Preliminary results of census to be published in August with near complete coverage

By Ye Myint

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi briefed the media on the 2014 Population and Housing Census Enumeration at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office in Yangon on Wednesday, stating Myanmar “ensured a successful outcome” with a census coverage rate of 99 percent and a response rate of 98 percent.

He announced that the final population information with the nearly-completed data will be released in May next year following the release of preliminary findings in August that will include the exact number of males and females and households in townships.

Regarding the census delays in some areas in the country, the Union minister said that four options suggested by International Technical Advisory Board and local and UNFPA experts will be taken into consideration in the counting process for “self-identified people as Rohingya in three districts in Rakhine State” during the period of the eight-week technical delay.

If none of the four options is working for them, the completion of the census-taking process might be announced and will state why the process could not continue.

The first option is to continue the process and to state which areas were left out and why, while the second option would be the re-release of an estimated number of the population using “other sources.”

The third option is to continue the process after further coordination in order to avoid unnecessary delays, and the last one is to carry out surveys covering 10 to 20 percent of the total areas left out instead of covering the whole area.

There are 1.33 million Bengali in the country, with 1.05 million living in Rakhine State, officials said.

A Swiss diplomat who was present at the press briefing told The New Light of Myanmar that the Myanmar census was meeting international standards and was satisfactory, and that one of the four options the Union minister said would be the best way for Rakhine State in the counting process.

Responding to questions during a Q and A session, the Union minister reaffirmed that only those who are eligible for citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law will be granted Myanmar citizenship despite outside proposals to give citizenship status to the “so-called Rohingya,” adding that the term Rohingya has never existed in Myanmar’s ethnic history.

Myanmar began conducting its first census after 30 years on 30 March, 2014. About 90,000 census-takers and 25,000 census-auditors covered around 81,000 areas across the country during the 12-day population survey.—NLM

Massive foreign investment creates over 90,000 jobs for Myanmar workers

Myanmar has become the most interesting market among the neighbouring-countries due to the influx of foreign direct investments since it has been on the right track towards democratic transition.

Myanmar Investment Commission claimed, “So far, foreign investors have made over USD 36,161 million in various sectors across the country.”

MIC shows amount of foreign investment of the existing enterprises—USD 13,630 million in oil and natural gas sector, USD 13,254 million in electricity sector, USD 2,785 million in manufacturing sector, USD 2,337 million in mining, USD 1,549 million in hotel and tourism, USD 1,277 million in transport and communication, USD 715 million in real estate, USD 179 million in industrial estate, USD 174 million in agriculture, USD 166 million in livestock and fisheries and USD 40 million in other services countrywide.

Among the 26 investing countries, China with its USD 14,159 million tops the table, followed by Hong Kong with USD 6,407 million and Singapore with USD 4,185 million.

“Job opportunities could be created for over 90,000 workers in the country during the 2013-2014 FY, thanks to large foreign investment,” said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

The MIC gives top priority to labour intensive manufacturing and high-tech industries in the foreign investment sectors.——Aung Kyaw Kyaw

New tax rates come into force in 2014-15 FY

By Myint Win Thein

The new income tax and commercial tax law has come in force in the new financial year, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

Under the new law, people who earn from K 2 million to K 5 million a year will have to pay 5 percent income tax while those earning from K 5 million to K 10 million are required to pay 10 percent income tax. People who earn between K 10 million and K 20 million are to pay 20 percent and those who earn more than K 30 million and above will need to pay 25 percent income tax.

In the new law, tax reductions are offered for married couples and those who have children.

Commercial tax is collected starting from K 15 million and tax exemptions are offered for sixty items of goods. Those who fail to pay taxes will be fined under section 21 of the commercial tax law.

A total of K 3,582 billion was collected during 2013-14 FY, according to the Internal Revenue Department.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Gangaw, 7 May**—U Sarako, the single cyclist in all corners of the nation, arrived in Gangaw of Magway Region on 4 May and left for Htilin on Tuesday.

While in Gangaw, he met members of social organizations and recounted his experiences of travelling and gave talks on prevention of HIV/AIDS.

He started his trip on 1 December 2013 from Yangon by bicycle. He has visited Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Regions, Rakhine, Shan and Chin States.

He made 3946 miles of trips during the period of five months and five days.

“Social organizations help me on my trips,” he said. U Sarako, son of U Kanet Aung-Daw Than Myint of Mandalay, lives on 19th Street between 89th and 90th streets.

He is 35 years old and joins health and social affairs.

**Solo cyclist arrives in Gangaw**

**Region minister meets onion growers in Myingyan Tsp**

MYINGYAN, 7 May—Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan held a talk with onion growers at the Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kanhsint Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Sunday.

The region minister discussed sales of onion and measurements. The onion growers reported on difficulties in cultivation and sales.

It was attended by the head of Mandalay Region Trade Promotion Department and officials, local farmers from Kanhsint, Balon and Nathtar villages.—[Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)]

**Plan to settle new school in Meiktila**

MEIKTILA, 7 May—A coordination meeting on move of No 1 Basic Education Middle School to another place was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Meiktila on Monday.

The school is now located in the precinct of Mandalay Region government arranged to move the school to the place of No 14 Basic Education Primary School in Aungzeya Ward. However, the No 14 BEPS is not accessible for school children due to traffic jams and level crossing. Therefore, local authorities reported to build a new school near the old school.—[NLM-018]

**Dhamma School foundation produces trainers**

MYINGYAN, 7 May—The trainers course of Dhamma School kicked off at Kokko Tawya Pariyatti monastery in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Monday.

The chairman Sayadaw of Dhamma School Foundation explained the purpose of opening the course and it was aimed at ensuring durability of lineage, religion and language.

A total of 10 male trainees and 50 female trainees are attending the course that will last six days.

On completion, the Dhamma school centres will be opened in eight places in urban and 12 in rural areas.—[Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)]

**Artsits visit Agricultural Mechanization Training School in Meiktila**

MEIKTILA, 7 May—A delegation comprising song composers, musicians and artists led by U Tin Oo Lay, Chairman of Myanmar Music Association (Central) visited agricultural farms in Paleik, Singaing, Kume and Shwedaung and Meiktila Agricultural Mechanization Training School on Tuesday.

Principal of the training school U Ko Ko Naing and officials conducted them round the training school.

Director-General U Soe Hlaing of Agricultural Mechanization Department explained use of modern tractors in transforming mechanized farming.

They also viewed cultivation of crops and thriving paddy plantations at the farms.—[NLM-018]

**Tractors, power-tillers used in ploughing for cultivation**

WUNDWIN, 7 May—Local farmers are using not only power-tillers but farming cattle in preparations for cultivation of monsoon crops in Wundwin Township.

Skilled workers of Agricultural Mechanization Department ploughed the farmlands in villages.

“This year is expected to be good condition of early monsoon. Farming cattle is very expensive as each farming cattle can be sold at K600,000-K1 million per ox. Power-tillers are convenient for farmers in ploughing the farmlands and they can use it on time for cultivation,” said a tractor driver of the department.

Power-tiller can be hired for ploughing K4500 per hour and one acres of farmlands can be ploughed during 2.5 hours.

Win Nwe San (IPRD)

**Ships to suspend trips in Yangon River**

YANGON, 7 May—Some ships that ran along Yangon River will suspend their trips from the early May to October.

They will suspend the trip during the rainy season and resume the runs in early October, according to the entrepreneurs of cruiseliners.

Some cruiseliners will run their trips in Yangon River depending on amount of travelers.

Thant Zin Win
Myanmar, Austria discuss bilateral cooperation in energy sector

President U Thein Sein greeted Ms. Doris BURES, Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria, on Wednesday at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, to discuss bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

At the meeting, both sides discussed further strengthening relations, Austria’s technical assistance for hydropower generation and foreign direct investment in Myanmar. The talks came just ahead of the 61st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Austria.

Over 6,000 acres of farmland returned to former owners

The vice president was making a speech at the ceremony to return confiscated land to former landowner peasants in Toungoo District on 7 May morning.

“Farmland was confiscated by previous governments for various reasons including expansion of regiments, construction of infrastructure, implementation of government projects and land allotment for private companies,” said the vice president who is also the chairman of Land Utilization Management Central Committee.

At the ceremony, 6486.61 acres of land were returned to 1,179 former landowner peasants.

“We had to face hardships when our land was confiscated. Now we are going to get our land back. We are happy,” said one of the peasants who were given their land back.

Mongolian Foreign Affairs delegation visits Myanmar to discuss cooperation

A delegation led by Mr. Chuluun Bayarsumeerkh, Director-General of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia arrived in Myanmar on 4th May to attend a consultation meeting on the cooperation between the two ministries, and the delegation left Myanmar on Wednesday after a round of productive talks.

The delegation called on U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw and also met with U San Lwin, Director-General of the Political Affairs Department to discuss promotion of bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interests.

Vice-President on tour of northern Shan State

On his tour of Lashio, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Maok Kham and his wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon visited People’s Hospital and met with patients on 7 May, officials said.

At the hall of Myanmar Medical Association, the vice-president met with doctors, nurses, officials from NGOs and townswomen. In his meeting with them, Dr Sai Maok Kham said arrangements are under way to provide the hospital with necessary equipment and health staff with the help of the Ministry of Health and wellwishers. He also called for harmonious cooperation between the employees.

Vice-President Dr Sai Maok Kham presents cash assistance to cleft lip and palate children

Vice-President Dr Sai Maok Kham presented K 137,638,879.30 to children suffering from cleft lip and palate. He also presented a new ambulance to the township of Momeik.

National Parliament set to resume on 28 May

Speaker of the National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint announced the resumption of the National Parliament for 10 a.m.

MMCWA holds 24th annual general meeting

At the meeting, region/state members of the association presented financial reports and their activities to the patrons of the association.
Malaysia most likely to be chosen as terrorism contact place

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 May — Terrorist state survey in 2013 Promulgated by State Department indicates that, Malaysia is where terrorists in the region mostly choose for activity transit and meetings, according to Malaysian media Oriental Daily.

The report states that inside of the fact that Malaysia is not normally regarded as Terrorist Safe Havens, Malaysia is only an ocean away from Philippines and Indonesia.

And near the coastal zone of Sulu/Sulawesi sea, the terrorism is with concerted efforts. Oriental Daily reports that, the survey affirms the efforts Malaysian government has made in terms of counter-terrorism, including actively promoting Security Forces. Malaysian government has made in terms of counter-terrorism activities are extremely active.

Moreover, Malaysian proper authorities have been working closely with International counter-terrorism organizations and enhance cooperation and combat terrorism with concerted efforts.

Pakistan seeks more security to its mission in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 7 May — Pakistan has demanded more security to its mission and diplomats in India in the wake of threat letters, local media reported on Wednesday.

The matter has been taken up by officials of Pakistan High Commission in the national capital with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday, The Times of India’s newspaper reported.

Quoting an Indian government source as saying, the newspaper said that security agencies were been sensitized about the threat mails, one of which was forwarded by the Pakistan High Commission.

“We provide maximum possible security to all missions and same is the case with Pakistan,” the source said.

The Pakistan High Commission is located in one of the Indian capital’s most posh and highly secured locations, and already gets adequate security, the source said.

Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan

BANGKOK, 7 May — Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan is to be Thailand’s prime minister in place of Yingluck Shinawatra, who was forced to step down by the Constitutional Court on Wednesday along with several ministers after being found guilty of violating the constitution.

“The cabinet has decided that Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan will carry out duties in place of Prime Minister Yingluck,” Justice Minister Pongthep Thepkamjana told a news conference.

Thailand has had an acting government since Yingluck dissolved the lower house of parliament in December in a failed attempt to defuse anti-government protests. That election was disrupted and then annulled. A new election is planned for 20 July.—Reuters

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Gandhi dynasty battles to hold seat in family bastion Amethi

AMETHI, (India), 7 May — At a shabby government health centre in the rural bastion of the ruling Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, mothers cradling sick babies sidestep dogs sleeping in unlit corridors. There is no power, there are no nurses on duty and only two doctors — one suffering from a crippling neurological disease trying to treat 60 to 70 patients a day in sweltering heat.

Few places in India illustrate more clearly how loyalists’ support for the ruling Congress party, and the Gandhi family that leads it, has been tested than Amethi, its traditional stronghold around 300 miles southeast of New Delhi. Many people in a constituency that has elected the Gandhis to parliament since 1980 feel they have been left behind and voters are getting angry, threatening family scion Rahul’s bid to retain the seat when locals cast their vote on Wednesday.

“We are with the Congress party, we have always been from the time of our forefathers,” said Arun Sharma, a local barber. “But we are not happy. Rahul just comes and waves from his car, and goes away.” Congress leaders disagree, and counter that to a large extent, Rahul’s hands are tied. Uttar Pradesh, a state of 200 million people where Amethi is located, is run by a regional party that, while loosely allied to Congress, has ruled mainly in the interests of its low-caste supporters. The state plays a critical role in building roads and providing power, and lobbying efforts by the Gandhis to secure better amenities for Amethi have often proved ineffectual.

“These health centres and schools — these are the responsibilities of the state government,” said Rita Bahuguna Joshi, former head of the state unit of Congress and now running on a party ticket from Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh.

“It is the non-cooperation of successive governments that has been the problem. Rahul makes every effort, but they don’t implement them. They want to show him in a poor light.”—Reuters

China hasn’t met Turkish missile defence tender conditions

ANKARA, 7 May — A Chinese firm has not yet met all of the conditions of a Turkish tender to build a missile defence system that it provisionally won in a $3.4 billion (2 billion pounds) deal and Turkey may consider alternative offers, officials said on condition of anonymity.

A Russian bid for the advanced weapons project has been revised, but its price remained far higher than other offers, the Turkish officials also told Reuters late on Tuesday.

Awarding the tender to Russia may do little to ally concerns voiced by Turkey’s NATO allies when Ankara said in September it had chosen China’s FD-2000 missile defence system over rival offers from Franco-Italian Eurosam and US-listed Raytheon Co. It said then that China had offered the most competitive terms and would allow co-production in Turkey.—Reuters
New Light of Myanmar Thursday, 8 May, 2014

WORLD

Japan, NATO agree to work closer, sign partnership programme

BRUSSELS, 7 May — Japan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization agreed on Tuesday in Brussels to work more closely and extensively in areas such as maritime security and cyber defense and humanitarian operations.

After the talks at the NATO headquarters, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and NATO Secretary General Anders Rasmussen signed a roadmap, called the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme, detailing areas of focus for bilateral cooperation.

At a joint Press conference following their meeting, Abe said, “With security in Asia and Europe closely interrelated, we have shared the recognition that cooperation is important for Japan and NATO, which uphold common basic values such as rule of law.”

In reference to Ukraine, Rasmussen said, “Today we are facing the gravest crisis to European security since the end of the Cold War.” He added, “In this time of crisis, our dialogue with like-minded partners like Japan is key to address global security challenges.”

During their meeting, Abe touched on Japan-China relations and was quoted as saying that Japan “always keeps its doors for dialogue open” for China. A Japanese official said Abe referred to a recent meeting in Beijing of Japanese law-makers with top Chinese officials.

Rasmussen noted the importance of dialogue in his talks with Abe, the official told reporters.

The two leaders also shared concern about North Korea’s nuclear and missile development programmes, the official said.

Johannesburg, 7 May — South African voters in the first “Born Free” election on Wednesday, although polls suggest the allure of the ruling African National Congress as the conqueror of apartheid will prevail even among those with no memory of white-minority rule.

Polling stations opened at 0500 GMT, with voters waiting in line, many wrapped up against the early morning chill of the southern hemisphere winter. They close at 1900 GMT and a firm idea of the outcome should be available by midday on 8 May.

Opinion polls suggest there is no doubt about the overall result, with ANC support estimated at around 65 percent, only a shade lower than the 65.9 percent it won in the 2009 election that brought President Jacob Zuma to power.

The resilience of ANC support has surprised analysts who a year ago were saying it could struggle at the polls as its glorious past recedes into history and voters focus instead on the sluggish economic growth and sly of scandals that have typified Zuma’s first term.

South Africa’s most sophisticated economy has struggled to recover from a 2009 recession — its first since the 1994 demise of apartheid — and the ANC’s efforts to stimulate growth and tackle 25 percent unemployment have been hampered by powerful unions.

South Africa’s top anti-graft agency accused Zuma this year of “benefiting unduly” from a $23 million state-funded security upgrade to his private home at Nkandla in rural KwaZulu-Natal province that included a swimming pool and chicken run.

But at a news conference this week to conclude the ANC election campaign, the 72-year-old brushed aside suggestions the imbroglio was damaging the party. “I’m not worried about it. I think the people who are worried about it is guys, the media, and the opposition.”

Besides being easy fodder for the cartoonists who have revelled in the freedom of speech enshrined in the post-apartheid constitution, Nkandla has exposed the gulf between current ANC leaders, in particular Nelson Mandela, South Africa’s first black president, who died in December 2013.

Thursday, 8 May, 2014
**WORLD**

**Britain to review punishment system for bankers who break rules**

*London, 7 May* — Britain is to review whether punishments for bankers who break the rules are tough enough to deter others from doing wrong in the financial markets, where there are currently allegations of possible rigging of currency rates.

MPs have criticised British financial regulators for being softer than their counterparts in the United States in terms of the size of fines imposed on offenders. They have also been criticised for failing to bring individuals and not just their employers to book.

"For enforcement action to be effective, wrongdoers must believe that they face a real and tangible risk of being held to account and must expect to face meaningful and proportionate sanctions," the finance ministry said in a statement on Tuesday announcing the review.

"The general public must also have confidence that wrongdoers will be subject to sanctions and that the enforcement machinery will be robust enough to deliver those sanctions when wrongdoing occurs," the statement said.

After the financial crisis, British financial regulation was revamped to create two new watchdogs, the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) at the Bank of England, and the stand-alone Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The FCA has fined banks for manipulating the London Interbank Offered Rate or Libor, a widely-used benchmark. It is investigating potentially similar rule-breaking in foreign exchange markets. The government’s review will look at how the two watchdogs decide on enforcement action and will report to Britain’s Finance Minister George Osborne by the autumn. It will also look at what goes on in other countries.

The two watchdogs were formally launched in April 2013 and the government said it was a good time to see if they are effective in enforcement work.

The review will look at whether stronger incentives are needed to encourage early settlement of cases, and if the current system provides a credible interference to rule breakers.

A public call for evidence was published on Monday with a July 4 deadline, and round tables will be held with interested parties next month.

**US proposes immigration rules to help high-skilled workers**

*Washington, 7 May* — Newly proposed rules for highly skilled immigrants to the United States, including a provision to allow their spouses to work, are aimed at making it easier to keep those talented science, technology and engineering workers in the country, officials said on Tuesday.

"These individuals are American families in waiting," Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said. "Many of today’s immigrants are the best in their fields. The administration is committed to making it easier to keep them here so that they can continue to make a profound impact on our economy and our way of life."

"Many tire of waiting for a green card," she said. "If the passenger helmet law is passed in 2014 and enforced in the beginning of 2015, helmet use rates among passengers are estimated to increase from 7 percent to 55 percent in 2015 and by 5 percent each following year, reaching 80 percent by 2020," the study results showed. "As a result, roughly 561 fatalities will be prevented, 10,572 head injuries avoided, and 98.6 million US dollars saved from 2015 to 2020."

Pagni Kim, AIP’s director to Cambodia, said this analysis demonstrated how the new law was urgently needed in Cambodia.

"We encourage stakeholders, partners, and the media to utilize this evidence in their advocacy efforts for the government to approve and enforce the draft law to reach the target of 80 percent passenger helmet use by 2020," he said during the launching of the study results.

**Passenger helmet law could save Cambodia 100 mln USD in 5 years**

Pnom Penh, 7 May — Cambodia could save nearly 100 million dollars in the next five years if a passenger helmet law is adopted this year, according to a new study released on Wednesday.

The study on the cost and life-savings of the passage of the passenger helmet law was conducted by the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation (AIP) with an aim to persuade the Cambodian government to immediately enact and enforce a draft traffic law mandating passenger helmet use.

"If the passenger helmet law is passed in 2014 and enforced in the beginning of 2015, helmet use rates among passengers are estimated to increase from 7 percent to 55 percent in 2015 and by 5 percent each following year, reaching 80 percent by 2020," the study results showed. "As a result, roughly 561 fatalities will be prevented, 10,572 head injuries avoided, and 98.6 million US dollars saved from 2015 to 2020."

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Tech stumble hits Europe, Asia shares, dollar weakens

Disney beats forecasts as ‘Frozen’ fuels earnings

US backslides in maternal deaths, bucking global trend

Fiat Chrysler bets on Jeep, Alfa revamp to go global

By Reuters

The front grill of a 2014 Chrysler Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk is seen on display outside Chrysler World Headquarters during the FCA Investors Day in Auburn Hills, Michigan on 6 May, 2014.— REUTERS

Friday, 7 May — European and Asian shares retreated and the dollar fell against the safe-haven yen on Wednesday as an overnight drop in US tech stocks and the deepening Ukraine crisis hurt global market sentiment.

Twittor (TWTTR.N) shares tumbled 17.8 percent to $31.85 after the publication of a six-month lock-up period that had restricted the sale of about 82 percent of the firm’s outstanding stock.

Ukraine is experiencing its deadliest week since a separatist uprising began in its mainly Russian-speaking eastern region, leaving less room for price efforts.

European shares .FTEU3 fell 0.35 percent and European tech stocks .SXSP also fell 0.35 percent towards three-month lows, heading for their first five-day losing streak in seven month.

France’s No 2 listed bank Societe Generale (SOGN.PA) booked a $2.5 billion euro ($731 million) writedown on the value of its Russian unit Rosbank, blaming heightened uncertainty and a decline in the Russian rouble. Its shares fell 2 percent.

A man looks at an electronic board displaying Japan’s Nikkei average (top C) and various countries’ stock indices, as passers-by walk past outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 16 April, 2014.— REUTERS

Danish brewer Carlsberg (CARLB.CO), one of Europe’s blue-chips with the highest exposure to Russia, fell 2.2 percent as it partly blamed currency volatility in Russia for a fall in its first-quarter operating profit.

The dollar, which has lost about 0.5 percent against the yen so far this week, weakened to 101.40 yen, its lowest since 14 April. In Asia, MSC’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ00USPS fell 0.7 percent on Wednesday after touching its lowest point since 2 April.

The Nasdaq Composite .IXIC index fell 1.4 percent to a one-week low on Tuesday. The S&P 500 .SPX fell 0.9 percent but remains within striking distance of a record high hit a month ago.

Easy monetary policy in the developed world is causing market imbalances, analysts said.

“It looks like we’re mirroring the past cycles - addressing over-debtedness problems with more debt, printing money and pushing up asset prices,” said Iain Stewart, investment manager at Newton Investment Management.

“Almost certainty we will see bubbles.”

The US currency lost ground against the euro as well as the yen. The common currency was boosted on Tuesday by upbeat PMI readings in Spain and Italy. The euro was at $1.3925 on Wednesday, hovering within distance of an eight-week high of $1.3952 hit on Tuesday.

The US dollar index .DXY, which measures the greenback against six major currencies, stood at 79.13 after falling on Tuesday to 79.06, its lowest in more than six months.

Focus for the dollar was on US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen’s congressional testi mony later in Wednesday’s session.

Yellen is widely expected to maintain a dovish policy stance, doing little to arrest the recent fall of the dollar, which has shown a limited response to positive economic data.

BY Reuters

American women are more likely to die in childbirth than they were two decades ago, making the United States one of the few countries where the risks from childbirth have risen in this generation, World Health Organization data showed on Tuesday.

The WHO tracks maternal mortality as one of the “Millennium Development Goals” that the United Nations hopes will be fulfilled by 2015. Death rates have fallen by 45 percent globally since 1990, to an estimated 289,000 women in 2013.

Giving birth in the United States remains far safer than in most countries, with only 28 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013. But childbirth deaths have risen in the past five years — two more than a decade ago, according to the data, published jointly by the WHO, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund and the World Bank.

In 1990, 23 countries had at least 1,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. By 2013, only Sierra Leone remained above that threshold, but it had still managed to more than halve its death rate over the period.

BY Reuters

Marleen Temmerman, the director of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health at WHO, said more analysis was needed.

“It’s difficult to say how many deaths are really related to increasing age, but what we know is older age in pregnant women is contributing more to the risk for diabetes and more preterm birth, related problems,” she told a news conference. WHO death-rate experts Colin Mathers said improved data collection could also affect the figures.

“There’s also a situation in the US where there are a considerable proportion of the population without health insurance. That may also be affecting things,” he said.

Globally, most maternal deaths are caused by severe bleeding, high blood pressure, infections and obstructed labour. More than one in four is caused by malaria, HIV/AIDS, obesity or diabetes. Abortion complications account for 8 percent of deaths.

Although the world will miss the UN target of a 75 percent decline from 1990, many countries have made big improvements, according to the data, published jointly by the WHO, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund and the World Bank.

In 1990, 23 countries had at least 1,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. By 2013, only Sierra Leone remained above that threshold, but it had still managed to more than halve its death rate over the period.

US company Walt Disney (DIS.N) on Tuesday reported higher profit that beat Wall Street expectations for the quarter ended in March, boosted by the continued strength of its blockbuster animated film “Frozen.”

The company said it posted adjusted earnings of $1.11 a share, beating the 96 cent average forecast of analysts.

Net income for the quarter increased to $1.9 billion from $1.5 billion a year earlier, lifted by growth at its movie studio.

The animated blockbuster “Frozen,” about two royal sisters in an icy kingdom, dominated its publishing and interactive businesses, Chief Executive Bob Iger said on a conference call.

“The passion for this film and these characters is so extraordinary, so well beyond what we’ve ever imagined, that it would be hard to believe that it wouldn’t sustain itself over a fairly long period of time,” Iger said.

The film had worldwide ticket sales of $1.2 billion, including $400.3 million during its five-month run in the US and Canadian theaters.

“The real surprise was the studio,” Wunderlich Securities analyst Matthew Harrigan noted.

“This had been expected operating income of around $300 million for the unit. They have importantly managed to revitalize Disney Animation as a full peer to Pixar.”

BY Reuters

“Today is much more than a new chapter. We are writing an entire new book,” Marchionne said in his opening remarks.

Amid sometimes skeptical questioning about the goal of boosting sales by 60 percent and increasing net profit five-fold by 2018, Marchionne shifted between quoting philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche and quoting financial ratios at the company’s US regional headquarters.

Besides an aggressive, belt-tightening push into Asia, Marchionne promised to increase North American sales by half as Chrysler broadens its lineup and the embattled Dodge brand digs in.

The carmaker kept its options open to finance the plan, but ruled out a share issue or divestments. One of the options was a mandatory convertible bond, but no decision has been made.

Fiat Chrysler said it would invest billions of dollars to build new models and ramp up output, predicting sales would surge to almost 7 million vehicles by 2018 from 4.4 million last year - a target some analysts thought highly ambitious.

Disney went on to list key points to achieve the plan:

Continued strength of its film and consumer products; continued growth of the consumer products segment; continued strength of the Disney Interactive segment; and continued strength of the ESPN, ABC and Disney Channels businesses.

Marchionne also said the company’s historic carmaker and the proceeds from the sale of its luxury brand玛莎拉蒂 and the continued strength of its consumer products segment.

US and European operations, including its Russian unit Rosbank, would also contribute to the company’s growth.

The company said it expected to maintain a dovish monetary policy in the developed world is causing market imbalances, analysts said.

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“Almost certainty we will see bubbles.”

The US currency lost ground against the euro as well as the yen. The common currency was boosted on Tuesday by upbeat PMI readings in Spain and Italy. The euro was at $1.3925 on Wednesday, hovering within distance of an eight-week high of $1.3952 hit on Tuesday.

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Focus for the dollar was on US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen’s congressional testi mony later in Wednesday’s session.

Yellen is widely expected to maintain a dovish policy stance, doing little to arrest the recent fall of the dollar, which has shown a limited response to positive economic data.

Disney went on to list key points to achieve the plan:

Continued strength of its film and consumer products; continued growth of the consumer products segment; continued strength of the ESPN, ABC and Disney Channels businesses.

Marchionne also said the company’s historic carmaker and the proceeds from the sale of its luxury brand玛莎拉蒂 and the continued strength of its consumer products segment.

US and European operations, including its Russian unit Rosbank, would also contribute to the company’s growth.

The company said it expected to maintain a dovish monetary policy in the developed world is causing market imbalances, analysts said.

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Change, the name of the game

By Kyaw Thura

The painful days of the education system in Myanmar are expected to come to an end as the catchy phrase education reform has become household words since the country started life as a democracy three years ago.

Since then, people from different social strata, different religious backgrounds and different age groups have come to express their long-awaited thirst for change in the approach to the educational system, which most teachers believe no longer fit the country is now on.

Nevertheless, current changes, though small in number, in the political, social and economic settings are found to be encouraging given the length of time in which the newly installed democratic government has shouldered its responsibilities.

There is no rich country in the international community that lacks educated human resources. What’s more, a wealth of natural resources is nothing special to boast about. How to make best use of them for all-round development of the country is of great importance. In this respect, human resources are vital in managing natural resources.

It is safe to assume that access to education is a human right as well as a basis for lifelong learning. It is through education that individuals, families and communities can improve their quality of life. In addition, education can help fight poverty and crime, minimize infant mortality, and curb population growth.

In today’s rapidly-changing world, where economic, social and political participation has gone global, acquisition of basic education as well as the advancement and employment of this skill throughout life is crucial. All in all, lack of human resources is dangerous. If all are into education, the curse of illiteracy will become a thing of the past. Otherwise, education for all will remain but a remote dream.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

The Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that the First, the Second, and the Fourth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders were held at the Mahapasana (Great) Cave on Siresingalaka Aye Hillock, Yangon, from January 20 to 21, 2014 and the Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders at Siresingalaka Aye Hillock, Yangon from May 12 to 13, 2014. All necessary arrangements were made for convening the Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders.

All Buddhists know the very first Sangha Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders had already been sent to the authorities concerned for preparations.

The Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was held at the Mahapasana (Great) Cave on Siresingalaka Aye Hillock, Yangon from May 12 to 13, 2014. All necessary arrangements were made for convening the Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders where the Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was held.

The Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was successfully held with the support of all Buddhists and the Government. The First, the Second, the Third and the Fourth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders were successfully held with the support of all Buddhists and the Government.

Thus, the First, the Second, the Third and the Fourth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders were successfully held with the support of all Buddhists and the Government. The Fifth Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was successfully held with the support of all Buddhists and the Government.

Write for us

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Myanmar migrant workers affairs discussed in Thailand

The deputy minister said that he was there to give a helping hand to the Myanmar workers for solving their labour problems effectively.

The activists of labour affairs explained labour affairs between Myanmar workers and Thai authorities and issues of MoU labour problems.

The deputy minister will hold a meeting in Maha Chiang of Thailand on Myanmar migrant workers at a workshop that produce seafood, passports issues, and labour affairs.

BANGKOK, 7 May—Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security and Director-General U Myo Aung of the ministry met employ-ment agencies and activists of labour affairs at the hall of Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok of Thailand on Tuesday, according to the Myanmar Association in Thailand.

Preventive measures taken against landslides, erosion in Ayeyawady River

Moreover, efforts were made for development of water way in the river.

The region government has allotted fund on construction of the retaining walls to prevent bank erosion.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)  

Buddhist culture course given to students in Magway

MAGWAY, 7 May—The Buddhist culture course 23/2014 kicked off at the town hall in Magway on Monday. Trainers will give lectures to the students from 5 to 9 May. Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe urged the trainers to turn out the students to understand culture and Buddhism and to become polite ones.

Over 1000 students of basic education schools are attending the course.—Khin Than Oo (Phankhamwary)

Citizen leadership and capacity development training conducted

PYINUNA, 7 May—A talk on citizen leadership and capacity development training, jointly organized by Youth Social Force and Pioneer Citizen Group, was held at Aungdagon monastery near the traffic light of Bawgathiri highway bus terminal in Pyinunana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.

Chief of Police Staff Police Brig-Gen Win Win Khaing of Myanmar Police Force (writer Htet Khaung) gave talks on human trafficking and victims, tactics of human traffickers and others.

“The talk was better for the youth in widening their scope of knowledge to become outstanding youths in leadership in the future,” said journalist Ye Ye (Pyinmana). The training course last from 1 to 4 May at the monastery.—Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

Daily newspapers distributed to 50 villages of Singaing Tsp

SINGAING, 7 May—Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan on Tuesday made a trip and inspected prevention of landslides along Ayeyawady River.

The Region government spent K 1400 million on prevention of landslides in Htoothe Village, Htgon-Thanawady village, Hinthama village, Thaphandaunt village, Nyangbintha village, Rekkhadipa village, Hsimbintha village, Thaphandaunt village, Htigon-Thayawady village, Lintgiy North village from December 2013 to April 2014.

Moreover, efforts were made for development of water way in the river.

The region government has allotted fund on construction of the retaining walls to prevent bank erosion.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)  

Sagayaing Region loses over K190 million in fire in decade

KALAY, 7 May—A total of 106 times of fire broke out on average in Sagaing Region every year from 2004 to 2013, losing K196.82 million for property, said Police Lt-Col Thein Win, Commander of Kalay District Police Force, at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.

On Monday, he stressed the need to take preventive measures of fire in the district. Sagaing Region formed 37 township fire stations, 37 region fire stations and five district fire stations.

In 2013-14 fiscal year, the region facilitated 25 fire trucks and one 5000-gallon water tanker for its fire stations. Kalay Township has built a five-unit fire station and Kyunhla Township, a four-apartment staff quarte—Linlet Kyel Sin

Gambling declines in Kayin State

HPA-AN, 7 May—In the time of the present government, gambling is declining in Kayin State thanks to concerted efforts of local authorities and departmental personnel.

Gambling pulled down the life of the local people in the past and their livelihoods went down to the bottom line, said Daw Lone Pu of Ward in Hpa-an.

Now, local people mostly discard malpractice of their life, said a local people.

Tun Tin Htwe (Hpa-an)
New York, 7 May — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — five major nuclear weapon states — on Tuesday signed the protocol to the treaty to establish a nuclear free zone in Central Asia at a ceremony held at the United Nations.

“Today, we are witnessing a historical event,” said Kazakhstan’s UN Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, who spoke on behalf of the five central Asian countries. “Here, in this room, we have signed the protocol that is an integral part of the treaty providing to the Central Asian states security assurances against the use, or the threat of use, of nuclear weapons.”

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have long lobbied for the establishment of such a zone in their region.

In 1997, a conference to establish such a zone was held in Tashkent and a signing ceremony of the treaty and its adoption took place in Semipalatinsk, where a major Soviet nuclear site was closed in 1991. When the treaty entered into force in March 2009, it became the world’s first nuclear free zone located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere.

Abdrakhmanov also pointed out that the signing of the protocol has become “one of the most significant events of the global non-proliferation regime in the last decade.”

Calling the move by the five permanent Security Council members a “significant” step, Thomas Countryman, the US Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation, explained the significance of the five jointly signing it.

“That we are signing together signifies our collective support of the NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) and our readiness to offer assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against states in the legally binding framework of protocols to nuclear free zone treaties,” he said.

The signing occurred on the sidelines of the two-week preparatory meeting for the 2015 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty review conference.
Manny Medina, founder of eMerge Americas, addresses attendees during the opening session of the first eMerge Americas conference at the Miami Beach Convention Centre in Miami, Florida on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Miami, 7 May—Silicon Valley need have no fear, but look out for the latest upstart to enter the tech arena: Miami.

A south Florida millionaire investor is seeking to turn the city into a science and technology startup hub with a focus on the Americas, leveraging the region's better-known assets—beach condos, low taxes and capital flight from all over Latin America—to attract a new generation of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

More than 5,000 people have been lured to a pitch this week by Manny Medina, attending a five-day technology conference he founded titled eMerge Americas. More than 150 speakers discussing everything from serial entrepreneurship in Latin America to groundbreaking medical technologies, organizers said.

Medina, who left Cuba in 1965, sold Miami-based Info-tech company Terremark to Verizon in 2011 for $1.4 billion. He hopes the conference will boost the profile of the city's nascent startup scene and position it as a place for Latin American entrepreneurs looking to get a foothold in the United States.

“If you’re a Latin American company and you go to Boston or New York, there’s a prejudice,” said Medina, who now heads his own private equity firm, Medina Capital. “In Miami you feel more at home, you have your same culture.”

A long way from rivaling California’s high-tech corridor, the “Silicon Beach” concept, as some have dubbed it, faces big challenges. “We continue to have the problem that our best and brightest leave and don’t come back,” said Jerry Haar, associate dean at Florida International University’s business school, noting the brain drain caused by a lack of local opportunities for technology graduates.

Despite the enthusiasm, experts say Miami still lacks essential tech ingredients, such as top-tier universities, Fortune 500 technology companies, and a robust group of investors, all of which helped propel California into the spotlight for startups over the past two decades.

“We’re moving in the right direction, but we shouldn’t flatter ourselves into thinking we’re there,” Haar said. Some signs suggest things are already changing. Microsoft last week announced it would open its first US innovation center in Miami in partnership with a startup incubator, Venture Hive. The company has more than 100 similar centers around the world that offer everything from mentorship to new companies to public classes for coding and computer science. “The work that’s relevant in Miami can have an impact around the world, and Miami is really a launching point for Latin America,” said Sanket Akerkar, vice president for developer experience and evangelism for Microsoft.

The city is hoping to tie its future to an ongoing technology boom in Latin America, where throngs of new Internet users are coming online via smartphones.

There are 600 million people (in Latin America) all coming online in the next three to five years,” said Arturo Galvan, chief executive officer of Mexico City-based mobile commerce company Naranya. Microsoft’s center opens alongside other prominent startup programs including Endeavor, a global non-profit that each year selects a handful of companies to mentor and fund.—Reuters

LinkedIn to let companies target members by language, location

Helping members weed out information that may not be relevant is important to LinkedIn since it needs its members to keep visiting the site, even when they are not actively looking for jobs. Almost 60 percent of LinkedIn’s 300 million members are located outside of the United States and the site is available in 22 different languages including Polish, Korean, Thai and Russian. About 3.5 million companies representing 140 industries use LinkedIn as a communication platform.

Companies can maintain a page for free though LinkedIn sells specialized services, including sponsored updates.

Thacker said most companies use the pages to highlight new products, promote new initiatives, and as a career page meant for perspective employees.

The platform is expanding into an array of engagement services including marketing solutions and mobile advertising and has been trying to replicate its success in the US internationally.

Earlier this year, it launched a Chinese language test version of its main website.—Reuters

NASA’s Curiosity drills sandstone rock on Mars

WASHINGTON, 7 May— US space agency NASA said on Tuesday its Curiosity rover has completed its third drilling into a Martian rock and is now preparing to use its internal instruments to study the collected powdered sample.

Images sent back by Curiosity early on Tuesday showed a fresh hole next to a shallow test hole the rover made a week ago in the target sandstone rock, dubbed “Windjana.”

The new hole is 0.63 inch (about 1.6 centimeters) in diameter and about 2.6 inches (about 6.6 cm) deep, NASA said.

“The drill failings from this rock are darker-toned and less red than we saw at the two previous drill sites,” Jun Bell of Arizona State University, deputy principal investigator for Curiosity’s Mast Camera (Mastcam), said in a NASA statement. “This suggests that the detailed chemical and mineral analysis that will be coming from Curiosity’s other instruments could reveal different materials than we’ve seen before.”

The mission’s two previous rock-drilling sites, at mudstone targets in the Yellowknife Bay area, yielded evidence last year of an ancient lakebed environment favourable for microbial life billions of years ago.

The rover is currently at a location called “The Kimberley,” about four kilometers southwest of Yellowknife Bay, and along the route toward the mission’s long-term destination on lower slopes of Mount Sharp.

NASA said sample material collected from Windjana will be sieved, then delivered in coming days to onboard laboratories for determining the mineral and chemical composition.

Tesco to launch own-brand smartphone this year

A store sign is seen outside a Tesco supermarket in London on 15 April, 2014.—REUTERS

London, (Tesc0), 7 May — Britain’s biggest retailer, will launch its first own-brand smartphone by the end of the year, building on the success of the Hudl tablet it launched last year, it said on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the firm said the Tesco smartphone would run on Google’s Android software and would be pre-installed with Tesco services. Tesco has sold over 500,000 Hudl tablets and plans to launch a second version later this year.

Last month the firm’s chief executive Philip Clarke vowed to win back shoppers with millions of pounds of price cuts after posting a second year of falling profits.
Obama pledges to help Nigeria find kidnapped schoolgirls

WASHINGTON, 7 May—US President Barack Obama said on Tuesday that his administration will do its utmost to help Nigeria find more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by an extremist group in mid-April.

British FM slams abduction of schoolgirls in Nigeria

LONDON, 7 May—British Foreign Secretary William Hague on Tuesday condemned the kidnapping of schoolgirls in Nigeria, urging the Nigerian authorities to take actions to save the abducted girls.

About 200 girls from Chibok community in northeastern Nigeria’s Borno State were abducted in April. On Monday, militant group Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the abduction and threatened to sell the girls.

“Using girls as the spoils of war and the spoils of terrorism is disgusting and immoral,” Hague said in a statement, adding that everybody across the world “should not give any support for such a vile organization.”

He said Britain is offering assistance but the primary responsibility will rest with the Nigerian government, calling on the Nigerians to “do what is necessary to reunite these girls with their families.”

The foreign secretary said he will host a global summit in London in June to help countries including Nigeria “improve the way they tackle the consequences of sexual violence in conflict and make sure that those responsible are called to justice.”

“IT is another example of why we have set up the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative,” he noted, adding that Britain recently persuaded Nigeria to join that campaign.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, is grappling with security challenges arising from the insurgency of Boko Haram, a sect which seeks to enshrine the Islamic Sharia law in the constitution.

More teenage girls kidnapped in Nigeria

ABUJA, 7 May—More girls have been kidnapped in northeast Nigeria’s Borno State, a security source and residents said on Tuesday, some 24 hours after Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the mid-April abduction of more than 234 teenage schoolgirls in the same region.

At least eight girls were kidnapped after gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram fighters stormed Warabe Village in southern Gwoza local government area of the Borno province on Sunday night, said the security source. Residents said the gunmen also carted away foodstuff and livestock belonging to the villagers before fleeing into a nearby bush.

The attackers, numbering 20 or more, were armed with sophisticated rifles, according to residents of the Warabe Village, a serene community located about 160 km away from Maiduguri, capital of Borno State. The residents blamed Boko Haram for the attack, although there was no immediate claim by the group for the attack and abduction.

Swedish woman informed by mistake of her own death

STOCKHOLM, 7 May—Due to doctor’s mistake, a Swedish woman was informed by her insurance company telling her that she had been dead for over a week, local media reported on Tuesday.

“I was shocked. It was not nice at all. I understood nothing about it,” the woman named Suanne Hemphala from eastern Sweden was quoted as saying by a Swedish regional newspaper called Arbetabladet.

The insurance company said that they had received information of the woman’s death from the Swedish Tax Agency and the woman’s information had been removed from several national registries.

The mistake was made by a local doctor who had accidentally mixed up patients’ details when another Swede had died in an elderly home.

The story is nothing new for Swedish doctors, with two to three Swedes reportedly “dying” each year by mistake, said the Swedish online daily the Local.

Positions hold signs during a march in support of the girls kidnapped by members of Boko Haram in front of the Nigerian Embassy in Washington on 6 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta (R) awards 11-year-old boy, Madalin Geabelea (C), at Victoria Palace, the Government HQ, in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 6 May, 2014. A 2-year-old child fell in a very narrow 6 M depth well and was rescued by brave Madalin Geabelea who climbed into the well on 2 May, in the Tufeni, Olt County. Xinhua
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Kota Rakan VOY No (RKN 371)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV Kota Rakan VOY No (RKN 371)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: MS Advance Container Lines**

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Pacific Vigorous VOY NO (51)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV Pacific Vigorous VOY NO (51)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: MS Chun An Chartering Co Ltd**

Phone No: 2301186

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**Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R front) and his wife Cheng Hong (2nd R) arrive at the airport for a visit in Abuja, Nigeria, on 6 May, 2014. Xinhua**

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**Fire destroys 230 hectares of woodland in western Cuba**

HAVANA, 7 May — A forest fire raging in Cuba’s western Pinar del Rio province since Saturday has destroyed more than 230 hectares of woodland, state media reported on Tuesday. The fire, probably sparked by a poacher early Saturday in the area of San Juany Martinez, 170 km west of Havana, has been brought under control.

Cuba’s corps of forest rangers said several specialized groups of firefighters remain in the area to fully extinguish the fire and prevent its spread.

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**US warns of plot to attack churches in Ugandan capital**

KAMPALA, 7 May — The United States has received intelligence of a “specific terrorist threat” against churches and other places of worship in the Ugandan capital, its embassy there said.

A security message on the embassy’s website did not say who was planning the attack, but Somalia Islamist militants have previously threatened, and struck, Uganda and other east African countries that have sent troops into Somalia.

“The threat information indicates a group of attackers may be preparing to strike places of worship in Kampala, particularly churches, including some that may be frequented by expatriates, in May or June,” said the notice dated 6 May.

Regional economies have been on a heightened state of alert since militants killed at least 67 people, including children, when they rampaged through an upscale Kenyan shopping mall in September. Somalia’s al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group claimed responsibility.

Kenya has also suffered a string of gun and bomb attacks, most recently over the weekend in Nairobi and the port city of Mombasa. The government blamed them on al Shabaab and its sympathisers.

In 2010, al Shabaab bombers killed 77 people watching the World Cup soccer final in a bar and restaurant in Kampala. In March, the Ugandan authorities warned of a militant plot to strike petrol tankers and fuel depots.

Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Burundi as well as Djibouti and Sierra Leone have all sent troops into Somalia to crush al Shabaab. The group, bent on imposing its version of Islamic law across Somalia, has turned increasingly to al Qaeda-inspired suicide attacks as a military offensive. Weakens it as a conventional lighting force.

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**Job Advertisement.**

Wanted. Religious/Support worker monk needed for Thuwunna Thingi Buddhist Monastery in Beckton, London. Job involves Dhamma and administrative duties. For more details please contact mogoklon@gmail.com or visit www.mogokdhamma.co.uk

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV HONG YU VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV HONG YU VOY NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**Why Priyanka Chopra is both flattered and disturbed by planned biopic**

**Mumbai, 7 May** — Actress Priyanka Chopra says she does not mind if there is a biopic on her life, but wants it to be made at the right time.

Aseem Merchant, rumoured to be Priyanka’s friend during her modelling days, is reportedly planning to make a movie on her. Aseem, who was last seen in a small role in Wanted featuring Salman Khan, is turning producer with this biopic on Priyanka.

“It is mind-blowing to hear that I have become so big that people are making a film on my life. Jokes apart, I don’t think I have become so big that people are making a film on me,” Priyanka, 31, said last night at an event here.

“I really haven’t heard about if someone is doing it. There are a lot of things that I still need to achieve. Maybe when I turn 40, people can decide to make a film because I am sure I will achieve whatever I want to by that age,” she added.

There is buzz that the film will focus on Priyanka’s days as a model and also talk about her legal battle with her ex-manager Prakash Jaju. (Also read: “Priyanka Chopra Has Her Heart Broken In I Can’t Make You Love Me Video”)

Prakash had served over two months in jail on allegations of cheating the actress. Apparently, he targeted Priyanka over non-payment of dues and insisted that the actress owed him money.

On this, Priyanka says, “It would be extremely flattering for me if someone would make a biopic on my life, but this particular situation makes me very angry as I know what my family and I went through during that phase of our lives and what upsets me is that people want to glorify something which was a painful part in my life. I think it’s extremely disturbing.”

Priyanka is currently doing a biopic on ace Indian boxer Mary Kom. “I am doing a biopic on Mary Kom’s life and she has sat with me on every scene that I have shot and has told me her emotions that she felt during a particular situation,” the actress said.

**China Philharmonic Orchestra to debut at BBC Proms**

**Beijing, 7 May** — The China Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) will debut at the annual Henry Wood Promenade Concerts (BBC Proms) in July in London, the CPO told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The CPO will stage a concert on the evening of 19 July at the Royal Albert Hall in London, marking the second concert of the series.

The programme will include the “Pomp and Circumstance Marches” by British composer Edward Elgar, Liszt’s First Piano Concerto and the “Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture” by Tchaikovsky, among other works.

The concert will also feature a trumpet concerto written by Chinese composer Chen Qigang for the event. The concerto will be performed by Alison Balsom, one of the world’s finest trumpet players, and the CPO.

**ABC extends Jimmy Kimmel late-night show for two more years**

**New York, 7 May** — Jimmy Kimmel’s late night show “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” has been extended for two more years, ABC said on Tuesday, sealing the late-night line-ups across the main US networks for the next few years.

Kimmel, 46, has presided over the show for 11 seasons. He moved to an earlier, high-visibility 11:35 pm time slot in January 2013, where ratings increased despite head-to-head competition from veteran David Letterman on CBS and NBC’s “Tonight Show,” which Jimmy Leno left earlier this year.

Walt Disney Co-owned ABC confirmed Kimmel’s extension and will formally announce it later on Tuesday, an important endorsement of Kimmel’s late-night formula as competing networks swap out veterans for younger hosts.

Jimmy Fallon took over the “Tonight Show” from long-serving host Leno in February and has been well received, while Letterman is due to step down from CBS’ “Late Show” in 2015. He will be replaced by Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert.

**Christie’s NY has its best Impressionist, modern sale since 2010**

**New York, 7 May** — The spring art auctions got off to a solid start on Tuesday as Christie’s sold $286 million worth of Impressionist and modern art, its best New York result in the category in four years.

Like the Monet, Picasso’s “Portrait de femme (Dora Maar),” the evening’s second-highest priced work, fell short of expectations, fetching $22,565,000 including commission.

Christie’s had estimated both works to sell for $25 million to $35 million. Estimates do not include commission of just over 12 percent.

A noteworthy exception was Modigliani’s “Jeune homme roux assis,” which fetched $17,637,000 after determined bidding drove the portrait to half again the $8 million to $12 million estimate.

Christie’s officials said the price illustrated that attractive, or conservatively estimated, prices can often be expected to drive a bidding war.

**Gurlitt, reclusive German who hoarded Nazi-looted art, has died**

**Berlin, 7 May** — The elderly German recluse whose Munich apartment contained a secret art hoard, including masterpieces looted by the Nazis from their Jewish owners in World War Two, has died after a heart operation, his spokesman said on Tuesday.

Authorities stumbled upon Cornelius Gurlitt’s trove of paintings and drawings by the likes of Marc Chagall, Toulouse-Lautrec and Picasso in 2012 after a routine check on a train from Switzerland turned up wads of cash, triggering a tax inquiry.

His spokesman, Stephan Holzinger, said the 81-year-old Gurlitt had decided to return home, looked after by his doctor and a nurse after a complicated heart operation, and spend his final days in the Munich flat that once housed part of his beloved collection. Gurlitt’s collection of 1,280 artworks was assembled by his father Hildebrand, an art dealer put in charge of selling what Adolf Hitler called “degenerate” art, and ordered to be removed from state museums to help fund the Nazis’ war effort.

Now worth an estimated 1 billion euros ($1.4 billion), the hoard remained undisclosed for decades in the Munich flat and a house over the Austrian border in Salzburg.

Gurlitt sold pieces occasionally to finance his quiet lifestyle and his healthcare. “I haven’t loved anything more than my pictures in my life. But hopefully it will all be cleared up soon and I will finally get my pictures back,” he told German magazine Der Spiegel in a rare interview last November, when he was already very frail.
16 hurt in powerful blast in Philippine Army headquarters

MANILA, 7 May — An estimated 16 people including soldiers and firefighters were wounded after a powerful explosion rocked the Philippine Army’s Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) building on Wednesday morning, a military official said.

Colonel Noel Detoyato, spokesman of the Philippine Army, was quoted by local media as saying that some of the injured had already been rushed to various hospitals while those with minor injuries were treated on site.

Detoyato said the Philippine Red Cross have set up a tent in the Philippine Army’s headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City in the Philippine capital region of Metro Manila to help treat the wounded.

Prior to the powerful explosion, a fire broke out in the EOD building around 10:40 am local time on Wednesday. Authorities are still investigating the cause of the blast.

Military officials said the blast caused the building of the armory to collapse.

HK democracy campaigners pick three proposals for public voting

HONG KONG, 7 May — Campaigners of a civil movement threatening to occupy Hong Kong’s business district to force the government to embrace genuine democracy drew criticism on Wednesday for weeding out all but three political reform proposals for the public to vote on next month.

The three proposals, out of a total of 15, were chosen late Tuesday by about 2,500 people who have declared their intention to join the “Occupy Central” protest should the government fail to provide a democratic reform package for the 2017 leadership election.

Law professor and campaigner Benny Tai said in a radio program that all eligible voters can vote June 22 on which of the three proposals will be the ultimate pick.

“People who do not support our chosen proposals can abstain from voting,” he added.

But people who called in the phone-in programme criticized Tai’s group for allowing only their followers to vote, calling it an undemocratic form of pre-screening.

Barrettor and legislator Ronny Tong, whose own proposal were among the 12 discarded ones, said he had expected the outcome but was disappointed with the way of voting. “It is most shocking that when we are fighting for an election without pre-screening, the Occupy Central organizers are endorsing the exact pre-screening mode (to pick from the proposals),” Tong said, adding that the three proposals that endorse civil nomination have low chances of achieving consensus.

All three top pick proposals include the element of civil nomination, which Beijing has claimed unconstitutional as it considered it as weakening the power of the Nominating Committee or rendering it a rubber stamp.
Kagawa down over lost season, debuts in defensive midfield

MANCHESTER, 7 May — Japanese international Shinji Kagawa admitted after Manchester United’s final home game of the campaign on Tuesday that the 10th Waxing of Kason 1376 ME— Thursday, 8 May, 2014

Kagawa made his debut in defensive midfield in United’s 3-1 win over Hull City, an assignment he wasn’t expecting from interim manager Ryan Giggs. Kagawa played the entire 90 minutes but again failed to score, leaving him without a single goal in the season ahead of Sunday’s finale at Southampton.

If he doesn’t score this weekend, it will be the first time in his career in both Japan and Europe for Kagawa to finish a season without scoring.

“I was surprised myself,” Kagawa said. “I was trying to get involved in the attack as much as possible. If we were more efficient, we could have won by an even bigger margin.”

Kagawa will likely be named to Alberto Zaccheroni’s World Cup 23 on Monday, and sounded determined to put the disappointing year behind him in Brazil this summer.

“I had nothing to show for,” Kagawa said. “It’s been a very difficult, trying season for me. But my career goes on. It’s on me to get something out of this experience. I’ve got the World Cup, and it really is up to me to make the most of this situation.”

Japanese Kei Nishikori

PSG, Man City face squad caps, fines over FFP

LONDON, 7 May — Paris St Germain and Manchester City face fines of 60 million euros (49.2 million pounds) and limits on their Champions League squads for next season for breaching UEFA’s Financial Fair Play rules, a source close to the process told Reuters on Tuesday. UEFA said last week that nine unnamed clubs faced punishment under new rules designed to force teams to limit their financial losses and make football more economically stable.

Confirmation of the sanctions could come by the end of this week.

French sports daily L’Equipe reported on Tuesday that Qatar-owned PSG would be fined and have their Champions League squad capped at 21 players instead of 25 next season after a proposed settlement.

The club’s wage bill would also be capped and the fine spread over three years. A similar settlement is believed to have been offered to City but the English club is disputing the terms.

“PSG are close to agreement but it’s fair to say that City are haggling a lot harder,” the source said.

A club that fails to agree a settlement with UEFA will have their case referred to an adjudicatory panel which could decide to impose tougher sanctions. UEFA has the power to ban teams from European competition if their losses exceed its limits but the governing body is expected to shy away from imposing that ultimate punishment.

Nishikori cruises into 3rd round of Madrid Open

MADRID, 7 May — Kei Nishikori needed little more than an hour to roll into the third round of the Madrid Open with a straight sets victory over Guillermo Garcia-Lopez on Tuesday.

Tenth seed Nishikori knocked out the Spanish wild card 6-3, 6-1 in 1 hour, 4 minutes and will face Milos Raonic for a place in the quarterfinals.

Nishikori, who is coming off his fifth title on the ATP tour at the Barcelona Open, said: “I made some mistakes early on, but I found my rhythm and got back in the match. I managed to put a lot of pressure on him with my returns.”

Nishikori lost serve in the fifth game of the first set, but rattled off the next eight games to dominate. The Barcelona Open was his first win on clay.

Wawrinka ousted by young pretender Thiem in Madrid

Spanish Rafael Nadal knocked out 12th seed Dominic Thiem of Austria 6-4, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals of the Madrid Open on Tuesday, Republic...