




- Home
- Issues 
- Language (ဘာသာ) 
- Contact 
- About Us
- Downloads



ADDA Systems
Software Development
That we are able is your advantage



Shwe Dream
.com



MYANMARBIBLE.NET

Visitors Since 1st March 2004

How do you know about us?

- from search engines
- from emails
- from advertisements
- from friends

Myanmar Paintings and Art Market



In Myanmar the cost of an art exhibition, is not a small amount. The cost of printing a colourful catalogue, rental for an exhibition hall for a week, and cost of frames (for the paintings) amount to some US\$100-200. That is why those veteran as well as young artists, who spent for the exhibitions while the market is inactive, are adorable.

[Read More...](#)

How to Read and How to Write

Retired Ambassador Thet Tun

Only on return home on supernumerary retirement from from Unesco could I engage in fulltime reading. In the 18 year period from April 1986 to April 2004, I was able to read 750 books. The majority 624 were in English, 95 were in Myanmar, 28 in Japanese, and 3 in French. Subject wise 298 books were on social sciences (embracing politics, economics and sociology), 162 history, 113 biographies (including 20 autobiographies), 53 general knowledge (including medicine), 60 language and literature, 37 humour, 17 education, 13 computer and 10 religion.

[Read More...](#)

A change from IT era to ICT era in Mandalay



In 2002, Bagan Cybertech, one of the nation's two ISPs (Internet Service Provider), brought broadband services to Mandalay, and opened its branch office in late 2002. So people in Mandalay can have access to the Internet through their phone lines.

[Read More...](#)

Interview with Dr. Agostino Borra, Country Representative of WHO in Myanmar

some parts of other countries in the region are still inadequate in health care. Myanmar is at the level of Cambodia, Laos, some parts of Vietnam, some remote parts of China, some parts of Indonesia.

[Read More...](#)

Golden Pyone; Silver Pyone; Taung Pyone festival



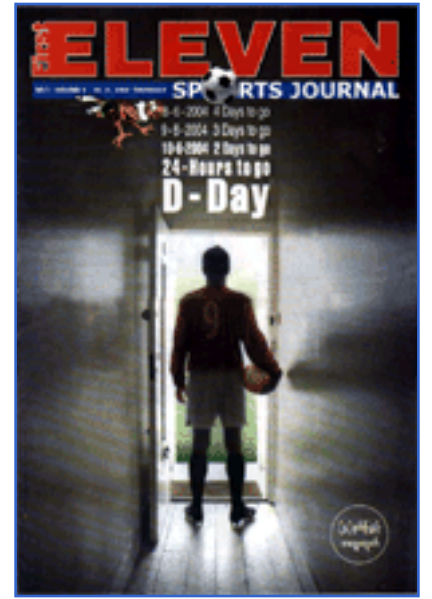
Taung Pyone festival

Taung Pyone festival started. The festival was held at the north of Mandalay.

It officially started from 10th day of the waxing moon of Wah khaung till the 10th day of the full moon of Wah khaung. The custom of that festival is that only after the Nat convention was held at Min Gyi and Min Galays' Palace, Myanmar orchestra is played.

[Read More...](#)

Looking Back on Soccer Weeklies



Consequently a turning point in the world of Myanmar soccer magazines arose before the start of Euro 2000 football matches. That was - launching of First ELEVEN sports weekly, which publish fresh soccer news selected from the Internet. (Mee-shoo-tine (Torch) soccer weekly had already been introduced earlier in the same year of 2000, though; the ground-breaking presentation style could be seen clearly in the First Eleven only.)


[Read More...](#)

Potpourri Of Current News



Local big business groups have switched to get involved in hotel industry since the end of rainy season in 2003. International standard hotels and resorts owned by Myanmar citizens are emerging especially at Bagan, Innlay Lake, Ngapali beach and Ngwe Saung beach.

[Read More...](#)

Home
 Issues
 Language (ကဏ္ဍ) 
 Contact
 About Us
 Downloads

 **ADDA Systems**
 Software Development
That we are able is your advantage

 **Shwe Dream**
 .com

 **MYANMARBIBLE.NET**

Myanmar Paintings and Art Market



A painting of Nyein Chan Su, who is the most prominent artist among those who try to penetrate overseas art market by joint endeavour of artists and gallery owners.

This article will look back on Myanmar art market over the last year noting the significant events. It will also try to find out the "trend" of Myanmar paintings.

Over the more than one year's period almost everyone involved in art market has been saying that sales are not going well. However it would be wrong to think the number of art sales and exhibitions will drop. All major art galleries in Yangon are fully booked. Lokanat Galleries in Pansodan Street, Art & Artisans Association's gallery at East Wing of Bogyoke Aung San Market, the New Treasure Gallery in Thanlwin Road, for instance, have been booked for the coming one year.

The important factors which activate Myanmar's art market beginning from late 1995 were: establishment of art galleries, holding art exhibition elegantly, and promoting highly creative artists. These tasks are properly done. Moreover when the creative works of an artist became popular among art collectors and dealers, the price went up dramatically. Such excitement is a kind of impetus for Myanmar world of art.

Let's see the status of those artists well-liked and popular among art collectors and dealers over the last year.

If a work of a popular artist is less than US\$200 it will get more interest of collectors. Watercolour paintings of popular artists priced in tens of dollars are still selling well. Local collectors are to consider carefully before deciding to buy a high priced oil painting. Much appreciated to be collected mostly among Myanmar paintings are the works of Saya U Lun Gywe.

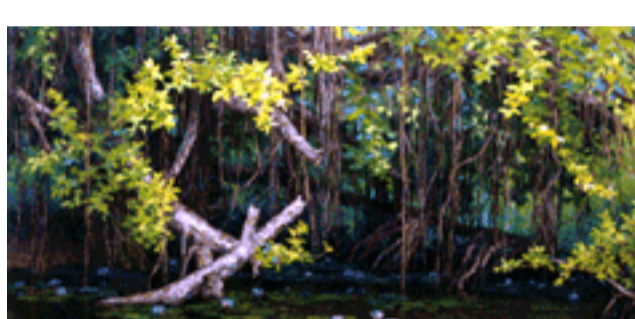
In 2004 artist Aung Moe Nyo roused local art collectors with his watercolours. He held a solo show in 2003 and another at AZADA Gallery, Yangon in 2004. His paintings were selling well in both shows.



Min Wae Aung's paintings of 2004

Most prominent in overseas art market among Myanmar artists is Min Wae Aung. His paintings are exhibited in Yangon but not for sale, as there are overseas collectors who are not reluctant to pay high price for his paintings. His recent oil paintings and other creations with various media flow into international art market.

Some Myanmar artists have mutual understanding with a foreign art gallery for business dealings. So they just present their works at exhibitions, and do not sell. For instance, artist Myo Thant Aung rarely sells his paintings at exhibitions, as he has foreign contacts.



A typical creation of Myo Thant Aung

Another means of penetrating international art market is a joint effort of Myanmar art gallery and local artists. A local art gallery organizes some Myanmar artists, whose works are of international taste, and support them, to have a share in international market. Talented artists are provided with paintboxes, canvas, studio and finances. When the paintings are completed they will be available on international market. The Myanmar Gallery of Contemporary Art is such kind of art gallery.

At present such kind of joint efforts are not doing well, according to some sources.

Over the last year, when sales of paintings were lessening, Win Pe Myint's art exhibition at New Treasure Gallery is a landmark show, where oil painting sketches of small size only are put on show. This veteran Myanmar painter displayed his still life oil paintings of small (the largest of them is around one foot by one) size. As each of these artistic creations were priced less than US\$50 and exceptionally fine, local art collectors as well as his artist friends bought his works, some of them bought two or three pieces. Finally his paintings were almost sold out.



Khin Maung Yin's celebrated painting: Seated Dancer



Khin Maung Yin's abstract painting: Bagan

An artist whose works are more collected by local art lovers than their foreign counterparts is (U) Khin Maung Yin (a former architect). He paints abstracts and semi-abstracts as well as paintings in 19th century Western modern style with Myanmar atmosphere. A series of his paintings under one title: Seated Dancer and Impressionist style paintings: Bagan and Htanaung (White bamboo) are significant among his works. The way he sells his works are is simple. He considers nothing about prices of other painters and how they are selling well, but his own pleasure.

Artists Tin Maung Oo and Bo Kyi among others are getting appreciation of Modern Oriental Art collectors from abroad. Previously the two showed at the Summit Gallery before displaying at Hotel Nikko where a new small gallery was introduced.

In Mandalay abstract and semi-abstract paintings were actively created in late 2000. Some of these activities were very much inclining to performance art, as reported in periodicals.

Only in the last decade Myanmar paintings became developed due to the efforts of artists, exhibition organizers, and purchase of local and overseas art collectors. Even in this short period of development, art market was inactive over the last two years. However painters are more active and creative than last 20 or 30 years ago. Some have admirable artistic power, and some are driven by monetary incentive. For the young, growing number of art galleries offer more opportunities for them to present their creative works. Consequently there are art exhibitions of a group of artists, who are either friends or classmates, and solo art shows as well as.

In Myanmar the cost of an art exhibition, is not a small amount. The cost of printing a colourful catalogue, rental for an exhibition hall for a week, and cost of frames (for the paintings) amount to some US\$100-200. That is why those veteran as well as young artists, who spent for the exhibitions while the market is inactive, are adorable.



Aung Myint's painting which won Juror's choice at 2002 ASEAN Art Awards (A set of nine paintings in black on Main-Kaing paper or Shan paper [Traditionally hand-made paper of Shan State])

Myanmar artists won Grand Prize in ASEAN Art Awards held in 2002. The fact proved that the status of Myanmar paintings cannot be ignored, at least by ASEAN countries. The winning piece of art is in modern approach depicting Myanmar atmosphere. The event encourages those who are seeking modernism. The Grand Prize winner is Aung Myint, the founder of Inya Art Gallery.

After holding of the ASEAN Art Awards contest, Nay Myo Say was noticed by overseas art lovers. He uses oils and acrylics to create his own style with a bit taste of collage mixed with preferable Myanmar characteristics. Some Japanese and German art collectors have an interest in his late 2002 works of art.

During 2003 and 2004 some Myanmar artists got chances to visit Thai, Cambodia, Singapore etc to observe creations and activities of art in those countries.

Though market information hinted the art market remains inactive, paintings are created like those by artists around the world. Current Myanmar paintings are in fine strokes featuring a local flavour, using modern media i.e. paints and canvas. Some artists are trying to become involved in international art market, while others are just expressing their mental feelings. These paintings are Myanmar art world's shining examples.

Myanmar's top nine art collectors

U Kyaw Win
 U Thein Win (PMG Co)
 U Tun Lin (PMG Co)
 U Tin Win (Beikthano Gallery)
 U Aung Min (Magic Gallery)
 Nay Myo Say (nm Gallery)
 Thukhamein Hlaing
 U Hla Win (Laythu-ye Ta Oo) (The Myanmar Gallery of Contemporary Art)
 Ko Zaw Min Aye

[Back...](#)

Trans: Lutha Kyaw

Home
 Issues
 Language (ဘာသာစကား)
 Contact
 About Us
 Downloads

How to Read and How to Write

Retired Ambassador Thet Tun

As a contribution to a memorial number on စာသမားတို့၏အတွက်, these two pieces on How to Read and How to Write may have some relevance.

How to Read

When at the age of 11 I fell into a ditch and broke my thigh bone. I had to give up my ambition to become a famous footballer and became instead a bookworm. Since I was schooling at the intensely nationalistic Myoma, I read many Nagani books on national politics Although I passed my high school examination with the optional subject of Pali, I was too young to become absorbed in religion. Nor did I read romantic novels and poetry. So I became used to reading non-fiction social sciences. My fellow passenger on the oceanliner to England Ko Than Htut (Taik Soe) would chide me, "You always look at a man as a member of a class or a group, never as an individual". However my formula in reading has always been to read whatever I am interested in.

There is however an exception to this rule, which is the compulsory reading for one's livelihood or profession. Whilst I was warded with a broken thigh in the hospital for three months, I developed an ambition to follow in the footsteps of my idol surgeon Colonel Aung Khin, the first Myanmar to gain the qualification of F.R.C.S. So to follow a course in medicine, I had to, however unwillingly, read books on natural sciences. However, with the arrival of WW II in Myanmar, and the closing down of the university, I went on return from evacuation to the only school open, namely, the Japanese language school. A year later I was nominated for a state scholarship in Japan for Japanese language and literature. Thereupon my reversion from science to arts.

Our Peacock Hall being situated in the students' quarter of Kanda full of bookshops, one could after buying a book "sip" many other books for hours until one tired of standing up. That was one way of reading.

In the West busy people have to snatch time to read. Some read sitting on the toilet bowl. Others read while waiting for their women to finish their pre-party make-up. In Tokyo where commuting to school and office takes an hour or two, one reads in the swaying train. No wonder every other Japanese wear glasses.

To save time reading, some people practice the Kennedy method of a page per second. I tried it without success. I spent 60 seconds in taking in the beginning phrase in each paragraph alone. The best speed to read I think is the middle way.

When one comes across new foreign word, one should immediately look it up in a dictionary. Only then can one make progress in that language. If one is too lazy to refer to a dictionary, there is the risk of misinterpretation.

The problem is where will the books to read come from? For the student youth, there is the school library, local library and the city library. As a Myoma student residing in Phoneygi Street, I used to spend the day reading at Parrot U Sonny's library in Morton st. In late afternoon, my younger brother used to beckon me in a loud voice, " Sonny! it's meal time. Come home." This brought U Sonny to upstairs window curious to know who has been beckoning him. At Yangon University it sufficed to read one two prescribed texts. At foreign universities there are so many reference books to read, one has to depend on the libraries again.

Let us go back from "how to read" to "what to read". In the study of natural sciences, one builds up block upon block aiming at depth. In the study of social sciences, breadth of knowledge being more important, wide reading is a necessity. During my student days in England, I used to read numerous books from morn till night. Examining professors being authorities in their respective field, one glance at the answer papers and they know how much reading the candidates have done.

Passing from student life to working life, the reading continues, especially as economic planning work and national planning discussions involve a lot of reading plus the extra load of analyzing statistics.

During my three years at the Paris Embassy where I resumed my French lessons, I did not have much time to read except about the countries I had to deal with. And during my seven year service with Unesco, I had to absorb its official reports which had been translated into English from French. Inventory of outside reading reveals 90 guide books, 4 general knowledge, 15 social science, 11 biographies, 3 autobiographies, 8 history, 4 humour, 3 language and 1 poetry of Mya Zin. Among 8 Myanmar books, 6 were by Taik Soe and 2 by Thein Pe Myint. The preponderance of guide books is accounted for by travels all over Europe from its centre Paris.

Only on return home on supernumerary retirement from from Unesco could I engage in fulltime reading. In the 18 year period from April 1986 to April 2004, I was able to read 750 books. The majority 624 were in English, 95 were in Myanmar, 28 in Japanese, and 3 in French. Subject wise 298 books were on social sciences (embracing politics, economics and sociology), 162 history, 113 biographies (including 20 autobiographies), 53 general knowledge (including medicine), 60 language and literature, 37 humour, 17 education, 13 computer and 10 religion.

The preponderance of social sciences even after retirement is probably due to enduring links with previous career and inclinations. Partiality for history of the country and people as well as the life history of individuals (i.e.,biography) is probably due to one's own advancing years as well as the influence of historian biographer Taik Soe.

With regard to reading time, the most difficult to absorb should read early morning when the head is clearest. Afternoons after a brief siesta are also suitable for hard reading. Interesting reading matter can be read at all times. For bedtime reading, pleasant humour is best. If one wakes up in the middle of the night whilst on vverseas travel involving jet lag, UN documents can send one back to sleep after half an hour. It has been my best sleeping pill.

How to Write

Since young I had wanted to write but lacking experience in life I had nothing to write. However at age sixteen whilst studying at Rangoon Japanese language school, I participated in the preparation of a small Japanese-Myanmar-English dictionary. Principal Professor Ueda wrote in the introduction "This dictionary has been completed owing to the diligent efforts of Saya U Kyaw Ngwe, Saya Kusanagi and student Maung Thet Tun. Special thanks go to them."

Later at the suggestion of Saya Kusanagi, I wrote an article in Japanese. According to Saya's record, "Kurimoto of Yomiuri Shin bun requested an article in Japanese for his newspaper from a Burmese knowledgeable about the Japanese point of view. So I consulted Maung Thet Tun who asked if he himself could pen it. The next day he brought a text. I found it very interesting. The text contains some errors but those errors themselves were interesting. Before I passed on the text to Kurimoto, I copied it down in my diary. The title of the article was "Japanese People".

Sent to Japan at age 17 to study Japanese language and literature at Tokyo's International Students' Institute, I wrote a critique of a novel of the famous writer Akutagawa Ryunosuke. Being a rare critique by a young foreign student, the text was reportedly stored in the school's archives.

My first writing in Myanmar language was at age 21 when I sailed to England as a state scholar. Feeling jealous over an Anglo-Burmese girl cavorting with repatriated British officers on an ocean liner, I wrote a short story entitled "Half-caste" en route and posted it at Port Said to Saya Yan Aung who had it published in Padetha magazine. The second short story was "Shela" with whom I was infatuated on the return sea journey, which again Saya Yan Aung arranged publication in Shumawa magazine.

Whatever talent I had for Burmese or English writing was completely neutralized by 25 years of work in dismal science which was confined to writing official reports. Its occasional resurgence was occasioned by obituary notes for relatives and close friends.

At the embassy and Unesco I was prevented from writing by the injunction not to write extracurricular. Only after retirement was I able to write. And I wrote in English as it has been the medium for officialese, especially for economics. In publishing books, however, I put in the Myanmar translation in the hope that the bilingual publication will be of help to the students learning English. Although I had not written in Myanmar language for a long time, because of my grounding in Myanmar and Pali at Myoma school, I did not experience any difficulties.

Best hours to write as the same as for reading - early morning when the brain is most fresh and post-siesta when the midday drowsiness has gone away. Translation from English into Myanmar is the easiest while from Myanmar into English is a little more taxing. Problems regarding choice of words and syntax find their solution when one wakes up at night as the Myanmar saying "Good ideas come at the middle of one's sleep" goes.

What did I write? Out of 800 pieces, nearly half are vignettes (influence of U Than Htut again?). Location-wise, a little over half abroad, and a little under half at home. (due perhaps to 20 years stay abroad and over 50 overseas trips.) Subject-wise economics claims 20%, international relations 15%, education 10%, politics 10%, history 10% (for work-related reasons perhaps?) Out of 11 publications, 4 are joke-books.

[Back...](#)

Trans: Retired Ambassador Thet Tun

Home
 Issues
 Language (ဘာသာ)
 Contact
 About Us
 Downloads

ADDA Systems
 Software Development
That we are able is your advantage

Shwe Dream
 .com

MYANMARBIBLE.NET

A change from IT era to ICT era in Mandalay

Computers (PCs) have been mainly used for DTP and office work till 2000, when MPT (Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, a state-owned enterprise) introduced email access to Mandalay. Then computer has become useful in communication as well. This is a big step moving into a new epoch.

In 2002, Bagan Cybertech, one of the nation's two ISPs (Internet Service Provider), brought broadband services to Mandalay, and opened its branch office in late 2002. So people in Mandalay can have access to the Internet through their phone lines.

Local residents of Mandalay subscribed to Bagan Cybertech's services, one after another year, moving into a new epoch of ICT. Follows a detailed list:

Year	iPstar	Broadband	Dial Up	Mail4u(email)	Accesskit
2002	34	74	430	-	-
2003	34	222	252	598	166
2004	86	25	143	683	487
Total	218	321	825	1281	653

Mandalay ICT Park



Mandalay ICT Park (Information and Communication Technology Park) was inaugurated on 16 August 2003.

Mandalay ICT Park houses 44 company offices. It has already trained some 10,000 trainees ICT courses to. Six software houses have been involved in writing customized applications.

There is a one air-conditioned conference hall, which has 400 seats along with conference facilities, at Mandalay ICT Park. A 30-seat meeting hall and one VIP meeting room are available at the ICT Park as well.

Conference Hall



Private Office Room



Lobby



Meeting Room



One 5000-square-foot wide lobby is available for special sale, temporary coffee bar for seminars, and social gatherings.

There is a canteen opened daily at the ICT Park.

A Chronology of ICT Development in Mandalay

1998-99	-Mandalay Division Computer Scientists Association (CSA) and Mandalay Division Computer Entrepreneurs Association (CEA) were formed -Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) from Yangon held the first IT symposium at Mandalay.
1999-2000	-Myanmar CSA in cooperation with CICC-Japan (The Center of International Cooperation for Computerization, Japan) invited Japanese experts and organized a series of lectures: High speed Internet Access and Distant Learning.
2000-2001	-CICC-Japan and Myanmar Computer Federation made a joint effort to organize a lecture: Bilateral Conference and a seminar on e-Commerce.
2001-2002	Delivery of lectures on three occasions. The lectures are- (1) Overseas IT Scholarship Exams (2)e-commerce Initiative in Myanmar (3)Seminar on Database Fundamentals
2002-2003	- The 1 st ICT Exhibition was held at Mandalay City Hall -1, participated by 50 computer companies. - 15 th ICT seminar was held.

For the convenience of Internet users three Cyber Cafes has been opened at the ICT Park.

Mandalay and IT, ICT

IT development in Mandalay began in 1995 with introduction of five computer training schools, where basic computer course was offered. The number of computer training schools reached 10 in 1998. These schools trained from to 2000 to 5000 persons.

On 26 April 1998 Mandalay Division Computer Scientists Association (CSA) and Mandalay Division Computer Entrepreneurs Association (CEA) were formed. Mandalay Division's CSA has 118 members while CEA has 15 members.

In Mandalay those involved in ICT industry impressed the local residents. (Actually the technology impressed the residents.) The majority of traders and brokers have less aspiration to adopt ICT in their businesses. However they are eager to make their children computer-literate.

Mandalay and international ICT movements

An Indian delegation led by ICT Minister Mr Arum Shourie visited Mandalay ICT Park on 21 August 2003 to discuss technology transfer.

eASEAN Working Group held its general meeting for 2003 at Mandalay ICT Park beginning from 20 to 22 November 2003.

[Back...](#)

Trans: Lutha Kyaw



- Home
- Issues ▾
- Language (ဘာသာ) ▾
- Contact ▾
- About Us
- Downloads



Interview with Dr. Agostino Borra, Country Representative of WHO in Myanmar

Phyo Win Latt

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations system, with its headquarters based in Geneva. WHO was established in 1948. In 1987, the organization had 166 member countries. Currently the organization is made up of 192 member states. The services of the agency, as defined by its constitution, are in two folds; international health advisory function and technical cooperation function. In line with its first defined function, WHO acts as an international guiding and coordinating authority on health issues by setting standards, developing global strategies and promoting exchange of information. The technical cooperation services include aid in training medical personnel and in disseminating knowledge of diseases such as influenza, malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS); maternal and child health; nutrition; population planning; and environmental sanitation.

Dr Lee Jong-Wook is the present Director General of WHO. Myanmar became party to the WHO constitution on 1 July 1948. WHO Myanmar initiated its operation in 1957 for the first time. Now WHO Myanmar is strengthening its cooperation in some major initiatives like 3 by 5 initiative and Road Safety Campaign, among others. The Myanmar Chronicle interviewed Country Representative of WHO Myanmar Dr. Agostino Borra in order to inform the readers about what are its roles and functions in Myanmar Health Care System and what will it be contributing for our country health system.

What are WHO objectives?

The roles of WHO are to reduce excess mortality and morbidity, to develop financially fair health system, to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce factors of risk to human health that arise from environmental, economic, social and behavioral causes, and to develop enabling policy and institutional environments in the health sector.

What will WHO be doing in next year?

Well we will continue to work for control of infectious diseases like AIDS, TB, and Malaria. And we will continue to help in immunization of children, child and adolescence health programs, reproductive health programs, and than hopefully in provision of technical assistance on getting an expansion on safe water supply and sanitation programs. Of course, we cannot do every thing by ourselves but we will be working in partnership with several agencies; particularly with the Ministry of Health as our prime counterpart.

Will you please specify me about water and sanitation projects?

We are in the stage of supporting the Ministry of Health in accomplishing the five years strategic plan for water, sanitation, and personal hygiene. Now we are finding the appropriate technologies to meet people needs of safe water supply. Practical operations are done by others not WHO. WHO's role is to provide technical assistances like analyzing water samples to support drinking water quality surveillance.

What will be the most hazardous disease for Myanmar AIDS, TB, or Malaria? And majority of people believe that AIDS the worse of all but according to our knowledge TB is the worse, which is true?

Mortality and morbidity of such diseases are not easy to be ranked correctly. What I want to say is they are all dangerous diseases. They all affect most productive age group of the entire population.

Does WHO take a seat in (Global Fund for AIDS TB and Malaria) GFATM and (Fund for HIV/AIDS Myanmar (FHAM)?

Yes. We have a member in the committee called country coordination mechanism, which is a decision-making and coordinating body at the national level for the Global Fund. WHO is also a member of Expanded Theme Group of UNAIDS, where both the policy and technical issues related to FHAM are discussed. WHO is also one of the implementing partners of FHAM activities. We have a staff working on AIDS and a staff working on TB and a staff on Malaria. These people represent WHO in coordination with other organizations.

Do you think health care of Myanmar citizens are at satisfactory level compared with other countries in the region?

Well some parts of other countries in the region are still inadequate in health care. Myanmar is at the level of Cambodia, Laos, some parts of Vietnam, some remote parts of China, some parts of Indonesia. Rural areas have poor health care infrastructure compared to urban areas. Like in many other developing countries there are less medical professionals in rural areas and advanced facilities are limited too.

Would you please explain me about your 3 by 5 initiative?

We are trying to move forward in making increased availability of Anti-Retroviral Treatments. However, our global target is to meet the need of Anti-Retroviral Treatment for 3 million people in the resource-limited countries by the end of the year 2005. That is why this initiative was named as 3 by 5.

Do you think why SARS and Bird Flu spreads in Myanmar are not so discernable compared with other countries in the region? Is it because Myanmar people have good immune system against such kind of outbreaks?

No. I do not think Myanmar people have better immune system than others do. Well Myanmar is lucky not to be infected with those diseases. Myanmar, compared to other countries, has limited airplane entry so may be this fact have been effectively able to prevent the spread of SARS into the country. And for the Bird Flu Myanmar have considerable small poultry farms unlike in Thailand and in China. So I think this is one of the factors for Myanmar not to be widely infected with Bird Flu.




Do you think language barrier plays as a major deterrence in attaining reasonable health care knowledge?

Yes but it is not a big deal.

What do you want to say as your final words?

I like Myanmar a lot. It is a very beautiful country. So I can only wish that the development of the country will continue smoothly and soon its people will be able to attain the best possible state of health. But to achieve that we have to work hard in the coming years.

[Back...](#)

[Home](#)
[Issues](#) 
[Language \(ဘာသာ\)](#) 
[Contact](#) 
[About Us](#)
[Downloads](#)


ADDA Systems
 Software Development
That we are able is your advantage


Shwe Dream
 .com


MYANMARBIBLE.NET

Potpourri of Mandalay News

Maung Lugalay

Relax your nerves beside the boat



A painting featuring Mandalay Hill

Playthings for adult have been installed by the side of the Mandalay moat. The first venue appeared at the mouth of the Mingalar Bridge at the south of the moat. What can be seen there included something like a swing; also a wheel like thing which could be operated like a steering wheel of an automobile. They are quite strange for Maung Lu Galay. "Hey, what are they for", I wonder. For physical work out, it is said. Also included are gadgets to relax your nerves.

As they are strange things, people crowded around, some swinging on the swing like thing or some turning round the wheel like stuff.

Another two such places followed soon. One at the southeast of the moat, at the front of the Sedona hotel and another placed at the southwest, close to the warehouse. Altogether three places. More places will be installed, it is said.

Development Committee installed, said so.

I am very grateful to the Development Committee for the benevolence. In the past there are only Chinese looking people practising T'ai Chi martial art; or strolling; or doing exercise while listening to the cassette along the road beside the moat.

Mellow Ayeyarwaddy River

Water level of Ayeyarwaddy River at Mandalay fell off completely from danger level.

Fell really drastically.

Maung Lu Ga Lay could sigh only after the water fell. Let me tell you something when I am sure that after the water level really fell. The embankment at the west of Mandalay was about to give away; in some places, the soaring water spilled over the embankment and fluttered on the road.

The citizens of Mandalay together with the staff from Development Committee and the Buddhist monks had cooperated to resist the natural disaster by building a wall with sand bags where the water level topped the embankment.

As the Ayeyarwaddy River swelled, Taungthaman lake was inundated with water also. The famous U Bein teak bridge became submerged. The waves stole several teak logs, supporting the bridge.

Yadanarbon College sits at the edge of the Thaungthaman lake. The collegians sang the famous song from the pre World War II days, "Will row the boat" by Dora Than Aye while commuting between classrooms.

Now it's over. Everything is completely over.

Thet Mon Myint in Mandalay

On 20 August, there was a hustle and bustle at Tayok Tan new market on 78th Street. Thet Mon Myint, a public figure, visited the Step fashion boutique chain on its opening day.

Young customers find it fashionable to wear the designer clothes from Step. I learned that Step appeared after searching the way to keep the garment industries busy. After receiving the permission from the authorities concerned, cloth and buttons are imported from abroad and the designer clothes are introduced to the customers at the reasonable price, to the delight of the young customers.

Step boutique No. (1) and No. (2) were opened in Yangon, followed by another in Mandalay. Thet Mon Myint signed her autograph on her wall sheet for the people coming on the opening day.

Photo competition was also held on the opening day. The competition was open to all but sort of "closed open". Mandalay Photographic Society oversaw the competition. The members who want to compete should have paid all the dues to the society. Non members could also compete but they must pay various fees to the society.

People from Mandalay wanted to show off their talent while Thet Mon Myint was in town. They really tried hard after paying the dues to the society. However, I heard that the President of the Society won the first prize.

Golden Pyone; Silver Pyone; Taung Pyone festival

Taung Pyone festival has started. The festival was held at the north of Mandalay.

It officially started from 11th day of the waxing moon of Wah khaung (26 August 2004) till the Full Moon day of Wah khaung (30 August 2004). The custom of that festival is that only after the Nat (Spirit) convention was held at Min Gyi and Min Galays' Palace, Myanmar orchestra is played. And that is on the night of 10th day of the waxing moon of Wah khaung (25 August 2004)

Nowadays, as the revelers are increasing more and more every year, the duration of the festival has been stretched out.

What is distinguishing about Taung Pyone festival is that it started earlier than is usual. Now, it started from 8th day of the waxing moon (23 August 2004). However, it still complies with the custom of not even beating a drum before the orchestra at the Two brothers' palace starts to play.

The event that draws the largest crowd is when the two brothers are given a Royal bath and that is on the 11th day of the waxing moon of Wah khaung. After the bathing ceremony, what follows is Doe Htoe event; Yone Hote event; Htein Khoat event etc so the traditional custom is observed.

Every year, the Taung Pyone festival is crowded with the believers and who want to enjoy the carefree spirit of that festival.

[Back...](#)

Trans: Aung Kyaw Oo

Home
 Issues
 Language (ဘာသာစကား)
 Contact
 About Us
 Downloads

ADDA Systems
 Software Development
 That we are able is your advantage

Shwe Dream
 .com

MYANMARBIBLE.NET

Looking Back on Soccer Weeklies

Let's envisage privately owned weeklies (locally known in Myanmar as journal) being published in tens of thousand, and some in hundreds of thousand. Distributors, hawkers (of periodicals) and book shops run actively due to these weeklies with a large readership. These weeklies also have influence on their readers. If asked: What are these weeklies? Then, everybody familiar with Myanmar periodicals can respond.

"These are sports weeklies, especially soccer weeklies which cover soccer matches and the footballers."

Currently more than one soccer weeklies come out daily. Every week, to be precise, 20 weeklies are published competing each other. Soccer weeklies regularly published are: In-arr (Vigour), Tet-lann (Headway), Sport Light, Olympic, First ELEVEN, STAR SPORT, Champion, Saturday Sport News, Professional, 90:00 min, Four Four Two, World Sport, World Football, the Sun, Tun-tauk Kye (Shining Star), Focus, Premier ELEVEN, Mee-shoo-tine (Torch), Best Player and Tagun (Banner). (All these publications are in Myanmar language though some have English titles.)

These 20 soccer weeklies carry all soccer events around the world. They feature images of world-famous footballers, and forecasts on interesting matches. Reviews of previous matches are presented as well. All these articles are designed with illustrative photos. From time to time articles analyzing each soccer match from technical aspect applying updated sports tactics are published. So we can say – Myanmar soccer weeklies come out like their counterparts around the world.

These (Myanmar) publications had not reached the current status overnight. They also had experienced setbacks. When trying to look back on the track of current active weeklies, we can see many fascinating changes. Let me share my experience.

*

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, before 1940 there was a sports publication in Myanmar called Bala (Strength). Champion weightlifter U San Pin was owner-cum-publisher of this periodical. Then Myanmar people were more interested in individual sports like weightlifting and bodybuilding than soccer. Consequently the articles focus on these individual sports.

The word Bala also depicts these sports.

After the end of the WWII, around 1953, the Myanmar Olympic Council brought out a publication by the name Kaya Bala (Physical strength). This one also did not focus on football.

In those days, frankly speaking, dailies do not miss to report any single event of public concern. That is why we can assume soccer news stories were covered by privately-owned dailies just stating the name of playing teams and the results. Soccer tactics was less developed then; it did not form much of the content of sports periodicals, as it can be assumed.

In 1960 one Maung Ye Win, a living veteran sports writer of Myanmar still using the same pen name, introduced a sport weekly "Thet-lon" (Stamina). It is recognized as a typical sports periodical by present-day veteran sports writers. Just like today's soccer weeklies it came out once a week.

"Tagun" (Banner) sports weekly, Myanmar's oldest sports weeklies, came out on 2 June 1961. It has been strongly standing as a sport weekly over 40 years building a prestigious brand of sport publication. Myanmar sports fan around the country think of it as a must to know about sports.

In 1970s when many weeklies stopped publishing, one of them is Thet-lon of Maung Ye Win. However Tagun continued to come out as a specialized sports weekly and dominate the world of sports weeklies till around 1980.

Only in 1985 "Zwe Thart-tee" (Perseverance), a sports periodical, came out as a fortnightly publication. (The publisher of Zwe Thart-tee introduced Khun Arr (Strength), another sports periodical, at around 1987.) All these sports periodicals feature other varieties of sport apart from soccer. In those days swimming, racing, shot put, discus, volleyball and basketball also are popular. In swimming and racing Myanmar continue to keep international standard. So we can read about other sports in addition to soccer in those sports weeklies.

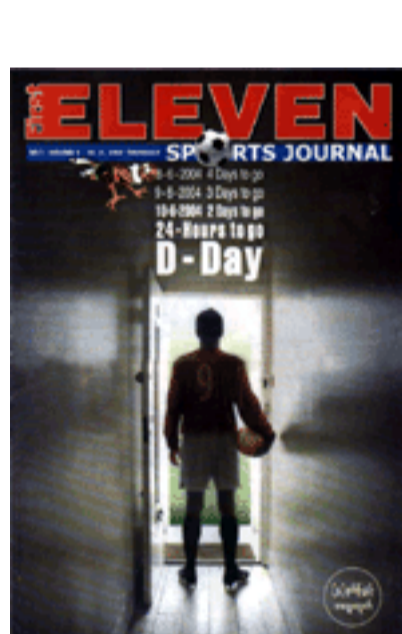
"In-arr" (Vigour) sports weekly, which focus on soccer, was launched on 7 June 1989. Myanmar sports fan then interested in domestic as well as international soccer events. Consequently In-arr could realize significant success. On the other hand, soccer events formed major part of Tagun's content. One can thought 1990s as a golden age of In-arr.

Around 1994 the Department of Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Health published Olympic sports weekly.

In February 1997 "Tet-lann" (Headway), a new fortnightly magazine, came out. In the first three months its content covered sports, international affairs, and literature & arts. Later it became a special soccer magazine.

Since late 1995 football has become a popular sport throughout the country. A poster of Myanmar's top striker Myo Hlaing Win came out and various parts of the country bought the poster to show their appreciation for the soccer star. Production of this poster is the brainchild of Chit Winn Maung, editor of Yanant-thit (Fresh smell) monthly magazine, who launched "Tet-lann" in 1997.

In-arr, Tet-lann and Olympic are special soccer weeklies with soccer match review, soccer news around the world and articles about soccer tactics, making themselves a milestone in history of sports weeklies. Dailies of neighbouring countries, Time and Newsweek are sources of sports news. The World Cup of 1998 made some Myanmar media men to become aware that the current sports weeklies could not fulfill the strong craving of local football fans. Consequently a turning point in the world of Myanmar soccer magazines arose before the start of Euro 2000 football matches. That was - launching of First ELEVEN sports weekly, which publish fresh soccer news selected from the Internet. (Mee-shoo-tine (Torch) soccer weekly had already been introduced earlier in the same year of 2000, though; the ground-breaking presentation style could be seen clearly in the First Eleven only.)



First Eleven sports weekly is well known for its cover designs

Cover design is one of the factors which make First Eleven attractive. Preceding soccer weeklies in Myanmar use pictures of footballers and other outstanding sportsperson for their cover designs though the designs look simple. The First Eleven covers depict recent soccer events with innovative design idea. The creator of the dynamic covers is Myint Maung Kyaw, an artist and graphic designer, whose alluring covers lead the readers to the contents. On the other hand the editorial team, who watch satellite TV news, while collecting facts and figures from the Internet, cover brilliantly. That is why the First Eleven could realize a unique success. Their success is not just in terms of circulation, they have established the brand as well as prestigious image of the weekly.

First Eleven's very fresh coverage of soccer events around the world makes soccer magazine publishing a prosperous business. Consequently more soccer weeklies came out in similar styles. The most prominent among the recently introduced weeklies is Sport Light, which also carries sport news from the Internet. Some news are fresher than that of First Eleven.

Concerning coverage First Eleven reports in classic Myanmar language while Sport Light applies modern Myanmar with colloquial expressions.

Sport Light, introduced on 6 December 2000, could establish itself as a leading sports weekly and became popular among local soccer fans. The World Cup took place in 2002 and Myanmar soccer weeklies released special edition almost daily.

These special editions on the World Cup 2002 proved that Myanmar soccer weekly editors are smart in fact-finding and fast in production.



Endeavour to introduce a new trend of sports weekly

Football weeklies which came out later were not significant in layout as well as in content. However when Euro 2004 matches began two new soccer weeklies came out almost the same time. Both of them are trying to be innovative, and different from those current soccer weeklies.

The Sun weekly is printed in proper paper carrying large size photos of sportsman and sports events, and also publishes complimentary colour photos. Writers name was not mentioned in the entire weekly, suggesting The Sun editorial team write the full content.






Endeavour to introduce a new trend of sports weekly

Olympic weekly covers soccer news and features shortly after completion of the events, using colourful designs, and try to include colourful advertisements. In order to become entertaining they extend the contents by introducing Game Page, Funny Fotos etc. The most significant thing is presentation about social life, habits & hobbies of soccer stars, preparation to produce a live broadcast of a football match etc in colourful pages. That is the fact which attracts those who became fed up with footballers' news, football tactics and commentaries on soccer matches, to read the Sun and Olympic, which are smart and entertaining.

In 2004 there are some points which suggest thinking if Myanmar soccer weeklies are facing a new turning point. However Myanmar soccer weeklies are competing against each other carrying colourful design and lively news. This is a real scene of the present.

[Back...](#)

Trans: Lutha Kyaw

[Home](#)
[Issues](#) 
[Language \(ဘာသာ\)](#) 
[Contact](#) 
[About Us](#)
[Downloads](#)


ADDA Systems
 Software Development
That we are able is your advantage


Shwe Dream
 .com


MYANMARBIBLE.NET

Potpourri of Current News

Hotel industry becomes more active



Ngapali Beach Hotel

Local big business groups have switched to get involved in hotel industry since the end of rainy season in 2003.

International standard hotels and resorts owned by Myanmar citizens are emerging especially at Bagan, Innlay Lake, Ngapali beach and Ngwe Saung beach. Some of them are newly built, while others are renovated.



Tharabar Gate Hotel

At Bagan, Bagan Hotel within the ancient city area and Tharabar Gate Hotel are aggressively placing advertisements.

Ngapali Beach Hotel at Ngapali, Sunny Paradise Hotel and Treasure Resort at Ngwe Saung are making arrangements to meet international standard. At Innlay Lake Shwe-kyun-myaw Hotel, Hupin Hotel and Innlay Princess Hotel are rising to fame.

According a source, a giant hotel of foreign investment under construction is going to be completed in 2005-06.

[The development of Myanmar hotel industry will be covered in the coming issue of the Myanmar Chronicle.]

33rd Anniversary Lokanat Galleries' Member Show

Member Show of Lokanat Galleries is on display starting from 5 August to 31 December. Lokanat was founded in 1971, since then many outstanding exhibitions have been held at this gallery.

Member shows with various styled creations have been held for some five months, annually.

What's going on with shows at cinema? Director Maung Myo Min's four films will be shown in a row

Cinemas in Yangon and Mandalay have been significantly renovated including projectors and audio system. Accordingly number of audience rose and gave impetus to production of Myanmar films. During the second-half of 2004, four films directed by Maung Myo Min were shown in Yangon in a row. It is a remarkable point for current film industry.

The first film Hmaw-win-kyoe (Magic string) features (actors) Lu Min and Yarzar Nay win and (actress) Eindra Kyaw Zin. (Actors) Yan Aung, Lwin Moe and (actresses) Tun Eindar Bo and Nandar Hlaing were featured in his second film titled "Think before realizing relations with a brother-in-law." "Be careful when I'm smiling" is the title of the third film with (actors) Kyaw Ye Aung, Dway and (actress) Khaing Hnin Way. In his fourth film "Change" (actors) Lwin Moe, Min Maw Kun and (actress) Soe Myat Thuzar and Soe Myat Nandar were featured.

Since the end of 2003 producers have been reluctant to make film due to less number of audiences at cinemas.

Consequently producers are unwilling to have their films shown at cinemas, resulting in showing of Director Maung Myo Min's four films over a period of two-month. All of them earned reasonable income.

Flood of Ayerawaddy River as featured by media

Ayerawaddy, the most popular river of Myanmar, was in flood making a record over the last 30 years.

The flood of Ayerawaddy was covered in late July and early August issues of Myanmar periodicals. Myanmar Times weekly published a photo showing movement of family household goods at Min-te-ee-kin Ward in Mandalay because of Ayerawaddy river inundation. Kumudra and Myanmar news weekly carried a photo of local populace of Mandalay watching Ayerawaddy River reaching the top of dyke. 7 Day News weekly mentioned a wide scene of Ayerawaddy River and Sagaing Bridge and reported that a ship cannot pass under the bridge because of unusually high water level. A photo showing the historic U Bein Bridge at Amarapura flooded was published in Popular weekly.

Then weather forecasts of Myanma TV broadcast the situation of water level referring to danger level, in feet or centimeters, daily.

A vast numbers of Buddhist visit Shwedagon Pagoda to share merits

Yangon's has become heavily populated. New satellite towns are populous as well. Recreational sites have been created by authorities in order to offer more choice to the city inhabitants to spend their special holidays, for instance, a large-scale renovation of Kandawgyi Lake, and building of villages of national indigenous people for the visitors to share the life of ethnic people.

Families make leisurely visits to those places. Alternatively Buddhists visit famous pagodas in Yangon to show their devotion on special religious days which are anniversaries of the significant events in the life of Buddha. A huge throng of Buddhists gather at all prominent pagodas of Yangon.

Among these pagodas the Shwedagon Pagoda is visited by the highest number of devoted Buddhists. Even flower sellers, along the stairways approaching the pagoda on the top of a hillock, have no flowers left in the late afternoons of those special days. This situation suggests to facilitate the visits of the devotees on these special religious days.

Growing number of consumers in Yangon just want to buy at department stores and supermarkets

Asia Light and Super One were introduced as air-conditioned supermarket and department store respectively. This kind of sales in air-conditioned rooms has become a large-scale business in Yangon.

When department stores: Super One, Pearl Condominium, Junction 8, Dagon Centre, Blazon, Gamone Pwint, Yuzana Centre, Yuzana Plaza etc emerged in Yangon, Sein Gayhar store and City Mart chain of supermarkets also appeared. In the new future Sein Gayhar is going to open a new chain store at Pyi Road near Ministry of Foreign Affairs office. Another business group, who introduced Giordano products to Myanmar market, is planning to launch a new four-storied department store at Mahabandoola Street in Chinatown of Yangon, according to some sources.

Consumers like shopping at department stores and supermarkets. This is a fact leading to growth of department stores and supermarkets. When asked those consumers responded "A wide variety of goods are available at a supermarket. Due to fixed price we don't have to pay unreasonable prices. Offering a basket to collect goods bought, display of merchandise on open shelves, arrangement for the consumers to choose easily and sales in air-conditioned rooms are really attractive." (Sometimes there are long queues at cash desks, which is tolerable for them, they added.)

[Back...](#)

Trans: Lutha Kyaw