerned about corruption, remaining political prisoners, continued military ties to the [North] Korea, and ethnic conflict," it said. "We are committed to working with the government of Burma to address these concerns."

Business leaders welcomed the decision to suspend the ban, with Dr Sai Sam Htun, president of Loi Hein Group of Companies, describing it as "great news for our business sector".

"I think garment, textile and marine products can now easily be exported to the US. I hope US President Obama's visit to Myanmar will create some big changes here. I am sure he won't come without any strong commitments. I also believe that we are still facing many challenges in this transition period but I hope things will slowly change … [for a] better future for our country," he told *The Myanmar Times*.

U Wynn Thein, deputy managing director from Kaung Myanmar Aung (KMA) Business Development Enterprise, said the decision to ease the ban would encourage more companies to focus on the job-creating manufacturing sector.

"I think the US has eased the ban on our products to encourage more political and economic climate changes. This is really good news for our export industries and will encourage us to export our items to the US," he said on November 17.

However, not all members of the business community will have cheered the announcement: a number of firms linked to Htoo Group of Companies boss U Tay Za and Asia World Group of Companies' U Tun Myint Naing were added to the Treasury Department's Specially Designated Persons (SDN) list. US firms cannot engage in transactions with individuals on the list or an entity in which a listed person owns either directly or indirectly a 50 percent or greater share.

The statement said the seven companies were "front companies owned or controlled" by either U Tay Za or U Tun Myint Naing, who is also known as Steven Law.

"Gold Ocean Pte Ltd, Great Success Pte Ltd, Green Luck Trading Company and Gold Energy Co Ltd. are front companies controlled by Steven Law, a crony of the former regime designated on February 25, 2008. Gold Ocean Pte Ltd is the primary front company used to transfer money between Steven Law's companies, foreign companies, and Burmese state-run organisations. China Focus Development Ltd is the new name for Golden Aaron Pte Ltd, a company identified as blocked property on February 25, 2008 and owned by Cecilia Ng, the wife of Steven Law," it said.

"Asia Pioneer Impex Pte Ltd, Terrestrial Pte Ltd, and Asia Green Development Bank are companies owned or controlled by Tay Za, a crony of the former regime who was sanctioned on October 18, 2007. Tay Za uses his Singapore-based companies, Asia Pioneer Impex Pte Ltd and Terrestrial Pte Ltd, to conduct business transactions. He began trading under the name Terrestrial Pte Ltd following financial sanctions against Pavo Trading in 2008."

Asia Pioneer Impex, Terrestrial, Golden Ocean and Great Success are based in Singapore, while Asia Green Development Bank, Golden Energy Company and Green Luck Trading are based in Myanmar, the statement said.

TIGER BALM

နာချင်ကာ နာစမ်း . . . TIGER BALM®

TIGER BALM (WHITE) - မူးဝေခြင်း၊ ပိုးမွှားကိုက်ခံရခြင်း

TIGER BALM (RED) - ကြက်သားများနာကျင်ကိုက်ခဲခြင်း၊ ရောင်ရမ်းခြင်း

TIGER BALM (LINIMENT) - မောပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း၊ မူးဝေအော့ကြောတက်ခြင်း နှင့် ကိုယ်လက်မအီမသာဖြစ်ခြင်း

TIGER BALM (WHITE)
Reg No. 1308AA599

TIGER BALM (RED)
Reg No. 1402AA1320

TIGER BALM (LINIMENT)
Reg No. 1308AA643

TIGER BALM

ခါးနာခြင်း၊ ကြက်သားထိခိုက်နာကျင်ခြင်းများအတွက် ခန္ဓာကိုယ်လှုပ်ရှားမှုအတိုင်း
အလိုက်သင့်ကွေးဆန့်နိုင်သည့် လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်းမွန်သော အားအထားရဆုံး

TIGER BALM® PLASTER

Tiger Balm Plaster Cool - ကြက်သားရောင်ရမ်းခြင်း

Tiger Balm Plaster RD Warm - ကြက်သားနာကျင်ကိုက်ခဲခြင်း

Reg No. 1407AA1733

Reg No. 1407AA1734

• OVER 100 YEARS • OVER 100 COUNTRIES • MILLIONS OF USERS •

WORKS WHEREVER IT HURTS.

Fear haunts quake-hit upper Myanmar

Residents sleep on streets after shallow 6.8 magnitude quake that killed 26 people and left another 12 missing

By Phyo Wai Kyaw with AFP

DAYS after a powerful earthquake struck upper Myanmar, leaving scores dead and widespread damage, residents in the area say they are living in fear of aftershocks.

At least 26 people were killed while 12 others are missing and about 230 were injured, Myanmar Red Cross Society deputy general secretary U Aung Kyaw Htut said on November 13.

The 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck on November 11, about 70 miles north of Mandalay. Two 5.0 magnitude earthquakes followed within minutes.

> 'Every building in our ward is now in a dangerous condition, and nobody dares to go inside.'

Hundreds of buildings in Sagaing, Kyauk Myaung, Shwebo, Kin-u, Kanbalu, Wetlet, Mandalay, Amarapura, Tada-Oo, Kyaukse, Singu, Thabeikkyin, Mohnain and Mogok collapsed in the quake.

While tremors are relatively common in the region, last week's earthquake was unusually strong and sent terrified people running from their homes in Mandalay and surrounding villages.

"I am 77 years old and have never experienced an earthquake like this. Every building in our ward is now in a dangerous condition, and nobody dares to go inside. People live in the street with their belongings," said Daw Khin Myint, of Saitkan ward, Thabeikkyin, on November 12.

In Thabeikkyin, about 200 buildings out of 800 were toppled by the earthquake, and about 70 collapsed in Singu, Minister of Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han of the Mandalay regional government said on November 12, adding that a full account of the damage was still being drawn up. State media reported on November 13 that local donors had provided K300 million, while NGOs and donors gave clothing and tarpaulins for earthquake victims in Thabeikkyin and Singu. Indonesia donated US$100,000.

"We have provided tarpaulin sheets to some of the victims and they are staying in temporary shelters," U Aung Kyaw Htut said on November 13.

State-run broadcasters carried a message of condolence to the victims from President Thein Sein on November 11.

"The government will strive to do its best in its relief and resettlement efforts in the area," the announcement said.

Fearful of further aftershocks, even people whose homes weren't destroyed are staying outdoors.

"We have 37 injured here, including a 16-year-old girl who died. We transferred another six patients to Mandalay Central Hospital and the 100-bed military hospital in Thabeikkyin. Four more doctors came from Mandalay to help, so we are coping with the situation," said Dr San Yu Ko, head of the township health department.

Residents of Thabeikkyin in Sagaing Region sleep outside their homes after an earthquake. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

Daw Tin Tin Win, of Kabe ward, Thabeikkyin, said 17 students were injured, including a girl who died. They had been in a classroom when the earthquake struck, and tried to hide under their desks.

A police officer denied that the quake had caused the collapse of gold mines in Thabeikkyin and Singu, trapping the miners.

"I investigated the issue, and no mines had collapsed. I also went to some gold mines in Singu to check. Luckily, the quake struck between two shifts, so the workers were above ground when the first earthquake struck," said officer U Maung Maung Htay of Latpanhla police station, Sintku township on November 12.

Ma Kyu Kyu Khaing, of Kyitaukpauk ward, Singu township, said: "Some buildings have been reduced to rubble. We don't dare enter into the houses."

A partially built bridge across the Ayeyarwady River also collapsed, sending workers plunging into the water. Elsewhere several gold miners were buried.

Second chief engineer U Kyaw Linn of the Ayeyarwady bridge project (Yadanar Theinga) said in an interview with state-run daily newspaper *Mandalay* on November 15 that 18 people had been injured in the bridge collapse. Four have been confirmed killed, while two people remain missing.

In early 2011, a powerful earthquake hit in Myanmar near the boarders with Thailand and about 70 people died.

The US Geological Survey said six strong earthquakes, of 7.0-magnitude and more, struck between 1930 and 1956 near the Sagaing Fault, which runs north to south through the centre of the country.

More earthquake DRR needed: experts

By Aye Sapay Phyu

EXPERTS have described a devastating earthquake that hit central Myanmar last week as a "wake up call" about the urgent need for better earthquake preparedness, particularly in urban areas.

The experts said the 6.8-magnitude, November 11 quake, which had its epicentre near Shwebo, could also increase seismic activity in other segments of the Sagaing Fault, the country's most earthquake-prone region.

The Sagaing Fault is a 1500-kilometre-long right lateral strike-slip fault running from northern Myanmar to Gulf of Mottama. The fault has three particularly vulnerable segments: Bago to Taungoo, Sagaing to Tagaung and Myitkyina to Putao.

Experts said last week's shallow-focus earthquake, which severely jolted towns in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, was the strongest to hit the Sagaing section of the fault in about 60 years.

Dr Win Swe, vice president of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, who discovered the Sagaing Fault in the 1970s, said populated area along the fault needed to be better prepared for future earthquakes.

He said earthquakes would have a disproportionately large impact in future because of the dramatic increase in urban populations and associated structures that could be considered man-made hazards in the event of a quake.

"There were no high-rise concrete buildings in Bago in the 1930 earthquake, which recorded a magnitude of about 7.0. About 400 people died in Bago, while about 50 casualties were recorded in Yangon. At the time the total population of the country was about 14-15 million. We need to consider the differences between Bago and Yangon then and now – those differences will mean there will be a different impact between past and future earthquakes," he said.

Dr Win Swe also said there was a risk that last week's earthquake could affect other segments of the fault near more heavily populated areas.

"There were two strong earthquakes with a magnitude over 7.0 in 1946 at Tagaung [in Mandalay Region] over two days. The event made us question why such quakes can happen in a very short time because, normally, it takes a long time for big earthquakes to happen again in the same area. Later we found that two earthquakes can happen in two segments of the fault that sit side by side. There are many segments in the Sagaing Fault that are close to each other like that … an earthquake in one portion of the fault can put stress on other parts of the fault," he said.

U Soe Thura Tun, secretary of the committee, said that a team of experts studied the earthquake site last week to learn more about the mos recent quake.

"Earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 to 7.5 normally happen at 100 to 140 year intervals. The most recent earthquake where people died and pagodas collapsed in the area was in 1956. The magnitude of the recent earthquake is less than this one and the reason for that may be because of the relatively short gap between the two earthquakes," he said.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, four aftershocks with a magnitude of 5.0 and above were recorded in Mandalay Region on November 11 and 12, while a tremor with a magnitude of 4.8 centred about 35 miles south of Nay Pyi Taw was recorded on November 13.

Speaking at a seminar earlier this year, Dr Maung Thein, a former chairman of the Myanmar Geoscience Society and adviser to the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, said modern seismology stations and GPS measuring along the Sagaing Fault, updated seismic microzone maps, and an earthquake-resistant building design code based on the maps and research data were needed for disaster risk mitigation.

C B BANK

First In Myanmar

CB Bank ATMs enable Myanmar Kyats withdrawal service starting from 15.11.2012 for MasterCard / Maestro Card / Cirrus Card.

MasterCard Maestro Cirrus

CB Bank Applications

CB Bank iOS app

CB Bank Android app

Let's Win Win Together !

Website: www.cbbankmm.com
www.mastercard.com/global/atmlocations/index.html
E-mail: contact@cbbankmm.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CBBankmyanmar

Obama continues his 'Pivot to Asia'

ASIAN FOCUS
IN DEPTH
with
Tim McLaughlin

THIS week's landmark visit by United States President Barack Obama will seek to consolidate the foreign policy shift that occurred during his first term in office, analysts said.

Mr Obama will travel to Cambodia and Thailand but it his decision to become the first sitting president to visit Myanmar that has attracted most attention, coming barely 18 months after President U Thein Sein was handed the reins of Myanmar's quasi-civilian government.

"ASEAN is the linchpin of the US rebalance toward Asia and Myanmar is a newly emerging important player in ASEAN. For years, the US couldn't fully engage ASEAN as a grouping because of its sanctions against Myanmar," said Murray Hiebert, deputy director, senior fellow and chair for Southeast Asian Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The US rebalance toward Asia with ASEAN as centerpiece can be expected to continue with the re-election of President Obama," Mr Hiebert added.

But the first tentative steps in re-engaging with Myanmar took place in a March 2009 meeting between then-Minister of Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and a mid-level member of the US State Department. Four months later, on July 23, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which the US had previously refused to do because of its policy towards Myanmar.

"Southeast Asia and ASEAN are critically important to our future," Ms Clinton said at the time.

It was a dramatic change in policy from the George W Bush administration, which not only paid little attention to ASEAN but also attempted to isolate Myanmar through economic sanctions and other restrictions.

"The US has basically ignored Southeast Asia until the end of the Bush administration [and the] appointment of an ambassador to ASEAN. The US's Myanmar policy shift is the most important positive result of all US policy issues in East Asia [and was] even mentioned in the Democratic Party platform for the convention," said Professor David Steinberg, distinguished professor of Asian studies at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and author of multiple books on Myanmar.

The encouragement of the reform process in Myanmar was mentioned among the top foreign policy achievements during President Obama's first term in the 2012 Democratic Party platform at the Democratic National Convention, along with the toppling of regimes during the Arab Spring uprisings and recognition of newly independent South Sudan.

"Our historic opening to Burma will continue to incentivise a democratic transition, a deeper engagement with the United States, and national reconciliation among Burma's many different ethnic groups," the statement said.

"And because human rights violations persist, we will continue to speak clearly about the additional steps that must be taken for the government of Burma to have a better relationship with the United States."

Prior to his visit, President Obama met representatives from prominent human rights groups at the White House to discuss the situation in Myanmar. A day after the trip was confirmed, Samantha Power, special assistant to the president and senior director for multilateral affairs and human rights at the National Security Council, wrote on the White House blog that the US was "clear-eyed about the challenges that Burma faces".

Ms Power detailed a trip by a US delegation in October that aimed to encourage further dialogue on remaining human rights challenges. The delegation "included experts on labour rights and economic development, rule of law and political reform, ethnic conflict and reconciliation, land-mine removal, and criminal justice," and was led by Michael Posner, assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labour.

One high-profile issue is communal violence in Rakhine State, where recent rioting left 89 dead, and 110,000 have been displaced since June.

Despite the visits by high-ranking officials and consultations with rights groups, not all analysts feel that the US will take the lead on issues related to minority rights, particularly in relation to countries that share a border with Myanmar.

Joshua Kurlantzick, a fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the US had an "important" role to play on ethnic and minority issues "but the US is not the major or critical player in Myanmar. Other countries like China, India, Singapore, and Thailand are far more important."

In regards to the recent unrest in Rakhine State, "the key countries here are Bangladesh, the Gulf states, China, India, and other regional countries, not the US", Mr Kurlantzick said.

Despite decades of oppressive rule, earlier discussion of investigating accusations of human rights abuses under the previous military regime has all but disappeared in the interests of bettering relations.

"It is my hunch that if the US had pushed for a commission of inquiry on past crimes before it started to normalise relations the government would have shut down the reform process before it had really started," said Mr Hiebert.

The US has also lifted a number of the economic sanctions it put in place to punish the country and its former leaders, although US companies are still banned from doing business with a large number of individuals, who are also banned from entering the US.

As Myanmar's ties with the US have improved, President U Thein Sein has gone to great lengths to reassure China that Myanmar still values its relationship with it largest neighbour and source of foreign investment. During the years when many Western countries sanctioned Myanmar and discouraged companies from doing business there, China pumped billions of dollars of foreign direct investment into the country, mostly in large infrastructure projects, and became Myanmar's most important trade partner.

Dr Steinberg said he believes that Myanmar has handled this tricky diplomatic situation skillfully.

"The Chinese took Hillary Clinton's trip (and the Myitsone Dam decision before it) badly, and they may do the same on Obama's trip, but I think the US recognises that China and Myanmar must remain friends and close. I think Burma/Myanmar's neutralist policies since independence have been sound, and this new opening is part of that process," Dr Steinberg said.

While US foreign policy is expected to continue on a similar trajectory – unless Myanmar's reform process falters – the individuals on the US side will almost certainly be different.

The Obama administration's most visible face in Asia, Ms Clinton, is expected to depart from her post, with US ambassador to the UN Susan Rice tipped as her likely successor. Since taking the secretary of state post in 2009, Ms Clinton has visited all 10 ASEAN nations and, after this week's trip, will have visited six of the ASEAN members more than once.

There are also questions surrounding Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, although no official announcement has been made that he will be stepping down.

A woman folds US national flags at a shop in Yangon on November 16. *Pic: AFP*

'ASEAN is the linchpin of the US rebalance towards Asia and Myanmar is emerging as an important player in ASEAN.'

Yangon violence prompts police action

By Htoo Aung

THE police crackdown on the late-night antics of drink- and drug-fuelled young drivers who spill out of nightclubs in the small hours has been prompted by a series of violent incidents.

In one case on October 3, a 27-year-old employee of one of the country's largest business conglomerates and a 21-year-old medical student were evicted from the DJ Bar nightclub at Inya Lake Hotel following an altercation.

The incident escalated around 3am when the student, along with another 21-year-old University of Medicine student, asked the club authorities to have a black Land Rover moved because it was blocking their exit.

'Seven people in four cars pursued a car with four passengers following a brawl on Insein Road.'

The owner of the car was the man involved in the earlier altercation, who then drove his vehicle into a Toyota Vitz owned by one of the student's friends. One man was injured in the incident and required hospital treatment.

The owner of the Land Rover, who is said to be the nephew of the flamboyant owner of the high-profile company he works for, was subsequently charged with attempted murder under section 307 of the Penal Code.

In a separate incident, a brawl broke out on Insein Road at San Yeik Nyein 3rd Street in the early hours of November 1.

Seven people in four cars pursued a car with four passengers, and during the chase someone shot at the lead car with a catapult, shattering its rear window. All the occupants of the cars had been at the GTR club at Inya Lake Hotel.

A 26-year-old woman and three friends were in the lead car, while the pursuers included a man police described as the woman's "old flame". He and his six accomplices attacked the woman's vehicle, and she and the other three occupants of her car later needed hospital treatment for their injuries.

Four of the seven have been arrested and charged with seven offences, including causing grievous hurt and criminal intimidation, according to police.

Police step in to stop illegal races

By Htoo Aung

POLICE are cracking down on reckless drivers who are turning Yangon's main streets into late-night race tracks. They have set up nightly checkpoints to curb dangerous driving, and arrested drivers found to be drunk or on drugs. They have also expressed concerns that some may be carrying weapons, following a spate of violent incidents. **(See adjoining story.)**

"We've been setting up checkpoints from early November at five major locations on Insein Road, Kokkine Road, Hledan, Lay Daung Kan in Thingangyun and in Kyauktada township to stop illegal car racing and to search for weapons, including knives, knuckledusters and baseball bats and so on. Anyone caught with a weapon will be charged," a Myanmar Police Force spokesperson said.

The crackdown comes after one passenger was killed when a car crashed after a suspected race, and about 20 drivers have already been arrested.

Police say the drivers leave nightclubs after drinking alcohol or taking illicit drugs and drive recklessly on the streets of Yangon. They decided to set up the checkpoints to deter violence and stop what one officer described as "anarchy" on the streets.

The illegal races usually take place on the weekend from 11pm to 3am. Favoured locations are Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pyay Road from the Inya Road to 8 Mile junctions, and Kabar Aye Pagoda Road from University Avenue to Parami Road junctions. The speed limit along these roads for buses is 20 kilometres an hour and for private cars 48km an hour.

Police say that on the night of November 3-4, a number of drivers were arrested for speeding and found to be unlicensed on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road. Over a two-day period, six people were arrested for reckless driving and fined, while from November 3 to 6, 14 drivers were arrested but none were found with weapons.

"If those drivers who confessed are arrested again, they will be fined again and lose their licences," the police spokesperson said.

A car lies on its side following a late-night crash on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road earlier this year. *Pic: Yadanar*

He said the crackdown will continue through to December 31 but also acknowledged that the police force has insufficient officers and vehicles to deal with the problem.

Residents told *The Myanmar Times* they welcomed the move to bring some law and order to Yangon streets.

"I was out driving one night when I was forced to pull over as cars raced past me at high speed. We're just doing our job, but these sports car drivers are out on a spree," taxi driver U Zaw Zaw, 40, said.

U Aye Lwin, 44, the owner of a mini-mart on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, said: "These races have been going on for at least three years. One night, someone crashed into the back of my parked car in front of the mart, sending it flying. The driver who hit my car wasn't killed, but his passenger was."

Yangon police also made a point of saying they are prepared to take action against errant drivers, even if they are the sons and daughters of government officials or prominent businesspeople. The children and grandchildren of several prominent Myanmar identities have been strongly linked to illegal street racing and associated violence.

Govt sends team to study ASEAN Summit organisation

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

FOR so many years international meetings meant only one thing for Myanmar: unwanted international attention. But this week's ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh is expected to see the Myanmar government applauded for reforms undertaken over the past 18 months.

However, many Myanmar officials at the summit will have more important things to do than bask in the praise: namely, to gain insights to help them prepare for 2014, when Myanmar will chair the regional grouping.

The Myanmar delegation includes an observer team tasked with studying how major ASEAN meetings are organised, particularly in terms of infrastructure, logistics, IT, accommodation and overall management.

"We are sent under a government program as an observation team to learn how to host the chairmanship in 2014. We have only one year left and really we need to learn a lot to get up to speed," a senior official from the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee said, asking not to be named.

He said that as part of the preparations a convention centre is being constructed in Nay Pyi Taw near the Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), which was built as a gift from the Chinese government. The new centre, on a 32-acre site, is being constructed by Shwe Taung Development Construction Company, he said.

"The new centre will be bigger than MICC and will be finished by the end of 2013," he said.

Ambassador to ASEAN U Min Lwin agreed Myanmar faces "big challenges" to be ready for 2014 but said the government had shown it was prepared to be flexible to take on the chairmanship role. More than 1000 ASEAN meetings are held each year, with many of the major ones in the country chairing the grouping.

"They are not problems but they will be challenges for us," U Min Lwin said in an interview with *The Myanmar Times* in Phnom Penh on November 16. "But as the host we can expect help not only from ASEAN nations but also its dialogue partners."

He said Myanmar has no experience hosting the chairmanship so has been taking steps to ensure staff are trained, including in dealing with the international media.

"Japan and United States will also provide capacity-building assistance. One thing that can be a challenge for us is IT but we are trying to improve the situation and to follow the path of other ASEAN nations," he said.

U Min Lwin said this week's summit, which will be held on November 19 and 20, will see Myanmar's democratisation process discussed.

He paid tribute to the support of ASEAN nations for the seven-step roadmap to democracy, which many Western nations decried as a sham.

"Our President U Thein Sein has got a great deal of encouragement from the ASEAN leaders upon this process. As the president said, we will not turn back but we have to avoid things that can impact the democratisation process," U Min Lwin said.

Cambodian soldiers stand guard at Phnom Penh International Airport on November 17. *Pic: AFP*

U Min Lwin also said there would be no bilateral meeting between US President Barack Obama and President U Thein Sein in Cambodia because the Myanmar leader would leave the summit to see President Obama in Yangon.

"[U Thein Sein] will go back to Yangon after arriving in Cambodia. That means there will not be a face-to-face meeting between the US president and U Thein Sein during the summit," he said.

U Aung Lin, the director general to ASEAN, said President U Thein Sein would arrive in Phnom Penh on November 17 and return to Yangon to meet US President Barack Obama early on November 19.

Meanwhile, U Aung Lin confirmed that there would not be any discussion about the conflict in Rakhine State in the ASEAN Human Right Declaration on November 18.

NLD leader pushes hluttaw on Yangon university plan

By Soe Than Lynn

A PROPOSAL from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to create a regulatory team to oversee the refurbishment of Yangon Arts and Science University in Hledan has been approved over the objections of the deputy minister for education.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi argued in the Pyithu Hluttaw on November 9 that Yangon University should be upgraded into an educational hub offering undergraduate courses because it already has the infrastructure to be a top university.

Her proposal was seconded by Daw Dwe Bu of Injayan, U Khin Maung Yi of Ahlone and U Ohn Kyaing of Mahaaungmyay and passed 248 votes to 64, despite the deputy minister telling representatives there was no need to create the supervisory team. In a surprising twist, the motion was supported by most Tatmadaw representatives, who hold 25 percent of seats.

"We want to raise the quality [of higher education] rather than quantity. … To the best of my knowledge, education of younger generations is relatively low, compared to that of older generations. It is rare anywhere in the world that educational levels are lower than those of 20 years ago. This implies that our education system has gone in the utterly wrong direction," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

"Based on the clarification of the [deputy minister for education], the ministry seems to have focused on postgraduate programs … [but] it is questionable how there can be qualified postgraduate students without qualified undergraduate students," she said.

The motion proposed forming a regulatory team comprising officials from the Ministry of Education, members of hluttaw committees and commissions and experts in specific subject areas.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the proposal had already been discussed by the hluttaw committee on education. "It will be more effective if we start at Yangon University. In the past, Yangon University could compete with other international universities. But now I can honestly say that there is no international-standard university in our country," she said.

"I don't mean to renovate only the buildings of the university but also its courses and teaching methods. A university should be oriented towards its students."

She added that international donors had shown significant interest in helping to revive Myanmar's education sector but most wanted to know precisely how funds would be managed and what they would be used for.

Donors are concerned their aid will not be effective if it is allocated too thinly but a plan to revive Yangon University would win their support because it has existing infrastructure and a good reputation, she said.

"If we can build a single high-quality university with donors' support then they will be more encouraged to help with other projects," she said.

"Some world-leading universities are ready to help with this kind of program. … We can get the project moving very quickly if everyone collaborates and gets involved.

"The donors will be less inclined to help if we delay … so there is a need to organise a supervisory team led by the Union Government to renovate Yangon University to be a well-rounded international university. I believe that our people also want to see it once again become an outstanding university." – *Translated by Thit Lwin and Zar Zar Soe*

Minister responds on daily licences

By Kyaw Su Mon

Workers prepare copies of 'The Myanmar Times' on November 15. *Pic: AFP*

HOPES remain high in the media industry that daily private newspapers will be allowed soon, despite the government refusing to commit to a date.

The government has had a monopoly on daily publishing since the 1960s, when the socialist regime nationalised the last private publications. Minister for Information U Aung Kyi indicated shortly after taking office in late August that private media organisations would be allowed to publish daily in 2013 but he recently told the Pyithu Hluttaw, in response to a question from U Thein Nyunt, that he could not give an exact date for private daily newspapers.

This elicited some criticism from certain sections of the media industry. On November 6, Eleven Media Group chief executive officer Dr Than Htut Aung was quoted in his own publication as saying that "[t]he government's attitude towards the private media is not clear. It has no sincerity. Oppressing and controlling independent media means the government has no wish to exercise genuine democracy."

"Two months ago, the information minister disclosed the publication of private newspapers would be allowed at the start of 2013 ... [but] the government is feeling reluctant to grant permission for the publication of private daily newspapers. Only the cronies have been granted permission to monopolise electronic media sector," he said.

U Aung Kyi responded to the claims by writing an open letter published in state-run publications on November 10.

He said he wanted to "respond to some of the allegations that may even harm my reputation" and denied setting a firm date for when daily newspapers would be allowed.

In an interview with *The Myanmar Times* in early September, the minister said that "if the necessary preparations are made I estimate [daily licences] might be granted early next year".

In his open letter, U Aung Kyi said the government wanted to complete six steps, including the formulation of a code of ethics and code of conduct, before allowing private daily newspapers but added that the government could allow them "when the time is somewhat ripe even if all institutional requirement[s] could not be fulfilled".

"Every democratic nation which allows publication of daily newspapers has organisations and rules and regulation to enforce journalism ethics and to protect the individual rights of the people," U Aung Kyi wrote.

"I on my part have been trying best for soonest emergence of independent private newspapers. And I would like to ask press institution to join hands for quick emergence of a good media environment," he wrote.

"The ministry does not directly or indirectly force the media men to perform these tasks but rather allows them to get on with them independently. ... Let's try to go ahead with quick launch of independent private newspapers in the favourable media environment. What we are doing, what we are writing and what we are talking about today will become the history of each of us later."

Mizzima editor U Sein Win said it appeared the government would adopt a cautious approach towards allowing daily papers.

"The government is focused on its security. If dailies are allowed, there will probably be a lot of challenges. It may worry that it will lose control if it loosens restrictions quickly," he said.

However, industry insiders acknowledge that the minister is right to question whether the industry is ready to publish daily newspapers given the lack of financial, technical and human resources.

"Now state-run papers are changing their policies and layout to attract more readers. At the same time, private journals lack revenue from advertising and face a severe shortage of journalists. And they are facing distribution and printing problems because some do not have their own printing presses," said U Kyaw Swar Min, editor-in-chief of *The Yangon Times*.

He said fewer than 10 of the 80 news journals in Myanmar were ready to make the transition.

"Private publications cannot compete on price with state-run papers. Even if they can reduce the cover price because of an increase in revenue from advertising, it can't be less than K200 a day," he said.

"And if [private publications] do not have their own presses, how can they publish a story that they get late at night? Those companies that have the ability to distribute to other towns immediately will get a bigger market share."

U Sein Win agreed that almost every media organisation is already facing a shortage of journalists and editors but he said that was not the only challenge.

"Journals are particularly weak in distribution. When they come out daily, those who do it earlier will have an advantage. In Myanmar, the market is only in the cities ... [because] development of infrastructure is poor," he said.

"To the best of my knowledge, K100 a copy will be affordable in other towns. The present price of a journal is about half the average daily wage in these areas. If this continues, the market for daily papers won't grow as much as we are expecting." – *Translated by Thit Lwin*

Mandalay High Court issues statement on corruption

By Phyo Wai Kyaw and Sithu Lwin

STATE media in Mandalay last week published the phone and fax numbers of the chief justice of Mandalay Region and encouraged the public to contact him if they encounter corruption in the legal system, following the dismissal of seven members of the judiciary in the city.

The daily *Mandalay* newspaper, run by Mandalay City Development Committee, said on November 9 that the chief justice would handle all complaints "in accordance with the law". Members of the public who have been asked for a bribe should call the Chief Justice U Soe Thein on (02) 24935 or fax him on (02) 33424 to report it. The statement, issued by the Mandalay Region High Court, also said members of the public can inform the chief justice if they believe the decision in a court case is unfair.

'Some lawyers said that there were bribery issues.'

The statement also said the High Court had dismissed seven staff, including two township-level judges and two sub-township judges. The court also issued strong warnings to 11 staff, it said.

The notice comes after seven members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Peace and Stability Committee, headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, visited Mandalay on November 2 to examine the operations of district and township courts.

"Judgment is being swayed in Yangon and is completely wrong in Mandalay in some cases … some lawyers also said that there were bribery issues," committee member U Thein Nyunt said on November 2, adding that if the courts did not resolve these issues themselves the committee would raise them in the hluttaw.

Mandalay villagers push for return of confiscated land

By Phyo Wai Kyaw and Hlaing Kyaw Soe

Ministry of Construction houses on land near Yadanarpon Bridge where residents of three villages lived until they were evicted in 2001 for the bridge construction project. *Pic: Phyo Wai Kyaw*

MANDALAY residents evicted to make way for the construction of Yadanarpon Bridge more than 10 years ago are pushing for their land to be returned.

In 2001, regional authorities moved residents from three villages in Amarapura township because of the Yadanarpon Bridge project and resettled them in new sites on a floodplain near the bridge, the villagers said.

"We sent a letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee, the land investigation commission and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the last week of September together with the signatures of all villagers," U Moe Naung from Khawar village said earlier this month.

"Before the bridge project started and we were moved, the authorities promised we could get back our old villages if they are outside the project area. However, when the project was finished in April 2008, the authorities did not give back our land and Ministry of Construction continued to use it. We object that officials from … Ministry of Construction are applying to get formal ownership of our lands at Amarapura township's Settlements and Land Records Department," he said.

As a result of the letter, officials from Amarapura township's general administrative department called residents to their office on November 8 to discuss the issue. More than 100 villagers went to meet the officials, who called another five villagers to come to the office on November 9.

"They asked me what the authorities told us before we were moved from our village and about compensation. I don't want to use the word 'compensation' as we were not even given enough money to rebuild our houses," said U Maung Tint after he met the officials on November 9.

Residents said that the three villages face severe flooding every year in their new location.

"The new place is flooded up to nine months of the year. We have to move beside the Sagaing-Mandalay road and near the bridge in temporary huts every year during rainy season until the water level down again. If not, we could drown, be bitten by dangerous snakes or face other health problems," said Daw Khin Mar and Daw Khin Than of Thapyay Tan village.

"As we had to move from our original villages and were not given any farmland, we face social and economic problems and we are all in trouble now. In the past we owned land and even created employment by hiring labourers for our fields but now we work as servants and laborers," they said.

They said each family from the three villages was given compensation of 2 tonnes of wood to rebuild a house at the new site and K10,000.

"They told us that they would build roads and install electricity at the new place but nothing has happened and it is still like a jungle."

NLD to finish MDY ward assemblies by end of November

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

NATIONAL League for Democracy leaders in Mandalay's Pyigyitagun township plan to hold ward assemblies in late November, they said last week.

Party officials launched an assembly information campaign in Ayataw ward in Pyigyitagun on November 14, with the meeting attracting about 60 members from several wards. U Myo Naing, secretary of the NLD assembly commission for Mandalay Region, said the party hopes to hold the assemblies across all wards in the township by the end of November.

"One ward can send up to six delegates to the township assembly. ... This is the basic process of the assembly outlined by the NLD headquarters. We will hold at least two more assembly information campaigns in the township before the ward assemblies are held," U Myo Naing said.

Responding to criticism from some members in the township that the assembly organisation process has been undemocratic, U Myo Naing conceded there might have been some "unfair issues".

"But the process to form the assembly commission and selection process will only be used for the assembly and those chosen are not being appointed to permanent positions. We formed [the commission with] members who could work well for the commission. These are prominent, public positions but anyone can compete in the ward assembly to become a [township] delegate. So instead of blaming the commission process [members] should try to focus on winning the ward assembly," he said.

He also said party officials wanted to cooperate with unhappy members provided they were being constructive and did not show aggression. On the issue of conflict between new and old party members, Mandalay officials said that the NLD views all members as equals.

"The party's main theme is non-violence. We are still accepting new members," said U Maung Kan, secretary of the district-level assembly commission in Mandalay.

"We are planning to give cards to all party members soon. First we intended to give smart cards but it is too busy in the head office to do this so the regional office instructed us just to give normal cards," he said.

Ma Htay, an NLD member from Pyigyitagun's Salein ward, said she believes the holding of the assembly can support the democratisation process.

"Most people in wards lack political knowledge and they spend most of their time focusing on earning enough to survive, so I think the information campaign will be beneficial because it can improve our knowledge. Another issues is that we need to attract more young people to the party," she said.

A women cries after her husband was released from Obo Prison in Mandalay on November 15 as part of a government amnesty. *Pic: Sithu Lwin*

Ex-Tatmadaw released from Obo Prison

MOST prisoners released from Mandalay's Obo Prison under a presidential amnesty last week were former soldiers, along with a handful of Chinese nationals.

Altogether 26 prisoners, including 17 soldiers, six civilians, two Chinese and one elderly prisoner were released from Obo Prison on November 15.

"I'm glad our punishment was reduced. I was ordered to serve a three-year sentence for violating military discipline. I had to stay behind bars for a year," said Ko Zaw Zaw Linn, who was previously from a military medical unit.

One of the two Chinese prisoners, Tan Chain Hsu, 49, was sentenced to 20 years prison for drug-related offences in January 2000. Meanwhile, Chin Kyone Shwin, 23, received a 12-year sentence for drug and immigration offences in October 2007.

According to a statement issued by the President's Office on November 14, 452 prisoners were released from jails around the country.

"I was sent to jail for stabbing my husband to death. I really appreciate being released," said Daw San San Myint, 72.

Another 11 people were released from prisons elsewhere in Mandalay Region, including three from Myingyan, five from Yamethin and three from Meiktila.

"I think my husband should have been released earlier. I didn't cry when my husband was sent to jail but now tears are rolling down my face because of happiness," said Daw Tin Tin Mar, wife of a prisoner released from Obo Prison.

No political prisoners were released, and an official from the political prisoner network said 44 remain behind bars in Obo Prison. – *Sithu Lwin, translated by Thiri Min Htun*

MCDC vows to use law, not force, to remove squatters

By Phyo Wai Kyaw and Sithu Lwin

A STANDOFF has developed in Mandalay between city authorities and squatters with the expiry of the latest deadline ordering them to quit their homes.

Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) had given the squatters until November 15 to clear the sites, but they refused to budge. Although some of the homes have already been bulldozed, the city has said it will no longer use force to eject them.

MCDC says there are thousands of homes built illegally on municipal land in Chanmyatharsi, Pyigyitagun and Amarapura townships. After warning them to leave by September 16, MCDC started destroying houses in Myayi Nandar ward of Chanmyatharsi township on September 17.

However, after encountering strong opposition from residents, the committee stopped demolishing the homes and instead set a November 15 deadline for the squatters to leave.

"We will not use force to remove houses this time like we did in Myayi Nandar ward. At that time, we acted under MCDC law sections 32 and 33 to destroy the houses. But this time, we will proceed in accordance with section 26, as there are legal plots and houses in the area as well. The owner of the land can press charges of trespassing in accordance with the law," said U Tin Htut Kyaw, head of the committee's land ownership department, said on November 14.

He also said that he has received no instruction from the Mandalay mayor other than to charge squatters under section 26, which entails a potential K300,000 fine, three months in prison or both.

'We will not use force to remove houses this time.'

MCDC and administrative officials in Pyigyitagun township also met with trespassers on November 12 to urge them to leave and press charges against those who sold the plots to them illegally.

"Some trespassers claim they bought the land with contracts but these are not legal contracts. There are more than 2000 plots in that area and of those we have already issued official documents for more than 1000 plots," U Tin Htut Kyaw said.

Seminar ignites debate on Suvannabhumi

By Cherry Thein

A REGIONAL seminar on the history of the Suvannabhumi kingdom in Mon State has reignited debate over the history of the Mon region and its people.

"The Golden Era of Suvannabhumi" was held on November 3 and 4 at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine in Mon State, with 11 scholars, including historians, archaeologists and other experts, giving presentations on ancient Mon kingdoms.

The presenters said Thaton and Bilin towships were the centres of the Suvannabhumi kingdom, and presented archaeological findings and other evidence to support the claim, including the structure of ancient cities in the area, and the unique Mon culture and architecture, which included extensive tunnels through the soft laterite stone.

However, they also acknowledged the concept of the Suvannabhumi kingdom is not uncontested, with one presenter attempting to rebut the case put forward by Professor Michael Aung-Thwin from Hawaii University that Suvannabhumi never existed. In his 2005 book, *The Mist of Ramanna The Legend that was Lower Myanmar*, the professor said there were no Mon kingdoms in early Myanmar history and that archaeological sites in the area must be Pyu rather than Mon.

U San Win, a retired assistant director of the Ministry of Culture's Department of Historical Research, said that the remains of Mon sites have been found clustered around the mouth of the Sittoung River, the apex of the Gulf of Mottama, formerly Martaban.

"The evidence from these places tells us firmly that there was a Suvannabhumi. I don't want to argue with other countries about their findings because Suvannabhumi was a large area in Southeast Asia but we are responsible to say what is right or wrong," he said at the seminar.

During the 1970s, U Aung Myint of the Forestry Department used aerial photographs to pinpoint the towns of Kyaikkatha, Taikkala, Zokthok, Thaton, Sampannago (Hmawbi) and some smaller-scale sites, such as Kawhtin, Leikkahon, Muthin, Zwegal, Mayangon, Kadaik, in this area, U San Win said.

"I am a habitant of Paung township in Mon State. I earned my masters degree on ancient cities between the Sittoung and Than Lwin rivers. I have undertaken many field trips to historical and archaeological sites in Mon State and can assure you that there was Suvannabhumi based on my findings," U San Win said.

Other researchers gave presentations on the architecture, religion, and literature of the old cities of Suvannabhumi.

The seminar was the first of its kind to be held in Mon State and representatives of the regional government said they wanted to encourage more cultural seminars in the future.

U San Win (left), a retired assistant director of the Ministry of Culture's Department of Historical Research, leads a field trip to the ancient town of Mottama near Mawlamyine following a seminar in the Mon State capital on November 3-4. *Pic: Cherry Thein*

Chief Minister U Ohn Myint said the November 3-4 seminar was the first step towards better understanding Mon culture, promoting and protecting the state's heritage and learning about the old cities of Suvannabhumi.

"We want to encourage the holding of seminars like this ... and thank the historians and archaeologists for working hard so we can better understand our heritage," he told *The Myanmar Times*.

"We plan to hold more seminars and build site museums to present archaeological and historical findings in Thaton township as well."

Mon State Minister for Planning, Commerce and Culture Dr Min Nwe Soe said the seminar was the "first step" towards promoting better public awareness about the historical importance of Mon State.

"There is still a lot of work to do. The seminar made us realise we have many things we need to do to protect and promote our country's historical heritage and research," he said.

Participants urged the holding of seminars, building of site museums and provision of training to better safeguard archaeological sites.

But U Kyin Pe, president of the Mon State Hluttaw, said that the program should focus on historical findings that benefit the country and should not be caught up in "racial issues".

Highlighting this point, the seminar was almost derailed by confusion over the identity of its organisers. In October, an article in the state-run *Kyemon* newspaper repeated Professor Aung-Thwin's theory that Suvannabhumi never existed and some civilians and monks, confusing organiser U San Win for the author of the article, announced plans to try to disrupt the seminar but this was eventually avoided.

"The people thought that I am the one who said all [archaeological sites] are Pyu but later they came to know that wasn't the case. We should be very professional and respect the ethics of scholarship. You can't announce a certain thing with only one piece of evidence and need to collect as much as you can," U San Win said.

"I want to show what is right and prove that there is a Thaton old city but I don't want conflict on the issue. If the issue is not resolved in a professional way, there will be no end to conflicts or racial riots and no peace. Historical heritage is our sweet passion but we need to ensure we are professional about the things we have a passion for," he said.

U Aye Win, a resident of Mudon township in Mon State who attended the seminar, said the event "should have been held decades ago".

"Most of the people believe there is no ancient Mon or Suvannabhumi, there is only Pyu. I don't accept it but I can't explain why because I am not a historian. Thanks to the people who organised this seminar we can re-explore and understand our history," he said.

Pyu conference to start November 30

By Cherry Thein

A SEMINAR on the Pyu civilisation featuring more than 50 presentations will be held at the Myanmar Banks Association in Yangon's Yankin township from November 30 to December 2.

The event's organising committee says the seminar will bring together more than 60 professor, scholars and historians from both Myanmar and abroad.

The Pyu civilisation appeared in the second century BC and was likely subsumed into the Bagan empire by the 11th century.

The seminar is sponsored by Tun Foundation and presentations will consider contemporary documents about the Pyu from China and India, ancient manuscripts recording the Pyu civilisation, the views of colonial-era British writers on the Pyu and the "hidden history" of civilisation, according to organisers.

"The seminar aims to present the real history of Pyu, their cities and civilisation, culture and customs and to prove that Sri Ksetra is the first Myanmar kingdom," a member of the organising committee said.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is herby given that GLORY LTD. of 3-1, Shimoteno 1-Chome, Himeji-Shi, Hyogo-Ken, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:-

GLORY

(Reg: No. IV/3944/2007)

in respect of: - "Money counting and sorting machines; Cash depositor machines; Cash dispensers; Money handling machines for cashier; Money exchangers; Coin counting and wrapping/packaging machines; Banknote bundling machines; Cash settlement system; Banknote counting machines; Automated teller machines; Counterfeit (false) coin detectors; Banknote recognition machines (Banknote checkers); Banknote condition sorting machines; Electronic machines and their parts; computers; computer peripheral devices; computer programs, recorded; computer software; Vending machines; Cash registers; Optical character readers; Magnetic data media; Magnetic encoded cards; Integrated circuit cards (smart cards); Magnetic encoders; Voting machines; Magnetic encoded card readers"- Class: 9.

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **GLORY LTD.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 19th November, 2012

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **HOYU KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as Hoyu Co., Ltd.)** a company incorporated in Japan and having its principal office at 501, Tokugawa 1-Chome, Higashi-Ku, Nagoya-Shi, Aichi-Ken, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

(Reg: Nos. IV/795/1982 & IV/9243/2012)

in respect of : -
"Bleaching preparations (decolorants) for cosmetic purposes, hair dyes, hair coloring preparations, hair sprays, hydrogen peroxide for cosmetic purposes, hair waving preparations, shampoos, hair conditioners" Class: 3

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **HOYU KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
(also trading as Hoyu Co., Ltd.)
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 19th November, 2012

Learn from development mistakes, UK expert urges

By Justin Heifetz

MYANMAR should learn from the mistakes of other countries as it looks to increase food and energy production to drive economic development, says a top scientific adviser to the British government who spoke in Nay Pyi Taw last week.

Sir John Beddington, the United Kingdom's chief scientific adviser, began his visit to Myanmar, aimed at advising the British government on ways it can foster sustainable agriculture in Myanmar, on November 12.

At the Green Economy and Green Growth conference in Nay Pyi Taw on November 13 Mr Beddington urged Myanmar "not to make the mistakes that the rest of the world has made when trying to increase growth".

As the keynote speaker, Mr Beddington addressed the challenges Myanmar will face because of its rapidly increasing population.

"As we've tried to produce more food we've eroded the land; as we've tried to produce more water we've over-exploited the resources, and we've also messed up rivers with pollution and we've over-exploited forests," Mr Beddington said in an interview on November 13 after his speech at the conference.

"We need to look into the future and say the future can't be like the past. We need to increase and have growth, but we can't do that unless we do that in a sustainable way.

"So what I was saying at the conference about this country was don't make the mistakes that the rest of the world has made when you're trying to increase growth."

While in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr Beddington met Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein and Minister for Environmental Conversation and Forestry U Win Tun to discuss cooperation between Myanmar and the UK.

Mr Beddington suggested that Myanmar look to three methods to improve agriculture sustainability: better strains of rice, climate-smart agriculture and rice systems with fish.

"Better strains of rice can grow in difficult areas where there's too much salt and where the rice crop might be submerged," Mr Beddington said.

Climate-smart agriculture, or agriculture that helps to prevent climate change while increasing yields, uses less fertiliser and pesticide.

Introducing very young fish to rice paddies allows farmers to easily harvest fish with their crop.

Before the conference, Mr Beddington visited Yangon University, where he delivered a speech on green growth to the university rector and staff. He then visited Yangon General Hospital and afterwards met livelihood experts at the British Club to discuss sustainable agriculture.

Poignant service to mark Remembrance Day

By Geoffrey Goddard

Kayin veterans of the Burma Campaign at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Htaukkyant War Cemetery on Sunday, November 11. Saw Hla Maung (right), 92, served during the war as a pilot for the Royal Air Force. *Pic: Geoffrey Goddard*

PERHAPS the most poignant moments at the Remembrance Day Service at Htaukkyant War Cemetery on November 11 came with the last line of the ode recited in honour of the fallen: "We will remember them."

This was recited in unison by allied and Myanmar veterans and their relatives and friends, representatives of 20 diplomatic missions and the British Royal Legion, and others who attended to join the rite of respect for those who did not grow old or the years condemn last week.

After a short pause, two Tatmadaw representatives, standing on the other side of the grey, stone memorial of columns inscribed with the names of thousands of Britons, Indians and Africans, pierced the quiet with the haunting bugle call of The Last Post.

Then came two long minutes of silent tribute and quiet reflection before the two buglers played The Reveille, a lively counterpoint to The Last Post symbolising the sunrise and awakening.

It was possible to sense in those moments and especially in the two minutes of silence that all present were united by a common bond borne of feelings that included respect, compassion, gratitude, sadness and grief.

In an address at the beginning of the ceremony, British ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Heyn had alluded to the feelings elicited by ceremonies honouring those who die in war.

Referring to the veterans present – the few dozen elderly survivors of a conflict which claimed the lives of more than 200,000 military personnel on both sides – Mr Heyn spoke of how the ceremony "must bring back some very bittersweet memories; memories of comradeship and courage, but also of sadness and fear and the brutal reality of war."

Mr Heyn said it was the fourth and last time he would be speaking at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the cemetery.

"I will never forget the honour and the privilege of taking on this role," he said.

"When I look over at the veterans, I feel somehow you should be here but not me," the ambassador said, acknowledging the small group of elderly men, proudly wearing their medals.

"Wherever the diplomatic merry-go-round takes me … I will always remember on Remembrance Sunday this place and the poignancy of it."

As well as British veterans and their relatives, most of whom had travelled to Myanmar on a trip arranged by the British Royal Legion, a small contingent of Kayin veterans who had fought on the Allied side, also attended the ceremony.

Most of the British and Kayin veterans were aged in their 80s and 90s.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Foshan Shining Electronic (H.K) Company Limited, a company incorporated in Hong Kong, having its registered office at Room 1019, 10/F, Nan Fung Commercial Center, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trade mark.

SHINING ELECTRONIC

(Reg.No IV/11915/2012)

In respect of International Class 11 - Apparatus of Lighting, Heating, Steam generating, Cooking, Refrigerating, Ventilating, Water Supply and Sanitary Purposes. International Class 35 - Advertising, Business Management, Business Administration, Office Function. International Class 37 - Repair and Installation Services. International Class 42 - Scientific and Technological Services and Research and Design relating thereto.

Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Dr. Mya Marlar Aye
Advocate
195, Mya Thidar Street, 29 Ward,
Thuwanna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

READER SURVEY 2012

Lucky Draw Winner List

Grand Prize

OSIM (NatRay Co., Ltd)
uSoffa Runway

ဦးမင်းဝင်းမွန်
၁၂/ကမတ(နိုင်)၀၁၆၉၃၇
အမှတ်(၂)၊ တက္ကသိုလ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးတပ်၊
မဟာအောင်မြေမြို့ မန္တလေး။

1st Prize

Ikon Mart
Bone China Black & White Dinner Set
Capsy Coffee Machine (home use)
Riedel Heart to heart gift set
Riedel Decanter
Wine Cooler

မောင်ဟိန်းထက်ဝင်း
၁၂/အစန(နိုင်) ၂၀၂၅၅၈
မ/၈ မြင့်မိုရ်လမ်း၊ ဈေးကုန်း၊
အနောက် အင်းစိန်မြို့၊ ရန်ကုန်။

2nd Prize

MAI - Three Return Tickets

ဦးဝမ်းမောင်
၉/မနတ(နိုင်) ၀၁၆၆၃၁
မြဝတီရပ်၊ ဗန္ဓုလလမ်း၊ မြို့မရပ်၊
ပုသိမ်ကြီးမြို့၊ မန္တလေး။

3rd Prize

Shwe Nagar Platinum - Diamond Ring

မောင်နန်းဝင်းဦး
၅/မမန(နိုင်) ၀၉၉၀၇၀
အမှတ်(၁၇)၊ ဒါနလမ်း၊ သာယာကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊
မဂ်လာတောင်ညွှန့်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

4th Prize

Centure - SIENA Executive Furniture

မခင်မိုးမြင့်
SGU 095111
အမှတ်(၈၄ - ၈၆) တောင်ဘက်တိုက်တန်း
ဈေးချို့၊ ချမ်းအေးသာစံမြို့နယ်၊ မန္တလေး။

5th Prize

Blazon - Charles & Keith

မရွှေစင်သန့်
၁၂/လမန(နိုင်)၀၂၈၆၀၉
၁၁၉ လမ်း၊ ခြောက်လွှာ၊ ညာဘက်၊
မဂ်လာတောင်ညွှန့်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

6th Prize

Sweety Home - Spring Mattress

ဦးသိန်းရွှေ
၁၂/ဥကမ(နိုင်)၀၄၀၇၃၃
တိုက်(၅၃၁၉)၊ အခန်း(၁၁)၊ ချယ်ရီအိမ်ယာ၊
ဝဏ္ဏသိဒ္ဓိရပ်ကွက်၊ ဇမ္ဗူသီရီမြို့နယ်၊ နေပြည်တော်။

7th Prize

Dent Myanmar - Laser Whitening Package

ဦးဇော်ဝင်းအောင်
၁၂/ဗတထ(နိုင်)၀၃၅၂၇၁
၉/၁၁ ဗိုလ်တထောင်လမ်းသွယ် (၂) လမ်း၊
၄ ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

8th Prize

OSIM (NatRay Co., Ltd) - uMama Warm

မခိုင်စုဌေး
၉/အမဇ(နိုင်)၀၀၇၄၆၄
အမှတ် ၉၈/၂၀၊ အကွက် (၈)၊ ဒေါနဘွား၊
နန်းရှေ့အောင်မြေသာစံမြို့နယ်၊ မန္တလေး။

9th Prize

Home Plus - Robam Gas Stove

ကိုဇော်နိုင်ဦး
၁၂/မနဇ(နိုင်)၀၀၄၈၀၅
အမှတ်(၁၁)၊ ၁၆၅ လမ်း၊ တာမွေကြီး
(ခ)ရပ်ကွက် တာမွေမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

10th Prize

OSIM (NatRay Co., Ltd) - uKimono

မကျော့မွန်မင်း
၁၂/ကမရ(နိုင်)၀၆၀၃၈၃
တိုက် (၂၄)၊ ၀၅ - ၀၇ ပြည်ရိပ်မွန် အိမ်ယာ
ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။

11. OSIM (NatRay Co, Ltd) - uRelax မောင်မျိုးဇော်ဦး ၁၄/မမန(နိုင်)၁၈၃၇၅၉ အမှတ်(၂၄)၊ ရိပ်သာ (၈) လမ်း၊ ဈေးကလေးရပ်ကွက်၊ ကြည်မြင်တိုင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
12. Chigo Aircon 1.5 HP ဦးဇော်ဝင်းနိုင် EMDY 350214 ထွန်တုံး ၆/၈၄၊ ပိတောက်လမ်း၊ ၅၃ - ၅၄ လမ်း၊ ချမ်းမြသာစည်၊ မန္တလေး။
13. Chigo Aircon 1 HP မဆွေဆက်အေး ၁၂/လမန(နိုင်)၁၅၆၃၉၃ အခန်း(၄)၊ တိုက်(၂၆၇)၊ ရန်အောင်လမ်းသွယ် (၆)၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
14. Chatrium Hotel - Deluxe Room One Night Stay ဦးအောင်ကျော်မင်း ၁၄/ပသန(နိုင်)၀၁၂၄၄၇ အမှတ် (၁၄၁/၁၄၅)၊ ဂုဘီ၊ ယူနိုက်တက်ကွန်ဒို၊ ဗိုလ်အောင်ကျော်လမ်း၊ ကျောက်တံတား၊ ရန်ကုန်။
15. Mitsubishi - Regfrigerator ဦးရည်မွန် ၁၄/ဟသတ(နိုင်)၀၅၁၇၇၀ ၄/၀၀၁၊ (၁) လမ်း၊ A ဘလောက်၊ ယုဇနဥယျာဉ်မြို့တော်၊ ဒဂုံဆိပ်ကမ်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
16. 7Picture (Prewedding Photography Silver Package A) ဦးခင်မောင်ဇော် ၁၂/သယက(နိုင်)၀၁၅၅၇၃ ဈ/၄၀၃၊ ဝေဇယန္တာအတွင်းလမ်း၊ ဇ/တောင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ သယ်နံးကျွန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
17. Myanmar Golden Peacock - Gift Voucher ဒေါ်စန်းစန်းမြင့် ၅/ကလထ(နိုင်)၀၀၂၂၁၇ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်လမ်း၊ ဇာဇာဝင်းစတိုး၊ ကလေးမြို့စစ်ကိုင်း။
18. Hotel Max - Gift Voucher မဝင်းဝင်းမော် ၁၂/ကမတ(နိုင်)၀၁၂၈၀၃ တိုက်(၁)၊ အခန်း (၆၄)၊ ပန်းလှိုင်အိမ်ယာ၊ ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
19. Blazon - Adidas သီဟဗလှ ၁၄/မမန(နိုင်)၀၂၆၉၃၆ မြစန္ဒာရပ်ကွက်၊ ကွယ်လွယ်ကျေးရွာ၊ မြောင်းမြမြို့နယ်၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း။
20. OSIM (NatRay Co, Ltd) - uCheck 300 ဦးရီမြင့် ၁/မကန(နိုင်)၀၀၀၃၉၃ အမှတ်(၉၁)၊ ရှမ်းစုတောင်၊ မြစ်ကြီးနား၊ ကချင်ပြည်နယ်။
21. Blazon - Dapper Shoes 2pcs ဒေါ်ဝင်းတင် ၁၂/သလန(နိုင်)၀၃၀၉၁၉ ၃၆/၁၁၊ ရွှေအုန်းပင်အိမ်ယာ၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
22. Blazon - Jaspal ဦးမောင်မောင်ကြိုင် ၁၂/ဒဂန(နိုင်)၀၂၇၅၈၀ အမှတ် - ၁၆၊ ဇီဇဝါဥယျာဉ်အိမ်ယာ၊ သံသုမာလမ်း၊ တောင်ဥက္ကလာပမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
23. OneTouch - Hand Set မအေးအေးသူ ၁၂/လမတ(နိုင်)၀၀၉၀၇၂ ၁၂၉၊ ရွှေတောင်တန်းလမ်း (အထက်) လမ်းမတော်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
24. Blazon - Espada ဦးဇော်ဇော်လင်း ၁၂/ဗဟန(နိုင်)၀၀၂၈၃၄ ၃၇(သ)၊ ၁၇၊ မြဝတ်ရည်လမ်း၊ မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ် ရန်ကုန်။
25. Blazon - Ashworth မနန်းနီလာချစ်ဆွေ ၁၂/စခန(နိုင်)၀၄၉၃၄၀ အမှတ်(၃၈၀)၊ အပ်ဖ်အိုင်အမ်စင်တာ၊ (၁၀) ထပ်၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။
26. Eros - Gift Voucher မောင်စိုးသူ ၉/တသက(နိုင်)၁၂၃၇၆၈ ၁၅ အေ၊ စပယ်လမ်း၊ ပန်းလှိုင်အိမ်ယာ၊ စမ်းချောင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
27. Tin Sein - Gift Voucher ဒေါက်တာဝင်းဇင်ကိုကို ၁၂/ဥကမ(နိုင်)၁၉၇၈၆၀ ၎၊ ၉၀၀ ကုန္ဒါ၊ ၉လမ်း၊ မြောက်ဥက္ကလာပမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။
28. Sandy Flora - Gift Voucher မနန်းစန္ဒာကျော် ၉/အမဇ(နိုင်)၀၃၄၆၄၉ အလှသစ်၊ ရန်နိုင် (၁၉)လမ်း၊ နန်းရှေ့မုန်တိုင်းဓမ္မာရုံအနီး၊ အောင်မြေသာစံမြို့နယ်၊ မန္တလေး။

MasterCard marks first ATM transaction

By Zaw Win Than and Aye Thidar Kyaw

Co-operative Bank executive chairman and chief executive officer U Kyaw Lynn displays cash withdrawn from an ATM at the bank's headquarters in Yangon. *Pic: Thiri Lu*

MASTERCARD holders visiting Myanmar can use their debit and credit cards to withdraw cash from Co-operative Bank automatic teller machines in the country following the launch of services on November 15.

The first withdrawal was made from an ATM at CB bank's headquarters at the corner of 23rd Street and Strand Road in Yangon. Myanmar's first ATM allowed since the banking crisis in 2003 was installed at the same location in November 2011.

Initially services will be limited to debit cards. The bank will later offer credit cards based on customer feedback, if the Central Bank permits, he said.

In September MasterCard Worldwide became the first international payments networks to issue a licence to a Myanmar bank, paving the way for branded cards to be issued and accepted in Myanmar.

Mr Antonio Sebastian Corró, MasterCard country manager and chief representative for Indochina, said tourists and business travellers with a MasterCard-, Maestro- or Cirrus-branded card could use them to withdraw kyat from 36 Co-operative Bank ATMs nationally, including two at Yangon International Airport.

"Today is an historic event for Myanmar and CB bank," he said.

"Today is a first for CB bank ... [whose] ATMs can accept MasterCard-, Maestro- and Cirrus-branded cards. This is very important for Myanmar ... [and] will boost the tourism sector because they [tourists] don't have to bring their cash.

"They can go to any of CB bank's 36 ATMs and be able to withdraw local currency," Mr Corro told *The Myanmar Times* at a press conference at CB bank's headquarters.

"According to my understanding, the CB bank management will install more ATMs before the end of this year. Obviously they will be placed in the location where most tourists go, such as Mandalay and Bagan. As of today, all the CB bank's ATMS are accepting MasterCard withdrawals," he added.

Mr Corró said CB bank is one of the most established commercial banks in Myanmar, with the largest ATM network, which is why MasterCard had chosen to work with the company. "We also working with other banks but CB bank is the first to be licensed by any international brand. ... I'm quite confident with them and I definitely believed in our partnership with them... and they have been working very hard in the past few months to make sure this happened," he said.

He said MasterCard is also discussing possible partnerships with other private banks but would not disclose the names.

"We are talking with a few private banks. Hopefully we will be able to make some more announcements in the near future," he said. He said Myanmar's banking sector was developing in the right direction. "There will be a lot of changes in Myanmar's banking sector. I think the Central Bank is working hard to coordinate what's happening.

"And with the passing of the Foreign Investment Law, I am sure there will be strategic partners coming in soon ... So I am quite confident that the banking sector is moving in the right direction," he said.

U Kyaw Lynn, CB bank executive chairman and chief executive officer, said the launch was an important step forward and coincides with the 20th anniversary of the bank's founding. "This is indeed an historic milestone for our country, CB bank and MasterCard. We are glad to be able to contribute to the economic development of Myanmar by pioneering the move to a global payments system," said U Kyaw Lynn.

"Enabling the first international transaction at CB bank's ATMs, opens up opportunities for business, retail and tourism for our country. The hotel and tourism industry will especially benefit from this service.

"We are expecting a large influx of foreign visitors during the Southeast Asia Games scheduled in December next year. The ability to use MasterCard at point-of-sales (POS) terminals is expected to be available within four months. And we expect to issue MasterCards for Myanmar citizens within a year," he added.

Master Card has been working with CB bank since August, said CB bank managing director U Pe Myint.

"Even though we expected both MasterCard and Visa to start in January, arrangements went quickly," he said ahead of the November 15 press conference.

Bank sources say domestic banks are trying to set up new ATMs and open more branches this year with Central Bank permission.

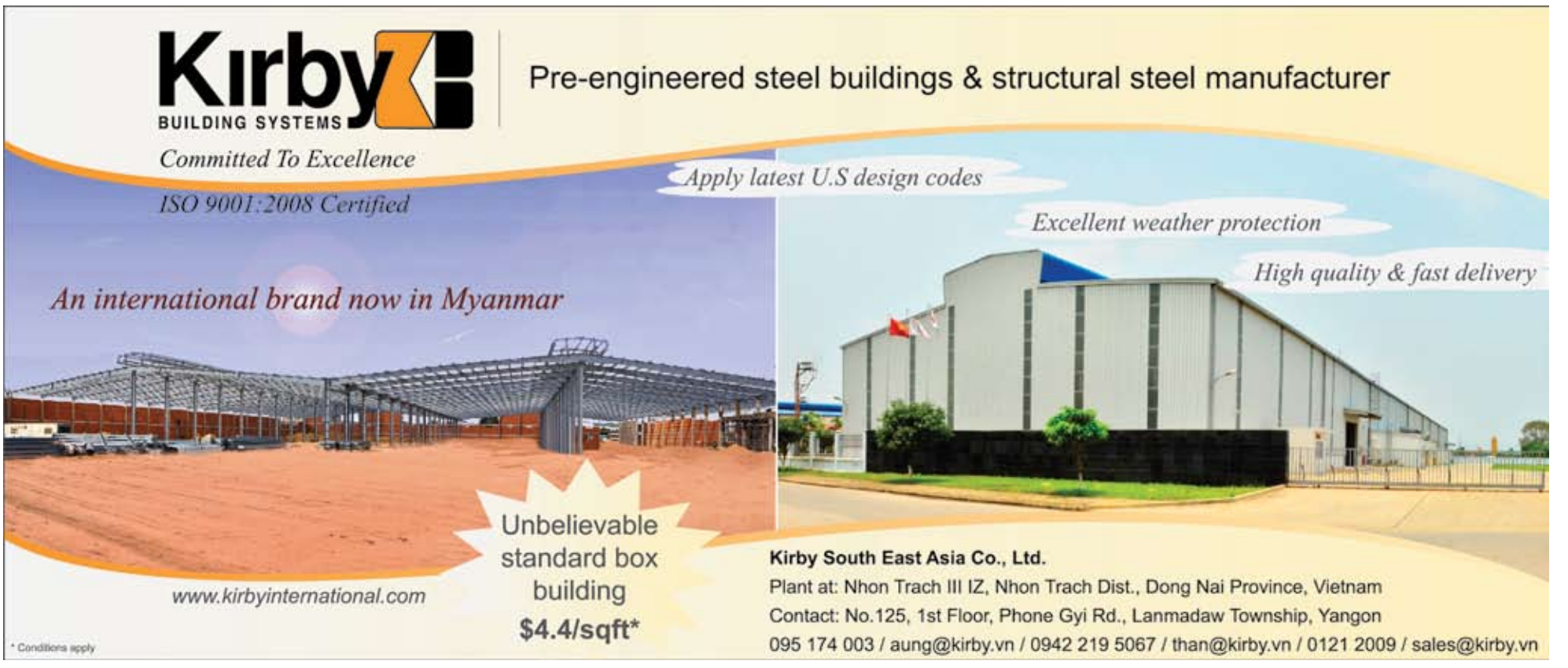
CB wants to expand from its current total of 28 branches to up to 42 next fiscal year, and will install at least 30 more ATMs, U Pe Myint said.

As a first stage, the bank will provide services for foreigners. Over the next six months, point-of-sale programs will begin in hotels, shopping centres and restaurants, and in late 2013, a credit card service for Myanmar citizens who want to use foreign banks will open, he said.

"There's no urgent need to offer MasterCard services to Myanmar citizens because they can use the Myanmar Payment Union MPU card," he said.

"Myanmar has to offer whatever services other ASEAN countries provide, so the government is trying to provide the facilities so as not to be left behind," he said, adding that visitors were expected to come to Myanmar in increasing numbers.

In early 2013, CB bank is planning to offer China Union Payment services and Visa card services, along with Kanbawza and Myanmar Oriental banks.



People examine cars at the Hantharwaddy car trading zone in Yangon recently. *Pic: Nyein Maung*

Possible CIF change cools car market

IN DEPTH with Aye Thidar Kyaw

POTENTIAL car buyers are waiting anxiously for an expected government announcement in early 2013 concerning the cost, insurance and freight charge used to value newly imported vehicles, dealers said last week.

The Ministry of Commerce announced through its website on November 9 that the Vehicle Supervision Committee will change the way it sets CIF values, which determine the amount of tax owed on the vehicle, in January. However, the announcement said the committee must first discuss the matter carefully and will reveal more details later.

"According to the announcement, the CIF value will be changed to be suitable for car importers. The changes will be sensible and are designed to make imports easier for everybody, including importers, the ministry and the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD)," he said.

The change will also allow importers to buy cars made as recently as 2008, up from 2007, he added.

"We assume that prices are likely to go down," he said. "The committee assesses CIF values based on value books in Japanese websites," he said.

CIF values are used to calculate customs duty of 40 percent, with another 25pc for commercial tax for vehicles with engines of 2000 cubic centimetres or larger in capacity. For vehicles with sub-2000CC engines the customs duty owed is 30pc and commercial tax is 25pc. However, importers of buses, trucks, ambulances and heavy vehicles pay 1-3pc in customs duty and a commercial tax of 5pc, the website shows.

RTAD, operator of the import substitution program, is accepting vehicles with the *balachaik* number plate prefix. An RTAD official said there about 4200 vehicles with the prefix eligible for import substitution.

"There are not many *balachaik*-prefix cars, which means it's not difficult for speculators to buy most of them in order to control prices, which is why I think car prices have not fallen of late," he said.

"However, when there are many cars that are eligible to be substituted there's no way that speculators can control the market and permit prices must surely fall," he said.

"That is what is likely to happen because President U Thein Sein said ordinary citizens would be able to afford cars in 2013," he said.

The official added that the next prefixes eligible for substitution – *bagone, la, tha* and *ah* – were mostly Nissan Super Saloons and Toyota sedans and wagons more than 20 years old, which are "abundant" on the road.

However, U Thein Swe, the officer in-charge of RTAD in Yangon Region, said that while he had heard a change would be made concerning CIF values he had not received any directive from the department's head office in Nay Pyi Taw. He added that he was had not been told which prefix would follow *balachaik*, adding that the department was already overstretched.

"We can't accept any more vehicles without upgrading our department," he said. "Our compound is already so cramped and everybody is busy with the car substitution program as well as regular licensing work," he said.

U Aung Than Win, a dealer in Hantharwaddy car trading zone, said buyers are waiting for an announcement about CIF values and trading is cool.

"If an announcement is made in 2013 then I'd expect prices to decrease and the market to hot up again," he said.

Import permits are selling for K9.5-K10 million, while newer model cars with sub-1350CC engines, whose CIF values are capped at US$5000, are selling for K10 million and above, he said.

"If an announcement is made in 2013 then I'd expect prices to decrease."

Briefs

Suzuki could restart Myanmar production

BANGKOK – Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp has submitted a request to the government of Myanmar to restart auto production, the chairman of the automaker told reporters on November 10.

"It will take three to five years to build a new plant," said Suzuki chairman Osamu Suzuki, adding it would like to restart production at its existing plant in Myanmar.

Suzuki said he hoped the government would approve the request by March next year.

Suzuki began making vehicles in Myanmar in 1999 but halted operations in 2010. The company made 6000 vehicles during that period. – *Reuters*

Chery cars safe, says deputy minister

DEPUTY Minister for Industry U Thein Aung said there is no evidence that the Myanmar-made Myanmar Mini Wagon and virtually identical Chinese-made Chery QQ3 are health hazards, a report in the state-run *New Light of Myanmar* newspaper said on November 9.

U Thein Aung made the denial to the Pyithu Hluttaw following a question by U Aung Thein Linn, former mayor of Yangon and USDP representative for South Okkalapa, after 23,000 of the Chinese-made Chery and Great Wall Automotive cars were recalled in Australia following the discovery of asbestos, a cancer-causing material banned in Australia and other nations, in some components.

However, the Australian Competitions and Consumer Commission said that the asbestos did not pose any risk to consumers when using the vehicle.

– *Oliver Slow*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

KAO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as Kao Corporation), of 14-10, Nihonbashi Kayabacho 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

SENSAI
Reg. No. 6802/2009

Kanebo
Reg. No. 9185/2009

in respect of "**Int'l Class 44:** Beauty salons; hairdressing salons".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Kao Kabushiki Kaisha**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 19th November, 2012

TRADE MARK CAUTION

DuluxGroup (Australia) Pty Ltd., a company incorporated in Australia, of 1956 Dandenong Road, Clayton, Victoria, 3168, Australia, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

RP7
Reg. No. 7405/2012

in respect of "**Class 02:** Preparations for protecting against rust and corrosion. **Class 04:** Lubricants; oils".
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **DuluxGroup (Australia) Pty Ltd.**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon.
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 19th November, 2012

TRADE MARK CAUTION

The TAKII Memorial Foundation, a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 2-20-15, Shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105-0004, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

MOTHER'S CREPE マザーズクレープ
Reg. No. 4/11005/2012 (20.9.2012)

In respect of "Cafes or Restaurants" in **Class 43.**

Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For **The TAKII Memorial Foundation,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**
#1508-1509, 15th Floor, Sakura Tower
Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 19 November 2012 utm@kcyangon.com

WIPO to aid Myanmar's knowledge economy

By Aye Thidar Kyaw

THE World Intellectual Property Organisation and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed an agreement to support commercial innovation in Myanmar, officials said last week.

The agreement was made during a press conference at the UMFCCI headquarters in Lanmadaw township on November 14. WIPO is one of 17 specialised agencies under the United Nations and has 185 member states; it administers 24 international treaties and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

"I think intellectual property became much more important, and knowledge economy, which is increasingly important in production and technology," said Mr Francis Gurry, WIPO director general. ""We have been delighted with the cooperation we've had from UMFCCI and we would like to make our contribution in Myanmar to develop the economy," he said.

WIPO is assisting Myanmar's government by providing legal advice designed to implement international standards in relation to the establishment of intellectual property laws, an intellectual property office and to build staff capacity within that office, he said.

The World Trade Organisation and WIPO have an Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights that applies to all WTO members, but the transition period for least developed countries, such as Myanmar, has been extended to July 1 next year, WIPO's website shows.

Mr Gurry said Myanmar is drafting its intellectual property law but once it has done so WIPO will aim to open an office in the country.

"I think the question is how intellectual property here [in Myanmar] can meet the economic agendas and commercial objectives," he said. "Intellectual property protection helps to control the quality of Myanmar products and their reputations abroad," he said.

He added that if Myanmar implemented an intellectual property law it would protect innovative design in commercial products, while copyright laws would provide more money for Myanmar's musicians, authors and writers.

UMFCCI president U Win Aung said that following the recently enacted Foreign Investment Law foreign investors keen to do business in Myanmar would want to see intellectual property law to protect their production.

"Myanmar will be more involved in intellectual property and we're cooperating with WIPO and our businesspeople to maintain intellectual property and copyrights in Myanmar," he said.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Yoplait Marques** a company organized under the laws of France and having its principal office at 170 bis, Boulevard du Montparnasse, 75014 Paris, France, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

(Reg: No. IV/10817/2012)

in respect of:- "Cheese, fresh cheese, yogurts, curled milk, cream, dairy products and dairy desserts".

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Yoplait Marques**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 19th November, 2012

Silk Road launches Myanmar Equity Index

By Stuart Deed

SILK Road Management has launched the country's first equity index to track the stocks of eight Myanmar-related publicly listed companies, a company press release issued on November 12 shows.

The companies included in the index are listed on the Thailand, South Korea or Singapore exchanges and involved in sectors including property, power generation, oil and gas, telecoms and consumer goods.

The market capitalisation of the companies tracked by the index is US$9.3 billion as of October 31, and the daily trading volume is about $40 million, the press release said. The index includes an initial value of 1000 set for January 1, and works by tracking the share price performance of the companies, it adds.

However, the index does not include two Myanmar companies listed in the Yangon Stock Exchange – Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation and Myanmar Citizens Bank – "due to their limited investability by international investors".

"We are very pleased to launch [our] debut equity index that allows investors to track performance of an expanding group of publicly listed companies with assets and operations in Myanmar," Silk Road Management founders Alisher Ali said.

"We are confident that more Myanmar-related companies will seek public listings or go through reverse mergers globally, including in Singapore, Hong Kong and London, as well as Canada and Australia in 2013 and beyond," he added.

> **"We are confident that more Myanmar-related companies will seek public listings or go through reverse mergers globally."**

The press release says the Silk Road Myanmar Index is up 49.7 percent this year to October 31, making it the best performing index in Asia and the fourth best performing globally this year. Silk Road Management attributes the performance to growing interest in companies gaining exposure to Myanmar, "which represents one of best investment opportunities in Asia and globally".

The eight companies tracked by the index are: Daewoo International Corp (South Korea); Ratchaburi Elec Gen Holding (Thailand); Super Group Ltd (Singapore); Italian-Thai Development Pcl (Thailand); Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd (Singapore); Interra Resources Ltd (Singapore); Shangri-La Hotel Pcl (Thailand); and Ntegrator International Ltd (Singapore).

The index will be updated quarterly and Silk Road will add more members as Myanmar companies seek initial public offerings and reverse mergers in stock exchanges in Asia and further abroad, as well as when regional publicly listed companies acquire assets in Myanmar or make significant expansion into the country.

The launch of the equity index closely follows the October 5 unveiling of the company's Myanmar Property Index, designed to track property prices Myanmar's capital city, Yangon.

For 15 years, Dr. Tan Lai Yong lived among poor villagers in rural Yunnan, giving medical care to those affected by leprosy. His passion to make a difference led him to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to pursue a Master in Public Administration degree, one that would hone his mastery of complex global policy issues.

The LKY School offers a unique curriculum by bridging the gap between prevailing theories in the West and best practices in the East. Located in Singapore, the School brings together almost 400 students from over 50 countries across disciplines of government, civil society, media, law and medicine.

The LKY School at the National University of Singapore offers postgraduate programmes for working professionals at various stages of their careers.

The Master in Public Policy programme is catered to young professionals with up to 5 years of work experience, or those considering a career switch.

The Master in Public Administration programme is designed for middle-level management with 5 to 8 years of work experience.

For those with more than 8 years of work experience, and going to enter senior management, the Master in Public Management programme is specially designed for you.

Apply now for enrolment in July 2013. Application deadline is 15 Feb 2013. Generous scholarships are available.

For more information, visit www.spp.nus.edu.sg/programme.aspx

NUS #2 in Asia #25 in the world
QS University Rankings

LEAD THE CHANGE *to improve lives*

Inspiring Leaders Improving Lives Transforming Asia

JOB WATCH

U.S. Embassy seeks Economic Specialist

Basic Function of Position:

Collects, maintains, and analyzes information on all aspects of Myanma economy from published and unpublished sources, including a broad range of contacts. Researches and prepares macroeconomic reports and reports on sectors at own initiative or as requested. Performs designated briefing, public diplomacy, advisory, and coordination functions.

Qualifications Required:

1. Bachelor's degree in economics, commerce, public policy, business or public administration, mathematics or statistics.
2. Three-five years of progressively responsible experience in economic research, policy or program analysis, or closely related field.
3. Fluent speaking/reading/writing/ English and Burmese.
4. Solid working knowledge of neoclassical micro and macroeconomic principles, public finance and trade theory; working knowledge of the formal and informal structures of Myanma economy and government, and of the Myanmar government's foreign and domestic economic policy; functional knowledge of the structure of the U.S. government, of USG interests in Myanmar, and of USG policy toward Myanmar.
5. Must have basic knowledge of MS Office applications such as Word, Excel and MS outlook and functional mastery of software-based database and quantitative analysis techniques.

Eligible candidate may submit application to **Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 521, GPO, Yangon** not later than **November 23, 2012.**

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
POSITION VACANT

Expatriate Office Manager
Visa and Immigration Office,
Australian Embassy Yangon

The Visa and Immigration Office of the Australian Embassy Yangon has a vacancy for a part time expatriate Office Manager.

The hours of work are 7 hours 30 minutes per day, three days per week.
Salary offered is USD14.85 per hour,

Applicants must be citizens of either Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Canada or the United States and be entitled to work as a locally engaged staff member at a diplomatic mission in Myanmar. The successful applicant will be request to hold a visa allowing regular travel to and from Myanmar and to work in Myanmar.

The Selection Criteria and Duty Statement may be found at the Australian Embassy website (www.burma.embassy.gov.au) under "About Us/ Job Vacancies".

Applications should be lodged at the embassy or emailed to austembassy.yangon@dfat.gov.au together with a one page summary addressing the selection criteria and a copy of your CV with one recent passport sized photo. The closing date for applications is 4:00 PM on 30 November 2012.

WHEN
ADVERTISING DOES ITS JOB,
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
KEEP THEIRS
Good advertising doesn't just inform.
It sells. It helps move product and keep business.
Every time an ad arouses a consumer's interest enough to result in a purchase, it keeps a company going strong.
And it helps secure the jobs of the people who work there.
Advertise now and keep people working.
Tel: 392 676, 392 928
Myanmar Consolidated Media Co., Ltd.
No. 379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Email: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm

Singapore cuts 2012 GDP growth forecast

SINGAPORE – Singapore cut its economic growth forecast this year to 1.5 percent, the lower end of the target range, as the economy shrank sharper than previously estimated in the third quarter, the government said on November 16.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry also projected tough times ahead in 2013 due to global uncertainties, with growth next year expected at 1-3pc.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew a mere 0.3pc in the third quarter from the previous year, but shrank 5.9pc when compared to the previous three months, data from the Ministry of Trade and Industry showed.

The quarter-on-quarter shrinkage was much steeper than the 1.5pc fall estimated last month.

"The pullback in quarter-on-quarter growth momentum was largely due to the decline in externally-oriented sectors such as manufacturing and wholesale trade," the ministry said.

Singapore cut its economic growth forecast this year to 1.5 percent, the lower end of the target range, as the economy shrank faster than previously estimated in the third quarter, the government said November 16. *Pic: AFP*

The manufacturing sector, a key pillar for the trade-driven economy, contracted 9.6pc quarter-on-quarter, reflecting softer global demand for exports.

"Singapore's economic growth is expected to remain subdued for the rest of 2012. The electronics manufacturing cluster would continue to be weighed down by tepid external demand," the ministry said.

The 2012 growth figure is at the lower end of a 1.5-2.5pc projection issued by the ministry earlier in the year.

But growth may even come in "slightly lower than forecast if the weakness in the externally-oriented sectors persists", it warned.

GDP growth next year would depend largely on the performances of the US and European economies, Singapore's two major export markets, the ministry said.

"The global economic outlook is still clouded with uncertainties. In particular, there remain concerns over the extent of the fiscal cutback in the US and potential escalation of the ongoing debt crisis in the eurozone," it said.

"Should any of these risks materialise, Singapore's economic growth could come in lower than expected." – *AFP*

SCG plans Myanmar cement plant

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

SIAM Cement Group has announced its intention to build a cement factory in Tanintharyi Region but is waiting for approval for the project from President U Thein Sein and the Myanmar Investment Commission, a company official said recently.

Mr Kan Trakulhoon, SCG president and chief executive officer, said the company is also analysing the impact of the enactment of the Foreign Investment Law on the project.

"We've already announced our plans to build our 'Queen Fill Cement' plant in Myanmar and have submitted our project proposal to the government," Mr Kan Trakulhoon told *The Myanmar Times* following a press conference at Central World Hotel in Bangkok on November 5.

"But we still need permission from the president," he added.

However, he did not reveal details about the possible production capacity of the plant.

He said senior SCG officials had discussed the project with President U Thein Sein during an official visit to Thailand in September and informed the company that he would make a decision on giving his approval to the project once he returned to Myanmar.

"We can see many SCG logos in Yangon, which means our products are being exported to Myanmar," he said. "Three years ago I was in Nay Pyi Taw to look at an investment project and back then there were few Thai companies talking about Myanmar.

"I brought our SCG management team to Myanmar to hold meetings for business and to get views on Myanmar because I wanted to educate them on what developments were taking place," he added.

Mr Charoenchai Chaliewkriengkai, a senior engineer at SCG's plant in Thailand's Lampang province, said the company planned to build a hydropower dam to support its Tanintharyi Region cement factory.

"We are planning to build a dam in Myanmar next year as well as a cement factory. We are always looking for the latest and quickest ways to repair the environment that we work in," he said.

"We have worked with many NGOs to explain the benefits of dam-building and we have already started work on this issue in Myanmar too," he said.

However, he said the company had not yet chosen the site to build its dam in Tanintharyi Region.

SCG operates a scholarship program for ASEAN countries and from 2013 the company will provide up to 200 grants for Myanmar students to study in Thailand.

New Basel banking rules stumble, but markets implement

By Thomas Urbain

PARIS – Global banking reforms known as Basel III are stumbling in Europe and the United States, but the rules have been published by major Asian financial powers and are already being enforced more broadly by financial markets.

The new regulations, drawn up in the wake of the 2007 financial crisis and unveiled in late 2010 by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, are designed to make banks stronger by requiring bigger cash reserves backed by more higher quality capital.

They are supposed to be phased in gradually from 2013 to 2018, but on November 16 the US Treasury said it would not implement new rules on January 1 because US banks were not ready to meet the tougher standards.

In Europe, talks have gotten bogged down as well, though Cypriot Finance Minister Vassos Shiarly said on November 13 that he hopes to be able to announce an agreement on the issue at the next meeting of European Union finance ministers on December 4.

Cyprus currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

By last month, only eight of 27 countries following the Basel process had published final rules, including China, Japan, India and Switzerland.

In the United States, the Treasury said that US regulators who are members of the Basel Committee "take seriously our internationally agreed timing commitments regarding the implementation of Basel III" but did not say when the new rules might be approved.

US banks have argued that the changes will put them at a disadvantage to global competitors, especially from Europe.

"Many industry participants have expressed concern that they may be subject to a final regulatory capital rule on January 1 2013, without sufficient time to understand the rule or to make necessary systems changes," the US Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said in a joint statement.

"In light of the volume of comments received and the wide range of views expressed during the comment period, the agencies do not expect that any of the proposed rules would become effective on January 1, 2013," the agencies said.

One bone of contention is how much latitude each country would be allowed to set a minimum level of core capital required of their banks.

One option would "annul the principle of standard rules, which seems crucial to us", the European Banking Federation said.

The financial services director of the Sia consulting group, Thomas Rocafull, said that one reason for the delay could be the difficult economic climate at present.

"It is all well and good to reinforce standards and limit risks, but doing so at the bottom of the economic cycle, in a weak period penalises us twice," and could undermine the volume of credit available to the broader economy, he noted.

Meanwhile, an analyst who asked to remain anonymous, dismissed the entire issue as "a total non-event".

Financial markets have already accepted the need for stronger bank capital ratios and have essentially forced banks that want to remain credible to adhere to them, the analyst said.

Since late 2011, major global banks have aimed for core Tier 1 capital ratios, a common measure of a bank's financial strength, of 9 percent, the future norm, and virtually all are expected to have reached that level by 2013.

To do so, banks have cut back on lending, downsized investment banking operations and searched for more deposits.

"A company looking for financing today that cannot also offer some deposits is less attractive than one which can," Rocafull said.

An example is that of French municipalities which face long-term financing needs but have been shunned by banks because their revenues are collected by the French Treasury.

On November 15, French bankers blamed the delays on US counterparts, with the head of BNP Paribas, Baudouin Prot, telling a forum organised by the French financial markets watchdog AMF that Basel III had become simply "a European phenomenon".

Prot added that Michel Barnier, the European commissioner for the internal market and services, "said he would not apply Basel III as long as the Americans did not.

"I would like to know what Mr Barnier is going to do" now, Prot remarked.

– *AFP* and *Dow Jones*

Peanut oil price down post harvest: traders

By Myat May Zin

THE price of peanut oil has been falling fast since the last week of October, industry experts said last week.

They said the groundnut (peanut) harvest took place in October, which coincided with a significant fall-off in demand from Chinese buyers who bought cheaper, home-grown supplies. The result is a market flooded with supply.

"Chinese traders pay about 10.5 yuan a kilogram [equivalent to K2200 a viss – 1.6kg or 3.6 pounds]," said U Naing Win, an exporter based at the Muse border trading zone in Shan State.

"If the price of groundnut in Myanmar is higher than K2000 a viss, Chinese traders will not buy and will rely on domestic crops instead," he said.

Customers are turning from popular peanut oil because the price of Malaysian palm oil is much lower and the product is freely available, say oil traders in Yangon.

"In August and September, peanut oil prices increased to a peak of K5000 a viss, while raw groundnut was selling wholesale for about K2400 a viss," said U Sein Than Win, the owner of Wa Kyay Hmwe edible oil trading in Theingyi Market in Yangon.

"After the rainy season groundnut harvest, the price of oil fell to K4000, while raw groundnut was selling for K1800 a viss," he said.

An employee of an edible oil shop in Insein township inspects a bottle of peanut oil in August 2007. *Pic: Myanmar Times Archive/Aye Zaw Myo*

"I expect the price of oil to fall over the next few months. It should be about K3400 a viss in retail markets in order to increase customer demand. Otherwise, they'll go for imported oil."

"Many companies are importing palm oil from Malaysia and distributing throughout the country. Actually, sesame oil is more healthy, but Myanmar people prefer peanut oil," said U Sein Than Win.

U Aung Linn, the owner of Aung Seik Hti peanut oil mill in Myingyan township, Magway Region, said the price of raw groundnut and the oil that is milled from it are linked. If the peanut oil price falls, the price of groundnuts will also fall, and groundnut farmers will not get a good price for their crop – and will likely sow less the following season.

But edible oil dealers said farmers could make a profit even if the groundnut price falls to K1400-K1500 a viss.

"I believe the price of peanut oil will not rise because the rainy season crop has already been harvested and the winter crop will be harvested in December. On the other hand, Chinese demand is also falling," U Aung Linn said.

"The price of peanut oil here is K3800 a viss, but with transportation charges and with small profits added, the price increases to K4000 in Yangon," he added.

Peanut oil is selling for K4000 a viss in Yangon's retail markt, while palm oil is K1600 and sesame oil is K3200, a cooking oil trader said on November 15.

Work on Laos-China railway to start in 2013: state media

BANGKOK – Construction of a US$7-billion train link between Laos and China will go ahead next year after a Chinese bank threw a financial lifeline to the stalled project, state media reported on November 16.

The two countries had initially agreed to jointly fund the line, which will run from the Chinese border to Vientiane, but Beijing pulled out over reported concerns about profitability.

Chinese state-run EXIM bank has now stepped in with a loan offer for Laos, an official from the public works and transport ministry told the *Vientiane Times*, adding the pair were "now ironing out the details" of the loan.

Another official at the ministry confirmed to *AFP* that discussions on the details of the loan were underway along with consultations over the route.

"The work has not started yet, but we plan to finish it in five years," said the official, who did not want to be named.

A Chinese firm will carry out the construction, the *Vientiane Times* report said, describing the project as the biggest ever infrastructure scheme undertaken by communist Laos.

It will be a link in a vast network set to connect the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming with Singapore.

Landlocked Laos, one of Asia's poorest countries, has no railway apart from a short stretch of track near the Thai border.

Under current plans the new Boten-Vientiane line will be 420 kilometres (260 miles) long and require 76 tunnels and around 150 bridges to be built as it carves through Laos, the report said.

Passenger trains, which will run at up to 160 kilometres an hour, will stop at 31 stations once work is complete, it added.

The scheme has stirred controversy in Laos with the proposed route likely to force thousands of people to move from their homes. – *AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Morimoto Mfg. Co., Ltd.** a corporation organized under the laws of Japan and having its principal office at 180, Suna, Ohaza, Shijonawate-shi, Osaka, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

KANSAI SPECIAL

(Reg: No. IV/6139/2012)

in respect of:-
"Sewing machines, parts and fittings thereof"

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Morimoto Mfg. Co., Ltd.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 19th November, 2012

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe (2nd right) and Ms Kay Goon (far right) wait to start the drill to break ground on the Trader Square project in Yangon on November 14. *Pic: Boothee*

Traders breaks ground on 20-storey tower

By Stuart Deed

YANGON'S downtown skyline will soon have another 20-storey tower to join Sakura Towers, Traders hotel and Centrepoint Towers following a ground-breaking ceremony for a new project last week.

When it is finished, the US$100-million Traders Square commercial complex will offer a mix of offices and retail as well as hundreds of parking spaces in its central downtown location alongside Traders Hotel at the corner of Sule Pagoda and Anawrahta Roads. The project will have a total floorspace of 58,000 square metres.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held on November 14 at 3pm and was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the board of directors of Traders Square Company and members of the Kuok family, which owns the Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts group.

U Myint Swe delivered a speech before a giant drill was ceremonially switched on and plunged some inches into the ground.

Ms Kay Kuok, director of Traders Square Company, also spoke to mark the occasion, thanking the Quartermaster General for leasing the land for the project.

"In 1996 we opened Traders hotel, the first investment for our group in Yangon," she said. "Shortly afterward we began the construction of two residential towers on the Shangri-La site opposite Kandawgyi Lake.

"We are hopeful that by next year they will open as residential apartments. In those early days we faced many challenges but we never lost our confidence that before long our investments here in Yangon would succeed and grow. We are very happy that now the time has come," she added.

Ms Kay Kuok said Traders Square would have 14 floors of office space, two levels of mixed retail and restaurant space, and six floors of car parks above and below ground for more than 600 cars.

She added that the company hoped to have the building finished by mid-2015.

"We are excited and hopeful that as we now dig our first pile that very soon we will be proud to add a new and successful landmark to the city of Yangon."

JICA updates 30-year plan for Yangon

By Htar Htar Khin

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency says it has partially finished survey work needed to draft a 30-year master plan for Yangon city, a seminar was told last week.

JICA's presentation focused on the work it had done on a master plan for Myanmar's commercial capital. The seminar was held at the Yangon City Development Committee hall in City Hall on November 14 and attended by nearly 150 people, including Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, as well as JICA representatives, INGOs, YCDC officials and reporters.

"Today we want to present the interim report, some half studies for the 30-year project," said Mr Tanaka Masahiko, JICA's chief representative in Myanmar.

"We want to present the objectives and scope of all of our studies for the [master plan] of the project that is intended to finish in March next year," he said.

Mr Tanaka said two projects underway since August are the overall strategic urban development plan of Greater Yangon and a project to improve water supply, sewage and drainage systems in the city.

He said a third project, focussing on urban transport, will begin in December.

Mr Tanaka said the aim of the November 14 presentation was to propose three alternatives for the development of Yangon's central business district (CBD) by 2040.

"I'd say there are three alternatives: the first one is the super CBD single core system, the second one is the sub-centre system and the third one is the sub-centre with green isles system," he said.

"But according to JICA's experts, the sub-centre system and sub-centre with green isles are more highly recommended because Yangon city will have more than 10 million people by 2040 and a single super-centre CBD might not be workable.

"We'd have to build many skyscrapers and there will be many traffic and environmental problems. We highly recommend sub-centres to avoid traffic jams, high contamination of water sources and environmental problems," Mr Tanaka said.

However, implementing that model of development would require basic infrastructure to provide sufficient roads, railways, water and electricity.

Mr Tanaka said JICA is discussing its two recommended proposals with YCDC and a final decision might be made by March next year, at which time the interim study is expected to be completed.

He said ensuring clean water supplies for the city is a concern: "There are so many water problems in Yangon with water shortages and quality. Issues such as shortages and water delivered to users without treatment, as well as high revenue losses caused by deteriorated pipes need to be resolved," he said.

"The aim of today's seminar is to announce our project to the public ... [and to] to present what we're doing now, as well as hear the opinions of various stakeholders.

"JICA experts will continue this study until March and will present a final report then during another seminar," the chief representative said.

Spain's banks freeze some home evictions

By Elodie Cuzin

People protest against house evictions outside the headquarters of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's People's Party, in Madrid on November 12. *Pic: AFP*

MADRID – Spain's banks announced on November 12 they will freeze mortgage-related evictions for two years in cases of extreme need as a public outcry mounted over suicides by desperate homeowners.

The lenders reacted after two suicides in 15 days by indebted homeowners facing expulsion in Spain, where both banks and borrowers were hammered by a 2008 property crash.

The deaths shocked a country already weary of tough austerity measures in the midst of recession and record unemployment, and the news sent thousands into the streets in anti-bank protests.

As the uproar grew, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's right-leaning government was to hold a rare meeting with the opposition Socialists to discuss proposals to combat the evictions crisis.

The Spanish Banking Association noted "social alarm created by mortgage-related evictions" and said it had informed the government on November 8 of its members' decision.

The banks had agreed "for humanitarian reasons and within a framework of social responsibility, to halt reposessions during the next two years in those cases that involve extreme need", it said in a statement.

The decision was hammered out after a "deep and intense debate among associated banks so as to relieve the situation of helplessness of many people caused by the economic crisis".

Spain's association of savings banks, CECA, issued a separate statement saying it, too, had agreed to suspend evictions of the "most vulnerable" until new regulations are announced.

On November 9, 53-year-old former Socialist politician Amaia Egana jumped out of her apartment window to her death in the northern Basque municipality of Barakaldo.

Police said she killed herself "as the bailiffs were to evict her from her home".

On November 11, the woman's savings bank, Kutxabank, ordered an immediate halt to all mortgage-related eviction procedures until new related regulations were revealed.

Her suicide came 15 days after 53-year-old Jose Luis Domingo hanged himself shortly before bailiffs came to turn him out of his home in the southern city of Granada.

After the latest suicide, crowds of people demonstrated on November 9 in Madrid crying "Guilty Guilty!" and "Shame! Shame!" as well as in Egana's municipality of Barakaldo.

Last month, a group of top magistrates released a report denouncing the trend of forced evictions, which they said have risen by a fifth this year and amounted to 350,000 between 2008 and 2011.

Rajoy said Friday he hoped that the talks with the opposition would include discussion of a "temporary halt to the evictions which are hitting the most vulnerable families".

He is also seeking ways to make the banks better apply their code of conduct, to renegotiate debts and allow people to remain in their homes.

"It's a difficult subject and I hope we will soon be able to give good news to all the Spanish people," Rajoy said. – *AFP*

Deep discounts on foreclosed US homes are disappearing

WASHINGTON – News flash for anyone looking for a house on the cheap: Foreclosed homes probably are not the bargain you are expecting, and certainly not the bargain they were several years ago.

Nationally, the average discount on a foreclosure in September was only about 8 percent below market value, according to an analysis by Zillow. That's a significant change from the 24pc average markdown in 2009, during the depths of the housing bust, and another signal that the country's housing market is inching toward recovery.

"There's no such thing as a fire sale on a foreclosure right now," said Marc Joseph, a real estate agent in Fort Myers, Florida.

"We're getting back to that point where if something good hits the markets, we're getting multiple offers again. That's been happening the past six months."

That does not mean there are not deals to be found in certain markets. Zillow said the highest discounts can be found on foreclosures in the Pittsburgh area, at 27pc. Cleveland, Cincinnati and Baltimore have average markdowns on foreclosures topping 20pc.

But in many hard-hit markets, particularly ones where home prices fell sharply and investors and buyers have swooped in to buy up foreclosures, discounts have all but vanished. Zillow found that in Las Vegas and Phoenix, there is "no discernible difference" between foreclosure and non-foreclosure sales. Discounts have shrunk to less than 1pc in Sacramento, California, 3pc in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area and barely 4pc in Los Angeles.

Stan Humphries, Zillow's chief economist, wrote recently that foreclosures often can seem like a bigger bargain than they are when comparing sale prices of foreclosed homes with those of non-foreclosed homes.

"The typical foreclosure property is likely quite different than the typical non-foreclosure property," Humphries wrote, noting that less expensive homes are more likely to be in foreclosure than pricier homes, giving buyers "unrealistic expectations about the discounts they will find when shopping for foreclosures."

In many parts of the country, the shrinking discounts on foreclosures have resulted in part from a shrinking number of foreclosed homes for sale. As the economy has improved, fewer homeowners have defaulted on their mortgages. In addition, banks increasingly have begun to favour short sales, loan modifications and other alternatives that keep people in their homes, avoiding the expensive and time-consuming process of foreclosure.

Some analysts and agents have speculated that banks are holding a massive "shadow inventory" – homes that have gone through foreclosure but have yet to be put up for sale – that eventually could flood certain markets and push prices down again. That scenario has yet to materialise.

Instead, foreclosure inventories have remained low in many places, creating fierce competition and driving up prices.

"There are buyers, but unfortunately there are not a lot of foreclosures … I started getting multiple offers about a year ago on my [foreclosure listings]," said Shirley Noel-Williams, a Re/Max agent who specialises in foreclosures in the Washington area. "Buyers are having a very difficult time. The market is mostly short sales right now, and they don't close quickly."

Noel-Williams said she currently has only two foreclosure listings, and those she has had during the past year have drawn multiple offers. She has begun taking on more short sales and more traditional home sales to make up for the lack of foreclosures.

"As the market changes, I have to change," she said.

Joseph, the Florida real estate agent, said he recognises that the falling number of foreclosures is a good sign for the health of the housing market, but he also has witnessed the frustration among buyers who expect bigger discounts.

"They're surprised. They're coming down, and they're figuring out that last year's prices are gone."

– *Washington Post*

In Memoriam

For my good friend, Dr. Hla Myint who passed away in September this year. As I sit down and write this letter of condolence, I would like to acknowledge his friendship and help when I was incarcerated and kept in Insein.

I find it difficult to fault Dr.Hla Myint for any of his actions as a friend, teacher, administrator etc: in his dealings with the public. We were close friends; Medical students; State scholars; and roommates in Holland Road, London, UK. He was one year my senior. He was studious and hard working and yet willing to give his time and help whenever it was needed.

My whole life had changed, on the day of my detention and suddenly many people were careful to keep away from me. Dr. Hla Myint stood by me during my darkest hour putting his career in jeopardy by his unstinting support on my behalf.

Apart from Dr.Hla Myint, I stayed mum as I knew the situation was very tricky and could cause problems for all of us. When I reached the court, it was after 5:00 PM which meant that there was no way I could apply for bail. However Dr. Hla Myint was there with 3 rich Sino Burmese gentlemen from China Town who would help by providing bail. It is all water under the bridge; my case ended with acquittal after a period of 18 months.

I wish to show how helpful he was and hope this memorandum would be a proper goodbye for him.

Dr.Kyaw Aung
MBBS, DMRD, FRCR
Retired Director of Medical Imaging
The Nepean Hosptial Penrith, NSW Australia

India puts world's cheapest computer on market

NEW DELHI – India has launched a new version of what is dubbed the world's cheapest computer – on sale to students at the subsidised price of US$20 – with a quicker processor and an improved battery.

The Aakash tablet has been developed as a public-private partnership aimed at making computing technology available to students in a country where only one in ten uses the internet.

Makers of the tablet, Britain-based Datawind, say the Aakash 2 is powered by a processor that runs three times faster than the original. It also has a bigger touch screen and a battery with a life of three hours.

Company CEO Suneet Singh Tuli said glitches in the first version have been removed in the latest model, which runs on Google's Android operating system.

"This time we have done our homework and all the problems which were found in Aakash-1 have been dealt with," Tuli said on November 12.

"We are much more confident about Aakash 2 because the hardware is different and the applications are also new... a change in the (design) team has made all the difference," the Datawind chief executive said.

The first version of the Aakash was launched by the government in October last year but it was marred by problems including a short battery life, initial long waiting lists and difficulties with distribution.

At the upgraded computer's launch on November 11, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee stressed the importance of digital tools for students.

"Technology-enabled learning is a very important aspect of education," Mukherjee said.

"This must be adapted to our specific needs and introduced expeditiously in all educational institutions across the country."

The paperback-book-sized Aakash 2, developed by Indian engineers at elite public universities operated by the Indian Institute of Technology, has a screen measuring 18 centimetres (seven inches).

"Unlike the previous version which was a non-starter, this time around there are some functions and features around the Android tablet which make it a decent computing device for that price," stated pluggd.in, an Indian website that analyses gadgets.

The first 100,000 devices will be sold to students at engineering colleges and universities at a subsidised price of 1130 rupees ($20). Subsequently Aakash 2 will be distributed to bookstores in Indian universities.

Datawind says the commercial sale price without subsidies for Aakash 2 is 3500 rupees ($64).

More than 15,000 teachers at 250 colleges have been trained in the use of Aakash for education, according to the human resource development ministry.

India has nearly 115 million internet users, the world's third-largest number after China and the United States, data from the Internet and Mobile Association of India shows.

But this only represents about 10 percent of the population. – *AFP*

Afghan women using mobile phones in Kabul as part of a program which enables them to acquire literacy skills using mobile phones. The program was developed by an Afghan company with US$80,000 in financial assistance from the United States. *Pic: AFP*

Afghan women call up to learn literacy

KABUL – Afghanistan has launched a new literacy program that enables Afghan women deprived of a basic education during decades of war to learn to read and write using a mobile phone.

The phone is called Ustad Mobile (Mobile Teacher) and provides national curriculum courses in both national languages, Dari and Pashto, as well as mathematics.

All the lessons are audio-video, with writing, pronunciation and phrases installed in Ustad Mobile phones – and they are distributed free to students.

Seated on a carpet in a small Kabul classroom with a handful of women learning to read and write, Muzhgan Nazari, 18, said the Taliban, who banned schooling for girls during their rule, were in power when she should have started her education.

"I could not go to school because the Taliban took control of Kabul city", she said, adding that her father had also opposed his daughters attending school.

"Since I heard about this literacy training centre for women, I convinced my father and he allowed me to attend on a daily basis," she said.

Nazari is delighted with the program, which is being rolled out by a commercial provider and the ministry of education with financial backing from the United States.

The Mobile Teacher software was developed by Paiwastoon, an Afghan IT company, with US$80,000 dollars in US aid and is designed to tackle one of the worst illiteracy rates in the world by using rising mobile phone use.

Despite millions of girls attending school, Afghanistan's literacy rate among women remains at 12.5 percent, compared to 39.3pc for Afghan men, show United Nations figures.

'People don't realise how powerful these phones are, they work like computers.'

"This is the first time audio-visual literacy learners have the chance to receive lessons on their cellphones," Mike Dawson, CEO of Paiwastoon, told *AFP*.

The company previously managed the "One Laptop Per Child" program that handed out 3000 computers to women and children in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Baghlan and Jalalabad.

"We can make the job of the teachers easier by using the video and the audio and the questions and exercises," Dawson said.

"Cellphones are cheaper than any computer and people are familiar with it. And also, the maintenance is much easier."

The free app can be installed on all mobile phones with a memory card slot and a camera. Individual lessons, which will also be made available on the ministry of education website, will teach new words and phrases.

"We try to get to as many people as possible. The other thing, we can add more subjects like English, Arabic, Pashtu, health, agriculture," Dawson added.

"We interviewed phone shop owners about the software and they are willing to install it for people like they install other software on mobiles," he said.

"People don't realise how powerful these phones are, they work like computers."

At the moment, some 100 students are using the Mobile Teacher in a pilot project in Kabul, 65pc of them women, with plans to roll the project out across the country, the education ministry said.

"Our focus and target is mostly on uneducated women," said director of programs, Allah Baz Jam.

The ministry would do everything it could to promote the Ustad Mobile for women and would also distribute the software on CDs and DVDs, he told *AFP*.

At the pilot project class in Kabul, Samira Ahmadzai, a 24 year-old mother of two, also said she had been unable to attend school because of the Taliban.

"And later, I got married. Now with the permission of my husband, I've come to the literacy centre to learn to read and write."

The Taliban were ousted by a US-led invasion in 2001 and have since waged an insurgency against the Western-backed government of President Karzai.

Of Afghanistan's 8.4 million schoolchildren, 39pc are girls, the education ministry says.

US-led NATO troops will withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and rights activists fear that some of the gains made by women in the past decade could be lost as Taliban pressure on the government increases.

For now, though, the Mobile Teacher is bringing new hope to those who missed their chance of an education in the past. – *AFP*

Cray supercomputer named world's fastest

WASHINGTON – A Cray supercomputer at the US government's Oak Ridge National Laboratory was named on November 12 as the world's fastest, overtaking an IBM supercomputer at another American research center.

The ranking released by researchers from the United States and Germany found that Titan, a Cray XK7 system installed at Oak Ridge in Tennessee, achieved 17.59 petaflops, or quadrillions of calculations a second.

Titan, which gets funding from the US Department of Energy, is used for research in energy, climate change, efficient engines, materials and other scientific research.

Titan knocked the IBM Sequoia at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California into second place. It could only manage 16.32 petaflops.

Rounding out the top five were Fujitsu's K computer at the Riken Advanced Institute for Computational Science in Kobe, Japan; an IBM BlueGene/Q system named Mira at the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, and another IBM BlueGene/Q system named Juqueen at the Forschungszentrum Juelich in Germany.

Researchers said 251 of the 500 systems were in the United States, with 105 in Europe and 123 in Asia, including 72 in China.

Intel provided the processors for 76 percent of the systems while AMD was used in 12pc and IBM in 10.6pc/

The announcement came from the TOP500 list compiled by the University of Mannheim, Germany; the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee.

– AFP

Google ordered to pay up

SYDNEY – Google was ordered to pay A$200,000 (US$208,000) in damages to an Australian on November 12 after a jury in the Victorian Supreme Court found the internet giant defamed him by publishing material linking him to mobsters.

Milorad Trkulja, 62, an entertainment promoter, was shot in the back in 2004 in a crime that was never solved.

He accused Google of defaming him with material which he said implied he was a major crime figure in Melbourne.

Bond University media law expert Mark Pearson said it was a "groundbreaking" precedent in Australia.

"The judge has said that because you (Google) have designed (the search results) to appear in this way, you are the publisher of the material," Pearson said.

Google was said to be considering an appeal against the decision. – *AFP*

An Israeli soldier aims at Palestinians protesting against strikes on Gaza at the Qalandia checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, on November 16. *Pic: AFP*

Rocket targets Jerusalem as Israel mobilises reservists

JERUSALEM – Palestinian militants fired rockets at both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on November 16, aiming for Israel's political and commercial hearts and prompting the call-up of thousands more reservists in readiness for a potential ground war.

The Israeli military said it had sealed off all the main roads around the Gaza border, declaring the area a closed military zone, in the latest sign that Israel's patience with the rocket fire was at an end and it was poised to launch its first ground offensive on the territory since 2008-9.

US President Barack Obama reiterated US support for Israel's right to defend itself during a call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the conflict in Gaza.

New Israeli air strikes on Gaza overnight on November 16 killed six Palestinians, raising the toll in two days of violence to 30, a Hamas health ministry spokesman said.

Israeli ministers approved the call-up of as many as 75,000 reservists as Netanyahu held late evening talks at the defence ministry in Tel Aviv with his inner circle, *Channel Two* television reported.

The military wing of the Islamist Hamas movement that rules Gaza said it fired the rocket at Jerusalem, the first from the territory to strike the outskirts of the Holy City.

It marked a major escalation by Hamas in the face of a deadly pounding since November 14 by Israeli aircraft that has sparked outrage across the Arab and Islamic world.

A rocket attack also killed three Israelis.

Neither rocket on November 16 caused casualties or damage, police said, but they sowed panic in both of the Jewish state's main population centres, setting off warning sirens and sending people scurrying to shelters.

One hit a Jewish settlement bloc in the occupied West Bank just south of Jerusalem, which is home to many commuters, but caused no injuries or damage.

A second rocket crashed into the sea off Tel Aviv "some 200 metres (yards)" from the beachfront US embassy, sending beachgoers fleeing, witnesses said.

The two rockets were the farthest Gaza militants have fired into Israel, exceeding even the 60 kilometres (36 miles) achieved by a rocket that hit the sea off Jaffa, just south of Tel Aviv, on November 15.

UN and Palestinian officials said UN chief Ban Ki-moon would travel to the region in days to push for a truce.

Even before the latest rocket fire, senior cabinet minister Moshe Yaalon warned that Israel was poised for a ground offensive.

"We are preparing all the military options, including the possibility that forces will be ready to enter Gaza in the event that the firing doesn't stop," he said.

As ground troops massed, there was no let-up in Israeli air attacks.

A child was among the dead reported by the territory's emergency services on November 16, two of whom were brought in to Gaza City's Shifa hospital as Egyptian Prime Minister Hisham Qandil toured the wards on an unprecedented solidarity visit.

Israel denied its aircraft had killed the pair.

In Obama's call to Netanyahu, the president "reiterated US support for Israel's right to defend itself, and expressed regret over the loss of Israeli and Palestinian civilian lives", the White House said in a summary of the conversation.

Netanyahu, who initiated the call, expressed his deep appreciation for US investment in the Iron Dome rocket and mortar defence system, "which has effectively defeated hundreds of incoming rockets from Gaza and saved countless Israeli lives", the summary said. – *AFP*

• **Related reports, P. 27.**

A calm, poised Xi introduces himself to China and world

BEIJING – Projecting calm, poise and a touch of humility, China's new leader Xi Jinping introduced himself to his country and the world on November 15, beginning with an apology.

His relaxed smile and disarmingly friendly wave as he strode onto a platform at Beijing's Great Hall of the People were a radical departure from the stiff appearances of other top leaders including his predecessor Hu Jintao.

Emerging at the helm of a new seven-man leadership committee, he vowed to improve the lives of ordinary Chinese.

"Our people have an ardent love for life. They wish to have better education, more stable jobs, more income, greater social security, better medical and health care, improved housing conditions, and a better environment," he said.

"They want their children to have sound growth, have good jobs and lead a more enjoyable life. To meet their desire for a happy life is our mission."

Xi's appointment as China's top leader was a widely expected move and the appearance before hundreds of foreign and domestic journalists was a rite in which the Communist Party announces its new leader every decade.

In his first comments, he apologised for starting late, in an unexpected human moment, before discussing the aspirations of China's increasingly vocal population.

Although short on specifics, the speech before a sprawling watercolour depicting the Great Wall was delivered in a tone not often seen at China's top level.

It differed markedly from one Hu gave 10 years ago to the day on his ascent to power, which was heavy on communist jargon and references to socialist figures such as Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Xi avoided mention of those communist luminaries and expressed a desire for better relations with the outside world.

"Friends from the press," Xi said, "just as China needs to learn more about the world, so does the world need to learn more about China."

"I hope you will continue your efforts to deepen mutual understanding between China and the world."

'Xi spoke well... it's a good start.'

Over 19 minutes, Xi also warned that China faces many "severe challenges" such as widespread corruption and the party's alienation from the country's 1.3 billion people.

Pu Xingzu, a professor of politics at Fudan University in Shanghai, said the speech sent a message that Xi's leadership style would be "low-key, practical, and close to the people".

"It was short, it was practical – not really high-sounding with empty words or 'officialese'," he said.

Some users of China's popular Twitter-like microblogs saw the speech as a refreshing departure.

"I hope the new crop of leaders will not disappoint the people's hopes, will innovate and reform, and courageously strive to create a democratic and constitutional new nation," wrote one user.

"Xi spoke well, without the old empty, cliched, bombastic and fake words we are used to hearing... it's a good start." – *AFP*

• **Related reports, P. 32.**

Crisis at BBC worsens over 'basic' journalistic failures

A video grab shows *BBC* director-general George Entwistle (left) announcing his resignation outside the broadcaster's headquarters in London on November 10. Beside him is the chairman of the BBC Trust, Chris Patten. *Pic: AFP*

LONDON – The *BBC* began disciplinary proceedings on November 13 over a news report that wrongly accused a British politician of child sex abuse as it widened the hunt for a new leader to tackle one of the worst crises in its history.

The world's largest broadcasting organisation reportedly wants an outsider for its new director-general who could overhaul an unwieldly management culture.

The "Beeb" is under a pall caused by two programs – one smearing Conservative politician Alistair McAlpine, which was broadcast, and another which was shelved but accused late star Jimmy Savile of being a paedophile.

An internal investigation on November 12 found "basic" journalistic failures led the flagship show Newsnight to run the story falsely saying that former Tory treasurer McAlpine abused children at a care home in Wales in the 1970s.

The probe into the program, carried out by the *BBC*'s Scotland director Ken MacQuarrie, "will be used to inform disciplinary proceedings, which will begin immediately," the *BBC* said in a statement.

The *BBC* has not yet said who will be punished but it took the unusual step of saying that Peter Johnston, director of *BBC* Northern Ireland, had been involved in the decision to run the program.

The botched Newsnight report and the *BBC*'s response to the Savile scandal has led to calls for a changes to the annual "licence fee" that all Britons with a television must pay, and even a possible break-up of the organisation.

Publicly funded under a Royal Charter, the *British Broadcasting Corporation* has nearly 23,000 employees and a global audience of about 239 million people, says the *BBC*.

The furore has already claimed the top job at the organisation after director-general George Entwistle resigned on November 10 after just 54 days in the position.

His temporary replacement, Tim Davie, has pledged to "get a grip" of the crisis but the former PepsiCo executive has only been at the *BBC* for seven years and gave a shaky performance in television interviews on November 12.

The Times newspaper reported that Chris Patten, who heads the BBC Trust, the broadcaster's governing body, wants a new chief who was not a *BBC* "lifer" like Entwistle.

Other heads have also rolled at the *BBC*, with head of news Helen Boaden and her deputy Stephen Mitchell being asked to "stand aside" on November 12 pending an internal review into the way the claims against Savile were handled by Newsnight.

Police say they believe Savile abused more than 300 victims over 40 years. He died last year aged 84.

The *BBC* has also found itself embroiled in a row over the revelation that Entwistle would receive a £450,000 (US$715,000) payoff – the equivalent of a year's salary.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg added to the pressure on November 13, telling the *BBC* that the sum was "hard to justify".

On November 15, the *BBC* announced that it would pay McAlpine £185,000 (US$294,000) in damages for falsely implicating him in child sex abuse allegations.

The *BBC* on November 15 marked 90 years since its first radio broadcast. – *AFP*

Outrage in Britain after terror suspect released from jail

LONDON – British authorities reluctantly released terror suspect Abu Qatada on bail on November 13 after judges ruled the previous day that the radical cleric dubbed Osama bin Laden's right-hand man in Europe should not be extradited to Jordan.

Heavily bearded and wearing a black cap, the Islamist preacher smiled slightly as he was driven out of the high-security Long Lartin prison in central England in the back of a black minibus.

Several hours later, a small group of protesters gathered outside Abu Qatada's house in northwest London and chanted slogans calling for his deportation, as the father-of-five arrived at his modest terraced home.

The court ruling on November 12 was a severe blow for the British government, which has kept the preacher in custody for most of the last 10 years and repeatedly tried to send him to Jordan.

'A mockery of justice.'

"I am completely fed up with the fact that this man is still at large in our country. We believe he is a threat to our country," Prime Minister David Cameron said during a visit to Rome.

Abu Qatada was convicted in absentia in Jordan in 1998 for involvement in terror attacks, but British judges accepted his argument that evidence obtained by torture might be used against him in a retrial.

The preacher, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin who is in his early 50s, will be under a curfew 16 hours a day but can leave his home between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

He will have to wear an electronic tag and restrictions will be placed on who he meets.

The European Court of Human Rights had ruled earlier this year that Abu Qatada could not be deported while there was a "real risk that evidence obtained by torture will be used against him" in a possible retrial.

Home Secretary Theresa May ordered Abu Qatada's extradition anyway after she was given assurances by Jordan that he would be treated fairly.

But the Special Immigration Appeals Commission – a semi-secret panel of British judges that deals with national security matters – ruled on November 12 in Qatada's favour.

They said statements from Abu Qatada's former co-defendants Al-Hamasher and Abu Hawsher may have been obtained by torture and created a risk that any trial would be unfair.

The panel's decision was derided by British newspapers on November 13.

The *Daily Telegraph* called the decision "a mockery of justice".

"Yet again, the extremist cleric – regarded as a serious threat to national security – has exposed the limitations of the British state to decide who can and cannot stay within its borders," said its editorial.

"Why should Britain stand as guarantor for the rectitude of the Jordanian legal system?" it asked.

"Would any other country in the world have been willing to demonstrate its judicial impotence in such a humiliating fashion?"

The cleric, whose real name is Omar Mohammed Othman, arrived in Britain in 1993 claiming asylum.

Videos of his sermons were found in the Hamburg flat used by some of the hijackers involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks. He has also defended the killing of Jews and attacks on Americans. – *AFP*

SAVE CASH
TAKE OUR SPECIAL OFFER
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
FOR FREE DELIVERY
Subscribe to any of our four publications and have them delivered free to your home or office.
www.mmtimes.com

Subscription	Issues	MYANMARTIMES	ဧရာဝတီ	CRIME WHEELS	NOW!
☐ 3 Months	☐ 13 Issues	☐ 14,000 Kyats	☐ 8775 Kyats	☐ 4680 Kyats	☐ 5850 Kyats
☐ 6 Months	☐ 26 Issues	☐ 27,300 Kyats	☐ 17,100 Kyats	☐ 8840 Kyats	☐ 11,050 Kyats
☐ 1 Year	☐ 52 Issues	☐ 53,000 Kyats	☐ 33,150 Kyats	☐ 16,640 Kyats	☐ 20,800 Kyats

Name ..... Township .....
NRC Number ..... Division .....
Address ..... Telephone .....
..... Fax .....
..... E-mail .....

Yangon
No.379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel: (951)392 928, 253 642
•Fax: (951)254 158 •E-mail: circulation@myanmartimes.com.mm, subscribe.mt@gmail.com
Mandalay
No.180, 74th St (Between 31st & 32nd St) Mandalay.
Tel: (02) 24450, 24460, 65391, 65392 •Fax: (02) 24460 •E-mail: mdycirculate@myanmartimes.com.mm
Capital
No.10/72, Bo Tauk Htein St, Yan Aung (1) Quarter, Pyinmana.
Tel: (067) 23064, 23065 •E-mail: capitalbureau@myanmar.com.mm

Four Publications (MTE,MTM,Crime,NOW)
1 year 25% off K111,150/-
6 months 22.5% off K57,500/-
3 months 20% off K29,700/-
Three Publications (MTM,Crime,NOW!)
1 year 25% off 64,350/-
6 months 20% off 34,350/-
3 months 15% off 18,300/-

TRADE MARK CAUTION

YOSHIKAWA CORPORATION, a company incorporated in Japan, of 360-31 Minato-Cho, Satsumasendai-shi, Kagoshima, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

CIRCLE FEEDER

Reg. No. 8464/2012

in respect of "**Int'l Class 07:** Powder and granular material feeder; weight or volumetric or counting feeder; chemical processing machines and apparatus; parts and fittings thereof".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **YOSHIKAWA CORPORATION**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 19th November, 2012

Briefs

BP agrees to pay $4.5b oil spill fine

WASHINGTON – BP agreed on November 15 to pay a record US$4.5 billion in US fines for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and will plead guilty to criminal negligence in the deaths of 11 workers and obstruction of justice.

Two of the British energy giant's on-board supervisors face involuntary manslaughter charges for failing to prevent the April 20, 2010 explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig.

Attorney General Eric Holder cautioned that more people may yet face criminal charges and that the government's legal battle with BP is far from over.

Tymoshenko ends hunger strike

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko on November 15 agreed to end her hunger strike, her doctors said, more than two weeks after she began her protest over alleged fraud in polls won by the country's ruling party.

The former premier has been refusing food since October 29 as she serves out a seven-year sentence for abuse of power while in office which she says is part of a political vendetta by her arch-foe President Victor Yanukovych.

Record UN vote condemns embargo

UNITED NATIONS – A record 188 countries voted on November 13 for an annual UN General Assembly resolution condemning the five-decade old US embargo against Cuba.

The debate saw Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez criticise "the inhuman, failed and anachronistic policy of 11 successive US administrations" since the embargo was imposed in 1962. The vote in favour rose from 186 for the 20th anniversary resolution last year. The United States, Israel and Palau opposed this year's resolution and the Marshall Islands and Micronesia abstained.

Diamond sets auction records

GENEVA – The flawless 'Archduke Joseph" diamond, from India's famous Golconda mines, broke several world records when it was sold at auction in Geneva on November 13 for US$21.47 million.

The price which the 76 carat jewel fetched at the Christie's sale is a record for the auction of a clear, colourless diamond.

It is also the highest auction price a carat for such a gem and the record for a Golconda diamond, the same mines which produced the Koh-i-Noor which adorns the British queen's crown. – *AFP*

Gaza conflict adds tension to Palestinian UN move

UNITED NATIONS – Israel's air strikes on the Gaza Strip have heightened the tensions surrounding the Palestinian bid for observer membership at the United Nations planned for later this month.

The Palestinian UN envoy said the attack on November 14 – which killed the top Hamas military commander in the territory – was deliberately timed to torpedo the UN vote and influence Israel's general election in January.

Israel's UN ambassador retorted that events in Gaza had shown the futility of the Palestinian campaign for international recognition.

"They should change their request from a Non-Member State to Non-Member Terrorist State," said ambassador Ron Prosor.

The United States and Israel are lobbying furiously against the Palestinian bid, which president Mahmud Abbas is scheduled to put to the UN General Assembly on November 29.

Abbas has had no control over Gaza since 2007, when the Islamist Hamas seized power from his Fatah faction in a week of street battles, cleaving the Palestinians into hostile rival camps.

The latest military strikes on Gaza, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened to expand, come as the United Nations and many key players warn that time is running out to establish a Palestinian state.

The US and Israeli governments say there can be no Palestinian state without direct peace talks that have been deadlocked for more than two years.

The Palestinians refuse talks while Israel expands its settlements in the occupied territories. Abbas has said, however, that he would return to talks if the UN vote is successful.

The United States is talking with Palestinian officials in a bid to at least delay the vote, UN diplomats said.

The Europeans are pressing Abbas to delay the UN move until after Israel's election and President Barack Obama's inauguration in January, in order to give the US administration more time to prepare a new peace bid, diplomats said.

"The Palestinians are doing this because they are frustrated. They believe they have nothing to lose going for it now, so they will not change it unless the United States has something to offer," said one Middle East diplomat.

Hamas military commander, Ahmed Jaabari, who was killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza on November 14. The strike followed dozens of rocket attacks on Israeli from the Palestinian territory. *Pic: AFP*

US ambassador Susan Rice, who strongly defended Israel's military strikes at an emergency UN Security Council meeting on November 14, said rocket attacks by Gaza militants are harming efforts to end the Middle East conflict.

"Hamas claims to have the best interests of the Palestinian people at heart, yet it continues to engage in violence that does nothing but set back the Palestinian cause," said Rice, a frontrunner to be the next secretary of state.

The Israeli ambassador meanwhile warned the Security Council meeting that Palestinian success at the United Nations could lead to more violence.

"The false idol of virtual statehood will change nothing on the ground, raising expectations that cannot be met," he said.

"The state that they envision includes Gaza – that means it includes Hamas. The Palestinian leadership is marching down a road that can only lead to more conflict, instability, and violence."

Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour questioned why Israel is fighting so hard against the UN vote if it believes the bid is meaningless, saying Israeli leaders are "dead afraid" of Palestinian admission to the General Assembly.

"I believe part of the timing of the attack by the Israelis on Gaza is trying to divert attention away from our energies in mobilisng the international community" for the UN vote, he said. – *AFP*

Damascus condemns Doha talks

DAMASCUS – A meeting of the Syrian opposition hosted by the Qatari capital amounted to a "declaration of war," the country's deputy foreign minister, Faisal Muqdad, said on November 14.

"The Doha meeting was a declaration of war. These people (the opposition) don't want to solve the issue peacefully through the mechanisms of the UN," Muqdad said, in the first official Syrian reaction to the gathering.

"We read the Doha document and they reject any dialogue with the government."

Opposition factions met in Doha, Qatar for four days until November 11, when they agreed to set up the National Coalition and bring together rebel forces under a supreme military council, as well as establish a judicial commission for rebel areas.

They plan to form a provisional government once the coalition has been widely recognised internationally.

France on November 13 became the first Western country to recognise the coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people. The United States has recognised the coalition, but stopped short of treating it as the only legitimate representative of the Syrians.

The National Coalition's declaration also included an outright rejection of any negotiation with the regime. – *AFP*

Iran reaches nuclear milestone

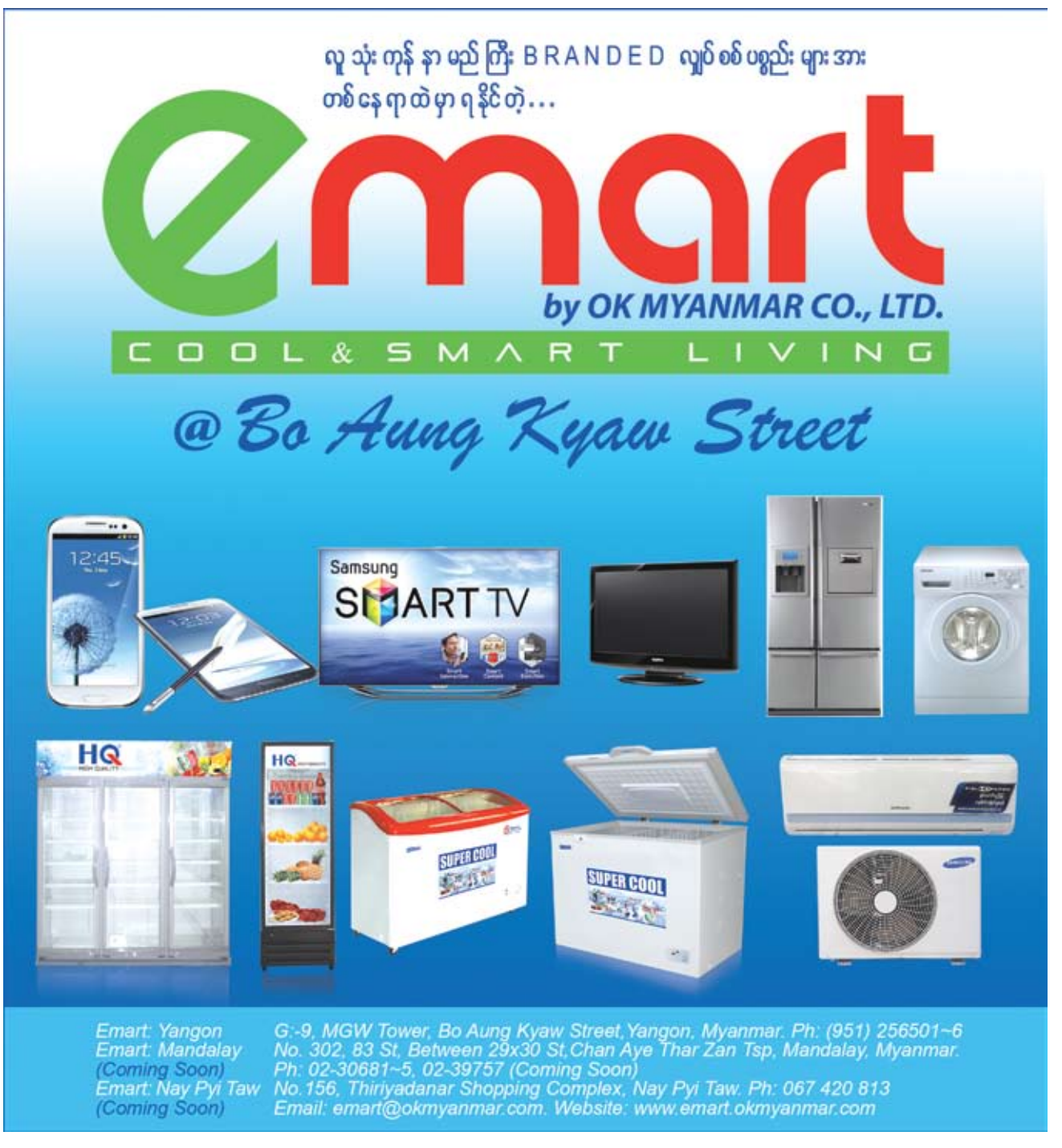
VIENNA – Iran is on the cusp of being able to triple output of nuclear material that, if further treated, could be used in the core of a bomb, a new UN atomic agency report showed on November 16.

The International Atomic Energy Agency quarterly update said that fitting out of the Fordo plant was "complete" – despite extreme sanctions pressure.

Fordo began in 2011 to enrich uranium to purities of 20 percent, a process at the heart of the international community's concerns.

Enriched to this level, uranium can be used to produce medical isotopes – Iran's stated intention – but when further enriched, a relatively easy process, it can go in a bomb. Experts say that about 250kg of 20pc uranium is needed to convert into enough 90pc material for one nuclear weapon.

The IAEA's findings "provide further troubling evidence that Iran is continuing to pursue sensitive nuclear fuel-cycle activities in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and is slowly enhancing its nuclear weapons breakout potential," analyst Daryl Kimball of the Arms Control Association said. – *AFP*



Narcissm and the fall of Petraeus

COMMENT
by Amity Shlaes

NEW YORK – It was her six-minute mile that did it. Or her youth. That's the assumption about the choice by David Petraeus, America's most-revered military statesman, to pursue an extramarital affair with Paula Broadwell, who co-wrote a biography of him.

After the announcement by Petraeus on November 9 that he would resign his post as director of the Central Intelligence Agency because of the relationship, television and the internet have been alive with descriptions of the physical allure of Broadwell, who is 20 years younger than Petraeus.

But a woman's age or the time in which she runs a mile are probably not the primary explanations for Petraeus' actions. Age or looks matter, yet only secondarily. The force driving all these gents is probably something stronger than sex. What drives them is narcissism.

To label someone as noble as Petraeus with psycho-jargon would be tacky if this particular psycho-jargon didn't capture so much. In myth, Narcissus was the hunter so beautiful that he fell in love with his own reflection. Narcissism occurs in modern life when an individual suffers from a need for affirmation of his or her own importance.

There are levels of narcissism – all successful people nurse some vanities. But like gambling, narcissism can go from a habit to an obsession. To a serious narcissist, flattery becomes crucial to survival. He will therefore be drawn to anyone who makes him like what he sees in the mirror: a younger, attractive partner suggests that he himself is young and attractive. Narcissists gravitate especially toward anyone who supplies that flattery reliably or, even better, assures the narcissistic feed, providing something that elicits praise from others.

All In, Broadwell's adulatory biography of Petraeus, was a media event that delivered not a single but multiple moments of gratification.

Scholars have reliable ways to identify narcissists. One is as simple as the size of signature. In the case of chief executive officers, the prominence of their photos and names in news releases relative to those of colleagues is a giveaway, as is the length of an executive's *Who's Who* entry.

Many theorists these days find some benefit in narcissistic leadership. Narcissists don't have to be unfaithful. And they are often notable for great talent. Their desperation to produce the work that wins mega-recognition can pull forward a whole company. In *The Productive Narcissist,* author Michael Maccoby argues that the egotism of some executives helps them undertake great projects and make their companies advance. Translate Maccoby's concept to the military, and the theory fits as well: Petraeus' self-esteem gave him the courage to wage the controversial surge of troops in Iraq.

"Why do we all go along for the ride with narcissistic leaders?" Maccoby asked. "Because the upside is enormous."

Related benefits of narcissism were found by scholars Arijit Chatterjee and Donald Hambrick. In an article in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, they noted that narcissism in CEOs correlated positively to "strategic dynamism and grandiosity." Corporate boards do their part to reinforce narcissism by approving payments to media consultants and other handlers in the name of improving the performance of their management stars.

At business schools, teachers often console students who have been exploited by self-centred bosses by noting that these bosses are relatively easy for juniors to manipulate: You just take the subject of discussion back to them.

But narcissism has a dark side: It skews the judgment of the narcissist. With the news of his little affair, against the rules of soldiering, Petraeus has already tarnished his incredible feats. It is this poor wager and not the affair itself, that so many Petraeus fans resent.

General David Petraeus poses with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, in an image taken in Afghanistan on July 13, 2011, when he was commander of the International Security Assistance Force. *Pic: AFP/ISAF NATO*

There is evidence that similar damage can be wrought by narcissists in business. The presence of a narcissistic CEO tends to mean a company enjoys a lower return on assets than others, say scholars Charles Ham, Nicholas Seybert and Sean Wang. Companies led by narcissists pay lower dividends to shareholders. They acquire too many companies due to the leader's vain assumption that he or she can add value. The silent tragedy at many companies is the growth forgone due to the vanity of chief executives and another mirror, the board of directors.

Again: to categorise someone who has achieved as much as Petraeus has feels wrong. Yet it isn't a bad idea to try to understand narcissism, or vanity, the Victorian label many of us prefer. Although most of us hesitate to diminish our heroes with labels, we can be assured that others, and not merely benign personal coaches or clever deputies, quickly pick up the vulnerability of the narcissist and won't hesitate to exploit it. At the CIA or in the corner office, the boss who doesn't recognise his own narcissism and combat it is ceasing to be worthy of his rank. He is a project of the human-resources people and the consultants and the psychiatrists. He is a leader on his way to becoming just another case. – *Bloomberg News*

General David Petraeus kisses his wife, Holly, after being sworn in as director of the Central Intelligence Agency in a ceremony at the White House on September 6, 2011. *Pic: AFP*

(Amity Shlaes is a Bloomberg View columnist and the director of the Four Percent Growth Project at the Bush Institute).

TRADE MARK CAUTION

KAO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as **Kao Corporation**), of 14-10, Nihonbashi Kayabacho 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

DEW SUPERIOR

Reg. No. 7301/2009

in respect of "**Int'l Class 3:** Soaps; perfumery; essential oils; cosmetics; hair lotions; dentifrices. **Int'l Class 21:** Household or kitchen utensils and containers (not of precious metal or coated therewith); combs and sponges; brushes (except paint brushes); perfume atomizers (containers), cosmetic brushes, eye brow brushes, hair brushes, nail brushes, shaving brushes, hair combs, powder compacts not of precious metals (containers), dispensers for liquid soap, soap holders, sponge holders, powder puffs".

JEWELCIOUS

Reg. No. 7302/2009

LUXULIGHT

Reg. No. 7303/2009

PREMIOLITY

Reg. No. 7304/2009

SUISAI

Reg. No. 7305/2009

in respect of "**Int'l Class 3:** Soaps; perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **KAO KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 19th November, 2012

No security threat from scandal: Obama

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama assured Americans on November 14 that the sex scandal that brought down CIA chief David Petraeus and ensnared another top general has not compromised national security.

Petraeus, the most celebrated US general of his generation, resigned on November 9 to pre-empt revelations of an affair with biographer Paula Broadwell, a married army reservist.

A lawyer acting for the US commander in Afghanistan, General John Allen, who is also under investigation over mails he sent to Florida socialite Jill Kelley, said his client would fully cooperate with the Pentagon probe.

Petraeus and Allen were exposed after Kelley, 37, who organised parties for military officers, complained to an FBI agent friend of threatening emails, which turned out to be from Broadwell.

Obama said he had seen no evidence it had harmed the security of the nation or its troops.

"I have no evidence at this point from what I have seen that classified information was disclosed that in any way would have a negative impact on our national security," he told his first news conference after his re-election.

"General Petraeus had an extraordinary career," he said. "But by his own assessment, he did not meet the standards that he felt were necessary as the director of the CIA with respect to this personal matter."

In probing Petraeus and Broadwell, the FBI happened upon a vast trove of messages Allen had sent Kelley, a married "social liaison" for US Central Command in Florida who hosted military officers at her Tampa mansion.

The White House has expressed confidence in Allen, after the married four-star general was placed under investigation by FBI agents.

Allen denies any sexual liaison with Kelley, but the volume of correspondence, some of it reported to be "flirtatious" in nature, could amount to a breach of military rules.

Allen had been due to be confirmed by a Senate committee last week as NATO's new supreme commander in Europe, but Obama put the process on hold until the Pentagon completes its investigation.

– *AFP*

The secret to Obama's survival

COMMENT
by Greg Sergent

WASHINGTON – The prevailing explanation for Barack Obama's re-election amid a difficult economy is that – unlike in 2008 – it was more perspiration than inspiration. It was ground out on the margins. It was rooted in demographic bean-counting and a campaign to tear down Mitt Romney that was all prose and no poetry – a ruthless, systematic, data-driven dismantling of his character and qualifications on every level.

All of that is true. But it misses a major part of the story – that the Obama team also consciously built his re-election on a narrative designed to be as inspiring as the one that lifted him to victory in 2008, albeit in a different way. This year's narrative turned on the sheer range and scale of obstacles Obama faced – the story of a leader who perseveres relentlessly in the face of extraordinary conditions to improve the future of the middle class.

This storyline is key to Obama's ability to defy the odds and survive, something that continues to flummox his opponents, just as Bill Clinton's survival skills mystified his. And in the ultimate twist, Republicans themselves helped Obama build this narrative.

Obama's original victory was improbable enough. But consider the extraordinary hurdles he overcame to win reelection. He won despite:

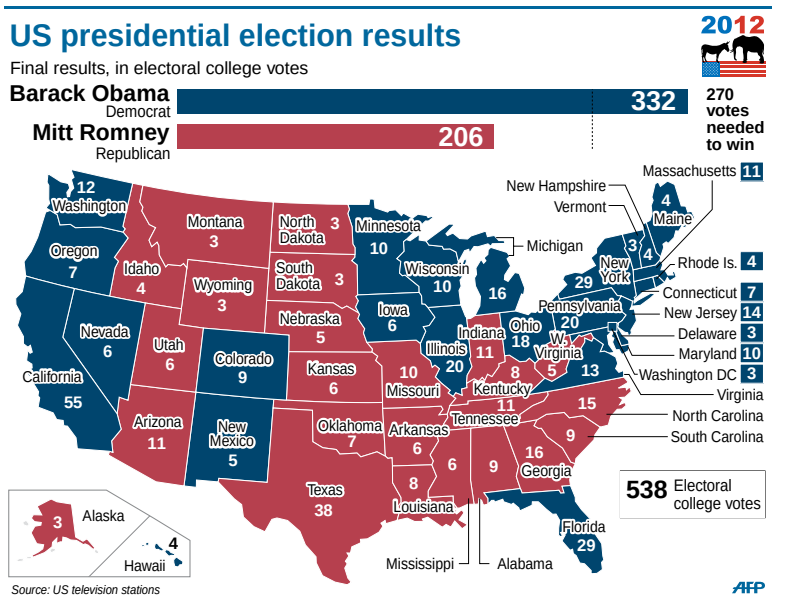
1) Inheriting an economy in free fall and a crisis that is proving deeper and more intractable than anything since the Great Depression.

2) Facing an extraordinarily determined opposition that sought to deliberately deny Obama any cooperation of any kind, on the gamble that the sitting president would bear the blame for failing to unite the country, for government dysfuntion in the face of crisis and for the failure of the economy to heal.

3) Being the target of an unprecedented barrage of hundreds and hundreds of millions in outside ad spending, one that painted a dire picture of the Obama economy and widespread economic suffering in hard-hit battleground states for months.

Obama guru David Axelrod is a believer in the centrality of storytelling to politics – he has been described as "the keeper of Obama's narrative."

Faced with terrible economic conditions and an implacable opposition, Obama's brain trust knew Obama would only survive if he ran a scorched earth campaign designed to tear apart his opponent. But the Obama team also married this to an uplifting narrative about Obama that appropriated the very economic and political obstacles he faced.



The chosen storyline was dominant throughout. The Obama camp ran ads showing dramatic stills of him grappling early on with just how dire the economic crisis had become. It ran ads painting his willingness to battle GOP opposition as a sign of strength and character. It ran ads portraying his embrace of the unpopular auto-bailout to help struggling workers as an act of political heroism. The contrast with Romney "turning his back" on the auto industry was pure cinema. And so was one of the Obama camp's most important closing ads, which featured Morgan Freeman cinematically intoning: "Every president inherits challenges. Few have faced so many."

'Every president inherits challenges. Few have faced so many.'

The Obama team long believed that Republicans themselves were contributing to this storyline. By putting up unprecedented roadblocks at a time of national crisis, they may have only reinforced voters' sense that whatever their disappointment with the recovery, Obama is the one who can ultimately be trusted to fight relentlessly on behalf of their interests.

Poll after poll found the GOP brand in tatters. And poll after poll – despite relentless attacks on Obama as out of touch with economic suffering – continued to find strong trust in him to fight for the middle class.

Ultimately, the "middle class" question may have proven the more important metric than the question that often favoured Romney – who can be trusted to handle the economy, which speaks to technical know-now, not values or character. Romney's narrowly tailored "Obama failed and I'm Mr Fix It" economic message just didn't resonate with voters. A survey taken just before the election by Obama pollster Joel Benenson found that majorities believed the crisis Obama inherited was "extraordinary" and that it could not be fixed in four years.

Sure, painting Romney relentlessly as disconnected from and even disdainful of the challenges ordinary Americans face was pivotal. But the contrast between that picture and Obama's willingness to fight for the kind of economy and future they want may have been even more pivotal – a picture perhaps further reinforced by the extraordinary conditions Obama faced, including those created by his GOP opponents.

Republicans have long been mystified by Obama's ability to retain his bond with voters in defiance of conditions that self-evidently seemed to doom him. If they just prevented Obama from succeeding, he'd surely sink under the fundamentals – voters originally transfixed by his transformative 2008 candidacy would "break up" with him and opt for someone who could unite Washington and fix things faster.

The ultimate irony is that this miscalculation may have led Republicans themselves to unwittingly conspire in creating the narrative that enabled Obama to survive.

– The Washington Post

Romney breaks silence with bitter outburst about 'gifts'

WASHINGTON – Mitt Romney, in his first remarks since an unexpectedly lopsided election loss to Barack Obama, blamed his defeat on November 14 on "gifts" showered by the president on his female, African-American and Hispanic supporters.

A little more than a week after the election, Romney in a phone call with his national finance committee accused Obama of following the "old playbook" by bestowing favours on key Democratic constituencies in exchange for their support at the ballot box.

"In each case they were very generous in what they gave to those groups," said the defeated Republican presidential nominee,.

"With regards to the young people, for instance, a forgiveness of college loan interest, was a big gift," Romney said.

Romney's remarks, reported by the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, echoed controversial remarks made to donors at a private fundraiser, denigrating the "47 percent" of US voters who he said failed to pay income tax.

Those comments in May, captured surreptitiously on video, confirmed some voters' views that Romney was an elitist who cared only about the rich.

He told the donors on the November 14 conference call that Obama "made a big effort on small things," while his own campaign had been about "big issues."

Among the goodies Romney said Obama gave to his backers were "free contraceptives".

The president's controversial health care reform plan was another campaign plum that helped secure the youth vote, Romney said.

"Obamacare also made a difference for them, because as you know, anybody now 26 years of age and younger was now going to be part of their parents' plan, and that was a big gift to young people," Romney told his backers.

'I'm very sorry that we didn't win.'

"They turned out in large numbers, a larger share in this election even than in 2008," he said.

The conservative Mormon nominee locked up the elderly voters in the November 6 election and earned a definitive 59pc of the white vote.

But in addition to young voters, minorities rallied around Obama, with 93pc of African Americans, 71pc of Hispanics and 72pc of Asians casting a ballot for the president.

Romney said the perquisites on offer were particularly tempting to low-income voters.

"You can imagine for somebody making $25,000 or $30,000 or $35,000 a year, being told you're now going to get free health care – particularly if you don't have it – getting free health care worth, what, $10,000 per family, in perpetuity," Romney said. "I mean, this is huge."

The former Massachusetts governor – whose landmark achievement while he led the state was a health reform program on which Obama patterned his own national health initiative – depicted the president's medical care plan as a campaign bonbon against which his campaign could not compete.

For Latinos' "free health care was a big plus," Romney said during the 20-minute call.

"But in addition with regards to Hispanic voters, the amnesty for children of illegals, the so-called 'Dream Act' kids, was a huge plus for that voting group," he said, referring to a program introduced by the president this year allowing some undocumented youths to temporarily remain legally in the United States.

Romney seemed still rueful after his defeat, which his own campaign team had predicted he would win easily, and which many polls leading into the election said was too close to call.

"I'm very sorry that we didn't win," he said.

Romney, who apparently had been convinced that he would be moving into the White House, said he and his campaign advisers were still sorting out what their futures would hold.

"So now we're looking and saying, 'OK, what can we do going forward?'" he said.

"But frankly we're still so troubled by the past, it's hard to put together our plans for the future," the defeated candidate said. *– AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

CHEVRON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LLC, a company incorporated in United States of America, of 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA 94583, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Marks**:-**

ARIES
Reg. No. 2030/1995

BIOSTAR
Reg. No. 2029/1995

CANOPUS
Reg. No. 2025/1995

CAPELLA
Reg. No. 2031/1995

CYGNUS
Reg. No. 2027/1995

MEROPA
Reg. No. 2028/1995

PINNACLE
Reg. No. 2072/1995

PMO PREMIUM
Reg. No. 2071/1995

RANDO
Reg. No. 2073/1995

REGAL
Reg. No. 2074/1995

Syn Star
Reg. No. 2075/1995

VANGUARD
Reg. No. 2076/1995

QUENCHTEX
Reg. No. 4925/1995

STARPLEX
Reg. No. 4921/1995

SYNLUBE
Reg. No. 4922/1995

TEXANDO
Reg. No. 4923/1995

TEXATHERM
Reg. No. 4924/1995

ULTRA-DUTY
Reg. No. 4927/1995

in respect of "Petroleum, gasoline, motorspirits, naphtha, lubricants, oils and greases, petroleum greases, gas oil, fuel oils, furnace oil, paraffine, heating oils, illuminating oils, oils for industrial use in the making, surfacing and paving of roads, kerosene".

STAR MART
Reg. No. 1457/1995

in respect of "Restaurants including self-service restaurants, snack bars and cafeterias; catering services, retailing of goods including packaged oil, automotive parts and accessories, hardware, photographic requisites, cosmetics, newspapers and magazines, food, drink and confectionery".

STARCARD
Reg. No. 1458/1995

in respect of "Credit card services".

CALTEX
Reg. No. 1934/1990

DELO
Reg. No. 1936/1990

RPM
Reg. No. 1931/1990

URSA
Reg. No. 1933/1990

THUBAN
Reg. No. 1935/1990

in respect of "Industrial oils, greases (other than edible oils and fats and essential oils) lubricants, dust laying absorbing compositions, fuels (including motor spirits and illuminants)".

STARFAK
Reg. No. 1932/1990

in respect of " Petroleum products".

(STAR MART Logo in Color)
Reg. No. 4279/1996

in respect of "Servicing , maintenance and repair of vehicles and service stations for vehicles; restaurants including selfservice restaurants, snack bars and cafeterias; catering services; retailing of goods including packaged oil automotive parts and accessories, hardware, photographic requisites, cosmetics, newspapers and magazines, food, drink and confectionery".

Kaleidoscopic Corporate Logo in Color
(Reg. No. 489/1995)

CALTEX Kaleidoscopic Corporate Logo (Horizontal Version) in Black & White
(Reg. No. 490/1995)

in respect of "Chemicals used in industry, agriculture, horticulture and forestry; fertilizers and fertilizing preparations; moisture repellents and preparations for assisting ignition; preparations to assist gasoline and diesel engine cleansing; plastics in the form of powders, liquids or pastes for industrial use; chemical cleaning and degreasing preparations; petroleum, gasoline, motor spirits, naphtha, lubricants, oils and greases, petroleum greases, gas oil, fuel oils, furnace oil, paraffine, heating oils, illuminating oils, oils for industrial use in the making, surfacing and paving of roads, kerosene. Servicing, maintenance and repair of vehicles and service stations for vehicles, restaurants including self-service restaurants, snack bars and cafeterias, catering services, retailing of goods including packaged oil; automotive parts and accessories, hardware, photographic requisites, cosmetics, newspapers and magazines, food, drink and confectionery".

Reg. No. 2496/1997

SRI
Reg. No. 2313/1996

in respect of " Lubricating oils and greases in **Class 4**".

TECHRON
Reg. No. 568/1997

in respect of "Gasoline additives and motor fuel additives in **Class 1**. Gasoline in **Class 4**".

Reg. No. 7415/2005

Reg. No. 7958/2005

in respect of "**Class 1:** Chemicals and chemical intermediates for use in the industrial arts, namely naphthenic acids, alpha olefins and catalysts used in the manufacture of detergents, surfactants, engine lubricants and base oils; polymers, resins, solvents, surfactants, engine corrosion inhibitors, chemical preparations used to prevent the freezing of moisture in storage tanks and the fuel systems of heating units and internal combustion engines; motor fuel additives for deposit control, detergency, emulsification, engine octane requirements and brand detection; automotive coolants; industrial coolants. **Class 4:** Petroleum and petroleum-derived products, namely motor fuels, motor oils and engine lubricants, lubricating oils and greases, fuel oil, fuels for burning, heating and cooking, diesel fuel; base oils used as lubricants; kerosene; aviation fuel; industrial oils and lubricants; synthetic oils and lubricants; natural gas; liquefied natural gas; lubricants for marine use; petroleum naphtha; hydraulic oils. **Class 37:** Service, repair, and maintenance of motor vehicles; motor vehicle lubrication services".

ORONITE D-TECT
Reg. No. 1089/1999
Reg. No. 3994/2001

in respect of "Chemical additive to gasoline for the purpose of brand detection; in **Class 1".**

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **CHEVRON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LLC**
P.O.Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19th November, 2012

Brazil's Atlantic rainforest a paradise for scientists

GUARAQUECABA, Brazil – Brazil's Salto Morato Nature Preserve is a haven for scientists studying the dwindling Atlantic rainforest, an area less renowned than the Amazon forest but just as biologically diverse and equally threatened by human encroachment.

The preserve in Guaraquecaba, in the southeastern state of Parana, covers a corner of what was once a huge littoral rainforest known as the Mata Atlantica.

The Mata covered 1.3-million square kilometres, or about a quarter the size of the Amazon rainforest, when Portuguese colonisers arrived in the 16th century.

Today less than 10 percent remains, the result of deforestation for agriculture and relentless urban sprawl. Sixty-two percent of Brazil's 194-million-strong population live in the region, including in major cities such as Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

What is left extends in fragments along Brazil's coast. Less than two percent of it is under strict protected status.

Salto Morato, founded in 1994 by a foundation set up by Brazilian cosmetic giant Boticario, is home to about 2200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians – 60 pc of all of Brazil's threatened species.

The nature preserve, which opened to the public in 1996, is part of a mosaic of public and private "conservation units" set up to preserve what is left of the forest.

"In order to preserve you need to know," reserve administrator Eros Amaral Ferreira said.

'In order to preserve you need to know.'

Boticario-funded scientists are literally having a field day as they conduct research in this 2253-hectare (5567-acre) biodiversity paradise.

Marcelo Silva, a biologist from the Pontifical University of Parana, studies the reproduction and pollination of the bromelia, an exotic plant characterised by flowers with a deeply cleft calyx.

"Bromelias reproduce either sexually or asexually and they provide the nectar that humming birds use to pollinate other plants. So they play a vital role," Amaral Ferreira told *AFP*. "Unfortunately, many people come here to pick them in an unsustainable and destructive way."

A *Phyllomedusa distincta*, known as the monkey frog, pictured last month in the Salto Morato Nature Reserve. *Pic: AFP*

Ubiquitous in the lush, humid reserve are various species of palm and banana trees as well as the red and yellow heliconia, a close relative of gingers, bananas, and birds-of-paradise.

Singing birds are also in abundance, much to the delight of Ricardo Pamplona Campos, an ornithologist from the Federal University of Parana.

With funding from the Boticario Foundation, Pamplona Campos has been studying for nearly two years the interaction between plants and fruit-eating birds, as well as the impact of forest degradation on local bird species.

On a recent morning tour of the reserve, the ornithologist showed off his intimate knowledge of various singing species, including the rufous-capped motmot, the sabia – the national bird of Brazil – and the flame-crested Tanager.

There are 324 different bird species on the nature preserve, including nearly 200 bird species found only in Brazil. There are also 43 species of frogs, 55 of fish, 36 of reptiles and 58 of mammals.

The reserve is a World Heritage site.

Salto Morato researchers have also discovered two new fish species and a previously unknown species of three-fingered frog.

Amaral Ferreira said surveillance cameras have established the presence of at least three pumas on the reserve.

One of his major headaches is the widespread and illegal harvesting of wild palmitos inside the reserve, which results in the death of palm trees, as well as illegal hunting and poaching.

Species most threatened by either hunting or loss of habitat include the ocelot, the armadillo, the puma and the black-fronted piping-guan, a bird noted for its large red throat wattle and large white patch on the wing-coverts.

Amaral Ferreira said his staff of 10 is too small to monitor trails, conduct surveillance and deal with the thousands of visitors, including campers, who come each year. "I need at last four more people," he said.

He sees great potential for a growth in ecotourism at the site, but said this would require major investment to upgrade access roads, increase surveillance and open more trails.

The nature preserve, which runs educational programs in partnership with local schools and an environment police unit, has a visitor center, a research center, a training facility and a weather station.

Hailed as a model in nature reserve management, Salto Morato was named a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1999. – *AFP*

Obama firm on taxes in fiscal cliff showdown

WASHINGTON – US President Barack Obama told opposition Republicans on November 14 they would have to accept tax increases for the rich if the country was to avoid going over the fiscal cliff.

Obama said he wanted to extend tax cuts set to expire at year-end for 98 percent of Americans to mitigate the impact of the cliff, an austere program aimed at slashing the deficit that could also send the economy into recession.

"Let's go ahead and lock that in. That will be good for the economy. It will be good for consumers. It will be good for businesses. It takes the edge off the fiscal cliff," Obama said.

But the president insisted any agreement could not include extending the tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans, a position most Republicans have rejected.

Obama said if the Republicans accept his plan, legislation could be passed within weeks to avert the tax increases scheduled to take effect on January 1. He said he would then be ready to enter longer-term talks for a comprehensive agreement on deficit reduction next year.

"We face a clear deadline that requires us to make some big decisions on jobs, taxes and deficits by the end of the year.... As I've said before, I'm open to compromise and I'm open to new ideas," Obama said at his first news conference after being re-elected on November 6.

The Democratic president said it was crucial to reach agreement soon on extending the existing tax breaks for middle class Americans with incomes below $250,000 a year.

But he drew the line at giving that advantage to richer households.

"We should not hold the middle class hostage while we debate tax cuts for the wealthy," he said.

The fiscal cliff comprises a law agreed by Republicans and Democrats in August 2011 that forces harsh budget cuts from January 1 and the expiration of a wide range of tax cuts originally designed as temporary measures to boost economic growth.

'We should not hold the middle class hostage...'

If both take place, economists say they could suck as much as $600 billion out of the economy next year and force it into recession.

Obama appeared to agree with the Republican leader of the House of Representatives, Speaker John Boehner, who on November 14 proposed the two sides carve out a short-term compromise to mitigate the worst effects of the cliff, and then open talks on long-term deficit reduction next year.

But Boehner rejected tax increases for the wealthy, proposing that the government only seeks more revenues from the rich by removing special breaks they receive in the tax code.

Obama dismissed that approach as unlikely to have much impact on the US deficit, which has topped $1 trillion a year for four straight years.

"It's very difficult to see how you make up that trillion dollars if we're serious about deficit reduction, just by closing loopholes and deductions. The math tends not to work," he said.

After Obama spoke, Boehner said he was optimistic that an agreement could be reached to avert the cliff.

The other issues raised at the news conference included immigration reform and climate change.

"We need to seize the moment" on immigration reform, Obama said. "And my expectation is that we get a bill introduced and we begin the process in Congress very soon after my inauguration."

On climate change, Obama said he was a firm believer that it was real and "as a consequence, I think we've got an obligation to future generations to do something about it." – *AFP*

A pragmatic, ambitious 'princeling'

BEIJING – With a revolutionary hero for a father and a pop star for a wife, China's new leader Xi Jinping has impeccable political pedigree but has given few clues about how he will govern the country.

Xi, 59, walked into the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on November 15 as general-secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, the most powerful position in the world's most populous country and second-biggest economy.

He is expected to become national president in March and hold both posts for the next decade.

He has risen to the top of the secretive party by presenting himself as a compromise candidate –acceptable to outgoing leader Hu Jintao, still-influential former president Jiang Zemin, and other power-brokers.

But since he has largely kept his policy leanings to himself, how he will address China's challenges remains unclear – even though he takes over at an uncertain time, with growth slowing as public expectations and scrutiny rise.

Xi has avoided revealing any leanings that might threaten his status as a consensus candidate, backing non-controversial policies and positions during his rise up the party ranks, said China political analyst Willy Lam.

"He's a team player. He played by the rules of the party. He's not a risk-taker. He doesn't want to take risks that might jeopardise his career."

Whatever his beliefs, few expect Xi to stray far from the Communist template of gradually opening the economy while maintaining tight political controls, especially as he will need to first consolidate power, a slow process faced by all incoming Chinese leaders.

Nonetheless he is seen as a cautious and skilful politician, able to navigate the factional divides of the party hierarchy.

Xi, a slightly plump figure typically seen on state television with a deadpan expression, rose up the party ranks mainly on China's fast-growing eastern seaboard.

As the son of the late Xi Zhongxun, a respected Communist elder, he is part of the "princeling" generation – the privileged offspring of hallowed figures who played key roles in the revolution that brought the party to power in 1949.

Despite this pedigree, Xi Jinping was "sent down" to the Chinese countryside to live and work alongside peasants, as were many young educated Chinese during Mao Zedong's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

His father fought alongside Mao and served as vice-premier until he fell in one of Mao's political purges, then was rehabilitated under pragmatic former top leader Deng Xiaoping.

Vice President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on November 15 after his long-expected appointment as head of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee. *Pic: AFP*

While labouring in the poor northern province of Shaanxi, Xi joined the Communist Party and in 1975 moved to Beijing to study at the prestigious Tsinghua University.

He oversaw some of China's most economically dynamic and reform-minded areas, the eastern provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang, before briefly taking the top post in the commercial hub of Shanghai in 2007 – earning a reputation as a supporter of economic reforms and an effective manager.

He created a stir during a 2009 speech in Mexico by scoffing at "foreigners with full bellies and nothing to do but criticise our affairs" – many Chinese harbour resentment against the West – but he has unusually deep US links for a Chinese leader.

As part of a research trip in 1985 he spent time in Muscatine, Iowa, deep in the Midwest, and paid his host family a return visit in February while on an official visit to the United States, where his daughter is a student at Harvard.

A reputed basketball fan, Xi also took in an NBA game, while a diplomatic cable released on whistle-blower site WikiLeaks recounted a 2007 conversation between Clark Randt, the then US ambassador to China, and Xi that revealed the future president as a big fan of US World War II films.

'The reason he has got ahead is because he is a follower and has not struck out and done something that is radically different.'

The cables described Xi as pragmatic yet ambitious, willing to tilt with the political winds to get ahead.

They said he was uncorrupted by money yet with a sense of political entitlement, feeling that fellow "princelings" like him "deserve to rule China".

His extended family have business interests worth hundreds of millions of dollars, found an investigation by the Bloomberg news agency earlier this year, which said there was no indication of wrongdoing on his or their part.

Xi's public persona is given a sprinkle of glamour by his wife Peng Liyuan, who holds the rank of army general and sings songs praising the party.

Some analysts suggest Xi's status as a consensus figure could mean less paralysis between factions than under Hu, who heads a group of leaders who moved up through the Communist Youth League.

But the curtain drawn across the party and its leaders makes that impossible to predict, said Patrick Chovanec, a Tsinghua University professor.

"It would have been counterproductive for (Xi) when he was still relatively junior to show himself. The reason he has got ahead is because he is a follower and has not struck out and done something that is radically different," he said. – *AFP*

China's next premier: An affable administrator

BEIJING – Li Keqiang stepped up to number two in China's Communist hierarchy on November 15, but despite his seniority and affable manner he may struggle to exert real power as the country's next premier.

Vice Premier Li is expected to take over as premier from his boss Wen Jiabao in March, holding the reins of day-to-day government in the world's second-largest economy.

His rise is said to have been brokered by President Hu Jintao as part of a behind-the-scenes deal to bolster the influence of the Communist Youth League, where both men made their name.

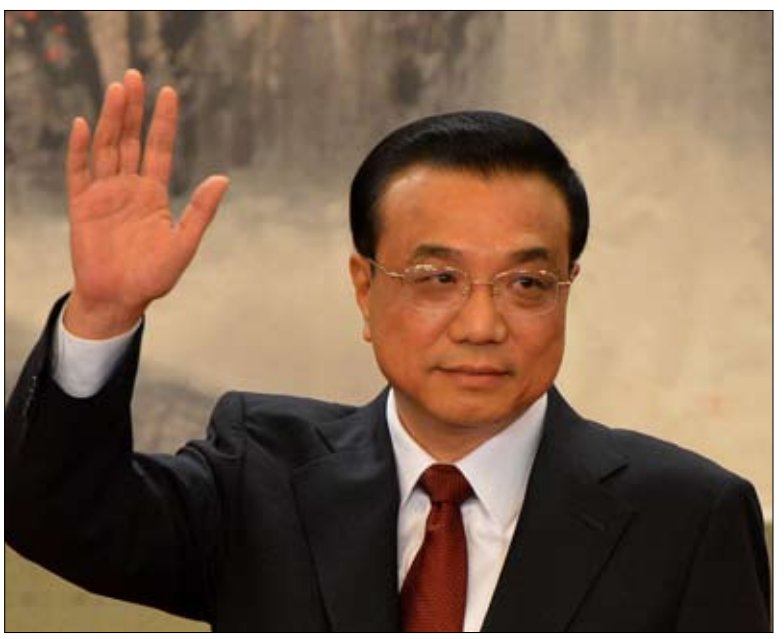
But despite his high rank on the Politburo Standing Committee, analysts say Li does not have a power base of his own – and risks being isolated.

A bureaucrat who speaks fluent English, Li, 57, has an easy smile and a more youthful bearing than his stiff party peers.

He has sought to nurture a reputation as a careful administrator and has voiced support for the kind of economic reforms many experts say China sorely needs – but questions remain on his efficacy.

As party boss in Henan province, Li took flak for the handling of an HIV/AIDS epidemic stemming from a tainted government-backed blood donation program. Entire villages were infected, but his provincial government responded with a clampdown on activists.

At the national level, a stream of health scandals have also happened on his watch.



Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on November 15 after being appointed to the number two position of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee. *Pic: AFP*

"One concern with Li is that he has been dogged in the past with... not personal scandals, but policy embarrassments, particularly in Henan," said Patrick Chovanec, a professor at Tsinghua University.

"The perception of him is he is not necessarily seen as the most effective policy-maker out there."

The factional nature of the seven-man Politburo Standing Committee leaves him lacking "political heft", he added.

Xi Jinping, who is expected to take over as president in March and is a "princeling" seen as closer to former leader Jiang Zemin, will need to be convinced on policy matters if Li is to exert influence, he said.

"In a sense they are actually rivals for the top position," Chovanec added.

There are parallels with Li's current superior Wen, who also struggled to force through policies as he battled with factions in the upper reaches of the party, and officialdom in the provinces and ministries, say analysts.

Similarly, Wen cultivated an image as the friendly face of the Communist Party, voicing qualified support for political reform, comforting disaster victims and condemning corruption –though a *New York Times* report last month said his relatives had amassed $2.7 billion in "hidden riches" since 1992.

Li, a native of eastern China's poor Anhui province, worked as a manual labourer before gaining a law degree from Peking University and a doctorate in rural economics, then rose through the ranks of the Youth League.

He became the party leader in Henan, in central China, and Liaoning province in the northeast, both of which prospered under him, before being promoted to Wen's deputy.

'The perception of him is he is not necessarily seen as the most effective policy-maker out there.'

As China's second most important decision maker on the economy, Li has been praised for helping to steer the country through the global financial crisis relatively unscathed.

But a top priority for Li will be to boost China's economic growth, which is export-led and sagging because of weak demand for manufactured goods in Europe and the United States.

Analysts say Li has been at the forefront of efforts to wean the country towards more balanced development, with domestic consumption playing a greater role.

Li is also said to be focused on developing a Chinese middle class while retaining an interest in the plight of the country's less well off – a reputation derived from his modest background.

Public discontent over China's unequal wealth distribution is a key concern for the authorities, who are anxious to avoid social unrest.

But some analysts say Li's reputation as a standard bearer for the poor is not backed up by his previous actions.

"This issue has already resulted in trouble for the government, as there are a huge number of protests that occur in China on a day to day basis," said Barry Sautman, a China analyst and associate professor of social science at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology.

But there was "no indication" that Li and Xi "are any different from the current leaders in this respect", he added.

"There is nothing they have done in the past to suggest they might do something different from what has been done over the course of the last 30 years or so, which is to make things even more unequal." – *AFP*

Briefs

Manila urges unity on maritime row

MANILA – Philippine President Benigno Aquino on November 15 urged Southeast Asian countries to present a united front to China over the South China Sea at a regional summit this week.

Aquino said all 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should speak with one voice at the East Asia summit in Cambodia.

China insists it has sovereign rights to nearly all of the South China Sea despite the competing claims of four ASEAN members to parts of the waters.

Apart from the Philippines, the other ASEAN members with overlapping claims to islands and waters in the South China Sea are Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Japan to vote on December 16

TOKYO – Japan's lower house of parliament was dissolved on November 16 ahead of a general election on December 16 expected to result in a change of government.

Voters are likely to punish Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's fractured Democratic Party of Japan after three years in power marked by policy flip-flops and weak leadership.

Noda is the third prime minister since the DPJ beat the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party in 2009, and the sixth in as many years.

EU suspends aid to Afghanistan

KABUL – The European Union announced on November 12 that it is suspending 20 million euros (US$25 million) in aid for Afghanistan, warning that cash will be increasingly conditional on the government adhering to agreed reforms.

Payment of the 20 million euros, aimed at reforming the justice system, was deferred because of a lack of progress on the issue, EU ambassador Vygaudas Usackas said.

Body, cocaine found on abandoned yacht

SYDNEY – A yacht that washed up on a deserted island in the South Pacific with a badly decomposed body on board was carrying more than 200 kilograms of cocaine worth up to US$120 million, police said on November 16.

Australian Federal Police said international law agencies had been monitoring the 13-metre (42-foot) *JeReVe* since it left Eucador in August until they lost contact with it last month.

Two divers found the boat earlier this month off Tonga's Vava'u island group.

– AFP

Japan airs hope for better ties with China

TOKYO – Japan said on November 15 it wants to develop "mutually beneficial" relations with China's new leaders, as the two countries remain embroiled in a dispute over islands in the East China Sea.

The sovereignty row is affecting the huge trade ties between the region's two biggest economies and shows little sign of being resolved.

Relations between the two capitals are some of the "most important... for Japan and China and for the whole world", said the foreign ministry's deputy press secretary Naoko Saiki.

"We really hope that the mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests will be further developed and enhanced with the new leadership" of China, she said.

Saiki was speaking hours after China's all-powerful Communist Party unveiled a new seven-man leadership council steered by Xi Jinping to take command of the world's number two economy for the next decade.

The long-rumbling row over who owns the Tokyo-controlled Senkaku islands, which Beijing claims under the name Diaoyus, flared again in September when Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda nationalised three of them.

Noda wanted to avert the purchase of the outcrops by the fiercely-nationalist then-Tokyo mayor Shintaro Ishihara.

The prime minister had calculated that Ishihara's plan to develop the rocks was inflammatory, and he hoped to take the heat out of the row.

But Beijing reacted with fury, allowing large and sometimes violent street protests in cities across the country that left some Japanese businesses in ruins.

The riots could have cost Japanese firms more than $100 million in the last two months, estimated a foreign ministry report released on November 13.

The cost includes the vandalism of buildings and other physical damage, as well as the indirect effects such as reduced sales, the report said. *– AFP*

US shift to Asia is for real: Panetta

PERTH – The United States insisted last week that its much-touted shift to the Asia-Pacific region is for real as US and Australian officials met for annual strategic talks.

US Pentagon chief Leon Panetta told reporters before flying into Perth that the Americans were ready to follow through on a plan to pivot to the Pacific despite crises in the Middle East and fiscal strains at home.

"The rebalance is real. It's going to be long-term," Panetta said on November 13.

The United States is expanding military exercises with allies and gradually moving its most advanced ships, weaponry and aircraft to Asia – including deploying Marines to northern Australia – as part of a long-term strategy, he said.

But that did not mean having to scale back its military presence in the volatile Middle East, he added, on his third trip to Asia since June.

Speaking at the University of Western Australia in Perth, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton underlined America's "expanding engagement" in the region.

"It's important that we make absolutely clear we are here to stay," she said, adding that it was important to see India become more involved in the region and the US would welcome Australia-India joint naval exercises in the future.

She also said the US supports the peaceful rise of China.

"(We) hope to see gradual but consistent opening up of a Chinese society and political system that will more closely give the Chinese people the opportunities that we in the United States and Australia are lucky to take for granted," she said.

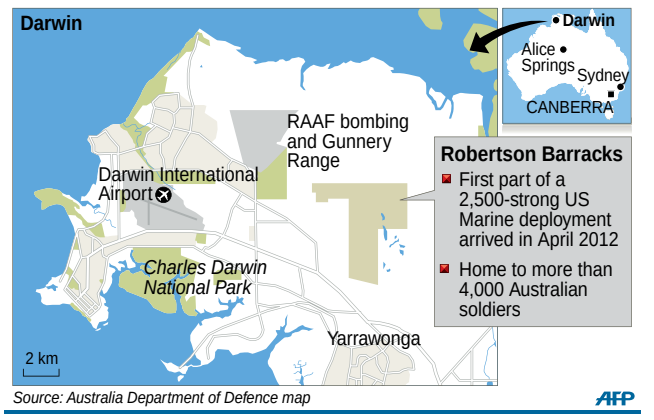
In what could be her final visit Down Under in her current job, Clinton joined Panetta for talks with Australian counterparts Bob Carr and Stephen Smith.

The talks follow the arrival of about 250 US Marines in northern Australia this year as part of an American "rebalance" towards the Pacific after a decade of ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The move to station Marines in Australia represents a significant strategic shift by Washington and has irked Beijing, whose rapid rise is behind the US recalibration of forces to Asia.

The two countries announced on November 14 that the US would station a powerful radar and a space telescope in Australia as part of its strategic shift towards Asia.

Panetta described the deal as a "major leap forward in bilateral space cooperation and an important new frontier in the United States' rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region". *– AFP*



Australian minister rejects criticism of ties to Washington

SYDNEY – Foreign Minister Bob Carr on November 15 played down scathing comments by former leader Paul Keating that Australia has become too compliant to the United States while neglecting relations with Asia.

Australia hosted annual security and strategy talks with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defence Secretary Leon Panetta in Perth on November 14, with both sides talking up their close ties.

Keating, who as Labor prime minister between 1991-1996 championed closer ties with Asia, particularly Indonesia, said the region saw Australia as a client of the United States which tended to fall in with its foreign policy.

"Our sense of independence has flagged, and as it flagged we have rolled back into an easy accommodation with the foreign policy objectives of the United States," he said in a speech on November 14.

He added that the current Labor government must show that it could set its own path without kowtowing to the United States.

"Not to measure up to this challenge would be to run the risk of being seen as a derivative power, perpetually in search of a strategic guarantor, a Western outpost, seemingly unable to confidently make its own way in the world."

Keating singled out the relationship with close neighbour Indonesia, which he said had been neglected.

"Policy towards our nearest, largest neighbour, Indonesia, has languished, lacking framework, judgements of magnitude and coherence," he said.

But Carr rejected the critique, insisting Australia's foreign policy objectives had not been surrendered to the United States.

"We are in a treaty relationship with the United States because we've got a major task, and that is the security of this continent, a small population, a large continent, an uncertain region, an uncertain world."

Carr said it was easy to work with a Washington administration that "says it wants Asia, says it wants a role for itself in the Asia-Pacific and says it wants to engage in the peaceful rise of China".

"These are goals that it's easy for Australia to work with and easy for Australia to influence. The America we deal with is somewhat different from the unilateralist America of the earlier years of this century."

Carr added that Australia's relationship with Indonesia was "very satisfactory".

– AFP

UN failed civilians in Sri Lankan conflict, admits Ban Ki-moon

UNITED NATIONS – The United Nations failed to protect thousands of civilians caught in Sri Lanka's civil war, UN leader Ban Ki-moon said on November 14, warning of "profound implications" for the global body.

A damning review of UN action during the final months of the civil war in 2009, in which tens of thousands of people were killed, criticised the UN leadership, UN Security Council and top UN officials in Sri Lanka.

UN staff were afraid to publicise widespread killings, top UN leaders did not intervene and the 15-member Security Council did not give "clear" orders to protect civilians, said the report.

There was "a grave failure of the UN to adequately respond to early warnings and to the evolving situation during the final stages of the conflict and its aftermath, to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of civilians and in contradiction with the principles and responsibilities of the UN," said the report.

"The report concludes that the United Nations system failed to meet its responsibilities," Ban said as a redacted version of the report was released.

"This finding has profound implications for our work across the world, and I am determined that the United Nations draws the appropriate lessons and does its utmost to earn the confidence of the world's people, especially those caught in conflict who look to the organisation for help," Ban said.

He said a top level panel would look into the implementation of UN humanitarian and protection mandates.

UN experts have said tens of thousands of civilians were killed between January and May 2009 as government forces launched a final onslaught on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatists in the north of the country.

Rights groups have given a toll of up to 40,000 dead with most killed in army shelling.

Overall, the UN estimates some 100,000 people perished during the 37-year conflict which ended with the wiping out of the entire Tamil Tiger military leadership. Both sides have been accused of war crimes.

The review, led by former UN official Charles Petrie, said senior UN staff in Sri Lanka were afraid to highlight deaths because they feared it would put at risk humanitarian access to hundreds of thousands of civilians.

It said some workers showed "commitment far beyond the call of duty" but the government's "stratagem of UN intimidation" prevented the UN from protecting civilians.

In Colombo, Mahinda Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka's plantations minister and special envoy to the UN Human Rights Council, told reporters there was no "intimidation" of the UN, but said the government was willing to address shortcomings raised by the report.

– AFP

A Cambodian woman paints "SOS" next to a portrait of US President Barack Obama on a roof near Phnom Penh International Airport on November 14. On November 15 Cambodian police arrested eight people for having painted "SOS" on their roofs ahead of Obama's visit to Cambodia this week. A human rights group said the eight people were the members of about 180 families living near the airport who have been served with eviction notices to make way for its planned expansion and are demanding fair compensation. *Pic: AFP*

Fund accuses Cambodia of graft

PHNOM PENH – A major international aid fund has accused Cambodia of "serious" corruption in the use of money intended to combat malaria and other life-threatening diseases.

The UN-backed Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria said a probe into the use of grants "uncovered credible and substantive evidence of serious financial wrongdoing, on procurement and other issues".

In a statement late on November 14, it said it had taken swift action to tackle the graft problem. But it would maintain support to Cambodia so as not to derail efforts to halt the spread of drug-resistant malaria.

The mismanaged money amounts to under US$1 million and was allocated to Cambodian officials to spend on anti-malaria programs, said a source with knowledge of the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Cambodia's Health Minister Mam Bunheng told *AFP* he had no knowledge of the corruption claims. "I have not received information about it," he said, declining to comment further.

The Geneva-based Global Fund said it would continue giving money to Cambodia, a country on the frontline of the battle against drug-resistant malaria.

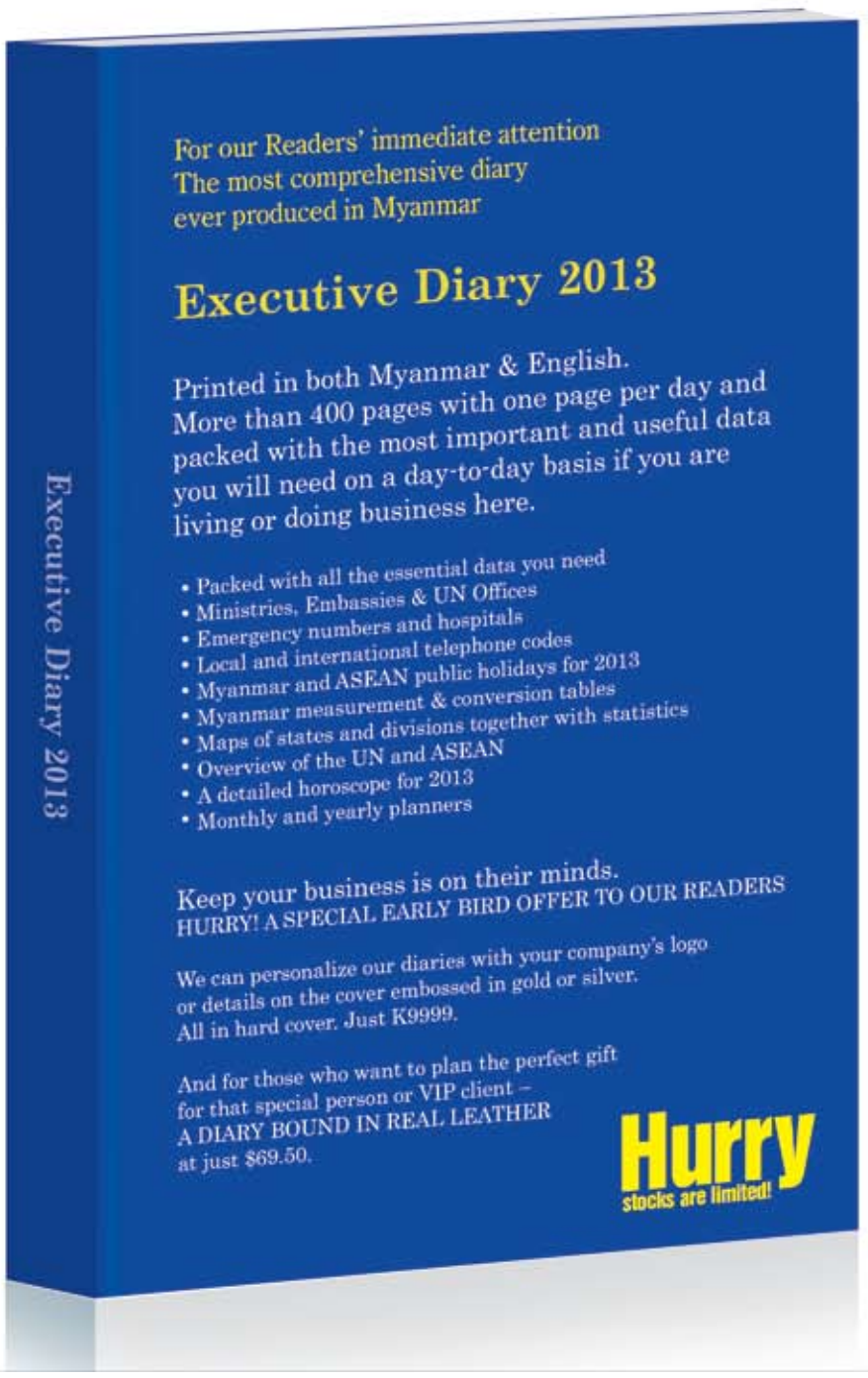
But it is expected to find a recipient other than the government's National Malaria Centre to handle the next multi-million dollar grant.

"Cutting back on anti-malaria efforts could have severe consequences," the statement added.

Malaria that is resistant to the most commonly used artemisinin treatment was found on the Thailand-Cambodia border eight years ago, and was later discovered in western Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.

No further details of the graft allegations were provided. A report by the fund's investigative unit will be published "in the coming weeks", the statement said.

– AFP



Street artists okay with muralistic decay

By Zon Pann Pwint

WHEN street artist Arker Kyaw heard that Barack Obama would visit Yangon this month, he had the idea to paint a public mural of the recently reelected president of the United States

"I painted Obama's portrait on a wall at Yangon Eye Hospital on Natmauk Road, near Kandawgyi Park. My friends helped me create the mural at 3am on November 12, as a mark of welcome to the American president," Arker Kyaw, who uses pseudonym Night for his creative work, told The Myanmar Times.

But the artist said a friend called later the same day to tell him that someone had used spray paint to deface the portrait. The group suspects the vandalism was perpetrated by the government or by another group of street artists, although this is pure speculation.

Considering the short lifespan of the mural, some might consider the effort to have been a terrible waste of time. But Arker Kyaw said street artists are well aware that their work is never likely to last long.

"Paint applied to streets and exterior walls never lasts long. It will be removed one day. But that doesn't stop my desire to be a street artist, and I will continue to paint," he said.

Another issue for street artists is the need to paint at night, mainly because the questionable legality of their work.

But Arker Kyaw, who started painting when he was in ninth standard, said he's not bothered by losing sleep when he venture out in the wee hours of the night.

"Some people say making street art is like defacing public property. That's why I try to paint subjects that will appeal to many people. I want street art to be considered a legitimate part of the art scene in Myanmar," he said.

Ko Thuta, who participated in the creation of the Obama mural on the morning of November 12, said the general impression of street artists is that they "go out at night and spoil the walls and roads".

"But if we could present the best ideas that would attract the most viewers, I think they would change their attitudes about us," he said. "As long as there are a few supporters who encourage street art, we will continue painting."

On the other hand, Ko Thuta said some people have reproached his group for seeking popularity by painting murals of famous people. In September they created a mural of U Thein Sein, shortly before the Myanmar president's first trip to the United States.

Another member of the group, Ko Soe Wai Htun, said the group had a general rule to never paint over another person's work.

"It causes the other artist's idea and presentation to be spoiled," he said.

However, he admitted that the wall where the Obama mural is located had previously been painted with the word "POSH".

"But it had been done a very long time ago, so we painted over it to create the Obama mural," Ko Soe Wai Htun said.

"Street art has to be presented in a public area without any permission. The essence of street art comes from the public's excitement. But in Myanmar culture, we have to respect homeowners and the elderly, so in some places we paint only when they have given their consent," he said.

"However, we feel excited when we paint in some areas without asking permission."

He added that many of their artworks are removed almost immediately, but there's at least one place where their efforts persist.

"There's one house we painted where the child of the homeowner keeps reminding his parents not to remove our artwork. We get great pleasure out of knowing this," he said.

The Obama mural, disrespected. *Pic: Boothee*

Yangon welcomes 'Glass Palace' author Amitav Ghosh

By Douglas Long

WORLD-RENOWNED Bengali author Amitav Ghosh gave a talk at the Indian embassy in Yangon on November 15, focusing the discussion on his novel *The Glass Palace*, which follows events in Myanmar from the Konbaung dynasty to the modern era.

Mr Ghosh is the award-winning author of seven novels in the English language, as well as five works of nonfiction. *The Glass Palace*, published in 2000, has been translated into more than 25 languages, including Myanmar by writer Nay Win Myint and retired forestry official Hteik Tin Thet.

Mr Ghosh took the stage at the embassy to tremendous applause, and began by commenting on how much the atmosphere of Yangon had changed since his last visit 15 years ago.

"It's like going from one planet to another," he told the audience.

He also commented that he thought it was "really miraculous" that so many people had read *The Glass Palace*, and that it has been translated into so many languages.

"When I was writing *The Glass Palace* for years and years, I would sometimes think, 'What am I doing? Am I mad? Who's going to read a book about Indian labourers who were in Burma 100 years ago?'" he said.

Mr Ghosh told the audience that the book really began in a "very lonely little house" in Kolkata, India, where his uncle's family lived after having fled their home in Burma when the Japanese attacked in 1941.

"My uncle was an entrepreneur and founded a very successful timber business in Burma, but when the Japanese bombed Rangoon on December 24, his timber yard caught fire and he lost everything," he said.

"He had to move back to Kolkata, and he and his wife and his son moved into the this tiny house. It was a strange thing to see this person, who was accustomed to being rich, as his life slowly dwindled. I used to sit by his bedside and listen to his stories."

Amitav Ghosh speaks at the Indian embassy in Yangon on November 15. *Pic: Thiri*

Mr Ghosh said his uncle introduced him to great writers such as Maurice Collis, Knut Hamsun, John Steinbeck and Nikolai Gogol. He later found that these same authors had "an enormous impact" on Indian writers as well as famous Myanmar authors such as U Mya Than Tint.

He said his uncle, like many Indians, had been "haunted" by his experience in Burma.

"When they came back to India, which in many ways is a hard and difficult place, they would remember Burma as a place of great softness, kindness, gentleness," he said.

"These memories haunted exiles everywhere, and my family were also exiled from what is now Bangladesh. But there was something different in the quality of the memories that people carried back from Burma. There was a yearning, a wish to reconnect, to be back."

Mr Ghosh said his trip to Myanmar 15 years ago was prompted by these stories told by his uncle.

"At a certain point in my life I wanted to write about this uncle of mine, this man who had been pouring these stories into my head for 20 years. It was at that point that I first came to Myanmar," he said. "It was an extraordinarily powerful and intense experience because I was fortunate to be able to meet many wonderful writers, such as Saya Mya Than Tint."

He said Saya Mya Than Tint's writing ended up having an enormous impact *The Glass Palace*.

"Our interests coincided in many ways. He was a writer who had a deep interest in people and real life. When I left his house he gave me a mimeographed, translated version of the book he was then working on, which was called *Tales of Ordinary People*," he said.

"For this book he went out and interviewed people, almost at random. These are wonderful stories that come alive in this book. Many of the little stories that went into *The Glass Palace* were inspired by Saya Mya Than Tint, and I feel a deep sense of gratitude toward him."

He said Mya Than Tint, Ludu U Sein Win and other writers he met on that trip would talk at great length about the press scrutiny board and the techniques of government censorship.

"These were writers who had struggled with very deep and intense literary questions, of modernism and language, and they were going to this office where there was a young military officer who had hardly read anything in his life, and whose principal interest was golf. If he didn't like what you had written, he would roll it up into a ball and hit it with a golf club," he said.

"But these writers told me that censorship was impossible. If you're a writer who knows his work, you can always find a way to say what you want to say. And that is one of the great challenges of writing. … Your language becomes more and more symbolic, and in that sense more and more modernist."

Mr Ghosh said his writing of *The Glass Palace* was also driven by the question of what happened to King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat after they were exiled to Ratnagiri, India, following the surrender of Burma to the British in 1885.

"One of the reasons I write fiction rather than history is because there aren't really historical sources for the things I write about. With Thibaw's life in Ratnagiri, there's so little material. One really does have to try to imagine it. This is the great challenge of writing fiction," he said.

"When I started writing those bits about Thibaw, I said to myself, how am I going to write in the voice of a man who is so immeasurably distant from me? What do I know about what he was thinking?"

He said he found inspiration from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's book *August 1914*: "In that book, there's an amazing 100-page monologue that happens in the head of Czar Nicholas just before the fall of the Romanov dynasty. And that really inspired me. I thought, if Solzhenitsyn can do that, then why can't I?"

Mr Ghosh added that he preferred to depict characters who took action to change their lives.

"I think people aren't victims. Even when they live in very difficult circumstances, they try to make the best of it. When I met Saya Mya Than Tint and Ludu U Sein Win, this became very real for me because they lived through unimaginable difficulties. But Saya Mya Than Tint was not filled with self-pity, he was not thinking of himself as a victim, he was trying to get on with life," he said.

"I think it's very important, when you write about people who are in difficult circumstances, not to sentimentalise them. It's easy to think that people who are poor, who are suffering, have forgotten laughter. But people in very difficult circumstances also smile, laugh, love and live."

Jason Mraz to perform live in Myanmar

MULTIPLE Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Jason Mraz will perform at a free concert at Yangon's People's Square on December 16, along with local musicians R Zarni, Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, Chan Chan, Chit Htu Wai, Linn Linn, Sai Sai and Pyo Gyi.

The event is being organised by MTV EXIT (End Exploitation and Trafficking), with the aim of raising awareness and increasing prevention of human trafficking.

In headlining the MTV EXIT Live in Myanmar concert, Mr Mraz will become only the second Grammy-winning act to perform at an open-air concert in Myanmar, following an outdoor show by 2002 Grammy winners Ozomatli in Yangon in 2009. Mr Mraz nabbed two of the awards in 2010.

Also sharing the stage with the artists at the free concert will be representatives from the anti-human-trafficking sector, government and donor community who work to fight human trafficking in Myanmar, according to a press statement released by MTV EXIT on November 17.

MTV EXIT has also launched a contest giving fans a chance to win a trip to see Mr Mraz live in Myanmar. Contest details can be found online at www.mtvexit.org.

The Yangon concert will be broadcast in Myanmar on national television and will air across MTV's international network as a special edition of MTV World Stage in early 2013.

The concert is being produced in partnership with the Myanmar government's Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons.

The event is also supported by Walk Free (a global movement to end modern-day slavery), the US Agency for International Development, the Australian government's Agency for International Development, the United Nations Inter-Agency Project Against Human Trafficking, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

5th Anniversary

of

YOUR LIFE - YOUR TIMES - YOUR STYLE

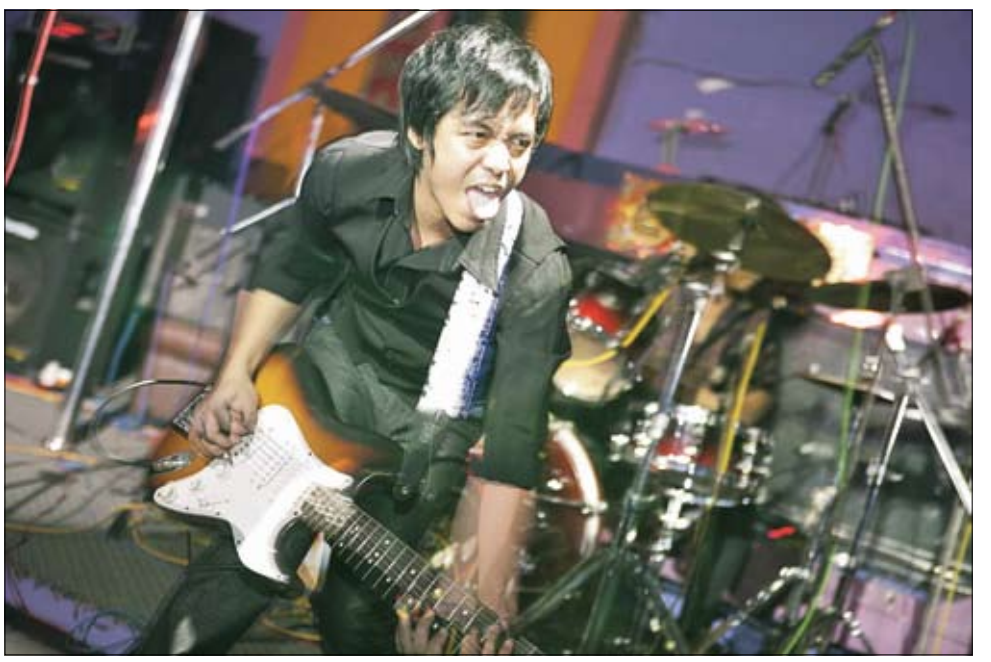
NOW!

WEEKLY MAGAZINE

ဖက်ရှင် အလှအပနဲ့ အနုပညာရေးရာတွေကို ဖတ်စရာ ကြည့်စရာ စုံစုံလင်လင်နဲ့ အပတ်စဉ်
တင်ဆက်ပေးနေတဲ့ NOW! Weekly Magazine ဟာ အခုဆိုရင် (၅) နှစ်ပြည့်မြောက်ခဲ့ပါပြီ။
(၅) နှစ်ပြည့် အထိမ်းအမှတ်အနေနဲ့ လာမယ့် ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၉) ရက်နေ့ မန္တလေးမြို့ Diamond Plaza
မှာ မန်းရွှေမြို့တော်ရဲ့နာမည်ကျော် မိတ်ကပ် ဘိုဘိုနီ (မိုးကုတ်)ရဲ့ပြင်ဆင်ခြယ်သမှုနဲ့ နာမည်ကျော်
ဒီဇိုင်နာတွေဖြစ်တဲ့ နန္ဒရန်နောင်၊ မျိုးမင်းစိုး၊ ဇေဇေတို့ရဲ့ဖက်ရှင် ဒီဇိုင်းဆန်းတွေ ပါဝင်ပြသမယ့်
ဖက်ရှင်ရှိုးနဲ့ အတူ လူငယ်ကြိုက် အဆိုကျော်တွေ ဖြစ်တဲ့ လွှမ်းပိုင်၊ Ar-T ၊ စန္ဒီမြင့်လွင်၊
အေသင်ချိုဆွေ၊ Body Shade, Bee Poison တို့ရဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေမှုတွေ အပါအဝင် ရင်ခုန်ဖွယ်ရာ
ကံစမ်းမဲအစီအစဉ်ကိုလည်း တစ်ပါတည်း ခံစားခွင့်ရစေမယ့် ပွဲကြိုးကို ကျင်းပဖို့ရှိပါတယ်။
ဒီတော့ အဲဒီနေ့မှာ အချိန်လည်း ရမယ်ဆိုရင် NOW! ဝိုင်းတော်သားတွေနဲ့အတူ
NOW! ရဲ့ (၅) နှစ်ပြည့်ပွဲကြိုးကို လာရောက်ဆင်နွှဲကြဖို့ လှိုက်လှိုက်လဲလဲ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါတယ်။

Let's Party

Side Effect to play concerts in Germany



Side Effect's singer and guitar player, Darko. *Pic: Christopher Davy*

By Nuam Bawi

YANGON-BASED indie band Side Effect will depart Myanmar on December 3 for a trip to Germany, where they will perform concerts in Hamburg, Berlin and Gera.

The brief tour will be sponsored by the Goethe Institute and organised by two German two filmmakers, Alexander Dluzak and Carsten Piefke. The directing duo created a documentary in 2011 about the punk scene in Myanmar titled *Yangon Calling*. The film included interviews with Side Effect and several other bands

"Although the two filmmakers wanted to invite us to Germany a long time ago, they couldn't make it happen due to lack of money," said Darko, Side Effect's singer and guitar.

"One of my Myanmar friends gave us contact information for the Goethe Institute, which I forwarded to the filmmakers so they could apply for funding for a tour. We were able to make this happen because of our teamwork."

Darko said one reason they got funding was the film *Yangon Calling*, which has been shown at several film festival around the world, and which earlier this month won the audience award at Notfall Filmfestival 2012 in the Netherlands.

He said another reason was the widespread media coverage over an incident earlier this year in which the US-based fundraising website IndieGoGo closed Side Effect's account (aimed at raising money to buy a drum kit and other equipment) over fears that it contravened international sanctions.

"We sent all the links for international media coverage about our band along with our application to the Goethe Institute. I think it helped us get sponsorship because they knew who we were and what we've been doing," Darko said.

The other members of Side Effect are bassist and guitarist Jozeff K and drummer Tser Htoo, with Hein Lwin playing bass for live performances. However, the funding only allows for the three core members to travel to Germany.

Darko said the band members do not expect a huge amount of enthusiasm from the audiences in Germany. "We can't expect a big reaction for these concerts because the German public isn't familiar with us or our country," he said.

"Also, as musicians we are more familiar with music from America and Britain. As far as I know German music is more like techno, so I don't know how much they will enjoy rock music."

Darko said that according to their contract, Side Effect will get money from the entrance fees paid by audiences in Germany.

"We don't expect to make much money because, to be honest, we're not even that well known in Myanmar and there won't be too many people who know about us in Germany," he said.

The trip to Germany will mark the band's first performances in a Western country. Side Effect played in Bali, Indonesia, last November as part of ASEAN Fair 2011.

"I'm excited to perform in Germany but I'm not nervous because I have confidence that our music will provide a different taste to the audiences, even though we play punk, rock and indie music derived from Western countries," Darko said.

Side Effect formed in 2004 and has cultivated an alt-rock sound that combines punk, power pop and other genres in a manner similar to bands like The Strokes, Franz Ferdinand and The Pixies.

Side Effect will be musically supported by the Berlin rock and punk band Priscilla Sucks. The shows will be held in Hamburg on December 7, Berlin on December 8, and Gera on December 14.

Author tells of health problems, inhumane prison conditions

By Zon Pann Pwint

MANY books that have been published recently by ex-political prisoners in Myanmar have told their tales by mixing reality with fiction.

But a new Myanmar-language book by ex-prisoner Ma Thida, entitled Sanchaung, Insein, Harvard, sticks to the facts, chronicling how imprisonment under inhumane conditions affected the author's health, and how she overcame her tribulations with the help of vipassana (insight) meditation.

As the title suggests, the book is divided into three sections: In "Sanchaung" Ma Thida tells of her arrest, while "Insein" details the time she spent incarcerated in the Yangon prison..

Ma Thida answers questions about her book 'Sanchaung, Insein, Harvard' at the House of Media and Entertainment in Yangon on November 12. *Pic: Zon Pann Pwint*

The final section describes how the author started writing the book two years ago, while she was attending a fellowship program at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in the United States.

At the time of her arrest in 1993, Ma Thida was working as a surgeon at the Muslim Free Hospital in Kyauktada township. She had written many short stories and novels, but none of them had been published.

She was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released in 1999.

"Before I was arrested, I imagined writing about life in prison. When the judge sentenced me to 20 years in prison, I confess that I was secretly delighted," said Ma Thida, whose book was launched at the House of Media and Entertainment in Yangon on November 12.

During her time in prison she suffered from tuberculosis, resulting in a fever that lasted for six months. Authorities also made it difficult for Ma Thida to access the medicine sent by her parents.

"My health deteriorated. Even though I suspected that I suffered from tuberculosis, I had to wait three weeks to take an X-ray, and then I had to wait three more weeks to get the results," she said.

"When the X-ray showed that I had tuberculosis, my parents got permission to send medicine. But I had to wait two weeks to receive the medicine they sent, and when I finally got it, the authorities took it away and made me wait two more weeks before I could actually take it," she said.

Ma Thida said the policy of prison authorities to intentionally delay the delivery of medicine constituted a clear abuse of human rights that undoubtedly caused the further deterioration of her health.

As a result, she also developed a gynaecological medical condition called endometriosis.

"Authorities arranged for me to be sent to Insein Hospital, where I waited 20 hours before I had a medical checkup. Then I was sent back to the prison," she said.

"The health care in prison was of extremely poor standard, and there were many infringements of the prisoners' human rights in this regard."

Myanmar audience enjoys K-pop cover dance contest

By Nuam Bawi

WHILE South Korean pop star Psy's song "Gangnam Style" continues to thrill and annoy people around the world in roughly equal measure, audiences in Myanmar were able to enjoy the K-pop Cover Dance Final Contest, held at Myanmar Convention Center on November 10.

The event showcased the talents of nine dance groups — whittled down from the original 25 groups that took part in the contest — and also featured a dance performance by Poppin Hyun-Joon Crew from South Korea, whose members acted as judges for the contest.

The first prize of K1 million went to the Black Diamond group, while the second prize (K500,000) was handed out to Fantastic Boys. Girl Universal netted third place and K300,000.

The leader of Girl Universal, Thet Mon, said she participated in the contest because she thought Korean styles were "very cool" and because she "likes their music a lot".

"I've always enjoyed dancing to K-pop. Their poses and body movements are really cool," she said.

"It looks like their dance steps are very soft when we watch them, but when we try dancing like them it's very difficult. We need to exert so much energy to get the moves right, so I'm very interested in it."

She said her group spent a lot of time practicing, making special efforts to imitate not only the dance moves but also the clothing styles worn by the performers of the songs chosen for the contest.

"We were expecting to win first prize, but we're satisfied that we got third out of 25 groups," Thet Mon said.

The K-Pop Cover Dance Contest was followed by the semifinal round of the Face of Myanmar contest, featuring 46 contestants chosen from more than 200 applicants.

Judges chose 30 contestants to compete in finals, which will be held at Strand Hotel on November 24.

The top six finishers will get the chance to participate in the Asia New Star Model Contest 2013, which will be held in January 2013 in South Korea. Contestants from 15 countries are expected to take part.

Vile vines: A boxed wine smack-down

By Barnabas McCoy

IT'S common for foreigners who move to Myanmar to harbour reservations about what essential comforts might, or might not, be available for consumption in their new home. Are there shops in Yangon that stock Cool Ranch Doritos? Pineapple pizza? Christmas decorations? Spoons?

Topping many a discriminating oenophile's list is fear over whether boxed wine will be available for regular ingestion. This was a particularly important issue during the waning years of Than Shwe's wooly regime, when supplies of imported luxury goods were erratic at best, yet cracking open a 5-litre box of wine and guzzling the liquid delights encased therein was widely recognised as the finest means of weathering your fourth eight-hour nocturnal power failure of the week.

Happily, while there have been many benefits to Myanmar's recent progress toward the idea of contemplating possible pathways to potential democratisation, none have been more important or pronounced than the wider availability of boxed wine, and in greater varieties.

In light of this, the time seems ripe for a taste test of this greatest of Australian inventions (overshadowing even the dual flush toilet and the Super Sopper), with the aim of aiding the uninitiated in choosing the best brand for their next party or extended blackout. Towards that end, *The Myanmar Times* called together a multinational coalition of the finest boxed wine tasters available — representing Australia, Britain, the United States, France and Myanmar — to determine Yangon's best buys.

The eight tasters were as follows: Bronco, Skeeter, Twera, The Black Widow, Sabine, Roberto Robertson, Grapelips, and Attila the Invisigoth. (Note: Boxed wine tasters, being a rare and courageous breed, usually find it desirable to take on superhero-like personas, as well as super-cool monikers to match.)

We limited the taste test to red varieties, and settled on three brands: Cantine Ronco (Italy), Berri Estates (Australia) and Fonvene (France). We primed the wine by storing the 5-litre boxes in a locked and sealed car for 24 hours, and tasted them at about 30 degrees Celsius, which we figured was near enough to the recommended 15-16C. For added atmosphere, we watched NASCAR truck racing on All Sports Network during the taste test.

The results are enumerated below, in the order in which the wines were sampled.

Boxed wine and inappropriate glassware: The makings of a long night of painful guzzling. *Pic: Roberto Robertson*

Fonvene (K17,300)

The test was almost over before it started, as some of the less experienced tasters had trouble figuring out how to break into this particular box. But Sabine, from the Land of Boxed Wine Down Under, saved the day by toggling the dongle to start the liquid spurting from the nozzle.

The inaugural taste went to Bronco, who took a Texas-sized gulp, wiped his lips with his dusty bandana, and expertly opined that Fonvene's suspiciously light-bodied taste was "suggestive of one part wine, four parts water".

Skeeter noted a "strong alcohol smell" that overwhelmed the attack, evolution and finish, and rendered the wine virtually flavourless. "Fonvene is so dry, it sucked all the moisture out of the air in a one-foot radius around my drinking glass," he further noted.

The Black Widow agreed that the aroma was overwhelming, comparing it to the reek of ethanol.

"A disappointing start, Fonvene would probably make an ideal beverage for a frat party," she said, but added generously: "It does have the prettiest box, though."

Another aesthetically charitable comment came from Grapelips, who admitted that she had no regrets about the colour that the wine left on her teeth.

Roberto Robertson steered the commentary back into the realm of gestation by stating that the sensation of strong alcohol "lingers on the palate like a drunken stranger who won't leave your house party".

Twera, a woman of few words, said Fonvene simply "tastes like cooking wine".

Among the tasters possessed of more refined palates, Sabine reckoned Fonvene was a "mild, full-bodied red with a surprisingly subtle kick for a wine of 13 percent", while Attila — who apparently harbours an odd fetish for sampling alcoholic beverages dispensed from glass bottles — said it reminded him of pinot noir.

"Fruity taste but too rough to distinguish specific fruits. Enjoyable," he said.

Cantine Ronco (K14,500)

With his first taste of Cantine Ronco, Mr Robertson, like Attila, also revealed a secret life of drinking fermented liquids from obscure, unboxed sources: "This is the boxed wine you've been searching for: the box wine that almost tastes like it came from a bottle."

"Easy on the way down, presumably easy on the way up, this is an inoffensive quaffing wine," he added.

The Black Widow concurred, stating that despite the unflattering brand name, Cantine Ronco "surprised" her by not making her "want to heave". She added that the wine was "forgettable but drinkable" and that she could even imagine "spending an evening with this one".

Sabine continued the comparatively stellar ratings by saying although Cantine Ronco made her sweat, she had "no complaints".

Skeeter, by this time his eyes spinning in clockwise circles from the close attention he had been paying to the NASCAR race, managed to tear himself away from the television, take a sip of wine and mutter, "Fruity smell. Not as alcoholic as Fonvene. Tough to distinguish specific tastes."

Other tasters were less keen. Grapelips offered to chug a bottle of vinaigrette salad dressing if she could please avoid taking another sip of Cantine Ronco, while Attila, whom others present suspected might be an agent planted in the room by Fonvene winery, dissed the Italian entry by claiming that it had a "sour taste" and was "not a pleasant wine".

The others fell silent as Bronco, spurs a-jangling on the carpet, moseyed on over to the Cantine Ronco box and filled his mouth-trough with the ruby-red nectar. Wiping his lips with his dusty bandana, he declaimed: "Boy howdy! Ronco is like a fair-weather friend — unassuming and inoffensive for the most part but you know that this product of fine Italian craftsmanship will, probably at the 3-litre point, betray you".

Bronco's rough-and-ready recommendation for a food match — "whatever is in the fridge; Ronco doesn't care" — cemented the brand's already formidable reputation as the Chuck Norris of boxed wine.

Twera, a woman of few words, said Cantine Ronco was simply [SPOILER ALERT] "the best one" of the three.

Berri Estates (K21,600)

Last came Berri Estates, issuing forth from the Netherland of Oz from whence boxed wine originated. Add this to the fact that it was the most expensive product in the test, and of course it would be the runaway favourite, right? But wait, what's that strange look crossing the faces of the taste testers? Why is the colour draining from their faces, and why are their eyes rolling back into their heads?

The first clue that Berri Estates might turn out to be the boxed wine of our nightmares was its colour, variously described by those present as mud brown, treacle black, and possessing light-absorbing qualities of satanic proportions.

Skeeter referred to it as a "shudder-inducing wine", the quaffing of which "might feel better than getting run down by an International Harvester tractor pulling a four-share plough, but not by much ". He expressed a desire to toss the nearly full box from the balcony of the sixth-floor apartment where the taste test occurred, and watch it explode on the street below.

But others had to take the tasting plunge as well. Attila said it went down like "terrible port" and was "not recommended AT ALL", while The Black Widow complained that the bouquet "hits you like a cloud of doom".

After Bronco's sip, he whinnied in distress, snorted in anger, stomped his feet on the carpet, wiped his mouth with his dusty bandana, and shouted, "Berri is the illegitimate child of Australian winemaking, unloved, uncared for and, as a result, exhibiting a taste akin to bile mixed with concentrate Ribena berry drinks!"

Sabine said the wine was "berri bad" (nyuk nyuk) and added that she wouldn't wish it on her enemies, the latter point emphatically seconded by Mr Robertson. He suggested that painters who create murals depicting scenes in Buddhist hell "should show sinners drowning in Berri".

Grapelips flaunted her worldly erudition by grandly informing everyone present that there is a word in the Czech language that refers to the sadness one feels when they realise they are depressed, and that she felt "this word applies to Berri".

Twera, a woman of few words, said Berri Estates simply had a taste that was "too strong" to be palatable.

Conclusion

The clear winner among the tasters — aside from a couple of dissidents who have since been admitted to a mental hospital to undergo successive rounds of electroshock therapy and intensive reeducation — was Cantine Ronco. Fonvene stood out as tasteless hooch best reserved for getting drunk fast as civilisation collapses around you. That end-of-days calamity might very well be induced by the opening of one carton too many of Berri Estates, which can best be described as the Apocalypse in a wine box. The horror, the horror …

Drinking and dancing in the rarified air above Singapore

By Pinky

SINGAPORE boasts three buildings that top out at around 280 metres (919 feet) in height, and they share the status as the country's tallest: One Raffles Place, Republic Plaza and United Overseas Bank Plaza One.

On the top floor of One Raffles Place is a rooftop bar called 1-Altitude, easily accessible because of the building's convenient location in the centre of the city. There's a taxi stand just a few step from the front entrance of the building, and the Raffles Place MRT station is right there as well.

The bar charges a cover of S$25 (US$20) a person, which includes one drink. An ID card and nice dress are essential: No one under the age of 21 gets in, and don't even think about wearing short or sandals because you won't be allowed past the door.

I was lucky enough to be there on a Wednesday, when there is no cover charge for ladies. This results in a very crowded venue: The ladies come because entry is free, and the men, knowing this, come fishing for ladies.

Whether 1-Altitude really is the "world's tallest al fresco bar", as it bills itself on its website, there is no disputing the fact that the view is amazing. The entire city-state of Singapore is under your feet, and seeing it commonly induces exclamations such as "Wow!", "Gadzooks!" or "By Thor's hammer! 'Tis a panoptic vista worthy of the great gods of Valhalla!" depending on your cultural references.

As I stood there at the top of the world, with a good drink in my hand, swaying to the beat of trendy dance music, I could feel all the stress and fatigue of my travels to Singapore suddenly disappear.

As the evening wore on, the music got louder and the bar became more crowded. By midnight the place was in full swing and everyone seemed to be enjoying their drinks and having a great time. Based on the people I talked to, it seemed like most of the locals were bankers, but there were plenty of tourists and business travellers as well.

The Gallery and Bar at 1-Altitude is a great place to hang out with friends, but the friendly crowd means it's also okay to walk in by yourself and simply strike up conversations with people at the bar. I'd imagine that it gets quite busy on weekends, and groups of people who want to sit should probably make a reservation, as seating is limited.

Of course it's best to go when the weather is clear so you can fully enjoy the view, and don't forget your camera to capture the amazing scenery.

The Gallery and Bar at 1-Altitude is located at One Raffles Place, Level 63; Tel (+65) 6438-0410. Opening hours are Monday through Thursday 6pm to 1am, Saturday and Sunday 6pm to 2am.

Phyo's Cooking Adventure

Phyo cuts through culture to reveal life's true taste

Perfect pilaf for piling on to your plate

AS a Burmese, I love to eat a bowl of rice mixed with curry, including lots of gravy, vegetables and meat. As a result I became a big fan of pilaf when I was living in Sydney. I tried so many different pilaf recipes, and eventually created my own styles according to my own tastes. Of course, most of my pilaf-style rice dishes are soaked in a delicate gravy.

This week, I'm pleased to introduce Spanish seafood pilaf into my cooking adventure. I like the combination of tomatoes and seafood, mixed with the aroma of herbs. I cook this recipe in a pot rather than the traditional style of using a shallow pan, and it works well.

I use a type of sweet basil from Myanmar called *pin seain* as a substitute for Italian basil or parsley. *Pin seain* goes very well with seafood, cutting through the strong smell of the squid and adding a sweet taste to the mixture.

Pic: Yadana

Spanish seafood pilaf

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4-6 people)

300g of prawn

250g of squid (cut into 4-5cm cubes and crosscut on the back)

100g of frozen crab meat (defrosted and sprinkled with ¼ teaspoon of salt)

⅓ cup of *pin seain* sweet basil (picked leaves only)

2 teaspoons of dried thymes leaves

2 teaspoons of dried parsley leaves

2 teaspoons of paprika

1 teaspoon of chili powder (optional)

10 very ripe tomatoes (cooked, peeled and roughly chopped)

3 onions (sliced in rings)

4 cloves of garlic (crushed)

3 green peppers (cut into 3cm cubes)

4 tablespoons of olive oil

2 cups of rice

1 handful of coriander leaves to serve

PREPARATION

De-shell the prawns and save the cleaned heads. Cut the backs and remove the black veins. Roast the heads in a pot and when they start to dry, add 4 cups of water with a pinch of salt to make stock. When it starts boil, turn the heat down and gently boil for 5 minutes.

Wash the rice and drain.

Combine the thyme, parsley, paprika and chili powder in a small bowl to make the herb mixture. Set aside.

In a large pot, add 1 tablespoon of olive oil and fry 1 teaspoon of the herb mixture for a few seconds with medium heat, and then add the prawns. Fry them for 2 minutes, and transfer into a bowl to reserve.

Add another tablespoon of olive oil and fry 1 teaspoon of the herb mixture for few seconds. Then add half of the basil and the squid, fry for 2 minutes and transfer into a bowl.

Turn the heat up, add the remaining olive oil and sauté the onions. When the onions are translucent, add the crushed garlic and sauté until the aroma emerges. Add the remaining herb mixture and fry for 1 minute.

Add the chopped tomatoes into the frying pan and fry for 3 minutes. Add the green peppers and fry for another 3 minutes.

Add the washed rice into a pot and combine with the gravy mixture. Stir continuously, making sure that all the rice is well-coated. Add 3 cups of prawn-head stock. (If you don't have enough stock, you can add water to make up the 3 cups.) Stir well, cover with a lid, and bring to a boil.

When it comes to a boil, turn the heat down to medium and cook for 12 minutes. Add all the prawns, squid and crab meat into the pot and mix well. If the rice requires more water, splash ¼ cup over the mixture and stir.

Cover with the lid and simmer for 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper for seasoning. If the rice requires more water, add another ¼ cup and simmer for another 2-3 minutes with the lid closed.

Serve immediately with coriander leaves.

Main Tips

When you are cooking the rice, keep an eye on the water after 8-9 minutes. If the rice needs more water, splash more on top and stir. Do this quickly so you don't lose too much steam with the lid off the pot. Add only ¼ cup of water at a time, which will help ensure that the rice cooks through eventually. Keep covered with a lid until you are ready to serve.

QUAFFING QUOTE

"I truly believed that to be culinarily literate was of central importance to personal independence and happiness." — Stephanie Alexander (Australian cook, restaurateur and food writer)

NEXT WEEK

Another rice recipe: Southeast Asian fusion style with sweet, sour and spicy flavours.

Red Wine

Lindeman's Bin 99 Pinot Noir 2011

Lindeman's, ubiquitous in Yangon, has produced this good-value, light-bodied pinot noir with robust cherry and vanilla notes. Well suited to Asian and vegetarian dishes.

Ks 10,400

Score BOX 8/10

White Wine

Woodbridge by Roberto Mondavi Chardonnay 2010

A product of California, this straw-yellow chardonnay has a pleasant green-apple tang, but the strong oak-infused flavour might be too noticeable for some palates.

Ks 22,400

Score BOX 7/10

FOOD REVIEW

A roll of the dice

PINLAUNG apparently means "place of gambling" in Shan. I always consider dining in small-town Myanmar a bit of a gamble and there was definitely a sense of foreboding in the pit of my stomach as we pulled in to Green Tea Forest on a recent trip to Loikaw. It was a foreboding that was only barely overpowered by the extreme hunger from having subsisted on an airline breakfast (sausage bun, of course) until 4pm.

What would Pinlaung, a picturesque but relatively small town in the hills of southern Shan State, throw up for weary travellers like my colleagues and me?

The result was surprisingly good, although perhaps it shouldn't have been such a surprise. We had, in hindsight, been travelling for several hours through some of the most fertile rolling countryside I've ever encountered: valleys lined with glowing green paddy and soft sloping fields laden with all manner of harvest-ready vegetables.

The choice of *kyet konbaung-gyi-gyaw* (K4000, serves two) — chicken fried with an assortment of vegetables in a light, sweet, oily sauce — turned out to be a wise one, with the country-bred, free-range chicken (known as "Myanmar chicken", as opposed to "CP chicken") sliced up thinly and the vegetables — carrots, onions, cauliflower and so on — still crisp.

Judging by the way our guide and driver wolfed down their *si kyet* noodles (K700), I'd say they were similarly impressed.

The service was excellent — the food came out in a matter of minutes, yet it was clear it had only been prepared after our arrival.

While we had to settle for coffee mix, it was complemented by excellent green tea, something for which Pinlaung is renowned. Encouraged by this, my friend and I took home some extra packets of Pinlaung green tea (K1000 each), as well as Mandalay Rum bottles of local honey (K3000) and lime juice (K3000). The latter has proven to be an admirable substitute for fresh lime in a gin and tonic. – *TK*

Pic: Yadana

Green Tea Forest

Aungban-Loikaw Highway, Pinlaung

Food:	8
Drink:	7
Atmosphere:	7
Service:	8
X Factor:	8
Value for Money:	7

Score BOX 8/10

U Zaw Hein @ Jotun Showroom Opening

Yan Naing, May Mi, Ju Ju, Ohnmar Kyaw, Htet Htet Win, Khin Thida, Nay Win Thit and Eain Min Thaw @ D-4+1 Beauty Salon Opening

Yan Yan Chan @ HOME Book Launch

U Tin Win @ Urocitra New Product Launch

Mr Kee Deong Bae @ Urocitra New Product Launch

Ko Sithu Tun, Ma Theingi Soe and Ma Michelin @ Eushido Overseas Hair Training 2012

Zaw Thet Htwe @ HOME Book Launch

Dr Aung Thu Ra @ PWC Myanmar Branch Office Opening

Ko Soe Moe Win Kyi, Mr Min Park and Ms Oyi @ LG lucky Draw

Mr Espen Barth Eide @ Jotun Showroom Opening

Dr Soe Win @ Urocitra New Product Launch

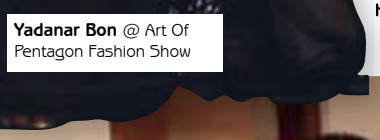
Mr Junsang Nam and Mr Dongwan Woo @ Urocitra New Product Launch

Nga Pyaw Kyaw @ HOME Book Launch

U Wai Lwin and Daw Win Min Thit @ LG lucky Draw

Yadana Kyaw Oo @ Art Of Pentagon Fashion Show

U Win Tin and Dr Maung Maung Lay @ PWC Myanmar Branch Office Opening



Yadanar Bon @ Art Of Pentagon Fashion Show

Ko Oo and Soe Yan Aung @ D-4+1 Beauty Salon

Noe Noe K @ Art Of Pentagon Fashion Show

Ko Zaw Moe, Ma Khin Thit Lwin, Ko Zaw Latt and Daw Win Min Thit @ LG lucky Draw

Mr Ong Chao Choon, Mr Yeoh Oon Jin, Ei Ei San, Thazin Aung and Mr Chris Woo @ PWC Myanmar Branch Office Opening

SOCIALITE
WITH NYEIN EI EI HTWE

THERE were only a few events on Socialite's calendar last week, but boy were they doozies! On November 6 Socialite careened into Centrepoint Tower to enjoy the auspicious occasion of the PWC Myanmar branch office launch. The next day it was time to add to her already copious knowledge of hair design, by lurching into the D-4+1 Beauty Salon opening in Sanchaung township, after which she meandered her way to Central Hotel for the Eushido Overseas Hair Training 2012 press conference. On November 9 Socialite felt the excitement of anticipation at the LG lucky draw at Park Royal Hotel, but then she got all sombre when she attended the launch of a new book by a former political prisoner, at the House of Media and Entertainment in downtown Yangon. On November 11, she attended the Urocitra product launch at Summit Park View Hotel. And that, my friends, is the rest of the story.

Mr Peder Bohlin @ Jotun Showroom Opening

Jessica Ei Ei San and Jessica Thazin Aung @ PWC Myanmar Branch Office Opening

Daw Too Too Myint Thein @ Eushido Overseas Hair Training 2012

Mr Morten Fon @ Jotun Showroom Opening

Ko Aung Kyaw Moe and Ju Juu Thitsar @ D-4+1 Beauty Salon Opening

Mr Vincent F H Chong, Mr Gregory Kaw, Mr Tan Bien Soo, Mr Roy Tot Peng Ho and Ko Sithu Aung @ Clinical Computed Tomography Dinner Reception

Mr Tobias Sey Farth, Dr Khine Yin May Than, Mr Quek Swee Tian and Prof Lin Tun Tun @ Clinical Computed Tomography Dinner Reception

Rota @ D-4+1 Beauty Salon Opening

Phyo Po Po @ Art Of Pentagon Fashion Show

Zwe Naung, Ko Oo, Rota and Zayya Naing @ D-4+1 Beauty Salon Opening

When struggling with stress and you feel down and tired, refresh yourself by taking Enervon-C once a day to fight stress and to have optimum energy and body resistance. Once you are stress-free, you have a high potential of achieving your goal successfully.

ENERVON STRESS

ENERVON-C®

DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 111	07:00	07:55
	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
TUE	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
WED	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
THUR	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
FRI	6T 111	14:15	15:10
	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
SAT	UB-A1	08:00	09:00
SUN	UB-A1	15:30	16:30

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 112	08:15	09:10
	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
TUE	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
WED	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
THUR	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
FRI	6T 112	17:05	18:00
	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
SAT	UB-A2	10:00	11:00
SUN	UB-A2	17:00	18:00

YANGON TO MANDALAY

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	YJ 911	09:15	10:40
	W9 119	10:30	12:55
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 727	11:00	12:55
	K7 824	11:35	13:40
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	YJ 791	15:00	16:55
	6T 501	15:30	17:30
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
TUE	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 251	10:30	11:55
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:00	12:25
	YH 725	11:00	14:00
	K7 822	11:45	13:50
	6T 501	14:15	16:15
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	YJ 791	14:30	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
WED	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	K7 624	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	6T 331	07:00	08:25
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	YJ 911	09:15	10:40
	W9 119	10:30	12:55
	W9 7751	11:00	12:25
	YJ 751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:00	12:55
	K7 222	13:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	YJ 791	15:00	16:55
	6T 501	15:30	17:30
	W9 129	15:45	17:40
THUR	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 201	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 112	10:30	12:25
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:00	12:25
	K7 224	14:00	15:30
	6T 501	14:15	16:15
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	W9 129	15:45	17:40
FRI	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	6T 341	06:30	07:55
	YJ 211	06:30	07:55
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	W9 7751	11:00	12:25
	YJ 751	11:00	12:55
	YH 727	11:00	12:25
	W9 116	11:45	13:40
	W9 255	13:00	14:25
	6T 501	14:15	16:15
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	YJ 791	14:30	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
SAT	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	6T 341	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 119	10:30	12:55
	YJ 601	10:45	12:10
	W977601	10:45	12:10
	W9 009	11:00	12:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:00	12:25
	K7 244	11:35	13:00
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	6T 501	15:00	17:00
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
SUN	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 211	06:00	07:25
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	6T 403	06:45	08:50
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 251	10:30	11:55
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	W9 7751	11:00	12:25
	YJ 751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:00	13:10
	W9 116	11:45	13:40
	K7 224	14:00	16:05
	YH 731	15:00	16:55
	6T 501	15:15	17:15
	W9 129	15:45	17:40

MANDALAY TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YH 728	16:30	17:55
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	YJ 792	17:10	19:15
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
	6T 502	17:50	19:55
TUE	YH 730	07:20	18:45
	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	6T 502	16:15	18:40
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	6T 502	16:35	18:40
	YJ 792	16:40	18:45
	W9 252	17:35	19:00
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
	K7 823	18:20	19:45
WED	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 332	08:45	10:10
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	K7 223	15:55	18:00
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	YH 738	17:10	18:35
	YJ 792	17:10	19:15
	YJ 752	17:50	19:15
	W9 7752	17:50	19:15
	6T 502	17:50	19:55
	W9 129	17:55	20:00
THUR	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	YJ 201	10:30	11:55
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	K7 225	16:20	18:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	6T 502	16:35	18:40
	YH 730	17:20	18:45
	W9 129	17:55	20:00
	W9 113	18:30	19:55
FRI	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	YJ 212	11:30	12:55
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YH 728	16:30	17:55
	6T 502	16:35	18:40
	YJ 792	16:40	18:45
	W9 117	17:20	18:45
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
	W9 256	17:45	19:10
	W9 7752	17:50	19:15
	YJ 752	17:50	19:15
	K7 225	18:10	19:35
SAT	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	6T 342	08:15	10:20
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 009	13:00	14:00
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	YJ 602	17:05	19:10
	W977602	17:05	19:10
	YH 730	17:20	18:45
	6T 502	17:20	19:25
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
SUN	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 918	08:35	10:30
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:48	10:53
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	08:55	11:05
	6T 404	09:10	10:35
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	YJ 212	11:00	12:25
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	K7 225	16:20	18:30
	YJ 502	16:35	18:40
	YH 738	17:10	18:35
	W9 117	17:20	18:45
	W9 252	17:35	19:00
	6T 502	17:35	19:40
	YJ 752	17:50	19:15
	W9 7752	17:50	19:15
	W9 129	17:55	20:00

YANGON TO NYAUNG U

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	6T 501	15:30	18:20
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
TUE	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YH 711	10:30	12:35
	6T 501	14:15	17:05
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
WED	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	K7 222	13:30	14:50
	6T 501	15:30	18:20
	W9 129	15:45	18:25
THUR	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YH 711	10:30	12:35
	6T 501	14:15	17:05
	W9 129	15:45	18:25
FRI	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	6T 501	14:15	17:05
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
SAT	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	6T 451	10:45	12:05
	W9 009	11:00	11:55
	6T 501	15:00	17:50
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
	YJ 602	17:50	19:10
SUN	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:15	07:35
	YJ 891	06:15	07:35
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	6T 403	06:45	08:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YH 909	07:00	08:35
	6T 501	15:15	18:05
	W9 129	15:45	18:25

NYAUNG U TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YJ 792	17:55	19:15
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
	6T 502	18:35	19:55
TUE	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	6T 502	17:20	18:40
	YJ 792	17:25	18:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
WED	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YJ 792	17:55	19:15
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	6T 502	18:35	19:55
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
THUR	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	17:10	18:30
	6T 502	17:20	18:40
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
FRI	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	6T 502	17:20	18:40
	YJ 792	17:25	18:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
SAT	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	6T 342	09:00	10:20
	W9 009	12:15	14:00
	6T 451	12:20	14:25
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	6T 502	18:05	19:25
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
SUN	6T 401	07:55	10:53
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 412	08:20	09:40
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	17:10	18:30
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	6T 502	18:20	19:40
	W9 129	18:40	20:00

YANGON TO MYITKYINA

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 622	14:00	16:55
TUE	W9 251	10:30	13:25
	K7 622	14:00	16:55
WED	K7 622	14:00	16:55
THUR	YJ 201	06:00	08:50
	W9 112	10:30	16:40
	K7 622	14:00	16:55
FRI	YJ 211	06:30	09:20
	W9 255	13:00	15:55
	K7 622	14:00	16:55
SAT	K7 622	14:00	16:55
SUN	YJ 211	06:00	08:50
	W9 251	10:30	13:25
	K7 622	14:00	16:55

MYITKYINA TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 623	17:10	20:05
TUE	W9 252	16:05	19:00
	K7 623	17:10	20:05
WED	K7 623	17:10	20:05
THUR	YJ 202	09:05	11:55
	W9 113	17:00	19:55
	K7 623	17:10	20:05
FRI	W9 256	16:15	19:10
	K7 623	17:10	20:05
SAT	K7 623	17:10	20:05
SUN	W9 252	16:05	19:00
	K7 623	17:10	20:05

YANGON TO HEHO

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 824	11:35	12:50
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	YJ 791	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
	6T 501	15:30	16:40
TUE	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 822	11:45	13:00
	6T 501	14:15	15:25
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	YJ 791	14:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
WED	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	W9 7751	11:00	12:10
	YJ 751	11:00	12:10
	YJ 791	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
	6T 501	15:30	16:40
	W9 129	15:45	16:55
THUR	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	W9 112	10:30	11:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 224	14:00	15:15
	6T 501	14:15	15:25
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
	W9 129	15:45	16:55
FRI	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	YJ 751	11:00	12:10
	W9 7751	11:00	12:10
	K7 242	11:35	12:50
	W9 116	11:45	12:55
	6T 501	14:15	15:25
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	YJ 791	14:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
	K7 224	15:50	17:05
SAT	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	6T 451	10:45	13:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 244	11:35	13:50
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	6T 501	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
SUN	6T 401	06:20	09:23
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	W9 7751	11:00	12:10
	YJ 751	11:00	12:10
	W9 116	11:45	12:55
	K7 224	14:00	15:15
	YH 731	15:00	16:10
	6T 501	15:15	16:25
	W9 129	15:45	16:55

HEHO TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YJ 912	12:35	14:45
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	W9 120	15:55	18:05
	6T 501	16:55	19:55
	K7 825	17:15	18:30
TUE	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	6T 501	15:40	18:40
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	K7 823	17:30	19:47
WED	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	YJ 912	12:35	14:45
	W9 120	15:55	18:05
	6T 501	16:55	19:55
	K7 223	16:45	18:00
	W9 129	17:10	20:00
THUR	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 113	11:55	19:55
	6T 501	15:40	18:40
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	W9 129	17:10	20:00
FRI	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	6T 306	09:10	10:20
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	6T 552	09:30	10:40
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	6T 501	15:40	18:40
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	W9 117	16:35	18:45
	K7 825	18:10	19:25
SAT	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	6T 452	13:15	14:25
	K7 245	14:05	16:20
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	W9 120	15:55	18:05
	6T 501	16:25	19:25
SUN	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:20	10:30
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:43	10:53
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 117	16:35	18:45
	6T 501	16:40	19:40
	W9 129	17:10	20:00

YANGON TO SITTWE

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 607	11:15	12:40
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
TUE	6T 611	07:30	08:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
	W9 311	14:00	15:25
WED	6T 607	11:15	12:40
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
THRU	6T 611	07:30	08:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
	W9 311	14:00	15:25
FRI	6T 611	07:30	08:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
SAT	6T 605	11:30	13:30
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
SUN	6T 605	11:00	13:00
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
	K7 422	12:30	14:25

SITTWE TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 608	13:00	15:00
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
TUE	6T 612	09:15	10:40
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	W9 311	15:40	17:25
WED	6T 608	13:00	15:00
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
THUR	6T 612	09:15	10:40
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	W9 311	15:40	17:25
FRI	6T 612	09:15	10:40
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
SAT	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	6T 606	13:50	15:15
SUN	6T 606	13:20	14:45
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	K7 423	14:40	16:35

YANGON TO MYEIK

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	6T 707	11:30	13:30
	W9 333	11:30	13:35
TUE	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	YJ 301	07:00	09:05
WED	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	6T 707	11:30	13:30
	W9 333	11:30	13:35
THUR	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	6T 707	11:30	13:30
	YJ 301	12:15	14:20
FRI	K7 319	06:30	08:35
SAT	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	W9 333	11:30	13:35
SUN	K7 319	06:30	08:35
	6T 707	11:30	13:30
	YJ 301	12:45	14:50

MYEIK TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	W9 334	15:50	17:55
	6T 708	15:55	17:55
TUE	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	YJ 302	11:20	13:25
WED	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	W9 334	15:50	17:55
	6T 708	15:55	17:55
THUR	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	6T 708	15:55	17:55
	YJ 302	16:35	18:40
FRI	K7 320	11:00	13:05
SAT	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	W9 334	15:50	17:55
SUN	K7 320	11:00	13:05
	6T 708	15:55	17:55

Domestic

6T = Air Mandalay
W9 = Air Bagan
YJ = Asian Wings
K7 = AIR KBZ
YH = Yangon Airways
UB = FMI UB Charter

Subject to change without notice

At Inle, the be

By Lisa Niver Rajna

WHEN I arrived in Myanmar on September 28, 2012, I planned our 27 days of travel so that we could see the famous leg rowers and Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival, one of the largest Buddhist celebrations in the country.

I did not realise that our hotel, the Golden Empress, would be located on a corner in the town of Nyaungshwe that would offer us a great view of the procession. Our seats on the second-floor balcony made me feel like Katie Couric at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. There was literally not a better seat in the country to see the golden Buddha images pass through the final tower on the way to the monastery for their three nights of rest.

During the 18-day festival – which takes place at Inle Lake in Shan State and which this year started on October 16 – four of the five Buddha images from Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda journeyed around the lake on a gilded royal barge shaped like a *karaweik* (mythical bird), which was pulled by hundreds of leg-rowers.

One image always remains at the pagoda, while the other relics travel to many villages around the lake so that Buddhists can pay their respects, the men doing so by adding gold leaf to them. After centuries of veneration the images, which are thought to date back to the 12th century, look more like gold mounds or rocks than the shape of Buddha.

After travelling from village to village, the images arrive in Nyaungshwe for a giant three-night festival. Thousands of people from different regions, including the plains, mountains and small, remote villages, trek to town to revere the statues.

The area has the feeling of a festive carnival. The pilgrims come to enjoy the event but more importantly to gain merit. For several blocks in each direction from the host monastery, tents were built to house an incredible array of restaurants and shops selling everything from pots and pans, to clothing, shoes, children's toys, sweets, food, thanaka and, of course, gold leaf for the images.

From 5am October 22 we heard music in the streets, but then it abruptly stopped around 7am. Electricity in the city was turned off as a precaution against the possibility that the palanquin carrying the Buddha relics might cause damage if any of the poles hit the wires.

There were also 90 extra policemen stationed in the town, securing the corners of each city block as a safety measure since there were so many visitors for the annual celebration. In 2011, the military were in charge but this year it was decided that the police would be adequate.

Hundreds of people went to the jetty to watch the Buddha procession arrive by gilded barge. By 9am, most people were wandering back from the jetty towards the monastery where the Buddha statues would be housed for three nights. The journey from pagoda to pagoda and village to village was celebrated and a carpet of lotus flowers and rice popcorn was laid down in the street to prepare for the Buddha images' arrival.

Flower sellers were close by, to allow the wandering throngs of people to buy their flowers and make an offering to the golden tower. The children appeared especially joyful, laying, throwing and streaming the petals onto the already carpeted street.

Young and old, locals and tourists alike participated in the preparations with white, light pink and dark pink blossoms. The ethnic Pa-O ladies, in all black with colourful headdresses, were particularly noticeable among the crowd, the majority of whom were wearing traditional longyi. Most of the women wore thanaka on their faces to protect their skin from the sun, as well as for the aesthetic appeal.

Before the arrival of the Buddha images in Nyaungshwe, a golden archway and tower had been built at the edge of Phaungtaw Pyan Street, at the site of the Buddha procession's last stop before being taken to the monastery. The archway was adorned with 1-metre-long green and blue peacocks in each corner, with gold or white umbrellas also perched attentively at the pinnacle of all four corners.

We took our special seats on the second-floor balconies of the Golden Empress Hotel. We could hear the procession of the golden Buddha relics arriving from down the street but could not yet spot them. Traffic was stopped and anticipation for the final turn of the procession began.

Domestic Airlines

Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

Air KBZ (K7)
33-49,Corner of Bank Street & Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Tsp,Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport)
Fax: 372983

Air Mandalay (6T)
146, Dhammazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon
Tel : (Head Office) 501520, 525488, Fax: 525937. Airport: 533222~3, 09-73152853. Fax: 533223.

Asian Wings (AW)
No.34(A-1), Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Township,Yangon. Myanmar.
Tel: 951 516654, 532253, 09-731-35991~3.Fax: 951 532333

Yangon Airways(YH)
166, MMB Tower, Level 5, Upper Pansodan Rd, Mingalar Taung-nyunt Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264, Fax: 652 533.

st seats in the house

A procession passes through a golden archway in Nyaungshwe, carrying four Buddha images from Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, on October 22. *Pic: George Rajna*

First, I saw a line of ochre-robed monks. Then, a group dressed all in white playing a variety of musical instruments appeared. I was not sure what to expect next but for some reason my mind drifted to visions of the annual New Year's Day Rose Bowl Parade. I explained to our hosts about the Los Angeles parade and described how the floats are completely decorated in flowers. After seeing the carpet of lotus blossoms and popped rice at Inle Lake, I imagined the procession would one day include floats of flowers and marching bands similar to the Rose Bowl.

Next, a few young men carried four small golden chariots. Then a larger group of people with decorated umbrellas arrived. Suddenly I realised the Buddha images and relic were next.

I saw two lines of people pulling ropes. The carriage was full of gold, adorned with four large white umbrellas. The chariot that housed the Buddha images had a golden spire at the apex. I had been told that the images would stop for three minutes under this final tower. People gathered around to see the images up close. Then the procession moved to the monastery down the street.

Three times that afternoon and evening, we ventured into the monastery to see the worshippers gather and add gold leaf to the relics. Every time we were there, it was crowded with men, women and children watching. The central area was always full of men, young and old, adding more gold leaf to the images.

Everywhere in Myanmar, the amiable local people were welcoming and helpful, and at Inle Lake they explained to us different parts of the ceremony and procession. We were kindly invited into their homes. During one of the visits to the monastery, my travel partner George added gold leaf to the Buddha statues.

I felt honoured to be included in this important religious festival. I highly recommend a visit to Myanmar and Shan State, especially during the time of the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival in Nyaungshwe.

Lisa and George Rajna met online in 2007 and started travelling together internationally almost immediately. Lisa is a member of the Traveller's Century Club for travellers who have been to more than 100 countries. She and George are spending a sabbatical year in Southeast Asia. Follow their travels online at www.wesaidgotravel.com.

International Airlines

Air Asia (FD)
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Ground Flr, Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon. Tel: 251 885, 251 886.

Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

Air China (CA)
Building (2), corner of Pyay Rd and Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Hotel Yangon, 8 miles, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel : 666112, 655882.

Air India
75, Shwe Bon Thar St, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175

Bangkok Airways (PG)
#0305, 3rd Fl, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119

Malaysia Airlines (MH)
335/357, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124

Myanmar Airways International(8M)
08-02, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305

Silk Air(MI)
339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, 2nd Floor, Sakura Tower, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 255 287~9 , Fax: 255 290

Thai Airways (TG)
Room No. 1101, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255491~6 Fax : 255223

Vietnam Airlines (VN)
#1702, Sakura Tower 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon. Fax 255086.
Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr
YANGON TO BANGKOK			
MON	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
TUE	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
WED	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
THUR	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
FRI	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
SAT	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
SUN	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:55	16:50
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:45	21:40
YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
MON	MI 509	00:25	05:00
	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
TUE	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
WED	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
THUR	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
FRI	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
SAT	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
	MI 509	00:25	05:00
SUN	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
MON	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
TUE	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
WED	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
THUR	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
FRI	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
SAT	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
SUN	AK 859	08:30	12:50
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 851	18:50	23:05
YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU			
MON	CZ 3056	18:10	22:40
TUE	8M 711	08:40	13:15
WED	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
THUR	8M 711	08:40	13:15
FRI	CZ 3056	18:10	22:40
SAT	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
SUN	8M 711	08:40	13:15
YANGON TO TAIPEI			
MON	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
TUE	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
WED	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
THUR	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
FRI	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
SAT	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
SUN	CI 7916	11:00	04:35
YANGON TO KUNMING			
MON	MU 2032	09:40	12:50
TUE	CA 906	14:15	17:35
WED	MU 2032	09:40	12:50
	CA 906	14:15	17:35
THUR	CA 906	14:15	17:35
SAT	CA 906	14:15	17:35
SUN	MU 2032	09:40	12:50
	CA 906	14:15	17:35
YANGON TO KOLKATA			
MON	AI 234	14:05	17:10
FRI	AI 234	14:05	17:10
	AI 228	18:45	19:45
YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
SUN	W9 7607	14:50	16:20
THUR	W9 9607	14:50	16:20
YANGON TO HANOI			
MON	VN 956	19:10	21:30
WED	VN 956	19:10	21:30
FRI	VN 956	19:10	21:30
SAT	VN 956	19:10	21:30
SUN	VN 956	19:10	21:30
YANGON TO HO CHI MINH			
TUE	VN 942	14:25	17:10
THUR	VN 942	14:25	17:10
SUN	VN 942	14:25	17:10
YANGON TO GAYA			
MON	8M 601	09:00	10:20
	AI 234	14:05	15:25
WED	8M 601	09:00	10:20
FRI	8M 601	09:00	10:20
	AI 234	14:05	15:25
SAT	8M 601	09:00	10:20
YANGON TO DOHA			
MON	QR 619	08:00	11:45
TUE	QR 619	08:00	11:45
WED	QR 619	08:00	11:45
THUR	QR 619	08:00	11:45
FRI	QR 619	08:00	11:45
SAT	QR 619	08:00	11:45
SUN	QR 619	08:00	11:45
YANGON TO SEOUL			
TUE	KE 472	23:45	08:05+1
THUR	KE 472	23:45	08:05+1
SAT	KE 472	23:45	08:05+1
SUN	KE 472	23:45	08:05+1
YANGON TO TOKYO			
MON	NH 914	22:00	06:40
WED	NH 914	22:00	06:40
SAT	NH 914	22:00	06:40
BANGKOK TO YANGON			
MON	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
TUE	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
WED	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
THUR	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
FRI	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SAT	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SUN	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	FD 3770	07:15	08:00
	TG 303	07:55	08:50
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	8M 336	10:40	11:25
	TG 301	13:00	13:55
	FD 3772	16:50	17:35
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:50	18:45
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SINGAPORE TO YANGON			
MON	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
TUE	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
WED	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
THUR	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
FRI	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	22:10	23:35
SAT	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	22:10	23:35
SUN	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	22:10	23:35
KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
MON	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
TUE	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
WED	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
THU	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
FRI	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
SAT	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
SUN	AK 858	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 850	17:10	18:20
GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
MON	CZ 3055	15:15	17:05
TUE	8M 712	14:15	15:50
WED	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
THUR	8M 712	14:15	15:50
FRI	CZ 3055	15:15	17:05
SAT	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
SUN	8M 712	14:15	15:50
TAIPEI TO YANGON			
MON	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
TUE	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
WED	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
THUR	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
FRI	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
SAT	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
SUN	CI 7915	07:15	10:00
KUNMING TO YANGON			
MON	MU 2031	08:40	09:00
TUE	CA 905	12:40	13:15
WED	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	08:40	09:00
THUR	CA 905	12:40	13:15
SAT	CA 905	12:40	13:15
SUN	MU 2031	08:40	09:00
	CA 905	12:40	13:15
KOLKATA TO YANGON			
MON	AI 227	10:35	13:20
FRI	AI 227	10:35	13:20
	AI 223	13:30	18:00
CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
THUR	W9 9608	17:20	17:50
SUN	W9 9608	17:20	17:50
HANOI TO YANGON			
MON	VN 957	16:35	18:10
WED	VN 957	16:35	18:10
FRI	VN 957	16:35	18:10
SAT	VN 957	16:35	18:10
SUN	VN 957	16:35	18:10
HO CHI MINH TO YANGON			
TUE	VN 943	11:40	13:25
THUR	VN 943	11:40	13:25
SUN	VN 943	11:40	13:25
GAYA TO YANGON			
MON	8M 602	11:20	14:30
WED	8M 602	11:20	14:30
FRI	8M 602	11:20	14:30
	AI 233	15:00	18:00
SAT	8M 602	11:20	14:30
DOHA TO YANGON			
MON	QR 618	21:05	07:35
TUE	QR 618	21:05	07:35
WED	QR 618	21:05	07:35
THUR	QR 618	21:05	07:35
FRI	QR 618	21:05	07:35
SAT	QR 618	21:05	07:35
SUN	QR 618	21:05	07:35
SEOUL TO YANGON			
TUE	KE 471	18:40	22:15
THUR	KE 471	18:40	22:15
SAT	KE 471	18:40	22:15
SUN	KE 471	18:40	22:15
TOKYO TO YANGON			
MON	NH 913	11:10	17:05
WED	NH 913	11:10	17:05
SAT	NH 913	11:10	17:05

International

FD & AK = Air Asia	CA = Air China
TG = Thai Airways	IC = Indian Airlines Limited
8M = Myanmar Airways International	W9 = Air Bagan
	3K = Jet Star
PG = Bangkok Airways	AI = Air India
MI = Silk Air	QR = Qatar Airways
VN = Vietnam Airline	KE = Korea Airlines
MH = Malaysia Airlines	NH = All Nippon Airways
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways
CI = China Airlines	

Subject to change without notice

Applications open for Miss Myanmar 2013

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

WHILE Miss Myanmar International 2012 basks in the glory of her recent People's Choice and Miss Internet awards at the Miss International beauty pageant in Japan, preparations are already underway to choose the country's next representative at the international beauty contest.

The first Miss Myanmar International contest was held last March, with winner Nan Khin Zayyar going on to become a popular contestant at the Miss International 2012 pageant held last month in Okinawa, Japan.

Last week U Lin Htein, managing director of Myanmar Tourism Services, the event organiser of Miss Myanmar International 2013, announced that entry forms are now being accepted for the contest, with the finals slated for February 24, 2013.

"We greatly appreciate Nan Khin Zayyar's accomplishments, even though she faced many difficulties preparing for Japan because the notification period was so short. Next year, we want to make sure we prepare the contestants well in advance," he said.

U Lin Htein said the rules for next year's domestic contest will be same as this year, except that the minimum height requirement will be raised from 5 feet 3 inches, to 5 feet 5 inches to be in closer accord with international standards.

Daw Tin Moe Lwin, managing director of Talents and Models Agency, will serve as coach for the contestants. She said she has been happy to hear suggestions from audience members who watched this year's contest.

"Audience members sent me letters and emails asking how we would choose next year's Miss Myanmar International, and pointing out some weaknesses in this year's process. One of the main things they are pushing us to do is make sure the winner has enough preparation time to compete internationally," she said.

"With the advice of the public, I feel very proud to take part in the upcoming Miss Myanmar International contest, but I also feel more pressure to do it correctly this time."

The organisers will hold several competitive rounds to whittle the number of contestants down to 20 finalists, who will receive one month of training before the final contest.

"Last year almost all the contestants had very good in English and general knowledge beyond our hopes, but there are many girls like that in Myanmar," Daw Tin Moe Lwin said. "I would urge girls who have special abilities and skills to take part, so we can choose the best to represent our country."

Another event organiser and member of judging board, Daw Tin Mar Myint, said it was very important for contestants to submit their application forms by the deadline, December 31.

"We hold this contest to showcase the beauty and abilities of Myanmar girls, and we've seen many perfect girls. But last year some very good potential contestants didn't get the chance to be on stage because they missed the application deadline," she said.

Prizes for Miss Myanmar International 2013 will be as follows: First prize K3 million and the chance to represent Myanmar at the Miss International 2013 beauty pageant; first runner-up K2 million; and second runner-up K1 million. There will also be 15 consolation prizes of K200,000 each, plus gift vouchers.

The entrance fee is K5000, and application forms can be found online on the Miss Myanmar International page on Facebook. Forms can also be picked up at Myanmar Tourism Services, Room 1010, 10th Floor, Yuzana Tower, Shwegondine Road, Bahan township, Yangon.

For more information call 01-552-762, 01-552-642 or 09-7381-6010.

Events Flash

U Thu Kha show

Students of artist U Thu Kha (1918-20 07) are exhibiting works in remembrance of their teacher at New Treasure Art Gallery (84A Thanlwin Street, Bahan township, Yangon) from November 10 to 24. Funds from art sales will go to the Great Artist U Thu Kha Fund, which supports the social welfare of artists.

Mandalay cartoons

The work of cartoonists Herculean (Katha), Waiyan, Aung Maw, Pan Thu Aung, Nge Lay and others is on display in Mandalay at Thiri Art Gallery in Yarpyae Bookstore 2 (34th Street, between 80th and 81st streets) from November 15 to 20. Proceeds from art sales will go towards helping to those suffering in conflict zones in Kachin State.

Sleeping Sketches

Artist Quee will hold his first solo show, entitled "Sleeping Sketch Show", at Lawkanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, Kyauktada township) from November 23 to 30.

Illustration exhibition

An exhibition of magazine illustrations and paintings by late illustrators U Tin Aung Myint, U Maung Maung Thike, U San Toe and U Wathone will be held at Lawkanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Road) from November 16 to 21.

Model and fitness contest

The Myanmar Model Physique and Fitness Physique Competition will be held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on November 17, starting at 6pm. The band Lazy Club, along with several famous singers, will also perform at the event. Tickets cost K15,000, K10,000 and K7000 and are available at all City Mart branches.

Kon Zaw concert

A concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the start of pianist and songwriter U Kon Zaw's musical career will be held at the National Theatre in Yangon on November 23, starting at 6pm. Tickets are available for K5000, K10,000 and K15,000, and can be purchased at Taw Win Center and Ko Ko Nyi Nyi Beauty Salon.

Multimedia artfest

The International Multimedia Art Festival will be held at the French Institute (340 Pyay Road) from November 23 to 25, from 10am to 9pm daily. The event, organised by New Zero Art Space, will feature more than 80 video, installation and performance artists from around the world.

Artfest for women

The Third Blue Wind Multimedia Art Festival for female artists will be held in Yangon from November 23 to 27, with highlights including a directing workshop led by Finnish cinematographer Pekka Niskanen. Venue TBA. Email bluewindmyanmar@gmail.com for info.

Wedding fair

A wedding fair will be held under the theme "One and Only" in Ngapoli Pool Garden at Chatrium Hotel (40 Natmauk Road, Tarmwe township) on November 24, from 3pm to 9pm. The fair is open to everyone, and entry is free.

Nov 24 concert

Punk rockers Nov 24 will celebrate the name of their own band by holding a concert at Chithumyar Kyun in Kandawgyi Park on November 24, at 6pm. Side Effect and other bands will also perform. Entrance is free.

Fundraising concert

Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, Mee Mee Khel, Chit Thu Wai and other famous singers will perform on November 25, at a fundraising concert organised by the Civic Society Initiative youth charity group. The event will be held at 12/A May Kha Street, Mayangone township, from 4pm to 11pm. Tickets cost K4000 and are available at British Council Library. For more information call 254-685, 256-290 or 256-291, ext 3316.

Wine dinner

A Grandi Vini Italian Wine Dinner will be held at Sharky's Restaurant (Dhammazedi Road, Bahan township) on November 25 at 7pm. Tickets cost $60 a person. Email chad.quarto@gmail.com for information or to RSVP.

Jazz Bliss Festival

The third edition of the Jazz Bliss Festival — featuring musicians from Myanmar, France, Germany, Israel and the United States — will take place at various venues around Yangon from November 27 to December 2. The Sophie Alour Trio (France) will appear at the French Institute on Nov 27, while Charles Sahagian (US) and others will play at House of Memories on Nov 28. On Nov 29 The Tomer Bar Trio (Israel) will play at the French Institute, and on Nov 30 House of Memories will host Jan Klare and Band (Germany), as well as the Hein Tint Hsaing Waing traditional Myanmar ensemble. All events start at 6:30pm, and are free of charge. The festival will close with an open air concert featuring all the musicians at Seinn Lann Soe Pyay Garden on December 2, starting at 4pm.

IC concert

Iron Cross will perform with Yadana My at People's Park on November 28. Tickets are K15,000 and K8000.

Japanese film show

The film Tora-San to the Rescue, directed by Yamada Yoji, will be shown at the Assembly Hall of the Japanese embassy in Yangon on November 30, at 2:30 p.m. Free tickets (one per person) are available at the embassy from November 12 until the day of the screening, from 9:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm, Monday-Friday.

Fundraising fair

Hninzigone Home for the Aged (21 Kaba Aye Pagoda Road) will hold its 51st annual fundraising sale on December 1, featuring vendors selling food and merchandise, as well as games. The entrance fee is K200 a person. Shops open at 3pm, and the opening ceremony, led by singer Daw Yee Yee Thant, will occur at 5pm. A traditional theatre performance by the Gita Myin Moe troupe will start at 7pm.

Charity art fair

The British Council will hold a charity art fair for people living with HIV, at Kandawgyi Park on December 1 and 2, from 9am to 10pm daily. Entertainment will include drama shows, arts presentations, and live rock, pop, reggae and hip-hop music by famous singers.

YOUR STARS

By Astrologer
Aung Myin Kyaw

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Live according to your principles but try not to be inflexible. Carve out more spare time and consider diversifying your interests a little by trying something new.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Quick and correct action is essential this week. You will need to be diplomatic to maintain compatibility in social affairs, and time management will be also important. Beauty and love are on the horizon, but you will need to look into your heart to make an important decision.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Making the right decisions about love affairs requires spiritual development. Your ability to communicate with your peers will improve, and connecting with foreign acquaintances will give rise to new opportunities.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
Mind the difference between your thoughts and decisions, and what is right and wrong. Allow cloudy social affairs to dissipate to avoid trouble. Unexpected changes in love life could cause some heartache.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Remember that marriage is love plus responsibility, and love is a beautiful function of your heart that can't be governed by rational rules. Meditation may help you to relax and get to the heart of what is bothering you.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)
You might be hankering for a good change, and now is the right time to push forward. Close friends will prove helpful, and you will have the opportunity to strengthen some relationships.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
Careless talk at social events might sound impressive but could cause you trouble later. Tackle challenges like a lion, but remain alert for the approach of the hunter. Your natural abilities should not be used in the service of negative campaigns.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
Keep in mind that your analytical talent and tendency toward perfectionism might sometimes be interpreted as coldness or hardness. Do not feel shy about expressing your love, once you are certain of your feelings.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Find value in your wisdom. Maintaining a pleasant outlook and a sunny disposition are key to opening the golden gate to a better future. Avoid taking advantage of the weaknesses of others.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Perpetual social transformation is not something to be feared. Make sure you understand the true meaning of life before you make big changes. Your weak point might be your unwillingness to indulge in introspection.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Never say die, even after failure. A crisis can create ideal conditions for both disaster and opportunity. Inspiration must be kept alive in order for you to achieve your golden aspirations for the common welfare.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Making clever mistakes against the rules of social ethics and morality is not an excusable matter. Try to delete the negative and emphasise the positive by developing a new optimistic outlook.

For a personal reading contact Aung Myin Kyaw, 4th Floor, 113, Thamain Bayan Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Tel: 0973135632, Email: williameaste@gmail.com

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO GET A FREE AD

By Fax : 951-254158
By Email : classified@myanmartimes.com.mm
: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm
By Mail : 379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.

www.mmtimes.com

HOW TO GET MORE BUSINESS FROM AS LITTLE AS **K.5,000.**

BUY SPACE ON THESE PAGES
Call: **Khin Mon Mon Yi** - 951-392676, 392928
classified@myanmartimes.com.mm

www.mmtimes.com

General

Computer

COMPUTER Services (On Call) Networking & CCTV installation. Ph: 09-430-52564, 09- 730-85511

BASIC COMPUTER typing course (English and Myanmar within 14 days at Thuwunna) Basic Graphics Course for Beginner (1 month at Thuwunna) Basic Web Design Course for Beginner (2 months at Thuwunna) Ph : 09-732-15521

TRAVEL & TOUR Reservation Management System (customized), Golf Management System for Green fees (customized), Make for Customized software system. Ph: 09-730-75931, zinmyintzx@gmail.com

Education

GIVE your child the best possible start to life at Int'l Montessori Myanmar (English Education Center) Accredited by IMC Bangkok (Since 1991). Our Montessori curriculum includes: Practical live exercise, Sensorial training Language develop ment, Mathemathcs, Cultural Studies, Botany and Zoology, History, Creative Art, Music and Movement, Cooking, Physical Development, Social & Emotional Develop ment, Learning through play. 55(B), Po Sein Rd, Bahan, Tel: 546097, 546761. Email: imm.myn@ gmail.com

SPECIAL Teaching (Individual or Group) Mathematics for GCE, Edexcel IGCSE (O Level & A Level). Mathematics for SAT (Grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). Mathematics for Matric Exam. Teacher Kyi: BSc (Honours), MSc, MRes (Mathema tics). Ph: 09-731-48725.

EDUCATION for primary level English, Maths Science, Geography, History, English language Teacher Julie, Teacher Caroline ph:540156 email : candlelight295@gmail.com

GUIDE : A guide for IGCSE exams.Finished O levels and A levels with good results (all As). Able to guide through all the basic subjects including past papers. Ph: 09-516-6220.

TEACHERS who have got Teaching experien-ce in Singapore, Now back to Myanmar/Teaching for those who need Foreign teaching experience/ Study Guides for Grade 10, 11 & Int'l school (ISY, MISY, ILBC, Total, PISM, Crane, MLA, Diplomatic,RV), GCSE, SAT, IELTS, TOEFL, Sayar Bryan, ME (IT) 09-420-070692, Sayar Htet Ph: 09-215-0075, Korean & American Teachers available.

Expert Service

IF YOU NEED house, building apartment, Office Room to rent or buy please do contact ph: candlelight295 @ gmail.com

'S' CONSTRUCTION R.C.C/ Steel Buildings. High Quality/ Low Price/ Expert workers & Engineers. (Since 1989). Ph: 09-500-5817.

ESTATE KING Real Estate Services Warmly Welcome for the following services Leasing,buying&selling of Land, Bangalow, houses, apartment, condominium, Especially Industrial land and warehouses. You can contact us ;09-598-632791, 09-542-0181834.

Language

HLC: High Language Centre. Hindi, English & Myanmar. (writing, reading & speaking) by an expert teacher. Ph: 09-4210-98790.

FREE ENGLISH Conversation Opportunity You can participate in individual conversation with native English speakers . Call MBJ Office ph. No # 538 557, 537 307

SHAPING the way we teach : A little time spend to practice and easy study with reasonable price, English for general purpose using shaping the way we teach is here. Four skill with rounding program but no class is available. This program is suitable for all ages, adult, graduated and staffs etc. no knowledge in need of much vocabu-lary. Ask anytime. U Thant Zin : ph 09-503-5350 , 547442.

For Sale

(**NOT BRAND** But Excellent Quality) Apple Iphone Samung HTC LG Sony Huawei Nokia Ipad Ipod Iphone Notebook Macbook Pro Macbook Air Laptop Netbook All kind of Tablet & PSP contact to:09-517-8391

SONY 30HDD Digital Video Camera 25x Carl Zeiss Optical Zoom Lens, Touch Scerm LCD (Made in Japan) Sony Camera Bag look like brand new 430000 ks. Ph:095147480

iPhone 4G 32GB Black Official Unlock (Excellent Condition) Price : 320000 iPhone 4G 16GB Black Official Unlock (Excellent Condition) Price : 280000 Ph : 09450039844

CDMA 800 open Internet 731***** & huawai c8812 handset like new (3.9 lakhs) contact:09-514-7480

NISSAN Tiida Latio (S Type) [2006/09 Model] [AC, PS, PW, ABS, SRS, etc…] Ph : 09-44-800-6520

WiMax (Bagan), Broadband(Bagan), WiMax(Redlink), McWill. Ph : 09-44-800-6520

SAMSUNG Galaxy Mini 95% New With 8GB Memory Card & 2 Back Cover & Full Original Box & Accessories . Ph: 09-450-039844

TOYOTA BELTA (2010 model, Grade 4.5/B, Original TV, back camera, Very low mileages) Honda Fit (2009 model,Grade 4/B, smart edition, Original TV, back camera, Low mileages) Ph:09-518-3714, 09-732-03567

LAPTOP Product Of Singapore, HP Compaq 6910p Core2 Duo (2.5GHz),L2-(6M), Memory (2GB), HDD (160GB), ATI graphic, DVDR/W,14.1"Wide (1280x800), Wifi, bluetooth, fingerprint, Cardreader.1394,etc...2 Hrs+ Battery(260000 kyats) Ph: 0973165013

IPAD 1 64GB Wifi With Back Cover . Price : 230000. Ph: 09-450-039844

TOYOTA PROBOX, 2007 with Sun roof and TV, mileage 93000, good condition,1500 cc, just arrived from port. 131 lakhs. Ph: 09-431-69085, 01-703945.

FOR Sale: Top of the fange 2006 model Ranger Rover Vogue. Black, left-hand drive, 20-inch rims, supercharged, leaher seats, Middle East-spec upgraded cooling system. 74,000 original kms, nearly immaculate inside and out, Complete service history, Asking price: 1000 lakh, please contact 095082237 for more info.

IPHONE 3G 8GB (Very Good Condition) With Original Accessories Price : 90000 Samsung Galaxy Y Price : 65000 Ph : 09-450-039844

General

NEW VISION Art Gallery & Center is now enroll for its monthly classes . Available courses are Basic for children , General courses for adult: Basic, watercolor, portrait, acrylic color , oil. Also available for home teaching . No 132, lift no 4. Bagayar Rd, Sanchaung. Ph: 09-431-60359

INFINITY STORE : iPhone 4, 4s, and 5 ATT unlock 35,000, Verizon and Sprint Unlock. Iphone 5 Social Unlock 50,000 Itune card $20. Iphone 5, ipad mini also available. (160 Wardan Street near bahosi.) 212-455

Travel

I.S TRAVEL BKK is providing services in Thailand such as individual group tours packages, hotel reservation, transportat-ion, ticketing & meeting at the airport for individual and groups. For more information feel free to conatact at Ms. Ei Ei Min. Tel: 6686-1004802. Email: istravel12011@gmail.com

CHAUNG THA Beach (3 nights / 4 Days) - USD 150 per person, Ngwe saung Beach (3 Nights / 4 Days) - USD 175 per person. Rate are inclusive of : 2 Nights stay at deluxe sea view with daily breakfast at BOB Resort. (Ngwe Saung) 2 Nights stay at Superior Villa sea view with daily breakfast at Max Hotel. (Chaung Tha) Bus Ticket (Yangon - Ngwe Saung (or) Chaung Tha - Yangon) Reservation by mail : smm@yellowearthtravel.com by ph: 511756, 09-731-85574. Door to Door service

SWEET Seasons Travels & Tours is providing services such as individual/ group tour packages, Hotel reservation, transportation, D-form, ticketing & delivering for individuals, families & corporate companies. email: sales@ sweetseasonstours.com/ www. facebook. com/ sweetseasonstours, Ph: 09-511-7479, 09-730-86864, 09-506-2499.

Property

Housing for Rent

SHWE THAN LWIN Condo, 3600 Sqft, 5A/C, 2 Ph, US$ 3000, Call Maureen: 09-518-8320 (No Agts Pls).

(1)NEAR CHINA Embassy, 2 Storey, 4MBR, USD 7000 per month. (2) **Golden Valley,** 2 Storey, 4MBR, USD 7000 per month. (3) **Bahan**, Near Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel, 2 Storey, 1MBR, 2 Single Bed. USD 1500 per month. (4) **Parami**, Myintzu lane, 2 Storey, 4MBR, 1BR, 7AC, Ph, USD 2500 per month, Pls no agent Ph: 09-4201-14749.

(1) BAHAN, Golden Valley, 2 Storey, 4MBR, USD 4500 per month, (2)**Golden Valley**, 3½ Storey, 5MBR, USD 8000 per month, (3) **Near Singapore Embassy**, (50'x60'), 5 storey, 7 MBR, USD 6000 per month, (4) **Kabaraye Pagoda Rd**, 0.5 acre, 8 MBR, 2 Storey, USD 20000 per month, Pls no agent, Ph: 09-492-14276.

CHANTHA GONYAUNG Executive Condo miniums: Penthouse/ Rooms. 4 rooms, 5 rooms. Fully Furnished. Amazing serenity and satisfactory facilities, club restaurant, 24 hours electricity internet, cable TV, Brookers welcome. Ph:09-730-85811, 09-730-85844, 09-850-2055.

YANKIN : Shwe Ohne Pin Housing,Yan Shin Lane, 3Flr, 900Sqft , Fully furnished, Fully furniture, 3 A/C, 1 MBR, 2 SBR ,USD1000 , Near Sedona Hotel, Near Inya Lake & Yankin Center Supermarket, (Suitable to Rent for Foreigner), Ph : 09-432-00669(English) 09-731-35900(Myanmar)

RETAIL/ OFFICE SPACE available at Pearl Condominium. Please call 095200654.

BAHAN : New University Avenue Lane, Condo, 1Flr, 1500Sqft, Fully Furnished, Fully Furniture, 3 A/C, 1 MBR, 2 SBR,1PH, 8.5 Lakhs, (Suitable to Rent for Foreigner), Call: 09-432-00669.

BAHAN: Golden Valley , 2 Story Building, Fully Furnished, Fully Furniture, 2MB, 2SB, Ph, A/C, Good Neighborhood, 35 Lakhs, Foreigners welcome. Call - 09-432-00669.

Housingforsales

BAHAN, New University Ave Rd Condo, 2400 Sqft Fully Furn, Newly Apartment. 3500 Lakhs, US$3000. Call Maureen: 09-518-8320 (No Agts Pls).

9 MILES, Pyay Rd, Bonyarna Lane (50"x 70") garden with including house (3500 Lakhs) no agent please. Pls call : 09-730-28726, 09-421-029911.

Want to hire

OFFICE Dagon or Sanchaung area around Maynigone, Good decoration condo or apartment with unless 2 rooms, in good surrounding. No broker, Owner only Please ! Ph:09-7310-5842

Employment

Embassy

THE EMBASSY of the Republic of the Turkey is looking for (1) **Secretary**- 1post -Male/ Female - University Graduate, Age 25-40, at least 3 years experience in related field. Spoken in English & Myanmar, Good computer skill, (2) **Driver**- 1post (Male) – Age 25-40, can speak English, can work overtime and able to travel. Pls submit application CV & copies of educational certificate to 19(AB), Kan Yeik Thar St, Mayangone, Yangon before November 28, 2012 Tel : 01 662992

Place a FREE ad NOW!

UN Position

(THE UNITED NATIONS World Food Programme Myanmar) WFP Myanmar is seeking **Programme Assistant (VAM)** 1 post Grade : SC-5, Duty Station : Pang Kham. Minimum qualifications & experience: Minimum secondary school education, preferably supple mented by courses in a field related to sociology, econo mics, agriculture, geo graphy, nutrition, rural development and or similar relevant field. At least four years of progressively responsible support or secretarial work experience including at least two years in the field of food security, vulnerability analysis or other related field. At least one year at G4 level or equivalent. Experience assisting in survey design &implementation an added bonus.Fluency in both oral and written in English & Myanmar. Ability to communicate with Chinese/Local Ethnic Language will be advantaged. Pls send the applications with UN P-11 form to WFP HR Unit, 3rd Floor, Inya Lake Hotel, 37 KabaAye Pagoda Rd, Yangon, P.O. Box 650 or)email to Myanmar.vacancy@wfp.orgCOB 21 November 2012.

DAI

CALL FOR CVs : USAID/OTI PROGRAM
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Please read the entire advertisement.

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

Responsibilities : The Program Development Officer will:

- Advise USAID/OTI and the Chief of Party on the evolution of the local political, legal, and economic situation and on how to continuously adapt the program to ensure effectiveness
- Proactively identify grant opportunities and reactively respond to grant ideas from USAID/OTI; once the "yellow light" is given by USAID/OTI, fully develop grant ideas
- With the Grants Managers, Procurement/Logistics Officers, and grantees, develop budgets and activity timelines
- In consultation with the potential partner as well as with the Grants Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, devel-ops a monitoring and evaluation process for each grant.
- Collects information and data on the programmatic and imple-mentation progress of each grant, draft evaluations of completed grants for input to the activity database.
- Assists visiting USG and DAI staff and other dignitaries as appro-priate in scheduling and facilitation of meetings and in providing updates and briefings on the evolving situation in the field.
- Conduct final evaluation in collaboration with the M&E Officer

Qualifications :

- Bachelor's degree or higher in relevant field required.
- Minimum of 4 years of progressively responsible experience in an equivalent position required
- Relevant experience working on donor-funded projects in a related role and with demonstrated supervisory experience
- Strong computer skills (MS Office suite) required.
- Experience with grants or small grants under contract programs highly preferred.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills required
- English language fluency required.

Interested and qualified candidates should e-mail CV and cover letter to DAIRecruit@dai.com by November 30th, 2012. No phone inquiries will be accepted.

DAI

CALL FOR CVs: USAID/OTI PROGRAM
PROCUREMENT/LOGISTICS OFFICER

Please read the entire advertisement.

Background : DAI, an international consulting firm based in the United States, is currently accepting applications from candidates for Procurement/Logistics Officer positions to support the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)-funded program. The USAID/OTI program will work with civil society, the Government, and other stakeholders to foster more par-ticipatory and inclusive reform and peace processes.

Responsibilities: The Procurement/Logistics Officer will:

- Identify potential local vendors and suppliers
- Procure goods and services as outlined in grant agreements
- Provide support for day-to-day project office operations and logistics needs
- Maintain local procurement lists and schedules
- Solicit bids and quotes from vendors for items in adherence with project policies
- Monitor, track and expedite all project procurement activities and delivery status of goods/services
- Communicate with suppliers on processing and status of payments
- Confirm that all invoices have been received and submitted for payment
- Inform Operations & Logistics Specialist in a timely manner about potential or actual problems with procurement
- Provide updates to requestors
- Assist with coordination of goods transport
- Maintain filing system

Qualifications:

- University degree in relevant field preferred. Secondary school degree with extensive relevant experience can be substituted for university degree.
- Minimum of 2 years of experience in procurement and/or logistics required
- Relevant experience working on donor-funded projects in a related role
- Strong computer skills (MS Office suite) required.
- English language fluency required.

Interested and qualified candidates should e-mail CV and cover letter to DAIRecruit@dai.com by November 30th, 2012. No phone inquiries will be accepted.

FREEClassifieds
SEE OUR ALL NEW CLASSIFIED SECTION IN TODAY'S PAPER.

Employment

INGO Position

HelpAge International (Myanmar) is seeking qualified and experienced Myanmar nationals for the following positions: **IT and General Support** (1) Post Main responsibilities: Provide technical support and maintenance of all IT and other equipment including all networking and computers. Ensure timely maintenance of all computer peripheral equipment such as scanners, projectors and printers. Ensuring the IT and other asset list is updated on a regular basis. Support the implementation of the admin/office policy in the HelpAge International(Myanmar) office in Yangon. Knowledge and experience: A minimum of 2 years experience in IT System; a relevant university diploma or degree in computer/IT sciences is desirable; experience in both hardware and software requirements by local area networking (LAN), experience in the configuration of internal email system. Exclusive knowledge of Internet, proxy, pop mail, and TCPIP settings and windows applications. Good experience in Microsoft office suite. Ability to trouble-shoot and maintain both wireless and cable connections is required. Willing to learn newer technology and adduct. Must understand, follow and implement existing policies on IT equipment use and best practices. Applicants should submit their Application letter, current CV with complete contact details & 3 professional refereesand copy of any testimonies in a sealed envelope address to U Htwe Din, HR & Admin. Officer, HelpAge (Myanmar), No. 10, Kanbawza Ave., Shwetaunggya Ward One, Bahan Tsp., Yangon or email to Htwe.helpage@gmail.com. Deadline for all applications: **22 Nov 2012**. (Encouraged early submission of application as candidates can be hired before the deadline) Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

MALTESER Int'l is seeking **Medical Doctor** 3 Posts Short-term in Sittwe, Pauk Taw & Myabon, Rakhine State : Medical doctor with valid registration (SAMA), 2 years clinical practice, Experienced in emergency medical response is an asset, Can cope to a rather stressful working environment and work in a team with diverse background. Pls submit application incl: Cover letter, CV, photo, references to the nearest Malteser International ; Sittwe Programme Office: .85, U Uttama St, Kyaung Tat Lanne, Sittwe, Rakhine State, Email: hlamyintzu.malteser.nrs02@gmail.com Country Office: 14/15 -6F Pyae Taw yeik Tha St, Yankin, Yangon, Email: hr.co.malteser@gmail.com Closing date: 21st November' 2012. Ph: 09-862-2851, 657122 Ext: 14

THE INT'L HIV/AIDS Alliance is seeking **Administrative Support Officer :** excellent interpersonal skills and a positive attitude to working with PLHIV, sex workers and men who have sex with men. University degree , 3 years experience. Good knowledge of using Microsoft Office. Fluent Myanmar & English are essential. Pls submit application including a letter of interest and complete Curriculum Vitae to an Administrative Officer, Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance: 12/F, Pyi Thu St, 7 miles, Mayangone, Yangon or via email to ao-alliance@alliance.org.mm or ao.alliancemm@gmail.com by 22 November 2012.

MYANMAR Red Cross Society is seeking **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Officer** (DRR Unit), 1 Post: University degree or bachelor related to the position. 2 years experience. Effective English language. Very good Computer literacy. Pls submit a letter of application, relevant documents & CV, Copy of Recommendation letter from police station, Labor registrat ion card, Health certifi cate & one passport photo (Cover Letter CV documents only need to be sent via e-mail) to U Khin Maung Hla, Executive Director, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Nay Pyi Taw mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com before 23rd November 2012, pls visit to www.myanmar-redcross.org,

ALLIANCE IS seeking **Consultant :** must have understanding of HIV in Myanmar context, partnership in the civil society context, facilitation skills, excellent interpersonal skills . Pls send CV to the Country Director, Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance : 12/F, Pyi Thu St, 7 miles, Mayangone, by 20 November 2012. Or send to ao.alliance@gmail.com orao-alliance@alliance.org.mm Further information www. aidsalliance.org.

CARE Int'l in Myanmar is seeking **Project Manager** (PM) - 1 post (National), for Kokang Self Administrative Region, Northern Shan State: Diploma in Business Administrat ion, Private Sector Development, related field or substantial equivalent in profes sional experience. 2 years field experience in Myanmar. Pls send an application letter C.V., passport photo, with necessary documents to HR Manager, CARE Int'l in Myanmar, 17-A, Pyi Htaung Su St, Sayarsan Rd, Bahan. Email: recruitment@care.org. mm.

Local Position

FINANCE HEAD :The Finance Head shall serve as the lead and primary contact for finance & accounting, operational perfor mance, and budget and forecasting Job Functions Assists the GM in the formulation, implementation and fulfilment of corporate Policies, decisions and actions necessary for project operations, Prepares monthly financial statements. Manages project, Prepares the annual corporate budget, financial forecasts, and other strategic or special purpose studies, Stores corporate records in a secure and efficient manner, Supervises payroll and human resource activities. Qualifications: B.Com , CPA, Proficient in English, ten years experience in finance function, Must have an entrepreneurial mindset, is hard working and strong team player. Willing to travel between Yangon and Mandalay. Interested & qualified candidates should e-mail CV and cover letter to pmar@mpic.com.ph

(1)**CIVIL ENGINEERS** 20 Posts. (2) **Architects** 20 Posts. (3) **Mechani cal Engineers** 20 Posts. (4) **Electrical Engineers** 20 Posts. (5) **Chief Accountant** 2 Posts. (6) **Account ants** 10 Post. (7) **Admin Manager** 2 Posts. (8) **Admin** 5 Posts. Able to speak English fluency. Must have experience in the related jobs. Must be able to go travelling. For accountant position, experience with MICB and MFTB banks. Pls submitted CV form. Address: 483, 9th flr, Aye Yeik Thar Condo, Aye Yeik Thar (2) St, New University Avenue Rd, Bahan , Ph: 555952, 557947 ext: 8903,

(1). **CHIEF AUDITOR** -2 Posts : Age above 35, Degree holder are preferable (Professio nal Degree or equiva lent). 3 years experien ce, Able to work under pressure & time frame, Honest & well organized person & must be able to travel. Applicants must be willing to work in Retail business. (2). **Management Trainee** - 5 Posts: Age 20 ~ 27, Graduate with (B.Com / B.Econ/B.B.A/B.B.M), Must have good practice on Mathematic & Know ledge of Microsoft office soft ware package. Pls send CV with copies of academic certifi cates, Original & Update Police Clearance form, A copy of Family Registration. Form (10), 1 passport photo & a copy of NRC to – HR Manager : Busi ness Development Team Creation (Myanmar) Co., Ltd : 15~18, Thamain Bayan Rd, Myittar Yeik Mon Housing, Tarmwe, Ph: 09-202-7605.

SUCCESS POINT Services Co.,Ltd. is looking for (1). **Asst: Manager** - F 1 post : Any graduate with certifi cate of secretary are preferable. Age 23 ~ 30. 2 years experiences in Administration & secretary field. Skill full in English & Microsoft Office, Email & internet. Can travel locally. (2). **Sales & Marketing Executive** - M/F 1 post : Any graduate. Age 21 ~ 28. 2 years experience . Ability to use Microsoft office, internet & Email. Can travel locally if work is demanding. (3). **Office Staff** - F 1 post : Any graduate. Age 20 ~ 28. 1 or 2 years experience. Fresh graduates can apply. Ability to use Microsoft office, internet & Email. Can travel locally. Pls send current resume (describe working experience from graduation till present & expected salary) with updated photo in MS word format, scan/copy of Labour card, relevant certificates & docu ments, update police recommen dation letter and scan/copy of family registration form by Email to successpoint. mm @ gmail.com within 1 week. Ph: 09-421139038.

J O U R N A L I S T / Business Content Writer. Requirements: Able to write business news, Interviewing people by phone or in person, High standards of accuracy, Able to travel, Source for latest news in social networking media (such as FB, Tweeter, Blog and news websites), Preferably with 1-2 years of working experience in writing business news. Pls submit your application by emailing a detailed copy of updated resume in MS Word format to zuneiwin@gmail.com & maw. san@ gmail. com

PRE-SCHOOL Teacher (Chinese) A degree holder in pre-school education with at least 3 years' experience. The post requires planning, managing & executing teaching, course coordinating, programming, support ing key areas in education & social welfare. Good commu nication skills. Dynamic extracurri cular activities, which include dancing, singing, painting & story-telling. Age under 35. Salary : Negotiable. Application with CV, related documents & 1 photo. Email:preschool.ygn@gmail.com The HR manager 09-505-7367

MYANMAR GOLDEN Rock Int'l Co., Ltd (Canon) is seeking **sales & marketing assistant** M 3 posts & F 1 post : Age below 20 ~ 30, Any graduate (preferably in sales & marketing), 1 year experience in sales & marketing, Fluent in English, Energetic & outspoken with good communication skills, Car driving license preferred. Interested person, pls write in with CV, photocopies of relevant certificates & testimonials & contact telephone number with a nonreturnalbe recent passport size photo to Glory department : 6th Flr, FJVCC, Botah taung. Yangon.

BUSINESS Development Finance Company Ltd. is urgently looking for various position for newly developed SOHO Apartments. (1) **Assistant Manger** - 2 posts (2) **Office Staffs/ Receptionist** - 10 posts (3) **Housekeeping Manager** - 2 posts. (4) **Room Attendant** - 20 Posts. (5)**Public Attendant** - 15 posts. (6) **Security** - 10 Posts. (7) **Accountant** - 3 posts (8) **Sales and Marketing** - 5 posts. (9) **IT** Must have experience in Networking - 4 posts. For all positions, experience preferred. Good command of spoken and written English. Pls send resume to ECO Apartment - Ga 21, (Between Tower C & D) Pearl condo, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd Bahan, Ph: 557448 ext. 880. Email: bdfc-eco @ gmail.com.

VIBHAVADI HOSPITAL (Exclusive Myanmar Branch Office) is looking for: **Marketing & Sales Representative** (Medical Services) - F 1 post : A bachelor degree (OR) M.B.B.S degree holder, Age 25 ~ 35. Person with strong personality, able to work independently & able to travel frequently. 2 years experience in health & marketing environ ments. Good interpersonal & communication skills. Good knowledge of using computer(Microsoftoffice, Internet and Email). Good communi cation in verbal and written skills in both English and Myanmar. Pls apply with CV with 3 recent photos including expected salary, copy of National registration card, Labor registration card, Police recommen dation letter and other related educational references & experien-ces to Vibhavadi Hospital Exclusive Myanmar Branch Office : 214 (A-1), Waizayan tar Rd , Thingangyun or send mail to aquastarlwin @ gmail. com Closing date : 20th November 2012"

HORIZON INT'L Kindergarten is seeking **Swimming Teacher** F 1 post: Must have any bachelor degree, Must have a diploma or certificate of Basic swimming course, Must be able to speak English, Must have an experience in teaching Swimming at least one year, Must have a good communication with kids, Must be patient, kind, honest & reliable, Willing to work with us for a long time. The one who are interested can be applied along with the CV and cover letter to (5)A, Pho Sein Rd, Bahan, Tel: 548452

JOURNEYS TRAVEL Main Office is looking for a dynamic leader to fill in our operation team. (1) **Operation Manager** - M 1 post (salary 350000 -500000)**:** 3 years of travel industry work experience or 5 years guiding experience. Excellent communi cation (verbal & written) in English. Workable knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel software. Pls apply CV to : 53, Nagayon Pagoda Lane, Mayangon (Near Mayangon Labour Office). Tel: 656905, 656259, 09-519-2187. before 30, November. 2012.

QUARTO Products is seeking (1) **Driver** - M 1 Post: 10th Standard pass, Able to listen and speak in English (2) **Customer Service Assistant** - M/ F 1 post: Experience in Int'l hotels or food & wine knowledge preferred, Good command of English. (3) **Junior Sales Officer** - M/F 1 post: Graduate of Business manage ment, sales or marketing, Experience in retail sales a bonus but not a must outgoing with good written & spoken English, Basic computer & Math skills, (4) **Cleaner** -F 1 post : Good personality & health . Deadline : 20.11.2012 , Email : yu.quarto@gmail.com, yu@quarto-products.com. Pls apply with cover letter, CV with 2 recent photos with necessary documents to experience to 5 (B/D), Bayint Naung Lane (1), Thurein Yeik Mon Housing, Ywar Ma Curve, Hlaing, Ph: 530768, 530237.

(1) **RECRUITMENT Executive** - F 2 Posts : Age 23~27, Must have knowledge & interest in recruiting, In hand of HR Dip (or) Certificate, Must be able to use computer and good communication in English. (2) **Senior Marketing Executive** - F 2 Post : Any Graduate, Age 25~28, Can use computer, 3 years experience. (3) **Product Counselor** - 10 Posts : Any Graduate, Age 18~25, Knowledge in sales technique & customer communicat ion skills, Active attractive & good looking. With Attractive Salary. Bldg; (24/26), Rm (4-B/C), Race course condo, South Race Course St, Tamwe. Ph : 09-4200 33366~77,01 860 3886 ~7. Email : recruitment @devicemyanmar.com

AN ASST: TEACHER cum Secretary in an English language centre established in Lanmadaw. Ph: 221677

HOTEL OPENING in Yangon (1). **Hotel Manager** - 1 Post (2). **Front Office Supervisor**- 1 Post (3). **HK Supervisor** - 1 Post (4). **Food & Beverage Supervisor** - 1 Post (5). **Business Law Adviser** - 1 Post (6). **Chief Accountant** (CPA) - 1 Post (7). **Receptionist Staffs** (8). **Housekeeping Staffs (**9). **Kitchen Staffs** (10). **Waiters and Waitress** (11). **Maintainces Staffs** .Add : 126/A, Damazaydi Rd, Bahan. Tel : 09 730 94644, 524 844, Email :hotelbah@ gmail.com

ADVERTISING Agency looking for a **Creative Designer** - 1 year experience, Proficiency in design Software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign , Ability to be a team player and must be able to work under tight deadlines. Call : 09-5069346 for an appointment. Salary is negotiable.

THE GOVERNOR'S Residence Hotel, Yangon By Orient-Express is looking for (1) **Accountant :** Bachelor's degree in related field. Prefer LCCI Level III & ACCA Level III. Fluent in English. Computer skills on Microsoft word, Excel, e-mail/ Internet experiences is the must. 3 years of accounting experience in hotel industry. (2) **Assistant Storekeeper** : 3 years experience in related field in hotel industry. Must have a Bachelor's degree. Fluent in English. Computer skills on Microsoft Word, Excel. Prefer female. (3) **F & B Manager**: Takes in charge of all Food & Beverages operation and leads a team of 40 employees. 5 years experience in related field as F & B Manager is a plus. Fluent in English. Computer skills on Microsoft Packages. (4) **Safety and Security Manage**r : 3 years' experience as a Security Manager in hotel industry. College degree or equivalent work experience. Proficiency with Micro-soft Office products. Fluent in English. Pls submit detailed resume together with a recent photo and supporting documents attention to: HR Department : 35, Taw Win Rd, Dagon Tsp, Ph: 229860~63, Email: Kmu@governors-residence.com

---

DAI

CALL FOR CVs: USAID/OTI PROGRAM GRANTS MANAGER

Please read the entire advertisement.

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

Responsibilities: The Grants Manager will:

- In coordination with the Program Development Officers, participate in the revision of budgets for proposed grantee activities in order to improve the objectives, focus, efficiency and feasibility of grants to be approved.
- In consultation with the potential grantee partner as well as with the Program Development Officers and/or Procurement Specialists, develop a monitoring and evaluation process for inclusion in each grant that is likely to be approved.
- Work with Program Development Officers to ensure that the grant agreements accurately reflect approved activities.
- Draft all grant agreements for signature by the Chief of Party or her designee and ensure that all associated documentation such as the Proposal Competition and Grant Negotiation memos have been completed by the relevant parties; maintain all grant files
- Monitor the implementation progress of each grant along with the Procurement Specialists
- Draft grant-related correspondence (letters of receipt, issue letters, rejection letters, close-out letters)
- Collect information and data on the implementation progress of each grant and give input on implementation issues to the Program Development Officer for inclusion in the written evaluations of completed grants.
- Other duties as assigned by the Deputy Chief of Party that are consistent with the overall focus of the assignment.

Qualifications:

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

Interested and qualified candidates should e-mail CV and cover letter to DAIRecruit@dai.com by November 23rd, 2012. No phone inquiries will be accepted.

Power 7 Real Estate Service Co.,Ltd.
寶瓦7房地產中介服务

Warmly Welcome...!
Our Company Special service...
Rental-Single house, Condominium, appartment, office and wear house.
Please Contact us-09-4921 4276, 09-420 114749
Power7may@gmail.com

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey Vacancy Notice

Post Title

(1)Secretary - 1 Post (Male/Female)

- University Graduate
- Minimum 3 years experience in related field
- Age between 25-40
- Spoken in English and Myanmar
- Good computer skill
- Able to know secretarial procedure

(2)Driver - 1 post

- Driving License
- Minimum 3 years experience in related filed
- Age between 25-40
- Can Speak English
- Can work overtime and able to travel

Qualified and interested candidates should submit CV & copies of educational certificate to 19(AB), Kan Yeik Thar Street, Mayangone Tsp. Yangon before November 28, 2012. Tel : 01 662992

• Fax : (951) 254 158 • Email: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm • Tel: (951) 392 928, 253 642, 392 676 • www.mmtimes.com

The Essentials

EMBASSIES

Australia 88, Strand Road, Yangon. tel : 251810, 251797, 251798, 251809, 246462, 246463, fax: 246159

Bangladesh 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. tel: 515275, 526144, fax: 515273, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

Brazil 56, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 507225, 507251, 507482. fax: 507483. email: Administ.yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

Brunei 317/319, U Wizara Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. tel: 526985, 524285, fax: 512854 email: bruneiemb@bruneiemb.com.mm

Cambodia 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 549609, 540964, fax: 541462, email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

China 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 221280, 221281, 224025, 224097, 221926, fax: 227019, 228319

Egypt 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 222886, 222887, fax: 222865, email: egyembyangon@mptmail.net.mm

France 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 212178, 212520, 212523, 212528, 212532, fax: 212527, email: ambaf rance. rangoun@diplomatie.fr

Germany 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 548951, 548952, fax: 548899 email: info@rangun.diplo.de

India 545-547, Merchant Street, Yangon. tel: 391219, 388412, 243972, fax: 254086, 250164, 388414, email: indiaembassy @mptmail.net.mm

Indonesia 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 254465, 254469, 229750, fax: 254468, email: kukygn @indonesia.com.mm

Israel 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

Italy 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang.mail@esteri.it

Japan 100, Natmauk Road, Yangon. tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

Embassy of the **State of Kuwait** Chatrium Hotel, Rm: No.416, 418, 420, 422, 40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe Tsp, Tel: 544500.

North Korea 77C, Shin Saw Pu Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. tel: 512642, 510205, fax: 510206

South Korea 97 University Avenue, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 527142-4, 515190, fax: 513286, email: myanmar@mofat.go.kr

Lao A-1, Diplomatic Quarters, Tawwin Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. tel: 222482, fax: 227446, email: Laoembcab@mptmail. net.mm

Malaysia 82, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 220248, 220249, 220251, 220230, fax: 221840, email: mwkyangon@mptmail.net.mm

Nepal 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb @mptmail.net.mm

Pakistan A-4, diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Road, Yangon. tel: 222881 (Chancery Exchange) fax: 221147, email: pakistan@ myanmar.com.mm

Philippines 50, Sayasan Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 558149-151, fax: 558154, email: p.e.yangon@gmail.com

Russian 38, Sagawa Road, Yangon. tel: 241955, 254161, fax: 241953, email: rusinmyan@mptmail .net.mm

Serbia No. 114-A, Inya Road, P.O.Box No. 943-Yangon. tel: 515282, 515283, fax: 504274, email: serbemb@yangon.net.mm

Singapore 238, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 559001, fax: 559002, 559922, email: singemb_ ygn@_ sgmfa. gov.sg

Sri Lanka 34 Taw Win Road, Yangon. tel: 222812, fax: 221509, email: slembassy.yangon@gmail.com, info@slembyangon.org, www.slembyangon.org

Thailand 94 Pyay Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. tel: 226721, 226728, 226824, fax: 221713

United Kingdom 80 Kanna Road, Yangon. tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, 370863, 370864, 370865, fax: 370866

United States of America 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Yangon. tel: 536509, 535756, 538038, fax: 650306

Vietnam Building No. 72, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. tel: 511305, fax: 514897, email: vnemb myr@cybertech.net.mm

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung Tsp. tel : 01-536153, 516952, fax : 01-516951

UNITED NATIONS

ILO Liaison Officer Rm (M1212~1220), 12 Fl-A, Traders Hotel. 223, tel: 242 393, 242811. fax: 242594.

IOM 12th Flr, Traders Hotel, 223, tel: 252560 ext. 5002

UNAIDS Rm: (1223~1231), 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. tel: 252361, 252362, 252498. fax: 252364.

UNDCP 11-A, Malikha St, Mayangone tsp. tel: 666903, 664539. fax: 651334.

UNDP 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tel: 542910-19. fax: 292739.

UNFPA 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tsp. tel: 546029.

UNHCR 287, Pyay Rd, Sanchaung tsp. tel: 524022, 524024. fax 524031.

UNIAP Rm: 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel.tel: 254852, 254853.

UNIC 6, Natmauk St., BHN tel: 52910~19

UNICEF 14~15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, KTDA. tel: 375527~32, fax: 375552 email: unicef.yangon@unicef.org, www.unicef.org/myanmar.

UNODC 11-A, Malikha Rd., Ward 7, MYGN. tel: 666903, 660556, 660538, 660398, 664539, fax: 651334. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org www.unodc.org./myanmar/

UNOPS Inya Lake Hotel, 3rd floor, 37, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 951-657281~7. Fax: 657279.

UNRC 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE tel: 542911~19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator), fax: 292739, 544531.

WFP 3rd-flr, Inya Lake Hotel, 37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 657011~6 (6-lines) Ext: 2000.

WHO 12A Fl, Traders Hotel. tel:250583.

ASEAN Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Township. Ph: 225258.

FAO Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673. fax: 641561.

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance ☎tel: 295133.
Fire ☎tel: 191, 252011, 252022.
Police emergency ☎tel: 199.
Police headquarters ☎tel: 282541, 284764.
Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368
Traffic Control Branch ☎tel:298651
Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.
Immigration ☎tel: 286434.
Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390
Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605
Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.
Myanma Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.
Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.
Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.
Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.
Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.
Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.
Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.
Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

ELECTRICITY

Power Station ☎tel:414235

POST OFFICE

General Post Office
39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

YANGON PORT

Shipping (Coastal vessels) ☎tel: 382722

RAILWAYS

Railways information
☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.

General Listing

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS

Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon
40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe. tel: 544500. fax: 544400.

Clover hotel
No.7A, Wingabar Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : (951) 546313, 430245. 09-731-77781~4. Fax : (01) 546313. www.cloverhotel.asia. info@cloverhotel.asia

Confort Inn
4, Shweli Rd, Bet: Inya Rd & U Wisara Rd, Kamaryut, tel: 525781, 526872

Golden Aye Yeik Mon Hotel
4, Padauk Lane, 4th Word, Aye Yeik Mon Housing, Hlaing. tel: 681706.

Hotel Yangon
No. 91/93, 8th Mile Junction, Mayangone. tel : 01-667708, 667688.

Inya Lake Resort Hotel 37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

Orchid Hotel
91, Anawrahta street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, . Tel: 399930, 399990, 901061~65. E-mail: orchidhotel@myanmar.com.mm.

PANDA hotel
No. 205, Corner of Wadan Street & Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon. Myanmar. Tel: (95-1) 212850 ~ 3, 229358 ~ 61, Fax: (95-1) 212854. info@myanmarpandahotel.com http://www.myanmarpandahotel.com

Panorama Hotel
294-300, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Tsp. tel: 253077.

PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 250388. fax: 252478. email: enquiry.prygn@parkroyalhotels.com Website: parkroyalhotels.com.

Savoy Hotel
129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp. tel: 526289, 526298,

Seasons of Yangon Yangon Int'l Airport Compound. tel: 666699.

Sweet Hotel
73, Damazedi Road, San Chaung Tsp, Ph: 539152

Sedona Hotel
Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

Strand Hotel
92 Strand Rd. tel: 243377. fax: 289880.

Summit Parkview Hotel
350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966. fax: 227995.

Thamada Hotel
5, Alan Pya Phaya Rd, Dagon. tel: 243639, 243640, 243641.

Traders Hotel
223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.

Winner Inn
42, Than Lwin Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 503734, 524387. email: reservation@winnerinnmyanmar.com

Yangon YMCA
263, Mahabandoola Rd, Botataung Tsp. tel: 294128,

Yuzana Hotel
130, Shwegondaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, tel : 01-549600, 543367

Yuzana Garden Hotel
44, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, tel : 01-248944

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS (NAY PYI TAW)

ROYAL KUMUDRA HOTEL (Nay Pyi Taw)
Reservation Office (Yangon)
123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Township
Tel : 951- 255 819~838
Royal Kumudra Hotel, (Nay Pyi Taw)
Tel : 067- 414 177, 067- 4141 88
E-Mail: maxhotelsreservation@gmail.com
Managed by Max Hotels

ACCOMMODATION LONG TERM

Espace Avenir
No 523, Pyay Rd, Kamaryut. tel: 505213-222.

HAPPY HOMES
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Tel: 09-7349-4483, 09-4200-56994.
E-mail: aahappyhomes@gmail.com, http://www.happyhomesyangon.com

Golden Hill Towers
24-26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel: 558556. ghtower@mptmail.net.mm.

Marina Residence
8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 6506 51~4. fax: 650630.

MiCasa Hotel Apartments
17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp. tel: 650933. fax: 650960.

Sakura Residence
9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

The Grand Mee Ya Hta Executive Residence
372, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp. tel 951-256355 (25 lines).

Yangon City Villa (Residence)
Pyay Rd, 8 Mile Junction, MYGN, tel: 513101

ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

Charted Certified,
Certified Public Accountants. tel: 09-501-0563. drtinlatt@matglobal.com

AIR CONDITION

Chigo
No. 216, 38 Street (Upper), Kyauktada Tsp, tel : 373472

FRESH Air Conditioning Systems
The First Air conditioning systems designed to keep you fresh all day **GUNKUL Engineer supply Co., Ltd.**
No.437 (A), Pyay Road, Kamayut. P., O 11041 Yangon, Tel: +(95-1) 502016-18, Mandalay- Tel: 02-60933. Nay Pyi Taw- Tel: 067-420778, E-mail : sales.ac@freshaircon.com. URL: http://www.freshaircon.com

General
83-91, G-F, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Tsp, tel : 706223, 371906

ASTROLOGER

Saya Min Thoun Dara Astrologer
No(2), Maha Wizaya Pagoda North Stairway, Dagon Tsp. tel: 296184

BARS

50th Street
9/13, 50th street-lower, Botataung Tsp. Tel-397160.

Green Garden Beer Gallery Mini Zoo Karaweik Oo-Yin Kabar
Green Garden
Beer Gallery Mini Zoo, Karaweik Oo-Yin Kabar.

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp.
Tel: 01-527506
email: inyaone@gmail.com
www.inya1.com

Strand Bar 92, Strand Rd, Yangon, Myanmar. tel: 243377.fax: 243393, sales@thestrand.com.mm www.ghmhotels.com

the LOBBY BAR
Lobby Bar
PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel: 250388.

ADVERTISING

WE STARTED THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY IN MYANMAR SINCE 1991

SAIL MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS ADVERTISING

SAIL Marketing & Communications
Suite 403, Danathiha Center 790, Corner of Bogyoke Rd & Wadan Rd, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 211870, 224820, 2301195. Email: admin@advertising-myanmar.com www.advertising-myanmar.com

ART & CRAFT

Augustine's Antiques
25-B, Thirimingalar Street, (8) block, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel/Fax: 95-1-504290 Tel: 09-541-9459, 505409. Email: augustine@myanmar.com.mm.

BEAUTY & MASSAGE

Coréana Esthetic
Traders Hotel, 5th Floor Tel: 242828, Ext: Coreana. Beauty Plan, Corner of 77th St. & 31st St., Mandalay. Tel: 02-72506.

Inya Day Spa
16/2, Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 537907, 503375.

Lemon Day Spa
No. 96 F, Inya Road, Kamaryut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 514848, 09-732-08476. E.mail: lemondayspa.2011@gmail.com

Pamper Yourself at **Ladies' Spa**
Room - 4021, 3rd Floor, Taw Win Centre. Ph: 8600111 (Ext:4021), 09-803-2581.

La Source Beauty Spa
~80(A), Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp, tel: 512 380, 511 252. ~Sedona Hotel, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, tel: 666 900 www.lasourcebeautyspa.com

Spa & Boutique Fashion
No. 24, Inya Road, Kamaryut Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 951 534 654, 09-73200147 theredscarf99@gmail.com

BATTERY

Toyo Battery
ISO 9001:2008 (QMS)
Proven Technology Industry Co., Ltd.
No. FS 14, Bayintnaung Rd, Shwe Sabai Yeik Mon, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 951-951-701719~20, 527667, 531030, 531041, 530694. Fax: 527667, 531030. http//www.toyobatterymyanmar.com.

BOOK STORES

Innwa Book Store
No. 246, Rm.201/301, GF, Pansodan Street (Upper Block), Kyauktada Tsp. Tel. 389838, 243216, 374324, 514387

MYANMAR BOOK CENTRE
Nandawun Compound, No. 55, Baho Road, Corner of Baho Road and Ahlone Road, (near Eugenia Restaurant), Ahlone Township. tel: 212 409, 221 271. 214708 fax: 524580. email: info@myanmarbook.com

CAFÈS

Cafe de Angel
No.24, Baho Rd, Ahlone Tsp. Tel : 703449.

La Brasserie (International)
PARKROYAL Yangon. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel : 250388.

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp. Tel: 01-527506 email: inyaone@gmail.com www.inya1.com

Traders Café
Traders Hotel, Yangon. #223, Sule Pagoda Rd. Tel: 242828 ext: 6519

CHOCOLATE

Chocolate Heaven
Premium. Prestige. Luxury.
G-A, Ground Floor, Pearl Center, Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Tel: 09 500 6880 Email: chocolateheaven.sale@gmail.com

COLD STORAGE

Glover
Electrical Industries Pte., Ltd.
Est. 1992 in Myanmar Cold Storage Specialist, Solar Hot Water Storage Solutions.
Tel: 09-504-2196, 09-731-94828. E-mail: gei.ygn2@gmail.com, glover2812@gmail.com

CONSTRUCTION

CNQC Since 1952
From Singapore, one-stop construction service
No.22, U Chit Mg Housing, U Chit Mg Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Tel: +951554046, 09-4211-42233. Fax: +951554048 Email: cnqcmyanmar@gmail.com

Zamil Steel
total steel building solutions
No-5, Pyay Road, 7½ miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (95-1) 652502~04. Fax: (95-1) 650306. Email: zamilsteel@zamilsteel.com.mm

CONSULTING

Thura Swiss
Myanmar Research | Consulting | Technology
Shwe Hinthar B 307, 6 1/2 Miles, Pyay Rd., Yangon. Tel: +95 (0)1 654 730 info@thuraswiss.com www.thuraswiss.com

DUTY FREE

Dream Works Limited
Duty Free Airport Shopping
Yangon International Airport Arrival/Departure Tel: 662676 (Airport) Office: 17, 2nd street, Hlaing Yadanarmon Housing, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Tel: 500143, 500144, 500145.

EDUCATION CENTRE

MHR Business & Management Institute
905, 9th floor, Modern Iron Market(Thanzay Condo) Lanmadaw St. Tel: 707822.

NLEC
82 Anawrahta Rd, Corner of 39 St, Kyauktada Tsp. Tel: 250225.

ELECTRICAL

Glover
Electrical Industries Pte., Ltd.
Est. 1992 in Myanmar Electrical & Mechanical Contractors, Designers, Consultants.
Tel: 09-504-2196, 09-731-94828. E-mail: gei.ygn2@gmail.com, glover2812@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Hola Dance Club
No.94, Ground Floor, Brookin Street (Bogalay Zay Street), Opposite YWCA, Botataung Tsp, Yangon, Tel: 392625.

The Uranium Dance Studio
Pearl condo Bldg (C), 2nd flr, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 09-731-42624, 09-514-0404.

FITNESS CENTRE

Kettler Germany
Sports & Fitness
Grand Meeyahta Executive Residence. Shop 4-5, Ph: 256355, Ext: 3015, 3204 09 731 94684 email: natraysports@gmail.com

Paso Latino Dancing Studio Strictly Ballroom
Mr. Betchang
No.(272), Pyay Rd, DNH Tower, Rm No.(503), 5th flr, Sanchaung Tsp, Tel: 095041216

The Yangon GYM
Summit Parkview Hotel 350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966.

Traders Health Club.
Level 5, Traders Hotel Yangon#223 Sule Pagoda Rd, Tel: 951 242828 Ext: 6561

FLORAL SERVICES

Eternal Flowers
Floral Service & Gift Shop
No. 449, New University Avenue, Bahan Tsp. YGN. Tel: 541217, 559011, 09-860-2292.
Market Place By City Mart
Tel: 523840~43, 523845~46, Ext: 205.
Junction Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-421617~18 422012~15, Ext: 235. Res: 067-414813, 09-492-09039. Email : eternal@mptmail.net.mm

Rosana Floral & Gift
Flora Service & Gift Shop
No.173(B), West Shwegonedaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, YGN. Tel: 09.731 800 30
No.75/77, Yaw Min Gyi St.
Dagon Tsp, YGN. Tel: 09.431 432 34.
Home: 01-577 387,
Email: rosanafloral.ygn@gmail.com

Sandy's
Floral Service & Gift
Centre 102(A), Dhamazaydi Rd, Yangon.tel: 500142 Summit Parkview Hotel, tel: 211888, 211966 ext. 173 fax: 535376.email: sandy@sandymyanmar.com.mm.

FOAM SPRAY INSULATION

Cool Speed Foam Spray Insulation
Foam Spray Insulation
No-410, Ground Floor, Lower Pazuntaung Road, Pazuntaung Tsp, Yangon. Telefax : 01-203743, 09-730-26245, 09-500-7681. Hot Line-09-730-30825.

GAS COOKER & COOKER HOODS

Rinnai
Yangon : A-3, Aung San Stadium (North East Wing), Mingalartaungnyunt Tsp. Tel : 245543, 09-730-37772.
Mandalay : Room No.(B,C) (National Gas), 35th St, Btw 80th & 81st, Chanaye-tharzan Tsp. Tel : 09-680-3505, 02 34455, 36748, 71878.

GEMS & JEWELLERIES

Natural Gems of Myanmar
No. 30 (A), Pyay Road (7 mile), Mayangone Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 01-660397, 654398~9. E-mail: spgems.myanmar@gmail.com

GENERATORS

Winning Way
No. 589-592, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon-Pathein highway Road. Hlaing Tharyar tsp. Tel: 951-645178-182, 685199, Fax: 951-645211, 545278. e-mail: mkt-mti@winstrategic.com.mm

HEALTH SERVICES

Asia Pacific Centre for Medical and Dental Care & Aesthetic Centre
81, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tel: 548022, 542979, 553783, 09-732-16940, 09-730-56079. Email: asiapacific.myanmar@gmail.com.

Golden Lion Physiotheraphy Center
Professor Doctors,
(Made in USA) Equipment Physio-therapists, Fully Aircon, At China Town. 96, Latha Street , Latha Tsp, Yangon. Ph : 01-395544, 246365

Health Bridge Law Ka Net
Acupuncture, Medicine Massage, Foot Spa
Add:No,27(A),Ywa Ma Kyaung Street, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Tel: 01-511122, 526765.

โรงพยาบาล ปิยะเวท Piyavate Hospital Bangkok, Thailand
Piyavate Hospital (Bangkok) Myanmar Represent ative (Head office)
Grand Mee Yahta Executive Residences. No.372, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, PBDN. Ph: 256355, Ext: 3206. Hotline: 09-7377-7799. Email: piyavate@cnt.com.mm, piyavate.cnt@gmail.com, Website: www.piyavate.com

Vibhavadi Hospital
214. 1st Floor, Waizayanter Rd, Thingangyun Tsp.Email: vibhavadimyanmar @gmail.com, Hot line: 09-2011-772, 09-731-650-45, 09-86-250-86

PHIH-Specialist Clinic
FMI Centre (4th Floor) #380, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Tsp. tel: 243 010, 243 012, 243 013

Innovative Diagnostics
24 hours Laboratory & X-ray
No. 330, Ground Flr, Yangon Int'l Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 218388, (951) 218292 Fax: (951) 218389

MCOC Myanmar Clinical Oncology Centre
24 hours Cancer centre
No. 330, Yangon International Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 218388, 218292 Fax: (951) 218389

LEO medicare 24 hour Medical Assistance Services
24 hours Medical centre
No. 330, Ground Flr, Yangon Int'l Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. 24 hour Call Centre : (951) 218 445 Clinic : (959) 4921 8159 Office : (951) 218 446 Fax : (951) 218 389 www.leomedicare.com

HOME FURNISHING

Casabella One Stop Luxury Home Furnishing Center
22, Pyay Rd, 9 mile, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 660769, 664363.

LEGAL SERVICE

U Min Sein, BSc, RA, CPA.,RL Advocate of the Supreme Court 83/14 Pansodan St, Yangon. tel: 253 273. uminsein@mptmail.net.mm

MARINE COMMUNICATION & NAVIGATION

Top Marine Show Room & Services
Top Marine Show Room
No-385, Ground Floor, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon. Ph: 01-202782, 09-851-5597

Media & Advertising

MediaLane The Creative Agency
Intuitive Design, Advertising, Interior Decoration
Corporate logo/Identity/ Branding, Brochure/ Profile Booklet/ Catalogue/ Billboard, Corporate diary/ email newsletter/ annual reports, Magazine, journal advertisement and 3D presentation and detailed planning for any interior decoration works. Talk to us: (951) 430-897, 553-918 www.medialane.com.au 58B Myanma Gon Yaung Housing, Than Thu Mar Road, Tamwe, Yangon.

MARKET RESEARCH

MMRD Research Services
MMRD Research BLDG C, New Mingalar Market, 10-story BLDG, 8 & 9 flr, Coner of Mill St & Banyardala Rd, Mingalar Taungnyunt Tsp. Tel: 200326, 200846, 201350. Fax: 202425.

OFFICE FURNITURE

centure office furniture
Monday to Saturday (9am to 6pm)
No. 797, MAC Tower II, Rm -4, Ground Flr, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Lamadaw Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: (951) 212944 Ext: 303
sales.centuremyanmar@gmail.com
www.centure.in.th

eko Office Solution (Subsidiary of NatRay Co.,Ltd)
Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm
Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

EURO
Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm
Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

PAINT

AMERICAN CLAY Naturally Beautiful Walls
Bangkok
Phuket
Yangon
www.paintfx.asia

ICI Dulux let's colour
Sole Distributor For the Union of Myanmar Since 1995
Myanmar Golden Rock International Co.,Ltd.
Level 6, FJV Commercial Center, Botahtaung Tsp
Yangon. Ph-202092-96,
Fax: 202079
World's No.1 Paints & Coatings Company

JOTUN Jotun paints Thailand
TOP MARINE PAINT
No-410, Ground Floor, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon.
Ph: 09-851-5202

PRINTING

MAHARBANDULA Printing House
No. 177, U Chit Maung Road, Zay Kwayt Bus Stop, Bahan Tsp. Tel: (959) 4200 56166
Fax: (951) 860 3866
maharbandula1@gmail.com

PLEASURE CRUISES

Moby Dick Tours Co., Ltd. Islands Safari in the Mergui Archipelago
4 Days, 6 Days, 8 Days Trips
Tel: 95 1 202063, 202064
E-mail: info@islandsafarimergui.com. Website: www.islandsafarimergui.com

REAL ESTATE

Road to Mandalay
Myanmar Hotels & Cruises Ltd. Governor's Residence 39C, Taw Win Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: (951) 229860
fax: (951) 217361. email: RTMYGN@mptmail.net.mm
www.orient-express.com

Win
Real Estate Agency
Tel: 09-501-8250, 09-732-02480.
E-mail: realwin2012@gmail.com

REMOVALISTS

ASIAN TIGERS MOBILITY
Relocation Specialist
Rm 504, M.M.G Tower, #44/56, Kannar Rd, Botahtaung Tsp.
Tel: 250290, 252313.
Mail : info@asiantigers-myanmar.com

CROWN RELOCATIONS
Crown Worldwide
Movers Ltd 790, Rm 702, 7th Flr Danathiha Centre, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Lanmadaw. Tel: 223288, 210 670, 227650. ext: 702.
Fax: 229212. email: crownworldwide@mptmail.net.mm

LMSL Legendary Myanmar Int'l Shipping & Logistics Co. Ltd
Legendary Myanmar Int'l Shipping & Logistics Co., Ltd.
No-9, Rm (A-4), 3rd Flr, Kyaung St, Myaynigone, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 516827, 523653, 516795.
Mobile. 09-512-3049.
Email: legandarymyr@mptmail.net .mm
www.LMSL-shipping.com

DB SCHENKER
Schenker (Thai) Ltd. Yangon 59 A, U Lun Maung Street. 7 Mile Pyay Road, MYGN. tel: 667686, 666646.fax: 651250. email: schenker@mptmail.net.mm.

World Wide Movers Myanmar
Bo Sun Pat Tower, Bldg 608, Rm 6(B), Cor of Merchant Rd & Bo Sun Pat St, PBDN Tsp. Tel: 377263, 250582, 250032, 09-511-7876, 09-862-4563.

RESTAURANTS

ASHOKA® Indian Restaurant
Lunch/Dinner/Catering
555539, 536174

BLUE Oasis
Restaurant & Bar
No.430(A), Corner of Dhamazedi Rd & Golden Valley Rd, Building(2) Market Place (City Mart), Bahan Tsp, Yangon.
Tel : 01-523840(Ext-309), 09-73208079.

Black Canyon Coffee & International Thai Cuisine
330, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp.
Tel: 0980 21691, 395052.
email: blackcanyon@yangon. net.mm.

HEAVEN
Heaven Pizza
38/40, Bo Yar Nyunt St. Yaw Min Gyi Quarter, Dagon Township.
Tel: 09-855-1383

iNYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp.
Tel: 01-527506
email: inyaone@gmail.com
www.inya1.com

Kohaku Japanese Cuisine
Kohaku Japanese Restaurant
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon
40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Lobby Level,
Tel: 544500 Ext 6231

L'OPERA Italian Restaurant & Bar
Enchanting and Romantic, a Bliss on the Lake
62 D, U Tun Nyein Road, Mayangon Tsp, Yangon
Tel. 01 665 516, 660976
Mob. 09-4210-34875
operayangon@gmail.com
www.operayangon.com

LE PLANTEUR
22, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel 541997.
email: leplanteur@mptmail.net.mm.
http://leplanteur.net

monsoon restaurant & bar yangon
Monsoon Restaurant & Bar 85/87, Thein Byu Road, Botahtaung Tsp.
Tel: 295224, 09-501 5653.

Pansweltaw Express Cafe:
228, Ahlone Rd, Ahlone Tsp.
Tel: 215363
(1)-Rm-309, 3rd flr, Ocean, East Point Shopping Center, Pazundaung Tsp.
Tel:397900 Ext: 309.
(2)–G-Flr, Ocean North Point Shopping Center.
Tel:652959, 652960, Ext: 133.

Phoenix Court
Phoenix Court (Chinese)
PARKROYAL Yangon.
33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel: 250388.

Royal Garden
Nat Mauk Road, Kandaw Gyi Natural Park, Bahan Tsp. tel: 546202

Signature
Near U Htaung Bo Round, about Bahan Tsp.
tel: 546488, 543387.

Spicy Forest
Thai, Korean and European Food
Rm-051/Basement-1 (B1), Taw Win Center, Pyay Rd
Tel: 09-7320-9566, 01-8600111 (1151).

Summer Palace (Chinese) Restaurant
Level 2, Traders Hotel, #223, Sule Pagoda Road.
tel: 242828. ext:6483

THE CORRIANDER LEAF
Indian Fine Dining & Bar
Bldg No. 12, Yangon Int'l Compound, Ahlone Road.
Tel: 01-2302069, 09-431-85008, 09-731-60662.
sales@corrianderleaf.com

The Ritz Yangon
The Ritz Exclusive Lounge
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon
40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Ground Floor, Tel: 544500 Ext 6243, 6244

The Emporia
The Emporia Restaurant
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon
40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp. Lobby Level,
Tel: 544500 Ext 6294

Traders Gourmet Corner
Level 1, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Tsp.
Tel : 242828 ext : 6503

Traders Gallery Bar
Level 2, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road.
tel: 242 828. ext: 6433

Traders Lobby Lounge
Level 1, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road.
tel: 242 828. ext: 6456

Western Park
Thakhin Mya Park, Ahlone.
Tel: 225143

WASABI JAPANESE RESTAURANT
1. WASABI : No.20-B, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp,(Near MiCasa), Tel; 666781,09-503-9139
2. WASABI SUSHI : Market Place by City Mart (1st Floor). Tel; 09-430-67440
Myaynigone (City Mart)
Yankin Center (City Mart)
Junction Mawtin(City Mart)

SCHOOLS

HORIZON INT'L EDUCATION CENTER
Horizon Int'l School
25, Po Sein Road, Bahan Tsp, tel : 541085, 551795, 551796, 450396~7.
fax : 543926, email : contact@horizonmyanmar.com, www.horizon.com

ILBC
180, Thunandar 9th Lane, Thumingalar Housing, Thingungyung.tel: 562401.

ILBC IGCSE SCHOOL
No.(34), Laydauntkan Road, Tamwe Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 542982, 545720, 549106,545736,400156
Fax: 541040
Email: info@ilbc.net.mm
www.ilbcedu.com

International School Yangon
20, Shwe Taung Kyar St, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 512793.

Singapore International School RVi Academy YANGON
Admissions Office:
Than Lwin Campus: 44, Than Lwin Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 951-535433, 959-8503073.
Email: rviacademygn@rvcentre.com.sg
Website: www.rvcentre.com.sg

Yangon International School
Fully Accredited K-12 International Curriculum with ESL support
No.117,Thumingalar Housing, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.
Tel: 578171, 573149
www.yismyanmar.net
Yangon International School
New Early Childhood Center
Pan Hlaing Golf Estate Housing & U Tun Nyo Street, Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon.
Tel: 687701, 687702

Streamline Education
24, Myasabai Rd, Parami, Myangone Tsp. tel: 662304, 09-500-6916.

YANGON ACADEMY
No.35(b), Tatkatho Yeik Mon Housing,
New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon.
Tel: 951-549451, 557219, 540730.
www.yangon-academy.org

SOLAR SYSTEM

The Brightest AC CFL Bulb
21, 9th St, Lanmadaw Tsp. Ph: 212243, 216861, 216864. spsolarstation@gmail.com. www.spsolarstation.com

STEEL CONSTRUCTION

PEB STEEL BUILDINGS
PEB Steel Buildings
21/5, Thirimingalar Avenue, Kabaaye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 653410, 09-7325-7042, 09-515-0332, 09-4016-01948.
marketing@pebsteel.com.mm www.pebsteel.com.mm

SUPERMARKETS

Asia Light
106, Set Yone Rd.tel: 294074, 294083.

Capital Hyper Mart
14(E), Min Nandar Road, Dawbon Tsp. Ph: 553136.

City Mart
(Aung San Branch) tel: 253022, 294765.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(47th St Branch)
tel: 200026, 298746.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Junction 8 Branch)
tel: 650778.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(FMI City Branch)
tel: 682323.

City Mart
(Yankin Center Branch)
tel: 400284.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Myaynigone Branch)
tel: 510697.
(9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(Zawana Branch)
tel:564532.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Shwe Mya Yar Branch)
tel: 294063.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Chinatown Point Branch)
tel: 215560~63.
(9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(Junction Maw Tin Branch)
tel: 218159.
(9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Marketplace)
tel: 523840~43.
(9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(78th Brahch-Mandalay)
tel: 02-71467~9.
(9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

IKON Mart
IKON Trading Co., Ltd.
No.332, Pyay Rd, San Chaung P.O (11111), Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 95-1-535-783, 527705, 501429. Fax: 95-1-527705. Email: sales-ikon@myanmar.com.mm

Junction Mawtin
Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Cor of Wadan St. Lanmadaw.

Ocean Supercentre
(North Point), 9th Mile, Mayangone Tsp. Tel: 651 200, 652963.

Pick 'n' Pay Hyper Market
Bldg (A,B,C), (14~16), Shwe Mya Yar Housing, Mya Yar Gone St, Mingalartaungnyunt Tsp.
Tel: 206001~3, Fax: 9000199

Sein Gay Har
44, Pyay Rd, Dagon Tsp.
Tel: 383812, 379823.

Super 1 (Kyaikkasan)
65, Lay Daunt Kan St,
Tel: 545871~73

Victoria
Shwe Pone Nyet Yeik Mon, Bayint Naung Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. Tel : 515136.

TRAVEL AGENTS

asian trails
Asian Trails Tour Ltd
73 Pyay Rd, Dagon tsp.
tel: 211212, 223262.
fax: 211670. email: res@asiantrails.com.mm

Tour & Car Service
English Speaking Driver
Ph:09-510-7461,09-730-46093.

WATER TREATMENT

Amd
Commercial scale water treatment (Since 1997)
Tel: 01-2300086.
H/P: 09-5161431, 09-43126571.
39-B, Thazin Lane, Ahlone.

WATER HEATERS

ARISTON
The Global leader in Water Heaters
A/1, Aung San Stadium East Wing, Upper Pansodan Road.
Tel: 251033, 09-730-25281.

Rinnai
Water Heater
Same as Rinnai Gas cooker and cooker Hood
Showroom Address

WEB SERVICES

MEDIALANE THE CREATIVE AGENCY
World-class Web Services
Tailor-made design, Professional research & writing for Brochure/ Catalogue/e-Commerce website, Customised business web apps, online advertisement and anything online. Talk to us: (951) 430-897, 553-918
www.medialane.com.au
58B Myanma Gon Yaung Housing. Than Thu Mar Road, Tamwe, Yangon.

THE MYANMAR TIMES
advertising hotline
CALL: 392676, 392928

Golf and Asia's business frontier

COMMENT with Chris Jordan

If you believe that sport can be a metaphor for life's broader challenges and opportunities, then the first Luang Prabang Laos Open generated more than a paycheck and points on the ASEAN PGA Tour's tournament ladder for winner Thaworn Wiratchant. It also demonstrated the role sport can play as an agent of development.

This was the first professional golf tournament in Laos, and its second international sporting event following its hosting of the SEA Games in 2009. This in itself is a significant achievement and a milestone in the country's history.

As well as providing aspiring local golfers with exposure to the skills of some of the region's best golfing talent, vibrant images of an emergent Laos were broadcast to an audience abroad, generating awareness, profile, and a sense of progress for this ASEAN market that is eager to show the world its potential.

2012 has been named both *Visit Laos* and *Visit Luang Prabang* year, and it was by no coincidence that the tournament was titled after the latter, a notable UNESCO world heritage site. Although football is the number one sport here, the Laos government saw the event and golf – one of the fastest growing sports in Southeast Asia - as a natural fit in their strategy to promote tourism and investment in the country.

Still, the Luang Prabang Laos Open achieved more than that.

At the Luang Prabang Golf Club where the competition was being held from May 3 to 6, the private sector rubbed elbows with government officials who talked up the country's prospects and latent opportunities enthusiastically, as golfers from all across Southeast Asia teed off on a world-class course.

Most of the cost of staging the tournament was underwritten through sponsorships with local companies who have already begun to appreciate how sport can help them to grow their businesses.

For the fledgling Laos Golf Federation, an amateur body which manages the national golf program, the Luang Prabang Laos Open provided ample opportunity to learn the ins and outs of staging a professionally managed event, from daily operations to marketing the event. Even detailed technical aspects including live scoring were covered.

With all the buzz in the air that weekend, residents of Luang Prabang could not help but notice that if the visitor flow to the area increased, so too would the size and strength of the local economy.

Golf, it seems, was a good thing for this emerging market and the Laos government is already looking to add another golf tournament besides the Luang Prabang Laos Open, to their roster of sporting events.

Of course, this was one mid-scale event among the region's many carrying nowhere near the importance of foreign trade relationships or policy discussions. Nor is it an antidote for domestic issues relating to poverty, education, health or employment, although the tournament did create new jobs, and quite possibly launched a new industry too.

The Luang Prabang Laos Open mattered on many levels.

Governments around the world including in Myanmar are recognising the importance of hosting sporting events as a means to showcase a nation's assets and assert its relevance in the world, beyond the playing field. Just as the New Zealand government successfully ran a business engagement programme to coincide with the Rugby World Cup, and London invested heavily in business-based engagement throughout the recent Olympics, Myanmar is in a strong position to invest in the sports industry to further enhance its economy, while blowing the trumpet for national pride.

With a golf-playing history of over 100 years, one of the longest in Asia, and an abundance of public golf courses typically seen in developed countries such as Scotland and Australia, Myanmar could well have a bright future in golf as it opens its doors to the world, and the global economy. As global brands and multinational companies looking to target growth in Myanmar start using sports sponsorship to connect with consumers here - a proven way to engage with target audiences - more opportunities for hosting international golf tournaments and other major sporting events are likely to emerge.

While Myanmar's economy improves, supporting a new middle class leading more people to seek out golf, the country's rich heritage of existing golf courses is likely to fuel a new generation of golfing stars to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Kyi Hla Han and Zaw Moe.

The return of the Myanmar Open to the Asian Tour this year after a period of lapses, and outlook to the upcoming 2013 SEA Games, hosted in Myanmar, draws parallels to the country's political and economic rejuvenation.

If anyone has ever doubted the powerful influence of sport on a nation's confidence, then watching these regionally recognised sporting events play out and grow in number, should silence skeptics. They not only stand to help redefine Myanmar as a global destination, both for leisure and business, but along with other domestic sporting events these high profile tournaments could be the winning formula to support the nation's tourism and economic strategies.

It isn't just the biggest events like the Olympics or FIFA World Cup that can make an impact. Smaller events and in particular, golf tournaments like the Luang Prabang Laos Open have proven to be as significant in providing their hosts opportunities to grow their international profiles while building new industries and developing skills and experience in the domestic workforce.

Southeast Asia, with its favorable climate and abundance of world-class courses is a golfing paradise. The region shares a unique business culture that is deeply linked with the sport. Here, business engagement on the golf course is a way of life, and brands and companies who are looking to ASEAN for growth, will find the sport an ideal platform to connect with the rising middle-class here.

The ASEAN PGA Tour, officially sanctioned by the ASEAN Secretariat as the only recognized professional golf tour in Southeast Asia provides a career path for professional golfers from the region. Over the past few years, the governing body has made inroads beyond the mature golf markets of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand into the region's newly emerging economies including Laos and Vietnam, where golf and tourism are budding industries.

Currently, Myanmar doesn't host an ASEAN PGA Tour event, but there is no reason why it shouldn't particularly as it looks to grow its portfolio of international sporting events, and strengthen its position in the Southeast Asian sporting scene. Besides, Laos has just shown us all that smaller events too offer a multitude of benefits to its hosts, for a fraction of the investment required to stage a major international event.

Chris Jordan is the senior vice-president of golf for the World Sport Group, a Singapore based sports marketing, event management and media company.

Portuguese rider dies in Macau qualifier

HONG KONG – Portuguese motorcycle rider Luis Filipe de Sousa Carreira was killed in an accident during a qualifying session for the Macau Grand Prix, organisers said.

The organising committee said Carreira died from injuries sustained in a crash on the afternoon of November 15.

"No other rider was involved in the incident, which occurred at Fisherman's Bend ... The qualifying session was immediately red flagged," the committee said in a statement.

"As a result of the doctors' diagnosis, Mr. Carreira was immediately evacuated by ambulance to the hospital."

The 35-year-old from Lisbon died about 30 minutes later, it added.

"The Macau Grand Prix Committee has contacted the family and the members of the team, and the committee expresses its sincere condolences," it said.

"In over 60 years of the Grand Prix, the record can be considered acceptable," coordinator of the Macau Grand Prix committee Joao Manuel Costa Antunes told Hong Kong daily newspaper South China Morning Post.

"Those involved in motorsport and motorbikes know exactly what I'm saying," Antunes said, commenting on the Carreira incident, the second death of a motorbike rider at the track in seven years, and the second serious bike accident of the day.

Organisers did not provide further details to AFP.

Celebrated Italian motorbike rider 24-year-old Marco Simoncelli died last year in a crash that resulted in the cancellation of the Malaysian MotoGP at Sepag. – *AFP*

The remains of the motorbike of Portuguese rider Luis Filipe de Sousa Carreira who died in the qualifying session of the 46th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix is seen being towed away on November 15. *Pic: AFP*

Australia's Leisel Jones retires

SYDNEY – Australian triple Olympic gold medalist Leisel Jones retired on November 16 from swimming, saying she had achieved all she ever could in the sport after her fourth Games in London.

Champion breaststroker Jones, 27, said she had spent the months after the Olympics considering her future and decided to pull the plug on a career which spanned more than a dozen years.

"It's a very hard decision to come to and I took my time after London to make sure it was the right decision for me," she told reporters.

"I've come to the conclusion that I've ticked every single box that I have ever wanted to in my career and there is nothing more that I could ever achieve. So I am very happy with my career."

Jones said the decision had nothing to do with media criticism in the lead-up to London that the former world breaststroke record holder was overweight and not taking her fourth Olympics seriously.

"This decision came from a personal place," she said.

"I've done everything I've ever wanted; there is no more I could have achieved. I'm very happy with my London performance, it's better than I ever could have imagined."

Leisel Jones of the Australian Olympic team competing in the women's 100m breaststroke heats swimming event at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Ms Jones retired on November 16. *Pic: AFP*

Jones, the first Australian swimmer to qualify for four Olympics, won a silver medal in the 4x100m medley relay in London. She came fifth in the 100m breaststroke.

Over the course of her career she won nine Olympic medals, including three gold -- two in Beijing in 2008 in the 100m breaststroke and 4x100m medley and one in Athens in 2004 in the 4x100m medley.

She also bagged 10 Commonwealth Games gold medals, seven World Championship gold medals and 23 national long course titles.

Jones, who began swimming at the age of just two, said she would always have a warm place in her heart for swimming and would like to continue helping youngsters in the sport.

But she insisted: "I'm not one for comebacks."

Jones said she may study a psychology course at university next year.

– *AFP*

Midea®
Commercial Aircon

MDV®

Climate Solution for Green Environment

Mercury Min Enterprise Co.Ltd

No.22,U Chit Mg Housing, U Chit Mg Road, Tamwe Township
Yangon,Union of Myanmar
TEL: +95-1-554054,554052 FAX: +95-1-554052
Email:mercurymyanmar@gmail.com

TIMESSPORT

November 19 - 25, 2012

Myanmar boxers fight for every kyat

By Aung Si Hein

THE address of Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit, a traditional Myanmar boxing club, lists a street but makes no mention of a house number. This is not a typo.

The boxing club can be found on a narrow, unmarked street in North Okkalapa township. The boxers train there as they have for the past four years, not inside a gym, but on the street in the open air.

Eleven boxers from the club spill onto the street in the evenings. Some of them jump on car tires in workout routine that is as grueling as it is primitive. Others shadow box in Yangon's oppressive heat, their opponent the muggy smog filled air.

The boxers halt their sparring sessions and workouts when trishaws or cars drive down the street, quickly jogging to the sides of the road to let them pass. Their passion for the sport outweighs the financial hardships that have left their club homeless.

"When one of us has a call for a fight, the training is very intense for a month leading up to the fight. The rest of us will help him with his training. During these times, our training on the street will go until very late in the evening," Tun Tun, a well-known and successful boxer from Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit boxing club, said.

Boxers from the Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit boxing club spar in their makeshift gym on November 16. *Pic: Ko Taik*

Despite the poverty they face individually and as a club as a whole, they are familiar faces to Myanmar boxing fans, who know their names and greatest bouts.

They received a donation of gear from English boxer Sean Bardoe, who visited the street last year, but only a few boxing clubs in Myanmar are fortunate enough to have sponsorships.

The fact that they have never reached financial stability despite success in the ring can be attributed to many factors, but it mostly falls on the weak institutional organisation of Myanmar traditional boxing.

"I get about two million kyats (US$2,350) or just over one million for fighting in a match. Wunna [another boxer] gets about one million and the others much less depending on who they are fighting. On the other hand, we don't have matches every month. We can earn money only when there is a boxing match," Tun Tun said.

Despite the seemingly modest cost, some promoters and match organisers find Tun Tun's demand unreasonably high.

In a club like Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit boxers have an obligation to donate 20 percent of their earnings back to the club.

Injuries, an occupational hazard in the brutal sport, also cut into the paychecks. With no insurance, the fighters must pay their own medical bills.

"Once our boxer Nay Rubi suffered a fracture on the top of his hand," explained U Aung Win Maung, club trainer, "we treated him with a Chinese medical treatment. We pounded ginger and packed it all around his injury. Our club does not have a doctor, but we care for our boxers as best we can."

In Myanmar traditional boxing there are seven or eight undercard fights before the main bout. Each lasts three to four rounds but these lesser known boxers are only paid only about 50,000 Ks.

When matches are not held for long stretches, boxers from all the clubs find themselves resting more than training and hoping for a payday to arrive.

Lone Chaw, a prominent boxer from Thatti club, who is training Mr Bardoe, said that the lack of boxing matches in Myanmar results not only in reducing boxers' earning potential, but also hurts their motivation.

"I have gone to Japan three times to fight. The Japanese boxers are very fast, while we [Myanmar] are a bit stronger. I think they are good at quick movements because they have matches often, so they have to train constantly that has made them faster. On the contrary, we are heavy and slow because of being away from the ring too long," Lone Chaw said.

Australia still hoping for Beckham deal

SYDNEY – Australia's football federation said November 17 it had not given up hope that David Beckham will still play in Australia's A-League this season, despite denials from the former England captain's representatives.

Beckham's management team on November 16 played down talk of a potential move to Australia after Football Federation Australia said that the star player wanted to join an A-League club.

FFA chief executive David Gallop said there was still a chance that one of the biggest names in football could join the A-League for a guest stint from January.

The FFA said the 37-year-old has been in talks with Australian teams over a 10-game loan spell in the fledgling domestic competition.

Gallop, who recently took over as FFA chief executive, said there was no need for A-League clubs to be disheartened by the denials.

He said a similar situation arose earlier this year when Italian World Cup winner Alessandro Del Piero's management tried to hose down speculation linking him to Sydney FC.

"As we all know, that came to be," Gallop told local radio.

"So let's just see how this one plays out. It's certainly an exciting proposition - no one would deny that."

Gallop said there had been definite contact but the FFA would have preferred for negotiations with Beckham to have been done behind closed doors.

"At the mere mention of Beckham's name, it did leak out and there's been a mushroom of interest," he said.

"There would have to be a fair few hoops that would have to be jumped through and getting a deal with one of the clubs is the first step." Gallop said – *AFP*

Weightlifters successful despite shortened event

By Kyaw Zin Hlaing

MYANMAR junior weightlifters captured 15 medals at an international competition held in Yangon last week despite the event being cut short by a day for unspecified reasons.

The Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2012 were held at Yangon's Theinphyu stadium from November 8 to 11.

Twenty-six Myanmar weightlifters participated in the event, which was organised jointly by the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation and Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF).

Athletes from 22 Asian nations competed in what was Myanmar's first time hosting the event. The competition was originally scheduled to end on November 12 but the Asian Weightlifting Federation ordered it to be wrapped up a day early, according to a Myanmar Weightlifting Federation official who requested not to be named.

Participants and Myanmar organisers were unclear as to why the event was stopped.

Despite the truncated schedule, Myanmar's Ma Thuzar took home three gold medals in the 63 kilogram weight class. They were Myanmar's only golds. Others were grateful for the opportunity to compete on an international level.

"This is my first international match and I'm very happy with my achievements," said Ma Khine Khine, who won two silvers and one bronze in the 48 kilogram weight class.

"The competitors from China and Thailand are very strong and are also experienced athletes, so the tournament was very challenging for me. But I got a lot of experience at this tournament that is also a good preparation for the coming 27th Southeast Asian Games," she added.