THE MYANMAR TIMES 1200 Kyats

No. 660: January 7 - 13, 2013 Heartbeat of The Nation www.mmtimes.com

Myanmar marks 65th Independence Day









Above: Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address to mark Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw on January 4. Top left: Guards stand to attention during a flag-raising ceremony at People's Square in Yangon. Middle left: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the National League for Democracy head office in Yangon. Bottom left: Men smeared with used car oil play a ball game to celebrate Independence Day in Yangon. *Pics: AFP, Soe Than Lynn*

Kachin air strikes are 'self-defence', says govt

YANGON – The government said on January 4 that airstrikes targeting Kachin Independence Army soldiers in Kachin State were launched in self-defence, vowing "maximum restraint" in the face of growing international concern.

Fighting between the Tatmadaw and the KIA in the far north of the country has worsened in recent days.

In a statement, the government accused the KIA of blowing up railway tracks, roads and bridges, ambushing military columns and threatening local people.

"Due to these circumstances, the Tatmadaw had to take military action as self defence and in order to protect the safety of lives and properties of the people, safe and smooth transportation and peace and tranquillity of the region," the statement said.

"Even though [the] Tatmadaw had to take this action, it has exercised with maximum restraint in using force," it added.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in Kachin State since June 2011, when a 17-year ceasefire between the government and the KIA broke down, prompting months of fierce fighting with gun and artillery fire.

The United States said on January 2 it was "deeply troubled" by the recent use of air raids, while UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged Myanmar "to desist from any action that could endanger the lives of civilians living in the area or further intensify the conflict in the region".

The Kachin clashes, along with communal unrest in the western state of Rakhine, have overshadowed dramatic political changes since Myanmar's widely praised emergence from decades of army rule in early 2011.

Myanmar has reached tentative ceasefires with most of the other major ethnic rebel groups, but several rounds of talks with the Kachin have shown little tangible progress. The Kachin accuse the government of pushing dialogue only on the basis of a ceasefire and troop withdrawals, neglecting to address longstanding demands for greater political rights and complaints about Chinese-led construction of dams and other projects in the resource-rich region. – *AFP*

IN DEPTH
with
Aye Thidar Kyaw



More funds tipped for health and education

THE Union Government is likely to increase social spending in its proposed budget for the 2013-14 financial year, experts and members of parliament said last week.

More income from foreign investment and international aid will give the government greater flexibility in spending, they said, and reduce the need to print money to cover the deficit, which is a major source of inflation.

U Thurein Zaw, chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, said the government will prioritise health, education and rural development projects in the coming fiscal year, which begins on April 1. Defence expenditure should also be reduced, he said.

The 2012-13 budget saw an increase in health spending to 3 percent of the total budget, or K367 billion, up from 1.1pc. Education rose to 4.91pc, or K617 billion, from 4.13pc the previous year, according to official figures.

"Health and education expenditure basically doubled [last year] but the country is still developing so we have some limitations. As well as longer-term income-generation plans, we need to prioritise sectors that can provide high income in the short term to finance more expenditure, such as mining, manufacturing and transportation," he said.

"We expect to increase the [health and education sectors] so they match other countries but it can't happen immediately," he added.

The budget will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw during its sixth session, which begins this week in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ahead of the start of the session, the government's Myanmar Financial Commission met last week to finalise its proposed budget. Addressing a meeting on December 31, President U Thein Sein, the chairman of the commission, said there would be "incremental changes" in budget sharing between the national and regional governments.

The state-run *New Light of Myanmar* reported that coordination meetings were taking place between "the Union Government led by vice presidents and region/state chief

More page 4



Thailand's Abhisit: Dead in the water



NO one will be more glad to see the back of 2012 than Abhisit Vejjajiva, the former Thai prime minister and current leader of the opposition.

In November, a committee appointed by the defence minister declared that the former PM had forged documents to avoid military conscription.

As a result, the government is seeking to strip him of the rank he was given when teaching at an army academy and wants to make him to repay his salary.

Worse followed at the start of last month when Abhisit was charged with murder over the death of a taxi driver shot by troops during the Red Shirt protests in Bangkok in May 2010.

Abhisit was prime minister at that time and he authorised the military to use lethal force, if necessary, to disperse the demonstrators.

More than 90 people were killed, and after a lengthy investigation, Abhisit and his former deputy, Suthep Thaugsuban, have been charged with "giving orders that led to the deaths of others with intent".

In addition, the ruling Pheu Thai government has asked the Department of Special Investigation to check into alleged irregularities in the sale of rice when Abhisit was PM.

It appears that some officials, with or without his knowledge, may have violated the law against price collusion in the sale of rice and that this led to unfair competition in the bidding process.

Abhisit and Suthep also face allegations that they broke Thailand's Political Party Act when they made flood compensation donations during their term in office.

As if all this were not enough, Abhisit's Democrat Party is in disarray over who to choose as its candidate for the coming gubernatorial election in Bangkok.

The current city governor, Sukhumbhand Paribatra, is a Democrat and is keen to run again for a second term, but Abhisit and other party leaders regard him as far too wishy-washy and want to replace him.

They have sounded out the party's No 2, Korn Chatikavanij, but he has spurned the call because his goal is to take over the top slot and hopefully become the next PM.

With that in mind, he has no wish to be sidelined in the governor's residence for the next four years, because he's pretty sure that Abhisit will be gone by then.

A lot of others think so too. Not because of the murder charge, but because Abhisit's performance as opposition leader has been woeful.

A recent survey revealed that 18 months after being defeated in the 2010 general election, Abhisit's approval rating has sunk to 16 percent, while Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is up at 52pc.

The guy is dead in the water. That was evident last month when he was interviewed about the murder rap by the BBC's mild-mannered Mishal Husain.

Smiling boyishly, he began by saying everyone knew what had happened during the protests and knew that the charges against him were very far-fetched.

Mishal promptly retorted: "Why are they far-fetched? You were the person in power, you must have authorised the use of force in tearing down the protest camp."

Immediately, Abhisit looked rattled. And after admitting that he had indeed approved the use of live ammunition, he squirmed this way and that when she asked him if he regretted the decision.

All he would concede was that he was sorry that people had unfortunately died.

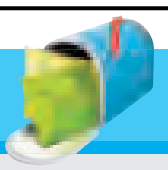
It was a cringing display, but that said, Abhisit is not going to be jailed, let alone executed, for the murder charge, because he is just too tight with the Thai establishment.

He will, however, be tied up fighting the charge and rebutting the other allegations, so his already tepid performance is likely to get even worse.

And if the Democrats do lose the Bangkok governorship on February 17, he will almost certainly be replaced by Korn soon afterwards.



The Mail Box



Dear editor,
For citizens, opposition groups and the Myanmar government, achieving peace will be vital for the success of the democratisation process in Myanmar. Many people from a range of sectors are committed to seeing ceasefires signed and turned into long-term peace agreements. They have shown their support for the peace process through a range of activities, from demonstrating to facilitating negotiations.

In terms of the Kachin conflict, one thing that needs to be considered is the importance of putting pressure on both sides to reach an agreement. It is as important as compromise and negotiation. Individuals and groups both inside and outside Myanmar need to pressure both the military and Kachin Independence Army to stop fighting. In this regard, the media, which increasingly has the power to shape opinions and perceptions, should focus on the conflict and ensure that equal pressure is placed on both sides to ensure peace is reached.

Regards,
Nan Khaing Sandar Lwin
Myanmar Egress

Got something to say? We want to hear from you. Address all correspondence to the Editor, *The Myanmar Times* (English). We endeavour to respond to all correspondence in a timely manner.

Address: 379-383, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada township, Yangon.
Telephone: (+951) 392-928, 253-642 Fax: (+951) 392-706
Email: your.myanmar.times@gmail.com



Fighting rages in Kachin State

By Cherry Thein

FIGHTING around key Kachin Independence Army positions near its Laiza headquarters continued last week, sources in the area reported, despite appeals from the United Nations and United States for restraint.

Residents in areas close to the conflict said that while Tatmadaw aircraft were regularly spotted on January 3 and 4 it was unclear whether they were hitting KIA positions as they did in late December.

On January 1, state media reported that the Tatmadaw had taken a key base from the KIA using airstrikes, prompting an international outcry.

"We're obviously deeply troubled by the increased violence," US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in Washington late on December 2.

"We are continuing to urge the government of Burma and the Kachin Independence Organisation to cease this conflict, to get to a real dialogue to address grievances as the government of Burma has been able to do in virtually all of the other conflict areas," Ms Nuland added.

Father Aung Dang from Bhamo township told *The Myanmar Times* on December 4 that fighting between the Tatmadaw and KIA has resulted in many deaths on both sides.

"The situation became more serious from last night (December 3). There were aircraft over Bhamo this morning. Myitkyina is currently safe but fighting affected Bhamo, Mansi, Daw Hpung Yang, Loije, upper Laiza and Pangwa," he said. "The death toll increased from both sides but we are not sure about civilians."

A KIO official also confirmed that there had been fighting in the Laiza area on December 4. Colonel James Lum Dau, a KIO deputy foreign affairs official, told news agency *AFP* earlier last week that the situation had been tense since the end of December. Serious fighting was occurring within 11 kilometres of Laiza on the China border, he said.

Despite reports of the KIO offering a temporary ceasefire during the Christmas period, severe fighting broke out during the final week of December, after the KIA refused to vacate an important supply route. The government has accused the KIA of ambushing its convoys on the Myitkyina-Bhamo Highway.

"The government army assaulted Bhawn Yae and KIA camp No 23. There are three main places for fighting. On December 28, three aircraft dropped bombs on Mone Laing along the Myitkyina-Bhamo road," said one resident in the area, who asked not to be named.

"There was also fighting in La Ja Yan. Some resident's houses were damaged," he said.

On December 30, Tatmadaw aircraft bombed point 771, one of the main KIA camps in eastern Kachin State, state-run news outlet *Myawaddy* said on January 1.

It said the Tatmadaw had not started the attacks and was only acting in self-defence.

Observers expressed concern for residents of camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) that are located near the centre of the fighting.

"The fighting is very close to the IDP camps but people don't have anywhere safe to go. They just stay there in fear," Father Aung Dang said, adding that it was not clear if there had been any casualties in the camps.

"It is hard to go Loije and Mansi from Bhamo because most bridges are destroyed and it is also hard to reach IDP camps," he said

Reverend Saboi Jum told *The Myanmar Times* on January 4 said he was concerned for civilians, particularly IDPs, in KIO-controlled areas.

"There is serious fighting between Laiza and Pangwa where there are some IDP camps. At a KIA meeting on December 17, they said they were worried about a government assault during Christmas and the New Year and it came true," he said.

He said the decision to attack the majority-Christian Kachin during the Christmas period would create stronger anti-government sentiment. "I don't want to say anything about [either side's actions] but I am just feeling so unhappy about the situation and pray to end the conflict," said Rev Saboi Jum, who is also chairman of the non-government organisation Shalom Foundation.

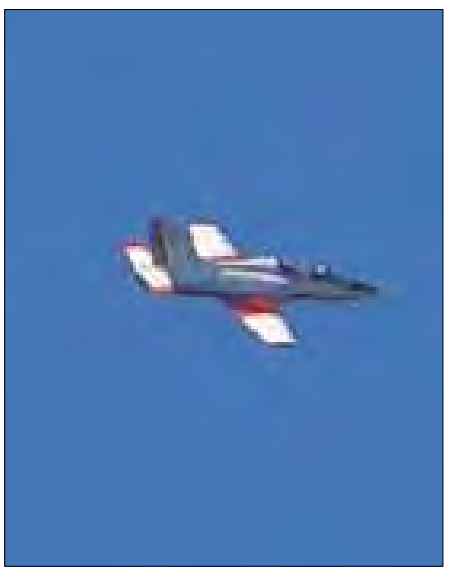
Kachin Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khat Htain Nan said on January 2 that it was hard to confirm detailed information about the latest flare-up in fighting.

However, he said the use of aircraft had changed the context of the conflict, adding that there was no place in a democratic country for such kind of fighting.

"The government and KIA have been fighting for years but it is not the answer," he said. "We get nothing from fighting but deaths on both sides. There should be a ceasefire first and then political dialogue.

"Peace discussions are useless unless both sides can trust each other and that won't happen while there is still conflict.

"We need a spirit of brotherhood, patience and loving kindness to build trust towards peace discussions. For both sides to come together for political dialogue with the intention of creating genuine peace, they will need to shake off their old attitudes and personal grudges," he said.





These pictures taken on December 28 and supplied by Kachin activists show the remains of the KIA's Alin Bwan 23 camp (right) between Pangwa and Laiza and a Tatmadaw aircraft in the Laiza area. *Pics: Supplied*

Former KIO official issues peace plea

KACHIN political Dr Tu Jar has warned the continued fighting can become a "black mark" on the image of the government and called for U Thein Sein's administration to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible.

In a statement released on January 1, Dr Tu Jar, a former vice chairman of the Kachin Indepedence Organisation (KIO), said the conflict brought "no benefits" for the country and its people, and the government risked alienating supporters both at home and abroad.

"As a person from Kachin State, I'd like to call for the government to substitute negotiation for fighting and please stop offensives as soon as possible," he said.

"The fighting in Kachin Sate can make a black mark against the image of the new government and can hamper its reforms at a time when local and foreign support for its efforts towards democracy and peace building is increasing."

He said the Kachin had fought on the frontlines with the Tatmadaw and "helped to save the union" when many ethnic armies rebelled against the central government in 1949. It had signed a ceasefire in 1994, participated in the National Convention and supported the 2010 election.

"The government should instantly end its fighting using a large numbers of troops not only attacking on land but also by air against the KIO and instead consider [the KIO's] contribution for the benefits of the country and the suffering of the people in the battle area," he said, adding that said 100,000 displaced people were "hostage" to the fighting and urgently needed more assistance.

Dr Tu Jar resigned from the KIO to form the Kachin State Progressive Party and contest the 2010 elections. However, the Union Election Commission did not allow the party to register because of its links to the KIO, which refused government demands to become a Border Guard Force under the Tatmadaw. – *Thomas Kean*

'Peace discussions are useless unless both sides trust each other and that won't happen while there is still conflict.'

Beijing raps government as conflict spills over into China

BEIJING – China has made a diplomatic complaint to Myanmar after three bombs landed on its territory during air attacks on Kachin Independence Army troops in Kachin State, just over their shared border, Beijing said last week.

"The Chinese side has launched representations with the Myanmar side requiring them to take effective and immediate measures to avoid the repetition of similar incidents," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on January 4.

The bombs landed just inside China on the evening of December 30 and caused no casualties, she told reporters at a regular media briefing.

Ms Hua refused to be drawn on whether China would mediate between the two sides in an effort to end a conflict which has overshadowed wider political reforms in the country.

"The issue concerning northern Myanmar is Myanmar's internal affair and we hope that the Myanmar government can appropriately deal with the issue through peaceful negotiation," the spokeswoman said. – *AFP*



THE MYANMAR TIMES
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
Online Editor – Justin Heifetz
jscohei@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



An Air Bagan Fokker-100 after it crashed near Heho Airport in southern Shan State on December 25. *Pic: AFP/Myawaddy*

Air crash investigation team looks to Australia for answers

By Zaw Win Than

AN INVESTIGATION into the fatal Air Bagan crash at Heho on Christmas Day could take longer than expected because experts in Singapore say they are unable to recover data from the plane's black box data recorder.

Instead, the device could be sent to Australia for analysis, said U Win Swe Tun, a deputy director general at the Department of Civil Aviation and head of a four-member team tasked with investigating the crash.

The team was established on December 26 to find out the cause of the crash, which resulted in two deaths and 11 people sustaining injuries.

U Win Swe Tun said the plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder had been found but were in poor condition, making recovery of data difficult.

"Initially we planned to send the black box to Singapore to find the result but the team from Singapore said it was not possible ... because the aircraft had been burned. So we are looking at using a team from Australia. We will send the black box to Australia and we will find the cause of the crash," U Win Swe Tun told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

He said Air Bagan was cooperating and supporting the investigation process. Air Bagan declined to comment on the investigation when contacted last week.

The Fokker-100 was carrying 71 people when it crashed and caught fire while attempting to land at Heho in southern Shan State at 8:51am on December 25 after taking off from Mandalay Airport.

A tour guide on the plane, Ma Nwe Lin Shein, died in the crash along with a motorcyclist, U Pyar, who was killed when the plane crashed into a road near Heho Airport.

The 11 people injured in the crash included four foreigners, the two pilots and a cyclist.

At a press conference at Yangon's Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on December 26, Air Bagan said the airline was fully insured for the crash.

The airline also said that it acquired the Fokker-100, which had been in operation since 1991, from British Midlands International Company in August 2005.

Air Bagan was formed in June 2004 and launched its first flights in November that year. It is a subsidiary of Htoo Group of Companies, owned by U Tay Za.

From page 1

health and

ministers on budget allocation ... in accord with the constitution".

Increased funding for regional governments "is required for ensuring harmonious development of the entire nation ... thereby contributing towards better living standards and increased per capita income", it said.

The report also quoted the president as saying that officials needed to ensure that unprofitable state-owned enterprises become "free from reliance on the state budget" and he called for "more effective public financial management".

While MPs will debate spending for 2013-14 during the sixth session, they will also examine the 2012-2013 budget closely to see whether allocated funds have been spent effectively, said Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Than.

"We will get next year's budget plan in the upcoming parliament session and we will also get the expenses for this year. We have to examine concerning areas and departments but not only on paper; we will also check the real situation through various means," he said.

"I think the government will change the upcoming budget to reflect the concerns of MPs in previous parliament sessions. I expect health and education expenditure will rise considerably," he said.

Despite a salary increase for some civil servants, the budget deficit declined in 2012-13 to K1.954 billion from about K2.159 billion because of reduced budgets for uneconomical state enterprises and a privatisation drive, according to official figures.

The budget deficit is about 4.2pc of gross domestic product this year. Both ministers and parliamentarians indicated they would try to keep the deficit under 5pc in 2013-14, with Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw saying at a workshop for MPs in November that budget deficits were sometimes necessary to spur economic development and growth.

U Thurein Zaw echoed this sentiment.

"Developing countries cannot evade budget deficits because we have to invest in infrastructure," he said, adding that Myanmar could also expect some support from developed countries and financial institutions for these projects.

"We shouldn't always be anxious about a budget deficit. The size of the deficit is the important thing, and [a deficit] can also have a [weakening] effect on the exchange rate, which would be useful for end users and farmers," U Win Than said.

Shan Nationalities Democratic Party member and Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Hsipaw U Ye Htun said high defence spending was less essential because the government could solve problems, such as the Kachin conflict, Rakhine State violence and Letpadaung mine protests, through negotiation and dialogue rather than military means.

He said health and education spending should become comparable to other countries in region. In 2010, ASEAN countries allocated from 16.7pc, in the Philippines, to 32.9pc, in Malaysia, of their budget to these sectors, Asian Development Bank figures show. The data set did not include figures for Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia or Myanmar.

"Budget contribution for some areas is much lower than it should be. We talked about that in the previous parliament sessions. Another thing is we need to reduce corruption but increase fees for some government services," he said, giving the example of a National Registration Card, which officially costs just K6 to issue.

"We also have to check government facts and figures, such as how much paddy is grown, timber exported or beans and pulses produced. We have to find out the actual figure" to accurately calculate GDP and the deficit-to-GDP ratio, he said.

TIGER BALM

TIGER BALM®



Tiger Balm (White) - instantly relieves Dizziness and ichiness from insect bites

Reg No. 1308AA899

Tiger Balm (Red) - instantly relieves Muscle pain and strains

Reg No. 1402AA1320

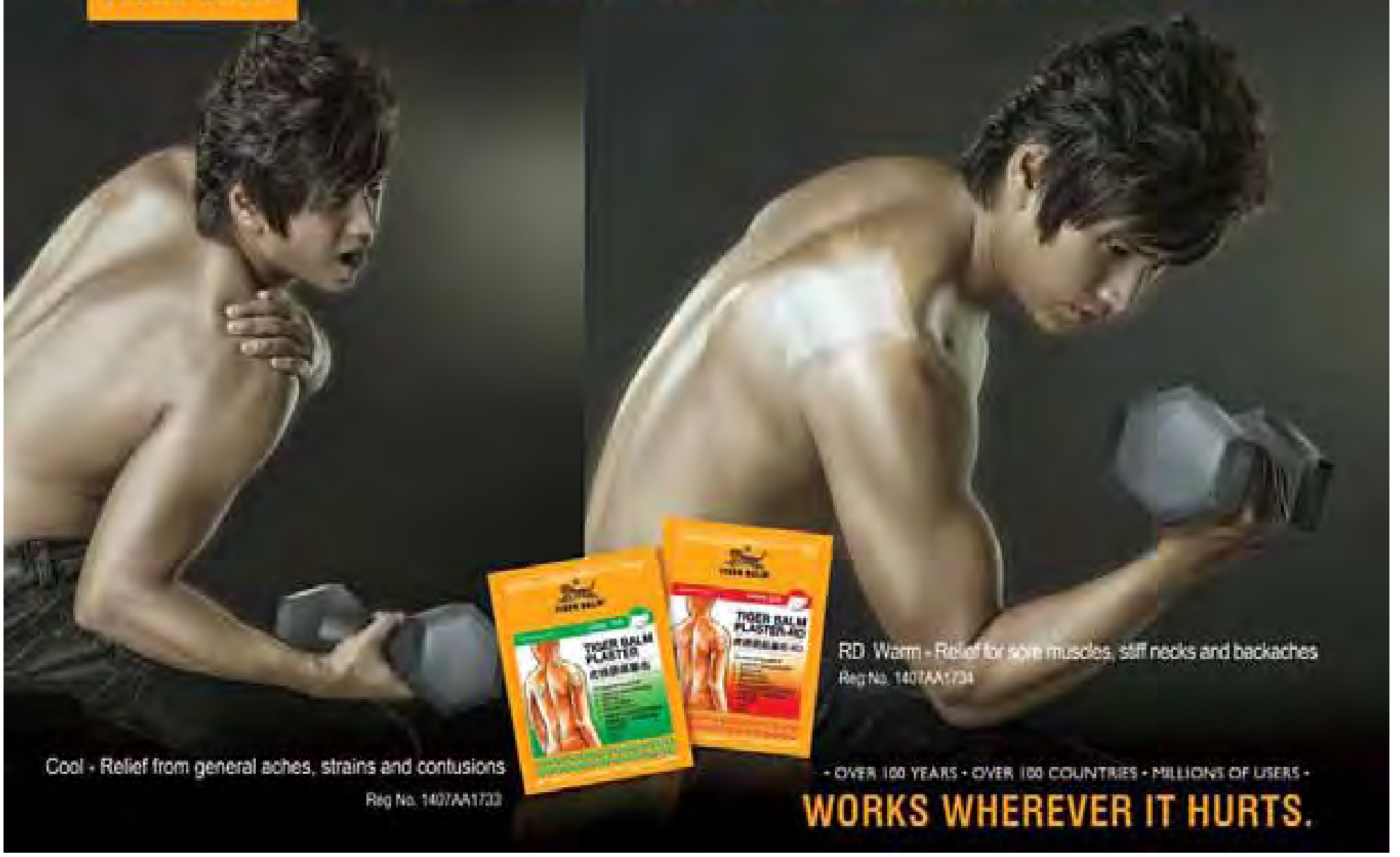
Tiger Balm (Liniments) - helps you from tiredness, stiffness and muscular pain

Reg No. 1308AA643

TIGER BALM

TIGER BALM® PLASTER

for quick, effective, muscular pain relief that actually lasts for hours!



Cool - Relief from general aches, strains and contusions

Reg No. 1407AA1733

RD Warm - Relief for sore muscles, stiff necks and backaches

Reg No. 1407AA1734

- OVER 100 YEARS - OVER 100 COUNTRIES - MILLIONS OF USERS -

WORKS WHEREVER IT HURTS.

Publish and be damned?

Uncertainty over readiness for daily newspapers following Dec 28 government announcement





A vendor sells journals on the streets of Yangon in January 2012. *Pic: Yadanar*

THE announcement was hailed around the world as a further sign of reform: Myanmar would again allow privately owned daily newspapers from April 1.

In the media industry, where companies and journalists have lobbied hard for the right to publish daily rather than weekly, the news was greeted with a mixture of relief and trepidation, as the reality of compiling, printing and distributing a newspaper every 24 hours sunk in.

Even the editor-in-chief of one of the nation's highest-circulation publications, U Thaung Su Nyein of *7Day News Journal*, was unsure whether his team would be ready by April. He admits he was surprised that the announcement came so soon.

"Daily takes a lot of work – finance, human resources, machinery, more procedures and also responsibilities. We will try our best to be able to run daily by April. But things might not go well for whatever reasons. We might start later than that," said U Thaung Su Nyein, who is also managing director of the *7Days*' publisher, Information Matrix.

'I am confident that we have enough time to prepare ... this is going to be a tremendously exciting time for our organisation.'

Not all papers will make the transition from weekly to daily, and he said the weekly market would become more competitive.

"More people will read daily newspaper so only those strong weekly journals with solid news and opinion will remain. Small and uninteresting journals will get even fewer readers."

But Mr Ross Dunkley, managing director of Myanmar Consolidated Media, which publishes *The Myanmar Times* in English and Myanmar, said he was confident his organisation would make the transition successfully.

"We have known for some time that [the announcement] was just around the corner and have commenced our planning," he said.

"I'm confident that we have enough time to prepare ourselves. … This is going to be a tremendously exciting period for our organisation and we will pursue our goal. We've waited for this for a long time."

While reports have suggested there could soon be eight to 10 daily newspapers, Mr Dunkley said there was "not room for 10 players or even half of that number".

"I predict at the end of year one there will be no more than three left in the game," he said. "I'd say don't be in this game if you can't afford to spend US$2 million or more. It wouldn't be hard to drop $5 million before you saw some light."

For journals lacking human or financial resources to go daily alone, there is the option of combining with like-minded publishers or focusing on smaller geographic areas, such as a single city or state and region. Dr Myo Min Htike, the owner of *Venus News Journal*, said he had already begun discussions with "some friends who share the same spirit and eagerness to publish daily".

"We might combine to be a big publication but are still just discussing it at the moment," he said. "The main challenges are capital, the staff capacity, printing and distribution."

Even if his publication remains a weekly, he said he has plans to reform its contents to remain competitive in the daily environment.

"When daily private newspapers come out, I will definitely change our style. At the moment we focus mostly just on news."

Exile media organisations face the challenge of gaining a foothold against well-established players in an industry that is about to undergo its biggest upheaval since private publishers returned after 1988.

Ye Ni, the editor of the Myanmar edition of *The Irrawaddy Magazine*, agreed that the media companies with the best access to capital and well established distribution networks would have the initial advantage in the daily era. But he also said there would be opportunities for smaller players provided they are willing to work together.

"Some media businessmen are publishing different types of journals: for example, pop, sport, international news, business and local news. They might combine all journals into a daily newspaper," he said.

"The biggest challenge will be managing with the pressure and stress of publishing a daily newspaper on time. Now they are only facing a weekly deadline."

Some organisations say they believe they are ready to make the transition. Indeed, a number have been preparing for months in anticipation of the December 28 announcement.

But all agreed that distributing a newspaper across the country each day would be almost impossible with the current distribution systems, particularly when almost all staff are confined to offices in Yangon and Mandalay.

"I can say editorial staff in our newsroom are ready but the thing that we all will face is lack of infrastructure. We will definitely face the problem for distribution," said U Kyaw Min Swe, editor-in-chief of *The Voice Weekly*.

"The transportation system needs to be upgraded to make it possible. The second thing is we have to have branches in every township, like the state newspapers already have. And the internet connection is still quite slow if we try to distribute it electronically," he asid.

The Voice is considering publishing as an evening newspaper or focusing only on a few cities to make it possible to get copies out to readers in time, he said.

"For example, like the *City* newspaper [published by Yangon City Development Committee] that only focuses on Yangon city areas. This kind of evening newspaper is small circulation and it does not need to reach other cities. But if people in some other cities want to read it, it can get to them by the next day," he said.

Competing with the much-maligned state press may be more difficult than many anticipate.

"We cannot compete on price with the state-run newspapers (K50 a day) because the government is subsidising all three," U Kyaw Min Swe said.

"Then there's the quality of the print paper: Readers in Myanmar aren't used to newsprint and recycled paper, which are suitable for a daily newspaper. Most local journals are using wood-free print paper, which is more expensive.

"We have to introduce [readers] to the style of international standard newspaper style. *Myanmar Times* is already with newsprint for readers … *The Voice* is also using Burma print paper and we only use wood-free for advertisements."

'I can say editorial staff in the newsroom are ready but the thing that we all will face is the problem for distribution.'

Another challenge will be improving cooperation between the media industry and other stakeholders, particularly government officials, to avoid problems such as court cases, said U Thaung Su Nyein.

"Both [the media industry and government] are weak in cooperation. Both sides need to change," he said.

But he said he believed that daily newspaper would help to drive forward Myanmar's transition to democracy. "Everyone hopes to see a transparent and fair election in 2015, and a government and hluttaws that represent people," he said. "I think this [announcement] is a good thing as daily newspapers can help shape the current government into the government that people want."

Mr Dunkley said the decision to allow daily newspapers showed that U Aung Kyi was "the right man" for the job of information minister. "I find the new minister to be a breath of fresh air. [He] has gone about resuscitating a moribund ministry with the right attitude."

The Ministry of Information announced on December 28 that it would allow eligible individuals and organisations to publish private daily newspapers from April 1, not only in Myanmar but also foreign and minority languages.

There are a number of criteria that could prove troublesome for publishers, particularly that applicants "must submit community standard including purpose of publication, targeted readers, newspaper types, organisational set-up, code of ethics, code of conduct, code of practices, both in Myanmar and English languages".

SINGAPORE
THE BUSINESS TIMES THE STRAITS TIMES
INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS
SUBSCRIBE NOW!!
RVI CENTRE
CALL : 01-541 886, 551 697, 09-731 84450
E-mail : rvcentre.read@gmail.com

Now Accepting Applications for the Pre-Collegiate Program
Applications Due by 16 January, Free Entrance Exam on 19 January.
Our purpose is to enable bright and highly motivated students to learn the way students abroad learn, win sufficient scholarships, earn bachelor's degrees, and return home to begin their careers in Myanmar.
Contact : Pre-Collegiate Program, Diplomatic School, Yangon
65 Shin Saw Pu Lan, Sanchaung (95-1) 505-832, & 09-730 79 848, precollegiate@gmail.com

NLD assembly rescheduled for Feb

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

THE National League for Democracy will hold its first national assembly in the first week of February, a spokesperson said last week, more than a month later than originally expected.

Township-level assemblies will soon be completed to select delegates for district, regional and finally national assemblies, central executive committee member U Nyan Win said on January 2.

"Except in Kachin State, almost all townships around the whole nation are holding their assemblies now," he said. "There are many townships so this step takes quite a while to organise but the other levels will be quite straightforward. We expect they will take only a short time and then the nationwide assembly will start in the first week of February," he said.

It is not clear how long the national assembly will run for but one of the main tasks will be updating and clarifying the party's policies.

He said the assemblies were cancelled in some areas of Kachin State because of the fighting between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army.

However, the selection process has been controversial, with some grassroots members unhappy at the central committee selecting members to organise the township assemblies.

The most significant disputes occurred in Ayeyarwady, Magwe and Mandalay regions. In Labutta township, more than 100 members, including a victorious NLD representative from the 1990 election, resigned in October because they were unhappy at what they called the "undemocratic" nature of the assemblies.

U Nyan Win acknowledged the assemblies had been controversial but said no members had resigned since the Labutta group.

"[The disputes] happened because the NLD is open to all comers so there are many voices in the party. We're trying to solve those kinds of problems as much as we can," he said.

While the NLD was established in 1988, it has never been able to hold a national assembly because its leaders spent much of the past two decades under house arrest.

Pyigyitagun party meeting delayed over ward disputes

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

THE National League for Democracy has been forced to delay a township assembly to select representatives for its upcoming national conference because of internal conflict, members said last week.

Seven members elected in ward assemblies in Mandalay Region's Pyigyitagun township were temporarily suspended by the head office on December 28 for allegedly intimidating other members.

However, after meeting with the suspended members in Yangon last week, party patron U Tin Oo agreed to postpone the township assembly in Pyigyitagun until the complaints could be properly investigated, said U Ko Ko Aung, who took part in the meeting.

U Win Hlaing, U Zaw Win, Daw Mee Mee, U Myint Ko, U Saw Win and U Kyaw Kyaw Naing were suspended along with U Ko Ko Aung. Another member, U Aung Ngwe, was also suspended.

"We did not bully or threaten anyone at the ward assembly," said U Ko Ko Aung. "When the assembly was held we all got over 90 percent of the votes from party members and were selected as representatives. The opposing group knew that there would be no place for them in the assembly and so created this issue."

In a letter dated December 28, the party's headquarters informed the members of their suspension, which was to remain in force until the national assembly is completed. The letter said they had threatened other members at the ward assembly.

Most of those suspended have been vocal critics of the way the assemblies have been organised, describing them as undemocratic and unfair.

The issue has sparked a significant amount of debate among NLD members over the fairness of the assemblies, U Ko Ko Aung said.

"Officials from the headquarters assembly commission did not investigate the allegations, they just handled it one-sidedly. We were selected by the party members and so the one-sided decision has made other members upset. This could ruin their belief and trust in the party," he said.

Ward assemblies began in Pyigyitagun township in the last week of November, with about 65 representatives chosen for the township assembly. By late December assemblies had been held in 14 of the 16 wards, with the assembly in Kha Kway ward cancelled because of a dispute between members and the Ka ward assembly cancelled because of a lack of members.

Scheduled for December 22, the Kha Kway ward assembly was cancelled before it began after a district assembly commission official banned those without membership cards from participating, members said.

"Over 30 party members attended the assembly on that day and all are listed as our party members. The party officials should be happy that so many party members came. However, the secretary of the district assembly, U Kan, stopped those without member cards from taking part and then the rest were confused so they left. We tried so hard for our ward assembly but it was ruined. We don't know how we should continue," NLD Youth member Ko Zaw Min from Kha Kway ward said on December 31.

He said party members and the in-charge of ward assemblies sent two separate letters on December 22 to the headquarters assembly commission to take action against U Kan.

Several NLD members in the township involved in the assembly process said members without cards were allowed to take part.

"Party members in most wards haven't got member cards. In other cases the ward assemblies were held just by using the member lists," said U Win Nyein, chairman of Htein Kone ward assembly commission.

U Zaw Win, the head of the NLD office in Pyigyitagun's Zagwe ward assembly, said there were also problems at his ward's vote on December 19 because the chairman of Mandalay Region assembly commission interfered with the selection process.

"Most party members in our ward are entrepreneurs. They are so enthusiastic to support the party but most of them don't have time to take on positions of responsibility. So all members united and agreed to appoint ward representatives rather than vote for them. But then the chair of Mandalay Region assembly commission came and told us we had to select them by voting. There were about 290 members here and they were unhappy about that interference. I talked to the chair and explained that there was no competition for the assembly spots and we managed to complete the assembly," he said.



The secretary of an NLD district assembly commission complains about participants' lack of party member cards at the Kha Kway ward assembly in Mandalay's Pyigyitagun township on December 22. *Pic: Supplied*





Brides to China top govt human trafficking list

By Soe Sandar Oo

ABOUT 80 percent of human trafficking cases in Myanmar over the past five years involved women being smuggled into China for forced marriage, a Myanmar Police Force official said last week.

Of the remaining 20pc of cases, 10pc involved Thailand and 6pc Malaysia, the spokesperson from the Department of Transnational Crime said.

"Myanmar woman are in great demand because China practises its one-child policy. About 80pc of human trafficking in Myanmar are due to forced illegal marriage issue in China," he said.

"Solving this problem will not only require the effort of the police force. It is partly related to poverty and also we need to improve education, particularly in the border areas."

Between January 2006 and August 2011, 731 trafficking cases were reported, 585 of which involved China.

Of those cases, 1305 people were rescued, including 780 from China – or about 60pc of the total – along with 483 from Thailand, 16 from Indonesia and 15 from Malaysia.

Meanwhile, 85pc of victims were women and 65pc of traffickers were also women, the figures show.

The spokesperson said it remained difficult to rescue women who had been trafficked into China because they were spread across the country and they needed more cooperation from the Chinese authorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs released the data in December at the launch of its latest five-year national plan of action to combat human trafficking, which covers the period between 2012 and 2016.

Women trafficked into other neighbouring countries are often forced to become sex workers, the official said. Men are likely to end up as labourers, he said, while children are trafficked to make money as beggars.

Most women are lured to China by the promise of a well-paying job.

Ma Moe Moe, 23, was sold to a Chinese man in Guangdong Province but escaped after three days in October 2012.

She was passed between four brokers before reaching Guangdong, she said, adding that she met many Myanmar forced brides while in China.

"I ran and escaped from the Chinese man who bought me from a broker to be his wife when he went to the toilet one day. They consider you to be a wife if you give birth to a son but will kill a female child and they'll make you a forced labourer in the fields," said the Shwe Pyi Thar township resident. "You will become a slave until you give birth to a son. I saw many Myanmar girls who are aged 20 to 25.

"I even found some who had been tortured. I was given a medical examination by a broker in China mostly to make sure I can give birth. All brokers are women."

She said her personal experience was almost exactly the same as that portrayed on a half-hour film the government has been transmitting on TV since 1997 to improve awareness of human trafficking.

She said that while most people knew the risks they agree to go to China because they have no other way to earn money. She had been tricked by the offer of a K200,000-a-month job.

A retired general of the Department of Transnational Crime said that while a large number of women have been rescued from trafficking, support programs after they return are weak.

He said it takes the Department of Social Welfare from one to three years to visit women rescued from human trafficking.

"I was not satisfied with the resettlement system because we cannot help them visibly," he said.

He said many suffer from psychological problems after being rescued.

"We have to try to improve their lives so they don't try and go to China but especially look after them better after they are rescued," he said.

Taxis available in instalments

By Hlaing Kyaw Soe

A COMPANY plans to sell taxis in Mandalay Region through instalment plans.

Auto Taxi Sales and Service Centre deputy manager Ko Hla Kyaw Swar said three models would be available under the program, including Toyota Belta sedans and Nissan AD vans.

Customers will be required to pay in three instalments: one-off payments of K3 million and K3.5 million, followed by a daily payment of K12,000. They will have to pay K16 million to K17 million for the cars, which have a market value about K12 million to K14 million.

He said the hire-purchase program would make cars more affordable and improve transportation in Mandalay Region.

"Mandalay is a hub for travellers; from there they can go to Pyin Oo Lwin, Muse and Lashio, or Sagaing and Monywa. We also aim to help people own a car more easily," Ko Hla Kyaw Swar said.

The company has already sold more than 100 cars on instalments in Yangon and is flexible in how the repayments are made, he said. It will also arrange registration for the taxis, which will have an "AA" licence plate prefix.

"Instead of paying each day, you can arrange to make payments once a week or month."

– *Translated by Thit Lwin*



Patrons examine pictures at the 'Mandalay Yenantthit 2' exhibition on December 25. *Pic: Si Thu Lwin*

Art fundraiser for disaster victims held

By Si Thu Lwin

NINETY-FIVE artists from Mandalay took part in an exhibition to raise funds for earthquake victims last month.

The Mandalay Yenantthit 2 show was held from December 25 to 29 at Dhamma Tharla Hall in Chan Aye Thar Zan township and showcased 290 works, ranging in price from K30,000 to K1.2 million.

Most artists displayed two paintings larger than 4 feet by 3 feet and three paintings of smaller dimensions.

"Some artists donated the entire value of paintings and others donated 30pc. We are going to donate all the money we received to earthquake-stricken areas," said U Myint Tun (Mandalay), who helped to organise the show.

Artist U Khin Maung Myint said the show was an opportunity to see the range of artwork being produced in Mandalay.

"I take pride in our artists from Mandalay. There are a lot of artists and normally it is not easy to see them all together like this," he said at the opening on December 25.

In January, 2012, 10 artists organised the first Mandalay Yenantthit show at Thiriwitsa Art Gallery. – *Translated by Thit Lwin*

Features writer

The features writer will write articles for the features supplement desk on a wide variety of topics and issues. The successful candidate will report to the Features Supplement Editor. The features writer must:

- Be a Myanmar national
- Have a bachelor's degree
- Be fluent in Myanmar and highly proficient in English
- Have the ability to conduct research and interviews and have a flair for writing
- Be confident and creative
- Have the capacity to work under pressure and meet deadlines

Applicants should send a two page curriculum vitae with a covering letter explaining why he/she is the most suitable candidate for the role. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2013.

MCM

The Human Resources Manager
Myanmar Consolidated Media Company Limited
378-383 Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon Or by email to mcmhrd@myanmartimes.com.mm

Translator/Sub-editor

The translator/sub-editor will work on The Myanmar Times features supplements desk and will be responsible for translating reporters' copy from Myanmar language to English. Sub-editing English articles will also be required. The successful candidate will report to the Features Supplements Editor.

The translator/sub-editor must:
- Be a Myanmar national
- Be fluent in Myanmar and highly proficient in English
- Have a bachelor's degree
- Have a strong interest in news and current affairs
- Have the capacity to work under pressure and meet deadlines

Applicants should send a two page curriculum vitae with a covering letter explaining why he/she is the most suitable candidate for the role.
The deadline for applications is 31 January 2013.

MCM

The Human Resources Manager
Myanmar Consolidated Media Company Limited
378-383 Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon Or by email to mcmhrd@myanmartimes.com.mm

SNLD leader dismisses Shan rivals' criticism



Shan Nationalities League for Democracy chairman U Khun Htun Oo at a ceremony to open the party's office in Yangon in August 2012. *Pic: Boothee*

By Zaw Myint

THE head of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy has hit back against leaders of a rival Shan party, rejecting allegations his group was responsible for two parties emerging in the state.

SNLD chairman U Khun Htun Oo dismissed the comments from Shan Nationalities Democratic Party vice chairman U Sai Hsaung Hsi as "merely one-sided speculation" and said his rivals had "done nothing" for the cause of democracy.

"Nobody but the people can decide whether we are the culprit. Our fellow politcial parties can also decide. They will judge. He has no right to say that," U Khun Htun Oo said.

"We have done much. We have gone to jail because of our beliefs. [SNDP leaders] haven't been [to jail] because they have done nothing ... I have no stains at all economically," he said.

"It is a one-sided comment without any proof. They shouldn't have said that. Why will we be seen as responsible for the split when their main concern is making money?"

The SNLD won 23 seats in the 1990 election but was deregistered after boycotting the vote in 2010. Former members who wanted to contest the poll formed the SNDP and won the third-largest number of seats, behind the Union Solidarity and Development Party and National Unity Party.

On January 13, 2012 U Khun Htun Oo was freed in an amnesty and the SNLD was reregistered in the middle of the year. He had been serving a sentence of more than 90 years imposed for high treason in 2005 after he refused to take part in the National Convention that drafted the 2008 constitution.

"We didn't accept the 2008 constitution, we walked out. For that very reason, we were banned. We came to realise that the constitution didn't guarantee anything for ethnic minorities. It's the reason that we walked out. For this reason, I got a jail term after being charged with numerous wrongful acts," he said.

U Khun Htun Oo also dismissed U Sai Hsaung Hsi's criticism of comments he made while in the United States in September 2012 to receive an award from the National Endowment for Democracy, when he said the two parties could not merge because the SNDP's policy was "soft".

"This is his personal opinion. They seem to want to merge with us. For merging parties, we have formulated our own policy. It's not like companies merging to pool their money. We have our own policies, rules and objectives since we founded party. ... It is not true that we don't want to merge as they said. We didn't merge because of the current situation.

"We don't want to get our reputation stained because our journey ahead is full of obstacles We are working for our beliefs, not our self-interest. Our primary aim is to build a union of genuine federalism for the people.

"If we continue to let this constitution remain in force, genuine federalism coveted by all nationals is impossible. There are also 25 percent [military personnel in parliament]. And lots of restrictions. We have to amend the constitution.

"If we didn't have such a firm principle, we would have fallen into the same status as some parties. We have no parliamentarians for now. However, because of our stance, we were given an NED award. President Obama only invited the Shan party and Karen party. If we didn't have firm principles, we wouldn't have been recognised in this way."

U Khun Htun Oo said he also refused to consider a merger with the SNDP because one of their members testified against him during his trial.

"I said that under the circumstances, we couldn't merge. Merging with them is a long way off. Given the political landscape, we have no idea what will happen in 2015. And the constitution must be amended prior to 2015.

"Moreover, they put their much effort into economic activities. Your political reputation can be harmed very much if something goes wrong."

– *Translated by Thit Lwin*

White Tigers call for 'genuine' federalism

Shan Nationalities Democratic Party release six-point manifesto following January 2-3 conference in Tachileik

By Soe Than Lynn

THE Shan Nationalities Democratic Party has called for an immediate ceasefire in Kachin State and a federal system and will oppose proportional representation voting in the 2015 election.

The party released a six-point manifesto following its January 2-3 party conference in Tachileik, eastern Shan State, which was attended by about 700 members from 52 townships.

Other points include a pledge to push the Union Government and other groups to work towards "perpetual internal peace for future generations to inherit", to work with all parties to introduced laws that "safeguard the rights of ethnic minorities" and to work for the emergence of a united Shan political front in Shan State.

The conference was the party's second, after a similar gathering was held in Taunggyi in December 2010, and saw party leaders selected for northern, southern and eastern regions of Shan State and five central executive committee members added.

SNDP chairman and Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Aik Paung told *The Myanmar Times* the convention was "100-percent succesful", with turnout almost three times higher than expected.

"We invited five people each from 52 townships, including some far-flung towns like Putao, but more than 700 arrived and attended. People have more confidence in our party. Membership was only about 30,000 last year but this year it has increased to almost 200,000," he said.

'We have discussed our policies and plans for winning seats in the 2015 election ... we are confident of victory.'

"We have discussed our policies and plans for winning seats in the 2015 election. Since our party's inception, its policies have been to secure genuine federalism and equality," he said. "We contested the election with a view to working for the good of people as much as the situation permitted instead of just saying 'no' to the 2008 constitution because it lacked [federalism]. Because we have actually done what we promised since the election, we have stronger influence among the people and have won more support," he said.

U Sai Aik Paung said the party expects to win 80 percent of seats in townships were Shan people comprise the majority of the population in 2015, despite likely facing extra competition from the National League for Democracy (NLD) and Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD).

The party had been buoyed by its narrow by-election victory over the NLD and Union Solidarity and Development Party in Lashio, an area with a diverse ethnic mix.

He said that the hard work of its representatives in the hluttaw over the next three years would be crucial to winning more support.

"We are preparing to improve the quality for our party's representatives and we are providing capacity building for young party members in each township," U Sai Aik Paung said. "We are confident of victory in 2015."

The conference was scheduled to finish on January 4 but ended a day early because party leaders were invited to an Independence Day ceremony and dinner in Nay Pyi Taw. It was preceded by a one-day meeting of around 200 senior members on January 1, at which U Sai Aik Paung said there were "some arguments" over how to amend the party's policies.

But Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sai Thiha Kyaw said agreement had quickly been reached to add a section on striving for genuine federalism in the party's policy.

"We discussed two main themes in this conference. The two themes are how to amend the party's policy and how to prepare for the 2015 election," he said. "In terms of the election, we came up with 22 points to focus on.

"The most important is for party members and especially hluttaw representatives to keep in touch closely with citizens so they are able to solve their difficulties," he said.

Meanwhile, U Sai Aik Paung confirmed the SNDP, or White Tiger Party, was still open to the possibility of a merger with U Khun Htun Oo's SNLD.

"Our side have left the door open for that. We never said that we couldn't merge," he said. "U Khun Tun Oo said the policy of our White Tiger Party was soft and the party was doing business so he couldn't combine with us. We are doing business to raise funds for the party. If we do not have funding, we may have to ask for donations from the owners of businesses and then we will be stuck in their pocket and won't be able to make policies freely. Honestly, the reason we are doing business is so the party can be independent; we don't want to be in the pocket of the cronies."

– *Translated by Zar Zar Soe and Thit Lwin*



We have the largest classified listings in Myanmar.

In our print editions

THE MYANMAR TIMES မြန်မာတိုင်း(စ)

And now online at
www.mmtimes.com/classifieds

Post a classified ad for free now!

Speed, brake failure blamed for bus smash

By Htoo Aung

A COMBINATION of rash driving and brake failure has been blamed for a nine-vehicle accident that left five people injured last week.

An out-of-control bus, that police and eyewitnesses allege was speeding on the wrong side of the road, careered into eight cars, most of which were parked, near the San Pya junction on Phone Gyi Street, Lanmadaw township, at about 8am on December 31.

Three males and two females ranging in age from 10 to 68 years were admitted to Yangon General Hospital with head, leg and arm injuries. None are thought to be in a life-threatening condition.

The driver and owner of the bus, U Aung San Oo, 35, has been charged with four offences, including rash driving and rash or negligent behaviour endangering human life, police said last week..

Ko Aung Naing Win, a taxi driver whose car was the first to be hit, said the bus was heading north to south along Phone Gyi Street when it hit him.

"The bus, a number 226, was on the wrong side and driving straight at my car. After that it hit all of the cars parked beside the road. My car was damaged. I got no serious injuries but my passenger was admitted to hospital," he said.

Police figures show the number of accidents in Yangon Region rose in 2012 to 1242, up from 1169 the previous year. However, road deaths rose significantly to 291 from 208 and injuries were up slightly to 1869 from 1830. A total of 136 accidents were reported in December 2012.



A man stands between a bus and a van involved in a nine-vehicle crash in Yangon on December 31 that left five people injured. *Pic: Ye Naung*

UNFC to meet govt peace team in January: facilitator

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

MEMBERS of the Chiang Mai-based United Nationalities Federal Council have agreed to meet U Aung Min, the head of the government's peace negotiating team, later this month, a facilitator of the peace discussions said last week.

"When they met in Thailand, U Aung Min proposed that the UNFC visit Myanmar and talk about political dialogue," U Hla Maung Shwe from Myanmar Egress said at the Myanmar Peace Centre on January 2.

"They replied to us a few days ago and said they agreed to hold political dialogue in a third country and U Aung Min has also agreed to their wish. So we expect that we can probably meet the UNFC in January," said U Hla Maung Shwe, adding that he could not give a more exact time for the talks.

The council has 11 members, including the Kachin Independence Organisation, New Mon State Party and Karen National Union, and was established in February 2011. The goal of the UNFC is to establish a federal union in Myanmar.

Its members met U Aung Min for informal talks to discuss the peace process two times, November 2011 and October 2012.

While many of its members have agreed initial ceasefires with the new government, those agreements are considered fragile, with much more needed to be done to consolidate the peace process.

UNFC members have also threatened that they could walk away initial ceasefire agreements already reached with the U Thein Sein government unless offensives against the Kachin Independence Army are suspended.

In a January 1 statement, the group's members seriously condemned the government's role in the conflict in Kachin State and warned to the government to halt its airborne attacks. The UNFC said that if the government continues its campaign, it will have to bear responsibility for all negative impacts in the future.

U Hla Maung Shwe said the conflict between the government and KIA was a long-term issue perpetuated by the lack of trust on both sides.

"U Aung Min had agreed to hold political dialogue with all ethnic groups. And on December 13 we also invited the KIO to hold more talks but we have not received any reply letter. U Aung Min told us he will continue to try and meet them again," he said.

In an interview with *The Myanmar Times* in late December, U Aung Min confirmed he wanted to pursue more talks and was waiting for a response from the Kachin.

"We have offered to listen [to the KIO]. We are ready to speak with them as soon as they accept," he said.

Thailand migrant talks stall

Department of Labour schedules more talks with Thai counterparts in first week of February

By Bill O'Toole

NEGOTIATIONS with Thailand over a new framework for migrant worker registration have so far failed to produce any results, an official in the Department of Labour confirmed last week.

Under the framework established in 2010 that ended on December 14, 2012, undocumented workers could apply for passports and work permits at six processing centres across Thailand.

While the process usually involved brokers and other agents and was described by the Migrant Worker's Rights Network as "extortionate in practice", the government supported the scheme, believing it was a better alternative than having its citizens toil abroad as undocumented, illegal workers.

"The Myanmar government wants every worker regulated," said Andy Hall, an expert on migrant workers at Mahidol University's Institute for Population and Social Research in Bangkok and a regular adviser to Nay Pyi Taw. "The regulation reduces the risk of exploitation."

More than one million workers from Myanmar are believed to have used the program but on December 14 the Thai government ordered that all registration centres close, warning that any remaining undocumented workers return to their home countries or face jail or deportation. So far there have been no reports of crackdowns or mass arrests, but the decision to close the centres has been perceived as a clear threat to the livelihoods of both Myanmar workers and their families back home, who often rely on their remittances to survive.

'The more confusion there is about the law, the more likely it is that migrants will have to pay more corruption fees.'

Department of Labour director general U Myo Aung told *The Myanmar Times* that representatives from his office travelled to Bangkok on twelve separate occasions since November 26 to discuss extending the deadline or coming up with a new registration plan but Thailand refused to budge.

"They want the centres [for documentation] to close. This [Myanmar] side would like them to stay open," he said on January 5

Though it was widely reported in both Myanmar and Thailand that Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and President U Thein Sein had reached an agreement to extend the December 14 deadline by three months during a recent visit to Dawei, the Thai government has since stated that only a discussion occurred and no formal agreements have been reached.

Several proposals, such as granting two-month visas to seasonal workers, have been discussed, but U Myo Aung said that none of these were close to being implemented.

Representatives from Thailand's Department of Employment declined to comment on the status of the negotiations, saying only that it was an "ongoing situation."

As a result, the more than one million undocumented migrant workers still in Thailand – the vast majority of whom come from Myanmar – have no means of legalising their stay, a situation that activists familiar with the situation say could lead to increased exploitation of this already vulnerable community.

"The more confusion there is about the law, the more likely it is that migrants will have to pay more corruption fees," said Andy Hall.

These fees include paying protection money to immigration police in Thailand, which can put migrants into crippling debt.

Even more troubling, according to Mr Hall and Jackie Pollack of the Mae Sot-based MAP Foundation, which works for migrants' rights in Thailand, is that many workers remain completely unaware of the changes in the law and continue to pay upwards of US$500 to local brokers for registration documents. "The brokers tell people they can get documents, but the papers they end up with are [fake]," Mr Hall said.

U Myo Aung said his office's next meeting with its counterparts in Thailand was scheduled for the first week of February. However, he did not offer much grounds for optimism, saying only: "There might be favourable or unfavourable results forthcoming from the meeting."



Yes

we accept
Subscriptions by EMAIL.

"Simple. Just email us your details and we will start delivery of The Myanmar Times to your home or office immediately."

EMAIL US YOUR SUBSCRIPTION NOW!

THE MYANMAR TIMES မြန်မာတိုင်းစံ

distmgr@myanmartimes.com.mm



Villagers petition president, hluttaws over eviction notice

By Soe Than Lynn

MORE than 150 farmers from a village in Nay Pyi Taw have sent a petition to the president and parliament after a government department told them to leave their homes within three days or face jail time.

The residents of Doe Nwe Ywar Thit in Dekkinathiri township sent the petition to U Thein Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and the parliament commission investigating land disputes on January 2, the day the Department of Forestry said they had to leave by.

Residents said they have lived in the village for up to 50 years but were told to leave because it is officially classified as forest land. Doe Nwe Ywar Thit has a school, monastery, 215 households and more than 1000 acres of land, including about 500 acres of farmland.

"Nay Pyi Taw township administrator U Win Myint and chief forester U Soe Win from the Department of Forestry came here on December 30 and 31and they gave a notice with a letter from Nay Pyi Taw Council to leave the village within three days because the land is Yan Aung Myin forest reserve," said U Kyaw Swe Lat, who helped organise the petition.

"Doe Nwe … has 500 acres of farmlands and more than 500 acres of other land. The school is more than 30 years old and has 97 students. There is also a monastery," said U Kyaw Swe Lat, who is the head of the Facilitators Network with ILO for Nay Pyi Taw.

"The villagers objected to the action of the department. which was not transparent or consultative at all.

"Instead of protesting on the street they discussed [the eviction notice with] each other in their compounds and signed the petition."

As of January 4, the villagers had not left and were yet to receive a response to their petition.

They said the disputed land was changed into a sugarcane plantation from a forest reserve by an official from Central Command in 1995-96. However, the sugarcane plantation was destroyed when the government began constructing the capital.

Daw Kyin Htwe, who owns 10 acres of land in Doe Nwe Ywar Thit, said homes in the village were 50 years old.

"I have been living here for 40 years. Now the officials ordered us to leave here within three days without any other notification or negotiation. They even threatened we would be punished with six months imprisonment … if we would not leave," she said. "Where will we live or how will we survive if we leave? We will have no lands to live and work on. But we can consider leaving if we will be given compensation equal to our current lands and homes."

U Aung Kyin. who owns 12 acres of farmland, agreed that at the minimum suitable compensation should be offered.

"We will consider moving if we are provided a replacement place to live and also farmland that is equal to what we lose," he said.

"I have been in this village for more than 30 years and I inherited my farmland from my parents. The village has a school and I have been a member of the school committee. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing even sponsored the construction of the school's entrance before the election."

The villagers questioned why ministries and departments were defying Thura U Shwe Mann's instruction that they should assess the differences between land ownership maps and the situation on the ground before making any decisions about land use.

– *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*



Making a point

Artist Suu Myint Thein from Mandalay during a performance titled 'We Live in Myanmar' held in front of Mingun Pagoda, Sagaing Region, on December 23. The aim of the performance was to honour former All Burma Students' Democratic Front (Northern Burma) members, recently released political prisoners and comrades who had died in the struggle for democracy. *Photo and cap: Si Thu Lwin*



Reps expect long session as budget debate looms

But analysts call on parties to not lose sight of other issues during sixth session of parliament, which begins on Jan 9

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

THE sixth session of parliament is likely to run for longer than previous sessions because MPs will need to approve the 2013-14 budget and national planning bills, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said last week.

The session will begin on January 9. MPs are also expected to consider a tax law, special economic zone law and investment law for Myanmar citizens, the speaker said at a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on January 1.

Representatives said they expected the session could take two months or more.

"Last year the budget session took a long time, from about January to the end of March. The agenda for that session also included the planning [law]," said U Thein Nyunt, the Pyithu Hluttaw member for Yangon's Thingangyun.

He said he had already sent one bill, two proposals and 10 questions ahead of the session but would not give further details, citing parliamentary rules.

Daw Phyu Phyu Thinn from the National League for Democracy said she would ask two budget-related questions, one on transportation and another on municipal affairs.

But political analysts said that while the budget is important the hluttaw also needed to make progress on solving internal conflicts.

However, finding time in the crowded parliament agenda could prove difficult.

"This time the budget will be the main focus but there are questions and motions left over from the former session. Some new questions and motions will be presented this time but I think they can only manage to discuss some of these," said Ko Kyaw Lin Oo, a political commentator for local publications.

He said that committees and commissions formed in respect to the fighting in Kachin State and Letpadaung mine unrest needed to show concrete progress, while MPs should also examine changes to the foreign investment law by-laws and disputes over recent ward and village-tract administrator elections.

'NLD hluttaw representatives did not take part in discussions very often ... if this continues there will be questions.'

"This session the parliamentarians will have to work very hard. But whether the efforts of the hluttaw are of benefit to the people also depends partly on the performance of the executive bodies. If they don't follow the rules passed by the legislature correctly, the aim of the parliament won't be fulfilled."

Observers will also be looking for greater input and influence from NLD representatives, who have been criticised in some quarters for their perceived passiveness since entering the hluttaw in early May 2012.

Daw Phyu Phyu Thinn said this was partly because the NLD representatives had to wait for a backlog of "hundreds of questions and motions" from previous sessions to be heard.

She said that all MPs should do their job properly, whether they were from the NLD, other parties or appointed by the commander-in-chief.

But Ko Kyaw Lin Oo said the NLD had to accept that the public expects more of its representatives than those from other parties.

"In the last session, we found that NLD representatives did not participate in discussions very often. Because they are democracy advocates, they need to work more than that. If this continues, there will be questions over what they are doing in the hluttaw," he said.

He said there had been some disbelief among observers at reports that the NLD would submit a motion to legalise prostitution during the upcoming session.

"Isn't there anything else more important than that in the country? There are still many other issues that need to be addressed, such as education, health and social security. I want to know why they raise this issue [of prostitution] now," he said.

– Translated by Thit Lwin





Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts a K130 million donation from U Kyaw Win's Shwe Than Lwin company, which owns Shwe FM and Skynet. *Pic: Boothee*

NLD charity jumper auction raises $122,000

By Yhoon Hnin with *AFP*

A PAIR of colourful woolly jumpers knitted by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi fetched more than US$122,000 at a charity auction in Yangon last week.

The red, green and blue V-neck was bought by private radio station Shwe FM, owned by U Kyaw Win's Shwe Than Lwin, for K41.5 million (US$48,800) late on December 27 as part of a fundraising event, organised by the National League for Democracy, for education projects.

The second jumper was auctioned on December 28 and was snapped up by an unknown buyer for K62.5 million ($73,500).

Those close to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave conflicting views on whether she knitted the first garment auctioned during her long years of house arrest in Yangon, or while overseas before she returned to Myanmar to embark on her freedom struggle.

"She made it more than 25 years ago in England," said Ko Ni, a close aide of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I do not know exactly when. Some of her belongings have arrived from England recently."

But a member of the NLD leader's security team said she made the first jumper while under house arrest in Myanmar.

The money raised from the sale will fund a series of education schemes, according to U Phyo Min Thein, an auction organiser as well as NLD Pyithu Hluttaw representative.

"We will use the money to help troubled Myanmar migrants in other countries, poor schools and those who live in areas where it is difficult to access the education," he said.

Other programs include coordinating with the public on education policy reform and scholarships for outstanding students from disadvantages backgrounds, he said.

The auction was accompanied by a charity concert opened by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.



A presenter diplays a sweater knitted by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during a charity auction in Yangon on December 28. *Pic: AFP*

She said education was a basic requirement for unity and Myanmar needed to reform its education system to improve the lives of its future generations.

"Without learning, we don't have the courage to face the obstacles in our lives and the ability to redevelop the country," she said. "Our country is poor because of the system of government rather than a lack of natural resources. To reform the system we need a good education system that is open to all from children to adults.

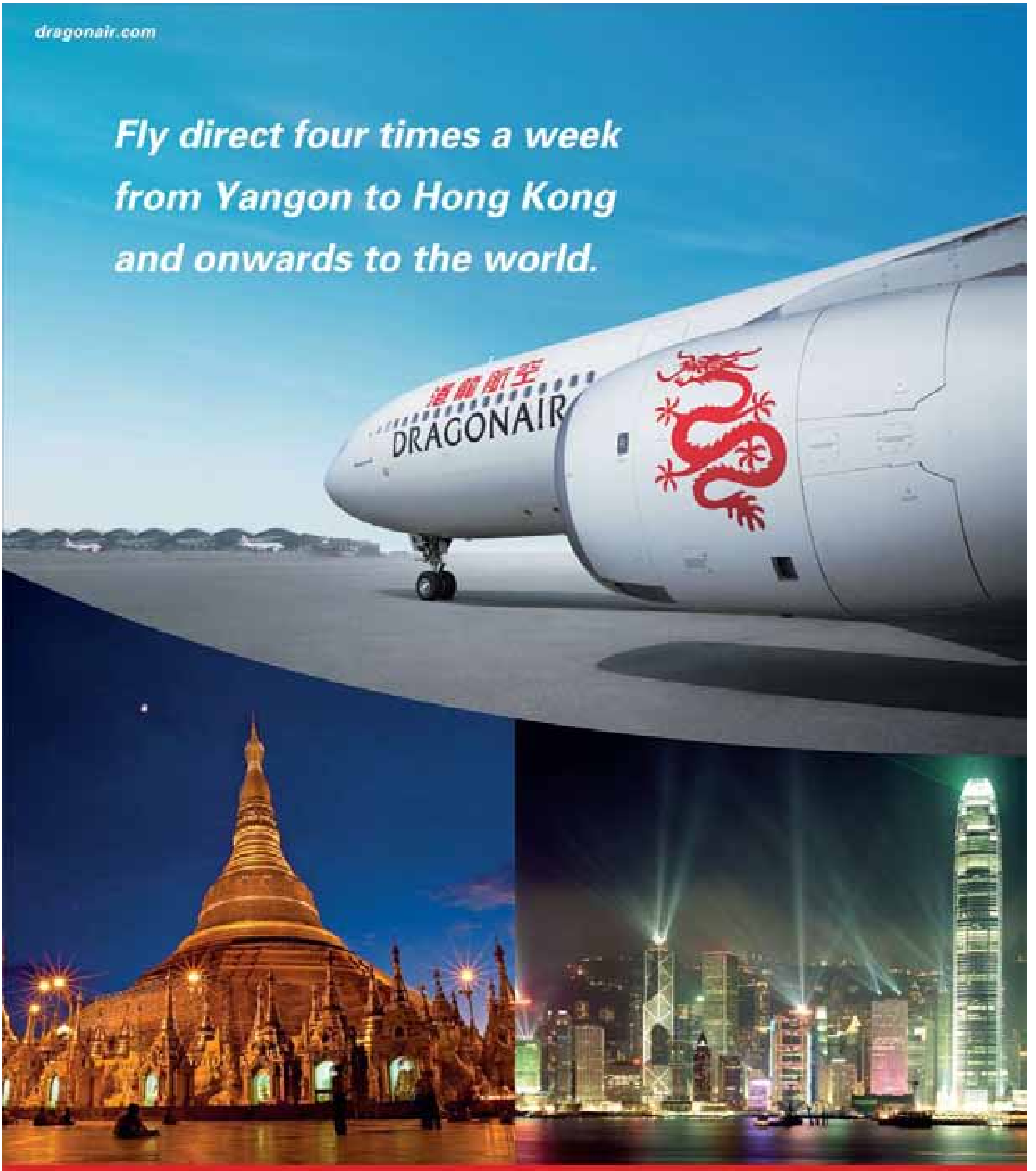
"I don't just mean to read a lot of books but to face and find out solutions to problems with justice. The education delivered in the classroom should deliver these skills but the system of rote learning used in the past 50 years didn't contribute to the country's development," she said.

Minister for the President's Office U Aung Min agreed education was important for the country's transition process, particularly national reconciliation.

"Children need to learn the real history to take lessons for the future. The history curriculum will change to take into account different perspectives. Students will also have the opportunity to learn English, Myanmar and the mother tongue language for ethnic minority groups. If we can better learn the cultures and traditions of these groups then this can facilitate national reconciliation. We will also allow young people to learn the subjects of social science and political science. We will start to form universities, research centres and institutions free from the centralisation of the past."

dragonair.com

Fly direct four times a week from Yangon to Hong Kong and onwards to the world.



From 9 January 2013, you'll enjoy flights between Hong Kong and Yangon – and onwards with connections to over 140 destinations worldwide.* Enjoy direct flights four times a week for more convenient leisure or business travel. For details and to book, please call Dragonair Reservations on 255320 or contact your travel agent.

Yangon/Hong Kong Flight Schedule

Routing	Day/s of week	Flight no.	Dep. time	Arr. time
Yangon – Hong Kong	Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat	KA251	0100	0600
Hong Kong – Yangon	Mon/Wed/Fri/Sun	KA250	2120	2335

All times local. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

CATHAY PACIFIC

DRAGONAIR

*Includes codeshare services.

Briefs

Health research congress this week

THE Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) will host the 41st Myanmar Health Research Congress in Yangon this week.

Researchers from seven Ministry of Health departments will present 88 research papers at the January 7-11 congress, a spokesperson said.

"Twelve academic symposiums on current health problems in Myanmar will also be presented," said Dr Win Aung, director of the Diagnostic and Vaccine Research Centre in the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar).

The research congress was first held in 1965. It aims to improve research standards and ensure research findings are used effectively, Dr Win Aung said.

The congress will be held at No 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon township. An exhibition of medical equipment, pharmaceutical products and laboratory reagents will be held concurrently during the congress from 9am to 4:30pm daily.

– Yamon Phu Thit

UK scholarship deadline extended

BUDDING scholars now have until January 20 to submit an application for a British scholarship program.

The deadline was pushed back from January 2 and the British embassy in Yangon said last week it "encourages Burma's future leaders to submit their application for the United Kingdom's most prestigious scholarship scheme".

About 700 scholarships will be given out to applicants from 100 countries, with recipients normally undertaking a one-year Master's degree.

While scholarships can be given for study in any subject area and at any British university, applicants from Myanmar with a background in human rights, politics, conflict resolution, economics, journalism and a number of other areas are particularly encouraged to apply. Full details are available at http://www.chevening.org/burma/.

– Staff Writers

South Korea donates $200,000 to quake victims

By Aye Sapay Phyu

THE government of South Korea on December 26 donated US$200,025 to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to help victims of an earthquake that struck upper Myanmar in November.

The South Korean ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Kim Hae-yong, handed the donated cash to Dr Tha Hla Shwe, president of MRCS, at the society's head office in Yangon.

U Maung Maung Khin, head of the society's Disaster Management Division, said there was a need to expand rehabilitation activities in areas affected by the magnitude 6.8 earthquake, which struck near the town of Thabeikkyin in Mandalay Region on November 11.

"There are lots of buildings damaged to varying degrees, especially in Singu and Thabeikkyin townships in Mandalay Region, and Shwebo township in Sagaing Region," he said.

"We need to apply earthquake-resistant designs to the reconstructed houses, schools and other structures because the area is an earthquake-prone region. Both technical and material support will be needed for reconstruction in these areas."

He said that according to a survey conducted by MRCS in November in Singu and Thabeikkyin townships, 1434 houses, 138 schools, 391 pagodas, 200 monasteries and 114 other religious buildings were damaged in the disaster.

U Maung Maung Khin said MRCS will also continue its other post-disaster programs in affected areas of Mandalay and Sagaing regions, including providing public education about earthquakes and helping victims in need of psychological support.



Welcome to 2013

People celebrate on New Year's Eve in Yangon. Some 50,000 people gathered near Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon for the city's first public countdown to the New Year and fireworks. *Pic: AFP*

U Thein Sein gives first New Year address

YANGON – President U Thein Sein on January 1 called for "mutual trust" between his government and the people in his first New Year address since taking power and ushering in sweeping reforms.

He pledged a new drive to communicate more directly with the nation in a radio speech he said aimed to "bridge the gap" between the authorities and the public.

"The most important ingredient for the success of Myanmar's democratic transition is the mutual trust between the government and the people," he said.

U Thein Sein, who took the helm of a quasi-civilian regime in 2011, said the world had been "amazed" by the nation's progress last year.

Western sanctions against the former pariah state began to be dismantled in 2012 in response to reforms, including the release of hundreds of political prisoners and the election of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to parliament.

But U Thein Sein warned that the swift pace of change should not encourage unrealistic expectations from a public eager for further opening up after decades of military rule.

"What the esteemed people and our government need to be conscious of is the gap between the demands of the people and the capacity of our government," he said, adding the country still had "many aspects to reform".

U Thein Sein last week set his sights on graft in a televised address in Nay Pyi Taw, saying democratic developments in the nation depended on good governance.

US President Barack Obama praised Myanmar's "remarkable" reforms during a landmark visit to the country in November, but warned "the flickers of progress that we have seen must not be extinguished".

– AFP

Govt begins power rationing in Yangon

By Htoo Aung

YANGON Electricity Supply Board last week began rationing power to small and medium factories in residential areas, an official said.

Board chairman U Aung Khaing said the cuts came into effect on January 1, with power rationed from 4pm to 11pm, reducing demand by 200 megawatts.

"Firstly we will reduce the supply of electricity to SMEs in residential areas and after that to factories owned by the government and last to industrial zones. We do not have enough electricity from hydropower plants between January and June," he said.

"There will be more cuts in February because consumption increases at the same time as production from hydropower dams decreases. It is a great problem for us every year," he said.

About 72 percent of electricity to Yangon, which has about 900,000 installed electricity meters, comes from hydropower, while the rest is sourced from natural gas.

But other regions have already been suffering from electricity rationing since December 2012, U Aung Khaing said.

Even with an electrification rate of less than one-quarter – ministry figures show just 22pc of households had an electricity connection in 2011 – U Aung Khaing said electricity supply met only three-quarters of demand, which is about 2060 megawatts.

"The current supply is just 75pc of the amount needed for the whole country," he said.

U Khin Maung Zaw, director of the Department of Electric Power, said the ministry will supply Mandalay, Pyay, Magwe and Bago with a 1-megawatt generator each in March to help them cope when demand peaks in the hot season, which runs from March through May.

Meanwhile, gas turbines are being imported from Spain, Germany, Austria, Singapore and Malaysia to help meet demand during summer.

The government has indicated it will in future try to increase electricity generation from natural gas, which is not subject to seasonal variations, to ensure enough power is available during the hot season. In December, United States firm General Electric said it had been selected to supply natural gas turbines to a 100-megawatt plant in Ahlone township, which is expected to come online by the second quarter of this year.

However, a May 2012 report prepared by the Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University warned that to catch up with current demand and cope with increased electrification "a massive increase in electricity generation and transmission is needed very quickly".

"Growth rates doubling electricity output every four to five years are probably needed for a decade," said the report, titled "Electricity in Myanmar: The Missing Prerequisite for Development".

ABSDF delegation urges political dialogue for peace

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

MEMBERS of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front have backed ethnic calls for the government to engage in political dialogue, following a historic visit that ended last week.

The visit comes as soldiers from the ABSDF, a student army formed in 1988 to overthrow the government, fight on the frontlines against Tatmadaw troops in Kachin State.

"Everyone has a duty to get genuine peace and [of all stakeholders] the government has the most duty. All of these conflicts have occurred because of a lack of equality. But we don't want to solve problems using weapons anymore. We want to solve them at the [negotiating] table through peaceful means," ABSDF president U Than Khe said at a press conference at Yangon's Myanmar Peace Centre on January 3.

"But a ceasefire agreement is not enough to get genuine peace. We need to have a political dialogue that can result in an acceptable resolution for all ethnic minorities," he said.

Nine ABSDF members officially visited Myanmar for the first time from December 18 to January 3. During the two-week stay, they met Minister for the President's Office U Aung Min, and members of the 88 Generation, Democratic Party for a New Society, student organisations and ethnic groups to discuss the current political situation.

They also met family members and ex-ABSDF members.

U Than Khe said the ABSDF was willing to work with all groups to create genuine peace and national reconciliation, which he describes as the most important aims of Myanmar's political transition.

Under the new government, the ABSDF has met the government peace negotiating team led by U Aung Min three times and discussed the importance of holding a comprehensive political dialogue and ensuring the constitution guarantees democracy, human rights, equality and the right to self-determination.

But U Than Khe said it was hard to forget the repression and brutal tactics of the military regime.

"We have struggled for many years to get equality and self-determination. During this period, thousands of our members have lost their lives and some have been jailed. We will never forget these bitter experiences and we have asked U Aung Min to free our members who are in prison. There are still 21 members in prison," he said.

Ma Lay Lone, another member of the ABSDF delegation, said the group's members would continue to support other ethnic armed groups until they had reached an agreement to ensure equal rights and greater autonomy.

She confirmed the ABSDF is yet to reach a ceasefire agreement with the government.

"Sure, our members are still in the battleground in Kachin State. We don't need to say exactly the numbers of our forces. On the other hand, we stay here to negotiate with the government. This shows that holding arms is not our first priority and we're very interested in cooperating with the government to meet our goals," she said.

U Than Khe agreed that the ABSDF intended to give up its weapons and participate in the peaceful political struggle when the time is right.

"All of us need to cooperate with each other to meet our goals quickly," U Than Khe said.

Pagoda trustees aim to increase museum visitors

A NEW walkway connecting Shwedagon's Buddhism museum to the pagoda's main platform is under construction at the revered site, an official from the pagoda's board of trustees said last week.

U Win Kyaing said the platform would enable pilgrims to visit the museum more easily and will be completed within a year.

The museum opened on July 14, 1992 and displays paintings and other art related to Buddhist culture, welcoming about 2000 visitors a day.

But U Win Kyaing said most visitors to Shwedagon do not even know the museum exists because it is some distance from the main pagoda platform.

"The museum is isolated in the western precinct although it has items and decorations that will likely attract pilgrims. We think the new platform direct from the pagoda would help people visit more easily," he said.

As well as building the platform, the project will see the museum facilities upgraded and landscaping carried out in the vicinity of the building.

The board has already placed a sandstone Buddha image donated by the Indian government in the western precinct of the pagoda and also plans to place a 2.5-tonne bell donated by a Buddhist association from the United States in the area.

"There are so many places to learn about Buddhist culture at Shwedagon but we need to make them more attractive for pilgrims," U Win Kyaing said.

– Cherry Thein

IFC International Finance Corporation

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. We help developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing investment, mobilizing capital in international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments. In FY12, our investments reached an all-time high of more than $20 billion, leveraging the power of the private sector to create jobs, spark innovation, and tackle the world's most pressing development challenges. For more information, visit **www.ifc.org.**

IFC's engagement in Myanmar focuses on promoting inclusive growth through investment and advisory engagements that: i) improve the investment climate to enable the broader population to participate in and benefit from Myanmar's economic reform program and support investment likely to create job opportunities for the population; ii) increase access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises by supporting the establishment of commercial microfinance and to support the banking sector to increase lending to SMEs; and iii) to support the development of infrastructure to reduce key impediments to commerce and reduce operating costs.

Our operations in Myanmar will grow in 2013, and we are looking for qualified applicants for the following five positions. Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to the development of IFC's Myanmar Program by developing excellent client relations, designing and implementing projects for meaningful development impact, and ensuring IFC procedures are respected. In addition, successful applicants are expected to actively identify new opportunities for IFC, provide input to IFC's strategy and build relationships with industry stakeholders.

Operations Officer, Investment Climate Program (Position #123013)

Our work to support the Investment Climate in Myanmar seeks to improve the policy and regulatory environment for doing business. To achieve this goal, projects support the development and implementation of key policies, regulations and institutions related to investment and business operations. Activities include supporting dialogue among public and private sector stakeholders; providing advisory services on private sector development issues; advocating for policy reforms through publications, seminars and the media, and promoting sustainable business practices.

Please review the complete job description and selection criteria at **http://www.ifc.org/careers** and choose the vacancy number 123013.

Operations Officer, Access to Finance Program (Position #122967)

IFC's Access to Finance Program in Myanmar will include programs in microfinance, bank advisory, financial infrastructure and mobile banking. In these areas, IFC is engaging at both the sector level as well as with selected institutions to create a demonstration effect in the marketplace, with the goal to support sustainable private sector institutions that serve a large number of low-income, urban and rural households.

Please review the complete job description and selection criteria at **http://www.ifc.org/careers** and choose the vacancy number 122967.

Senior Investment Officer (Position #123067)

IFC is seeking an experienced Investment Officer to join our current team to develop new business opportunities and manage our local client relationships. The incumbent will play an active role in developing IFC's investment portfolio through business development, establishing strong client relationships and working on project proposals. The successful candidate will interact directly with our local and global clients, and will work with IFC colleagues from headquarters and regional offices. While prior experience will be emphasized, the incumbent will have the opportunity to upgrade skills by attending on-site and off-site training seminars.

Please review the complete job description and selection criteria at **http://www.ifc.org/careers** and choose the vacancy number 123067.

Country Officer (Position #123068)

The Country Officer is a senior position responsible for developing and maintaining relations with the business community, government officials and the development partner community, and promoting and coordinating IFC's investment and advisory activities in Myanmar.

Please review the complete job description and selection criteria at **http://www.ifc.org/careers** and choose the vacancy number 123068.

Program Assistant (Position #123053)

The successful candidate will provide logistical and secretarial support for the Myanmar office, coordinate extensively with service units and liaise frequently with team members both at headquarters and in the field, as well as with external counterparts. The Program Assistant is also assigned responsibility for additional tasks, including translating/drafting a variety of standard documents, applying effective proofreading and grammar skills.

Please review the complete job description and selection criteria at **http://www.ifc.org/careers** and choose the vacancy number 123053.

Interested candidates should apply on-line at http://www.ifc.org/careers and choose the relevant vacancy number. Please note that you need to register before submitting your application. The closing date is 13th January 2013. Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.



A HTC phone featuring the Myanmar OS operating system. *Pic: Khin Su Wai*

Myanmar HTC phones to go on sale

By Khin Su Wai

TAIWANESE smartphone manufacturer HTC will begin shipping handsets equipped with a Myanmar-language operating system later this month, a source in the industry said.

The phones will be available from showrooms in Mandalay and Yangon from the third week of January, said U Tun Myint, owner of Min Computer, which produced the San Myanmar font used in the operating system software, known as Myanmar OS. Min Computer will also partner with HTC to sell the phones in Mandalay.

"They will launch seven models with Myanmar OS ranging in price from K150,000 to more than K600,000. The HTC showroom will open in Yangon at KMD Centre and the showroom for Mandalay at Min Computer. KMD will also be the authorised service centre for HTC," U Tun Myint said.

"For android phones, people can only use about 20 percent of functions in Myanmar language. But these smart phones from HTC will use a complete Myanmar-language operating system, it is totally different because the menus in the phone and commands are all in Myanmar language," he said.

"But HTC have also put a program to convert from San Myanmar to Zawgyi because many people use Zawgyi."

The agreement between the companies was reached when HTC chief executive officer and founder, Peter Chou, visited Myanmar in May 2012. Mr Chou was born in Mandalay.

"When Peter Chou … came to Myanmar we discussed about the Myanmar font and I explained the advantages of San Myanmar. We got a contract with HTC for Myanmar OS," U Tun Myint said.

HTC did not respond to requests for comment last week.

MYANMAR MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2013

16 - 18 JANUARY 2013
TATMADAW HALL

www.mmt2013.webs.com

Exhibition Information:

150 participants from 17 countries/area: Austria, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and USA.

5 National Groups: India, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

Exhibition Hours:

16 January 2013: 9:00 am - 10:00 am (Opening Ceremony)
10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Exhibition Commence)
17 January 2013: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
18 January 2013: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Uniquely Organised:
This exhibition allows you to set meetings NOW with all our exhibitors even before show days. All you have to do is to Pre-Register online to secure a code. Then use the code number to set meetings with any of our exhibitors. On show days, bring your code number to collect your Visitor Badge without queuing. Many have already registered !

For the first time - A high level Technical Product Presentation Talk by our exhibitors will be held simultaneously during show proper:

- Local engineers and business people are able to gain technical knowledge by attending our Exhibitors' Product Presentation during exhibition proper.
- Industry speakers with the know-how and the experience to share.
- Ground-breaking topics that will stimulate discussion and debate.

This exhibition is not open to public but for Trade Visitors only. If you are working in the following industries or related to these industries - you are our **TRADE VISITORS** and you are **INVITED** !
Targeted Industries: Agriculture & Irrigation, Air-conditioning, Automobile, Building & Construction, Energy / Oil & Gas, Hardware & Tools, Infrastructure & Road Construction, Manufacturing, Mechanical & Electrical, Mechanical Handling, Mining, Paper & Pulp, Plastic & Packaging, Power Generation, Safety & Security, Water & Wastewater supply and related industries.
All visitors who wish to attend the exhibition must present your visiting card to register on-site or by pre-show registration online. Do visit our show website at **www.mmt2013.webs.com** for more details.

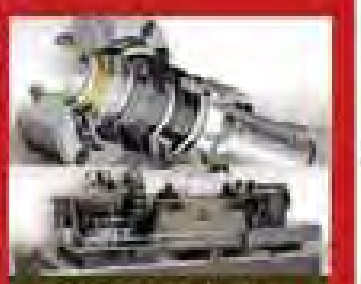

Eurofio Pumps


Ngee Chin (Grundfos Pumps)

SINGAPORE GROUP


EagleBurgmann

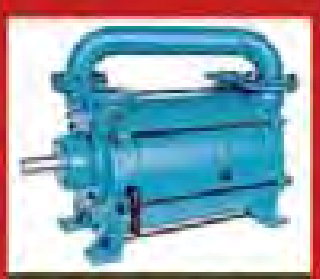

JJ Pun


Flowserve Pte Ltd


Lian Beng Machinery


Hoerbiger KT Asia


Adler Technik


Pompetravaini


Weir Power & Industrial S'pore Pte Ltd



Calpeda Asia Pacific

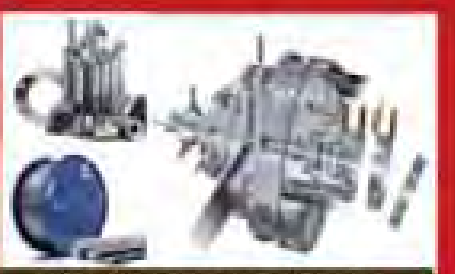

Kaeser Kompressoren



Airverclean Pte Ltd



De Feng Hardware



Sandvik South East Asia P.L



Y&T Enterprises Pte Ltd



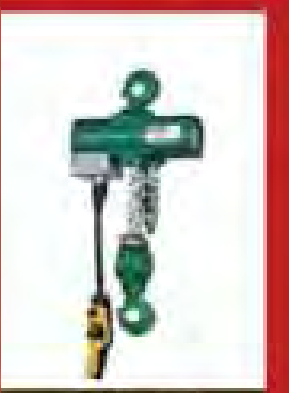
Duval Messien



Catu / SICAMEX



Aerodynamic Metals Pte Ltd



J.D Neuhaus



Sefar Singapore Pte Ltd



Camfil Farr Singapore



LaSAF Technologies



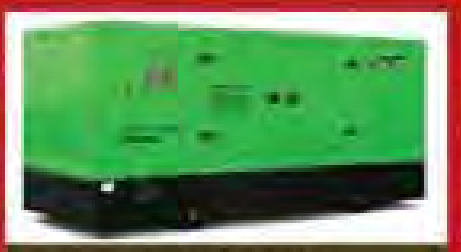
MHE-Demag



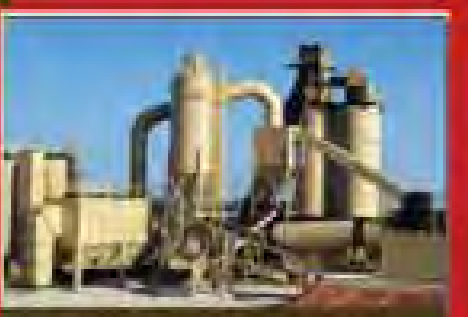
Sennebogen



Starrett (Asia) Pte Ltd



Royal GK Pte Ltd



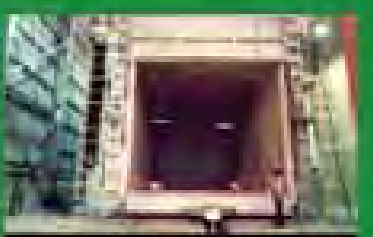
Almix Asia / Asphalt Equip



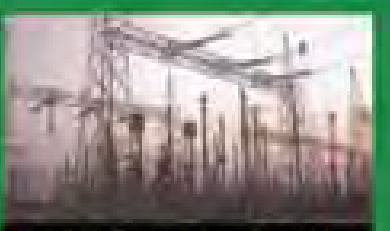
Sanghavi Engineering



Soil & Enviro Industries



Wesman Exports



R.S. Infraprojects Pvt Ltd



Universal Industrial



Nexgen Material Handling

EEPC INDIA
ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

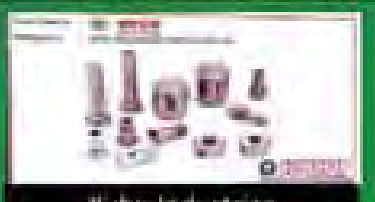
INDIA GROUP



Involute Tooling Corp.



TBL Industrial & Engineering



Kuhu Industries



Expert Engineering Enterprises



Bhalaria Steel Corp.

Official Beverage:

DAGON

Official Media Journal:

THE MYANMARTIMES

Supporting Publication:

ALLIANZ
Allianz Network Group

Supporting Organisation:

ASHRAE
Singapore Chapter

Supported By:

Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar

Organised By:

HQ Biz Link International

NGOs use theatre to promote gender equality in villages

By Ma Ning

FOREIGN organisations are using community theatre to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in Myanmar.

The community-led theatrical program received financial and technical support from the British Council and is designed and implemented by Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB), a Swiss non-government organisation. The program sees young people recruited as peer educators to write gender-related stories based on real-life incidents and then act them out for communities.

'Theatre as a channel for education has been around for many, many centuries.'

"We provide a trainer who comes from the UK to work with the young actors who learn techniques and how to convey information through theatre," said Mr Kevin Mackenzie, director and cultural attaché at the British Council.

Each story deals with a particular problem the community is facing and follows a format where people's misconceptions about issues such as gender, sex and reproductive health lead to a tragic ending. The cast interacts with the audience at the end of each play, asking whether they liked the ending, and spectators are then invited to revise the play and replay their version of the story on stage with the cast.

"I think theatre as a channel for education has been around for many, many centuries probably. It's not a new idea itself but certainly for this kind of work I think it's a fresh idea," said Mr Mackenzie.

While the idea might be imported, FXB program director Daw Toe Toe Yi said theatre is an effective method of communication in a country like Myanmar, where social attitudes, religious practices and other cultural factors make it difficult for people to openly discuss issues such as gender and sex.

The theatre program is part of a project funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that aims to promote gender equality, reproductive health and awareness about the 2014 census in four villages in Thanlyin, Twante and Shwe Pyi Thar townships.

Under the program, FXB and UNFPA have been providing a variety of free services to the communities since June 2012 through Community Learning Centres, including reproductive health services, vocational training and interest-free loans.



Peer educators lead a theatre performance designed to improve awareness of issues such as gender, sex and reproductive health in Kayin Seik village, Thanlyin township, last month. *Pic: Ma Ning*

"When the program was announced in the village, I signed up right away. I've attended the five-month training without missing any classes," Daw Aye Thu, a 32-year-old resident of Kayin Seik village in Yangon Region's Thanlyin township, said last month.

"By learning professional skills such as embroidery, I've gained more confidence. I'm excited to be able to work and earn a living on my own rather than just stay at home doing all the housekeeping," she said.

The project will be expanded to conflict-hit areas in future, according to Daw Khin Zar Naing, a national program officer for gender at UNFPA.

She said UNFPA, in partnership with United Nations Development Program, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the government have started discussions towards establishing relief camp-based Community Learning Centres in Kachin and Rakhine states.

One potential problem for the organisations is how to ensure the centres are sustainable in the long term. "We realise we can only be here for a certain period," said Daw Toe Toe Yi. "But we are involving the local communities from the planning stage so that this is their project. They own it and they need to sustain it on their own."

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Wyeth LLC, of Five Giralda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940, USA, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

APRELA

Reg. Nos. 4402/2006, 3129/2012

in respect of " Pharmaceutical preparations to treat menopausal and post-menopausal female conditions."

PREVENAR 13

Reg. Nos. 4401/2006, 3133/2012

in respect of "Human vaccines."

PROMIL

Reg. Nos. 2281/1989, 3137/2012

in respect of "Infants' feeding preparations."

WYETH

Reg. Nos. 292/1981, 3142/2012

in respect of "Medicinal, pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations, infants' and invalids' foods; and fungicides."

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

U Nyunt Tin Associates International Limited
Intellectual Property Division
Tel: 959 4500 59 247-8, 951 375754, Fax: 951 254321
Email: info@untlaw.com
For **Wyeth LLC** Dated: 7th January, 2013.

Govt pledges unrest will not weaken ties with China

Thura U Shwe Mann promises to 'responsibly implement' economic agreements

By Ma Ning

THE Myanmar government will honour its agreements with China and recent "difficulties" – presumably a reference to the Letpadaung mine conflict – will not harm bilateral cooperation, the Chinese embassy in Myanmar said in a recent statement.

President U Thein Sein met a Chinese delegation led by Mr Zhang Guoqing, head of Chinese arms manufacturer China North Industries Corp (Norinco), and accompanied by Mr Li Junhua, Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on December 24, the statement said.

Norinco is the major investor in the Letpadaung mine project, which has been the centre of months of unrest over allegations of land confiscations and environmental damage.

China's state media outlet *Xinhua* quoted U Thein Sein as saying that his government attaches importance to the smooth implementation of projects between Myanmar and China.

Myanmar will responsibly implement the agreements between governments and between companies, including that with Norinco, said Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, according to the embassy statement. He also stressed that bilateral cooperation would "not weaken despite some difficulties", it said.

The meeting came after the Myanmar government initiated a review into the Letpadaung copper mine project in December, following a bloody crackdown on protesters by police on November 29.

The project is a joint venture between Norinco subsidiary Wanbao Mining and the military-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd (UMEHL).

The crackdown came after villagers staged a number of illegal protests.

Scores of monks were injured in the crackdown and the government formally apologised for its role on December 15.

'We will place more emphasis on the direct communication between people of the two countries so as to lay a solid foundation of public opinion.'

An investigation commission chaired by DawAung San SuuKyi was formed on December 1 and tasked with probing the long-term effects of the copper mine project on the local community. The Chinese embassy said it welcomed a fair and balanced investigation but warned that cancelling the project would dissuade other Chinese companies from investing in Myanmar.

"In the future, China will consistently strengthen economic cooperation with Myanmar, promote cultural exchange between two countries and continue to offer humanitarian aids," Chinese ambassador Mr Li said in a new year address titled "China's development is an opportunity for Myanmar".

"Meanwhile we will place more emphasis on the direct communication between people of [the] two countries so as to lay a solid foundation of public opinion to strengthen the strategic partnership between two countries," Mr Li said.

On December 25, the embassy also published a special feature on its website detailing the disaster relief and cultural exchange China offered in recent years. "Chinese companies have complied with their social responsibilities. They have provided US$71 million worth of aid to Myanmar's education, public hygiene, disaster relief and so on and created 15,000 jobs," the embassy said.

Myanmar established diplomatic ties with China in 1950 and the two countries agreed to establish a "comprehensive strategic partnership" during U Thein Sein's visit to Beijing in May 2011.

China is Myanmar's biggest trade partner in 2011-2012 with a bilateral trade volume exceeding US$5 billion, according to Myanmar's Central Statistical Organisation.

Blame it on the issuing banks, Visa says

Visa claims incorrect PINs and insufficient funds are responsible for failed ATM transactions with Co-operative Bank

By Justin Heifetz

FOLLOWING reports of customer complaints over faulty Visa card transactions at ATMs from Co-operative Bank, Visa Inc told *The Myanmar Times* that the blame lay not with Visa or CB but instead with the cardholders and issuing banks.

"Most of the issues with transaction declines were done by the issuing banks for reasons such as 'insufficient funds,' 'incorrect PIN' or simply 'do not honour'," Erin Steinhauer, Visa's head of corporate relations for Southeast Asia, said on January 4.

'Sometimes the network goes down for three minutes at a time.'

"We conclude that the declines were of no faults of the acquiring bank [CB], the ATM machines or VisaNet."

On December 27, the managing director of CB, U Pe Myint, told *The Myanmar Times* that CB had been slammed with customer complaints over faulty withdrawals from Visa customers, as "cardholders cannot get their money due to limitations on the machines".

He added that CB "explained the consequences" of the difficulties they were experiencing with Visa transactions, and had set up a hotline for customer care. "We've contacted Visa to make repairs," he said on December 27.

However, Visa denied hearing of any problems from CB. "We haven't seen any complaints from CB in the past or complaints from customers, so that was really surprising to us," Ms Steinhauer said.

Visa found in their investigation of CB's transaction information on January 4 that all failed transactions since the go-live date of December 12 were "due to card issuer rejection" and that "Visa wouldn't have a role in card issuer rejection", Ms Steinhauer said.



Pedestrians walk by CB Bank in downtown Yangon. *Pic: The Myanmar Times*

Ms Steinhauer explained that card issuer rejections are when the card's issuing bank rejects the transaction. Visa does not know which banks are responsible for the declines and "they could be from anywhere", she said.

Visa would not give *The Myanmar Times* the data on the frequency of declined transactions following their investigation of CB's transaction information.

When *The Myanmar Times* contacted CB after Visa's investigation, U Pe Myint said the bank's ATMs were still experiencing technical difficulties with Visa transactions.

"Sometimes [a cardholder] cannot withdraw money," he said on January 4.

"Sometimes they forgot their PIN number, sometimes it's IT problems."

To manage cross border ATM processing, Visa partnered with Planet Payment to connect their domestic ATMs to VisaNet. On December 26, Philip Beck, chairman and chief executive officer of Planet Payment, told Thai newspaper *The Nation* that Visa's processing system enables payments to meet the needs of particular markets.

But despite Visa's partnership with Planet Payment, CB's "network goes down, the machines do not work properly and then [the cardholder] cannot withdraw money from the ATMs", U Pe Myint said on January 4.

"Sometimes the network goes down for three minutes at a time," he added.

Visa began pilot tests with ATMs in Myanmar three weeks ago. Kanbawza Bank, Visa's second domestic partner, has not reported any problems with ATM transactions to either *The Myanmar Times* or to Visa.



A clerk at YGN Mobile prepares a mobile handset for clients. *Pic: Ko Taik*

3G SIMs out this month

By Htoo Aung

WHILE Myanma Post and Telecommunications has confirmed that a reduced-price 3G SIM card will be available for sale this month, officials have reported mixed launch dates and prices.

U Htay Win, chief engineer for MPT's mobile department, said the price of the new SIMs will be set at K150,000. MPT will sell the new SIMs at this cheaper-than-ever price in the middle of January, he told *The Myanmar Times*.

The 3G SIMs will not come with mobile internet preloaded, and consumers will still have to apply, U Htay Win said. Currently, mobile internet consumers must apply at the MPT office with proof of purchase and K10,000 and wait three to four business days for connection.

Another official from MPT's mobile department who asked not to be named said that MPT has set the launch date for sales on January 14. The official said that the price for GSM SIMs will be K100,000 and that WCDMA SIMs will be K120,000.

Meanwhile, mobile phone dealers on Yangon's Shwegondaing Road said officials from MPT have confirmed that the SIMs will be for sale on January 7. Some Myanmar news journals, including *Pyi Myanmar*, stated the launch date as January 8.

The new SIMs will be for sale in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mon State and Kayin State, according to U Thein Oo, general manager of MPT.

He could not confirm when the SIMs would be on sale, adding that the exact date will be decided by the Telecommunications Minister. U Thein Oo confirmed, however, the SIMs will be available in January.

While MPT plans to open 18 retail outlets in Yangon to sell the new SIMs, Yatanarpon Teleport will open five outlets in Mandalay, said U Soe Aung, deputy chief engineer of MPT's mobile department.

On December 13, MPT began collecting the currently used 2G SIMs – set at K200,000 – back from distributors. Elite Tech, an offshoot of the Htoo Group of Companies, announced it no longer stocks any 2G SIM cards.



BTMU bolsters Japanese enterprises with CB deal

By Aye Thidar Kyaw

THE Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU), Japan's largest bank, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with domestic Co-Operative Bank amid widespread interest for investment in Myanmar, according to BTMU's president.

BTMU is aiming to support Japanese companies soon to enter Myanmar and act as a technical adviser to CB Bank, announced BTMU president Nobuyuki Hirano during a signing ceremony held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on December 27.

"Since March 2011, the new government has been making Myanmar a democracy. These efforts have been attracting foreign companies to Asia's new market. A lot of Japanese companies will target Myanmar for foreign investment," he said.

BTMU first opened its representative office in Yangon almost 60 years ago and has recently been serving as a liaison for Overseas Development Assistance, he added.

CB's managing director, U Pe Myint, said that BTMU will provide commercial lending, trade and foreign exchange services to CB.

"There are still many details we need to plan in the MoU. We will discuss it at a later date and we will likely release the details this coming March," U Pe Myint said.

CB is one of the leading banks in Myanmar, with 28 branches currently operating in the country and 42 branches slated to open by 2014. The bank plans to set up at least 30 ATMs around cities in Myanmar, offering international card transactions such as Visa and MasterCard, said U Pe Myint.

'A lot of Japanese companies will target Myanmar for foreign investment .'



Nobuyuki Hirano, president of BTMU. *Pic: Bloomberg*

According to the Japanese External Trade Organisation (JETRO), almost 300 Japanese companies visited Myanmar in 2011: a 50 percent increase from the previous year.

Japanese Mizuho Bank opened its representative office in Yangon last April and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation also opened a representative office last August to support Japanese enterprises.



Farmers reap sugar canes at Maung Kone village in Hte Chaint township, Sagaing Region in July 2012. *Pic: Sithu Lwin*

Study aims for sugar output

By Suu Ye Ni

THE Myanmar Sugarcane Dealers Association is planning soon to study sugarcane plantations and sugar production in Thailand, an official from the association said last week.

"[The study] will probably be during the end of January. Our plans were submitted to the ministry concerned. The study group will have more than 30 members. Officials from sugar mills, farmers and members of small, medium and large industries will be included in the group," U Soe Lin, chairman of the Myanmar Sugarcane Dealers Association told *The Myanmar Times*.

The study will take about one week, he added.

Officials from the Thai government said the study will cover sugarcane cultivation, harvesting, transportation, crushing and also sugar refining.

There are about 50 sugar refineries currently in operation in Thailand. The country produces about ten million tonnes of sugar per year. Local consumption is over two million tonnes per year, while Thailand exports over seven million tonnes per year.

"Myanmar only produces 380,000 tonnes of sugar annually. The reason that the output from Thailand is different despite the fact that we border each other is because of a difference in investment and policy," U Soe Lin said.

"Thailand uses mechanised farming. The state invests money in their big factories. The output turns out well because of high calibre machinery and good farming techniques," he added.

There are 21 sugar mills in Myanmar, and 19 are currently in operation. A total of 30,000 tonnes of sugar is produced per day, which is sufficient for domestic consumption. – *Translated by Thit Lwin*

Japan's Aso targets Myanmar markets

By Andy Sharp

JAPAN'S Finance Minister Taro Aso met with Myanmar's president and senior officials on January 3 in a sign the nation plans to tap a market of 64 million people that has been dominated by China.

The trip is Aso's first foreign visit since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet took office last month. It coincides with the US and the United Nations expressing concern over government strikes against ethnic rebels in Myanmar's north.

Japan's push into the nation bordering India and China may produce trade opportunities for its stagnating economy while helping President U Thein Sein meet a pledge to attract labour-intensive industries to create jobs. Competing Chinese and Japanese efforts risk further straining relations between Asia's two biggest economies, already at odds over islands in the East China Sea.

"China considers Myanmar as its turf, and China is very sensitive of the US and Japan making headway," said Takuji Okubo, Tokyo-based chief economist at Japan Macro Advisors. "Myanmar could be another source of conflict."

Aso, who is also deputy prime minister, will visit an economic zone south of Yangon that companies including Marubeni Corp and Sumitomo Corp may help to develop. He met President U Thein Sein at the presidential palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The US is "deeply troubled" that the military is using aerial weapons in the region of Kachin, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said on January 2. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said that the government should "desist from any action that could endanger the lives of civilians" or intensify the conflict.

Democratic reforms since President U Thein Sein took power in 2011 prompted Western nations to ease sanctions and galvanised lawmakers to focus on economic growth after about five decades of military rule left Myanmar disconnected from the global financial system.

Direct foreign investment into the nation will have risen 40 percent to a record US$3.99 billion last year, according to a forecast from the International Monetary Fund. Rich resources span gas, gems and possibly oil, the World Bank says.

The Asian Development Bank forecasts that Myanmar's gross domestic product may expand 6.3pc this year after an estimated 6pc gain in 2012. The country has high potential for rapid growth and development given its natural resources, abundant labor force and strategic location between China and India, the ADB said in an August report.

"Myanmar could become one of the next rising stars in Asia if it can successfully leverage its rich endowments," ADB said.

Relations between Japan and China have been strained by a dispute over sovereignty of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. China accounted for about half of the foreign investment Myanmar has attracted since 2008, according to the Central Statistical Organisation, a government agency in Nay Pyi Taw.

'China considers Myanmar as its turf, and China is very sensitive of the US and Japan making headway.'



Pedestrians walk along a road near an advertisement for Samsung Electronics Co in Yangon. The country's direct foreign investment will have risen 40 percent to a record $3.99 billion last year, according to a forecast from the IMF. *Pic: Bloomberg*

In 2011, President U Thein Sein halted work on the $3.6 billion Myitsone hydropower dam across the Ayeyarwady River that was being built with China Power Investment Corp, saying the project was against the "will of the people." China Power called the decision "bewildering" and said it would hold talks with the government to resume the project.

China National Petroleum Corp, China's biggest energy producer, is building pipelines in Myanmar, and China Nonferrous Metals Co is developing a nickel mine in the country.

"Myanmar has been a kind of protectorate of China, but Myanmar is currently seeking alternative sources of investment, given the excessive presence of China," said Okubo, who formerly worked at Goldman Sachs Group Inc and Societe Generale SA.

Aso had planned to visit Myanmar before his ministerial appointment, as a member of the Japan-Myanmar Association, a group established to boost Japanese business opportunities.

In November, Japan said it will provide Myanmar with a 50 billion-yen ($573 million) loan once the country clears overdue debt with the ADB and World Bank. The settlement follows a plan by Japan, Myanmar's biggest creditor, to forgive 303.5 billion yen in debt. – *Bloomberg*

Myanmar

Hospitality & Tourism Conference 2013

26 – 28 February 2013
Traders Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar
www.mhtc.sphereconferences.com



"Seek partnerships and close business deals at Myanmar's FIRST and ONLY hospitality and tourism conference"

The inaugural Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013 is the country's first and only conference dedicated to showcasing the investment opportunities available within Myanmar. Working closely with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism together with Myanmar Tourism Federation as the co-organizer, this conference will give you insights to Myanmar's visionary plans for the tourism sector.

With the inking of the foreign investment laws, the time is now to gain first mover advantage. As a local business owner, this is your best chance to meet with interested foreign investors face-to-face to seek partnerships and collaborations. On top of that, hear case studies of effective business models that have worked well for other hospitality and tourism players from around the region.

Up to 20% discount for international group delegations. Call us at +65 6848 5371 for more information.

Kindly use this voucher code "MHTCMYAN" to enjoy group discounts

Book now!
Limited seats available!

USD500
Exclusive rate for local Myanmar delegates, call us for more information.

Follow us at @mhtcmyanmar

The distinguished speaker lineup includes:



John Morse AM
Former Managing Director, **Australian Tourist Commission**



Olivier Colomes
CEO, **Exotissimo Travel Group**



Victor Pang
Vice President, Development – Asia, **Accor Asia Pacific**



John Blanco
Director of Hotels and Resorts, **Indochina Land**



Kevin Wallace
President and CEO, **JA Resorts and Hotels**



Nagesh Devata
Senior Vice President, **MasterCard Worldwide**



Marc Dardenne
CEO, **Patina Hotels and Resorts**



Paul Kerr
CEO, **Small Luxury Hotels of the World**



Lothar Pehl
Senior Vice President, Operations and Group Initiatives, **Starwood Hotels and Resorts Asia Pacific**

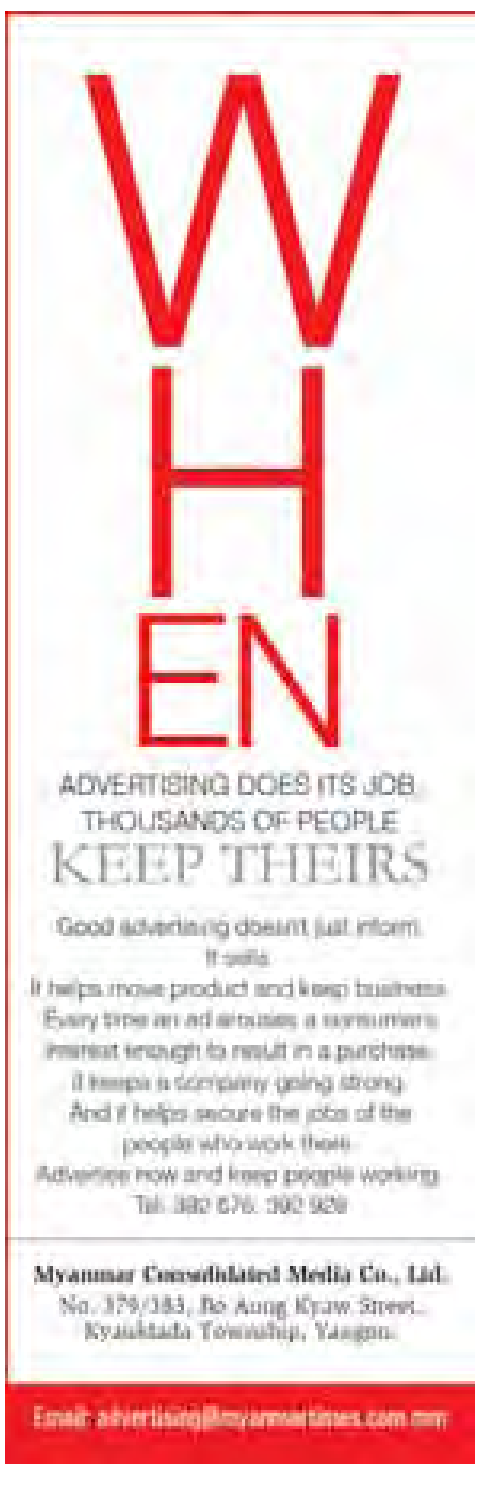


Mark Lankester
CEO, **Tune Hotels**

Register today and enjoy great savings, contact **Ms. Miss Hla Soe Nwe** at **+951 548011, 543191, 549827** or **Nann Thi Thi Tun** at **+65 6848 5371** or email **thithi@sphereconferences.com** for more information

JOB WATCH





The Myanmar Times sits down with Maybank's John Wong

John Wong currently holds the position of managing director, head of transaction banking, global wholesale banking at Malaysia's Maybank. Mr Wong is responsible for both the domestic as well as regional transaction banking business, with a strong focus on ASEAN and Greater China. He oversees cash management, trade finance, financial institutions, custody services, trustees and factoring solutions.

When did Maybank first open a representative office in Yangon?
We opened our representative office in Yangon on April 11, 1995.

What services does it provide? And how many clients does it service?
Under the Representative License granted by the Central Bank of Myanmar, our role is to act as a liaison for Maybank Group's operations worldwide and to promote trade and investment flows. In addition to that we also provide advisory services to Maybank customers who are interested to invest or conduct business in Myanmar.

Maybank began offering money transfers from Malaysia to Myanmar in March. How successful has this program been? How many clients have used this service to send money back to Myanmar?
Initially, the remittance to Myanmar started with only four banks in July 2012. Subsequently, more banks from Myanmar came onboard and partnered with us. Since then, Maybank has handled over 4,000 transactions with a total value of more than US$8 million. We are seeing an increasing trend in number and volume of transactions every month.

How much does Maybank charge for this service?
Currently Maybank charges RM10 per successful transaction. This is the normal transaction fee that we charge for this service everywhere we are. This is also comparable to what other banks would have charged their counterparties.

Maybank is working with four domestic banks to offer this service – Asia Green Development Bank, Co-Operative Bank, Ayeyarwady Bank and Kanbawza: How effective have these banks proven as partners?
These banks are very supportive and the service is provided promptly by them to ensure that beneficiaries receive their funds timely. We are working closely with these banks to continue improve our combined service quality.

What are Maybank's plans for the future in Myanmar?
Maybank is keen to set up our banking operations and offer banking services as soon as foreign owned banks are permitted to do so by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Maybank, with our presence in all the ASEAN countries, is ready to support the demand from our clients and investors who have businesses or are exploring investment opportunities in Myanmar.

We believe being an ASEAN focused bank, we have a lot to offer to help the country's economic development as well as the development of the banking market and the capital market in the near future.

What makes Maybank stand out from the other 16 representative banks in Myanmar?
The most important differential factor is the fact that we are an ASEAN bank focused primarily in the ASEAN region. Our objective within ASEAN is to have a meaningful presence within each of the country in the region in such a way that allows us to participate in the local community which is consistent with our mission to humanize banking. We are very cognizant that while banking is a business of collecting and mobilizing deposits in a responsible and prudent manner, it is ultimately a business about people and about the community.

While waiting for such opportunity, we continue to support the government's effort to promote inflow of remittances through banking channels. In that space, Maybank is one of the first to work with local banks promoting such services.

We will continue to work alongside the local banks to help promote Myanmar in international banking through acceptance, negotiation and discounting of their Letters of Credit.

What steps does the bank plan to take to boost its profile in Myanmar?
Maybank will continue to be an agent to promote Myanmar's trade and investment through regular participation in seminars conducted in Myanmar as well as those held overseas.

With the recent opening of our branch in Laos, the Maybank Group has completed its presence across all 10 ASEAN countries. We are now able to support our regional customers as they expand their operations across ASEAN and also facilitate greater intra ASEAN trade and investment.

As part of our corporate responsibility, Maybank will continue to support the Central Bank of Myanmar by sponsoring seminars and engaging experts to share their knowledge with a view to further share and enhance skills and capabilities with the relevant people.

What does Maybank think the next step will be in terms of Myanmar's banking development?
At the 2012 Tokyo Annual Meeting of the IMF and World Bank, Central Bank of Myanmar was quoted as saying that they will be adopting the 3-phase approach under the Banking Sector Development Strategy; permitting Myanmar Private Banks to form partnerships with foreign banks, to be followed with the phase of allowing foreign banks to establish locally incorporated 100 percent owned subsidiary and eventually granting these banks full branch licenses. We believe this is a step towards the right direction and we hope that the implementation can be expedited.

What is the most important issue holding back development?
Coming from a country that has been through a similar phase and having witnessed the same in other countries in ASEAN, we understand the complexity and the need to have a proper plan to ensure that there will be forward progress and that the progress can be sustained. We have full confidence that the government will come up with a workable plan and we look forward to participate in giving our inputs, if we are given the opportunity, as well as participating in it.

How long does the company think it will take until foreign banks are allowed to operate in Myanmar on a commercial basis?
There have been no dates mentioned but we hope that it can be implemented as soon as possible, especially to prepare the country for 2015 as we gear-up for the ASEAN Economic Community.

Tourists lost in Thailand mean hotel stay boom

By Suttinee Yuvejwattana and Supunnabul Suwannakij

"LOST in Thailand," a low-budget Chinese comedy about the travels of two rival businessmen and a pancake-maker through Thailand, may help the Southeast Asian nation attract a record number of tourists this year.

More than 30 million people have seen the film since its debut on December 12, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. China overtook Malaysia last year as Thailand's biggest source of overseas tourists, and the film's popularity could help increase total arrivals by 10 percent in 2013, according to the Association of Thai Travel Agents.

"The movie is helping boost sentiment and is increasing people's desire to visit," Sisdivachr Cheewarattanaporn, the group's president, said on January 3 in an interview. "The global economic situation isn't a big issue as we've seen the tourism industry grow a lot despite the slowdown. People who love traveling continue to do it anyway."

Thailand is luring Chinese tourists away from Japan after a territorial dispute between Asia's biggest economies led to a travel boycott last year. Hotel rates in Bangkok also remain about half those in Singapore and Hong Kong, while the baht's gain in the past year has been overshadowed by bigger increases in the value of the Singapore dollar and the Philippine peso.

"Foreign tourists are flocking back to Thailand," said Sittidath Prasertrungruang, an analyst at Krungsri Securities Co. "The Thai tourism industry is very resilient, with diversified sources of travelers from China and India to Russia," he said, adding that travel-related stocks will outperform the benchmark SET Index this year.

China accounted for 13pc of the 19.8 million visitors to Thailand in the first 11 months of last year, according to tourism ministry data. The Tourism Authority of Thailand forecasts total visitors may rise to 24.5 million this year, from an estimate of more than 21 million in 2012.

"China is really just blowing everyone out of the water," said William Heinecke, chief executive officer of Minor International Pcl, Thailand's biggest hotel operator. "The big growth is coming from Russia and China."

Chinese tour groups added additional charter flights to Thailand as demand for travel to Japan declined because of the territorial dispute between the two countries, said Sisdivachr from the Association of Thai Travel Agents. – *Bloomberg*


A tourist shops for T-shirts at the night bazaar in Chiang Mai, Thailand. *Pic: Bloomberg*

S&P 500 climbs to five-year high

By Stephen Kirkland and Inyoung Hwang

US stocks rose, sending the Standard & Poor's 500 Index to a five-year high, as government data showed employers added more workers while the jobless rate held at a level that's unlikely to hasten the end of Federal Reserve stimulus. Treasuries erased early losses.

The S&P 500 added 0.5 percent to 1,466.47 at 4pm in New York to extend a weekly gain to 4.6pc and send it to its best closing level since December 2007. The Stoxx Europe 600 Index added 0.4pc, closing at the highest since February 2011. The Dollar Index increased 0.1pc after earlier jumping as much as 0.6pc. Treasury 10-year yields fell one basis point to 1.90pc after rising for three days and touching the highest since April earlier. Silver and gold slid.

US employers added workers in December at about the same pace as in the prior month even as lawmakers struggled to reach a budget deal, according to the Labour Department's monthly payrolls report. Fed policy makers said on January 4 they will probably end their $85 billion monthly bond purchases, known as quantitative easing, in 2013, according to minutes of their December 11-12 meeting released on the same day.

The jobs report "reinforces the view that the labor market is healing but at a very slow pace," Joseph Tanious, a New York-based global market strategist for JPMorgan Funds, which oversees $400 billion, said by telephone. "It's a good report that suggests the economy is healing but it's not so good that the Fed might pull out of QE. It's been a shortened week but jam packed and everybody's still digesting everything." The S&P 500 retreated 0.2pc on January 4 after the release of the Fed minutes. The gauge soared 2.5pc on January 2 after Republicans and Democrats agreed on a compromise budget that avoided the so-called fiscal cliff of sweeping tax increases and spending cuts.

The VIX, as the Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index is known, slid 5pc on January 5 to a four-month low of 13.83. The benchmark gauge of US equity options tumbled 39pc since December 28, its biggest weekly loss on record.

Commodity, industrial and financial companies helped lead the market's gain on January 5, with Walt Disney Co, Johnson & Johnson and JPMorgan Chase & Co climbing at least 1.8pc for the biggest gains in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Eli Lilly & Co jumped 3.7pc as the drugmaker forecast 2013 earnings above analyst expectations. Citigroup Inc advanced 2.5pc after Goldman Sachs Group Inc added the bank to its conviction buy list. Avon Products Inc gained 3.2pc after Bank of America Corp raised its rating on the stock.

Apple Inc slumped 2.8pc, the most since December 14. Deutsche Bank AG said supply-chain movements suggest iPhone and iPad production may be declining. Technology shares had the only decline among the 10 main S&P 500 groups.

S&P 500 futures extended gains before the open of exchanges in New York after the jobs data were released. Payrolls rose by 155,000 workers last month following a revised 161,000 advance in November that was more than initially estimated, Labour Department figures showed on January 5. The median estimate of 82 economists surveyed by Bloomberg called for an increase of 152,000. The unemployment rate held at 7.8pc, matching the lowest since December 2008.

"At 7.8, that tells us we still have an unemployment problem and the Fed will still be engaged," Mohamed El-Erian, chief executive officer of Pacific Investment Management Co, said on Bloomberg Television.

Among European stocks, Fresnillo Plc, the world's biggest primary silver producer, sank 4pc in London trading as UBS AG downgraded the shares and the precious metal retreated. ThromboGenics NV jumped 3.3pc after confirming the launch date for its Jetrea vision restoration treatment. Fresnillo Plc, the world's biggest primary silver producer, slid 4pc after UBS AG downgraded the shares. Randgold Resources Ltd lost 4pc as the price of the metal fell.

The US currency climbed as much as 1.3pc to 88.41 yen, the strongest level since July 2010. The euro was up 0.2pc at $1.3080 after losing 0.4pc earlier to the weakest level in three weeks.

The yen weakened at least 0.7pc against all major peers and is set for an eighth weekly drop versus the US currency, the longest run of losses since 1989, amid speculation the government will add more monetary stimulus.

The S&P GSCI gauge of 24 commodities dropped 0.5pc as silver, lead, aluminum, zinc and gold lost at least 1pc to help lead declines. Oil capped its biggest weekly gain in three months, increasing 17 cents to $93.09 and extending its gain since December 28 to 2.5pc.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index fell 0.4pc, declining for the first time in 10 days to snap the longest rally in 14 months. The gauge has climbed about 10pc since the Fed announced a third round of stimulus on September 13. The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.4pc in the first day of trading this year, while Brazil's Bovespa slipped 1.3pc. – *Bloomberg*



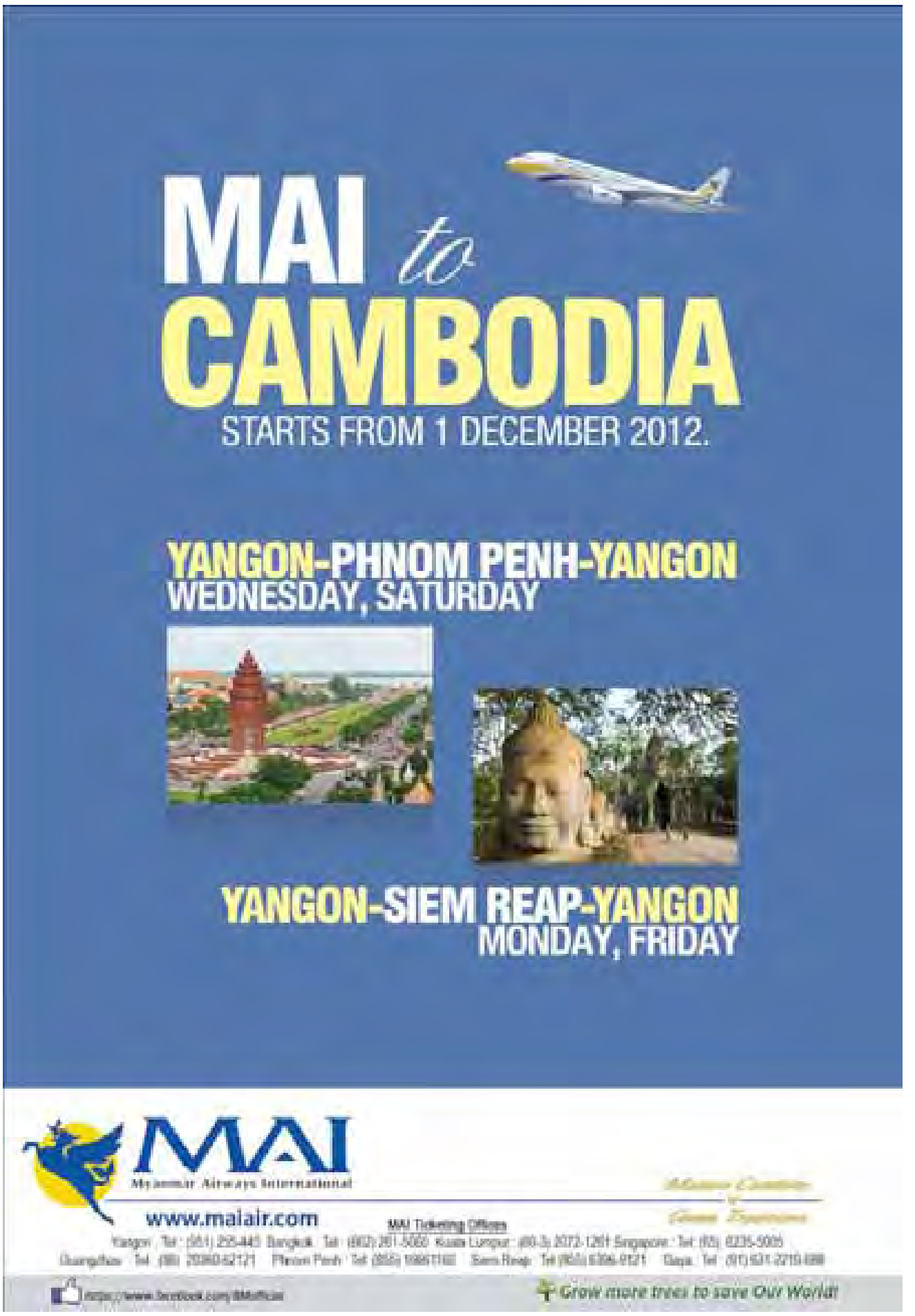
The US currency rose against all but two of its major peers, reaching 88.20 yen at 9:25 a.m. on January 5 in London. *Pic: Bloomberg*

Myanmar Fiber Optic Communication Network Co., Ltd.

1. **Interpreter and project coordinator** M-10 Posts
   Chinese, male age 25 or so, high salary and negotiable.
2. **Accountant** F/M-2 Posts
   Fluent in English and Chinese, age 25, salary negotiable

NO. FL-8, Kanyeiktar Rd, FMI City, Hlaingthayar Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.

Contact : Xiao Xie, Tel : 09-43074838





Workers demolish the interior of 233-235 Pansodan Street in October 2012, after it was zoned as a danger to Yangon. *Pic: Boothee*

YHT slates Pansodan, city for danger review

By Htar Htar Khin

AMID residents' complaints over delays, the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) will assess a Pansodan Street building on which demolition work was halted after a media campaign have challenged statements by heritage activists.

The YHT will start the assessment of 233-235 Pansodan Street in the middle of the month, Daw Moe Moe Lwin, vice chairman of the YHT told *The Myanmar Times* on January 2.

On the same day, residents of the building told the YHT that the building was originally a maternity hospital, and rebuffed the organisation's claims that it has an historic connection to the Dobama Asiayone independence movement.

Residents claimed the Dobama Asiayone (We Burmans Association), which had agitated for independence from the British, had an office in the second floor of the adjoining building instead.

During the meeting with the YHT, residents gave the committee photos of safety hazards in the building and asked how they would work with the developer to reconstruct the building.

"What I want to ask is if the redevelopment will only allow the building to be constructed up to 12 storeys, and how we can figure out commercial benefit. That's the purpose of the assessment and using professional expertise in mid-January," said Daw Moe Moe Lwin.

She added that reconstruction of the building is particularly difficult because there is no general guideline for height limits on heritage sites in Yangon.

All old buildings that pose a danger to residents are also in need of a structural assessment, she said.

"Since the formation of the YHT in June, we've aimed to review all dangerous buildings in Yangon. We try to preserve buildings that are structurally safe to preserve the city's architectural character. But buildings that are a hazard to residents need to be demolished, and we try to preserve the building's original character," she said.

The YHT has made an agreement with the Yangon City Development Committee to conserve as much of a heritage building's architecture when it is demolished. However, Daw Moe Moe Lwin said this is often a challenge.

"Sometimes, a building assessment tells us little about the structural condition. Therefore, the YHT needs to consult with technical experts to reveal the actual condition of a building. If it's possible, we need to find out how to renovate the building and then reflect the original character of the building.

"But we accept that if the building is too dangerous, it must be substituted with a new one. We're worried that rebuilding might change the original architectural style of the city, so we're trying to conserve Yangon's heritage buildings through consultations with technical experts.

Profitable development means degrading the city's architectural style," she said.

Workers began demolishing the upper levels of the four-storey building at 233-235 Pansodan Street in October after it was declared a dangerous structure by the YCDC.

The four owners, whose apartments each covered a floor of the building, were evicted by the YCDC in September. The site's developer, United Construction Company, planned to build a 12-storey condominium on the site and the four owners said it had agreed to provide them with an apartment on the same level as the residence they had vacated.

During the meeting on January 2, Daw Moe Moe Lwin said United Construction Company and the building's residents seemed likely to agree on reducing the plans for redevelopment to 10 storeys.

Engagement Ceremony

Aung Kyaw Htet ♥ Khin Sandy Soe

are getting engaged

The honour of your presence is requested
at the engagement ceremony of

Khin Sandy Soe

daughter of

Dr. Ye Htut Soe & Dr. Yee Yee Wynn

to

Aung Kyaw Htet

son of

Dr. U Tin Oo & Dr. Phyu Phyu Myint

On Sunday, 30th December, 2012 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.
Sedona Hotel (Executive Club - 11th Floor),
Kabar-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.



OUE puts pressure on billionaire in F&N bid



Stephen Riady, chairman of Overseas Union Enterprise Ltd (OUE) and Lippo Ltd. *Pic: Bloomberg*

By Joyce Koh and Jonathan Burgos

OVERSEAS Union Enterprise Ltd put the burden back on Thailand's richest man in a bidding war for Fraser & Neave Ltd by extending the deadline for its S$13.1 billion (US$10.7 billion) offer for the Singapore property and drinks company.

OUE, headed by Executive Chairman Stephen Riady, and its partners moved the expiry date on its S$9.08 per share bid to January 14, according to a stock exchange statement on January 2. Thai billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi's TCC Assets last week delayed the closing date on its S$8.88 per share offer until January 10.

"The ball is actually on TCC's court to improve their offer before OUE needs to react," said Jason Hughes, head of premium client management at IG Markets in Singapore.

Fraser & Neave shares have traded above both offers in a sign investors expect the takeover battle to escalate. Charoen agreed to buy a 22 percent stake in F&N in July, setting off a fight for the company's soft drink and property assets and prompting the sale of its beer unit to Heineken.

F&N shares dropped 0.1pc to close at S$9.66 on January 2.

OUE, a Singapore-based property company, has enlisted Kirin Holdings Co, Japan's largest drinks maker, in its bid. OUE would get the company's property business and Kirin would take the food and beverage unit.

Kirin has agreed to tender its 14.8pc stake in F&N, OUE has said. The Japanese brewer will offer S$2.7 billion for F&N's food and beverage business if OUE wins enough support to complete the takeover.

Fraser & Neave on December 31 said its independent financial adviser JPMorgan Chase & Co had found Kirin's offer "fair but not reasonable, from a financial point of view," partly because the Japanese brewer's bid was based on a negotiated sale rather than an auction.

"For OUE, they now need to work through how a sale of F&N's food and beverage business is going to happen as the JPMorgan report has cast uncertainty on Kirin's ability to buy those assets," said Jonathan Foster, Singapore-based director of global special situations at Religare Capital Markets. "For TCC, it's more straightforward in that they have to decide how much they are willing to pay while making sure they don't overpay."

F&N has said it had committed to pay the OUE consortium a break-up fee of as much as S$50 million if a competing offer is successful.

F&N's board has said an independent adviser has found both offers "not compelling but fair."

Charoen's unlisted business, TCC Group, has a real estate unit. His Thai Beverage Pcl, which sells the Chang brand of beer, gets almost all its revenue from its home market. Charoen, 68, has a net worth of about $8.9 billion based on current calculations from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The Thai billionaire in July agreed to pay S$2.78 billion for an initial stake in F&N by acquiring the stock held by Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp and its partners. He later acquired more shares to take him near the threshold to make a bid.

Charoen's offer for F&N valued the rest of the company at about S$8.9 billion on September 13, the day TCC offered S$8.88 a share for the 69.6pc of F&N it didn't already control.

OUE Executive Chairman Stephen Riady is a son of Mochtar Riady, who controls Indonesia's Lippo Group, with businesses ranging from real estate and financial services to food across Asia. If successful, it would be the biggest ever acquisition of a Singapore-based company, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

OUE, which gets about 65pc of its revenue from hotel operations, plans at least one investment a year in Singapore to boost property holdings that include office towers, luxury apartments and malls, Riady said in an interview in August.

Heineken won control of F&N's brewery unit, the maker of Tiger beer, in a deal that closed in November.

– Bloomberg

Govt backs mega housing projects

By Htar Htar Khin

THE Ministry of Construction's Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development (DHSHD) is planning the development of two major housing projects in Yangon's Dagon Seikkan township under a K500 billion government grant, a government official announced last week.

The Ayeyarwon development project is situated on 120 acres of land while the Yadanar development project stands on 100 acres. Both comprise 17,408 apartments and the projects are slated for completion in two to three years, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, the director of the land and tax revenue department under the DHSHD, during a press release held at Dagon Seikkan's Kanaung Hall on January 2.

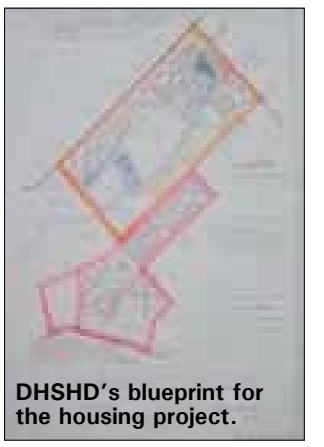
"These projects are a pilot plan for all public housing projects in Myanmar. The housing projects will be 18-storeys and include lifts, water and electricity, and their own generators. Apartments will have two bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen and will be able to accommodate five household members each. In total, these two projects will be able to house over 80,000," U Aung Kyaw Oo said.

He added that providing homes to families in the area is a top priority along with building schools, hospitals and public parks to accelerate urban development. He said the project aims to improve Dagon Seikkan's population, which lies on the outskirts of Yangon.

Because the soil and bedrock at the construction site is soft due to Dagon Seikkan's proximity to the Yangon River, U Aung Kyaw Oo said the construction team must give extra attention to the foundations' structural safety.

> **'These projects are a pilot plan for all public housing projects in Myanmar.'**

The soil testing period started in the beginning of the month and will last until March. The Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Projects, the Myanmar Engineering Society and technicians from Singapore have all been invited by the DHSHD to participate in the three-month assessment and to give further advice on structural safety.



DHSHD's blueprint for the housing project.

Construction of the two edifices will begin in April following the assessment, U Aung Kyaw Oo said.

However, illegal squatters living in the area zoned for the residential development project are already hampering construction plans, U Aung Kyaw Oo said. The government has issued them a deadline to have vacated the area by January 6.

"What happened is that when we started the project in Dagon Seikkan, we allowed the labourers to live near the project site. They never go back when the [daily work] is finished and live by the site, also with their families.

"With this current project, many families are squatting on the site illegally. There are 338 squatters in the township's 61st district and 676 squatters in the 67th district," he said.

DHSHD and city authorities announced they will evict the illegal squatters living on the project site on December 31 and have since erected notice boards. If the squatters have not vacated by January 6, they will be evicted in accordance with the government's bylaws, DHSHD announced at the press conference.





Afghan toys inspire giant 'dandelion' anti-mine device

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands – Childhood toys lost in a war-torn field have inspired an odd-looking invention which its young Dutch inventor hopes can help save thousands of lives and limbs in his native Afghanistan.

Decades of war, notably the 1979-89 Soviet invasion, have left the rugged Afghan countryside littered with landmines that continue to exact a merciless toll, mainly on children.

Now, in a small workshop in the industrial heart of the southern city of Eindhoven, 29-year-old Massoud Hassani screws in the last leg of an ingenious, wind-driven gadget he built to clear anti-personnel mines. He calls the device, the size of a golf buggy, a "mine kafon".

"The idea comes from our childhood toys which we once played with as kids on the outskirts of Kabul," Hassani told *AFP* as he rolled out the device for a demonstration.

Short for "kafondan", which in Hassani's native Dari language means "something that explodes", the kafon consists of 150 bamboo legs screwed into a central metal ball.

At the other end of each leg, a round, white plastic disk the size of a small frisbee is attached via a black rubber car part for drive shafts, called a CV-joint boot.

Assembled, the spherical kafon looks like a giant tumbleweed or seed head. And like the dandelion puff it moves with the wind: the kafon is designed to be blown around, exploding anti-personnel mines as it rolls on the ground.

With the legs made from bamboo, they are easily replaceable. Once they are blown off it's simply a matter of screwing on others, which means the kafon can be used over and over.

Inside the steel ball, a GPS device plots the kafon's path as it rolls through an area that may be mined and shows on a computerised map exactly where it is safe to walk.

Hassini is still in the testing stages, notably to make sure there is 100 percent contact between the kafon's "feet" and the ground, so no mine is missed.

But initial trials -- some using explosives with the Dutch Defence Force – and an in-the-field rolling test in Morocco this year showed promising results.

"We know this is a working prototype and that we need to do lots of testing still," said Hassani, saying the kafon would not be deployed in real situations until it was 100-percent proven.

The designer and his brother Mahmud, 27, are now looking for sponsors, notably through an online platform. They hope to raise 123,000 euros (US$160,000) in donations by next month to fund development and take the device to Afghanistan in August for more trials.



Dutch brothers of Afghan origin Massoud (R) and Mahmud Hassani (L behind round structure) push the 'mine kafon', a wind-driven gadget to clear anti-personnel mines, at their Eindhoven workshop. *Pic: AFP*

It will be the brothers' first time home after fleeing Taliban-ruled Kabul, Massoud first in 1998 then Mahmud two years later, in arduous treks through Pakistan and Uzbekistan. They finally made their way to the Netherlands, where they were accepted as refugees and today hold Dutch citizenship.

Massoud landed a place at the Design Academy Eindhoven – regarded as one of the world's foremost industrial design schools – where he first conceived the project in 2010.

"I had to design a toy from my childhood," said the shaggy-haired inventor as he sipped a cup of tea.

"I went back into my childhood in a dream. I saw the toys we made and how they rolled into a minefield," he told *AFP*. "We could never get them back."

Despite huge progress in mine-clearing in Afghanistan in recent years, it remains one of the most-mined countries in the world.

Since 1989, around 650,000 anti-personnel mines, 27,000 anti-tank mines and more than 15 million other pieces of unexploded ordnance have been collected, according to the UN-funded Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA).

In June this year, the UN said there were still 5,233 "danger zones" covering 588 square kilometres (227 square miles) putting more than 750,000 people at risk.

At least 812 people were wounded or killed last year by mines, victim-triggered improvised explosive devices and other ordnance left over from the Afghan wars, Nobel Peace Prize-winning organisation Handicap International said.

More than half of the victims were children, it said.

"People are killed almost daily in my home country – and tragically it's often kids, like what happened on Monday," said Hassani, eyes clouded with painful memories from his own childhood.

His reference was to a December 17 tragedy when 10 Afghan girls collecting firewood were blown apart in the country's east after one accidentally struck a mine with an axe.

"There is no silver bullet to solve all the problems associated with mine clearing," conceded Mary Wareham, a senior advisor at Human Rights Watch Arms Division. But "we appreciate every effort," including the kafon's invention, she told *AFP*.

For Hassani, his gadget is more than just a new way to fight a deadly scourge.

"This," he said, "will be our revenge on the war that has torn up our country." – *AFP*

'A GPS device plots the kafon's path as it rolls through an area that may be mined and shows on a computerised map exactly where it is safe to walk'

WEB DEVELOPER

The web developer will assist with the development of the English and Myanmar news sites for the Myanmar Times, as well as other sites for Myanmar Consolidated Media (MCM), including classifieds, archives and more. He or she will report directly to the Online Editor.

The web developer must:

- Be a Myanmar national
- Be fluent in Myanmar and proficient in English
- Have a bachelor's in computer science and at least 2 years of experience in IT
- Know back-end web development and administration
- Know the following languages for development: PHP and MySQL
- Know the following languages for design: CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, HTML, XML
- Know how to use Content Management System (CMS), especially Joomla
- Know how to use the following software: Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver
- Have a good understanding of graphic design and front-end web design
- Provide his or her portfolio

Applicants should send a one page abridged curriculum vitae together with a covering letter summarising the reasons why they believe they are the most suitable person for the position. Applications will be accepted until end of January 2013 and can be sent to

MCM

The Human Resources Manager
Myanmar Consolidated Media Company Limited
379-383 Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon Or by email to member@myanmartimes.com.mm

German minister says 'never again' to nuclear power

BERLIN – German Environment Minister Peter Altmaier said Friday his country would never again return to nuclear energy, hitting back at a top EU official who doubted Berlin's commitment to phase out nuclear power.

"I cannot see any plausible political line-up that would enable a revival of nuclear power in Germany," Altmaier told Friday's edition of the Leipziger Volkszeitung regional daily.

After the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, Germany embarked on an ambitious "energy revolution", deciding to phase out its nuclear power plants by the end of 2022 and bolster renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind power.

However, concerns have mounted that this would entail a sharp rise in electricity prices amid difficulties in building a network able to transmit energy from the North Sea coast to the energy-hungry south of the country.

The European Union's Energy Commissioner, Guenther Oettinger, told Monday's edition of the *Rheinische Post* regional daily that there would "still be nuclear power on the German network in 40 years."

He said there were still 140 nuclear power stations in Europe and that nuclear fusion technology was progressing rapidly. "Maybe this technology will one day be accepted in Germany," said Oettinger, himself German.

Altmaier also vowed to find a permanent national storage site for nuclear waste by 2030. "We are together looking country-wide," he said, adding that the search would be accelerated in the coming years.

The search would be "co-financed and jointly carried out" by Germany's nuclear energy companies, he said. – *AFP*

Delhi gang-rape victim's boyfriend speaks

NEW DELHI The boyfriend of a young Indian student whose gang-rape and murder sparked nationwide fury has recounted the savagery inflicted on her and his own trauma over his failed efforts to fend off the rapists.

The 28-year-old man, who suffered a fractured leg and other injuries in the December 16 attack, also deplored the apathy of police and passers-by who did little to help the unclothed victim at the end of their nearly hour-long ordeal.

On Saturday, a Delhi district court is expected to start the process of bringing the five adult suspects to trial, where they could face the death penalty if convicted. A sixth suspect is a minor believed to be aged 17.

> **'I cannot tell you what I feel when I think of it. I shiver in pain'**

"What can I say? The cruelty I saw should not be seen ever," said the boyfriend, who is currently with his family in rural northern India where he is taking time out from his job at a software firm in New Delhi.

"I tried to fight against the men but later I begged them again and again to leave her," the boyfriend told *AFP* in an interview by phone on Friday from Gorakhpur, a town in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The couple had been out to watch a movie that night and decided to get into a private bus when several rickshaws had refused to drive them back to the victim's home in a New Delhi suburb.

Once in the bus, he was attacked and his 23-year-old girlfriend was gang-raped by a group of allegedly drunk men, including the driver, who also violated her with an iron bar causing immense internal damage that would lead to her death last weekend.

The boyfriend, who asked not to be named, also recounted how passersby had failed to come to their rescue after they were thrown out of the moving vehicle at the end of the brutal ordeal.

He was critical of police for failing to be sensitive to his and his girlfriend's mental condition and also raised questions about the emergency care given in the public hospital where she was admitted.

"A passerby found us (after the attack), but he did not even give my friend his jacket. We waited for the police to come and save us," he told *AFP*.



Indian students of various organisations hold placards as they shout slogans during a demonstration in Hyderabad on January 3, 2013. *Pic: AFP*

Later Friday, he appeared for the first time in public since the attack, giving an anguished interview to Hindi-language Indian cable channel Zee News.

The police arrested six suspects soon after the crime and formally charged them with murder, rape and kidnapping in a city court on Thursday.

This court is to hold another hearing on Saturday and is expected to transfer the case to a special "fast-track" court set up amid a public outcry and demands from demonstrators and the victim's family for the culprits to be hanged.

"I was not very confident about getting into the bus but my friend was running late, so we got into it. This was the biggest mistake I made and after that everything went out of control."

The driver of the bus allegedly then made lewd remarks and his accomplices joined him "to taunt" the couple.

The boyfriend told the driver to stop the bus, but by then his accomplices had locked the two doors.

"They hit me with a small stick and dragged my friend to a seat near the driver's cabin."

After that the "driver and the other men raped my friend and hit her in the worst possible ways in the most private parts of her body."

"I cannot tell you what I feel when I think of it. I shiver in pain," he said.

He said the police who came to their rescue took his girlfriend to a government hospital, but failed to take into account his injuries and mental trauma.

"I was treated like an object by the police. ... They wanted all the help to solve the case even before getting me the right treatment. Nobody witnessed the trauma I suffered," he said.

He said he was also "not satisfied by the treatment provided to the victim by the doctors" at the Safdarjung Hospital, a government-run institution.

His girlfriend died on December 29 in a specialist hospital in Singapore after a 13-day struggle to survive injuries so grievous that her intestines had to be removed. – *AFP*

Argentina restates Falklands claim

LONDON – Argentine President Cristina Kirchner published an open letter in the British press on Thursday calling on Prime Minister David Cameron to return the disputed Falkland Islands.



Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in April 2012. *Pic: AFP*

In the letter, published as an advert in several national newspapers, Kirchner said the South Atlantic islands were "forcibly stripped" from Argentina 180 years ago today "in a blatant exercise of 19th-century colonialism".

"Since then, Britain, the colonial power, has refused to return the territories to the Argentine Republic, thus preventing it from restoring its territorial integrity," she wrote.

Kirchner said the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1965 which considered the islands as a case of colonialism and invited Britain and Argentina to hold talks on their disputed claims.

"In the name of the Argentine people, I reiterate our invitation for us to abide by the resolutions of the United Nations," she wrote, copying in UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The demand comes at the start of a year when the Falkland Islanders are due to hold a referendum on the archipelago's political status in a bid to bring the bitter territorial dispute to an end.

Tensions between Britain and Argentina rose last year on the 30th anniversary of their short but bloody war for control, which left 255 British soldiers and 649 Argentine troops dead.

Cameron has refused to discuss the issue of sovereignty of the islands, known as Las Malvinas in Spanish, and the two leaders publicly clashed over the issue at the G20 summit last June in Mexico.

In a Christmas message to the Falklands, the British prime minister accused Argentina of denying the 3,000 residents the right to choose how they are governed, and of undermining their economy.

In her letter, Kirchner accuses Britain of expelling the Argentines on the islands when it took control and beginning a "population implantation process similar to that applied to other territories under colonial rule". – *AFP*



Thailand 'loses rank of world's top rice exporter'

BANGKOK – Thailand lost its status as the world's top rice exporter in 2012 as a controversial scheme to boost farmer incomes saw it overtaken by India and Vietnam, an industry group said Friday.

Thailand exported 6.9 million tonnes of rice last year, falling behind India which shipped 9.5 million tonnes and Vietnam which sold 7.8 million tonnes overseas, according to the Thai Rice Exporters Association.

Thai exports slumped 35 percent from the 2011 level of about 10.6 million tonnes, based on the group's figures.

"We had been the champion since 1980, for 31 years, but we lost the top spot in 2012," the group's honorary president Chookiat Ophaswongse told AFP.

He said the figures from the rival exporters were based on data from Vietnam's rice industry and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's more than one-year-old policy to buy rice from farmers for 50 percent more than the market price, while popular with the rural poor has hit the competitiveness of Thai exports.

"Now Thai rice is $130-150 per tonne more expensive than our competitors. That's why our exports have fallen as no customer can buy from us," said Chookiat.

"Exporters should change their jobs because they can't survive. Rice has become a political issue now," he said.

The kingdom produces about 20 million tonnes of the grain annually on average, about half of which was sold overseas in the past.

Chookiat estimated that Thailand now has about 12-13 million tonnes of stock in storage and predicted that by the third quarter of 2013 this rice mountain will have grown to about 20 million tonnes.

While the scheme is putting strains on Thailand's government finances, it has been welcomed by many farmers, whose support helped sweep Yingluck to a landslide election victory last year.

Her older brother Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted as prime minister by royalist generals in a coup in 2006, is hugely popular in rural Thailand thanks to his populist policies while in power.

The government has said it is confident that it can find buyers for its rice on world markets at a price that will raise the living standards of its farmers. It says it has signed deals to sell rice directly to other countries. – *AFP*



This screen grab taken from North Korean TV on January 3, 2013 shows North Korea's young leader Kim Jong-Un and his wife Ri Sol-Ju.

Thousands flee wildfires in Australia

SYDNEY – Thousands fled wildfires raging on the Australian island of Tasmania, destroying at least 80 properties and leaving unconfirmed reports of one man dying in the blaze, police said Saturday.

The fires flared on Friday as much of the country suffered a summer heatwave which pushed temperatures above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Tasmania, a southern island state known for its cooler climate.

One of the worst affected areas was the small community of Dunalley, some 55 kilometres (34 miles) east of Hobart, where police estimate about 30 percent of buildings have been destroyed, including the police station and school.

In nearby Connelly's Marsh, about 40 percent of buildings have been ruined.

Police said a firefighting crew was trapped by a bushfire on Friday at Dunalley, where there are fears that a man may have died in the blaze.

"They had to take shelter in their vehicle as the fire burned over their vehicle and they were, from that location as I understand it, able to see a gentlemen who was trying to protect his property and they couldn't get to him, it was too unsafe," acting Police Commissioner Scott Tilyard said.

Dunalley resident Tony Young told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation he realised the seriousness of the wildfires when he spotted plumes of smoke and a helicopter overhead.

"I'd no sooner said that than the embers came straight into the garage where I was standing and ignited the ceiling in the shed and just engulfed it," he told the broadcaster.

"So all I could do was drive the car out of the shed, drive across the other side of the road and stand back and look at the whole place just being engulfed in flames, just like a movie."

Further south on the Tasman Peninsula east of Hobart, as many as 2,000 people had taken refuge in the town of Nubeena overnight, while another 700 were sheltering at the nearby historic Port Arthur site.

Others have been ferried to emergency accommodation in Hobart.

"At this stage, there are no confirmed reports of deaths or major injuries resulting from the fires throughout the state," Tasmania Police said in a statement.

Authorities said while temperatures had dropped from Friday's peak of 41.8 Celsius, the fire danger had yet to pass, with several bushfires burning out of control on Saturday in the east and west of the state. – *AFP*

An heir for North Korea's Kim Jong-Un?

SEOUL - North Korea's next dynastic succession may have been secured, with new TV images of leader Kim Jong-Un's wife suggesting that Pyongyang's first lady recently gave birth.

When state TV showed Ri Sol-Ju attending a memorial service for her husband's late father Kim Jong-Il in mid-December, she appeared heavily pregnant with her loose-fit traditional dress barely hiding a swollen belly.

But more recent images of her attending an official New Year's party showed her wearing a well-fitted two-piece skirt suit with no physical sign of pregnancy.

Speculation was fuelled by the official performance, which included an all-woman band singing a version of the Christmas favourite "When a Child is Born" made popular by Johnny Mathis.

South Korean television and newspapers on Thursday ran before-and-after photos with speculative captions.

"The bulging stomach has gone down ... has Ri Sol-Ju given birth?" asked the *Dong-A Ilbo* daily.

"Ri Sol-Ju with her tummy reduced in 11 days. Has she come out right after childbirth?" ran the caption in the Chosun Ilbo daily.

A South Korean government official, quoted by Yonhap news agency, said Ri "appeared to have already given birth, based on analysis of the TV images."

The fact that Kim Jong-Un even had a wife was only revealed in July last year when pictures emerged of a stylishly-dressed young woman accompanying the new young leader at official events.

Pyongyang's state media confirmed her identity later in the same month, in a rare move in the isolated and deeply patriarchal nation, which has rarely placed its first ladies under the spotlight.

According to intelligence reports cited by the South Korean media, the couple were married in 2009 and already have one child, although that has never been confirmed.

Ri was described as coming from an ordinary family, with her father an academic and her mother a doctor. She visited South Korea in 2005 as a cheerleader for her country's squad in the Asian Athletics Championships. – *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			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
NRC Number
Address
Township
Division
Telephone
Fax
E-mail

Yangon
Mandalay
Capital

Four Publications (MTF,MTM,Crime,NOW)
1 year 25% off 8111,700/-
6 months 22.5% off 857,500/-
3 months 20% off 429,700/-

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

NOTICE is hereby given that **Gallaher Limited** a British company, Member Hill, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 OQU, United Kingdom is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

MAYFAIR

(Reg: No. IV/5853/1999)

in respect of: - "Tobacco, whether manufactured or unmanufactured; substances for smoking sold separately or blended with tobacco, none being for medicinal or curative purposes; snuff; smokers' articles included in Class: 34; cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and matches."

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 **Gallaher Limited**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 7th January, 2013

As Chavez fights cancer, aides build myth

CARACAS – As Hugo Chavez battles cancer in Cuba, his lieutenants here are actively glorifying Venezuela's firebrand leader in what observers see as a campaign to erect a heroic myth that can survive his death.

Since leaving Caracas for Cuba more than three weeks ago for his fourth and riskiest round of cancer surgery so far, the larger-than-life leftist Chavez has vanished from view for the longest stretch of his 14-year presidency.

Even so, his image has been ever present across the state-run media, in adoring new documentaries about his life and legacy and older video clips that lionize the "comandante."

Some highlight "Chavez's battles" with the imperialist enemy. Others evoke his closeness with Cuban leader Fidel Castro or trace his political lineage to independence hero Simon Bolivar, the father of the country.

The regime "exalts Chavez and his accomplishments because it seems clear that his absence could become permanent," said Luis Alberto Butto, a researcher at Simon Bolivar University.

"It can be seen in the both the volume and the tone" of the messages, said Butto, a historian and political analyst.

With sheer force of personality, Chavez has dominated Venezuela like few others in the country's history, overturning entrenched elites and bending its political system to his populist vision of "21st century socialism."



An artist draws next to a painting of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, on January 3, 2013. *Pic: AFP*

But with so much revolving around Chavez personally, it remains to be seen whether anyone else in his camp has the political skills and popular appeal to replace him.

Chavez has brooked no rivals and even when he named Vice President Nicolas Maduro as his successor and left him in charge of the country he did so without transferring the formal powers of office.

Debates that have multiplied on radio and television since the Venezuelan leader's departure for Cuba on December 10 have been devoted almost exclusively to him, rather than any potential successors.

Rebroadcast 24 hours a day, they are interspersed with news updates and music clips that glorify, if not deify, the ailing president. On some radio broadcasts, listeners recite prayers and poetry dedicated to him.

A new propaganda spot shows photographs of an adolescent Chavez against a background of clouds as solemn music plays, followed by pictures of the president hugging children and old people.

It finishes with an image of the leader in apparently contemplative mood in pouring rain and the slogan: "I am Chavez."

Underlying the barrage of imagery is a message that appears to be shifting from "Never without Chavez" to "Never without Chavismo."

Billboards and wall posters displaying giant images of citizens with the slogan "I am Chavez" or "the people are Chavez" also reinforce the idea that Chavismo will survive without its charismatic leader.

In a recent video clip, Chavez himself claimed: "I am not an individual, I am the people, damn it!"

But Butto said that represents a challenge for "Chavismo".

"It seems likely there will be no return, so the language has changed," he said.

"Today they exalt the figure of Chavez to establish a link between the president, his legacy and the future of his political project. The problem is that Chavez is the project."

Teresa Albanes, an advisor of the main opposition coalition, likened it to the personality cult that arose in Argentina around Juan Domingo Peron and his wife Evita.

"What the Chavistas want to say is that Chavismo will not end with Chavez," she said.

Top Chavez lieutenants like Vice President Maduro and National Assembly speaker Diosdado Cabello on several occasions said they would continue the Bolivarian revolution, no matter what the cost.

Often described as a populist movement by its detractors, Chavez's revolution has consisted mainly of redistributing oil revenues to the have-nots through a series of social programs.

The Venezuelan people have "the education, the political culture and the levels of organization to pursue this revolution at least until the end of the century," Maduro said from Cuba on Tuesday. – *AFP*

Syrian civil war death toll reaches 60,000

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — At least 60,000 people have been killed in Syria since protests against President Bashar Assad began nearly two years ago, the United Nations said Wednesday in its first detailed analysis of deaths.

"The number of casualties is much higher than we expected, and is truly shocking," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said in a statement emailed from Geneva. "Collectively, we have fiddled at the edges while Syria burns."

The casualty toll released by the U.N. integrates six databases of killings between March 2011 and November 2012 maintained by Syrian human rights monitors and one built by the government. Only reports bearing full names and the date and location of each death were used, according to the U.N. The seven databases identified 59,648 unique killings and Pillay said it's now reasonable to assume more than 60,000 have died.

The conflict began with peaceful protests 22 months ago and then spiralled toward what U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi this week warned may "turn into hell." The fighting has affected the lives of 3.3 million Syrians and caused damage totaling 2 trillion Syrian pounds ($28 billion), Prime Minister Wael al- Halaqi said on state television on Dec. 31.

The analysis shows a rise in the average number of documented deaths to 5,000 a month since July 2012, from around 1,000 a month previously.

The greatest number of reported killings was in Homs where 12,560 deaths were recorded, followed by 10,862 in rural Damascus, 7,686 in Idlib and 6,188 in Aleppo, according to the report. The analysis, by the non-profit technology company Benetech for the U.N., was not able to differentiate clearly between combatants and non-combatants.



A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) shows wounded Syrians at the emergency ward of a hospital in Damascus, following a blast targeting a petrol station near a hospital late on January 3, 2013. *Pic: AFP*

The report will be used to assist future war crimes investigations, the U.N. said, and will assist "to enhance accountability and provide justice and reparations to victims' families."

At least 20 people died today when warplanes struck a gas station in the Damascus suburb of Mleeha, Omar Hamza, an opposition spokesman told Al Arabiya television. The attack killed 50 and wounded dozens more, according to the opposition Local Coordination Committees in an e-mailed statement. The number of dead is likely to rise as rescuers continue to pull human remains from the rubble, the LCC said.

"The situation is bad and it's getting worse," Brahimi said in Cairo on Dec. 30. "I can't see anything other than these two paths: Either there will be a political solution that will meet the ambitions and legitimate rights of the Syrian people, or Syria will turn into hell."

– *Washington Post*

Australia warns citizens against fighting in Syria

SYDNEY– Australians who take part in the fighting in Syria face up to 20 years in jail, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Bob Carr said Friday after a Melbourne man was reportedly killed in the conflict.

The spokesman said the government was aware of reports that more than 100 Australians had engaged in the conflict since 2011 but he had "no evidence" of any citizens currently involved.

Under the Crimes (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) Act 1978: "A person shall not enter a foreign state with intent to engage in a hostile activity... or engage in a hostile activity in a foreign state.

"Penalty (is) imprisonment for 20 years," the spokesman said.

"Anyone in Australia who recruits someone to fight overseas faces seven years."

At least three Australians are reported to have died in Syria, including a Melbourne bricklayer reportedly travelling under the name Abu al-Walid al-Australi and killed last weekend fighting alongside rebels.

Australian Arabic Council founder Joseph Wakim said many people travelling to Syria claimed they were providing humanitarian support to the war-torn nation but were instead involved in the fighting.

"I do believe that for most of these people it is far more a decision of personal conviction than it is of some sort of financial gain," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

He has called for greater vigilance over people travelling to the country.

But Carr said it was very difficult to keep track of people's movements in Syria.

"It's a country on the verge of collapse and internal communications are extremely poor," Carr told the ABC.

"We know... that it is a matter of militia against militia; that local militia control parts of the country and our capacity to know what individual Australians might be doing inside Syria is, of course, extremely limited."

Australia has been deeply critical of the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has urged all its citizens to leave Syria, but there are 67 left in the country, mostly dual-nationals who are long-term residents. – *AFP*

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Your Family's Lifestyle Choice

03.01.2013 to 16.01.2013

EVERYDAY Great value!

FRESH FRUIT



GREAT VALUE



Exclusively Available @ marketplace by City Mart



WINE SPECIAL



CITY MART

AIANG SAN | AT7 STREET | JUNCTION 8 | PAN CITY | YANKIN CENTRE | MYAY NI CHAUNG | ZAWANA

SHWE BYA YAR | CHINATOWN POINT | JUNCTION MAW TIN | marketplace | THAMINE | JUNCTION SQUARE | TA (MANDALAY)

BABY CORNER

GROW

Rs. 22,200 — 21,000

Rs. 400 — 350

Rs. 900 — 750

Rs. 1,800 — 1,500

Rs. 8,700 — 7,850

Rs. 4,650 — 4,190

Rs. 13,300 — 12,000

SUPERB DEALS

Luminarc

Rs. 103,600 — 93,200

10% Off

Price range from: Rs.2,400 to 3,800

Rs. 20,600 — 18,500

Rs. 3,200 — 2,880

Rs. 5,150 — 4,650

CITY MEDIC PHARMACY

Your reputable partner in health care!

Rs. 2,200 — 2,000

Rs. 2,200 — 2,000

CLEAN & FRESH

Rs. 1,300 — 1,200

Rs. 5,300 — 4,770

Rs. 600 — 540

Rs. 1,400 — 1,260

CAMRY

Rs. 16,700 — 15,000

Rs. 400 — 360

Rs. 480 — 430

Rs. 2,350 — 2,120

Rs. 1,900 — 1,710

Books & Music

Rs. 30,500 — 27,600

PERSONAL CARE

Rs. 2,350 — 2,000

Rs. 8,000 — 6,800

Rs. 2,950 — 2,660

15% Off

SPECIAL ELECTRICAL OFFER

Rs. 6,700 — 5,950

Rs. 11,500 — 10,300

Rs. 20,900 — 19,900

Rs. 35,000 — 32,500

Rs. 19,000 — 18,000

Rs. 15,000 — 13,500

Rs. 25,000 — 23,200

Rs. 27,200 — 25,500

Rs. 16,500 — 14,500

We Welcome

Gift Card

Gift Voucher

WE ACCEPT TELEPHONE ORDER

Tel: 01-

Prices may change without prior notice.

While Stocks Last!

Clinton out of hospital

NEW YORK – US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton left a New York hospital late Wednesday after three days of treatment and is expected to make a full recovery from a rare blood clot in her head.

"Secretary Clinton was discharged from the hospital this evening," a top aide, Deputy Assistant Secretary Philippe Reines, said in a statement, after the 65-year-old diplomat was forced to spend New Year's Eve in a hospital bed.

"Her medical team advised her that she is making good progress on all fronts, and they are confident she will make a full recovery," he said, adding that Clinton was "eager to get back to the office."

Earlier the top US diplomat, bundled up against the cold in a thick winter coat and wearing dark glasses, appeared in public for the first time in almost a month, when she came out of a building at the New York Presbyterian Hospital.

It was the first time Clinton had been seen since catching a stomach virus on returning from a trip to Europe on December 7, which triggered a series of health scares, forcing doctors to order her to rest.

Accompanied by her smiling husband, former president Bill Clinton, as well as her daughter Chelsea and several aides, Clinton walked to a waiting black van at the hospital, according to images broadcast by CNN.

Both Clinton and her family "would like to express their appreciation for the excellent care she received from the doctors, nurses and staff at New York Presbyterian Hospital Columbia University Medical Center," Reines added.



Pic: AFP

He did not say when the secretary would return to work though, promising only to issue an update in the coming days. He did not specify where Clinton was going, but she has a home in Chappaqua, New York.

"Grateful my Mom discharged from the hospital & is heading home. Even more grateful her medical team confident she'll make a full recovery," Chelsea Clinton said in a tweet.

The health scare, which has grounded the normally indefatigable secretary of state, came as she prepares to step down after four years in office later this month.

She will most likely hand the baton to Senator John Kerry, who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to replace her.

Kerry's appointment will have to be confirmed by the new Senate, due to be sworn in on Thursday, but as a veteran, well-respected senator, he is expected to sail through his confirmation hearing.

Clinton has been largely credited with helping to restore America's image abroad in the past four years, and Obama has said that he had begged her to stay on.

But the former first lady and senator has admitted to being exhausted after being in the public eye for almost two decades. As secretary of state she has flown almost a million miles and visited 112 countries, tirelessly promoting democracy and what she calls "smart power."

Earlier, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that despite her illness Clinton had been busy keeping in touch by telephone.

"She has been talking to her staff, including today. She's been quite active on the phone with all of us," Nuland told journalists.

The globe-trotting diplomat was admitted to the hospital on Sunday after a routine scan revealed the clot in a vein behind her right ear in the space between her skull and her brain.

Her doctors Lisa Bardack, from the Mount Kisco Medical Group, and Gigi El-Bayoumi, of George Washington University, said in a statement on Monday that Clinton had not suffered a stroke or any neurological damage.

They said however they would be treating Clinton with blood thinners to break up the clot, which if left untreated could be potentially dangerous.

The blood clot is believed to have stemmed from a concussion, which happened when Clinton became dehydrated as a result of the stomach bug and fainted.

Clinton still has some unfinished business as she wraps up her tenure at the State Department, and is widely expected to testify before the end of the month on the September 11 attack on a diplomatic mission in Libya.

She had been due to appear at hearings last month, after a State Department inquiry found security at the Benghazi mission was "grossly inadequate," but was forced to cancel after she fell ill. Four Americans died in the attack.

Republican Representative Peter King said he believed she still needed to testify "and I think she will be pleased to do it. I never have known Hillary Clinton to back away from a fight."

But King told CNN she should not appear before Congress "until she is absolutely in perfect health." – *AFP*

Virgin France latest victim of digital sales

PARIS – Entertainment retailer Virgin France has become the latest victim of consumers shifting to buying digital music and video, with a spokesman saying on Friday that the company is to declare itself insolvent.

The seller of CDs and DVDs employs 1,000 workers and operates 26 stores in France, including its flagship Virgin Megastore on the Avenue des Champs Elysees in Paris.

The company is to hold a works council meeting with employees on Monday to announce the insolvency, the spokesman said.

"The company has seen losses for several years," the spokesman said, noting that sales were at 286 million euros ($372 million) in 2011.

Virgin France has already taken steps to terminate its lease on its landmark location on the Champs Elysees, which accounts for 20 percent of its sales.

French media reports have suggested tech firm Apple or British retailer Marks & Spencer could be looking to take over the prime location on the famed Parisian shopping strip.

French investment firm Butler Capital Partners owns 74 percent of Virgin France after buying a controlling stake from media conglomorate Lagardere in 2007.

Lagardere purchased the company from British businessman Richard Branson's Virgin Group in 2001.

Virgin France has closed several outlets and shed 200 employees in recent years. A new management team took over in mid-2012 in a bid to rework the company's strategy.

"This is absolutely terrible news," the head of France's MEDEF employers group, Laurence Parisot, said on BFM Television.

"The crisis we are going through is not only an economic crisis," she said. "A new (business) model is being born and many sectors are being affected."

Unions representing Virgin France employees said the move was not unexpected and criticised the company's owners for not investing more and management for failing to come up with a reorganisation plan.

The head of France's CFDT union, Laurent Berger, said Virgin France had failed to adapt to the changing retail environment.

"Every sector is at some point confronted with economic difficulties," he said on France Inter radio. "Virgin did not at any point make the necessary changes in terms of economic strategy."

Another major French media retailer, FNAC, is also suffering and last year announced an 80-million-euro savings plan and the cutting of 500 jobs.

Large music, video and books retailers have struggled around the world to survive the onset of digital distribution of media.

British entertainment group HMV warned last month there was uncertainty about its future after it announced half-year losses of £36 million (44 million euros, $58 million). – *AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **PetroFina S.A.** a company organized under the laws of Belgium and having its principal office at 52, rue de I'Industrie, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: -

FINA

(Reg: Nos. IV/1384/2009 & IV/6149/2012)

in respect of:- "Industrial oils and greases, industrial lubricants, fuels (including motor spirit) and illuminants" - Class: 4

(Reg: Nos. IV/1385/2009 & IV/6150/2012)

in respect of:- "Industrial oils and greases; lubricants; raw petroleum; petroleum jelly for industrial proposes; products derived from petroleum included in this class; petrol, gas and liquified gas; coke; illuminants" Class 4"

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **PetroFina S.A.**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 7th January, 2013

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Cosmo Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha** a company incorporated in Japan and having its principal office at 1-1, Shibaura 1-Chome, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105-8528, Japan is the Owner and sole proprietor of the following two trademarks:-

(Reg: Nos. IV/3023/1992 & IV/10106/2012)

(Reg: Nos. IV/3022/1992 & IV/10107/2012)

The above two trademarks are in respect of:- "Petroleum, gasoline, fuel gas, industrial oil, lubricating oil, etc.," – Int'l Cl: 4

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

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Cosmo Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 7th January, 2013

Steve Jobs movie

SAN FRANCISCO – The first film based on the life of legendary Apple co-founder Steve Jobs will be released in April, according to a distribution deal for "jOBS" announced on Thursday.

The "biopic" starring Ashton Kutcher as Jobs, who died in 2011, will premier later this month on the closing night of the Sundance Film Festival, according to independent distributor Open Road Films.

Written by Matthew Whitely and directed by Joshua Michael Stern, "jOBS" focuses on the Apple co-founder's life from 1971 through 2000.

A deal was announced for the film to be distributed in North America by Open Road, which is owned by major cinema chains AMC Entertainment and Regal Entertainment.

Sony Pictures is backing a its own Jobs film based on the biography of the Apple co-founder's life written by Walter Isaacson.

The screenplay is being written by Oscar winner Aaron Sorkin, whose works include "The Social Network," a play on the birth of Facebook. – *AFP*

Cyclone hits New Caledonia

NOUMEA – One man was killed and another was missing after Cyclone Freda hit New Caledonia, as landslides blocked roads and high winds downed power lines, officials in the French Pacific territory said Thursday.

Wind gusts had weakened to 90 kilometres per hour (60 miles per hour) as it moved towards the east Caledonian island of Mare, after hitting the Solomon Islands earlier this week as a destructive storm with gusts reaching 231 kph.

High commissioner Albert Dupuy told reporters in the capital Noumea that one man had drowned in high seas whipped up by Freda, while an 18-year-old male was missing after attempting to cross a swollen river.

Some 3,200 people were without power, Dupuy said, adding that multiple roadways were blocked by landslides or flooding.

The storm was moving eastward at 30 kph and set to leave the New Caledonian region over the next 48 hours, officials said. – *AFP*



US Marine Corps former minesweeper Mark Zambon, member of the team Race 2 Recovery, consisting of British and US soldiers who have suffered serious injuries in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years, enters a car in Lima on January 3, 2013, ahead of the 2013 Dakar Rally which this year will thunder through Peru, Argentina and Chile from January 5 to 20. *Pic: AFP*

Israel relaxes some building restrictions on Gaza

JERUSALEM — After more than five weeks of calm on its border with Gaza, Israel is allowing more building materials into the territory and considering easing other restrictions as part of an Egypt-brokered cease-fire with Hamas that ended an eight-day conflict in November, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Daily shipments of 20 truckloads of gravel for private construction began Sunday, the first such shipments since Hamas, the militant Islamist group that rules the Gaza Strip, seized control of the enclave in 2007.

Previously, building supplies from Israel were allowed in only for Israeli-approved projects carried out by international organizations, such as the United Nations and the US Agency for International Development. Israel had imposed the restrictions because of concerns the materials could be used by Hamas to build tunnels and bunkers.

The new gravel shipments are limited and not expected to have a significant impact on private construction in Gaza. But a further easing of Israeli curbs could buttress the truce with Hamas by giving the group a stake in preventing the resumption of cross-border rocket fire, which triggered the recent Israeli offensive.

"It took some time, but eventually our government understood that the way to stabilize the situation with the Gaza Strip is by creating an interest in the other party to keep the cease-fire, and you don't do it by siege, but by allowing more prosperity," said Shlomo Brom, director of the program in Israeli-Palestinian relations at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

In tandem with the move by Israel, Egypt on Saturday began allowing building supplies into Gaza for projects funded by Qatar, although that step fell short of demands by Hamas for a permanent opening of the Gaza-Egypt border crossing at Rafah for the movement of goods.

On a visit to Gaza in October, the emir of Qatar pledged $400 million for the construction of housing and a rehabilitation center and to fix major roads.

Palestinian officials and business leaders in Gaza said they have been told by Israeli officials that if the cease-fire continues to hold, Israel will further ease some border restrictions. Maj. Guy Inbar, spokesman for the Israeli Defense Ministry department that oversees Gaza border crossings, said several steps are under consideration, including allowing more building materials, expanding the volume of goods crossing into Gaza from Israel, permitting more exports from the territory and facilitating infrastructure improvements there.

"As long as quiet is maintained, the easing of restrictions for the population in Gaza will continue," Inbar said. He said the steps this week "followed our discussions with the Egyptians and against the background of the quiet that has been maintained for more than five weeks."

Egypt has been in contact with both Israel and Hamas, following up on the cease-fire agreement reached November 21.

Under that deal, Israel has relaxed the limits it had imposed on Gaza fishermen, doubling the distance they can fish off the coast to six nautical miles. It has also permitted Gaza farmers to work closer to the border fence with Israel, in an area where Israeli troops had enforced a no-go zone to prevent militant attacks.



A Palestinian woman wears a scarf and a Fatah headband as she takes part in Fatah's first mass rally in Gaza. *Pic: AFP*

The quantity of gravel shipments approved by Israel falls far short of Gaza's private-sector building needs, which are met with supplies smuggled in tunnels under the border with Egypt. Israel allows the passage of considerably more building supplies for the internationally funded projects, about 80 to 100 truckloads a day, according to Israeli officials.

Those international projects, however, require a lengthy bureaucratic process of Israeli approval to ensure that the materials are not used by Hamas.

Ali al-Hayek, head of the Gaza Businessmen's Association, said 20 trucks a day for private-sector building "is not enough for anyone," given the scale of construction needed in Gaza, where the recent conflict with Israel brought further destruction.

Sari Bashi, executive director of Gisha, an Israeli human rights group, said that after treating building materials as "radioactive weapons . . . the fact that Israel can overnight remove onerous restrictions on construction materials indicates they should have never been there in the first place."

Israel bars nearly all exports from the Gaza Strip to its main markets in the West Bank and Israel and allows limited shipments abroad. Israel imposed a blockade on the Gaza Strip after Hamas seized control of the territory, but it eased restrictions on the entry of goods in 2010 after a deadly Israeli commando raid on a Turkish aid flotilla headed for Gaza provoked an international outcry.

– *Washington Post*

Russia-US relations turns chillier with adoption ban

WASHINGTON — Russia's move to prohibit Americans from adopting Russian orphans is the latest threat to the Obama administration's flagging attempt to "reset" relations between the two Cold War rivals.

President Vladimir Putin Friday signed a bill to ban U.S. adoptions of Russian children that the country's parliament approved in retaliation for a new U.S. law sanctioning Russians accused of human rights violations. The prohibition goes into effect Jan. 1, according to a statement e-mailed by the Kremlin.

The United States expressed "deep concerns" about the ban, with State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell saying that more than 60,000 Russian children have been adopted by Americans in the past 20 years. The State Department reports that 962 Russian children were adopted by Americans in 2011, about one in ten U.S. international adoptions.

"It is misguided to link the fate of children to unrelated political considerations," he said in a statement Thursday. "The welfare of children is simply too important to tie to the political aspects of our relationship."

The action and reaction reflect a relationship already strained by friction over other issues, such as democracy promotion, missile defense, weapons proliferation and the conflict in Syria. While relations are much improved from the Cold War era of mutual assured destruction, they're getting frosty again with nationalist sentiment rising in Russia as the economy loses steam and the world's biggest energy exporter faces slipping oil prices.

"The reset accomplished most of its objectives, and now the question is where do you go from here?" said Angela Stent, director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University in Washington. "That is more questionable."

Peppery rhetoric has been fueling the fire. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called Russia's defense of Syrian President Bashar Assad "despicable", and her spokesman dismissed the country as "back in the USSR." Russia's Pravda.ru website responded by using the acronym "FUKUS" to describe its main United Nations opponents on Syria — France, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

Russia and the U.S., though, still need to work together to resolve number of dangerous issues, including Syria, North Korea, Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program, and reviving negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Obama administration also hopes to work with Russia on expanding trade and U.S. investment, and would like to broker more arms control treaties, including on tactical nuclear weapons.

There's little chance that the crisis in Syria will end in anything but chaos if the U.S. and Russia — both of which worry about the rise of Islamic extremism in the country — can't find a way to cooperate on the issue, said Fiona Hill, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington policy group.

"We can't really avoid the Russians," Hill said in a telephone interview. "In the global sweep of things, we have a lot of common concerns, but we approach each issue from very different perspectives."

Some analysts tie the growing friction to Putin, who won a third term as president in March 2012 after four years as prime minister. He had been president from 2000 to 2008.

Clinton criticized Dec. 2011 elections, which increased then-Prime Minister Putin's parliamentary majority, as "neither free nor fair." Putin counterattacked by accusing her of instigating protests by giving opposition activists "a signal" to start their "active work" — an echo of the term "active measures," which described political warfare by the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service in which Putin served. – *Washington Post*

China moves cautiously on foreign media, but signals tighter web control

BEIJING — Chinese citizens were treated this year to an unaccustomed number of hard-hitting exposés and investigations detailing the private lives and corrupt financial dealings of the most senior Communist Party officials and their family members.

Most of the reports have come from what one media expert here called "the two W's," meaning Western media and weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter.

So far, the Chinese government's response to this growing onslaught of negative publicity has been scattered and sometimes surprisingly restrained. The reaction reflects what many analysts called Chinese authorities' more sophisticated strategy for handling adverse publicity, and a recognition that any overreaction might simply draw new and unwanted attention.

Bloomberg News found its website blocked in China after a June story detailing the multimillion-dollar financial holdings by family members of Xi Jinping, who became Communist Party general secretary in November and will take over as president next year. Likewise, after *The New York Times* reported in October on the US$2.7 billion fortune amassed by close relatives of outgoing prime minister Wen Jiabao, its website and its new Chinese-language site have been blocked here.

Other Western news organisations, such as Reuters and the Wall Street Journal, have aggressively pursued corruption and other lurid allegations against deposed former Politburo member Bo Xilai, whose wife, Gu Kailai, was convicted of murdering a British businessman.

'It's more serious than just embarrassing stories about the assets of some officials.'

So far, no reporter for a major Western media organisation has been expelled from China for coverage of the various scandals. Melissa Chan, an American correspondent for Al Jazeera English, was expelled in May, but the Chinese government gave no reason, and hers was China's first expulsion of a foreign journalist in 14 years.

"It's really difficult for them to target individual reporters," said Willy Wo-Lap Lam, a longtime analyst of Chinese politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "This corruption and enrichment of families has become endemic. It's difficult for them to issue denials. If they target individual reporters, or take legal action, this will just draw more attention.

After *The New York Times* story appeared detailing the $2.7 billion amassed by Wen's relatives, including his aging mother, son, daughter, brother and brother-in-law, lawyers claiming to represent Wen's family sent a statement to two Hong Kong newspapers denying there were any "hidden riches" and hinting at legal action against the Times. But so far, no action has been taken.

Zhan Jiang, a media expert with the Beijing Foreign Studies University, said China's three decades of opening up has also meant an opening to the foreign media, and authorities are gradually learning to be more cautious in their response to critical stories.

"If they expel the reporters, the punishment will be too serious, and it will become another piece of news," Zhan said. He suggested even the current restrictions on the websites "won't be a long-term policy. They are just temporary measures."

Ren Jianming, a professor at Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics who studies corrupt practices, agreed. During the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests of 1989, he said, the ideological foundations of the Communist regime were being challenged and the response was harsh. Now, he said, rampant corruption being exposed is embarrassing, but is not a direct threat to the government's power.

"To not react is much wiser than to overreact," Ren said.

Chinese authorities appear to be aiming most of their attention at local information sources, particularly weibo.

Weibo has been instrumental lately in exposing several cases of lower-level malfeasance, including the release last month of a surreptitiously recorded sex tape involving a middle-aged Chongqing district party official and his 18-year-old mistress.

Controlling weibo "is integral to the interests of the party," Lam said. "It's more serious than just embarrassing stories about the assets of some officials. . . . Once they have lost control of the dissemination of information, I think the party sees real trouble ahead."

In the past two weeks, a torrent of editorials in the state-run media has called for tighter controls over the Internet, ostensibly to better protect users' personal data and to guard against "irresponsible rumors" and online business fraud.

On Friday, a standing committee of China's rubber-stamp legislature approved measures that would strengthen requirements for Internet users to supply their real names, which many believe is a way to stifle debate online and make it easier for police to track down and arrest people who post sensitive items.

Media experts see the new measures as gradual steps to try to rein in what has become for many young, urban and wired Chinese a powerful new free-speech platform and a source of uncensored news and information.

"Cleaning up the online world demands the self-discipline of Web users, but even more it demands the interventionist discipline of rule of law," warned *People's Daily Online* in an ominous December 24 editorial.

Chinese officials also appear to have upgraded the sophisticated censorship apparatus collectively known as the Great Firewall. Chinese and foreigners here who want to gain access to blocked Internet sites now commonly use virtual private networks, or VPNs, to bypass the firewall. But upgrades to the firewall have targeted VPNs and made bypassing the firewall more cumbersome.

Three of the most popular companies offering VPNs in China, WiTopia, Astrill and StrongVPN, this month apologized to their customers in China for slow service, blaming China's censors.

Astrill said in a note to its customers that it was working on a way around the new barriers, but the firewall was getting better at seeking out and blocking new VPN pathways. "It's like a cat-and-mouse game," the company said.

– *Washington Post*

Nepalese protests mirror Indian anger over rape

KATHMANDU – Hundreds of Nepalese campaigners protested Thursday over the alleged rape and robbery of a maid by government officials, echoing widespread anger in neighbouring India over violence against women.

Sita Rai, an assumed name used by the 21-year-old to protect her identity, says she was robbed by officials and then raped by a policeman as she returned to Kathmandu's international airport from Saudi Arabia.

Rai was given US$1,700 in compensation by the government – $700 less than the amount she says she lost – angering demonstrators who began picketing the residence of Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai a week ago, demanding punishment of the accused.

Around 200 human rights activists, journalists and other protesters have been holding up photographs of many other victims of rape, murders and kidnappings, accusing the government of failing to act in each case.

"The cases of violence against women came out one after another and I thought enough is enough, now is the time to act. So, I joined the protest, which was small in the beginning but is now gaining momentum," said Ananta Koirala.



A Nepalese activist holds a placard as she stands near the Prime Minister's residence in Kathmandu on January 3, 2013, during a protest demanding justice in rising cases of violence against women. *Pic: AFP*

Police have since made several arrests in Rai's case and Bhattarai has spoken of his "shame" over the government's response to her complaint.

Mass protests in India over the gang rape last month of a 23-year-old student who subsequently died have shone a light on an alleged culture of impunity over sex attacks in its Himalayan neighbour.

Nepalese media have not always prioritised the issue of violence against women, with the gang rape by five men of a 21-year-old Buddhist nun on a bus 18 months ago receiving relatively little coverage.

The latest data compiled by the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime show 69 complaints of rape to police in 2006 in Nepal, but the figure is likely to under-represent the problem because of the difficulty in reporting cases.

The national Women's Commission says more than 15 percent of Nepalese women suffer some form of sexual abuse during their lifetime.

– *AFP*

Logging ban murder in Philippines

MANILA – The Philippine government has voiced outrage at "ruthless" illegal loggers intent on defying a nationwide ban on destroying forests, following the New Year's Day murder of an environment officer.

Two unidentified men armed with M-16 rifles shot environment department officer Alfredo Almueda in the head as he waited at a forest checkpoint to intercept a truck carrying logs on Tuesday, the government said in a statement.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the killing of yet another environment officer. We are angered and outraged by the attack," Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said in the statement issued late Wednesday.

Paje said Almueda, 59, was the victim of persistent efforts by illegal loggers to silence "environmental defenders".

"This attack clearly demonstrates the ruthlessness of those responsible for the rape and destruction of our forests," Paje said.

Almueda's killing brings to 21 the number of environment department personnel, deputised workers and volunteers who have been killed since a nationwide logging ban was imposed two years ago, according to government data.

The Philippines, a tropical Southeast Asian archipelago, has lost more than half its forest cover over the past century with only about 7.6 million hectares (18.8 million acres) left, Paje told reporters last year.

These forests are guarded by underfunded, outnumbered and poorly armed government personnel who often face resistance from illegal loggers often linked to powerful businessmen and corrupt officials.

Clemente Bautista, national coordinator for the non-government environmental group Kalikasan (Nature), said illegal loggers felt they could operate with impunity.

"Initially, they will be intimidated and if that does not work, (the loggers) file a case against the officials or have them removed from their post. If the officials are hard-headed they will even kill them," he said.

Out of all the 21 murders since the start of 2011, only one suspect for one of the cases has been caught, environment department assistant secretary Danny Nicer told AFP.

– *AFP*

Record India deficit may limit rate cuts

By Kartik Goyal

INDIA'S record current-account deficit threatens to weigh on the rupee and curb the magnitude of interest-rate cuts forecast to begin this month in support of government policies seeking faster growth.

The shortfall swelled to US$22.31 billion in the quarter ended September 30, the widest in Reserve Bank of India data beginning 1949. The rupee is down 6.1 percent against the dollar in the past three months, fanning price gains that will limit Governor Duvvuri Subbarao to a 25 basis-point rate cut on January 29, according to eight of 10 analysts in a Bloomberg News survey.

India has the biggest deficit among the largest emerging markets, stoked by the worst export slump since the 2009 global recession and gold imports that Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said are a "huge drain." Trade and budget gaps have increased economic risks, the Reserve Bank said December 28, even as the government tries to lure more foreign investment and limit subsidies as Asia's No 3 economy struggles.

"The widening current-account deficit indicates very severe macroeconomic threats," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, an economist at Bank of Baroda in Mumbai. "The central bank has less room to ease policy meaningfully."

Subbarao has left borrowing costs at 8pc since a 50 basis-point cut in April 2012, resisting Chidambaram's calls in October for a further reduction.

'The widening current-account deficit indicates very severe macroeconomic threats.'

Still, the central bank signaled in a statement of the December 18 policy review that it may ease in 2013 as an inflation rate exceeding 7pc cools. Two analysts in the Bloomberg survey predicted a 0.5pc-point cut in January.

The rupee weakened 1.1pc, the most in two months, to 55.075 per dollar at the 5 p.m. close in Mumbai on January 4. The BSE India Sensitive Index climbed 0.1pc. Five-year interest rate swaps advanced to 7.1pc, the highest in more than a week, while the one-year rate rose as high as 7.6pc, indicating investors pared bets on the extent of cuts in borrowing costs.

The deficit in the current account, which tracks goods, services and investment income, reached 5.4pc of gross domestic product in July-to-September from 3.9pc in the previous quarter.

Exports slid for seven months through November. Gold imports accounted for more than two-thirds of the current- account gap on average in the last three years, the central bank said in its Financial Stability report last month. India also purchases about 80pc of its crude oil from overseas.

The rupee will weaken about 7pc to 59 per dollar by year-end, according to Nomura Holdings Inc Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd predicts a drop to as low as 57 per dollar this quarter.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh curbed fuel subsidies in September and opened industries including retail to more foreign investment, seeking to steady the currency, revive growth and avert a credit-rating downgrade that may disrupt capital inflows.

The current-account deficit may narrow as 2013 progresses, which, along with an acceleration in the economy, could "give the central bank room to ease policy" later in the year, said Sujan Hajra, a Mumbai-based economist at Anand Rathi Financial Services Ltd.

The nation may raise taxes on gold imports to tackle the shortfall, Chidambaram said two days ago as he called on citizens to curb demand for the metal. He is due to deliver the annual budget in February.

For now, the rupee "will remain vulnerable" and the central bank's "scope for aggressive easing is rather limited," said Indranil Pan, an economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd in Mumbai.

The Finance Ministry predicts GDP growth of as little as 5.7pc in the year to March 31, the least in a decade.

The January 29 policy review is set to be the first with Urjit Patel as an RBI deputy governor. Banking Secretary DK Mittal said on January 3 Patel has been appointed pending final checks.

A report today showed India's service industries expanded at a faster pace in December. The purchasing managers' index rose to 55.6 from 52.1 in November, HSBC Holdings Plc and Markit Economics said in a statement. – *Bloomberg*



Shark fins drying in the sun cover the roof of a factory building in Hong Kong on January 2. *Pic: AFP*

Outrage over Hong Kong's 'shark fin rooftop'

HONG KONG – Hong Kong conservationists expressed outrage Thursday after images of a factory rooftop covered in thousands of freshly sliced shark fins emerged, as they called for curbs on the "barbaric" trade.

The southern Chinese city is one of the world's biggest markets for shark fins, which are used to make soup that is an expensive staple at Chinese banquets and viewed by many Asians as a rare delicacy.

Activist Gary Stokes who has visited the site estimated there are 15,000 to 20,000 fins being laid to dry on the rooftop on Hong Kong island ahead of an anticipated surge in demand over Lunar New Year in February this year.

"This is shocking," the Hong Kong coordinator for conservation group Sea Shepherd told AFP, saying it was the first time that he has spotted such a massive hoarding of shark fins in one place in the Asian financial hub.

"This is the most graphic, brutal and barbaric part of the industry -- the element of chopping a shark's fin off and throw it back into the water is horrific and inhumane," he added.

Stokes believed the large amount of shark fins were destined for China, and that traders moved to dry the shark fins on secluded rooftops instead of sidewalks -- as they have done in the past -- to avoid public anger.

Campaigns against consuming shark fins have gained ground in Hong Kong in recent years, after major hotel chains decided to drop the soup from the menus, and home carrier Cathay Pacific said in September it would stop carrying unsustainable sourced shark products on its cargo flights.

"The demand in Hong Kong is definitely decreasing but unfortunately, the demand in China is growng," Stokes said.

"As long as there is no protection for the sharks, the (demand) will just keep going on and on," he added, urging Hong Kong authorities to ban the trade.

Environmentalists say the sustainable shark fin industry is tiny and most of the products are harvested in a way that threatens scores of shark species deemed vital for healthy oceans.

About 73 million sharks are killed every year, with Hong Kong importing about 10,000 tonnes annually for the past decade, according to environmental group WWF. Most of those fins are then exported to mainland China.

The number of threatened shark species has soared from 15 in 1996 to more than 180 in 2010, mainly due to the growing Chinese demand for fins. – *AFP*

Starbucks to enter Vietnam

HANOI – Starbucks said Thursday it would open its first store next month in Vietnam, seeking a foothold in the coffee-loving country as part of efforts to expand in Asia.

The communist country's first Starbucks cafe will be in southern Ho Chi Minh City, the US beverage giant said in a joint statement with its local partner, Hong Kong's Maxim Group.

"Vietnam is one of the most dynamic and exciting markets in the world and we are proud to add Vietnam as the 12th market across the China and Asia-Pacific region," said Starbucks China and Asia Pacific president John Culver.

Starbucks has been targeting growth outside of the stagnant US market, opening thousands of stores in China and across the Asia-Pacific region over the past few years.

In October, it opened its first stores in India, in partnership with domestic giant Tata Global Beverages.

Unlike tea-drinking India, Vietnam -- the world's second-largest coffee producer -- already has a strong local coffee culture with dozens of popular local chains and small coffee-shops on nearly every street corner.

"Starbucks is deeply respectful of Vietnam's long and distinctive local coffee culture," Culver said in the statement.



People relax at a locally run coffee shop in downtown Hanoi on January 3, 2013. *Pic: AFP*

"We know coffee is a national pride for many Vietnamese and as such, we look forward to contributing and growing Vietnam's already vibrant coffee industry," he added.

Starbucks already purchases "notable" amounts of high-quality arabica coffee from Vietnam and is committed to buying more over the long-term, according to the statement.

Culver said in December that Starbucks will have almost 4,000 stores in the Asia-Pacific region by the end of 2013, including 1,000 in China. – *AFP*

Its great famine now just a memory, China confronts a new problem: obesity

Older people in China remember the Great Famine of 1958-61, when 15 million to 45 million people died of hunger and related causes.

Today, nearly every street corner in Beijing and many other cities seems to boast a McDonald's. There are KFC outlets in almost every Chinese city, 3,700 in all. Meanwhile, newly minted members of the Chinese middle class have rushed to buy cars, leaving bicycles that were once a major source of exercise rusting on the street. Pizza Hut is considered a fancy date-night restaurant, T.G.I. Friday's has several branches in Beijing, and cans of Coca-Cola are sold at every corner stand.

With fast food and rising affluence, a country only a generation removed from hunger is getting fat. How fat? According to the World Health Organisation, the percentage of adults who are overweight and obese rose from rose from 25 percent in 2002 to 38.5pc in 2010 in a population of 1.37 billion. Urban dwellers account for much of this. WHO projects that 50 to 57pc of the Chinese population will be too heavy by 2015. (By comparison, 69pc of Americans age 20 and older are overweight or obese.)

There's a standing joke, notes Lyn Wren, a physician with International SOS Beijing Clinic, that "Chinese waistlines are growing faster than the GDP."

Given how impoverished the country was not long ago and how impoverished parts of it still are, "having a problem where people are eating too much — it can seem a little churlish to complain about that," says Paul French, the Shanghai-based author of "Fat China: How Expanding Waistlines are Changing a Nation." French and co-author Matthew Crabbe found that even as recently as five years ago, obesity wasn't recognized as a problem by health professionals in China.

The Chinese Health Ministry has said it encourages healthy eating programs in schools and the construction of more playgrounds to promote exercise. And the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention makes vague references to "health promotion" and providing "scientific guidance for healthy diets," but nationwide campaigns about eating healthily and exercising are not evident.

'Chinese waistlines are growing faster than the GDP'

In fact, pushing the population to lose weight, exercise and cut back on unhealthy foods seems to strike a discordant note to some inside the government, French says. "When I talked to government officials, their argument was: Right now we're trying to tell them to do and not do a lot of things," such as not spitting on the street, not dropping trash everywhere and not driving "like complete idiots."

"They know they can only tell people to do some things . . . before they get fed up."

Although the era of famine is long past, many grandparents and parents still push their children to eat a lot.

Setsuko Hosoda, a family doctor at Beijing United Family Hospital, says the parents and grandparents she sees are "always worried that their child is not eating enough." A 2012 Penn State study of 176 Chinese children ages 6 to 18 found that 72 percent of mothers of overweight children thought their children were normal or underweight.

Sissi Zhong, a 26-year-old Beijing secretary, recalls that her grandparents got angry if she left food on her plate when she was a child. "They said, 'Do you know, in my time of food shortages, people didn't have food, so how can you waste your food?'" Zhong says. So she cleaned her plate even if she was very full.

When her father came home from business trips with boxes of a Chinese soft drink called Jianlibao, she started to put on weight. Drinking four and five cans a day made her weight jump to 143 pounds by the time she was 18. At 5-foot-3, that would put her barely into the "overweight" category by US standards, but she was miserable, getting kicked off her school's dance team for being too fat and being teased by boys who liked her skinnier pals. Today, Zhong says she spends many hours at the gym to stay slim.

China has particular problems, French says, that can promote obesity. A survey he did found that recent scares about contaminated milk, fruit and vegetables have made consumers feel more safe buying and eating packaged foods. "It's perceived to be less tainted," he says. "If it's packaged and done by Nestle, they're thinking and hoping that there is not going to be poison" in the food. Yet, the fat and sugar content of many packaged foods is often much higher than that of fresh food.

Contradictory impulses are apparent here, much as in the United States. Chinese editions of Vogue display models who are bone-thin.

At the same time, China seems oddly fascinated by obesity. Two years ago, a shopping mall in the city of Shenyang held an obesity competition to celebrate International Women's Day.

Chinese are turning to surgical solutions for weight loss. Huiqi Yang, a general surgeon at Beijing United Family Hospital, has just started offering an operation in which an adjustable band is surgically tied around the stomach to constrict it, leading patients to eat less. Chinese doctors have been doing such bariatric surgeries for 15 years, but Yang says there is growing interest.

Meanwhile, as obesity, rises so do the ills associated with it.

A recent World Bank report said diabetes, heart disease and hypertension are among several noncommunicable diseases threatening China and other countries. The International Diabetes Federation estimates that there are 92.3 million diabetics in China. No other country has as many diabetics — not surprising, given that China is the most populous country in the world — and even China's outgoing president, Hu Jintao, is rumored to have diabetes.

– *The Washington Post*

Google chairman to visit NKorea

WASHINGTON – The United States on Thursday criticised a planned visit to North Korea by Google chairman Eric Schmidt, calling it ill-timed in the wake of Pyongyang's widely condemned rocket launch last month.

Schmidt – whose company has an unofficial motto of "Don't Be Evil" – is planning to visit the isolated nation with former New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, a veteran troubleshooter on North Korea.

Richardson has been to North Korea a number of times in the past 20 years and has been involved in negotiating the release of US citizens detained in the country.

News of the visit, described as "private' by both Washington and Seoul, comes just weeks after Pyongyang confirmed the arrest of a US citizen of Korean descent and said he would be prosecuted for unspecified crimes.

Pyongyang has in the past agreed to hand over detainees to high-profile delegations led by the likes of former US president Bill Clinton, and some observers suggested it may have requested Schmidt's participation in this case.

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland clearly conveyed Washington's lack of enthusiasm for the mission, and told reporters that both Schmidt and Richardson were "well aware" of that view.

"Frankly we don't think the timing of this is particularly helpful... in light of recent actions by (Pyongyang)," Nuland said, adding that she was referring to its long-range rocket launch in December.

Pyongyang defended the launch as a purely scientific mission aimed at placing a satellite in space, but the international community saw it as a disguised ballistic missile test that flagrantly violated UN resolutions.

Nuland said that Schmidt and Richardson would be travelling in an "unofficial capacity," adding: "They are not carrying any messages from us."

When asked if the pair had been told of Washington's displeasure about the timing, the spokeswoman replied: "They are well aware of our views."

Google has so far refused officially to confirm the visit. Richardson's staff told AFP he would be out of the United States until Friday and unavailable for comment.

Richardson was last in Pyongyang in 2010 when he met North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator in an attempt to ease tensions after the North shelled a South Korean border island.

The US citizen arrested in November, identified as Pae Jun-Ho, entered the country as a tourist according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) which said he had admitted committing a crime against the state.

North Koreans are largely isolated from external news and information sources and very few citizens have access to a computer, let alone the Internet.

Google is present in neighboring China, where it has long struggled with government censors. In 2010 it effectively shut down its Chinese search engine, re-routing mainland users to its uncensored site in Hong Kong.

– *AFP*

New winners for Myanmar film awards

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe and Nuam Bwai



Melody celebrates her Best Actress award for her role on the film 'Htar Wara A Lin Tan Myar'. *Pic: Ko Taik*

AFTER six years of exile in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Academy Awards made a popular return to Yangon on December 30, with a ceremony that honoured domestically made films released in cinemas in 2011.

The revamped program also featured new presentation styles, and recognised a new group of talented filmmakers and actors who had been overlooked under the old judging system.

Of the 15 films that saw theatrical release in 2011, five were nominated for awards. Eight of the top awards went to a single movie, *Htar Wara A Lin Tan Myar* (Eternal Rays of Light), directed by U Tun Aung Zaw.

The film, which won for Best Film and Best Director, tells the story of a child adopted by a Kayin family, who grows up to become a school teacher and works for the benefit of his village. The story is based on a comic book, and the film was shot in Shwe Sar Yan village in Mandalay Region.

U Zaw Myint — owner of Yee Myint film company, which produced *Htar Wara A Lin Tan Myar* — said credit for the movie's success should go to director U Tun Aung Zaw.

"I didn't make this film. I'm just holding the Academy statue thanks to the efforts of U Tun Aung Zaw," U Zaw Myint said upon receiving the Best Film award.

"I feel like U Tun Aung Zaw was driving the car, and I was happily sitting beside him in the passenger seat. He directed the movie with all his heart, and that's why our production won the award," he said.

After receiving the Best Director prize, U Zaw Myint thanked the camera crew and everyone else who helped with the film, including the residents of Shwe Sar Yan village. He also lauded co-director So Kyaw San and cartoonist Moe Gyo, the latter of whom wrote the original story upon which the film was based.

"My friend, director Mg Myo Min, discovered the story 15 years ago, and I'm very thankful to him for that," U Zaw Myint said.

"For years I shot the film in my dreams, and at night I talked to my wife about it. She never complained, and in fact she became the first audience for the movie. She gave me courage to shoot the story, so thanks to my wife."

U Zaw Myint's son, Naung Naung, won the award for Best Actor for the film, even though it was his first acting role.

The Best Actress prize went to Melody, who in the same film played the role of villager Ma Aye Chit, who falls in love with the teacher.

"Six years ago, director Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin allowed me to appear in a short drama on television, so I want to thank him for being my teacher," Melody said.

"I also want to thank director U Tun Aung Zaw, who believed in me enough to cast me as the main actress in his movie. He also guided me as a teacher and was patient with my mistakes like a father."

Melody also thanked her boyfriend, whose support was instrumental in allowing her to "spend the past six years working as an actress without any stress", and said she was grateful to Facebook for providing a forum for sharing her "thoughts and feelings" with her fans.

The Best Supporting Actor, comedian Mos, also won for his role in *Htar Wara A Lin Tan Myar* as a man who pretended he was well-educated even though he was illiterate.

"I'm now 59 years old and I've won an Academy statue. I feel proud and I believe this award was given by the audience, so thanks to the movie fans who treated us well," he said.

Musician Zaw Myo Htut won his third Academy Award for the movie's soundtrack, which was based on traditional Myanmar music, with changing tempos to suit the scenes in the film.

Htar Wara A Lin Tan Myar also earned awards for Best Scriptwriters (Myint Maung and Soe Kyaw San) and Best Editing (Hein Htet).

In a change of pace, the Best Cinematography award went to Tint San for his beautiful shots of Mandalay, Monywa, Sagaing, Mingun and Shan State in the movie *Pan Kyar Wut Hmone* (Pollen of the Water Lily), directed by Sin Yaw Maung Maung.

San Oo won the Best Sound award for the same movie.

Chit Snow Oo, meanwhile, won the Best Supporting Actress award for her role as a clever sister in *Yin Kwe Nar* (Sick of Broken Hearts).

"I had never acted like that character before. I had only performed in fancy styles in the past, so I want to thank director Min Oak Soe who believed I could play the role," Chit Snow Oo said.

"Also, without the accolades of the audience I would never have lasted for nine years as an actress, so I want to thank my fans as well as my parents who allowed me to become an actress."

Death to 'amazeballs' and other annoying words

By Katy Waldman

KATY Steinmetz had a delightful rundown last week in *Time* of some of 2012's worst words and phrases: the ones that popped up everywhere, like evil prairie dogs, making you long for a society that communicated solely through pictographs. Her bag of verbal irritants included YOLO, adorkable, mommy porn and zombie apocalypse.

But towering above these in sheer horribleness is one word that I couldn't even believe Steinmetz hadn't made up, despite mounting Twitter evidence to the contrary: "amazeballs". I suppose the idea is to convey cake balls, or perhaps some other type of balls, made of amazing. And then, by conjuring this Deep Image — which in its reluctance to be visualized puts poet Robert Bly to shame — to fan outward into abstraction, so that anything can be amazeballs: you, me, your go-to holiday outfit, brownies (which are square, and have nothing to do with balls of any kind). It is frightening.

I felt so traumatised by my discovery of amazeballs that I dropped everything and tried to prove that it (they?) didn't exist. But in September 2012, amazeballs rolled into the Collins Online Dictionary, with the definition "an expression of enthusiastic approval". The Urban Dictionary (one of the numerous websites that continues to be censored by the Myanmar government) glosses it thusly: "Basically beyond amazing. Being so awesome that a regular word can't describe you." It appeared on PerezHilton.com as early as 2009 — at which point multiple commenters implored the blogger to "stop trying to make amazeballs happen". On June 15, 2009, amazeballs started trending on Twitter, prompting Hilton to fire off a series of victory tweets about his contribution to the lexicon. But trouble brewed on the horizon: The comedy duo Jessica and Hunter posted a YouTube video on June 23 claiming that they had invented the term. Cue turf war.

As it happens, they're both wrong. The originator of the term appears to be fashion blogger Elizabeth Spiridakis. In an interview with Gavin McInnes, Spiridakis takes credit/responsibility for the adjective/noun/adjective-annoyingly-disguised-as-a-noun — though she wisely displaces some of the blame onto her BFFs. Spiridakis:

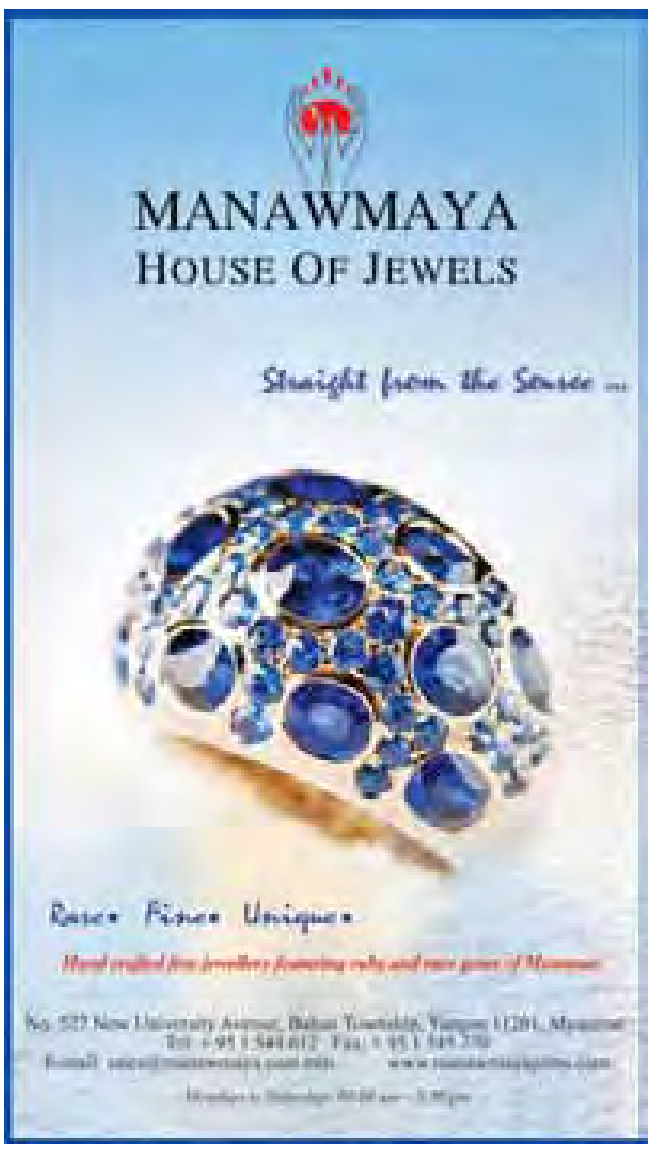
"To be fair, the true originator of 'amazeballs' was probably Ece Ozturk or Andrea Oliveri, two of my best friends. We met at *Details* mag in 2003 and all had a love of ridiculous shorthand and nicknames and dumb jokes like that. Putting '-balls' on everything was pretty standard (starveballs, hungballs, tiballs, exhaustballs = starving, hungry, tired, exhausted. regs vocab for girls at magazines.) I just had a forum to make it more public because I am addicted to the internets and they are just sorta 'whatevs' about blogs, etc."

Katy Perry and Kate Walsh, among others, began to appropriate amazeballs for their own ends. A recipe materialised. In a crowning moment for the neologism, Gwyneth Paltrow referred to one character's rendition of the Aretha Franklin hit "Ain't No Way" as "amazeballs" on *Glee*.

In November of this year, amazeballs racked up a more dubious honour. It was added to the Dictionary of the Most Annoying Words in the English Language, where it was defined as "an exclamation inviting someone to hit you".

It's still the best definition I've seen.

— *Slate*



Myanmar's 'Newsweek' subscribers disgruntled by transition to online

By Zon Pann Pwint

AFTER nearly 80 years of publication, the US-based magazine *Newsweek* on December 31 released its last print issue, making way for its transition to an online-only format.

The magazine, which started publishing in 1933, has long been considered an important source for news analysis and political commentary by readers in Myanmar.

U Maung Maung Lwin — general manager of Innwa bookstore on Pansodan Street, which has sold subscriptions to *Newsweek* since 1995 — said most of the people who bought the magazine through his shop were "retirees".

He said he didn't think the magazine's transition to a digital format would satisfy the preference among these older readers for print magazines.

"I tell the subscribers that they can read the magazine online, but they don't like that idea," U Maung Maung Lwin said.

"The retirees say it's impossible to read online. They want to read news on paper. They want to make notes in the margins of the articles and highlight words they want to remember, and they want to be able to read the articles over again."

He said he has made a career out of distributing English-language magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *The Economist*, *Reader's Digest* and *National Geographic*, and he has encountered this type of transition in the past.

Innwa had distributed *Businessweek* and *Discovery Channel* magazines, both of which stopped printing for a short period but which re-launched as print magazines. The bookstore still sells issues of *Discovery Channel* magazine.

"So I hope we will see *Newsweek* in print form again in the future," U Maung Maung Lwin said.

He added that *Newsweek*'s distribution representative to Myanmar was always considerate of local readers, moderating the price to a reasonable K1200 an issue for subscribers.

"At my bookstore there have always been more subscribers to *Newsweek* than to *Time*," he said, adding that each week his shop delivered 700 copies of *Newsweek* to people's homes.

Copies of the magazine became readily available in Myanmar shortly after independence in 1948.

U Maung Maung Lwin said there were always risks associated with supplying copies of the magazine to readers, especially when it contained articles about Myanmar that expressed views contrary to the draconian censorship policies of the military government.

"We had to tear some pages from the magazine if censored articles and news stories were included inside. If the front-page news was censored, the whole magazine was banned from distribution. Such incidents were relatively rare, but they happened at least once a year," he said.

He said it was "sad" that the magazine's subscribers cannot enjoy the pleasure of freely reading the articles, decrying the timing of the print edition's termination mere months after censorship of print media was ended in the country.

U Zaw Win, 90, subscribed to *Newsweek* from 1955 to 1990.



The last print edition of 'Newsweek' on sale at Innwa bookstore in downtown Yangon. *Pic: Ko Taik*

"There are several widely read news magazine in the US, such *Time* and *Newsweek*. *Time* is read for political views and *Newsweek* is best for updated news. I prefer *Newsweek*," he said.

He added that in 1955 the subscription rate was K90 a year.

"I stopped my subscription in 1990 because they always tore out the pages that included important news about Myanmar. For example, while reading the magazine, the pages might jump from 30 to 34. It spoiled the experience," he said.

New Year's resolution: reading 366 books in 366 days

By Jeff Ryan

LIKE many of you, I have a nagging problem: I'm not a heroin user. Nor am I a knuckle-cracker, a nail-biter or a thumb-sucker. I (usually) pay off my credit cards every month. I travel, I see my family, I'm not stressed. And the big three — drinking, dieting, and smoking cessation? I'm good.

This is all great for my insurance rates, but not when trying to determine a New Year's resolution. So what can someone like me do for 2013?

I had the same dilemma last year, and my solution, while ingenious, turned out to be quite a challenge. I decided that I would read more. Not a book a month, or even a book a week. One entire book every day. Three hundred sixty-six books by year's end. "Challenge accepted!" the Barney Stinson of my soul boasted. No sweat.

If you're like me, the list of books you want to read is a hydra. Cutting one head off just scribbles new titles onto the list. I'm never ahead. My whole life I've been fighting this hydra tactically, trying to bleed a head dry by reading, say, one of Bob Woodward's or Neal Stephenson's books every year. But they keep writing more books! Time for a new solution: overwhelming firepower. Force-feed my eyeballs like every tomorrow was a final exam. By year's end, my 366 books would have that hydra on its knees.

And, believe it or not, it worked.

In the cold light of New Year's morning, my challenge seemed a bit daunting. So I gave myself a week. If I didn't have seven books finished by January 7, I obviously wasn't going to be able to keep such a meth-addled pace.

The resolution almost didn't last 24 hours, but New Year's night I forced my eyelids open and read a short horror novel. The following day I finished *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*, which, despite its title, was not a horror novel but a pop-culture history I'd been working on for a few days. The day after that I peeled off a *Walking Dead* collection. Driving to work, I hit the final disc of a Nelson DeMille audiobook. The night after that, I read the final chapter of a Narnia book to my daughter at bedtime.

Seven days, seven books. So far, so good. A good six of those books were timing and luck — it can take me three weeks to finish an audiobook, and more than a month to finish a bedtime story. But I gave it another week. And another. Soon my every waking thought was on reading.

The prime directive for this sort of project, you might think, is to pick short books. I don't deny that 2012 was not the year for me to launch into Terry Goodkind. Want some Tolstoy? *The Forged Coupon*, not *War and Peace*. But as it turned out, Read Short Books was rule No 2.

No, my prime directive was: no min-maxing, or focusing on one character attribute to the exclusion of everything else.

If you've ever been in a team sport, school play or med school, you know how that commitment supersedes all others. Parties are missed, sleep is skipped, emails go unreturned. "I can't — I have practice/rehearsal/a corpse to dissect."

My plate is already pretty full: I work full-time, try to be a good husband, and am always up for a good game of Pretty Pretty Princess. Mine isn't a tougher schedule than that of other working parents, but it is tough. So the challenge was to see if a heavy-lifting year of reading could be done almost exclusively in the crumbs of found time in my life. The oil-change can wait, I don't need those sick days or lunch hours. My test for this was my wife: I didn't even tell her I was tackling a book a day until six weeks into the project. If she suspected I was slacking — dishes undone, litter box a ruin, laundry growing sentient — then I was failing my prime directive.

'If you're like me, the list of books you want to read is a hydra. Cutting one head off just scribbles new titles onto the list. I'm never ahead.'

The idea of a full book a day — going from title page to back-jacket blurbs — went quickly out the window. I read lots of books at once, and can go days making progress in five or six volumes without technically finishing any of them. Then there are flat-out busy days, where the actual drop-dead demands of my job and parenting mean there is not a second to spare for reading. My worst lull was during a Florida trip, when I barely ploughed through the 300 pages of John Irving's *The Fourth Hand*. And that was during a whole week of family vacation — the time when normal people read more. It took a month of catch-up to get back at pace.

But for every period behind the eight ball, I had weeks when I was days or even weeks ahead of schedule. A slack day at work, an hour doing yard work with the iPod, a solo plane ride or overnight stay — these were my moments, and I seized them. Believe it or not, I grew so far ahead of my pace that I successfully read all 1016 pages of George R R Martin's *A Dance With Dragons*. It took me three full weeks, but I slew that Dragon.

I did have to give up some things. I listened to audiobooks exclusively — no music for me. I gave up video games, which wasn't as big a deal for me as I expected it would be. Mainly, though, I decided that *Starship Troopers 2*, *Lost Boys 3* and *Saws V-VII* weren't worth the midnight oil I was expending on them. Yes, you, too, can read a book a day, just by giving up direct-to-DVD horror films!

If you're hoping to read a book a day, I also encourage shamelessness. You don't see salad-eating contests on the Fourth of July; you see hot dogs. So I grabbed as much literary junk food as I could stomach for the days when I wasn't reading a "real" book. For you, that might be erotica or category romances. It might be fan fiction or "Star Wars" novels, pulps or New Age tracts. Whatever floats your boat. Reading is reading.

Here's another not-so-shameful secret: capes. Superheroes have saved me so many times I might as well be Lois Lane. I can start and finish a six-issue collection of Captain America or Green Lantern comics in less than an hour. That's a book, or at least it is under my definition of "something printed that cost about $20". Don't blame me, blame Marvel Comics.

And lest you think all I did was splash in the literary kiddie pool, I also read works of Virginia Woolf, Willa Cather, Nicholson Baker, Thomas Hardy, James Baldwin, Umberto Eco and Weird Al Yankovic. I have now read everything by Mary Roach and Alice Sebold, and am *thiiiis* close to having the complete set of Bill Bryson and Sarah Vowell.

If you follow my path and read a book a day in 2013, you'll find that you truly, truly will not be reading more than usual. Right now, you are probably reading a comparable amount to me — but you're reading newspapers, Facebook, Twitter and Slate. I let that stuff go for a year in the interest of making my quota. I always dreamed that in retirement I might be able to knock off a book a day: Turns out, I didn't have to wait. — *Slate*

Afghan female rapper seeks reason with rhymes

By Sardar Ahmad

KABUL — Sporting a long leather coat and western jeans under a headscarf, Soosan Feroz looks like many modern women in Kabul.

But she is a surprising new phenomenon in this conservative Islamic country — the nation's first female rapper.

Her lyrics though are not unfamiliar for many of her fellow countrywomen — she raps of rape, abuse and atrocities that Afghan women have endured during decades of war in a country gripped by poverty.

"My raps are about the sufferings of women in my country, the pains of the war that we have endured and the atrocities of the war," Feroz said in an interview in the office of a local company that is helping her record her first album, between local performances including at the US embassy in Kabul.

Like most fellow Afghans, the 23-year-old says her life is filled with bitterness — memories of war, bombing and a life at refugee camps in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan.

'If rap singing is a way to tell your miseries, Afghans have a lot to say.'

She was taken to Pakistan as a child by her parents and later to Iran, escaping a bloody civil war at home in 1990s.

Two years after the 2001 US-led invasion of her war-scarred nation that toppled the Taliban, the then-teenager returned home with her family.

She worked as a carpet weaver with her other siblings for a living until she discovered her new talent.

Told that rap and hip-hop had become a way for many artists around the world to express daily hardships in their lives, Feroz says: "If rap singing is a way to tell your miseries, Afghans have a lot to say. That's why I chose to be a rapper."

She recalls her woes at Iranian refugee camps in her first recorded piece of music, "Our Neighbours", which has been posted on Youtube and viewed nearly 100,000 times: "What happened to us in the neighbouring country? / We became 'the dirty Afghan' / At their bakeries we were pushed at the back of the queue."

The lyrics are borne from personal experience, Feroz said.

"As a child when I was going to bring bread from our neighbourhood bakery, the Iranians would tell me, 'Go back, you dirty Afghan'. I would be the last one in the line to get my bread," she said.

Millions of Afghans still live in Iran and Pakistan, which together hosted about seven million refugees after the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Feroz was too young to remember the bloody battles of the 1980s between the Russian soldiers and freedom fighters known as mujahedin but her first song is full of war tales, with one line proclaiming: "We went to Europe for a better life [but] in refugee camps we rotted."

Thousands of Afghans put their lives on the line every year to reach Europe through dangerous and illegal routes on land and sea. Those who make it often spend years in isolated refugee camps.

Afghan pop star Farid Rastagar has offered to help the young artist release an album, the first song of which will be released this month.

One of the songs is called "Naqis-Ul Aql", which can be translated as "deficient-in-mind" — a common belief about women among Afghan men.



Soosan Feroz (right) rehearses with Afghan pop musician Farid Rastagar at a recording studio in Kabul on December 10, 2012. *Pic: AFP*

"In this rap, she sings about the miseries of the women in Afghanistan, about abuses and wrong beliefs that still exists about women," Rastagar said.

Afghan women have made some progress since the fall of the Taliban but many still suffer horrific abuse including so-called "honour killings" for perceived sexual disobedience.

Feroz, the daughter of a former civil servant and an illiterate housewife who remarkably let their daughter sing, has already made scores of enemies not only among conservatives but also within her own family.

After releasing her first song on the internet, Feroz's uncles and their families have shunned her, accusing her of bringing shame on them. Others, mostly anonymous callers, have threatened to kill her.

"What's my fault?" she asks. "I always receive phone calls from unknown men who say I'm a bad girl and they will kill me," she says, her dark eyes welling with tears.

Sitting next to her is her father, Abdul Ghafaar Feroz, who says he prides himself on being her "personal secretary".

"I'm not deterred," Feroz said, her father nodding his head in agreement. "Somebody had to start this, I did and I don't regret it and I will continue. I want to be the voice of women in my country." — *AFP*

Singer Rain faces military discipline

SEOUL — South Korean pop icon Rain is to be disciplined after it emerged he may have flouted military service rules while dating a top actress, the defence ministry said last week.

Ministry spokesman Kim Min-Seok told reporters that the 30-year-old singer would appear before a military disciplinary committee this week.

"However, he is not expected to land in jail," Kim said.

Rain is a little over halfway through the two-year military service that is mandatory for all able-bodied South Korean men.

He has been serving as an "entertainment soldier" who appears in military-run TV and radio programs aimed at boosting morale.

South Korea's well-oiled celebrity gossip machine went into overdrive last week when it was confirmed that Rain had begun dating Kim Tae-Hee, a major TV drama star with a massive following in Japan.

Fan excitement over the match-up between two of the country's most high-profile celebrities was tempered by questions over how the couple had managed numerous dates over the past four weeks.

During their military service, South Korean men are largely confined to their barracks and given little free time.

Tabloid pictures of the couple showed Rain, 30, driving a private car in military uniform, contrary to service guidelines, and not wearing his army beret.

The singer failed to wear a beret outside his camp and made "private contact" with the actress three times while returning from official duty, ministry spokesman Kim said.

The singer, whose real name is Jung Ji-Hoon, is one of the biggest names in the world of K-pop, which commands a huge following in South Korea, across much of Asia and beyond.

After the tabloid pictures emerged, the ministry's website was bombarded with messages calling for Rain to be disciplined, with thousands of people signing an online petition urging an investigation.

Some suggested he be forced to repeat his military service like the "Gangnam Style" star Psy, who was made to serve twice after it emerged he had furthered his showbiz interests during his first stint.

Celebrities are frequently caught attempting to evade military service for fear they might be forgotten by their fans while in uniform.

In 2011, popular hip-hop singer MC Mong was given a suspended jail sentence for delaying his conscription into the military on false medical grounds.

The fact that Rain and Kim Tae-Hee, 32, were indeed dating was confirmed by Kim's agency on January 1.

"They are currently getting to know each other," the agency said in a statement.

Kim is best known for her roles in popular Korean dramas such as *Iris* and *Stairway to Heaven*, and is in great demand as a brand publicist.

Military service is taken extremely seriously in South Korea, which remains technically at war with North Korea because the 1950-1953 Korean War ended with a ceasefire rather than a peace treaty.

Apart from those with physical disabilities, exemptions are rare and anyone refusing to serve — for moral or religious reasons — faces an automatic jail term.

One of the best-known cases of evasion involved Korean-American pop singer Steve Yoo.

In 2002, just as he was about to be called up, Yoo gave up his Korean nationality and became a naturalised US citizen.

The South Korean government considered it an act of desertion and he was deported and banned from returning for life. — *AFP*



Poring over a story, not a score

By Jason Wilson

IF you have ever read anything about wine, you've surely noticed the backlash — the veritable revolution — that has been waged against critics who rate wines with numbers. A new wave of sommeliers, bloggers and wine journalists directs venom at Robert Parker, at *Wine Spectator*, at any entity that sips and spits and scores.

Wine blogs and their comments sections are filled with would-be revolutionaries, trembling with indignation at the injustice of the 100-point scale. These wine-soaked Che Guevaras declare that the influence of the 100-point scale, such as the one Parker pioneered in his *Wine Advocate* in the early 1980s, is at long last on the wane. Or soon will be. Maybe. Someday.

The revolution, they tell us, is coming and it will be beautiful. We presumably will all hold hands in the liquor store and sing "Kumbaya", and no one will ever again buy a wine simply because it was rated at 90-plus points.

Now, I'm no fan of scores either, but the reality is that change is still far away.

'How does the average drinker choose wines in a post-score world? Wine critics around the world seem to be searching for the answer.'

Shelf talkers in almost every wine-store aisle still tout the critics' numbers, and consumers still buy wines based on those numbers. The reason people cling to scores is fairly obvious: What is their alternative? Obscure tasting notes about aromas and flavours? How does the average drinker choose wines in a post-score world? Wine critics around the world seem to be searching for the answer.

In Italy, the Slow Food movement published its first English-language guide to Italian wines, "Slow Wine 2012: A Year in the Life of Italy's Vineyards and Wines", the second edition of which will be published by Slow Food Editore and distributed by Chelsea Green late in January. "Slow Wine" introduces readers to more than 400 wine producers and more than 3000 wines.

"We have abandoned the very easy-to-understand, but ultimately also trivialising, method of awarding points and sought to look beyond the glass," write Giancarlo Gariglio and Fabio Giavedoni, the editors, in their introduction to the "Slow Wine 2012" guide. "What matters is wine's soul."

So what is "Slow Wine's" revolutionary methodology? Wineries are rated with a rather confusing array of symbols: snails (for exemplifying Slow Food values), bottles (for excellent quality) and coins (for good value). And then there is a short narrative broken into three sections: People, Vineyards and Wines. "Storytelling is the key concept underpinning our approach," write Gariglio and Giavedoni.

Storytelling is Slow Food's stock in trade. The 130,000-member worldwide organisation, as many know, was started by activist Carlo Petrini in the late 1980s in response to the opening of a McDonald's near the Spanish Steps in Rome. The Slow Food manifesto calls for a "good, clean and fair" model of food production and protests fast food, industrial food and homogenisation. Its logo, the snail, has become a sort of Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for the eco-gastronomy set.

So what is a slow wine? That's a little hard to pin down. I met Giavedoni at Slow Food's biennial Salone del Gusto in fall 2010 when the Italian edition was launched, and he told me then: "For a wine to be a slow wine, it doesn't just transmit taste. It must also transmit values. They have two kinds of complexity, both in the glass and outside the glass."

The "Slow Wine" editors want to make clear that storytelling did not trump rigour. The book represents 2000 winery visits and 6000 hours of work by a staff of about 200 who visit every winery. "We are journalists, not novelists," Gariglio wrote via e-mail. "We don't try to make things look pretty, we don't seek out the folkloristic side."

That is true about the prose. The 2013 entry for Antonelli San Marco (awarded a snail), which I visited recently in Montefalco, Umbria: "Filippo Antonelli always keeps a careful eye on the future, interpreting modern times while preserving the charm of the past. Which is why his cellar is one of the finest expressions of the Umbrian winemaking tradition."

I'm not certain that sort of vague prose tells me much more than a point rating would. I know it doesn't begin to capture Filippo Antonelli, whom I've also met, and who told me hilarious stories of how he worries about his older children who — like a lot of young Italians — don't drink wine and "love the stupid Justin Bieber".

Likewise, "Slow Wine" describes Antonelli's Contrario 2009, a modern, fresh bottling of the Sagrantino grape, by saying it "represents an interesting experiment with the variety. It manages to bring out all the grape's fruity character without interfering with the tannins."

Ahem. I'll give that description an 82.

— *The Washington Post*

Belgian chocolatiers face up to changing tastes

By Jerome Rivet

BRUSSELS — Belgium is rightly proud as producer of some of the world's finest chocolate but changing tastes and new markets in Asia and the Arab world are shaking up its somewhat predictable scene.

"Belgian traditional chocolates? Some people still do them really well, such as the major brands," said Laurent Gerbaud, one of the new generation of chocolatiers trying to keep up with a discerning clientele.

In his workshop in the centre of Brussels, a customer will find few traces of the Manon, the praline filled with coffee-flavoured cream and covered in white chocolate that has been the industry mainstay for decades.

Gerbaud instead offers small chocolates made with exotic and unusual flavourings — figs from Izmir in Turkey, the bitter berries of the barberry tree, Cape pears or yuzu, a citrus fruit from Japan.

"My priority is clear, simple flavours, using the best ingredients possible. My chocolates use less sugar and fat in response to increasing demand," Gerbaud said.

Such chocolates with a bitter and sharp edge were first made in France in the 1990s as artisan chocolatiers came onto the scene.

In Belgium, the trend has been slower to get off the ground in an industry dominated by such illustrious names as Leonidas, Godiva, Cote d'Or or Neuhaus.

But that is beginning to change, with new brands coming through, even if progress is slow and Belgium's some 400 artisan chocolatiers remain wary of getting carried away.



Chocolate maker Laurent Gerbaud works at his workshop in the centre of Brussels on December 12, 2012. *Pic: AFP*

"It is extremely difficult to establish a brand, to build up a clientele and to be profitable. After 11 years, I still do not have profits," said Gerbaud, one of the best in the business.

For the established brands, the challenge is different, needing to find new markets if they are to expand beyond their home base.

Leonidas was founded after the 1913 International Exhibition by Leonidas Kestekides, a Greek pastry maker who decided to settle in Belgium, and the company is using the 100th anniversary celebrations to update its offering.

Kestekides' descendants still run the business, with the Leonidas brand known worldwide through some 1300 outlets in 50 countries, selling 6000 tonnes a year or one million chocolates a day.

"It is clear that our potential for development lies more in the emerging economies rather than in the mature market here in Europe," said Hugues Moens, commercial director for Leonidas.

China, already home to 40 Leonidas shops, and the Arab world are now the priority for the company.

In Belgium as in France, with some 350 shops in each country, Leonidas has to find the right balance between tradition and innovation so as to keep its old customers and attract new ones.

"We do not forget that our success is based on the loyalty of customers who hold to traditional chocolates such as the Manon, our best-seller," said Claude Seneque, master chocolatier at the company.

To attract new customers and to cater for changing tastes, Leonidas must also have something for those who find the brand "a little old-fashioned", according to Pauline Vervoort, 26, from Brussels.

As part of its anniversary celebrations, Leonidas has made new pralines — smaller and even more chocolate packed — and plans to spruce up its shops.

"In Belgium, to succeed in chocolate is harder and harder. You have to be tough but also creative all the time," Gerbaud said. — *AFP*

The weird year in wine and spirits

By Elin McCoy

DARK, cold outer space is the new wine and spirits frontier.

The extraterrestrial terroir taste in Meteorito, a cabernet made at Chile's Tremonte winery, comes from a 4.5-billion-year-old meteorite from the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars.

Winery general manager Ian Hutcheon, owner of the nearby Centro Astronomico Tagua Tagua and anxious to join his two passions, submerged the 8-centimetre space rock in some of his 2010 cabernet for a year.

In a blind tasting with colleagues, he found the bottled wine had a livelier and fresher taste, "with a curious twist".

The Ardbeg whisky distillery on the Scottish island of Islay, on the other hand, announced that it had sent plastic vials of unaged single malt molecules where no dram had gone before: the international space station, 400 kilometres (250 miles) above earth.

The mission: a two-year study with space research company NanoRacks to see how the famously peaty spirit ages in near zero-G. The cost to find out how complex flavour molecules called "terpenes" interact with charred oak in this atmosphere is half a million US dollars.

Will all this result in new aromas and flavours for a space-inspired whisky? We'll beam down the results next year.

Space's vast potential for wine and spirits was only one highlight among 2012's weird and wacky stories. The past year was also a time of strange wines we definitely don't need, like Almond Roca cream dessert wine from Washington State, which takes chocolate-infused wines to a new, treacly level.

British merchant Sheldon's Wine Cellars offers the "uncomplicated, easy-drinking" 2011 Royal Blush Rose, with a label based on nude Prince Harry photos taken at an August bare-it-all-party in Las Vegas.

And there are the wines of Dr Ruth Westheimer. Labels of her Sonoma-made Vin d'Amour chardonnay, cabernet and white zinfandel feature a portrait of the famous 84-year-old sex therapist.

Dr Ruth says the obvious — that wine helps couples relax and get aroused, but too much impairs performance. Which is why she wanted her wines to have a weak 6 percent alcohol. Fifty shades of chutzpah!

Eroticism is also key to the just-launched G-Spirits line of vodka, single malt whisky and rum, created by former bartenders Maximilian and Julian Goldbach in Germany. Before bottling, every single drop of booze is poured over the naked breasts of beautiful women, like Hungarian playmate of the year Alexa Varga, to give the taste "a unique erotic character".

According to Max Goldbach, their customers, mostly men (surprise!), range from 18 to 72. Lest you are worried about how sanitary this is, the website claims that medical personnel supervise. The labels are X-rated, which is why you'll have to go to the website to view.

Maybe G-Spirits call for the nuttiest wine accessory of the year, Vinderpants. Advertised as "underpants for your wine", the cotton and spandex bottle coverings appeal, I think, only to those with a very special sense of humour. Still, there were just two left in stock on Amazon.com when I checked right after Christmas. — *Bloomberg News*

Phyo's Cooking Adventure

Phyo cuts through culture to reveal life's true taste



Pumpkin and chicken curry in a hurry

PUMPKIN is one of the most popular vegetables for cuisine from all around the world, and there are plenty of recipes for including it in Western, Asian and Mediterranean dishes. Sweet desserts, savoury dishes, salads and curries can all be made using different varieties of pumpkin, and it goes well with all meats as well as seafood. What a great vegetable!

Pumpkin is also a great food for all ages, from babies and grandparents. I love the sweet flavour, and I'm inspired by its adaptability for different dishes from different cultures.

So for this month I'd like to share recipes using pumpkin from around the world. We will cook them, grill them and roast them, and we can bake them and steam them as well.

To start, this week I'm presenting a recipe for chicken and pumpkin curry. I was introduced to this beautiful dish by a Kayin woman living in Coffs Habour, Australia. I like the texture of chicken, the sweet flavour of pumpkin and the aroma of the lemon grass. It was the first time my husband and I tried such a dish, but we ended up making it again and again once we returned home.



Pic: Phyo

Pumpkin and chicken curry

INGREDIENTS

(6 servings)

700g of chicken thigh (6 pieces)

1 cup of chopped onions

2 heads of lemon grass

2 cloves of garlic

700-800g of pumpkin

1 cup of loosely packed Thai basil

½ teaspoon of turmeric powder

½ teaspoon of chilli powder

½ teaspoon of salt

1 tablespoon of fish sauce

2 tablespoon of vegetable oil

PREPARATION

After cleaning the chicken thighs, cut them into bite-sized pieces (about 4 square centimetres), and marinate them with turmeric powder and salt for at least 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, finely chop the onions and cut the pumpkin into 4cm cubes. I like to keep the skin attached to the pumpkin while it is cooking, as it gives more flavour and prevents the vegetable from becoming mushy during cooking. Wash the pumpkin cubes and drain well.

Clean the lemon grass well, cut them into 6-7cm lengths, and slightly crush the white heads.

When everything is ready, heat the vegetable oil in a wok or cooking pot over high heat. Fry the chopped onions until they turn a golden colour, then add the garlic, lemon grass, chilli powder and basil, and fry for a couple minutes.

Add the marinated chicken into the pot and seal the pieces well. Add the pumpkin and fish sauce and stir gently. Add 1 cup of water into the curry and let it gently boil. After a couple minutes turn the heat down to medium and cook the curry with a closed lid for 30 minutes, or until the chicken and pumpkin become tender. Garnish with fresh basil and serve with steamed rice, stir-fried green vegetable, fish sauce and chilli relish.

Stir-fried snow peas

INGREDIENTS

(6 servings)

300-350g of snow peas

1 teaspoon of vegetable oil

1 clove of garlic (sliced)

PREPARATION

Wash the snow peas and drain. When they are nearly dry, heat the vegetable oil in a nonstick fry pan over high heat. When the oil becomes hot, add the snow peas and toss or stir them quickly.

Cover with a lid and fry for 5-6 minutes, then open the lid and toss frequently. Mix with sliced garlic and turn off the heat. Leave the pan for 6-8 minutes with the lid closed.

Fish sauce and chilli relish

2 tablespoons of fish sauce

2 cloves of crushed garlic

2 teaspoon of chilli flakes

Mix all the ingredients in a small bowl and serve. For more spice, add more chilli.

Main Tips

Cut the meat and pumpkin into small, bite-sized pieces. They will cook more quickly. While sealing the meat, allow all the pieces to seal equally and fry them until the juices come out. Then add the pumpkin.

If you like basil, add more to give additional flavour and aroma.

QUAFFING QUOTE

"Instead of doing cinnamon, nutmeg and all those baking spices, I have one spice that's for sweets, and that's pumpkin pie spice."

— *Sandra Lee (American celebrity chef and author)*

Red Wine

Torres Celeste Crianza Ribera del Duero 2009



The label promises a cosmic experience, but the palate is firmly rooted in the earthy, well-ripened fruit flavours typical of tempranillo grapes from Spain's Ribera del Duero region.

Ks 15,200

Score BOX 9/10

White Wine

Monkey Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2011



This lively wine provokes curiosity with its cut-grass aroma, followed by a pastoral blend of sweet citrus and herbal flavours, with a crisp, prehensile finish at the tail-end.

Ks 14,800

Score BOX 7/10

FOOD REVIEW

All in the family

ONE of the advantages of travelling by car in Myanmar is the freedom to dine where you like, rather than where the bus company will get the largest commission. The downside is the plethora of options makes it hard to settle on a single choice, and it's always a bit of pot luck (see "A roll of the dice", November 19). Happily, on a recent trip to Mawlamyine I lucked out.

Family Two opened only two months ago and is nestled on a bend in the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway about five minutes east of the small town of Mubalin, not far from where the Sittoung River divides Bago Region and Mon State. It's only a short way before Kyaikto, so is also a worthy refuelling site for pilgrims heading to the Golden Rock.

It has the typical roadside dining hall thing going on but the lack of walls on three sides allow the fresh breeze to swirl through. The shop is commendably clean, although you would expect no less from such a new establishment.

What it lacks in atmosphere it makes up for in service and food.



The traditional Myanmar curries are delicious and cheap (most dishes K800, rice K300) and my recommendations are the mutton and chicken. Another personal favourite is the refreshing *min kwar ywet thoke*, or pennywort salad, which comes with a healthy serve of chopped tomato and fried garlic. There's plenty of piping hot green tea and jaggery after your meal, of course. The drink selection lets Family Two down a little, although being Mon State the juice was deliciously fresh. And, as the name suggests, Family Two is family run, so the waiters actually exhibit some desire to assist weary diners.

But the pièce de résistance (adding exponentially to the X Factor rating) is that rarest of beasts in rural Myanmar: a clean, functioning, Western-style toilet. It even has a decent shower room. What more could you ask for? – *RR*

Family Two

Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway, Mubalin, Kyaikto township, Mon State

Food:	8
Drink:	7
Atmosphere:	6
Service:	8
X Factor:	9

Score BOX 8/10



Htet Nu Nu Shein @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch



Managers @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Hla Myo Thinzar Nwe @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch



Eain Met Son Yar singing contest winners @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



Za staff members @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



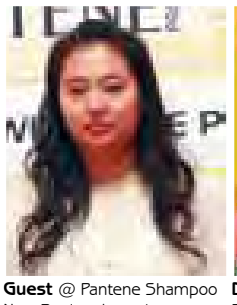
Korean pop star and Mizon director @ Mizon New Product Launch



Ms An Jin Kyoung and Nan @ Mizon New Product Launch



Daw Khin San Oo, Ko Aung Myo Myint and Ma Nandar Win @ Padamyar FM Promotion Fair



Guest @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch



Dr Aung Tun Thet @ Enervon-C Health Talk



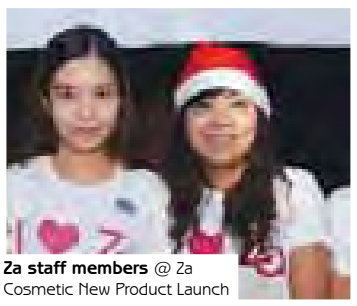
A model and Okkar Htet (Pop Soul) @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



Ko Kyaw Zay Ya and Ma Moh Moh Phone Maw @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch



Managers @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Za staff members @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



Za staff members @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



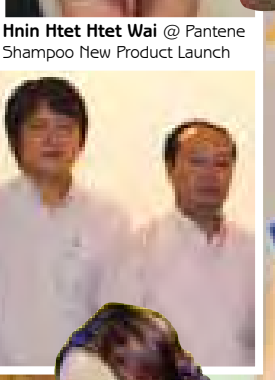
Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Dr Maung Maung Zaw and staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Nan Myat Phyo Thin @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



Hnin Htet Htet Wai @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch



Ma Ei Shwe Yee @ ESY Jewellery Shop Opening

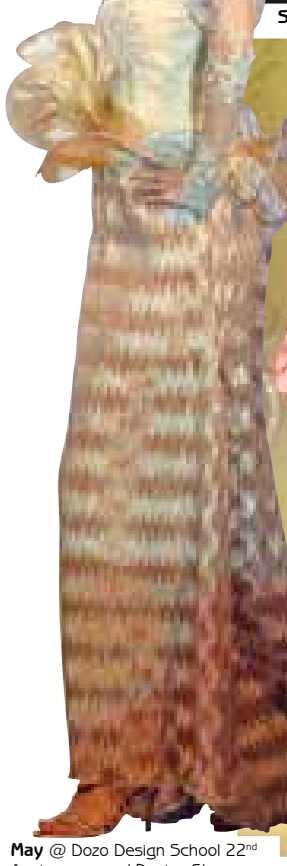


Guest @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk

Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



May @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



Nan Su Yati Soe and Arr T @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



Su Myat Noe Oo @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



Model @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



A Thin Cho Swe @ Padamyar FM Promotion Fair



SOCIALITE
WITH NYEIN EI EI HTWE

HAPPY New Year to all of our readers! Socialite wishes you all to be more comfortable in the New Year and leave behind the old, unlucky memories of days gone by. During the last week of 2012, Socialite attended a fashion show at Strand Hotel, featuring the greatest designers from Dozo Design School, which was also celebrating its 22nd anniversary. She then attended a promotion for Pantene shampoo, a new product launch for Za cosmetics and another promotion for Mizon Korean cosmetics. Socialite also busied herself at the Padamyar FM promotion at Junction Square and the ESY jewellery shop opening in Kyaukmyaung township. Finally, she attended a talk about stress by Dr Aung Tun Thet, hosted by Enervon-C medical products.



Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Model @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show



Daw Thida Lwin @ Za Cosmetic New Product Launch



Khine Thazin Ngu Wah @ Pantene Shampoo New Product Launch

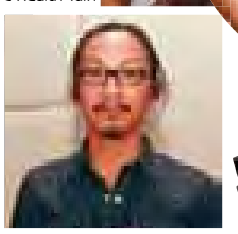


Padamyar FM group @ Padamyar FM Promotion Fair



Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk

Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi @ Father's School Movie Press Conference



Thandar Bo @ Father's School Movie Press Conference



Ms An Jin Kyoung @ Mizon New Product Launch



Padamyar FM group @ Padamyar FM Promotion Fair



Staff @ Enervon-C Health Talk



Performers @ Dozo Design School 22nd Anniversary and Design Show

Chit Thu Wai @ Father's School Movie Press Conference



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
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	YJ 891	06:15	08:20
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 909	06:30	07:55
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	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	11:15	13:25
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YJ 791	15:00	16:55
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
TUE	YJ 901	06:00	07:25
	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	W9 251	10:30	11:55
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	K7 822	11:30	12:55
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	YJ 791	15:45	17:10
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
WED	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:40
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	6T 331	06:45	08:10
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	YJ 911	09:15	10:40
	W9 119	10:30	12:55
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:15	13:25
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	14:30	16:30
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 129	15:45	17:40
THUR	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	W9 112	10:30	12:25
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	K7 226	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 129	15:45	17:40
FRI	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YH 909	06:00	07:40
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YJ 211	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
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:55
	YH 727	11:15	13:25
	W9 116	11:45	13:40
	K7 824	13:00	14:25
	W9 255	13:00	14:25
	6T 501	13:30	15:30
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	YJ 791	14:30	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 211	16:00	17:25
SAT	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 341	06:00	07:25
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	K7 244	06:45	08:10
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	W9 119	10:30	12:55
	YJ 601/W97601	10:45	12:10
	W9 009	11:00	12:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	W9 109	14:30	16:10
	6T 501	14:45	16:45
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 211	16:00	17:25

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
SUN	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	07:00	09:05
	W9 011	07:30	08:30
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	W9 251	10:30	11:55
	YJ 211	10:30	11:55
	W9 014	11:00	12:00
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:15	13:25
	W9 116	11:45	13:40
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:30	15:30
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 129	15:45	17:40

MANDALAY TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:35	10:30
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	YH 728	16:15	18:10
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YJ 792	17:10	19:15
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
TUE	YJ 901	07:40	09:35
	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	YH 728	16:15	18:10
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YJ 792	17:10	19:15
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
WED	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	6T 332	08:30	09:55
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 120	16:40	18:05
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	6T 502	16:50	18:55
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	YH 738	17:25	18:50
	YJ 752/W97752	17:50	19:15
	W9 129	17:55	20:00
THUR	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	K7 227	15:50	17:15
	YJ 762	16:00	17:55
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	W9 129	17:55	20:00
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
	W9 113	18:30	19:55
FRI	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	07:40	10:40
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	YJ 212	10:30	12:25
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	6T 502	15:50	17:50
	YH 728	16:15	18:10
	W9 109	16:30	17:30
	YJ 792	16:40	18:45
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	W9 117	17:20	18:45
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
	W9 256	17:45	19:10
	K7 825	17:40	19:05
	YJ 752/W97752	17:50	19:15
SAT	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	6T 342	07:45	09:50
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	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
	6T 502	17:05	18:30
	YJ 602/W97602	17:05	19:10
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	W9 211	17:40	19:45
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
SUN	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	W9 011	08:50	10:30
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:20	10:45
	W9 015	12:20	13:20
	YJ 212	15:30	16:55
	6T 502	15:50	17:50
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	K7 823	17:20	18:45
	W9 117	17:20	18:45
	YH 738	17:25	18:50
	W9 252	17:35	19:00
	YJ 752/W97752	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	06:10	07:45
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
TUE	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 211	16:00	18:10
WED	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YH 711	10:30	12:50
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 129	15:45	18:25
THUR	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	K7 242	06:45	08:05
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YJ 911	09:15	11:25
	6T 351	11:15	12:35
	6T 501	14:30	17:20
	YJ 791	15:00	17:05
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 129	15:45	18:25
FRI	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YH 909	06:00	09:20
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	K7 242	06:45	08:05
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YH 711	10:30	12:50
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 129	15:45	18:25
WED	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YJ 792	17:55	19:15
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
TUE	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YH 712	12:50	14:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
THUR	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YH 712	12:50	14:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
FRI	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	09:20	10:40
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 792	17:25	18:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45

NYAUNG U TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	YJ 792	18:10	19:30
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
TUE	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	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 911	11:40	14:45
	6T 351	12:50	15:55
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	6T 502	17:35	18:55
	YJ 792	17:20	18:40
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
THUR	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YH 712	12:50	14:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00
FRI	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	09:20	10:40
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 792	17:25	18:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
SAT	YJ 911	07:35	10:40
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	6T 342	08:45	10:05
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	6T 451	11:50	14:55
	W9 009	12:15	14:00
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 602/W97602	17:50	19:10
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 211	18:25	19:45
SUN	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	YJ 901	07:35	09:40
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	W9 143	08:35	10:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:40	20:00

YANGON TO MYITKYINA

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 622	12:00	14:55
TUE	W9 251	10:30	13:25
	K7 622	12:00	14:55
WED	K7 622	12:00	14:55
THUR	W9 112	10:30	16:40
FRI	W9 255	13:00	15:55
SUN	YJ 211	10:30	13:20
	W9 251	10:30	13:25
	K7 622	12:00	14:55

MYITKYINA TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 623	15:10	18:05
TUE	W9 252	16:05	19:00
	K7 623	15:10	18:05
WED	K7 623	15:10	18:05
THUR	W9 113	17:00	19:55
FRI	W9 256	16:15	19:10
SUN	YJ 212	13:35	16:55
	W9 252	16:05	19:00
	K7 623	15:10	18:05

YANGON TO HEHO

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	K7 828	10:00	11:15
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	YH 727	11:15	12:40
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	YJ 791	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
TUE	YJ 901	06:00	08:10
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	YH 711	10:30	11:55
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 822	11:30	13:45
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
WED	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	YJ 911	09:15	12:20
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	YH 711	10:30	11:55
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:10
	YH 737	11:15	12:40
	6T 351	11:15	13:30
	K7 826	12:30	13:45
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	6T 501	14:30	15:40
	YJ 791	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
	W9 129	15:45	16:55
THUR	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	K7 828	10:00	11:15
	W9 112	10:30	11:40
	YH 711	10:30	11:55
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
SAT	YJ 911	06:00	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	K7 224	06:45	09:00
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	6T 451	10:15	12:30
	YH 505	10:30	11:15
	W9 119	10:30	11:40
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 826	12:30	13:45
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	W9 109	14:30	15:25
	6T 501	14:45	15:55
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
SUN	YJ 901	06:00	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	W9 011	07:30	09:15
	YH 505	10:30	11:15
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:10
	YH 737	11:15	12:40
	K7 822	11:30	13:45
	W9 116	11:45	12:55
	6T 501	13:30	14:40
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
	W9 129	15:45	16:55

HEHO TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	YJ 892	09:20	10:30
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	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	15:10	17:30
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 829	16:30	17:45
	YH 728	17:00	18:10
TUE	YJ 902	08:25	09:35
	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 712	11:55	14:00
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	6T 501	15:10	17:30
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 823	17:10	19:25
WED	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	K7 243	09:15	11:30
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 712	10:30	11:55
	YJ 912	12:35	14:45
	6T 352	13:45	15:55
	W9 120	15:55	18:05
	6T 501	15:55	18:55
	YJ 791	16:25	18:40
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 827	16:30	17:45
	YH 738	16:40	18:50
	W9 129	17:10	20:00
THUR	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 712	11:55	14:00
	W9 109	15:45	17:35
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	W9 120	15:55	18:05
	6T 501	16:10	18:30
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 827	17:10	18:25
SUN	YJ 902	08:30	19:40
	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	W9 011	09:35	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 506	11:55	14:00
	6T 502	16:40	17:50
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	W9 117	16:35	18:45
	YH 738	16:40	18:50
	W9 129	17:10	20:00

YANGON TO SITTWE

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 611	11:30	12:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
TUE	K7 422	06:45	08:40
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
	6T 611	11:30	12:55
	W9 311	14:00	15:25
WED	6T 607	10:15	11:40
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
THRU	6T 611	11:30	12:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
	W9 311	14:00	15:25
FRI	6T 611	11:30	12:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
SAT	6T 611	11:15	12:40
	W9 309	11:30	13:15
SUN	K7 422	06:45	08:40
	6T 611	11:30	12:55
	W9 309	11:30	13:15

SITTWE TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 612	13:15	14:40
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
TUE	K7 423	08:55	10:50
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	6T 612	13:15	14:40
	W9 311	15:40	17:25
WED	6T 608	12:00	14:00
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
THUR	6T 612	13:15	14:40
	W9 310	13:30	15:15
	W9 311

nty, on land and sea



onto a small pool animated with live koi – a touch of the country in the city, the fish a Vietnamese symbol of luck and prosperity. Whoever dressed Cuc Gach has a good eye, and an interest in history.

That someone is Tran Binh, an architect native to southern Vietnam and devoted to what he learned about his craft from the countryside. The Vietnamese have a saying: If you start something, use a brick first. Cuc Gach translates into English as "a brick".

Our chaperone for the first leg of my Vietnamese journey, Lam Quang Huy, grins as we ease into our seats on the top floor of Cuc Gach, a peaked tile roof over our heads. It isn't the four-poster bed frame turned into a curtained table for six nearby that elicits his reaction, but an old Lygo milk canister holding chopsticks, the container a throwback to his youth. Little stories are behind every detail in the restaurant, where bright green morning glory stems are put to use as drinking straws and the music brings back the Vietnam of the 1970s. As the owner's grandmother did, the kitchen staff makes almost everything in-house, from the pickles to the tofu.

Unusual (and hard!) for this professional eater, I leave the ordering to Huy. He asks the waiter for soup, followed by "something salty" and vegetables, a selection of three dishes that typify the region. As we wait for the soup, Huy teaches us how to mince red chillis with the tips of the chopsticks and sings the praises of fish sauce, or what he calls "Chanel No 5". No meal in Vietnam is complete without a dash or more of nuoc mam.

We devour a catfish soup made sweet and sour with pineapple and tamarind, and deep-fried mackerel framed by julienne green mango. Our guide, raised southeast of the Mekong Delta, approves. "Food by my grandmother," Huy compliments the spread.

The meal concludes with the requested vegetables: bitter melon, bok choy, pumpkin and Vietnamese greens over which rich fish sauce is spooned.

Lessons learned: Even though they might look similar, the vegetables in Vietnam taste more green, more vivid, more of themselves. Also, first impressions can be wrong.

10 Dang Tat, Ward Tan Dinh, District 1, Saigon;cucgachquan.com.vn. Dinner about $15 a person.

– The Washington Post

International Airlines

Air Asia (FD)
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Ground Flr, Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon. Tel: 251 885, 251 886.

Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

Air China (CA)
Building (2), corner of Pyay Rd and Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Hotel Yangon, 8 miles, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel : 666112, 655882.

Air India
75, Shwe Bon Thar St, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175

Bangkok Airways (PG)
#0305, 3rd Fl, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119

Malaysia Airlines (MH)
335/357, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124

Myanmar Airways International(8M)
08-02, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305

Silk Air(MI)
339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, 2nd Floor, Sakura Tower, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 255 287~9 , Fax: 255 290

Thai Airways (TG)
Room No. 1101, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn.
Tel : 255491~6 Fax : 255223

Vietnam Airlines (VN)
#1702, Sakura Tower 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon. Fax 255086.
Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr
YANGON TO BANGKOK			
MON	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
TUE	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
WED	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
THUR	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
FRI	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
SAT	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
SUN	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
YANGON TO DON MUENG			
MON	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
TUE	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
WED	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
THUR	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
FRI	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
SAT	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
SUN	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
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
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:40	16:25
	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
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:40	16:25
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
FRI	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:40	16:25
	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	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
SUN	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:40	16:25
	3K 586	11:40	16:25
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
MON	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
TUE	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
WED	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
THUR	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
FRI	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
SAT	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
SUN	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	12:30
YANGON TO BEIJNG			
TUE	CA 906	14:15	21:55
WED	CA 906	14:15	21:55
THUR	CA 906	14:15	21:55
SAT	CA 906	14:15	21:55
SUN	CA 906	14:15	21:55
YANGON TO FRANKFURT			
WED	DE 2369	05:35	16:40
YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU			
MON	CZ 3056	17:40	22:15
TUE	8M 711	08:40	13:15
WED	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
THUR	8M 711	08:40	13:15
FRI	CZ 3056	17:40	22:15
SAT	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
SUN	8M 711	08:40	13:15
YANGON TO TAIPEI			
MON	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
TUE	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
WED	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
THUR	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
FRI	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
SAT	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
SUN	CI 7916	11:10	16:35
YANGON TO KUNMING			
MON	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
TUE	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
WED	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
THUR	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
FRI	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
SAT	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
SUN	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	17:55
YANGON TO KOLKATA			
MON	AI 234	13:40	16:55
FRI	AI 234	13:40	16:55
	AI 228	18:45	19:45
YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
THUR	W9 7607	14:50	16:20
SUN	W9 9607	14:50	16:20
YANGON TO HANOI			
MON	VN 956	19:10	21:30
TUE	VN 956	19:10	21:30
WED	VN 956	19:10	21:30
THUR	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
SAT	VN 942	14:25	17:10
SUN	VN 942	14:25	17:10
YANGON TO GAYA			
MON	8M 601	10:30	11:50
	AI 234	13:40	15:00
WED	8M 601	10:30	11:50
FRI	8M 601	10:30	11:50
	AI 234	13:40	15:00
SAT	8M 601	10:30	11:50
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 PHNOM PENH			
WED	8M 403	16:45	19:10
SAT	8M 403	16:45	19:10
YANGON TO SEOUL			
MON	KE 472	00:05	08:00
TUE	KE 472	00:05	08:00
WED	KE 472	00:05	08:00
THUR	KE 472	00:05	08:00
FRI	KE 472	00:05	08:00
SAT	KE 472	00:05	08:00
SUN	KE 472	00:05	08:00
YANGON SIEM REAP			
MON	8M 401	17:05	19:15
FRI	8M 401	17:05	19:15
YANGON TO TOKYO			
MON	NH 914	22:00	06:40
WED	NH 914	22:00	06:40
SAT	NH 914	22:00	06:40
YANGON TO HONGKONG			
MON	KA 251	01:00	06:00
TUE	KA 251	01:00	06:00
THUR	KA 251	01:00	06:00
SAT	KA 251	01:00	06:00
MANDALAY TO DON MUENG			
MON	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
TUE	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
THUR	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
SAT	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
MANDALAY TO KUNMING			
MON	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
TUE	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
WED	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
THUR	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
FRI	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
SAT	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
SUN	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
MANDALAY TO GAYA			
TUE	8M 603	11:10	12:15
THUR	8M 603	11:10	12:15
SUN	8M 603	11:10	12:15
BANGKOK TO YANGON			
MON	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
TUE	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
WED	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
THUR	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
FRI	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SAT	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SUN	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
DON MUENG TO YANGON			
MON	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
TUE	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
WED	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
THUR	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
FRI	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
SAT	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
SUN	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
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
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	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
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	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	10:10	11:30
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
SUN	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	10:10	11:30
BEIJNG TO YANGON			
TUE	CA 905	8:05	13:15
WED	CA 905	8:05	13:15
THUR	CA 905	8:05	13:15
SAT	CA 905	8:05	13:15
SUN	CA 905	8:05	13:15

International

FD & AK = Air Asia	IC = Indian Airlines Limited
TG = Thai Airways	W9 = Air Bagan
8M = Myanmar Airways International	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	DE = Condor Airlines
CA = Air China	MU=China Eastern Airlines
KA = Dragonair	BR = Eva Airlines
	DE = Condor

Subject to change without notice

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
FRANKFURT TO YANGON			
TUE	DE 2368	12:40	04:25+1
KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
MON	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
TUE	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
WED	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
THU	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
FRI	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
SAT	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
SUN	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
MON	CZ 3055	14:45	16:35
TUE	8M 712	14:15	15:50
WED	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
THUR	8M 712	14:15	15:50
FRI	CZ 3055	14:45	16:35
SAT	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
SUN	8M 712	14:15	15:50
TAIPEI TO YANGON			
MON	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
TUE	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
WED	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
THUR	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
FRI	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
SAT	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
SUN	CI 7915	07:15	10:05
KUNMING TO YANGON			
MON	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
TUE	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
WED	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
THUR	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
FRI	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
SAT	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
SUN	CA 905	12:40	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
KOLKATA TO YANGON			
MON	AI 227	10:10	12:55
FRI	AI 227	10:10	12:55
	AI 233	13:30	16:00
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
TUE	VN 957	16:35	18:10
WED	VN 957	16:35	18:10
THUR	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
SAT	VN 943	11:40	13:25
SUN	VN 943	11:40	13:25
GAYA TO YANGON			
MON	8M 602	12:50	16:00
WED	8M 602	12:50	16:00
FRI	8M 602	12:50	16:00
	AI 233	15:00	16:00
SAT	8M 602	12:50	16:00
GAYA TO MANDALAY			
TUE	8M 604	13:15	16:20
THUR	8M 604	13:15	16:20
SUN	8M 604	13:15	16:20
DOHA TO YANGON			
MON	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
TUE	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
WED	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
THUR	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
FRI	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
SAT	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
SUN	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
PHNOM PENH TO YANGON			
WED	8M 404	20:10	21:35
SAT	8M 404	20:10	21:35
SEOUL TO YANGON			
MON	KE 471	18:40	22:55
TUE	KE 471	18:40	22:55
WED	KE 471	18:40	22:55
THUR	KE 471	18:40	22:55
FRI	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SAT	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SUN	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SIEM REAP TO YANGON			
MON	8M 402	20:15	21:25
FRI	8M 402	20:15	21:25
TOKYO TO YANGON			
MON	NH 913	11:10	17:05
WED	NH 913	11:10	17:05
SAT	NH 913	11:10	17:05
HONGKONG TO YANGON			
MON	KA 250	21:20	23:35
WED	KA 250	21:20	23:35
FRI	KA 250	21:20	23:35
SUN	KA 250	21:20	23:35
DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY			
MON	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
TUE	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
THUR	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
SAT	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
KUNMING TO MANDALAY			
MON	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
TUE	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
WED	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
THUR	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
FRI	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
SAT	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
SUN	MU 2029	14:00	13:50

Secret Cinema smashes through screen

By Maureen Cofflard



A British cinemagoer experiences a Secret Cinema event in east London on December 1, 2012, for which they were asked to arrive in period dress and were transported to a mock 1950s prison system. *Pic: AFP*

LONDON — Under the menacing eye of guards, the cinemagoers sit in silence as their 1950s bus rumbles through London. Suddenly, a prison looms out of the darkness.

Welcome to Secret Cinema, where the film is not just on the screen — viewers can wander up to the characters, brought to life by actors in a setting that seems to have been plucked straight out of the movie.

Guests arrive armed with nothing more than a string of cryptic emails detailing where to go and how to dress. They don't even know what film they are going to see, despite having paid £43.50 (US$70) each for a ticket.

"You tell people nothing. They have no idea of what they're going to see, what they're going to experience," said Fabien Riggall, who founded Secret Cinema in 2007. "And once they get there, they become more open and more adventurous."

This innovative approach to cinema — which spreads to New York and Athens in April — has seen organisers transform a warehouse into the futuristic dystopia of *Blade Runner*, a park into *Lawrence of Arabia* and dank tunnels into *The Battle of Algiers*.

Moviegoers have found themselves conducting mock scientific experiments before a screening of *Prometheus* in a warehouse-turned-spaceship, and operating a pretend penicillin racket before sitting down to watch *The Third Man*.

The latest instalment of the adventure offered the crowds a taste of the harsh prison life suffered by Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins in the 1994 classic *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Told to arrive at an east London library wearing 1950s clothing, they were led into a mock courtroom and sentenced — to much giggling — for crimes ranging from kidnapping to bigamy.

The new convicts were then shuttled by vintage bus to an abandoned school, transformed by the Secret Cinema team into a grim US prison.

Hustled inside by uniformed "prison guards", they were forced to strip off their 1950s attire — much to the dismay of those who had ignored instructions to wear long underwear.

Prisoners swapped their trilby hats and trench coats for grey uniforms and spent the three hours before the screening exploring their jail, periodically harassed by the guards as they munched on burgers bought from the "infirmary".

"If you play along, it's amazing," said Andy, a six-time Secret Cinema-goer who has previously come dressed as a Bedouin for *Lawrence of Arabia* and a psychiatric patient for *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*.

"Every time, it gets bigger and better," he said.

Scenes from the film spill off the screen and into reality. For *The Shawshank Redemption*, actors — some of them indistinguishable from the crowds in their prisoner uniforms — re-created a brutal rape, scuffles and an execution.

From a modest first audience of 400 people in 2007, Secret Cinema has become a massive operation, hosting 13,500 excitable prisoners during a month-long run of *The Shawshank Redemption* that ended in December.

The latest show saw the launch of a "Secret Hotel" offering overnight stays in the prison, sleeping in bunks in the cells for an extra £30 a person.

"Every production, we try to create something that goes a little bit beyond what we did before in terms of how the audience become part of that world and how you allow the blur between the performance and the audience," said Riggall.

He added that many fans see this immersive form of cinema as an antidote to the more mundane experience of simply sitting in front of a screen.

"People are looking for adventure. They want to take a step away from everything they already know, and I think that the hotel is another step," the 37-year-old said.

"We had actors sleeping next to the audience — you might wake up and there'd be a prisoner singing a 50-year-old song next to you. The whole building is a stage."

Tickets have already sold out for London's 20th Secret Cinema event next April, which for the first time will run simultaneously with shows at secret locations in Athens and New York.

Jos, a young Dutchman living in London, said film fans in other cities would welcome the project with open arms.

"You get sucked in," he said, as prisoners loitered in a basketball court behind him. "At the start it's funny and then 10 minutes later you're really into it."

"It really makes you think about what it would be like to be in prison — and it's probably not for me," he laughed. — *AFP*

Events Flash

Sketch exhibition

The work of Win Pe Myint is on display in a show titled "WPM 100 Sketches", at Lokanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, First Floor, Kyauktada township, Yangon) from January 2 to 7.

Flowers, fruits and trees

An exhibition titled "Flowers, Fruits and Trees", featuring the artwork of Win Pe Myint and Nay Zar Aung , will be shown at Lokanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, First Floor, Kyauktada township, Yangon) from January 8 to 12.

Final Exhibit 2012

Gallery 65 (65 Yaw Min Gyi Road, Dagon township, Yangon) is presenting its year-end show, the Final Exhibit 2012, from December 15 to January 15. The gallery will showcase paintings across a wide range of styles, from contemporary to traditional. Gallery 65 is open 10am to 6pm daily.

Calle de la Salsa

Tuesday is salsa night at 50th Street Bar, featuring free dance classes (salsa, bachata, mambo, meringue and more), plus dance shows and drink specials. With music by DJ Mani and special guests.

Wednesday wine

The Wednesday Wine Club meets every (you guessed it) Wednesday at the QP Inya Shop (30 Inya Road). Taste four or five wines for K10,000 a person. Contact chad.quarto@gmail.com or 09-7321-8711.

Live music

Friendship Band belts out classic rock tunes at 50th Street Restaurant every Wednesday and Friday night.

If you would like your event listed in Event Flash, please email editors@myanmartimes.com.mm.



YOUR STARS

By Astrologer
Aung Myin Kyaw

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Your fervent desire to keep your dreams alive will prompt you to cultivate a lifestyle based on what might be, rather than on what actually is. By using your skills and talents you can create a vast change, but it will occur slowly and gradually. When in need of relaxation, take a long journey in search of knowledge. Emotional matters and family relationships will become progressively calmer.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Break up your established patterns of thinking by creating sudden and even radical change, with an eye toward replacing the old and tired with something new and exciting. Use technology to your advantage, especially when it comes to improving your financial status. Reconciliation in relationships is recommended. Give your full attention to any unexpected developments in your love life.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
A scrupulus person should try to maintain a constained manner despite his or her ill feelings. Endurance is one of the valuable qualities of the mind that can be used to conquer interference. Social relationships could become inactive, and your state of being could become duller, because of your tendency to isolate yourself, which is not to say that this inclination is necessarily incorrect.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
Neutral men are the devil's allies. Make it your principle to choose the middle path: In doing good deeds avoid fame, and avoid disgrace by shunning bad deeds. Develop a more optimistic outlook towards life, but don't allow exciting experiences in social affairs to divert you from the right path. Without the proper attention, your efforts to manage your love life will result in failure.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Now is a good time to make valuable associations that can lead to progress and happiness in the future. Spend this week profitably turning your attention to social development, which can be a source of financial success. An old partner will unexpectedly get in touch with you, to offer a profit-sharing deal. The time is right for you to put things on a happier basis, but love will be chilly.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)
Do not allow rumour to preside over truth. Understand that it is harder to create a synthesis than to study, but the true picture can be noticed in its reflection, and the truth will come out after all. If you keep moving forward guided by your own deep-rooted beliefs, your frustration will soon come to an end. A big change will lead to prosperity and an improved lifestyle.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
Be passionate about your work and have the integrity to stand up for your ideas, but also know when to compromise. Draw the line at your most deeply held principles, but be sure to have a clear understanding of exactly what those principles are. Communication has it own changeable style, but don't let personality overshadow purpose. Romance is in great favour, and you are sure to bind with love.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
Negative thinking poisons the atmosphere, and it is dangerous to the spirit as well as to the body. The best way to maintain optimism is to associate with others of a positive nature. Develop the art of speaking well and coherently. A reflection of your thoughts and actions will create a picture for tomorrow that will be a true picture of your deeds. Love is not to be seen by the eyes.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Even a fool knows the value of justice, but a wise person undestands that balance is sometimes harder to maintain than justice. The structure of each problem is unique, and justice cannot be made from weak suggestions (however constructive they might be), or from the interference of destructive evidence. Whatever the obstacles, do your best without giving in to the temptation to become a lone outlaw.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Tranquility is never gained from outside. Use your own hard-won knowledge and experience to forge a great and successful life for yourself. Start by conquering your mind and escaping from delusion and intolerant attitudes. Associating with old friends can help foster new ideas. You will find it easier to manage your sexual desires.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Your experience allows you to see many things that others cannot, but be careful not to become too overwhelmed: Know your destination before you set out on the journey. Stay alert, and understand that a successful team is a group of many hands but one mind. Understand that interference is a warning that the forces of change are at work, but don't allow them to undermine your determination to achieve your goals. Love belongs to you.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Knowledge is to be defined as justified true belief, and as epistemology that has no boundaries and no limits. Seek out new educational opportunities to improve the quality of your mind. You have the responsibility to do your best for the world to which you belong. A good place to start is by performing useful, selfless services for other people.

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 Twp, Yangon

HOW TO GET MORE BUSINESS FROM AS LITTLE AS **K.5,000.**

BUY SPACE ON THESE PAGES
Call Khin Mon Mon Yi - 951 380670, 380909
classified@myanmartimes.com.mm

www.mmtimes.com www.mmtimes.com

General

Computer

TRAVEL & TOUR Reservation Management System (customized program), Golf Management System for Greenfees (customized), Make for Customized Software System (POS, Account, Other) Ph: 09-730-75931, Email: zinmyintzx@gmail.com

BASIC, DTP (Pagemaker,CorelDraw) ,Graphic Design (Pagemaker, CorelDraw (or) Illustrator, Photo shop CS2), WebDesign (HTML, Adobe Photo shopCS2, Dreamweaver, JavaScript), AutoCad (2D/3D) , AutoCad (CIVIL Only), AutoCad (Mechanical Only), C++, Excel Special, Microsoft Access, MYOB. Ph: 09-492-55368.

AIO Computer Service (Brilliant Group) : Window installation, Virus Cleaning & Update, Driver, Application, Games installation, Network installation & configuration, Monthly & Year Contract for your home, business. Ph : 09-421148603, 09-421162995.

Education

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: B.Sc (Honours), M.Sc (Engg Maths), M.Res (Mathematics). Ph: 09-731-48725.

INTERNATIONAL Schools Subjects : English, Maths, Science, Hindi & Social. Will coach your kids with great effort. Contect :Teacher Fiona : 31, 6th floor , U Lun St, Tawme . Ph:09-430-63590

TEACHERS who have got Teaching experience in Singapore, Grade 10, 11 and Int'l School (YIS, ISY, MISY, ILBC, Total PISM, Crane, MLA, Diplomatic, RV), GCSE, SAT, IELTS, TOEFL, Sayar Bryan, ME (IT) (Leader) 09-420-070692, Sayar Htet Ph; 09-215-0075, Sayar Min Aung (B.E , IT) (09-492-80490) ,

IELTS (Basic, 7.5 & Above); Special IGCSE (Eng, Phy, Math, Chem, Bio); SATfor US Colleges; We are Hero-makers; Teacher Solomon 99/101 B, HLedan, 09-541-7781. Email: ielts.consultant @ gmail.com

TUTORING on Biology & English for private school students. Pls call 09-506-0800 for more info.

IGCSE specialist Home tuitions and intensive classes. All subjects available Tr. Pyae Phyo Kyaw Ph: 09-508-8683, 09-430-37385, 09-430-33767

SAYA Saw Aung (Ex.A.P) Chemistry Classes for Int'l School (sec-levels), iGCSE. GCE 'A' level & SAT II, Ph: 2300441, 09-5005470.

Expert Service

GOLDENSKY Aluminum, stainless steel , Iron & Composite Work : We Want to do, Your are Sub Contractor We can do ! Following Work; Aluminum Decoration & Furniture, Aluminum Partition & Slide door, Glass, Stainless Steel Home Decoration & Furniture, Iron Work & Composite Decoration, Sign Board & Light Box, Concrete brick & block. Address: 10, Bo Moe St, Sanchaung. Ph: 09-431-78764, 09-492-31696.

"**MYANMAR VISA** Expert Service Tourist Visa can be applied online. Pre-check your eligibility for visa on arrival from the convenience of your home or office or from your mobile. www. myanmarvisa. com. email: travel.evisa @ gmail.com "

QICK and professional Translation English to Myanmar, Myanmar to English for NGO project & any subjects by Tr. Daw Aye Mya Oo (B.A (Eng) YUFL) (Dip. ELTM) (Dip. DMA) Ph: 09-430-64296, ayemyaoo@ gmail.com.

AUGUST Engineering Services (Air-condition & Electrical) Installation, Repairing & Maintenance. Tel; 09-731-10321, 09-420-007180 Email; aes. august @gmail.com

Language

MYANMAR Language Training Course For Foreigners. Contact: 09-518-1316 or 09-731-27074 for Registration.

GLOBAL Enchanting Education Centre. "English Class For MOM". Contact us: 09-731-27074.

SPECIAL Basic Plus Business Communicative English Course & others General English Courses, IELTS (foundation & preparation), Young learners (KET, PET), One to One, Special Class & Home Teacher Veronica (09-4004-94397). "Inspiration", No(115), 1st Flr, Insein Rd, Near Thukha Bus-stop, Hlaing ,

SPOKEN MYANMAR for every day. Saya Victor Hla Wai, a former tour guide with 15-year experience will teach to foreigners who want to learn spoken Myanmar. Ph : 09-4210-18410.

GUIDE for young learners int'l school subjects if you need to coach your child, you are welcome to contact us. We are ready to support with following subjects, English, Maths, Geography History, Science, Social English Language, Myanmar Language, Teacher Caroline candlelight295@gmail.com

ENGLISH (home tuition) speaking, grammar, issue. letter, academic writing. SAT. TOEFL. IELT. GCE, IGCSE. GMAT four skills . local & international school, English , English for Japaneses children and adult - home tuition courses are availe now. you can contact to the following person & phone number Saya-U-Kyi-Sin (Mumyit Thar) Ph: 09-4210-67-375.

FOREIGNERS whowants to study the Myanmar language. Home visit will available now. Contact me: Moe Pwint 09 4211 63463 rainymoe85@gmail.com

HLC, High Language Centre. Hindi, English & Myanmar. (Writing, Reading & Speaking) by an expert Teacher. Ph: 09-4210-98790.

ENGLISH Grammar for 8th, 9th Std, Ph: 09-541-3847.

MYANMAR, Thai, Shan & Russian. Ph: 09-731-61269.

FUTURE POINT will start on 17 Dec 2012 for Chinese Basic Course, Duration - 1 month, Time – 7:00 to 8:30 AM, Date – Mon, Wed, Fri. 5 % Discount for Dec 2012, Jan / Feb 2013. No 38/1, Baw Zin St, Baw Zin Lan Thwe (3), Thuwunna, Yangon. Ph : 09 73215521

BASIC ENGLISH Grammar Basic English Speaking Essay Letter 4 Skills



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.

Academic Writing Hotel and Interview CMC 09402513640

LEARN ENGLISH at Kant Kaw Education Centre : is now accepting applications for January 2013 Term. Limited fee waivers are available so apply now! Available courses General English (Level I, II & III) IELTS Preparation Academic Reading and Writing Civic Education TKT Cambridge Teachers' Training Public Speaking Conversation Club. Closing date: December 28, 2012. No. 605 (A), San Yeik Nyein 6th St, Kamaryut . Ph: 502 884, 2304242 Email: info@ kantkaw. com, www. kantkaw.com

WANT TO improve your English? Get private lessons from a native speaker and qualified teacher from Australia. Young learners and adults of all levels. Email : mingalaenglish @ hotmail.com for more information!

PUBLIC speaking & Presentation skills . Enroll Now. Contact us@ 09-731-27074.

HOME TUTION Japanese language class (basic, inter) Japan going course myanmar language for Japanese. Ph: 09-4200-55323.

WHEN YOU stay in Myanmar, do you want to ask to your children to learn Myanmar language? At least 3 persons package. Call: 09-514-6505(Christine)

For Sale

IPHONE 4G 16GB White With Original Accessories. Price : 290000 iPhone 4S 16GB White White Original Accessories Price : 380000. Ph : 09-450-039844

90% NEW SAMSUNG Galaxy S3 White (32GB) Price : 350000 Ph : 09-450-039844

HTC DROID Incredible 2 (For CDMA 800 & GSM & WCDMA) Price : 160000. Ph : 09-450-039844

IPHONE 4 , IOS 5.1.1 16GB Black Color Official Unlock with 3 Cover excellent condition . Price : 200,000 Kyats & IPhone 3G 8GB Black Color Official Unlock good condition Price 90,000 Kyats . Ph: 09-508-1344

PHONE 4 32GB offical unlock amazing condition (original accessories packing box) 320000 ks contact : 09-514-7480.

ACER ASPIER 4741G Core i3 1 No, intel Core i3 Ram 2GB H.D.D 500GB Garaphic: Nvidia 512 MB DVD / RW, Bluetooth , Wifi, Card Reder Display 14" LED Price : 280000. Ph : 09-450-039844

MAZDA DEMIO (Sport Type) [2006 Model] [AC, PS, PW, ABS, SRS, TV, Back Camera, Power Exhauster] Ph: 09-44-800-6520

WIMAX (Bagan), McWill Contact : 09-44-800-6520.

HD (Game, app) install iPhone, iPod touch 6000ks, iPad 8000ks, jailbreak, iTunes US account open (game, app download) Gmail account open, Android Game, app install 5000ks, contact : 09-514-7480

DELL LATITUDE - D630, Core™ 2 Duo T7700 (2.4GHz), Memory (2Gb) max 8Gb capable, HDD (120Gb), NVIDIA Quado Graphic, DVDR/W, 14.1"Wide (1280 x 800), Wifi, bluetooth, Window 7, Widescreen , (200,000 Kyats), Ph : 09-42100 8300.

iPhone 3GS 32GB With Original Accessories & Back covers. Price : 190000 Ph : 09-450-039844

IPHONE 4 32GB offical unlock amazing condition (original accessories packing box) 350000 ks adj contact : 095147480

TOYOTA Swift 2007, TV Color : Silver, Price : 115 Lakhs. Ph: 09-5134095.

TOSHIBA Satellite J10 Laptop. Intel Pentium 4 2.0 Ghz Ram 512 H.D.D 40GB Display 15" WiFi Bettery Time 30 Min Price : 120000 Ph : 09-450-039844

TOSHIBA Satellite J10 Intel Pentium 4 Processor 2.0 Ghz Ram: 512 Hard Drive : 40 GB LCD Display : 15" Wifi Bettery Timing : 2 Hour OS : Windown XP Price : 120000 PH : 09450039844

IPAD2 64GB 3G/Wifi (Black) With Cover Price - 450000 Ph: 09-517-8391

BROUGHT FROM sg (1.5month use)Toshiba like brand new corei5, 4GB, nVIDIA 2GB, 500 HDD,DVD RW,(4.5 lks) adj Contact: 09-514-7480

IPHONE 4S 64GB White Official Unlock With Original Box & Accessories. Price : 500000 Ph : 09-450-039844

IPHONE 3GS 32GB White (Very Good Condition) Price : 180000 Ph : 09-450-039844

WEIGHT LOSS BELT (OSIM, Ukimono, brand new) Price : 240,000. Contact : 534549, 09-421-028392.

Place a FREE ad NOW!

IPHONE 4G 32GB Black Official Unlock (Excellent Condition) Fixed Price Price : 310000 Ph : 09-450-039844.

HUAWAI c8812 CDMA 800 Handset 95% new game, app, myanmar font installed (65000) contact:09-514-7480

Travel

REAL ESTATE or Land-housing investment in Myanmar. We coordinately invite Myanmar citizens or nons to cooperate with us as w will take responsibilities with our citizenship scrutiny For those who are interested and want to cooperate with us may contact Saya Bryan 09-4200-70692, Saya Htet (Engineer) 09-215-00 75

MYANMARVISA.COM Check eligibility for VISA on Arrival Online or Contact us at travel.evisa@gmail.com

NEW TRAVEL WEBSITE www.go-myanmar.com. The first website featuring up-to-date & comprehensive information on hotels, travel and destinations in Myanmar. Interested affiliates email info @ go-myanmar.com

I.S TRAVEL BKK is providing services in Thailandsuchasindividual 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@ yellowearth tavel.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.

Training center

HOTEL AND TOURISM Training Centre (Yangon). Course: Hotel Management (Level 3), Front Office Operations (Level 1), Housekeeping Operations (Level 1), F&B Service (Level 1), F&B Production (Level 1), Oriental Food Cookery (Level 1), OPERA System. Duration: 2 months (4.2.2012 to 29.3.2013) Ph: 394836.

SMART Gym (Since 2001). Welcome to "Gym Center" new place at "Yae Kyaw Main Road", Large Room (40'x60'), to reduce your over weight (Above 200 lbs), to get a healthy life. Available to discuss with excellent training teacher. Ph: 09-730-17729.

Want To Buy

SAMSUNG S2, S3 Note 1, Note 2 iPhone 4S, iPhone 5 Mac Book Pro, Mac Book Air. Ph : 09-450-039844

Property

Housing for Rent

KAMAYUT, Thirimigalar Rd (Attia Rd), 2RC, 4MB+Hall type, 10,000 sqft compound. no agent. Ph: 389706, 09-200-4467. e-mail: star85ster@ gmail.com

ABUILDING&acompound : One storey building with 2 bed rooms (bathrooms attached), a kitchen and a small hall in a big compound. Located on the road to Ngwe Saung Beach, twenty minutes drive from Pathein Bridge & 1 hour drive to Ngwe Saung. Ph: 09-520-1910, 09-421-114621, 09-422-484745.

KAMAYUT, ATTIA RD, 2RC, 4M+ Hall type-10000 sqft compound, no agent, US 5000, Pls cont:389706, 09-200-4467, e-mail: star85ster @gmail.com

CHANTHA GONYAUNG Executive Condominiums, Penthouse/ Rooms. 4 rooms, 5 rooms. Fully Furnished. Amazing serenity and satisfactory facilities, club restaurant. 24 hours electricity internet, cable TV. Brookers welcome. Interested parties Pls call: 09-73-85811, 09-730-85844, 09-850-2055.

(1) **DAGON Tsp**, Near Thai Embassy . (80'x80'), 2 storey, 4 MBR, 1 Single Rm, 6AC, Ph, USD 4800. (2) **Tawwin Rd** , (70'x 90'), 2 storey, 3MBR, 1BR, 5AC, Ph, USD 4500. (3) **7 mile** (Near Honda Showroom), (40'x80'), 2½ storey, 2 MBR, 4 Bed Rm, USD 3000. (4) **9 mile** (Maurawadi Rd), (80'x90'), 2 storey, 4 MBR, Swimming Pool, USD 2500. No Agts Pls. Call 09-4211-77105.

BAHAN (1) **Kokkine Yeiktha St**, 50' x 60', 3.5 storey, 4MBR, USD-15000 (2) **Near Singapore Embassy**, 60' x 60', 5storey, 7MBR, 5BR, USD 7000/ (3) **Near Myayeiknyo Hotel**, 45' x 60', 2 Storey, 1MBR, 2BR, USD 18000. Ph: 09-4921-4276.

SANCHAUNG, Min St, 1BR, 1 Living room, kitchen, east and west have veranda, house furnishings. Ac, 16'x 30'. 1months USD 600. Ph: 09-731-92603.

GUESTHOUSE : MBR or BR (5 ~ 8 rooms), Air-Con, Phone, Between 20 lakhs ~ 25 lakhs (monthly) Location: Within Yangon and from 6th Mile to 10th Mile, Contact : 09-50-22238

BAHAN :(1) New University Avenue Lane, Condo, 1F, 1500 Sqft , Fully Furnished, Fully Furniture, 3 A/C, 1 MBR, 2 SBR ,1Ph, 9 Lakhs , (Suitable to Rent for Foreigner), (2) **Golden Valley**, Two Story Building, Fully Furnished & Furniture, 2MB, 2SB, Ph, A/C, Good Neighborhood, 40 Lakhs, Foreigners welcome. Ph: 09-432-00669

(1) **PANSODAN Condo** (new), 1500 Sqft, 1MBR, 2BR, USD 2000. (2) **United Condo**, 1500 Sqft 2MBR, 2BR, USD 1800 (11F), Foreigner only, Pls no Agent. (3) **7 mile** (Near the Honda Showroom), 3300 Sqft, 2MBR, 4BR, 2½ storey, USD 3000 per month, Call: 09-4201-14749.

Housingfor Sales

HMAWBI Industries Zone, No.4, Main Road, 8.5 acre, Ph: 09-430-42709.

PABEDAN, Classic Standard Condominium, 28A, B 27 St x Merchant St, 2nd Fl, 1756 ft, High 14 ft, 4000 Lakh , Hall Type, Ph: Bryan (Engineer) 09-4200-70692 .

LASHIO : Ward 12, 2Acres Land including the main house and 2storey building. Near downtown and Very Good place for business. Price: negotiable. Ph: 09-492-73629, 09-517-1377, 09-515-8738

9 MILES; Bonyarna lane; (50'x 75'); corner side; (4000) lakhs ; no agent please. Ph : 09-503-6519

SANCHAUNG 9th floor penthouse apartment (hall type) for sale in new, lift-serviced building on Myaung Mya Street. 1250 square feet, with high ceiling to accommo date conversion into two-storey apartment. Balconies on three sides, with views of Shwedagon Pagoda and across the Yangon River. 600 lakhs negotiable. Call 09-45000-6957.

TAMWE, G Flr Flat sales by Owner, Awba lane, 15x60 ground floor for sale, 1000lakhs 09-503-0093, 09-734-94295

WAREHOUSE , Front - 85ft Front to back (side) - 180ft Wear house area - 80ft*100ft (with steel structure). Add: (141), Min Gyi Rd (In Sein Bo Gone Rd), near In Sein hospital. Price - 16000 lakhs. Extra 1 small house. Ph : 09-501-7345

DAGON NORTH, 63, Bandoola St, near Ba Htoo Market, Block 46, 40X60, RC 2, water, electrical, ph: 09-431-23501.

Want to hire

FOR COMPANY Office: **BAHAN** (Kabaaye Pagada Rd, Pyi Htaung Su Rd), **Hlaing** (Pyay Rd), **Kamayut** (Pyay Rd), **Yankin** :2RC or 3 RC, MB 5, 3 Phase Power Meter, Water-Cute well & YCDC, Compound 80 x 80, Fully Furnished, Pls contact by house owner only, 556407, 540995, 4412580.

SUPER MEGA ENGINEERS GROUP CO., LTD.
One stop Solution for
Substations, Lines & Switchgears
Design, Supply, Install & Commissioning



Employment

Ingo Positions

HelpAge International is a global network of not-for-profit organisations with a mission to work with and for disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives. HelpAge International's East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) is responsi ble for the regional programme, working in partnership with affiliates and partner organisations in more than 20 countries in the region. HelpAge is widening the scope of its work in Myanmar. Currently, HelpAge, in collaboration with relevant Government agencies and partners, is implementing several projects that support older people and other vulnerable groups strengthening their livelihood and food security, health and DRR capacities in Ayerawaddy Delta, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions. The overall aim of the programme is to reduce poverty and vulnerability in general and to facilitate older people's participation in community develop ment. In 2013, HelpAge will move into Kayin State for the first time. This position is part of the HelpAge structure in Myanmar to lead the implementation a European Union (EU) funded project under the Aid for Uprooted People (AUP) in Myanmar budget, titled 'Creating an Enabling Post-conflict Environ ment for Populations in Kayin State, and Facilitating the Safe Return of IDPs and Refugees'. HelpAge in collaboration with partners will implement the project from early 2013 to early 2017 in 80 communities of Thandaunggyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik townships. Field implementation will be carried out in each target township either by HelpAge staff directly or by local partners. HelpAge, Karen Baptist Convention and Golden Plain have formed a Consortium with plans to jointly implement this programme comprising activities in the water and sanitation, education, livelihoods, health and rural infrastructure. The Consortium is committed to its core values of enabling positive change and building capacities of the communities by bridging relief and d e v e l o p m e n t interventions and working with established local and external networks and partnerships. HelpAge leads the Consortium which will be coordinat ing the work among the a b o v e - m e n t i o n e d agencies and will ensure overall compliance to donor regulations of its effective program implementation. The HelpAge International Myanmar is currently looking for suitable candidates for the following positions: Field Project Officer/Township Coordinator (3 positions based in Thandaunggyi/ Hpa-pun/ Kawkreik t o w n s h i p s) Qualifications and competencies : University degree in social work, community development, agricul ture or related fields; Minimum 3 years livelihood/food security project management including project budget management experience with NGOs. Minimum 2 years experience supervising / managing staff. Demonstrated commu nity mobilization/ empowerment, partici patory techniques, training and facilitation skills. Strong interpersonal skills, sound judgment and team building skills. Sound understanding of p r o j e c t c y c l e management process. An understanding of the importance of gender in development work and inclusion of vulnerable people. Proven track record of quality performance in remote locations and high pressure environ ments. High degree of initiative and problem solving skills. Good report writing skills. Basic computer proficiency. Burmese and Karen language skills essential. M& E Coordinator (1 position based in Yangon) Person Specification : University degree, at least 3 years experience in participa tory M&E. Strong familiarity with monitor ing and evaluat ion in livelihood/food security project. Experience in the design of simple M&E tools with project staff and community leaders. Experience in training and mentoring staff and community leaders, facilitating development of simple -M&E tools by staff and community leaders to collect qualitative and quantitative information on project progress. Demonstrated English language proficiency (reading, writing, speaking), and competency in database establish ment and manage ment. Working experience with communities in Kayin/ Mon. Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Health Coordinator (1 position based in Yangon) Person Specification : Myanmar national with university degree in Medicine, preferably with advance studies in Public and/or community health, Minimum three years experience in general practice/health educator with an INGO, LNGO, UN agency is an advantage, Good experience in training & good facilitation skill. High level of interpersonal, written, oral communication and presentation skills. Computer literate and good report writing skills. Ability to work effectively in a team with from various cultures and professional back grounds, Fluent in Myanmar language, working knowledge of English an advantage flexibility and ability to change work according to the objectives. Willing to work in non-Yangon areas and make frequent travel to Yangon. Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Procurement and logistic officer(1 position based in Yangon) Person Specification : University degree. Minimum three years experience in logistics and supply chain management with INGOs or UN. Proven track records in planning procurement of project items with concerned staff and delivering items to village on time. At least three years experience in procurement, storage, quality control with NGOs. Experience in working as part of multi-disciplinary teams. A good team player with flexibility and adaptability, willingness to learn and ability to work to high professional manner. Good management , strong facilitation and reporting skills. Strong ability in prioritising world load, to meet the deadlines in a certain timeframe and able to work under stressful condition. Ability to work in a multicultural team. English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Basic computing Project Engineer (1 position based in the field) P o s t g r a d u a t e qualification with relevant work experience. Capable of working with others in a participatory and capacity building manner. Demonstrated English language proficiency (reading, writing, speaking), and (competency in Microsoft Office Suite/other relevant applications. Willing to work in less than optimal conditions with challenging limitations. Highly motivated with a positive attitude and problem-solving approach Excellent organizational skills, ability to determine priorities and attention to (detail a must) English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Livelihood Officer (3 positions based in Thandaung gyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik townships) University degree in agronomy/Veterinary or any other relevant field. Technical skills and experience in the sustainable liveli hoods, small business development, livestock development in the south east of Myanmar essential. Minimum 3 years relevant work experience and d e m o n s t r a t e d competencies in integrated project approach; Knowledge of and work experience in capacity building and training to small-scale agricultural farmers, livestock farmers and community leaders, and a sound understanding of relevant community based food security issues. Demonstrated community mobilisat ion, participatory techniques, training and facilitation skills. Strong interpersonal skills, sound judgment and team building skills. Familiarity with community organising skills English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential Partner Agronomist (3 positions based in Thandaunggyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik t o w n s h i p s) Qualifications and c o m p e t e n c i e s :University degree in agronomy or any agriculture related field. Technical skills and experience in the food security and sustainable livelihoods and agriculture sector in dry zone are essential. Minimum 3 years relevant work experience and demonstrated competencies in setting up farmers field schools, seed multiplication techniques, setting up and management of nurseries and also integrated project approach; Knowledge of and work experience in capacity building and training to small scale farmers and community leaders, and a sound understanding of relevant community based food security issues. Demonstrated community mobilisation, participatory techniques, training and facilitation skills. Strong interpersonal skills, sound judgment and team building skills. Familiarity with community organising skills. English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential Protection Officer (3 positions based in Thandaunggyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik townships). University degree in Law, International Law, political Sciences or related field with good knowledge of International Refugee and Human Rights Law. 3 years of relevant international experience with demonstrated commit ment to humanitarian/ develop ment work. Proven track record in teamwork, i n t e r c u l t u r a l communication. Sound knowledge of international/refugee law. Solid experience of managing complex issues. English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential. C o m m u n i t y Development Officer (8 positions based in Thandaunggyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik townships) Qualificat ions and competencies : Minimum BEHS level of education. Experience in community facilitation/community organising using participatory methods. A sincere desire to help small scale farmers, livestock farmers and landless families. At least 3 years community mobilization/facilitation work at the community level or equivalent experience is helpful. Strong familiarity with participatory develop ment approaches. Good problem solving and organizational skills. Understanding of village level problems. Knowledge about agriculture, fisheries, livestock/small scale income generation activities helpful. English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Finance Officer (1 position based in Yangon) Qualifications and competencies : CPA/ ACCA. At least 3 years experience in similar position with international agencies/UN or equivalent. Experience in producing budgets, financial monitoring and donor reports. Solid experience in developing internal finance control systems. Experience in building staff capacity in accounting, controls, budgeting and project financial manage ment. Experience in working as part of multi-disciplinary teams. Excellent communicat ion and negotiation skills. Advance computer skills particularly in Excel. Good command of spoken and written English. Ability to deliver under pressure and willingness to travel in the field Sub-office Finance Officer (3 positions based in Thandaunggyi, Hpa-pun and Kawkreik townships) Qualificat ions and competencies : Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Economics / BACT. At least two years experience in accounting with INGOs. Experience in working as part of multi-disciplinary teams. Excellent communicat ion and negotiation skills. Advance computer skills particularly in Excel. Ability to work under pressure and willingness to travel in the field English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential Driver (1 position based in Yangon) **Experience and skills**: At least 5 years work experience as a driver of 4WD Jeep (auto gear). Safe driving record. Knowledge of driving rules and regulations. Skills in minor vehicle repair. English, Burmese and Karen language skills essential. Interested and qualified candidates are requested to send a Cover Letter and CV to the HR Unit of HelpAge International Myanmar Country Office, No. 10, Kanbawza Avenue, Shwetaunggya Ward No.(1), Bahan Tsp., Yangon OR to hr. helpagemyanmar@ gmail. com no latter than 5 p.m. Sunday, 20 January 2013. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. Candidates interested in positions based in Thandaung gyi/ Hpa-pun/ Kawkreik are requested to clearly indicate their preferred job locations (Than daunggyi/ Hpa-pun/ Kawkreik) and positions.

CARE Int'l in Myanmar (Kokang Self Administrative Region, Northern Shan State) is looking for (1) **Technical Officer** (Cooperative) - 1 Post : University graduate/ Degree/Diploma in related field. (1). **Technical Officer (Marketing)** - 1 Post **:** University graduate/ Degree/ Diploma in related field. (2). **Program Officer (Cooperative)** 1 Post : 10th standard educat ion. (3). **Program Officer (Marketing)** - 1 Post: 10th standard educat ion. Pls send an application letter outlining their claims against the matching indicators, along with a current C.V., passport photo & copies of any references or testimo nials to HR Manager : CARE Int'l in Myanmar - 17A, Pyi Htaung Su St, Sayarsan Rd, Bahan. Email: recruitment@care. org. mm Closing date : 10th January 2013.

THE INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS Alliance is an int'l non-governmental organisation (NGO) is seeking to hire a **driver** to be based in Yangon. Person specification Essential. Excellent knowledge and experience in driving and car maintenance. Preferable : Knowledge of English, Major responsibilities & tasks, Driving according to the daily defined schedule, Regular cleaning and maintenance of the Alliance vehicle, Make deliveries as requested, Complete the daily mileage and fuel record book. Conditions of work : Full time position, The driver will be expected to work a shift system. Pls forward CV to the Country Director, Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance, 12/F, Pyi Thu St, 7 miles, Mayan gone, or ao. alliancemm @gmail. com & ao-alliance@ alliance. org.mm by 11 January 2013.

Local Position

AMARA GROUP Co., Ltd is looking for (1) **Chief Account** 1 Post (Ngapali). (2) **Accountant** 1 Post (Ngapali). (3) **Restaurant** 1 Post (Kalaw), (4) **Accountant** 1 Post (Kalaw). (5) **Chef de partie** 1 Post (Kalaw). (6) **Ground Manager** 1 Post (Mandalay). (7) **Reservation Manager** 1 Post (Yangon). (8) **Sales Manager** 1 Post (Yangon). Be part of a young dynamic team and contribute to the hotels success with your expertise & experience. Therefore we offer an interesting work environment, accommodation and an attractive package. We look forward receiving CV in English. Contact: amaragroup.mmw@ gmail.com, Ph: 663347, 652191.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE Teacher cum Coordinator - M1post /F1 post : Age between 18 ~ 32, Must have good command of English, Good communication skills, (2) **Secretary cum Assistant Teacher** M1/ F1 : Age 18 ~ 32, Must have good command of English, Good commu nication skills. Pleasant Personality. Ph : 221677, 09 - 507-9896, 09- 500-5219.

DAI

CALL FOR CVS: USAID/OTI PROGRAM MONITORING & EVALUATION MANAGER

Background : DAI, an international consulting firm based in the United States, is currently accepting applications from candidates for a Monitoring & Evaluation Manager position to support the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Transition Initiative (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 Monitoring & Evaluation Manager will:

- Assist in the design of practical tools and methodologies to assemble data required on a recurrent basis to track program performance
- Undertake field visits to project sites
- Conduct periodic and systematic data collection and analysis of project results indicators, in conjunction with relevant project staff
- Prepare reports on progress on results indicators and assist staff in preparation of other program reports, as needed
- Assist with program evaluation, as appropriate
- Review schedules and ensure that monitoring visits occur on a regular and frequent basis
- Draft field site visit formats, questionnaires, and other data collection tools that will be used for reporting data
- Conduct audits of the monitoring data in the Activity Database, and ensure accuracy of information on reporting requirements
- Manage grants or purchase orders for M&E
- Review the final evaluation of each grant for entry into the Activity Database

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 January 21st, 2013. No phone inquiries will be accepted.

TO SHWE NAING-NGAN SEAFARERS AND MARITIME WORKERS

We the Seafarers Union of Myanmar which had been established since (1991) and accepted as its membership in (1993) by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), would like to take this great opportunity to announce that our union is at present going to apply and register as a trade union in accordance with the Labour Organization Law (2011).

Therefore, we like to express our warmest welcome to all those seafarers and maritime workers who were, had been and are involved in the S.U.B-ITF activities outside and inside the country as well as to all who have interest in freedom of association and trade union so that you all can contact us through the following snail mail and physical address:-

PO BOX (686) Yangon 11181, Myanmar
No. (157) First Floor, Bo Aung Kyaw Street,
Kyauktada Township Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95 1 380357 Mobile: +95 9 421177700
Email: myanmaritf@mail4u.com.mm
Website: www.myanmaritf.org



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.



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

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.



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)

(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

ACCOMMODATION LONG TERM

Espace Avenir
No 523, Pyay Rd, Kamaryut. tel: 505213-222.

Golden Hill Towers
24-26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel: 558556. ghtower@mptmail.net.mm.

HAPPY HOMES
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Tel: 09-7349-4483, 09-4200-56994.
E-mail: aahappyhomes@gmail.com, http://www.happyhomesyangon.com

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).

Reservation Office (Yangon)
123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Township
Tel : 951- 255 819~838
Hotel Max (Chaung Tha Beach)
Tel : 042-423 46~9, 042-421 33,
E-mail: maxhotelsreservation@gmail.com

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
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.

Beer Gallery Mini Zoo

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

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



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

Traders Hotel, 5th Floor
Tel: 242828, Ext: Coreana.
Beauty Plan, Corner of 77th St. & 31st St., Mandalay.
Tel: 02-72506.

La Source Beauty Spa

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

Lemon Day Spa

Lemon Day Spa
No. 96 F, Inya Road, Kamaryut Tsp, Yangon.
Tel: 514848, 09-732-08476.
E.mail: lemondayspa.2011@gmail.com



Spa & Boutique Fashion
No. 24, Inya Road, Kamaryut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 951 534 654, 09-73200147
theredscarf99@gmail.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

La Brasserie (International)
PARKROYAL Yangon.
33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel : 250388.

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar

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
G-A, Ground Floor, Pearl Center, Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Yangon.
Tel: 09 500 6880
Email: chocolateheaven.sale@gmail.com

COLD STORAGE

GLOVER

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

CNOC Since 1953

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

Max
123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Tsp.
Ph : 951-255819 ~ 838

ZAMIL STEEL
total steel building solutions

Zamil Steel
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

Cosmetics

La Source Beauty Spa

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

DUTY FREE



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
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

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

Dance Lessons
Mon-Fri 12:00 to 23:00.
Sat-Sun 10 am to 8 pm
Fun dancing Friday nights with Filipino musicians
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.

FASHION & TAILOR



Sein Shwe Tailor, No.797 (003-A), Bogyoke Aung San Road, Corner of Wardan Street, MAC Tower 2, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-225310, 212943~4 Ext: 146, 147, E-mail: uthetlwin@gmail.com

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



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, Chanayetharzan Tsp. Tel : 09-680-3505, 02 34455, 36748, 71878.

GEMS & JEWELLERIES

MANAWMAYA HOUSE OF JEWELS

Ruby & Rare Gems of Myanamar
No. 527, New University Ave., Bahan Tsp. Yangon.
sales@manawmaya.com.mm
www.manawmayagems.com
Tel: 549612, Fax : 545770.

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

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

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 PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTER

Professor Doctors,
(Made in USA) Equipment
Physio-therapists, Fully Aircon, At China Town.
96, Latha Street , Latha Tsp, Yangon.
Ph : 01-395544, 246365

LAW KA NET

Acupuncture, Medicine Massage, Foot Spa
Add:No,27(A),Ywa Ma Kyaung Street, Hlaing Township, Yangon.
Tel: 01-511122, 526765.

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

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

24 hours Cancer centre
No. 330, Yangon International Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: (951) 218388, 218292
Fax: (951) 218389

LEO medical

24 Hour International Medical Centre @ Victoria Hospital
No. 68, Tawwin Rd, 9 Mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: + 951 651 238, + 959 495 85 955
Fax: + 959 651 398
24/7 on duty doctor: + 959 492 18 410
Website: www.leo.com.mm
" One Stop Solution for Quality Health Care "

HEAVY MECHINARY

KOHLER Ion

ATC Co., Ltd.
27 (A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin TSP:, Yangon, Myanmar.
T & F : 665610, 667498
atc-admin@wimaxmail.net.mm

JCB

ATC Co., Ltd.
27 (A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin TSP:, Yangon, Myanmar.
T & F : 665610, 667498
atc-admin@wimaxmail.net.mm

HOME FURNISHING

Casabella

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

Top Marine Show Room
No-385, Ground Floor, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon.
Ph: 01-202782, 09-851-5597



Media & Advertising

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.

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

Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

PAINT

Bangkok
Phuket
Yangon
www.paintfx.asia

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

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

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

REMOVALISTS

Relocation Specialist
Rm 504, M.M.G Tower, #44/56, Kannar Rd, Botahtaung Tsp. Tel: 250290, 252313. Mail : info@asiantigers-myanmar.com

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: crown worldwide@mptmail.net.mm

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

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.

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

Lunch/Dinner/Catering 555539, 536174

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.

Heaven Pizza
38/40, Bo Yar Nyunt St. Yaw Min Gyi Quarter, Dagon Township. Tel: 09-855-1383

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp. Tel: 01-527506 email: inyaone@gmail.com www.inya1.com

Kohaku Japanese Restaurant
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Lobby Level, Tel: 544500 Ext 6231

22, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel 541997. email: leplanteur@mptmail.net.mm. http://leplanteur.net

YKKO
28, Saya San Road, Bahan Tsp. tel:01-541998

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

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.

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

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 Exclusive Lounge
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Ground Floor, Tel: 544500 Ext 6243, 6244

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

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 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.

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.

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
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 Tour Ltd
73 Pyay Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 211212, 223262. fax: 211670. email: res@asiantrails.com.mm

Tour & Car Rental Service
English Speaking Driver Ph:09-510-7461,09-730-46093.

WATER TREATMENT

Commercial scale water treatment (Since 1997)
Tel: 01-2300086.
H/P: 09-5161431, 09-43126571.
39-B, Thazin Lane, Ahlone.

WATER HEATERS

The Global leader in Water Heaters
A/1, Aung San Stadium East Wing, Upper Pansodan Road. Tel: 251033, 09-730-25281.

Water Heater
Same as Rinnai Gas cooker and cooker Hood
Showroom Address

WEB SERVICES

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

Davis Cup row over pay, support deepens

CHENNAI, India – India's Davis Cup campaign was thrown into turmoil on January 4 after a stand-off between players and administrators worsened ahead of next month's tie against South Korea.

Eight players, headed by Somdev Devvarman, threatened to boycott the Asia-Oceania first-round tie in New Delhi from February 1-3 if a slew of demands made by them were not accepted.

The demands include better distribution of Davis Cup prize money, a change in the squad's support staff, a full-time physiotherapist and the players' involvement in the choice of venues for ties.

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) said it could not accommodate all the demands, and insisted those players who did not accept a proposed disciplinary code will not be considered for selection.

The players issued a statement on January 4 saying they are "regrettably, unavailable for selection" unless the AITA is willing to consider what they feel are "legitimate suggestions".

"We wish to emphatically state that all of us are united in our stand against certain practices observed in the management of the Davis Cup squad," the players' statement said.

"We are not looking to challenge the authority of the AITA, but are making a genuine attempt to change things for the improvement of Indian tennis."

Devvarman added: "If, in our opinion, the AITA's response is unfair, I will stand united with the rest of the players and continue on our pursuit for changes in the system."

AITA chief executive Hironmoy Chatterjee said his federation had already spoken with the players but insisted indiscipline would not be tolerated. "They have put forward their suggestions and we will consider them," Chatterjee said. "But I don't think we can accept all their demands. Also we can't force anyone to play."

The AITA selection committee is due to meet on January 11 to pick the squad for the Korean tie.

Among the eight players supporting Devvarman's stance are senior players Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna, but former captain Leander Paes is not part of the group.

Trouble also erupted ahead of the London Olympics last year when both Bopanna and Bhupathi declined to partner Paes at the Games for what they said were personal and professional reasons.

The AITA had initially named the veteran duo of Bhupathi and Paes for the doubles, even though Bhupathi wanted to play with his then partner Bopanna.

– *AFP*



Queens Park Rangers midfielder Shaun Wright-Phillips (second right) celebrates scoring the only goal against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on January 2. *Pic: AFP*

QPR stun Chelsea, Everton and Liverpool on the up

LONDON – Chelsea old boy Shaun Wright-Phillips stunned his former club with a 78th-minute winner as bottom side Queens Park Rangers shocked the European champions 1-0 in the Premier League on January 2.

The 31-year-old drove home from the edge of the box at Stamford Bridge to move Harry Redknapp's side to within five points of safety and prevent Chelsea from reclaiming third place from Tottenham Hotspur.

"They worked their socks off and they got their rewards. We deserved it and it was a fantastic performance," said QPR manager Redknapp.

"They have set the standard tonight and to get out of this mess, they have to do it every week."

Newcastle United announced earlier in the day that they had accepted a bid for striker Demba Ba from Chelsea and last season's Champions League winners looked like they needed the extra fire-power against their London rivals.

Interim coach Rafael Benitez made five changes to his starting line-up, with Ashley Cole, Ramires, Juan Mata, Eden Hazard and the injured Petr Cech dropping out, and the changes were to prove costly.

German winger Marko Marin made his first league start for Chelsea but his only contribution of note was an ugly fourth-minute challenge on Stephane Mbia for which he was lucky to escape with only a caution.

Marin did tee up Victor Moses to shoot wide from close range early in the second half, while Julio Cesar saved brilliantly from Fernando Torres and Frank Lampard had a goal ruled out for offside, but Chelsea were below-par.

Punishment arrived with 12 minutes to play, when Adel Taarabt teed up Wright-Phillips to find the bottom-left corner from 20 yards and bring Chelsea's four-game winning run to a juddering halt.

"A lot of things went wrong today," said Benitez.

"We knew we were playing against the bottom-of-the-table side and we spoke about that. We knew we had to be focused but we did not have the tempo and some players may have been tired.

"It was going wrong against a side who played deep and were organised."

Meanwhile, Everton bolstered their bid for Champions League football by coming from behind to win 2-1 at Newcastle.

Papiss Cisse did his best to prove there is life after his Senegal team-mate Ba by heading Newcastle into a second-minute lead after goalkeeper Tim Krul's long kick was allowed to bounce on the edge of the visitors' box.

Leighton Baines produced a goal-of-the-season contender to equalise, however, rippling the net with a magnificent 30-yard free-kick that left Krul grasping at thin air. Substitute Victor Anichebe completed the comeback on the hour, tapping in Nikica Jelavic's low cross barely ninety seconds after coming on to send Everton up to fifth.

Liverpool reinvigorated their push for European football by sweeping Sunderland aside 3-0 at Anfield to climb two places to eighth.

Ahead of the weekend's FA Cup fixtures, Manchester United lead the table by seven points after winning 4-0 at Wigan Athletic on New Year's Day, while Manchester City remain second following their 3-0 win at home to Stoke City. – *AFP*

Perth Glory in talks with Owen

SYDNEY – Perth Glory are in talks with the management of Michael Owen about bringing the former England player to Australia's A-League, reports said over the weekend.

Owen, 33, who scored 40 goals in 89 internationals for England and had stints at Liverpool, Real Madrid and Manchester United, is currently playing for Stoke City in the English Premier League.

Glory have one spare position in their squad for an international player after releasing Irish striker Billy Mehmet last week and do not have a marquee player.

The West Australian newspaper said on January 5 that if Owen was recruited as the club's marquee player, his wages would not be included in the competition's salary cap.

A Glory spokesman confirmed the club was interested in securing Owen's services, but said negotiations were in their infancy.

"Michael Owen's agent has enquired about Michael playing in the A-League," the spokesman told the newspaper.

"Perth Glory are interested but are yet to find out Michael's terms and conditions.

"Until these are known, Perth Glory will not enter any further negotiations."

If Owen joins Glory he will become the fourth high-profile international player in this season's A-League, along with Italy's Alessandro Del Piero, Japan's Shinji Ono and England striker Emile Heskey. – *AFP*

Plaudits for AC Milan racism protest after walk-off

MILAN – AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi pledged last week that his team would walk off the pitch again to support a player who was victim of racist abuse by fans, as the move was widely hailed as setting a precedent against bigotry.

Italy's former prime minister, who is both president and owner of the club, spoke out on January 4 a day after German-born Ghanaian forward Kevin-Prince Boateng was heckled during a friendly by fans of Pro Patria and the Milan giants left the field in protest.

Boateng won plaudits for taking a stance against racist fans who blight the game, although some, including former Milan players Gennaro Gattuso and Clarence Seedorf, questioned his approach.

Berlusconi, however, said he would back his team if they walked off the pitch again whether in domestic or continental matches, calling the scenes at fourth-tier Pro Patria, who are based in Busto Arsizio, near Milan, "disgraceful".

"I can assure you that in every game, including [European matches], if we experience episodes of this nature we will, as a rule, leave the pitch," Berlusconi said, according to the Italian news agency *ANSA*.

Boateng said he would have no hesitation in walking off the pitch again if he suffered similar abuse in the future.

"I don't care what game it is – a friendly, Serie A or Champions League match, I'd walk off the pitch again and I think everyone would support me," Boateng told *CNN*.

"I'm surprised we're still hearing these things in 2013. It's not the first time in my life I've had to hear or see things like this but I'm 25 and don't want to take this anymore."

Footballers and sports commentators said Boateng's protest had highlighted a problem that has been tolerated for too long in Italian stadiums and which continues to dog some parts of the European game.

Damiano Tommasi, head of the Italian footballers' union Assocalciatori, told *La Repubblica*: "It's a strong, important signal that finally sets a precedent.

"It's good that it comes from first-rate players, who are usually accused of being less sensitive or less willing to make a stand."

Italian football federation (FIGC) president Giancarlo Abete said efforts were being made to identify the perpetrators, adding: "No matter what sanctions are imposed, nothing can cancel the disdain for such an intolerable episode.

"My complete backing goes to the players who were victims of racist chants and to Milan, who refused to continue playing – a decision that was shared by the referee, who had already suspended the match twice."

National team coach Cesare Prandelli, in charge when striker Mario Balotelli was racially abused by Croatia fans during last year's European championships, added: "Italy has to grow up and this is a first step."

Abete meanwhile said he had requested a meeting with Italy's chief of police to discuss when referees can suspend matches.

Anti-racism groups applauded Boateng, as did players including Senegal-born former France midfielder Patrick Vieira, who last year urged the football authorities to adopt a zero-tolerance approach in the fight to rid the sport of racism.

He said on Twitter: "It was brave of Kevin-Prince Boateng to do what he did and it was the right thing. We need to stand up and stand together. Well done."

Former Milan midfielder Gattuso, now with Swiss side FC Sion, however, suggested the incident had not been motivated by racist sentiment but instead by a "group of idiots".

"How many times have there been boos against white players in the past? It's happened to me too, but I brushed it off," he told *Corriere dello Sport*, adding that he lived near Busto which was "an area full of foreigners" and "no racists".

"Boateng felt offended, but I don't believe it was racism. It seems more to be the latest episode of collective idiocy from a minority." – *AFP*

Fuji®

Japanese Restaurant

FUJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

The Most Famous Japanese Restaurant From Thailand Is Now Ready To Serve You In Yangon



SPICY TUNA SALAD



SPICY YAKIBUTA SALAD



SALMON TATAKI



MAGURO TATAKI



HOKKIGAI TATAKI



AVOCADO SALAD



FUJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

37 Hantharwaddy Rd., Kamayut Township, Yangon

Tel: 09-730-22338, 09-730-22339, 01-514-776



Mancini downplays row with Balotelli

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom – Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini played down his row with Mario Balotelli and insists the striker still has a future with him by claiming he will give him another "100 chances" at the club.

The Italian pair was pictured grappling on the training ground in an apparent bust-up on January 3 in the latest in a long line of incidents involving the controversial striker.

Mancini took exception to a bad tackle from Balotelli on team-mate Scott Sinclair during a training match but the City manager played it down on January 4.

He claimed he asked the 22-year-old striker to leave the pitch after the tackle but when he refused the pair exchanged words in a heated argument that got physical.

Mancini admitted to losing his temper with the player but insists he has no regrets over the incident and does not feel like he has to speak to the player about it.

"It wasn't a bad thing like are in the paper," said Mancini. "The photo is worse than what happened.

"We were playing a game and Mario kicked his team-mate and I said to him: 'Go inside, leave the pitch'. He said 'no', and I take his shirt, I push him off the pitch.

"This is what really happened, no fight. There is no fight. The pictures look worse. For two seconds, yes I lose my temper. Because he didn't want to leave the pitch and he should leave.

"I will give him another 100 chances if it possible if I think he can change. I am here for this. Also if sometimes I am upset with him because he does everything for this.

"I give him another chance, sure, because he is 22 and he can do a mistake."

Mancini insisted it does not change Balotelli's position at the club and he could still feature on the bench for City's FA Cup third round clash against Watford.

"I have not spoken to Mario," he said. "This does not change anything. This can happen, it usually happen between two players.

"It was different, I wanted him to leave the pitch after what he done to the other player.

"The situation is this, I did not fight with Mario. Mario is like this. My thoughts don't change, this is not important.

"He trained only four times this week. Not in the starting line-up, but maybe on the bench."

While the pictures appear to show Mancini as the aggressor, it is the latest in a long line of controversial incidents involving Balotelli since his £24 million (US$38.5 million) move to City in 2010 from Inter Milan. – *AFP*



She's on fire

Serena Williams of the United States hits a backhand return against compatriot Sloane Stephens in their quarter-final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on January 3. Williams was due to take on Russia's Anastasia Pavyluchenkova in the final of the tournament on January 5, after her highly anticipated semi-final against top seed Victoria Azarenka on January 4 was called off because the Belarusian failed to recover from an infected big toe. *Pic: AFP*

Armstrong may admit to doping, says report

NEW YORK – Disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong, who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for doping, is weighing whether to admit he used performance-enhancing drugs, *The New York Times* reported last week.

Armstrong has told associates and anti-doping officials he is considering admitting publicly that he used blood transfusions and banned drugs during his cycling career in an effort to restore his credibility so he can become a competitive athlete again, the newspaper reported on January 4.

The *Times* did not name its sources but cited "several people with direct knowledge of the situation".

The International Cycling Union late last year effectively erased Armstrong from the cycling history books when it decided not to appeal sanctions imposed on the American by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

A damning report by USADA concluded that Armstrong helped orchestrate the most sophisticated doping program in the history of sport. The report included hundreds of pages of eyewitness testimony, emails, financial records and laboratory analysis of blood samples.

Armstrong has vehemently denied ever having doped.

Tim Herman, a lawyer for Armstrong, told the *Times* he was not aware of any admission plans.

"I do not know about that. I suppose anything is possible, for sure. Right now, that's really not on the table," Herman was quoted as saying. – *AFP*

