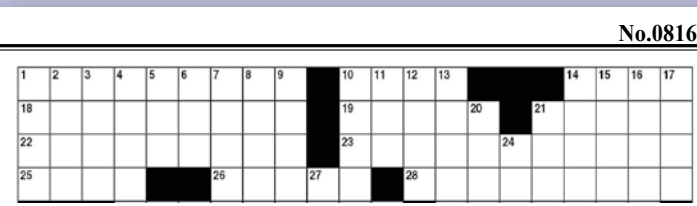


YES, WE GOT IT! THE SUNDAY  
NEW YORK TIMES  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE p15



suu kyi's 'authoritarian' paradox



The New York Times

A portrait of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, fashioned from old stamps by Zwe Yan Naing.

As the November elections approach – a contest described by some as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for democratic forces – the democracy icon and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is being openly criticized by activists, commentators and intellectuals – and the world is paying attention.

They accuse her of a dictatorial, un-democratic approach to managing her political party, the National League for Democracy. They question her decision to ally herself with Shwe Mann, a now marginalized former general. And they say she is missing an opportunity to build a grand coalition of democratic

forces, including minority ethnic groups whose support may be crucial after the election.

As Suu Kyi continues to make the transition from a revered opposition activist to a mainstream politician, she has made some unusual decisions, including a ban on media interviews of the NLD candidates seeking election in November.

A member of the NLD defended the media ban. “Here I would like to claim that they misunderstand the NLD’s good will as evil one,” Oo Win Myint, a central committee member for the NLD, told The Trade Times. “We are attending to our candidates

as if they are novices for fear of losing sight of them. The intent is to not lose our constituencies. Even now, we have lost seven constituencies,” he said, adding that candidates who break rules on Facebook or other web sites could threaten their candidacies.

For a woman who sacrificed the better part of two decades fighting dictatorship, much of that time under house arrest, it is deeply paradoxical that a word increasingly used to describe her as authoritarian, even among her closest allies in the NLD.

—The Trade Times staff

See complete story from The New York Times on Page 3

Air KBZ to fly direct to Chaing Mai

**Zin Minn Myat**

Vistors on visa-runs from both cities will likely welcome Air Kanbawza's first international route, from Yangon to Chiang Mai Thailand, when it starts next month.

"This is the airline's first foreign route. Airline ticket prices have not been set," said Myat Thu, the chief commercial officer of Air KBZ.

New aircraft, of the ATR 72-600 series, manufactured in France and worth US\$22 million, were purchased earlier this year.

Air KBZ is waiting for formal permission from the Department of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Transport for its flight to Chiang Mai.

See Air KBZ, page 7

China parades strength while annoucing troop reductions



Agence France-Presse

China's military puts on a show of force in Beijing during a celebration of the end of World War II.

**Chris Buckley**

HONG KONG — Thousands of troops stood arrayed at perfect, hushed attention around Tiananmen Square. Hundreds of Communist Party elders, foreign dignitaries and diplomats watched on. It was then, on live television, that President Xi Jinping stepped forward to announce that the Chinese military, on proud display to mark 70 years since the end of World War II, would lose more than a tenth of its personnel.

“War is the sword of Damocles that still hangs over mankind,” Xi said from the viewing deck overlooking the square in a speech at the start of a vast military parade in central Beijing.

Xi indicated that he wanted to show other countries — many of them

See China, page 6

Minimum wage law blamed for less work

While raising daily wage rates can improve standards of living, at least one business owner will keep salary expenditures constant by eliminating overtime for 300-plus workers

**Honey Chit Su**

One immediate effect of the recently imposed national minimum wage has been the disappearance of overtime work, according to factory owners.

The National Minimum Wage Committee approved the resolution that established 3,600 kyats (US\$2.80) as the minimum wage for an 8-hour workday at the national-level meeting on August 18. The Union Government then gave final permission to enact the law on September 1.

Since then, the amount of work above an 8-hour day has virtually disappeared, according to one factory owner.

“No redundancy took place in my factory, but overtime work no longer exists,” said the owner of a clothing factory who runs his business with a workforce of over 300. “Under such fixations, we are going to pay 900 kyats for one-hour of overtime work. If so, there will be no difference between labor charges we must pay and what we will get in return, hence our decision not to create overtime work.”

The Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security confirmed there was a decrease in overtime work at factories soon after the establishment of the minimum wage, though no statistics are yet available.

“Until now, no disclosures of factories were reported. Ministries will have necessary discussions about the demands by entrepreneurs,” said Mg Mg Kyaw, the second permanent secretary to the Ministry of Labor, Employment

**Regional daily minimum wages**

Lao	\$1.39
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>\$2.80</b>
Cambodia	\$4.06
Vietnam	\$4.73
Thailand (Bangkok)	\$8.86
Hong Kong	\$33.54
Japan	\$59.31

— Source: Department of Labor and Employment, National Wages and Productivity Commission (Philippines)

and Social Welfare.

The factory owner also said local businessmen, such as himself, would like to address other cost issues with the government, such as electrical power, rents for properties, matters concerning customs duty and overtime charges for the continued successful operation of their factories.

The first-ever national minimum wage applies to workers across all sectors and industries, but small businesses employing less than 15 people are excluded, officials said.

The dates for discussions about demands by businessmen were not disclosed, but it has been learnt that the meetings will be held as soon as possible.

See Minimum wage, page 6

**FOLLOW-UP**

**Last week: Dollar on the menu?**

After Kyu Kyu Ko and Mark Angeles' front page story last week ("Dollar on the menu? Central Bank adds an extra side of nervous"), at least one restaurant has switched back to selling items in kyat. Patrons report that Swensons at Oceans Center has updated its entire menu using the local currency.

Just trim a bit off the baaa-ck

A heavily overgrown sheep had more than 40 kilograms of its massive fleece shorn Thursday by an Australian national champion in a life-saving operation that animal welfare officers said may have set a new world record for a single shearing.

The merino sheep, named Chris by bushwalkers who spotted him wandering alone on the outskirts of Australia's capital Canberra, was rescued by RSPCA officers Wednesday.

The wool was taken off in one large piece from the animal by Australian Shearers' Hall of Famer Ian Elkins in a 42-minute process that he said was "certainly a challenge".

"We had to give it a mild sedative to keep it calm," Elkins told AFP.

"We set the sheep on its back and be-

cause it had so much fleece underneath, it was very comfortable. It took me 42 minutes to shear the sheep, which is a long time because it normally takes me three minutes.

"I'm sure it was very, very relieved after all that fleece came off. Sheep are shorn once every 12 months and the average fleece weight is five kilograms."

The RSPCA in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which is taking care of Chris as he recuperates -- including wearing a down coat to keep him warm, said they were delighted with the successful shearing.

The fleece will most likely end up in a museum, Ven Dange added, with Chris set to be put up for adoption once he recovers.

—Agence France-Presse



Agence France-Presse

**INSIDE**

**Opposition MPs make more with less**

All MPs who travel to the capital from across the country are assigned housing during sessions of the parliament. Among the opposition parties, the vast majority live in the cramped blocks subsidised by the government.

**Page 8**

**Mount Victoria**

The well-known summit in Chin State is gaining favor among eco-tourists and bird-enthusiasts alike.

**Page 12**



brights

# Apple to update Siri and iPhone 6

Apple sent out invitations last week to a Sept. 9 media event, hinting that Siri virtual assistant software in its mobile devices will play a role.

In trademark enigmatic style, the emailed invitations provided little more than the time and place of the event. Beneath graphics based on the Apple logo was written “Hey Siri, give us a hint.”

The timing of the Apple event did not come as a surprise since the California-based company is known to host September events to announce iPhone updates.

Rumors about the coming event included the possibility of new iPhone models and news about Apple TV set-top boxes.

Industry trackers expect Apple to unveil new generation big-screen iPhone 6 models.

The large-screen iPhone 6 has ridden the popularity of “phablets” that blend features of smartphones and tablet computers.

Improvements are likely to include faster processing power and improved camera capabilities along with screens that can distinguish light touches from hard presses for more nuanced controls.

Apple could also use the media event to showcase milestones, such as product sales.

International Data Corporation said last week that Apple’s freshly launched smartwatch was a hot commodity in the second quarter of this year.

Apple Watch was hot on the heels of activity tracker Fitbit, the top device in the “wearable computing” market, according to IDC estimates. Apple has not released official smartwatch sales figures.

Apple shipped 3.6 million smartwatches to rank second behind Fitbit, which shipped 4.4 million units during the second quarter of this year, according to IDC.

Overall shipments of wearable computing devices leapt 223 percent to 18.1 million from the 5.6 million units shipped in the second quarter last year, IDC calculated.

“Anytime Apple enters a new market, not only does it draw attention to itself, but to the market as a whole,” IDC wearables team manager Ramon Llamas said in a note released with the figures.

“Fairly or not, Apple will become the stick against which other wearables are measured, and competing vendors need to stay current or ahead of Apple.”

IDC senior research analyst Jitesh Ubrani said Apple was poised to become the leader of the wearable computing market, with basic devices such as Fitbit activity trackers that don’t run third-party applications eventually losing ground.

“In the short history of the wearable market, a clear divide has formed between smart wearables and basic wearables,” IDC said in a release.

“Price and functionality are the main differences between the two categories, and that gap is expected to widen over time.”

– Agence France-Presse

# Berlin stretches beds so giant basketball players can stretch out

The Berlin hotel hosting the international basketball teams playing in the 2015 European championships matches here have extended their beds to 2.50 metres in order to accomodate the giant players.

Five of the six teams playing in Group B are staying in the same four-star hotel in Germany's capital, which has had to order special extensions to their beds as 25 of the basketballers measure over two metres tall.

"We had a total of 40 beds lengthened," a hotel spokeswoman told the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper.

Germany's centre Tibor Pleiss and Iceland's Ragnar Nathanaelsson are the tallest players of the Group B teams as both measure 2.18m.

The pair will square off in Saturday's opening match in Berlin between Germany and Iceland with Spain, Serbia, Italy, and Turkey also in Group B in Berlin.

Germany's NBA star Dirk Nowitzki, the Dallas Mavericks' power forward who stands at 2.13m, has rented a separate apartment in the hotel for his family.

After Ukraine pulled out of hosting this year's European championships, the four group stages are being spread around Europe with Montpellier, Zagreb, Riga and Berlin hosting before the knock-out stages continue in Lille, France.

– Agence France-Presse



Agence France-Presse

A competitor dressed in a fairy costume takes part in the 30th World Bog Snorkelling Championships in Wales.

# Sometimes to win, you have to win dirty

Competitors dressed as goldfish and sharks were among over 100 people vying to become the world bog snorkelling champion at an unusual swimming competition in Wales on Sunday.

Contestants at the 30th annual World Bog Snorkelling Championships donned masks, snorkels and flippers to swim two lengths of a 55-metre peat bog outside Llanwrtyd Wells as quickly as possible.

They were cheered on by around 300 spectators who lined up along either side of the murky brown stream running

through marshland.

Asked what the appeal of bog snorkelling was, one of the event's organisers, Jen Walsby, said: "I don't know, I've done it myself and it's cold and brown and you can't see much. It's just the madness that comes with it and the challenge."

Leading the field this year was Briton Haydn Pitchforth, who completed the course in one minute 26 seconds.

– Agence France-Presse

# Fortune teller -- can I handle the 'truth'?

My wife is expecting twins, I’m happy to announce.

The only problem is that I’m not married, and I’m not at all ready to be a father. Some of my friends back home have said that I’ll never be ready.

It’s not quite as bad as it sounds.

The procreative news was revealed to me by a fortune teller in Yan-gon last week. Several friends and I went to Yan Naing Soe, a tarot card reader in Seinn Lann So Pyay Gardens in Kamayut Township on a very rainy afternoon. The grey weather should have been a tipoff.

Flanked by two of my friends who would act as translators, we sat facing Yan Naing Soe at a small desk covered with a velvety cloth emblazoned with the words “Tarot and Magic.” It was explained to me that he did not perform magic tricks. Rather, it was a reference to the magic he could summon that allowed him to interpret my future through the tarot cards. We’ll see, I said to myself.

Two decks of cards were produced, one of them fanned out in a semi-circle front of us, the other kept in a stack. I was asked on which day of the week I was born (Wednesday) and then asked to cut the deck that remained in a stack. Next, I was asked to select seven cards from the semi-circle. I was told that I could ask questions later, but only after he made a couple of observations.

My job, he said, involved disseminating information. True, but many jobs have this objective. Perhaps this would be a series of general predictions that could apply to a large percentage of the population. I would soon be proven wrong.

Part of my job, he said next, was teaching others to disseminate information.

Hmm. My duties at The Trade Times include coaching and training reporters in their writing and news gathering techniques. This was getting interesting.

The time had come for questions. How long will I remain in Myanmar? About a year, he said. I have a year and three months left on my contract. I guess contract renewal is literally not in the cards for me.

How is my health? I should cut down on the drinking, he said, in order to avoid liver damage.

This last prediction elicited laughter from my friends, who know of my fondness for Myanmar beer.

Maybe this young man has some talent, I thought. Then came the serious stuff.

Will I ever find true love? He asked me to pick a card from the semi-circle and cut the deck. I handed him the card and he looked at it and frowned a bit.

Probably not, he said. I will go through several marriages, he predicted. I will, however, eventually find someone who cares for me.

Hold the phone. Several marriages? A series of loveless relationships? Eventual discovery of someone who will care for me? What, like in a nursing home for the aged? Perhaps I should join some internet dating websites, I remember thinking. Or maybe I should call my ex who’s now living in Texas. Or is it California?

Fortune telling is all just entertainment, right? Ask one more question and get this over with, I thought.

What about kids, I asked, this time with some hesitation. If this guy didn’t pull any punches when it came to my tragic love life, he probably wouldn’t hold back in letting me know about the rest of my barren future.

More tarot cards were selected and cut. One was twirled and tapped, then finally read. He paused. I was looking for another frown on his face. Instead, he smiled.

I will have two children, both of them girls, most likely twins, he said, his smile widening into a grin.

I didn’t know how to react. But I left feeling a bit drained. As we walked out of Seinn Lann So Pyay Gardens, it started to rain a little harder. Maybe it was a sign of the serious potential responsibility ahead of me. I need to rest now, in order to prepare for multiple marriages and single fatherhood. And no booze. I hate the rain.

Mark Angeles is The Trade Times deputy managing editor



Expat Life

Mark Angeles

## sudoku answers

6	1	3	6	5	9	2	8	7
4	7	1	2	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	6	4	1	3	2
2	6	3	9	1	5	4	7	8
7	4	1	6	2	8	3	9	5
3	8	5	4	9	7	1	6	2
5	2	7	3	6	1	4	8	9
8	9	6	1	5	3	7	2	4
1	2	4	3	7	9	8	5	6

## super sudoku answers

2	6	9	4	5	1	7	8	3
1	3	5	8	2	7	4	6	9
8	7	4	9	6	3	2	1	5
3	4	2	6	9	5	1	7	8
5	8	1	7	4	2	9	6	3
7	9	6	3	8	1	5	4	2
4	1	7	3	9	8	6	5	2
2	3	8	6	7	5	4	1	9
9	5	8	2	1	4	3	6	7

## crossword answers

S	S	E	L	T	H	A	V	E	H		I	A	S	E		E	N	E	R
R	E	D	A	N	E	S	S		O	E	T	S	O		S	S	A	W	V
T	S	A	P	E	H	T	N	I		D	N	O	R	G	K	V	E	R	B
A	S	A	L	V		S	A	F	O	S		T	H	O	C	E	W	O	H
			E	T	S	A	M	O	R	A		O	E	T	I	T	A	G	
A	L	T	B	U	S		S	O	L		V	E	A		S	T	P		
T	F	A		N	E	A		C	I	P	E	K	S		S	H	E	S	
T	L	E	T	K	R	A	W		N	I	E	T	O	R	P		O	E	R
E	A		F	L	E		P	A	G		T	L	A	V	O	O	T	W	A
			O	G		N	E	D	E	G	E		P	E		D	A	W	K
S	H	E	N	O	T		S	E	N	I	P	T	V		D	T	O	R	H
R	O	T	O	C	N	I		I	D	A	V	L	B	O		S	P	O	
A	S	G		D	E	T	L	A	R	D		E	N	R	E		X	Y	N
E	N	O	T		S	E	I	N	E	I	W		M	A	S	H	E	M	O
R	E	D	T	E		A	B	N	E	K	A	T		L	U	O		E	L
			I		R		E	E	H		T	R	E		O	H	D	N	A
			A	D	H	O	S	A	T		C	I	T	S	I	E	H	T	A
S	H	E	N	A	R	T	S		S	A	P	A	V		T		P		S
W	E	L	S	E	L	T	L	E	S		E	T	O		T	S	K	N	I
A	Z	N	A	L	A	I	A	T	A		C	E	C	N	A	D	A	I	A
M	A	U	G			L	E	R	B		E	D	C	N	A	I	A	F	A

## MOVIES

### Hitman: Agent 47

An elite assassin is genetically engineered from conception to be the perfect killing machine. The culmination of decades of research endows him with unprecedented strength, speed, stamina and intelligence. His latest target -- a mega-corporation that aims to create an army of killers with powers beyond even his own.



### Fantastic Four

A contemporary re-imagining of Marvel's original and longest-running superhero team centers on four young outsiders who teleport to an alternate and dangerous universe with alters their physical form in shocking ways.

### Poltergeist

A family whose suburban home is haunted by evil forces must come together to rescue their youngest daughter after the apparitions take her captive and threaten to take her away forever.

## TO CALL

### government

Traffic Control: 298651  
Immigration: 286434  
Power Station: 414235  
General Post Office: 285499  
International Airport: 662811  
Yangon Port: 382722  
Railways: 274027

### hospitals

Pun Hlaing International Hospital: 684323  
Bahosi Hospital: 2300502-30 & 2300631  
Witotiya (Victoria) Hospital: Tel 966141  
Shin Par Gu Hospital: 554805 & 549768  
Acadamedy Private Hospital: 229746  
Sakura Medical Center: 510079 & 510186  
Yangon International Clinic:

### tv & internet

211888  
Asia Royal Hospital: 538055  
MPT: 67407007  
Skynet: 9010220

### embassies

Austalia: 251810; 251809  
China: 251810; 221281  
France: 212178; 212520  
India: 243972; 388414  
Italy: 527100  
Japan: 549644; 549645  
South Korea: 527142  
Malaysia: 220248  
Philippines: 558149  
Sweden: 650346  
Thailand: 226721  
UK: 370863; 370867  
USA: 539509  
Vietnam: 511305

\* Junction Cinemas timings Sun – Thurs: 10AM, 1PM, 4PM, 7PM; Fri – Sat: 10AM, 1PM, 4PM, 7PM, 9.30PM

\* Timings at other cinemas Every day: 10AM, 12.30PM, 3.30PM, 6.30PM, 9.30PM.

Nay Pyi Daw Cinema (Opposite Sule Shangri-La Hotel) **Booking: (01 251277)** ● Shae Saung Cinema (close to Nay Pyi Daw Cinema) **Booking: (01 252113)** ● Mingalar San Pya Cineplex **Booking: (0973176000)** ● Mingalar Cinema @ Dagon Center 2 Shopping Mall **Booking: (0973254091)**

● Junction Square Cineplex **Booking (01-527055)** ● Junction Maw Tin Cineplex **Booking: (01-225244)**

\* All timings are subject to change. Please call to confirm and book your tickets in advance







myanmar

# Spartan quarters for the opposition

Hla-Hla Htay

Surveying the tiny concrete cube where he must live with four relatives, Myanmar opposition MP Ohn Kyaing is once again reminded of his time as a political prisoner.

“I was in jail for 17 years... This is just like a cell, except now my family are with me,” said the 72-year-old from Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) at his lodgings in the junta-built capital Naypyidaw.

All MPs who travel to the capital from across the country are assigned housing during sessions of the parliament, which took root in 2011 under a quasi-civilian government.

Those wealthy enough could opt to stay long term in a hotel, but among the opposition parties, the vast majority of MPs have no choice but to live in the cramped and regimented green-painted blocks that are subsidised by the government.

On the contrary, the ruling party provides relatively well-equipped and free dormitories for its MPs in the party headquarters. The military representatives live in their own secluded barracks.

Now, as the legislature shuts down ahead of an election tipped to bring huge gains for the NLD, the opposition MPs can’t wait to empty out of their military-style dorms.

“We want to go back home,” said the veteran NLD MP’s wife Than Than, 71, who together with her daughter, grandson and great niece moved in with the ailing Ohn Kyaing to help look after him.

The family, who have a home in Yangon -- the country’s largest city and former capital -- have squeezed into a space meant for one, cooking on a makeshift stove in one corner of the room and sleeping in beds lined up with scant space to walk in between.

Naypyidaw, which means the “Abode of Kings” in Burmese, for this family at least has other connotations.

Built up from the tropical scrub in central Myanmar only a decade ago, the city was suddenly announced as the country’s new capital by its former general rulers for reasons that remain shrouded in mystery.

Home to some 375,000 people in the capital and nearby urban areas, it has a thin scattering of entertainments for those living there, including a couple of large



Agence France-Presse

Parliament member Ohn Kyaing, left, talks with his family in his roommate in Naypyidaw.

malls, a bustling market area and a zoo.

Unconstrained by conventional notions of space, the city feels like an out-of-season theme park, with lonely multi-lane highways linking the colossal parliament complex to other attractions including a vast hotel zone, a glittering pagoda and a collection of white elephants.

While Suu Kyi is afforded her own two-storey home among those of city businessmen, the rest of the NLD’s MPs are housed with other opposition party members in guesthouses costing a government-subsidised 2,000 kyats (\$1.6) a day.

The network of squat blocks sitting under the shadow of parliament are served by a row of identical minivans that ferry people to and from the legislature while a sentry box guards the entrance.

Win Htein, the NLD’s spokesman in Naypyidaw, described the housing as a “barracks”.

“The kind they put cadets in -- military accommodation -- although it’s not a boot camp,” said the 74-year-old as a constant stream of visitors crowded his living quarters.

But he acknowledges the camaraderie of living close together, as a group of party colleagues outside used the last of the evening light to kick around a traditional “chinlone” rattan ball, while some senior NLD figures chatted over tea at a small restaurant nearby.

But they did not linger long -- in December local authorities banned political discussions in the compound and it is thought to be a favourite spot for special branch agents.

Military MPs, who make up a quarter of the legislature, are equally unimpressed with their housing.

“We do not even have a shop in our compound and have to drive more than 30 minutes to have a cup of tea with friends,” one army MP told AFP, on condition of anonymity.

Across town, the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) MPs have a much better deal, cloistered within the walls of their enormous party headquarters.

“USDP housing is better than others. There is air-conditioning, fibre optic Internet and big spacious rooms. And it’s free,” said Shwe Maung, a lawmaker from the party.

The 331 USDP MPs currently dwarf the NLD’s contingent of 45 lawmakers,

who mostly entered the legislature after 2012 by-elections which saw Suu Kyi elected for the first time.

But those numbers look set for a dramatic reversal with the November 8 polls, which are likely to send a wave of new NLD MPs into parliament.

As Myanmar’s political landscape prepares for its biggest upheaval in decades the government is also mulling new plans to construct dedicated housing for its lawmakers.

Veteran politicians Ohn Kyaing and Win Htein hope their housing troubles will soon become a distant memory as they ready to leave their humble digs, and seats, and hand the baton over to a new generation of MPs.

-- Agence France-Presse

## World Bank loan may light up rural areas

Zaw Oo

The Department of Rural Development under the ministry of livestock, fishery and rural development is planning to supply electricity to villages using a US\$90 million loan from the World Bank.

The loan, over a five-year term from 2016 to 2021, will cover an \$80 million project for cable installation and a \$10 million plan for outsourced technical aid.

The plan was unveiled at the Amyotha Htuttaw by the deputy minister for the ministry of livestock, fishery and rural development.

Amyotha Htuttaw previously approved a \$400 million loan from the World Bank to be used for nationwide light on August 24. Most of the loan -- \$310 million -- is allocated to the Ministry of Electric Power.

The remaining \$90 million will go toward rural development.

The plan is part of the Emerald Green Project implemented by the ministry, which is budgeted at more than 40 billion kyats to be used for the development of 1,450 villages in 69 districts and 280 townships in Myanmar.

However, because the ministries are responsible for the projects, the ministries should discuss when the loan should be started and how to effectively implement the plan, said Kyaw Soe, the Deputy Director General of Rural Development.

“In the previous year, they also borrowed the money from World Bank for the developmental plan, but significant developments were not seen ever,” said Kyaw Shein, a member of parliament for the Kyauk Pan Daung constituency.

# Change your weekend

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

the tradetimes

Myanmar's first weekly English broadsheet. Delivered to your door every Saturday for only five dollars.

the tradetimes



independence day in vietnam



Agence France-Presse

**Women dressed as soldiers from the Vietnam War parade in front of the mausoleum of late president Ho Chi Minh on Wednesday in Hanoi. President Truong Tan Sang urged further modernisation of the armed forces in the face of growing maritime territorial disputes as the nation celebrated 70 years since it declared independence from France. More than 30,000 people, from soldiers to schoolgirls, marched in a lavish parade in the capital to mark the anniversary of founding president Ho Chi Minh's proclamation for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Recent maritime territorial disputes are a direct threat to Vietnam's "peace, stability, territorial sovereignty and integrity", Sang added, calling for further military upgrades so that the country would be better prepared..**

Clue may link Uighurs to Bangkok bombing

Thomas Fuller

BANGKOK -- Thai police said the main suspect in a deadly attack on a Bangkok shrine had a Chinese passport indicating that he is from the far western region of Xinjiang. But they said they had not verified the passport's authenticity.

If confirmed, the information would strengthen the case made by some security analysts that the Aug. 17 bombing of the Erawan Shrine, which killed 20 people, including many ethnic Chinese tourists, was connected to the political grievances of Uighurs, a Turkic, mostly Muslim people. Uighurs in Xinjiang say they are oppressed by the ethnic Han, who dominate China.

More specifically, the involvement of a Xinjiang resident would buttress the argument, which has been widely repeated in the local news media, that the attack may have been revenge for Thailand's repatriation to China of more than 100 Uighurs in July.

Much remained uncertain, however, and the investigation has been plagued by a number of false leads.

The police have yet to release the name of the man said to have been in possession of the Chinese passport. They announced Tuesday that he had been arrested along the border with Cambodia, and that he had been trying to flee Thailand. That account was contradicted by some officials quoted in Thai and Cambodian news media, who

said the man had been arrested in Cambodia and handed over to Thailand.

On Wednesday, police said the man's fingerprints matched those found on bomb-making materials seized in a weekend raid on a suburban Bangkok apartment.

"We can confirm that the man was involved in the blast," said Prawut Thavornsiri, a police spokesman. "He may be the person who carried the bomb out of the apartment or brought the bomb to the crime scene."

The attack on the shrine, a popular tourist attraction in central Bangkok, was the deadliest bombing in Thailand's recent history.

The authorities have said the group that carried out the bombing was involved in human trafficking. But until Wednesday, they had avoided connecting the case to the Uighurs. An Interior Ministry directive last week instructed officials not to refer to Uighurs when discussing the bombing, and to call it a "disturbance," not terrorism.

Until Wednesday, the police had not disclosed the nationality of the man arrested Tuesday or of another suspect, described only as a "foreign man," who was arrested Saturday with a counterfeit Turkish passport. That man's nationality remained unknown.

The Turkish Embassy in Bangkok said that it had asked the Thai Foreign Ministry for information about the man arrested Saturday, and about stacks of

Turkish passports, also possibly counterfeit, found in his apartment. The embassy said it was "awaiting an official reply from the Thai authorities."

A spokeswoman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the ministry had "noticed relevant media reports" and was in close contact with the Thai authorities. "The Chinese authorities will continuously pay close attention to the investigation of the case," she added. "We believe that whoever committed this heinous crime must be severely punished by the law."

Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the World Uyghur Congress, an exile group, called the shrine explosion "a heartbreaking and condemnable event" and urged the Thai police to "present accurate and transparent evidence."

The repatriation of Uighurs to China in July prompted heavy criticism of Thailand's military government by human rights groups and foreign governments, which said the Uighurs were likely to face persecution on their return.

Thailand's failure to adequately secure its borders has been acknowledged by some officials. The country has long been known as a destination for criminals on the lam, who take advantage of its lax law enforcement to hide, sometimes for decades. Periodic attempts to remedy the situation have foundered.

— The New York Times



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New Zealand, pick a flag – any flag

New Zealanders were presented with four options for a new flag on Tuesday, three of them depicting a silver fern leaf similar to that used on the All Blacks rugby jersey.

The flags were whittled down from more than 10,000 entries in a government-sponsored effort to find an alternative to New Zealand's current banner, which features Britain's Union Jack in the corner.

Three of the designs show the silver fern leaf, the informal national emblem, with various backgrounds combining red, blue, black and white.

The fourth depicts a spiralling black-and-white koru, or fern frond, a traditional Maori symbol of new life and creation.

Kiwis will pick their favourite among the four at a referendum later this year and the winner will then go head-to-head



against the existing flag in a second vote next March.

Project head John Burrows said the aim was to find a flag that was "unmistakably New Zealand".

"It should celebrate us as a progressive, inclusive nation that's connected to its environment, has a sense of its past and a vision of its future," he said.

"For well over a century, the fern's been an iconic and instantly recognisable symbol of New Zealand, it's been a very strong part of our heritage and it works so well on a flag."

Prime Minister John Key, who initiated the push for a change, has made clear that he favours a silver fern design, saying it is as distinctively New Zealand as the maple leaf is for Canada.

Key has also expressed frustration the existing flag -- which has the Union Jack in the top left and four red stars representing the Southern Cross on a dark blue background -- is frequently confused with Australia's almost identical banner.

— Agence France-Presse



myanmar

Debate rages on wage increase

Minimum wage, from Page 1

“If they want to amend the overtime charges, firstly the law must be amended, and it takes time to consult, just as we did when discussing the minimum wage,” said U Aye Myint, the Union Minister.

Discussions between employers and employees for establishing a minimum wages commenced in 2013. Initially, laborers demanded 8,000 kyats a day. But business owners would only go as high as 2,500 kyats a day. The final figure of 3,600 kyats as the fixed minimum wage was agreed upon after more than two years and repeated surveys and discussions between the two sides.

Entrepreneurs at first refused to pay 3,600 kyats per day but eventually conceded, according to clothing factory owners. As a result, some factories reduced their workforce to a small extent, it has been reported.

The Ministry of Labor conducted surveys on 22,032 households in 108 townships across 15 States and Regions during the period from January 26 to February 28, asking residents what they thought would be a fair minimum wage.

U Mg Mg, All Myanmar Labor Unions Federation has stressed: “Reducing working hours and redundancy in factories cannot be asserted to have been attributed to the fixed minimum wage. Since before the fixing, such incidents happened in factories.”

He reiterated that international companies and organizations approved the present fixed minimum wage.

“So far, cases of dismissing workers from jobs did not happen in factories. Some cases were overheard. The present rate does not cover today’s commodities proces, but it will help ease difficulties to some extent,” said Ma Khine Zar Aung, the assistant general secretary to Myanmar Industry and Industrial Workers Federation.

Before the recently imposed minimum wage, a worker received 50,000 kyats as basic pay, earning just over one lakh kyats including overtime wages, regular pay and bonuses, according to some entrepreneurs. With the newly imposed minimum wage, worker’s salaries will increase from about 50,00 kyats per month to more than 86,000 kyats.



Staff from the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security negotiate with garment factory workers about wages in January.

Myanmar has seen a wave of protests for better pay and conditions, particularly among workers in the growing garment sector, after decades of direct junta rule came to an end in 2011.

The national minimum wage comes as part of a plethora of political and economic reforms introduced under the quasi-civilian government that has also seen a growth in foreign investment, with big brands looking to move into the

nation after most international sanctions were dropped.

But even the low sum reached had been vehemently opposed by some employers who claim that low worker productivity in Myanmar meant they could not afford to pay more.

Pressure to adopt a fair minimum wage has also come from outside with a number of Western manufacturers arguing that poor pay was counterproduc-

tive.

In neighbouring Thailand, where an estimated two million Myanmar nationals form part of a vast migrant labour force, the national minimum wage is set at 300 baht (\$8) per day.

The Ministry said that the national committee will make regular surveys every two years to alter the fixed rate.

— Agence France-Press contributed

Good manners build solid relations with Myanmar people

Dear Janice: What are some basic cultural dos and don'ts?

- Do not touch anyone, including children on the head, including their hair and face.
- Avoid physical demonstrations of affection in public.
- Treat elders and seniors with respect.
- Address a person using their full name and title.
- Walk behind rather than in front of people who are seated.
- Do not step over someone or pass anything over someone's head.
- Always sit with both feet placed on floor.
- Dress conservatively.
- Do not point your finger at anyone or anything. Raise the palm of your right hand upward if you need to point to an object or person.
- Turn your head away from others before yawning.
- Use both hands to present an item and respectfully bend forward as you do.
- Bargain in good nature and in good faith. If you don't intend to buy, do not bargain over price.
- Although tipping is not yet customary, there is the concept of tea money. Tea money is a small amount 200-500 k which is given for service already given or to pave the way for possible service in the future.



Expatriate Q&A

Jan Merchant

Dear Janice: What are some ways to show you have good manners in someone's home?

- Bring small gifts. Gifts can include food (chocolates, cookies or other type of sweet goods) or fruits. Other gifts could include small toys for children or a useful gift for the hosts.
- Remove shoes before entering the home.
- Don't sit at the head of the table unless you are most senior individual present.
- Use both hands to pass food or other items to another.
- Avoid use of left hand to eat or pass food or other items.

Dear Janice: What are some ways to show you have good manners at a temple?

- Remove shoes and hats before entering a temple.
- All pictures and statues of Buddha are sacred. Do not sit next to or touch a statue of the Buddha or on the platform where the statue sits.
- Treat monks with honor and respect. It is considered an act of great merit to make a donation of any kind to the monks or temple.
- Do not hand money directly to monks as they are prohibited from handling money. Place donations in an envelope or give to the monk's helper.
- Women should not touch or shake hands with monks. Conversely, men should not touch or shake hands with nuns.

Janice Merchant is the author of *Expatriate in Myanmar: A Guide for Newcomers*, available on amazon.com and in bookstores nationwide. She is also the co-chair of the Yangon Newcomers Group

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Xi faces hurdles reshaping China's military

China, from Page 1

wary of China's growing military strength — that they had nothing to fear from the procession of tanks and missiles that rumbled down Chang'an Avenue while fighter jets roared overhead.

But the highly public manner of Xi's announcement that 300,000 military personnel would be demobilized, China's largest troop reduction in nearly two decades, carried another implicit message. He was demonstrating his grip on the military and on the party, amid economic squalls and a grinding anti-corruption campaign that have left some wondering whether he and his agenda of change — including in the People's Liberation Army — were faltering, several experts said.

“It's Xi in command,” Andrew Scobell, a political scientist at RAND Corp. who studies the Chinese military, and who was in Beijing during the parade, said of the announcement of the cuts.

But he said Xi faced challenges in forcing through his broader program of change in the military, which would reshape the command structure and knock away the longstanding power of regional military commands across China.

“If it does happen, then this is confirmation that Xi Jinping is the most powerful commander in chief China has seen since Deng Xiaoping,” he said. “This is about showing Xi as the strongman.”

Xi on Thursday did not give any details of the troop reductions. But the cut appeared sizable and was aimed at making the People's Liberation Army more efficient and ready for combat, foreign experts said. And a retired Chinese major general, Xu Guangyu, said the announcement showed Xi's plans to upgrade the military remained on track.

“This decision was to be expected,” Xu said by telephone from Beijing. “As the level of military modernization steadily rises, we can reduce personnel. The modernization of weapons and equipment is encouraging a reduction in personnel numbers.”

The cut announced by Xi would shrink China's military personnel to 2 million, the biggest reduction since 500,000 were demobilized in 1997, said the China News Service, a state-run agency. Those forces would remain the world's largest, compared with the United States' active-duty force of 1.4 million. China's Ministry of Defense said the cuts would be completed by the end of 2017.

“It does seem incongruous that Xi would make the announcement at the parade,” said Dennis J. Blasko, a former U.S. Army attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. “But it has been widely acknowledged that cuts of hundreds of thousands would improve combat effectiveness.”

The shrinkage would mostly come



Agence France-Presse

Officials and dignitaries watch the Chinese military parade above a photo of Mao Tse Tung.

from ground forces, with more resources going to the navy, the air force and the Second Artillery Corps, which holds China's conventional and nuclear missiles, said David Finkelstein, the vice president of CNA, an organization in Arlington, Virginia, that specializes in military analysis.

Xi's program to reorganize and rein-vigorate the military was part of an array of changes announced in 2013, including an economic overhaul. Since then, the Chinese government has instituted changes, but many observers have said that the moves have often been hesitant and opaque, failing to match Xi's bold promises.

Additionally, the Chinese military has been distracted by anti-corruption inquiries that have toppled former and active high-ranking officers, including Gen. Guo Boxiong, the most senior serving officer for a decade until 2012, who was officially placed under investigation in late July.

The troop cuts were likely to be part of a broader agenda of change, which may include new joint command arrangements to better coordinate land, sea, air and other forces. M. Taylor Fravel, an associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who studies the Chinese military, said in an email.

“Xi would not announce the size of the reduction publicly if a plan for how to achieve the reduction had not already been formulated, so the announcement indicates that reforms are definitely underway,” Fravel said. “Ground forces will likely face the brunt of the reduction, but in the past, reductions have been used to streamline layers of command and bureaucracy within the PLA.”

Since becoming Communist Party leader in November 2012, Xi has often

visited military units to rub shoulders with soldiers and publicize calls for the People's Liberation Army to embrace change while remaining a stronghold of party power. In tensions with Japan, Vietnam and other neighbors over rival maritime claims, Xi has also signaled that his government will back its demands with force.

“They know that if they have to win any war, it must be a high-tech war,” said Che-Po Chan, an assistant professor at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. “It must be an advanced strategy now; it can't be a so-called people's war.”

Whether Xi can build on the new troop cuts to shape up the way the Chinese military operates will test his political mettle.

Even before his elevation to the top echelon of the party, Xi had some experience in the military, unlike his recent predecessors as president, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, who stood beside him during the parade. Xi started his rise through the party as an aide to the minister of defense for several years starting in 1979, when China was smarting from a brief but disastrous war with Vietnam.

Since he became head of the Communist Party, Xi has closely associated himself with the People's Liberation Army, while also pursuing a campaign against corruption that has reached into its topmost ranks.

At the start of the parade, he said that China's military was “loyally committed to its sacred duty of defending the security of the motherland and the peaceful life of the people, and loyally committed to the sacred duty of safeguarding world peace.”

In March, the Chinese government announced that the defense budget for 2015 would be 10 percent higher than the previous year's outlay, consolidating China's position as the world's second-largest military spender, though still far behind the United States.

But at a time when China's economic growth has slowed, dismissing hundreds of thousands of soldiers could add pressure on the government. In the past, decommissioned officers and former soldiers unhappy with their job prospects and welfare have become a persistent source of protests outside government offices.

Instead of sending decommissioned officers and soldiers into the civil workforce, Xi could draw them into domestic security forces, especially the People's Armed Police, which was founded in the early 1980s from former units of the People's Liberation Army.

“What might happen is just a reshuffle,” said Scobell, the expert at RAND. “The bulk of that may be transferred to another paramilitary force, whether as border guards or elements of the People's Armed Police.”

— The New York Times



mailbag break



Mark Angeles / The Trade Times

An airport worker reads a newspaper atop a stack of air cargo at the Yangon International Airport.

Air KBZ plans to fly Yagon-Chaing Mai routes twice a week

Air KBZ, from Page 1

Air KBZ is a privately owned domestic airline based in Yangon. The airline is owned by Kanbawza Bank and began operations with domestic routes -- Yangon-Bagan-NyaungOo-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon flights on April 2, 2011.

The Yangon-to-Chiang Mai flights will run two days a week, Myat Thu said.

Currently, Air KBZ is offering domestic flights to 16 cities in Myanmar with 8 airplanes. Recently, Air KBZ announced flights from Yangon to Loikaw.

In 2016, two new aircraft are scheduled to be bought for international routes.

There are 10 domestic airlines and 24 international airlines in Myanmar according to the Civil Aviation DepartmentAdministration Department. Only 33 out of 69 airports are being used in Myanmar.

Myanmar's domestic airlines include Air KBZ, Asian Wings Airways, FMI Air, Yangon Airways, Air Mandalay, Mann Yadanarpon Airlines, Apex Myanmar National Airlines, Air Bagan and Golden Myanmar Airlines.

Another domestic airline, Myanmar National Airline (MNA), also recently started route outside of Myanmar.

Two new aircrafts are scheduled to be bought.

mar. MNA began regular flights to Singapore on August 17 using its Boeing 737-800 jets. This is the first international MNA flight after more than 20 years.

Currently, MNA's international flights to Singapore are scheduled 6 times a week (except Saturdays) with special launch fares from US\$239.

There have been at least two reported incidents involving KBZ flights, both minor. On 17 February 2012, an Air KBZ ATR-72-500, XY-AIT overran the runway at Thandwe Airport, but no injuries were reported.

On 28 January 2014, an Air KBZ plane overshot the runway at Yangon International Airport, but no injuries were reported.

YCDC dumps garbage privitazation after public outcry

Htay Htay Win

Yangon City Development Committee has changed its plan to transfer garbage collection service in 33 townships to private companies due to widespread public disapproval of the plan.

"We will continue our service, as only 20 percent of the people were in favor of the plan," said Aung Myint Maw, the assistant in charge of the water and sanitation department. "Now I stopped the previous

plan after the public opinions submitted to the Yangon Regional Government."

YCDC conducted a public opinion survey about its decision to allow two private companies to do the business -- carriage and collection in two sectors -- and 80 percent of the public responded negatively, forcing the YCDC to continue to collect the garbage.

Aung Myint Maw said its service would improve.

"More garbage cans, vehicles, car-

riages and collectors will be given out to respective townships," said Aung Myint Maw.

Presently, the branch does not have a plan to collect at a renewed rate nor to discuss the plan further.

On March 24, 2014 applications were invited to grant licenses to private companies to perform the garbage collection. Out of seven applicants, City Environmental Company Limited was granted the contract for 2 districts of East and South.

TYTC Services Co, Ltd was granted the contract for the Western and Northern districts.

The two winning companies were informed that they would be allowed to start work only after a majority of public approval. The surveys were made in townships starting May 18.

Present rates collected by the YCDC are 20 kyats for a day in the downtown area, 15 kyats in its related townships such as Thingangyun, Dagon (south),

Dagon (north), South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Thaketa, Dawbon, Mayangone, Insein and Hlaing, and 10 kyats in suburban areas such as Dagon East, Dagon Seikkan, Dala, Seikkyi, Khanaungto, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha and Hlaing Tharyar. If transferred to private companies, the rates would have increased to 53 kyats in downtown areas, 45 kyats in its related townships and 40 kyats in outlying areas.

But an official said the current budget

does not cover the actual cost of collecting Yangon's garbage.

The departmental head of the environmental and sanitation branch said: "Yangon city is producing 1,600 tons of garbage daily, and we must collect the garbage with a budget of 133 lakhs daily to deliver the garbage to garbage grounds, as the collected earning did not cover the actual expenses. We arranged to hand the business to private companies, as did international governments."

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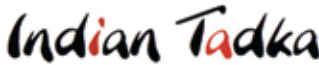


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business

# Feast or famine for jobs in India

Jalees Andrabi

India's economy expanded by seven percent in the last quarter, making it one of the world's fastest-growing, but experts say violent protests over jobs in the prime minister's own state last week are a sign many are still not feeling the benefits.

They say that could spell trouble for Narendra Modi, who swept to power last year promising jobs, investment and a revival of India's flagging economy after 13 years in charge of the prosperous western state of Gujarat.

Many hoped the prime minister could replicate his success in Gujarat across India, where nearly one in four people lives on less than \$1.25 a day.

But the huge turnout last week for a mass rally in the state to demand better access to government jobs and university places for the Patidar caste has raised questions over the success of the so-called Gujarat model on which Modi built his reputation.

With the Patidar movement threatening to spread to other caste groups in India, economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said a lack of employment prospects for young people

appeared to be driving social unrest.

"There has been a lot of trumpeting of the Gujarat growth model. But if this model was as successful as people thought, then agitation like we have seen by the Patels (Patidars) shouldn't have happened," said Sinha, a senior economist at India Ratings and Research.

"The government might rightly say that it's boosted the GDP number, or built roads, or provided power 24/7, but the bottom line is, can your model produce enough jobs? If not, protests will happen."

Last week's protests centred on the demands of the Patidars, a relatively well-off caste of farmers and traders, for caste-based reservations -- long a sensitive issue in India.

The country sets aside a proportion of jobs and university places for Dalits, known as "untouchables", and for other so-called "backward castes", under measures intended to remedy centuries of discrimination.

"Either everyone should get reservation or no one should," said Hardik Patel, the movement's young firebrand leader, who has vowed to hold similar protests in other major Indian cities.

Some observers say Patel's own motives are more political than economic, and accuse him of manipulating local grievances over caste reservations to win popular support.

But there is no doubting the authenticity of those grievances, which analysts say stem from a failure to translate economic growth into job creation.

Figures out on Monday showed India's economy grew by seven percent year-on-year in the first quarter of the current financial year, matching China and outpacing most major economies.

Modi's government has relaxed rules for foreign investors and has promised to slash red tape which has long frustrated overseas companies, eager to create jobs for the millions of Indians who enter the employment market each year.

But Edward Rodrigues, an expert in social systems at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, argues that India has failed to adapt its workforce since liberalising its economy in 1990.

"We never paid attention to producing a skilled workforce," he said, contrasting India's highly educated workforce with China's skilled one.

"It created an army of clerks for the state who lack skills to compete in a free market atmosphere."

India's unemployment rate was only 3.6 percent in 2013 according to World Bank figures, but underemployment is a critical issue and government jobs remain highly sought-after.

The scale of the problem was thrown into relief recently when 75,000 people, including qualified engineers, applied for 30 jobs with the Chhattisgarh state government as "peons", whose duties traditionally include fetching tea and other menial tasks.

The department head called the numbers "surreal" and said he had expected between 2,000 and 3,000 applicants.

"The youth of this country are aspirational, they want jobs," said Dharmendra Kumar, president of the Hawkers' Federation.

"We are seeing a phenomenon of de-growth in the formal sector... the only option for people is to move to the unorganised, informal sector through self-employment."

— Agence France-Presse



A tourist takes a "selfie" at the Sydney Opera House. Data show a recent boom in tourism in Australia.

Agence France-Presse

# Upswing Down Under

Officials say a record number of visitors like 'clean, green and safe' Australia

A boom in cashed-up visitors from China and India has helped Australia record its strongest tourism year since the Sydney Olympics, officials said Wednesday, with more than Aus\$33 billion (US\$23.1 billion) pumped into the economy.

The government-run Tourism Research Australia's International Visitor Survey showed that seven percent more people made the trip in the year to June 30 to reach a new high of 6.6 million -- the best since the hugely successful Games were held in 2000.

Tourists from China jumped 22 percent to 864,000. They also spent big, contributing Aus\$7

billion, a 32 percent spike, to account for around Aus\$1 in every Aus\$5 spent by international visitors during the year.

Tourists from the United States (544,000) and New Zealand (1.2 million) also rose, while those from Britain and Japan remained steady.

India was one of the fastest growing markets, boosted in part by Australia co-hosting the Cricket World Cup with New Zealand, with 207,000 people making the trip, up 20 percent, and their spending surpassing Aus\$1 billion for the first time.

"Tourism can be our fastest growing sector this

decade if we continue to leverage our 'clean, green and safe' brand to position ourselves as the number one, long-haul destination in Asia," Trade Minister Andrew Robb said.

"With China now accounting for one in every five dollars spent by international visitors, it is clear that China is vital to the sustained growth of our tourism sector."

New South Wales, home to Sydney, was the most visited state, followed by Victoria and Queensland.

— Agence France-Presse

# Market rollercoaster goes into overdrive

Asian stocks were hit by a fresh round of volatility this week, as further evidence of slowing growth in China's economy cast a cloud over global markets.

Following hefty early losses, some regional bourses reversed direction to close in positive territory -- the latest session of roller-coaster trade as concerns over the worldwide outlook keep investors on edge.

In early European business London, Paris and Frankfurt ticked up after suffering a painful sell-off, along with Wall Street, on Tuesday.

The Australian dollar -- heavily linked to demand for the country's abundant natural resources -- plumbed six-year lows as figures showed the economy logged a slower-than-expected 0.2 percent quarterly expansion.

That came after Canada officially entered recession, hit hard by stubbornly low oil prices.

Both countries' economies are dependent on the exports of commodities -- such as iron ore -- that have powered Chinese growth over the past decade.

Adding to tensions are uncertainties about whether the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at a policy meeting this month.

"You have worries about the global growth outlook, led by Chinese concerns

at a time when the Fed is thinking about raising interest rates, and that's leaving investors very twitchy," Shane Oliver, a global strategist at AMP Capital Investors Ltd. in Sydney, told Bloomberg News.

"I think we've seen the worst, but it's an environment where volatility is likely to continue."

Tokyo saw some of the worst turbulence, opening sharply lower only to rally at mid-session and then close down 0.39 percent.

Shanghai plunged 4.39 percent at the beginning of the day, jumped into positivity by lunch but ended 0.20 percent lower. Analysts said the heavy losses were largely erased thanks to government support ahead of a two-day World War II remembrance holiday.

Official data showed Chinese factory activity contracted in August, the latest sign that growth in China -- which accounts for more than 13 percent of global GDP -- is slowing.

While the Shanghai market is somewhat decoupled from the real economy -- many analysts and players acknowledge it is akin to gambling -- wild swings there are seen as worrying signs of Beijing's inability to manage structural change.

Commentators say China's high government-spending model of the past



Agence France-Presse

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, right, shares a laugh with Bank of Indonesia Governor Agus Martowardojo in Jakarta.

three decades is unsustainable, and must transition into consumer spending.

Washington, whose own recovery from the global financial crisis is still far from entrenched, will this week urge China to better communicate its policies, when representatives from the Group of 20 meet in Turkey.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew "will emphasise that, fundamentally, the world needs more demand", said a US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The jitters in China were reflected across most of the region. Hong Kong swung in and out positive territory through the day and was down 0.90 percent in late trade. Seoul ended 0.05 percent higher after starting in the red.

Europe's three main markets were all

higher at the start, with London adding 0.74 percent, Paris up 0.84 percent and Frankfurt 0.77 percent higher.

Despite the turbulence International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde on Wednesday said Asian economies were doing "pretty well".

Speaking in Jakarta, she said the recent turmoil highlighted the "extraordinary gains" made by Asian economies but warned further volatility was on the horizon.

"Now the situation is changing yet again, and we are all feeling the impact of China's rebalancing and moving to a revised business model," she told a conference.

— Agence France-Presse

# Entrepreneurship educators need to know their customers

Even before the term "entrepreneurs" was created, they were a driving force of progress in every society. Many companies, inventions and even societies were built by them.

Such potential should also not go untapped in Myanmar. However, to contribute to this society, entrepreneurs need the right mindset and the proper ethics.

Training is essential. The result offers great opportunities for profit if the training institution makes the right agreements with businesses. They do this by connecting with investors who pay them a part of their investment as a matching fee or by earning partial ownership of the business.

Unfortunately not many in Yangon have recognized this potential so far. Only six private universities have integrated entrepreneurship course into their curriculum -- public universities offer none whatsoever. It is currently not possible to obtain a comprehensive entrepreneurship education on a tertiary level. This is particularly surprising since Myanmar can boast some very good entrepreneurial role models, at least at the small-business scale.

Middle- and high-income families often include at least one business owner, and their children are often sought after by private universities.

Some representatives of business schools think this market is not mature enough and it is too early to offer entrepreneurship education. Some say they have tried initiatives such as information events or even a startup competition, but the interest was too low to offer further education.

But saying a market is not mature enough for entrepreneurs is a circular argument, like saying a market is not mature enough to be a market.

Businesses and entrepreneurs create the market in the first place and entrepreneurs have existed before any market anywhere was created. The actual question should be the "how", not the "if" of entrepreneurship education.

Developing a market filled with only foreign companies, while possible, is hardly efficient. A business that is not controlled by a local person will not be able to fully understand the needs of customers and will therefore not be able to fulfill them.

Because of its unique history and very traditional culture, it is especially difficult for foreigners to accomplish this alone in Myanmar. Experience also shows that most multinational companies are not taking a very responsible approach to business, with less developed markets in particular being exploited due to a lack of laws and regulations.

Local entrepreneurs, who feel close to stakeholders on the ground, can feel more responsible for their own country and therefore choose to do business in more sensitive ways. A lot of markets have already realized the benefits of supporting locally grown businesses, most notably nearby success stories such as Singapore or more recently Malaysia.

The question remains: why does no university offer a entrepreneurship-focused business degree? One reason may be that private universities are run by internationals and entrepreneurship schools usually orient themselves on educational models in developed markets. These models will probably not work in a startup economy such as Myanmar.

The reason for offering education similar to the UK, the US, Australia and other developed markets is simply that degrees can be as much about prestige as anything else -- everyone wants a title that sounds comparable. Regardless, most successful business education systems became successful by understanding what their local economy needs most. And what the Myanmar economy needs most right now are entrepreneurs.

Opportunities can be spotted everywhere in Yangon. At least half of the products for sale in supermarkets and even small corner stores are imported, while Myanmar is predominantly an agricultural economy. Other services and products are locally produced, but they can't match the quality of their international competitors.

What needs to be done by business schools is to localize their education models. The only institution that tried to promote entrepreneurship so far focused on tech entrepreneurs, but was unsuccessful. While developing new ideas around technology is relevant, it will probably not be a good business in years to come, keeping in mind the purchasing power of the local population. This singular example can hardly be a relevant proof for the potential of entrepreneurship education.

What is relevant are entrepreneurs who can create businesses that improve the lives of ordinary Myanmar people. We should hope that education providers soon realize the enormous potential that lies in educating these people and offer proper education that prepares them for the unique challenges of the Myanmar market.



## Last Frontier

Klaus Oberbauer

Klaus Oberbauer is a market entry and intercultural consultant. He offers business startup support and training for multinational companies entering Myanmar. He established the Myanmar branch of AIESEC, a global youth leadership development organization, as well as Social Impact Myanmar (SIM), a think-tank for social entrepreneurship. You can reach him at k.oberbauer@gmail.com

# Qatar attempts labor reform

World Cup 2022 host Qatar will begin enforcing a law that ensures migrant workers get paid on time from November, labour ministry officials said this week.

The Wage Protection System (WPS) -- trumpeted by the government as a "significant" reform -- has been delayed from an initial start date of August 18 to allow companies more time to prepare for the change.

It is one of a number of measures that Qatar is expected to introduce to improve labour conditions following criticism by rights campaigners about the treatment of migrant workers.

"We will start applying the law on November 3rd," labour ministry official Saleh Al-Shawi said at a press conference on Wednesday.

Any violations could mean imprisonment, and there are fines of up to 6,000 Qatari riyals (\$1,650/1,460 euros), he said.

Under the WPS, workers will be paid either twice a month or monthly, with wages electronically transferred to their bank accounts.

Banks will be compelled to open accounts for workers and transfer the wages once they have been paid by companies.

Shawi said that all banks within Qatar will participate in the WPS and inspection teams will be used to watch out for any violations.

"We are ready," he said.

Failure to pay salaries on time, especially for blue collar workers, has been one of the biggest complaints voiced by rights groups against companies in the energy-rich Gulf state.

A 2013 academic study, "Portrait of Low-Income Migrants in Contemporary Qatar", found that around a fifth of migrant workers were "sometimes, rarely or never" paid on time.

The WPS has been touted by the government as proof of its commitment to reform, in response to furious criticism of Qatar's labour practices since the controversial decision to allow it to host football's biggest tournament.

Ministers predict that changes to the "kafala" sponsorship system, which has been widely blamed for enabling the abuse of foreign workers, especially labourers involved in the country's vast infrastructure projects, will be announced later this year.

— Agence France-Presse



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BRIEFS

13 dead after migrant boat sinks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia -- A small rickety wooden boat believed to be carrying around 70 Indonesian migrants sank in the Malacca Strait early Thursday, killing at least 13 people, Malaysian officials said.

The boat sank in choppy waters off Malaysia's western coast near Sauh Cape near the coastal town of Sabak Bernam in central Selangor state, Mohamad Aliyas Hamdan, the local head of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, told AFP.

"Local fishermen have rescued 13 people and have found 13 bodies," he said.

– Agence France-Presse

Durban to host Commonwealth Games

DURBAN, South Africa -- Durban was officially named as host of the 2022 Commonwealth Games on Wednesday, making it the first African city ever to stage the sporting spectacular, sparking big celebrations.

South Africa's third largest city was the only candidate for the 2022 hosting rights after Canada's Edmonton withdrew in February, citing cost concerns.

But the vote still sparked joy in Durban, where television pictures showed large crowds waving the South African flag.

"I'm excited, the city is excited!" Durban 2022 bid chairman Mark Alexander said from Auckland, where the official announcement was made at the 71-nation Commonwealth Games Federation's (CGF) general assembly.

– Agence France-Presse



Agence France-Presse

**Photos of Aylan Kurdi, a 3-year-old Syrian who drowned trying to reach Europe, dominate the front pages of London's daily newspapers.**

Migrant returns to Syria to bury family

The distraught father of two Syrian toddlers who drowned with their mother and several other migrants as they tried to reach Greece identified their bodies on Thursday and prepared to take them back to their home town of Kobani.

Abdullah Kurdi collapsed in tears after emerging from a morgue in the city of Mugla near Bodrum in Turkey, where the body of his 3-year-old son, Aylan, washed up on Wednesday.

A photograph of the boy's tiny body in a bright red T-shirt and dark shorts, face-down in the surf, appeared in newspapers around the world, prompting sympathy and outrage at the perceived inaction of developed nations in helping refugees.

Aylan's 5-year-old brother, Galip, and mother, Rehan, 35, were among 12 people, including other children, who died after two boats capsized while trying to reach the Greek island of Kos.

"I just want to sit next to the grave of my children and my wife and rest," Abdullah told reporters, as his family's coffins were loaded into a hearse.

The image of Aylan, drowned off one of Turkey's most popular holiday resorts, went viral on social media and piled pressure on European leaders.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan discussed the crisis with his French counterpart Francois Hollande, Erdogan's office said.

"European countries, which have turned the Mediterranean, the cradle of the world's oldest civilizations, into a cemetery for refugees, shares the sin for every refugee who loses their life," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara.

Meanwhile French Prime Minister Manuel Valls took to Twitter: "He had a name: Aylan Kurdi. Urgent action required -- A Europe-wide mobilization is urgent," he wrote.

– Reuters

Australian surfer dies in Indonesia

SUMATRA, Indonesia -- A second Australian in little more than a week has died during a surf trip to Indonesia's famed Mentawai Islands, police confirmed Thursday.

Adam Albert Dube was found dead on Wednesday morning after vanishing during an ocean swim with friends the night before.

Mentawai police chief Reko Indro Sasongko said the group of 10 arrived at the popular surf spot off the west coast of Sumatra island late Tuesday.

After drinking aboard their boat, they decided around midnight to go for a swim, Sasongko said.

"After an hour they returned to the boat, but only nine showed up. Dube was not there," he told AFP.

A search ensued for the missing Australian but he wasn't found until Wednesday morning. His body was taken immediately to Padang city on Sumatra island, Sasongko said.

His death comes shortly after another Australian, 54-year-old Ronald Stephen Schneider, was killed after being smashed onto rocks in heavy surf at the Mentawais last week.

– Agence France-Presse

No smog of war for China's parade

BEIJING -- The sun shone on Xi Jinping's World War II victory parade in Beijing on Thursday after authorities imposed widespread curbs on factories and vehicles to curb the capital's notorious pollution.

Surrounded by ageing heavy industrial plants, Beijing is regularly cloaked in choking smog that causes widespread anger among its residents.

But when it will take centre spot on the world stage -- for sporting championships, global diplomatic gatherings or shows of military strength -- authorities pull out all the stops to clean up the environment.

Factory production and construction activities in Beijing and surrounding cities and provinces were suspended or limited from late August.

At the same time, odd-even number plate restrictions on private cars were imposed in the capital.

It worked, with blue skies on Thursday and for the World Athletics Championships that the city hosted until the weekend.

– Agence France-Presse

world



Agence France-Presse

**Jinan, 18, an Iraqi Yazidi, is a kidnap survivor of the Islamic State who wrote a book about her experiences.**

3 months a slave

Abducted by the Islamic State, a girl's new book depicts seemingly countless acts of 'inhuman' abuse suffered by her and others

Michel Moutot

Kidnapped, beaten, sold and raped: the Islamic State group is running an international market in Iraq where Christian and Yazidi women are sold as sexual slaves, a teenager who escaped told AFP this week.

Jinan, 18, a Yazidi, was captured in early 2014 and held by IS jihadists for three months before she managed to flee, she said on a visit to Paris ahead of the publication Friday of a book about her ordeal.

Seized as IS fighters swept through northern regions inhabited by the Yazidi religious minority, Jinan was moved around between several locations before being bought by two men, a former policeman and an imam.

She described to AFP how she and other Yazidi prisoners were locked up in a house.

"They tortured us, tried to forcefully convert us. If we refused we were beaten, chained outdoors in the sun, forced to drink water with dead mice in it. Sometimes they threatened to torture us with electricity," she said.

"These men are not human. They only think of death, killing. They take drugs constantly. They seek vengeance against everyone. They say that one day Islamic State will rule over the whole world."

In the book, Jinan describes how once, in Mosul, she was led into "a massive reception hall with large columns ... dozens of women were gathered there."

"The fighters circulated among us, laughing raucously, pinching our backsides," she writes in "Daesh's Slave", using an Arabic acronym for the jihadist group.

She said one man complained, saying: "That one has big breasts. But I want a Yazidi with blue eyes and pale skin. Those are the best apparently. I am willing to pay the price."

During such "slave markets" she saw Iraqis and Syrians but also Westerners whose nationality she could not discern.

The best-looking girls were reserved for the bosses or wealthy clients from Gulf nations.

Once she was sold, Jinan's days were punctuated by men's visits to the house where she was imprisoned with other women.

Fighters came to make their purchases in the foyer where traders acted as intermediaries between the slave owners and emirs who inspected the "livestock", Jinan wrote in the book, which was written with the help of French journalist Thierry Oberle.

"I will exchange your Beretta pistol for the brunette," said one of the traders. "If you prefer to pay cash it is US\$150 (133

– Agence France-Presse

Ambush kills 50 Somali soldiers

At least 50 African Union soldiers are believed to have been killed and another 50 are missing after Shebab militants overran a military camp in southern Somalia on Tuesday, according to Western military officials.

The attack on the camp in Janale, 80 kilometres (50 miles) southwest of Mogadishu in the Lower Shabelle region and manned by Ugandan troops, now ranks as one of the deadliest yet against AMISOM troops.

"It is assessed that at least 50 AMISOM troops died," said a briefing note sent to diplomats by Western military officials and seen by AFP. It said that in total around 100 soldiers were "unaccounted for" after the attack.

Somalia's Al-Qaeda affiliate, which has recently lost a string of key bases in the face of an AMISOM offensive, said the attack was revenge for the killing of seven civilians by Ugandan troops at a wedding in the town of Merka in July.

The number feared dead matches that claimed by a Shebab spokesman, although the AU force -- which numbers over 22,000 and also includes troops from Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi and Djibouti -- has said it has not yet counted the dead.

"Given the complex nature of the attack, AMISOM is currently verifying the number of casualties and extent of the damage," said a statement issued late Tuesday, more than 12 hours after the assault.

Western military sources said the attack began with the destruction of two bridges, cutting the camp off. A suicide car bomber rammed the base followed by an estimated 200 Shebab fighters.

AMISOM said its troops "undertook a tactical withdrawal" as the attack began, and the briefing note said the soldiers did not have any air support.

It also said Kenyan and Ethiopian jets as well as US drones "were unavailable at the time of the attack" while AMISOM tanks and artillery located in Janale had been redeployed elsewhere.

– Agence France-Presse

Russians mark 500th manned space mission

A Soyuz spacecraft with three astronauts successfully launched towards the International Space Station on Wednesday, marking the 500th manned launch in space travel history.

The trio -- including the first Danish citizen ever to fly into space -- blasted off in the Soyuz TMA 18M rocket on schedule at 0437 GMT from the same launchpad that Yuri Gagarin used for his historic entry into the cosmos in 1961.

"The crew is doing well, everything is in order onboard," relayed mission control at Baikonur.

Veteran cosmonaut Sergei Volkov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos is leading a team that also includes first-time flyers Aidyn Aimbetov from Kazakhstan (Kazcosmos) and Andreas Mogensen from Denmark (European Space Agency).

They are expected to make the journey to the ISS in two days, docking on Friday. Volkov will stay on at the ISS, while both Aimbetov and Mogensen will return to Earth on Soyuz TMA-16M on 11 September.

Mogensen is the first Dane to enter space while Aimbetov, who replaced British singer Sarah Brightman after the 54-year-old pulled out of the mission in June, is the third from his country to do so.

"It's a great honour for me to represent Denmark as an astronaut," Mogensen said in a Google hangout organised by ESA last month.

– Agence France-Presse



Agence France-Presse

**Russian cosmonaut Sergei Volkov waves as he travels by bus to the Soyuz spacecraft.**



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# A territorial tug-of-war atop the Appalachian Trail

MOUNT KATAHDIN, Maine - The storied Appalachian Trail, which begins 2,190 miles away in Georgia, ends here, with a final scramble up Maine's highest peak - some of it nearly vertical, much of it blocked by boulders. For those who have trekked five or six months, Katahdin's iconic summit is an exhausting challenge with a rewarding end.

"It takes your breath away," said Chuck Wood, 64, a hiker from Norristown, Pennsylvania. "Just to be there, it's like an audience with the Lord."

But that experience is now in jeopardy. Faced with increasing crowds and partylike behavior by a few - including an ultramarathon runner who celebrated at the summit last month with a spray of champagne - officials here are threatening to reroute the end of the trail off Katahdin and out of Baxter State Park.

The very idea has stunned the hiking world. Katahdin has been the trail's northern terminus for more than 80 years. For the thousands who set out annually to follow its entire path, moving the trail's endpoint off this rocky peak would be a momentous detour, forcing long-distance hikers to end their treks not with a bang but a whimper.

"It would lose all its epicness," la-



The New York Times  
**Tom Buononato, left, and William Young celebrate reaching the end of the Applchian Trail in Maine.**

mented Ryan Mennett, 22, a trail hiker from Burlington, Connecticut. "Where would they end it? At a stream? On a piece of grass?"

The matter is coming to a head in part

because the marathoner, Scott Jurek, broke a handful of strict park rules.

But more urgently, the Appalachian Trail is bracing for a surge in hikers after the release in September of a movie about

the trail, "A Walk in the Woods," with Robert Redford.

In 1999, a year after the book that the film is based on was published, the number of long-distance hikers on the Appalachian Trail, or A.T., increased by 45 percent, said Ronald J. Tipton, the executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which manages the trail in partnership with the National Park Service and more than 70 local agencies. Just as last year's movie "Wild," with Reese Witherspoon, heightened interest in the Pacific Crest Trail on the West Coast, "A Walk in the Woods" is expected to prod more couch potatoes onto the Appalachian Trail.

That concern about crowds, though, has also highlighted a deeper conflict between Baxter State Park, which wants to limit the number of hikers, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which wants to encourage the trail's use.

Officials at Baxter have been sounding the alarm about crowds for years. Last year, 62,000 people entered the park, and a record 2,017 of them were hiking the trail. That was a jump of 18 percent over 2013.

Jensen Bissell, Baxter's director, said the park already curbed the number of day hikers by limiting cars in the parking lots; now he wants to cap the number of long-

distance hikers too, perhaps by requiring permits. He said his goal was to "make sure that the 2,000 people we have today won't become 3,000 next year or 8,000 in 10 years."

Baxter already has some of the strictest rules along the entire trail. They bar hiking in groups larger than 12, drinking alcohol in public, littering, camping off the trail and generally whooping it up in a party atmosphere on the mountaintop.

Bissell wrote an open letter in November to the conservancy noting that these rules were being violated with greater frequency and warning that if such activity continued, Baxter would no longer host the trail. He said that while Appalachian Trail hikers accounted for 3 percent of the park's visitors, they used up more resources and had a disproportionate effect on the land.

His concerns received little notice outside the hiker world until July 12, when Jurek, 41, a champion ultramarathon runner, arrived atop Katahdin from Georgia after breaking the speed record for a supported hike. (His wife, Jenny, met him each night, allowing him to avoid carrying a heavy pack and to sleep in a van.) He ran the entire trail in 46 days, eight hours and seven minutes, beating the previous record by more than three hours.

At the summit, with an elevation of 5,269 feet, a friend handed Jurek a bottle of champagne. He uncorked it, inserted his thumb and shook the bottle vigorously until it exploded like Old Faithful. He then took a long swig before sitting on the rocks and talking with journalists and other hikers about his accomplishment. Among those watching was a park ranger, and Jurek later received three citations, forhaving a group larger than 12 (the citation said 16), drinking alcohol in public and littering - the result of that champagne spilling on the rocks, which the ranger said attracted bees and made the summit "smell like a redemption center."

Jurek's behavior incensed Bissell, 61, who has been the park director for more than a decade. He took the unusual step of scolding the runner in a post on the park's Facebook page. He noted the rule violations but trained his ire on what he said was Jurek's commercialization of the wilderness - the runner's headband and support van showed corporate logos. Bissell said Jurek and his sponsors had exploited the park for profit. And he reiterated the threat to move the trail off Katahdin.

— The New York Times

## Direct-link hotel deals threaten online bookers

For years, travelers have been drawn to on-line sites such as Expedia, Travelocity, Orbitz and Priceline to find and reserve hotel rooms, flights and rental cars.

Hotels welcomed the system - or at least learned to live with it - even though the business came at the cost of substantial commissions. But now they are fighting back.

With the online giants consolidating and potentially tightening their hold on travel bookings, major hotel chains are offering a host of benefits to lure travelers to book with them directly: digital check-in, free meals, Wi-Fi and even the ability to choose a specific room.

At the same time, the industry has been outspoken with regulators this year in an attempt to block a merger of two of the largest online booking companies, Expedia and Orbitz. The financial stakes are high. Cutting out the intermediary not only saves on commissions, but also puts the hotel chains in direct communication with their guests. That translates to building customer profiles of preferences and spending habits to help attract guests on future trips.

Competing against online travel agencies on price alone is not easy. A traveler might assume that hotels could offer lower rates to guests who book directly. But generally they are barred from doing so, both by their contracts with the online booking sites and by government regulators that enforce price transparency for published rates.

"Many times there is a rate-parity clause, which is designed so they can't undercut the online travel agencies, and vice versa," said Naved Khan, senior vice president for Internet equity research at Cantor Fitzgerald. "So this fight is not really about pricing. It's about sweetening the pot with other benefits."

Hilton has introduced a number of services for guests who book directly, including a digital check-in option that eliminates waiting in line. Quickly adopted by its customers, the app is now used by over 1 million people each month, according to Geraldine Calpin, who oversees Hilton's worldwide digital efforts.

Hilton also offers direct-booking guests the ability to choose their exact room, a feature similar to an airplane's seat-map function. "The guest can see the plan of each floor and click on the room they want," Calpin said.

Loyalty programs also help steer consumers toward booking directly with hotels, with rewards points and "elite" level benefits such as concierge lounges, free meals and upgrades.

"We see people who will book directly just to get their rewards points," said William A. Crow, an analyst and managing director at Raymond James & Associates. "They don't want to give that up, and so it can be a powerful lure."

He said some hotel companies were having front-desk employees take on the delicate task of reminding rewards members who book with third-party sites that they will not get points for their stays.

Such efforts show early signs of paying off. The travel marketing firm MMGY Global's 2015 survey of nearly 3,000 leisure travelers found that while third-party sites remained popular for comparing va-

cation hotels and prices, there was a noticeable drop compared to 2014 in how often respondents actually booked rooms through the sites.

Ellen Lee, vice president for e-commerce at the Hyatt chain, said the company had seen "huge growth" in direct digital booking since it started introducing new features such as room selection.

Some chains are also trying to beat online travel agencies at their own game. Marriott has arranged for some rooms to be booked directly through the travel review site TripAdvisor. TripAdvisor gets a commission, but only about half what Expedia would charge.

"It's a highly dynamic space," said Khan at Cantor Fitzgerald. "Hotel operators are not sitting idle; they're also innovating."

That said, sites such as Expedia, Orbitz and Priceline remain powerful forces in hotel booking - a primary reason the hotel chains do ... (Continued on next page)

not simply abandon their relationships with them. And nowhere has the hotel industry's worries about competition crystallized more clearly than in Expedia's \$1.3 billion deal to merge with Orbitz.

The deal has drawn Justice Department scrutiny, and, Khan said, "It's probably going to be tough to convince the regulators on this one."

Expedia has been on a takeover binge this year: In January, it snapped up Travelocity for \$280 million, and last year it acquired a popular Australian site, Wotif.com.

Its proposed takeover of Orbitz would give the combined company control of roughly 75 percent of the entire domestic market for third-party online booking, according to the research firm Phocuswright, potentially giving it enormous leverage over the commissions that hotels pay for their listings.

The concern extends beyond the hotels: Consumer advocates, as well as several influential lawmakers, say the bigger problem is that consumers will ultimately pay the price.

"It's a potential detriment for consumer pricing," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, the top Democrat on a crucial Senate antitrust panel. "The whole idea of cheaper hotels is very good, but if it all starts to come under one company, you can easily foresee the situation where they can charge higher commissions that are then passed on to consumers."

Expedia is vigorously defending its deal. The company says it believes regulators should take a broader view of online travel sites, defining the market as including dozens of sites where consumers can search for rooms, but not book them.

"The \$1.3 trillion global travel market is more fiercely competitive than ever, as evidenced by the sheer number of ways in which people shop for and book travel," said Sarah Gavin, Expedia's head of communications. "We compete with a host of regional and global online and offline travel agencies, meta-search sites such as TripAdvisor and Google Hotel Finder, search sites like Google and Bing, and the travel suppliers themselves, who are aggressively seeking to induce consumers to book directly with them." — The New York Times



Photos by Kyaw Htun

The lush areas around Mount Victoria are home to at least 159 bird species; several are unique to the region.

# Where birds of all feathers flock together

Myanmar's spot on the globe makes it an ideal home for hundreds of bird species, many of which can be seen along the slopes of Nat Ma Taung in Chin State

Perhaps better known for its pagodas, teakwood and jade, Myanmar is also becoming known for some rare aviary gems.

Due to its unique geographical position, Myanmar is home to more than a thousand species of birds. It has the distinction of being the only home of four species, of which the white-browed Nuthatch (Sitta victoriae) is one. Only a few nature lovers have seen this bird. Ten to 17 birds of this species were recently observed, mostly paired, in Nat Ma Taung, also known as Mount Victoria.

More than 159 bird species can be found in Mount Victoria, in the western region of Myanmar known as Chin State, including five indigenous species as well as Blyth's Tragopan, another ultra-rare species.

Trekking to Mount Victoria, a well-known summit in the western province, is gaining favor among eco-tourists. There are still many pockets of natural beauty containing rare flora and fauna where very few have set foot. For the environmentally aware visitor, Mount Victoria in Chin State is an aviary crown jewel.

The 10,200-foot-high Mount Victoria is snow-free year round, though the weather dips below freezing during the winter months. Moreover, the mountain is not rocky, so climbing the peak does not require extraordinary ability. Anyone



## Travel Insider

Ei Ei Mar

<b>If you go</b>	<b>Present Situation</b>
Nat Ma Taung (Mount Victoria) is located between 21° 24' N and 93° 55' E Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships of southern Chin State, 150 km from Bagan. Covering an area of 279 square miles, it is the third-highest mountain in Myanmar and one of the ultra prominent peaks of Southeast Asia with a height of 3,053 meters (10,016 ft) above sea level and a prominence of 2,231 meters (7,320 ft).	The Tourism Promotion Management Committee has given guidance that ecotours and culture tours be given priority in development of Myanmar tourism. Moreover, international airports will be extended, and access from across the border has been made easier. There are now 13 foreign companies and 553 domestic operators in the tourism business of Myanmar, most of which have gained a lot of experience in international travel. Officials at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are veterans, some having obtained Master's degrees in tourism. Myanmar would like to keep its natural beauty and biodiversity as well as its culture and way of life. Permission is necessary to visit ecologically attractive regions such as Putao District, Chin State and Mount Victoria. Applications to enjoy or study nature in these regions will be given due scrutiny.
<b>Wildlife</b> Mammals such as tigers, bears, wild boars, leopards, goats, serows, gibbons, etc. and 159 bird species, reptiles and butterflies live here.	
<b>Access</b> Yangon to Bagan (320 miles by flight / by car), Bagan to Chauk (18 miles), Chauk to Hsaw (69 miles), Hsaw to Kanpetlet (12 miles) by car. Accommodation: Forest	



A white-browed nuthatch

in good health and possessing moderate stamina can tackle it. An added attraction is that Mount Victoria is the only high

mountain close to the plains.

The increasingly appreciated Mount Victoria is a force to be reckoned with eco-tourism. Apart from vigorous trekking, its flora and fauna hold great attraction for foreign tourists. Many species and subspecies exist, some peculiar to this region alone. Mount Victoria is excellent for bird-watching and observing butterflies. Those interested in anthropology can study the Chins' culture. Those with an anthropological interest will be interested in learning about Mount Victoria's history as an extinct volcano.

The locals are known to be friendly and hospitable. All seem to be genuinely excited about the increasing popularity of their region among the environmentally aware.

Visitors can also observe the tradition of Chin women who have their faces

tattooed. The Chin is one of the largest ethnic minorities in Myanmar. They probably settled in the region between 1300 and 1400AD. Some said the tattooing tradition started centuries ago, when Chin people started tattooing girls' faces to discourage their capture as slaves by the men from other tribes. In another story, Chin girls, who were known for their great beauty, were desired as wives by Myanmar kings. So Chin girls who did not want to live away from their homes made their faces unattractive with tattoos. No one's knows the real reason behind the women's tattoos, but all agree it has become a part of the Chin culture.

Currently, there are three hotels in Mount Victoria: Mountain Oasis, Pinewood Villa and Sky Palace. In total, there are over 100 rooms available in the region.



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opinion

# Communists went underground

*This month's topic was not included in my original agenda. In our approach to the 88 Uprising, our ideas and concepts may have varied. According to historical records, it should have been named a struggle for democratic transformation. Concerning my hypothesis stated last week that the 88 Uprising was manipulated by BCP, one of my friends criticized that my writing belittled or denigrated the actions of students. He suggested that reasonable evidence be given to dispel such notions. Thus, on advice of my friend what follows is a further examination of this topic.*  
-- Win Naing Thauang

When discussing the 88 Uprising, it is perhaps most helpful to approach the subject in two parts -- one based on the past, the other the present. Tracing the past requires us to first know the political aims and objectives of the Burma Communist Party.

Its main political objective was to create a communist country. To set up their edifice of hope, they tried to fight against a multi-party democracy system, its government and BSPP (Burma Socialist Program Party) led by U Ne Win. Before adn during the nation's struggle for independence, early instances of opposition to Bogoyoke Aung San and the AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) government was vivid proof of its agenda.

In those days, every individual was living cautiously, collecting information about BCP and its activities as much as possible. Those BCP forces fought all the governments on the ground and underground, throughout

the parliamentary democratic period. This kind of activist is known to be UG.

Exercising destructive, subversive tactics (commonly known as UG) did not just begin and end in the reign of the socialist government; it became an age-long tradition.

After the Revolutionary Council took power, the BCP could not hold Bago Yoma (Bago mountain range) as their stronghold any longer, in the rule of socialist government. Following this, they fled to station near the China border area. The urban populace then began to lose sight of activities and plans of BCP, likely a result of the lack of press releases and transparency.

It was the Intelligence Bureau that arrested and imprisoned UG activists in urban areas. Military Intelligence was never entrusted with the power of proceeding against anyone. For being void of the rule and regulations, only the police reconnaissance force had to deal with such cases. To fill the legal gap, the National Intelligence Bureau was formed. It needed police personnel during a raid to arrest a politician. Normally, an arrest warrant is needed, but in an urgent case, he is to be held on remand. In such cases an arrest warrant is not necessary.

At the political branch, I had the opprotunity to read the Mawlamyaing Highlight Journal (1978-79) in detail, as well as records of the 1982 anti-UG activities, which were successfully operated by the intelligence bureau in time of ruling by the socialist government. Little was made known to the public about these findings.

## DIGGING UP THE PAST

This is part of an ongoing series by The Trade Times chief executive officer sharing his insights as a former member of military intelligence.

### The capture of a BCP soldier ... laid the ground-work to the 1982 anti-UG operation.

In the near future, I will describe what I know about BCP activities from the time it went underground to the present day, on the assumption that there should be this kind infomation given to the public in order for us all to know the nation's whole history.

During anti-UG operations in 1982, there were 146 arrests in Yangon, though some may feel that number is a low estimate. In the history of Myanmar's struggle for independence, there were three strong political groups

-- left wing, right wing and socialists. They primarily originated in villages, towns and cities. Much later on, some went underground to launch an armed rebellion, keeping, at first, many members in place to maintain communications and plausible deniability. This can be said to be the beginning of the two-pronged policy of BCP attack.

UGs were not sent by BCP headquarters. BCP headquarters sent messengers to make their policies and decisions known to its members on the ground, whereas ordinary policy and instructions were sent via broadcasting channels by BCP.

The capture of a BCP soldier in a battle in the Northwest Command, in Northern Shan State, laid the ground-work to the 1982 anti-UG operation. He was a Yangonite. Disclosure of names of UG activists in Yangon and their contacts from the captured enemy followed careful investigations. His confession could not be proven valid at the time. After a thorough examination of whether people listed in the confessional statement existed and were involved in the movement, the Bureau launched its anti-UG operation. When 10 people, as a first batch, were arrested, clues and evidences were obtained, leading to the arrest of 146 people in Yangon alone in a series of hot pursuits.

These findings suggested many government servicemen -- doctors,

lecturers, university students, staff from Ministries of Trade and Co-operative, two military officers -- had been implicated in UG movements. Along with them were found recorded cassette tapes, microfilms, interconnection codes, a list of contributors to the UG Fund -- could be seized.

One of the two military officers arrested was conferred upon the outstanding award in literature at his graduation ceremony. Just after he was appointed as the second lieutenant, his real existence of political subversive emerged all of a sudden. His elder brother was a member of the BCP and indoctrinated him into Communism, having him read Leftist literature since he was in grade 10.

The aim of BCP was extremely ambitious, having their cadre promoted to higher places step by step promptly, by making concocted failed battles so that the latter's valor and management skill could be impressed by his seniors. Their ultimate objective was to easily get strategically important news and military operation plans from him, that is, no need to attempt to glean information, if and when their cadre became a General Staff in a Military Command or something, after having consecutive good names.

*Win Naing Thauang is the chief executive officer of The Trade Times and a retired member of military intelligence. The next installment of this series will appear on Saturday. We welcome reaction and rebuttal to his articles through our Letters to the Editor, which can be reached by email at editorial@thetrade-times.com*

## Slow but steady can win the peace

Blame it on the British. In the twilight years of the empire, the colonialists made promises to ethnic minority groups, perhaps most notably to the Karen community in the eastern provinces, concerning autonomy and even a mooted separate state, directly contradicting the vision of founding father Aung San of multiethnic yet unified nation.

It was a pattern that the British repeated throughout their colonies in Asia and the Middle East, favoring particular ethnic groups over others in a divide-and-rule strategy. The legacy, not just in Myanmar, continues to be harmful.

Yet nearly 70 years after independence, colonial

### Asia Watch Jeremy Walden-Schertz

culpability is a partial explanation at best. Myanmar's internal divisions must be resolved internally. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement process, which most recently saw meetings in the Thai city of Chiang Mai, is arguably the most promising move towards peace in the nation's history. The potential to resolve decades of conflict and rebellion is, however, far from assured.

While 17 armed ethnic groups met in Chiang Mai in late August, Nay Pyi Taw has insisted that the peace process only proceed with groups that have already committed to a ceasefire, excluding six of the 17 from negotiations. Three of those groups -- Ta'ang National Liberation Army, the Kok-kang Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Arakan Army -- have been involved with hostilities against government forces recently.

A meeting between 21 armed groups and the government in Yangon earlier in August hit an impasse over the same issue, as the same six groups were deemed unacceptable.

A piecemeal ceasefire agreement is far from ideal, but the stalled negotiations belie how much progress has actually been made in concert with the country's nascent political reform process. President Thein Sein has set a timetable for an agreement to be struck before the November elections, and even floated the idea of postponing the ballot -- while restoring peace is an existential priority, an elections delay would only have further deleterious effects.

The hoped-for transition towards more civilian participation in government is integral to the peace process.

More than six decades of conflict with the ethnic minorities suggest that a military rather than political solution is not tenable. The strategy known as the "Four Cuts", developed in the 1970s to deprive insurgents of recruits and resources from the rural areas, has resulted in systematic human rights abuses and severely alienated ethnic communities from the political center. At the same time, the sheer proliferation of armed groups, some of which have been implicated in the transnational drug trade, has deeply undermined the sovereignty of the country.

The armed ethnic groups have already conceded that most crucial of preconditions: a commitment to the indivisibility and sovereignty of the nation. In order for long-lasting reintegration, however, there must be limited autonomy extended to ethnic communities, including a full recognition of cultural and linguistic rights. For the time being, however, the priority must be to begin to assure basic human security in the border states.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has recently warned against rushing the process to meet the elections deadline based on the compelling logic that enduring ceasefire is preferable to a quick one. Suu Kyi also backed inclusive talks involving all of the armed groups.

Representatives are scheduled to meet with Thein Sein on September 9. While the government reticence to parlay with groups that are still fighting is perhaps understandable, flexibility on the issue of inclusivity is essential if there is to be a truly nationwide accord.

There should be few illusions that the ethnic minority citizens of Myanmar, particularly those living in regions still experiencing strife, will enjoy the full enfranchisement in the coming elections. Regardless, Myanmar faces a long road to heal these decades-old divisions, yet now at least appears to be heading in the right direction.

*Jeremy Walden-Schertz is the former foreign editor of The Bangkok Post and a recent graduate of the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego*

## Pointing fingers is no way to build unity in Myanmar

Unity is the most important measure for the social health of any country, particularly ones filled with many different cultural and ethnic groups. Diverse countries such as Myanmar must rely on a more mature, or broader understanding of the term "unity" that holds us together regardless of our race or religion. Unity is constructed on the principles of love, kindness and loyalty to one's fellow man.

Ideally, people who share the same religion and culture have an easier, built-in basis for unity.

Sharing common interests is also extremely important, because in good times or bad such ties build unity (i.e., when one suffers, we all suffer).

Many think of 1948 as a time of great unity in Myanmar because it was the year the nation gained independence; despite significant differences between groups, the nation as a whole felt commonly free from British rule.

We could say this was the initial foundation that produced unity among all the nationalities in the country.

But what happens when there is no common interest?

While it cannot be created out of thin air, those in power can create the conditions under which common interests can evolve on their own; everyone must understand that we are still one nation and we succeed or fail together. This would no doubt create public harmony.

The true test of a leader is whether he can inspire and focus the nation on common interests that we all have, whether all are aware of it or not.

Look at Singapore. The common interests of its citizens include healthy business practices -- thus, its leader and its people focus their society in large measure on business. Today, their common interests results in an eternal benefit. Furthermore, they have also matured with rules and regulations, and avoid much of the intense social strife that can be found in neighboring countries.

Although we cannot create a common interest, we need to have fair rules and regulations that benefit the common good. If we had rules and regulations, that could in turn foster common interest among us all, it is sure that Myanmar would stand proud in Asia.

Currently, what is our country's common interest? Democracy? National reconciliation? Federalism? Act 436 to amend the constitution? Peace? Economic development? Poverty reduction? So many questions are still without answers.

Mired in stubbornness and outmoded concepts, Myanmar is still losing its way. How do we go forward? The Trade times encourage all of you to think about these questions.



The New York Times

**Li Yang, chief executive of CAA Resources, examines iron ore at a Chinese-controlled operation in Bukit Besi, Malaysia.**

## Racist policy is lose-lose for Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Malaysia is in crisis. The economy is faltering and the government is floundering, struggling to explain away unprecedented financial scandals. Critics ascribe these problems to a lack of transparency and good governance, but these are merely symptoms. The root cause of Malaysia's current troubles is ketuanan Melayu: the ideology of Malay supremacy espoused by the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the party that has dominated the country's politics for more than six decades.

Malaysia has a vast system of institutionalized preferences for Malays, the majority of the population. Although in place for more than four decades, these policies have failed to help poor Malays. At the same time, they have created a quid pro quo between other segments of the Malay population and the UMNO government.

Malaysia's affirmative action program was supposed to right a historical wrong. In 1969, deadly racial riots broke out between Malays and Chinese in several cities, and the country was placed under emergency rule. UMNO blamed British colonists for the unrest, claiming that until Malaya's independence in 1957 they had sidelined

Malays and favored the Chinese in the economy.

When the state of emergency was lifted in 1971, the government promulgated the New Economic Policy (NEP), giving Malays (officially called bumiputera) preferential treatment. It was decided bumiputera should control 30 percent of all corporate equity by 1990. Malay home buyers were entitled to a discount of 5 to 15 percent on new developments.

Today, G.L.C.s are said to control about one-third of the capitalization of the stock exchange. They vastly dominate banking and finance, transportation, utilities, the oil and gas sector and retail trade. According to a 2013 report by the Asian Development Bank, G.L.C.s were stifling competition in many areas of the economy and deterring private investment.

Yet even periods of financial turmoil have not convinced the government to rethink the NEP or dismantle the preferential economy. UMNO elites could not suffer reforms for fear of losing their own privileges or the support of other beneficiaries.

Take Proton, the national car project that was started in 1983. For years, a slew of tariff and nontariff barriers have been

applied to foreign cars in order to keep the made-in-Malaysia Proton comparatively cheap. But Proton, the car, is of poor quality and its production has yet to reach an economy of scale. And Proton, the company, has asked the Malaysian government for some US\$700 million in subsidies. Yet Mahathir, now the chairman of Proton, argues that the state must continue to protect it because it buys parts mostly from Malay vendors and employs almost only Malays.

Market discipline, transparency and good governance are falling by the wayside in the name of Malay supremacy. Mwnay bumiputera businesses remain uncompetitive and rely on the government for their survival. Non-Malays are leaving the country in droves, undermining the economy's long-term prospects. Although the educational levels of Malays have improved tremendously, their median household income still lags behind those of all other ethnic groups. The pro-Malay affirmative action policies must be abandoned. The Malay Agenda is hurting Malaysia.

*James Chin is the director of the Asia Institute at the University of Tasmania, in Hobart, Australia.*

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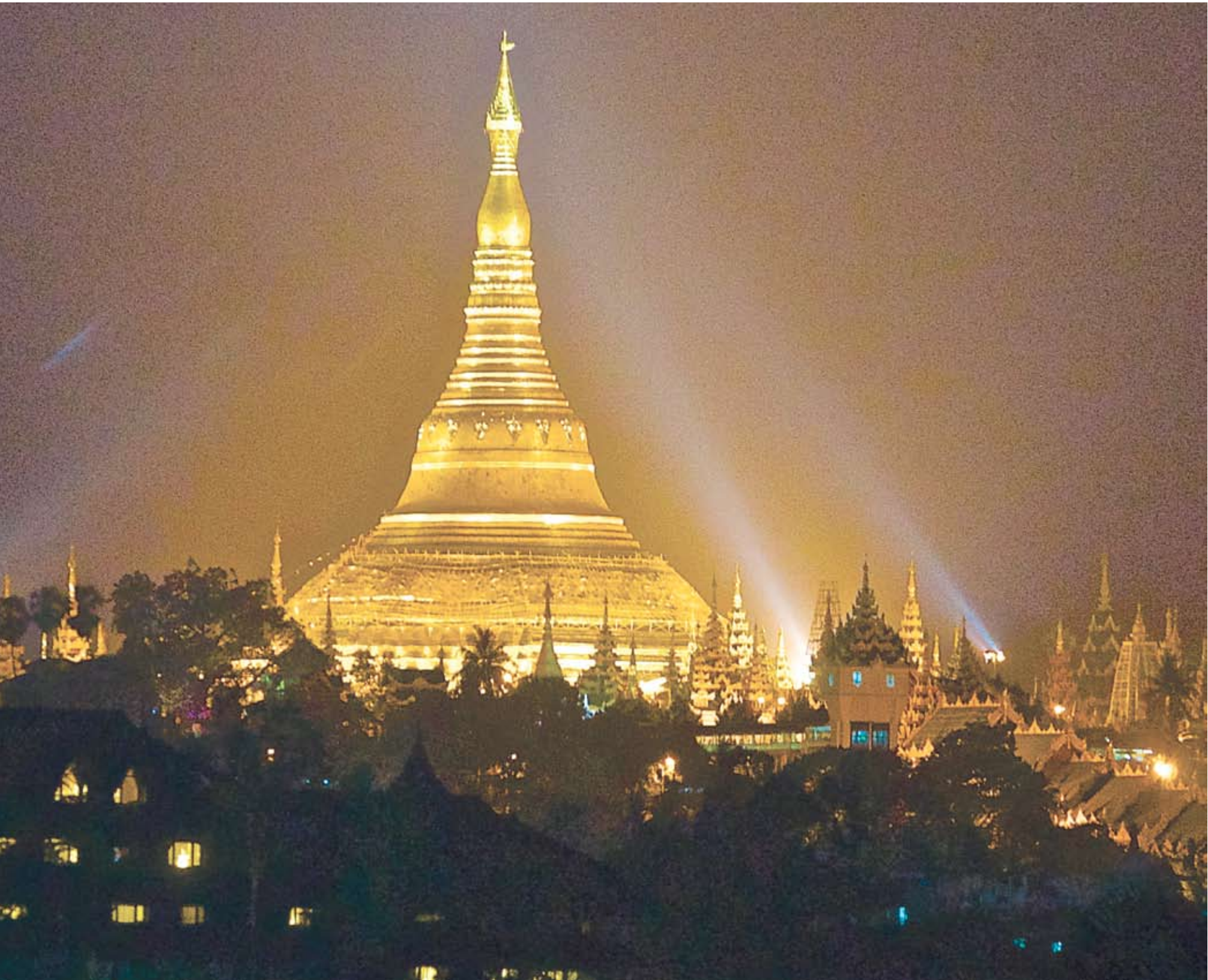
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**Su Nay Mon Oo**

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social scene



A nighttime view of the Shwedagon Pagoda, as viewed from Kandagyi Lake.

Mark Angeles / The Trade Times

THIS WEEKEND

Sat Family art exhibition

Caricatures, portraits, tattoos, visual poetry and music are featured at this exhibition. What: We Are Family art exhibition When: September 5, 10am to 5pm Where: Ahla Thit Art Gallery, No.17 University Avenue Contact: AhlaThit Art Gallery, 09 310 35920 or <https://www.facebook.com/events/>

Sat GeekGirls anniversary

GeekGirl Meetup is a network by and for women and girls intersted in tech, design and startups. GeekGirl Yangon is celebrating its one-year anniversary. Refreshments will be served. What: One-year anniversary of GeekGirl Meetup Yangon When: September 5, 1pm to 4:30pm Where: Phandeyar Innvoation Lab, No.561, MAC Tower, 11th Floor, Corner of Merchant Road & 35th Street. Dress: Smart casual or geeky. Cost: Free Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/geekgirlsmm>.

Sat Flood relief music festival

An evening of live music to raise funds for the Myanmar Red Cross Society. When: September 5, 7pm to September 6, 12am Where: British Embassy Club, between Alan Pya Pagoda Road and Gyo Phyu Road, Dagon Township Cost: 5,000 kyats Contact: British Embassy Club, 01 246 643

Sun Iron Cross music concert

What: The Iron Cross Charity Music Concert for Flood Victims with their band crews Lay Phyu, A Nge', Myo Gyi and Wine Wine. When: September 6, 7pm Where: People's Park and People's Square, Pyay Road, Dagon Township Cost: 5,000 Kyats Tickets available at City Mart Brands, Man Thiri.

Sun Burmese language club

Burmese language learners get together to ask each other questions, and practice what

they have been learning, share knowledge and resources in a friendly group setting. Board games, flash cards and other teaching tools available to help with learning the Myanmar language. Come with some idea of something you want to practice and talk about. When: September 6, 4pm Where: Pansodan Gallery, 286 Pansodan Street, at the intersection of Pansodan Street and Mahabandoola Road in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Cost: Free Contact: +959 5130846

Sun Yangon Runway Girls

Inspired by the Yangon Runway movie, The Yangon Runway Girls Collection featuring Sean Kingston is an international creative arts festival consisting of fashion, beauty and music. When: September 6, 5pm to 9:45pm Where: Myanmar Convention Center, Mindhamma Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon Cost: 8,000 / 15,000 / 30,000 / 60,000 / 150,000 / 300,000 kyats Contact: Living Sound Entertainment, +95-1-548879 / +95-9-260-70



Mark Angeles / The Trade Times

Tourists on board the circular train that travel around the perimeter of the city of Yangon.

NEXT WEEK

Monday

"Appreciation" a solo art exhibition of 30 oil paintings by Ohm Myint Win. This is his second solo exhibit at Gallery 65. When: September 7, 10am to 5pm Where: Gallery 65 Contact: Gallery 65, 01-24631

Tuesday

Stand-up Yangon is Back! The next comedic showcase will be on September 8, featuring Malaysia's Rizal van Geyzel, the return of Australia's Jonathan Atherton and Yangon's very own Gino Jo, Eli Mixler, and Martin Zdarek. When: September 8, 8pm Where: 50th Street Restaurant, Bar and Cafe, 9/13 50th Street, Yangon Cost: 5,000 kyats Contact: 50th Street Bar +95-1-397 060 or [events@50thstreetyangon.com](mailto:events@50thstreetyangon.com)

Wednesday

Mojito night (buy one, get one free) on Wednesdays at The Lab, one of Yangon's newest and coolest venues. When: September 9, 5:30 pm to 10pm Where: The Lab, 70A Shwe Gone Daing Road, Bahan Township. Contact: The Lab, 09250675289

Thursday

Eighties music night with DJ Bay Tar and gastro pub food at Union Bar When: September 10, 7pm to 11:45pm Where: Union Bar and Grill, 42 Strand Road, Botataung Township, Yangon Contact: Union Bar & Grill, 09 310 18272

Friday

A night of trivia at Quiz Me in the Gallery Bar at the Sule Shangri-la Hotel. When: September 11, 7pm to 9pm Where: Sule Shangri-la Hotel Yangon, 223 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Cost: One-for-one drink during Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm, free snacks.

Saturday

The Myanmar Yachting Federation will be conducting the Discover Sailing Clinic on September 12, 13, 19 and 20, during which participants will be taught to sail competently on their own. When: September 12, 10am to 5pm Where: Yangon Yacht Club, 132 Inya Road Cost: 90,000 kyats (non-members) Contact: Myanmar Yachting Federation, 09-254066532

Sunday

Cuisine from the world of Rajasthani, where an exuberant spread of authentic dishes will drench you in the colourful flavours of the royal lan. When: September 13, 11am to 11pm Where: Indian Tadka, No. 51 Pyay Road, 6 1/2 Miles, Yangon Cost: 10,000 kyats Contact: Indian Tadka, 01 512 318 <https://www.facebook.com/indianfoodinmyanmar/timeline>



puzzles

new york times sunday crossword puzzle

AS IT WERE

BY DON GAGLIARDO AND ZHOQUIN BURNIKEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Engaged

10 Jacques who was "alive and well and living in Paris"

14 Island near the Mariana Trench

18 Pueblo Indian rite

19 Places for light gatherings?

21 Mario who played Enrico Caruso

22 \*Pricey wrap

23 \*Triple Crown winner who himself sired a Kentucky Derby winner

25 When repeated, an aerobics class cry

26 \_\_\_ bar

28 New faces

29 Rejecting higher authority?

33 Dodger manager with two World Series rings

34 Shout from the crow's-nest

37 Seminary subj.

38 Giggle syllable

40 Prefix with state

41 "\_\_\_ seen enough!"

42 "Skedaddle!"

44 Impressed with

47 Village V.I.P.

51 \*Carpenter's tool with a cord

54 "Dogs"

56 Single

57 Black rock

58 White-tailed raptor

60 Dad-blasted

62 Fed. property agency

63 Black \_\_\_

65 Half a Beatles title

67 Like the telecast of the 1954 Rose Bowl parade, notably

69 \_\_\_ Macmillan, 1950s-'60s British P.M.

72 Plants above the timberline

75 Skin conditioners

76 Ungainly

78 Identified

80 Drink with spices

81 On the \_\_\_ (at large)

82 \_\_\_ Hall, shortest Harlem Globetrotter

85 Irving protagonist

87 Pit bull biter

90 Dirt pie ingredient

92 \_\_\_ shake

94 \*Deep Throat's identity

96 Rogen and Green

98 "Show me" type

100 Hunger

101 Budgetary excess

102 N., E., W. and S.

104 Thumbs-up vote

105 Lean-\_\_\_

107 With understatedness

109 "Two New Sciences" author

112 Hedge clippings, grass cuttings, etc.

115 Ideal setting for a fan

117 Features of green rooms

118 "That's the way the cookie crumbles"

122 "Start a construction project

124 Back then ... or a hint to the ends of the answers to the starred clues

127 Save up

128 Bone: Prefix

129 Giovanni, in "Don Giovanni"

130 Russo of "30-Down"

131 Morales of "La Bamba"

132 Very cold

DOWN

1 Ones holding hands?

2 French act

3 Comment before "Be that way!"

4 Stamping need

5 Some campaign purchases

6 D.C. ballplayer

7 It's worth 100 smackers

8 Patisserie buy

9 Sunken, as eyes

10 Low voices

11 It may be lined with mailboxes: Abbr.

12 Different rooms in a museum, maybe

13 \*Smidgen

14 Cooker with a dial

15 Having no head

16 Luxury Hyundai

17 Gaping things

20 Relative of the Contour Plus

21 Poe poem

24 Like "Annabel Lee" among all Poe poems

27 See 89-Down

30 Wielder of the hammer Mjölnir

31 Lower chamber

32 Some stadium noise

34 Slimming surgery, informally

35 River through Bristol

36 \*Tom Seaver, e.g.

39 At 3,000 feet above sea level, the highest provincial capital in Italy

43 \_\_\_ cake (dim sum staple)

45 \*Dr. Seuss' genre

46 Mysterious sighting

48 \*Challenge for a right-handed golfer

49 Newsman David

50 Brings up

52 John McCain, for one

53 Sports org. with the teams Sun and Sky

55 In the mail

59 Wing

61 Household brand name with a lowercase first letter

64 Crib strip

66 Google Wallet alternative

68 Kind of switch

69 They hover over some icons

70 In the know

71 Release to the public, informally

73 Pad thai ingredient

74 Coal locale

77 Actress Diana nicknamed the "Blonde Bombshell"

79 Strong sideless wagon

83 \*W.W.II propagandist

84 Suit to \_\_\_

86 Directive in some automated messages

88 Holy Land line

89 With 27-Down, firm figure: Abbr.

91 "Stop your nonsense!"

93 Funny-car fuel, informally

95 Danish king who conquered England

97 Boondocks

99 Catch in the North Atlantic

103 Tough going

106 Al Jolson standard

108 "Aw, c'mon"

109 Songstress Eydie

110 "You're \_\_\_ One, Mr. Grinch"

111 Köln coin

113 "Same here"

114 Stars, at the Forum

115 Letter-shaped girder

116 Sounds of scolding

119 Put on board

120 Grieg's \_\_\_

121 Violins and violas: Abbr.

123 U.S.'s largest labor union, in brief

125 Oscar-nominated Joaquin Phoenix film

126 "The Two Towers" denizen

No.0816

No.0816

App opens wormhole between virtual pics, 'actual' postcards

Trying to drag certain loved ones kicking and screaming across that bridge to the 21st century can be a fool's errand, especially when those loved ones are thousands of miles away -- a rather long bridge, fibre optic line or no fibre optic line.

And let's be honest about the communication breakdown: when we look elderly Mom and/or Dad straight in the eye and tell them that the latest social media marvel "will make things easier on you", what we're really saying is: "this will make dealing with you easier on us".

How many octogenarians desperate to see photos of their grandkids have been tossed, defenseless, into the labyrinth of Facebook just so their adult children can save a few stamps and a trip to the post office?

It borders on abuse, really. They lived through several wars and a depression or two; they fed us, clothed us; they let us move back in after university and said nothing as we raided their refrigerator and played Grand Theft Auto II for 14 hours a day for six straight months.

Must they now endure Windows 10 as well? Living out their few remaining years watching network router lights blink with only the vaguest of notions that the more lights that stay on, the better?

Curt's World

Curt Brandao

All this almost makes services like Postino (iPhone, Android, Windows Mobile) a moral imperative. The smartphone app transforms (or regresses) digital photos into old-world postcards and automatically delivers them for you 20th-century style (meaning into a post box outside people's brick and mortar homes in what many now must distinguish as the "analog" version of reality) to anyone in the world.

The app is free, and it also sends digital-only "e-cards" for free. Its main picture-on-pulp delivery feature costs about US\$2 per card via PayPal, less if you buy the "stamps" in bulk.

That's a good deal when you consider how much money and calories you could burn by trying to create and dispatch your own personalised postcards.

To use the app, simply snap a photo or pull one from your smartphone's library, then crop it with the onscreen touch interface. You can then select from a dozen or so "frames", type in a short message and the receiver's mailing address (and even "sign" the card) and then press "send".

It can take three weeks for delivery to international addresses, so factor that in if you need to meet some sort of special-occasion deadline.

Also, for some reason the virtual stamps are linked to your phone itself, not your account, so if you're thinking about switching phones soon, realise that transferring your credits will require a phone call or two.

But otherwise, nothing beats Postino, or apps much like it, for bridging the generations, offering a digital interface for us so we can produce good old-fashioned mailbox postcards for them.

Now we're communicating. Isn't that nice?

Curt Brandao is The Trade Times managing editor

Tomato sauce

You don't need a cellar full of sauce, with shelves and shelves of labeled Mason jars, to attempt tomato sauce. Just make a small batch or three and freeze the stuff in zip-top bags. In a few months, you'll be happy to have this tasty souvenir of old sweetness. Or, for that matter, just make enough for a meal tonight.

At the market, look for the large, cracked, ugly, slightly bruised tomatoes sold at a discount. The flesh of these tomatoes is dense, sweet and blood red. Use plum tomatoes if you prefer; the main thing is they must be truly sun-ripened, whatever the variety.

This is a quick-cooking sauce with relatively fast preparation. There's no need to blanch and peel tomatoes or even use a food mill. All you need is a hand-held grater. In a matter of minutes, you'll be simmering a small saucepan full of gorgeous tomato pulp.

Cut the tomatoes in halves or quarters. Squeeze out the seeds, or don't. (I never mind a few seeds in the sauce.) Place the cut side against the large holes of the grater and gently rub until only the tomato skin remains in your hand. Add a pinch of salt, a little olive oil, a garlic clove and a sprig of basil. A spoonful of tomato paste helps thicken the sauce.

This makes a very fresh- and bright-tasting sauce in a manageable small batch. It doesn't cook for hours - 15 to 20 minutes are really all it takes.

Recipe:

- Yield: About 2 1/2 cups
- 5 pounds tomatoes
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 garlic clove, halved
- 1 basil sprig
- 1 bay leaf

Cut tomatoes in half horizontally. Squeeze out the seeds and discard, if you wish. Press the cut side of tomato against the large holes of a box grater and grate tomato flesh into a bowl. Discard skins. You should have about 4 cups. Put tomato pulp in a low wide saucepan over high heat. Add salt, olive oil, tomato paste, garlic, basil and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, then lower heat to a brisk simmer. Reduce the sauce by almost half, stirring occasionally, to produce about 2 1/2 cups medium-thick sauce, 10 to 15 minutes. Taste and adjust salt. It will keep up to 5 days in the refrigerator or may be frozen.

biz scope

Aries (April13 to May 13)

Copper production, flowers and fruits, money exchange, communication, rubber production, jeweler, business will be fruitful for you. Charm—Keep a sprout garden croton.

Taurus [May 14—June 14]

Officinal medicine, marine, hotel and tourism, foreign business will give you benefits. Charm—donate Gamin flower to pagoda

Gemini [June 15—July 15]

Mining, milk and products, various beans, brick and sand businesses will bring profits to you. Charm—donate 10 aster flowers.

Cancer [July 16—August 16]

Traditional medicines, electronic, jewelry, home decoration will benefit you much. Charm -- donate sprout of plum to pagoda.

Leo [August 17—September 16]

Insecticide, flowers and fruits business, banking, electronic, silk and cotton businesses are good for you. Charm -- donate piece of sugar-cane to Buddha image.

Virgo [Sep 17—Oct 16]

Jewelers, milk and products, communication, stationary, hotel and tourism, musical instrument selling, bricks, and constructions businesses will benefits for you. Charm -- donate 5 oranges to Buddha.

Libra [Oct 17—Nov 15]

Production of gold, wheat, hotel and

tourism, milk and products, snacks, marine transportation, banking, foreign exchange businesses are beneficial for you. Charm -- donate umbrella to old monk.

Scorpio [Nov 16—Dec 15]

Insecticide, gardening and agriculture, restaurants, oil and its products, metal, businesses will be good for you. Charm -- keep a sprout garden croton.

Sagittarius [Dec 16—Jan 13]

Traditional medicine, salt production, rubber production, foreign business, will give profits. Charm -- cashew sprouts.

Capricorn [Jan 14—Feb 12]

Flowers and fruits business, hotel and tourism, motors cars, art and wood, silk and cotton businesses are good. Charm -- donate wormwood to Buddha.

Aquarius [Feb 13—Mar 12]

Traditional medicine production, flowers and fruits, snacks, banking, mobile phone and accessories, oil and oil products, are good for you. Charm -- donate an shoes monk.

Pisces [Mar 13—April 12]

Jewelers, snacks, hotel and tourism, stationary, metal, foreign business, incense production are good for you. Charm -- donate a Mesua ferrea to Buddha.

— Khin Aung Bo

andy capp

daddy's home

b.c.

diamond lil

the meaning of lila

wizard of id

momma

ComParrot

by Bonnie A. Malcom

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?

Solution: 1. Stove on picture frame is missing. 2. Log on table is missing. 3. Puddle on floor is wider. 4. Bread beside window is wider. 5. Label on object is colored in. 6. Label on object is missing. 7. Fold in curtain is missing. 8. Extra clove on herbs. 9. Bunsen burner is missing. 10. Dish on table is missing. 11. Dish on table is missing. 12. Dish on table is missing. 13. Dish on table is missing. 14. Dish on table is missing. 15. Dish on table is missing. 16. Dish on table is missing. 17. Dish on table is missing. 18. Dish on table is missing. 19. Dish on table is missing. 20. Dish on table is missing. 21. Dish on table is missing. 22. Dish on table is missing. 23. Dish on table is missing. 24. Dish on table is missing. 25. Dish on table is missing. 26. Dish on table is missing. 27. Dish on table is missing. 28. Dish on table is missing. 29. Dish on table is missing. 30. Dish on table is missing. 31. Dish on table is missing. 32. Dish on table is missing. 33. 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sports

# Darts legend vows to hit Asia target

Darts legend Phil "The Power" Taylor has promised "never" to stop playing as he gains a new lease of life from spearheading the pub sport's ambitious push into Asia.

The 16-time world champion is at the forefront of the fast-expanding World Series of Darts, which has broken new ground this year with top players travelling to Yokohama, Perth, Sydney and Auckland.

And the 55-year-old told AFP that taking darts to new frontiers is a huge motivation ahead of the inaugural Hong Kong Darts Masters which, if successful on debut, will join the World Series next year.

"I love every minute of it. I'll never

stop. Never," said Taylor.

"At my age I don't get excited much any more but I am actually excited. I've been away from home for four weeks now and I've loved every minute of it. The game's just grown and grown."

Taylor is in Hong Kong along with five-times world champion Raymond Van Barneveld, to face off against three other Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) world-ranked players and three local players in a marquee erected on the city's harbourfront on Friday and Saturday.

Organisers are hoping to sell out 1,250 tickets each night and Taylor was sure there would be great crowds in a sport renowned for raucous fans and a

party atmosphere.

"Most people coming will know about darts," said Taylor, adding that he had been pleasantly surprised by the response of fans in Asia.

"We weren't too sure about Japan, but they were probably one of the best crowds we've ever had. They all got involved," said Taylor.

Hong Kong's Scott Mackenzie, who has played in three PDC world championships, agreed with Taylor.

"Darts is booming in Asia," said the 43-year-old Mackenzie, referring to the hugely popular, magnetic-tipped electronic darts games which are found across the continent.

"There are a million registered players in Japan. People in this part of the world don't just want to sit in a bar and eat and drink, they want to play games. Darts fills that niche perfectly."

In "soft-tipped" darts, players can be linked over the Internet, meaning a player in Hong Kong can have a game against someone in another country.

Taylor said it was a fantastic innovation for the sport. "I did an exhibition last night," he said. "I loved it."

"You press a button and play somebody in another bar. You're there, you're waving to them on camera. They could be in Germany, France, Thailand, wherever -- honest to God it's brilliant.

"I did a nine-darter as well," added Taylor, referring to the minimum number darts in which a player can complete a traditional game starting on 501 and finishing on a double.

"In the early days we could never have imagined this in a million years."

Taylor has hit a record 10 nine-dart finishes in televised events, including, uniquely, two in one match against James Wade as he won the 2010 Premier League.

"I am really hoping there's a big market here for darts," said Taylor, "because I'd like to spend more time here."

– Agence France-Presse

# Cricketer lectures tennis bad boy

Australian cricket great Shane Warne told tennis bad boy Nick Kyrgios Thursday respect was more important than being liked and warned him "you're testing our patience mate".

Showman Kyrgios has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons, with his sex slur at Stan Wawrinka last month sparking stinging criticism from fellow players.

He lost at the US Open Tuesday to Andy Murray before jousting with the media over his reputation and behaviour, which some see as petulant and disrespectful while others view as good for a sport in need of characters.

Warne, no stranger to controversy himself, offered his fellow Australian some attitude tips, and urged him not to waste his talent.

"We all realise you're only 20 and have a lot to learn buddy. But please don't waste your talent, everyone in the world, especially us Australians want to respect u," he wrote on his Facebook page.

"Remember respect is way more important than being liked, u need to respect the game of tennis and yourself."

Kyrgios was criticised for his audacious shot selection during his loss to Murray and Warne said learning from his mistakes was a demonstration of true character.

"We all make mistakes, but it's how we learn from them & the way we conduct ourselves when we lose that shows true character," he said.

"You're testing our patience mate, show us what you're made of & how hungry you are to be the best in the world, it's time to step up & start winning, no excuses."

"No shame in losing, but show us you will never give up, that you will give it everything to be the best you can be, respect is earned not given! I believe in you & know you can do it, but now's the time my friend."

Kyrgios was slapped with a 28-day ban and US\$25,000 fine over his verbal abuse of Wawrinka at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

But both punishments will be waived if he avoids any fines for verbal or physical abuse at ATP events over the next six months.

– Agence France-Presse



The Trade Times

The Myanmar women's football team will compete in the 2015 AFC Women's Second Olympic Qualifying Tournament next weekend.

# Un-friendlied

The Myanmar Women's football team will host a key Olympic-trial tourney without playing any exhibition matches

**Bo Bo Minn**

If success is 90 percent preparation and 10 percent perspiration, then Myanmar's women's football team may discover how much they can accomplish with sweat-equity alone as they host the 2015 AFC Women's Second Olympic Qualifying Tournament next weekend.

This is because effort, the team's technical director said, is about all the team can afford.

Unlike their competitors, Myanmar women's football team cannot afford the travel expenses to play friendlies against teams across Asia before the tournament, said U Aye Mg Gyi, technical director of Myanmar team.

"Myanmar Football Federation

Road to Rio 2016 FIFA WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TOURNAMENT Asian Qualifiers					
Date	Match	Vs	Match Away	Kick-off	Venue
14 Sept, 2015	Jordan	Vs	Myanmar	18:30	Mandalay
16 Sept, 2015	Myanmar	Vs	Thailand	18:30	Mandalay
18 Sept, 2015	Vietnam	Vs	Myanmar	18:30	Mandalay
22 Sept, 2015	Myanmar	Vs	Chinese Taipei	18:30	Mandalay

(MFF) did not approve friendly matches like Chinese women clubs and others" added Aye Mg Gyi.

"We want to know our weak points and our strong points. We need to play

friendly matches against real opponents before the (tournament), Aye Mg Gyi said, adding that the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) did not arrange such matches.

In the second round, Myanmar will face Thailand, Vietnam, Jordan, Chinese Taipei. Only the winner will advance to the final round. For these coming matches, Myanmar Coach Thet Thet Win announced the list of 23 players. Now, the Myanmar team is training in China.

Before going to the China, Myanmar trained in Mandalay and Yangon. But friendlies were not played. Myanmar will stay in China until September 9, and then continue practice in Myanmar and Mandalay.

In the first round held in Mandalay in March, Myanmar soared. The team thrashed Sri Lanka 16-0 to Sri Lanka, and then beat India 7-0 to grab the full point.

"The first round is not difficult for

us. But in second round, as we all know Thailand has been qualified for the 2015 Canada Women World Cup. I think they got precious experienced from World Cup.

"Vietnam is also a strong team; they are also well prepared for Myanmar trip. But we will try our best and the Mandalay fans make me strong," added Thet Thet Win.

The final qualifying round will be held in Japan next year in February. According to the FIFA Women's World ranking, Japan, Australia, North Korea, China PR and South Korea will get a direct slot to final round.

The top two teams of the final qualifying round in Japan will earn a spot in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil.



Agence France-Presse

The Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios complains to an umpire during a match at Wimbledon.

# Los Angeles launches bid for 2024 Olympics

Los Angeles on Thursday launched its bid for the 2024 Olympics at the IOC having secured quick backing from President Barack Obama for the late campaign.

The city only voted on Monday to take up the US campaign after the embarrassing withdrawal of Boston.

But Obama made it known ahead of a meeting between a US delegation and International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach that he backs Los Angeles.

"The president is enthusiastic about the US Olympic Committee announcement that the city of Los Angeles will be the US bid for the 2024 Olympic Games," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

"Both the president and the first lady are very enthusiastic and very supportive of the bid."

Los Angeles will be up against Paris, Rome, Budapest, and Hamburg with others considering taking the plunge before the IOC September 15 deadline.

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti and USOC chief Larry Probst held talks with Bach in Lausanne about the bid.

Addressing the crowd at a news conference in Santa Monica, California were US Olympic champions Janet Evans, Olympic champions such as swimmer Janet Evans, diver Greg Louganis, decathlete Bryan Clay, gymnast Peter Vidmar, boxer Oscar De La Hoya and sprinter Carmelita Jeter.

Garcetti said he had "expressed

our excitement and our enthusiasm" to be in the race and had highlighted Los Angeles experience as hosts in 1932 and 1984.

"This is something that is in our DNA," he told reporters afterwards. "We don't just know how to bid for the Olympics we know how to run one."

He vowed transparency with taxpayers to avoid the storm of opposition that hit Boston.

US officials also insisted Los Angeles was not starting too late.

After the September 15 deadline "its a brand new start for every bid city. That's when the competition really begins," said the mayor.

– Agence France-Presse



Agence France-Presse  
Former Olympic swimmer Janet Evans.

ON TV

**Saturday (Euro qualifiers)**  
10:30pm San Marino vs England (SKYNET- sport-6)  
**\*Australian Rules Football**  
1pm Hawthorn vs Carlton 4pm Sydney vs Gold Coast

**Sunday**  
1:00am DEUTSHE Golf Championship Day-2 (Golf Channel)  
8:30am UFC: Johnson VS Dodson 2 (FOX Sports-1)  
10:30pm Wales vs Israel (SKYNET- sport-6)  
5:45pm Bristol Rovers VS Oxford Utd (Skynet Sports-1)  
6:30pm 2015 Formula 1 Race (FOX Sports-1)  
8:00pm Burton Albion VS Coventry City (FOX Sports-1)  
11:30pm DEUTSHE Golf Championship Day-3 (Golf Channel)

\* Showing at various pubs such as The Fat Ox in Pazandaung, not available everywhere)