Diplomats and international organizations briefed on Myanmar’s reform process

YANGON, 24 July—Myanmar has pledged to continue democratic reforms without fail and the government, the parliament and the judicial branch are determined to overcome the challenges of the reform process, Union Minister U Soe Thane told diplomats and officials from international organizations at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on Thursday.

The union minister said there have been some achievements in establishing good governance and a clean government, despite the challenges and difficulties. The union minister continued to say that there are many tasks to be carried out to reform the four sectors simultaneously, namely politics, socioeconomics, administration and private sectors.

Emphasis is placed on poverty reduction, rural development, rule of law, human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of expression and anti-corruption, he added.

At the same time, the government is taking measures to enable Myanmar to stand as a responsible and accountable country in the international community, and it is evident that certain development in the education and health sectors has been witnessed, according to the union minister.

The fact that Myanmar was recognized as one of the EITI members within a short time is proof that democratic reforms are being carried out, with Myanmar able to climb up 15 places on the list of the most corrupt countries within one year, he pointed out.

In conclusion, the union minister urged the attendees to understand the weaknesses in the reform process as Myanmar has to develop democratic practices and has to carry out reforms at the same time.

In other matters, Union Minister U Khin Yi talked about immigration tasks, arrangements for visas on arrival, departure forms, online visas, e-visas, a permanent residence system, citizenship registration, the census process, measures to ensure stability in Rakhine State and the reconciliation process between ethnic groups.

Union Minister U Soe Thane elaborates on the achievements and challenges regarding the reform process in Myanmar, with foreign experts briefed on the tasks ahead.—MNA

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Commerce Ministry and Myanmar Rice Industry Association to draft rice trading policy for the protection of exporters

YANGON, 24 July — The Ministry of Commerce is planning to draft a policy for rice trading with the aim of guiding rice exporters through safety procedures, according to the Trade Promotion Department of the Ministry.

The rice trading policy is aimed at guaranteeing profits for Myanmar exporters who have so far been making losses in rice trading due to lack of policy, an official of the department said.

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Myanmar Rice Industry Association to draft the rice trading policy, which will include rules for rice trading, he added.

Myanmar has the potential to more than double its rice exports by diversifying and increasing rice production, opening its rice milling sector to direct foreign investments, and reducing export procedure costs, and thereby helping many rural people to escape poverty, according to a new report by the World Bank and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) of Myanmar.

Rice farmers in Bago region can hope for improvement of their situation if the government follows the advice by the World Bank to provide more accurate market information on production, consumption, exports, and prices in order to allow a smooth functioning of the rice market and enable more informed policy decisions.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd

established to carry out rental and distribution of cranes

YANGON, 24 July—Singapore-based Tat Hong Holdings Ltd and Intraco Ltd joined hands with Myanmar businessman U Aung Moe Kyaw to establish Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd to carry out the business of rental and distribution of cranes in the country.

According to an official, there are more than 1,600 units of 50- to 100-ton crawlers and mobile cranes in Tat Hong, of which seven units of crawler cranes arrived in Yangon and they are ready to be rented out, distributed and sold to local customers, officials said. (See page 3)
Border Affairs ministry meets for development programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win, Union Minister for Border Affairs, on Wednesday held a meeting here for development of projects at border areas.

He said that rural development programmes are essential for the livelihoods of ethnic people, and that the projects must be accomplished in time to ensure national unity.

The minister added that the ministry needs to make plans for the 2015-2016 fiscal year for respective areas in advance.

U Htwe Hla, director general at Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, explained the implementations of projects and previewed the plans for the next fiscal year.

The union minister then urged to ensure a solid foundation for a new democracy to take root and a higher living standard for people in line with the Third Wave Reform plan and poverty alleviation programmes of the government.—MNA

Thailand and Myanmar to promote footwear industries and business in Myanmar

YANGON, 24 July—The Thailand-Myanmar Business Networking meeting was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday to promote economic cooperation and the footwear industry in particular.

“Myanmar and Thailand have been entering a more challenging time when collaboration especially in trade and investment are the essential forces for sustainable economic growth. We are looking forward to today’s event being fruitful in terms of further enhancing our bilateral cooperation on trade and investment,” according to a statement released at the meeting.

Thailand is a key trade partner of Myanmar, standing in second place in terms of in Foreign Direct Investment in 73 projects, and is a major shareholder in Myanmar Special Economic Zones, of which there are three—Thilawa, Dawei, Kyaukphyu.

According to statistics by the Thai Ministry of Commerce, trade value between Myanmar and Thailand for the period of 2010-2013 had been increasing continuously, from about US$ 4,886 billion in 2010 to US$ 7,821 billion in 2013. Thant Zin Win

Market opportunities for Myanmar’s agricultural products discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Dr. Kavita Prakash-Mari, Special Advisor to the World Economic Forum-WFF and party on Wednesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss investment in Myanmar’s agriculture sector and creating market opportunities for the country’s agricultural products.

Dr. Kavita Prakash-Mari said agriculture plays a crucial role improving the food security not only in Myanmar, but across the globe. He also discussed the development of ASEAN countries and their markets.

The Union minister also said that the government is carrying out agricultural development tasks to reduce poverty and is inviting both local and foreign investment to develop agribusiness and create a solid market.

He pledged that the ministry will fulfill the requirements of investors who can help to raise the living standards of local farmers.

Following the meeting, they took a tour of the organic fruits and vegetables showrooms, sugarcane and dairy farms in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

Rural development minister inspects demonstration farm

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Deputy Minister Dr Daw Lei Lei Thein and ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Baek-Soon exchange notes on providing an Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF.

The ceremony was attended by U Aung Min chairman of Myanmar Footwear Clusters, U Aye Lwin, Joint Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry UMFCCI and President of Thai Footwear Industrial Promotion, delegations of industries and footwear industries from Thailand, delegates from the Department of Foreign Trade DFT, Ministry of Commerce (Thailand), Minister-counselor commercial of the Thai embassy.

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Myanmar, ROK sign framework agreement on providing Economic Development Cooperation Fund

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Deputy Minister Dr Daw Lei Lei Thein and ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Baek-Soon exchange notes on providing an Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF.—MNA
Retirement age among top topics in Lower House debate

**Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July** — A clarification was sought at the Lower House on Thursday on the alleged change of the retirement age from 60 to 63, sources said. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, responded that the retirement age for government employees is the day when they turn 60, citing the Government Service Personnel Rules.

Regarding a question of who is responsible for supervising work projects undertaken by ministries supervising work projects of who is responsible for security and rule of law in all the border areas of the national territory.—MNA

Development of banking sector in Myanmar discussed

**Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July**—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann accepted a call with a delegation led by Mr. Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO of UOB Bank of Singapore, on Thursday at the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the country’s banking sector development.

Also present at the call were chairpersons and members of the Lower House Committees and Offices.—MNA

Commerce Ministry...

**Nay Pyi Taw** (from page 1) to Africa and China. Consequently, farmers have earned minimal profits and agribusinesses have skipped necessary investments. The situation is worsening as the global demand for low quality broken rice is shrinking.

Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment...

**Nay Pyi Taw** (from page 1) The company also welcomes customers who provide heavy equipment services with a full range of crawler, rough terrain, all terrain, hydraulic truck and tower cranes, with or without operators, an official said.

U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board.
Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint.
Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.—MNA

UN special rapporteur clarifies human rights awareness campaigns to Myanmar officials

**Nay Pyi Taw, 24 July**—Ms Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, called on U Tun Tun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union, at the Supreme Court here on Thursday, sources said.

Ms Lee also met Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, Dr Tun Shin, the Attorney General of the Union, U Htay Oo, Chairman of the Upper House Committee for Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights; U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the legislative, political and economic advisors to the President, U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, U Tin Aye, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, and U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

During the talks, the UN special rapporteur discussed with them matters related to cooperation with international organizations, campaigns to raise awareness on human rights, and human resources nurturing. —MNA

U Tun Tun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union, meets United Nations Special Rapporteur Ms Yanghee Lee at the Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
Two statues of independence struggle leaders need maintenance

Mawlamyinegyun Tsp grows saplings for second time

Immigration staff issue citizenship cards, household registration

Locals in Natmauk improve income by making brooms
India bids to reassert influence in Nepal with power pact

NEW DELHI/KATHMANDU, 24 July — India is set to offer Nepal a landmark pact to help develop its huge hydro-electric power potential as the South Asian giant takes another step to re-assert influence among smaller neighbours where China has been forging closer ties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who went to Bhutan last month on his first overseas trip since coming to power, will soon visit Nepal, which has recently been questioning its position in India’s sphere of influence.

Modi’s foreign minister, Sushma Swaraj, heads to Kathmandu on Friday to prepare the way for Modi’s August visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in 17 years. The deal to kick-start energy power projects stalled since the Himalayan nation drifted into civil war in 1996 will be squarely on the agenda of her talks.

But India’s push on energy has ruffled some feathers. Both Nepal’s opposition Maoists, who have long sought to check Indian influence, and members of the ruling Nepal Congress party say the Indians are trying to lock them into an unequal treaty designed to shut China to the benefit of Indian companies.

“The draft impinges on the sovereign right of Nepal to allow investors other than India in the development of hydropower and renewable energy,” said a former Nepali water resources minister, Lakshman Ghimire.

Modi came to power on a promise to make India an economic and military power and his invitation to all South Asian leaders to attend his inauguration was a signal of his regional aims.—Reuters

Contact lost with Air Algerie plane carrying 116 people from Burkina Faso

Manila, 24 July — Nearly 100 people were killed in the Philippines last week when Typhoon Rammasun roared through, raising doubts about efforts to end the heavy tolls from storms that are only expected to get more intense as the global climate changes.

But in Albay Province, which bore the brunt of the strongest storm in the new typhoon season, no one was killed, proving that deaths can be prevented provided there is the will to force people to do what is necessary to save their own lives. “Tools of leadership are lacking,” Joey Salceda, the three-term governor of Albay told Reuters when asked about the tally of casualties in other provinces.

About 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year, and recently they have been getting stronger. Meteorologists say that as ocean temperatures rise, storms will get more dangerous.

Late last year, Typhoon Haiyan became the strongest storm to hit land anywhere, killing more than 6,100 people, most along the east coast of central Philippine islands as it whipped up tsunami-like storm surges.

Since the shock of Haiyan, the central government and its agencies have been more active in their risk assessments and recommendations of pre-emptive measures. But Salceda says it is up to provincial governments, not the central government, to use their powers to force people to take steps to save themselves, and if that is to happen, provincial authorities have to get to grips with what has to be done. “Local executives need more training, they are still struggling to grasp what it really takes to make people act,” he said. “It’s a failure to communicate, failure to ensure household compliance.”

Salceda’s efforts clearly work, as the clean sheet on deaths attest, even as the storm destroyed 6.2 billion pesos ($143 million) worth of crops and property in his province.

He described the bemused reaction of citizens to his order to close schools while skies were clear, a day before a typhoon was due to strike. He uses relief supplies as a tool, offering residents who go to lying areas emergency rice packs but only if they moved into shelters.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction designated Albay a role model for disaster risk reduction in 2012, highlighting its massive communications campaign in preventing casualties.—Reuters
Kiev, 24 July — Kiev said two of its fighter jets were shot down over the rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday, and the missiles that brought them down might have been fired from Russia.

A spokesman for Ukraine’s military operations said the planes were shot down near Saur-Golova, not far from where a Malaysian airliner was brought down last week, killing all 298 passengers on board.

Ukraine’s Security Council said the military jets were hit at the altitude of 5,200 metres by missiles that, according to preliminary information, were launched from Russia.

“They were shot down very professionally. The terrorists do not have such professionals,” said Andriy Lyсенко, the council’s spokesman, referring to pro-Russian rebels fighting the government forces in eastern Ukraine.

The rebels said they shot down the plane themselves. In Washington, the Pentagon it was aware of news reports of two Ukrainian SU-25 “Frog”-foot ground attack aircraft being shot down, but it could not immediately confirm the incident independently. “We’re continuing to work with Ukrainians and through our own channels to determine the exact circumstances surrounding that incident,” Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

Fierce fighting raged on Wednesday near the rebels’ two main centres in Donetsk and nearby Luhansk, where they have been pushed back in recent days by Ukrainian government forces, who have regained control of villages and suburbs around the cities.

A train from Luhansk brought many people fleeing the violence to Kiev early on Wednesday afternoon.

“It’s impossible to live there right now. Fights are going on, apartment buildings are being destroyed, people are being killed,” said Galina Berezina, an elderly resident of Luhansk. “Why else do you think I’d flee my own home at my age?”

Kiev said the separatists were leaving their positions on the outskirts of Donetsk on Wednesday and retreating towards the city centre.

Residents said the rebels, who rose up in April to demand independence from Kiev in the mainly Russian-speaking east, had dug trenches in downtown Donetsk outside the main university, where they have been living in student dormitories.

In Donetsk, rebels abandoned their positions en masse and went towards the central part of the city, according to a statement from the headquarters of what Kiev calls its “anti-terrorism operation.”

“It cannot be ruled out that the appearance of such movements could suggest the spread of panic and attempts to leave the place of warfare.”

Residents said they had heard shelling during the night and a shell struck a chemical plant in the city, causing a fire.

Rebels said two journalists had been missing in Donetsk since late on Tuesday. The separatist military commander, Igor Strelkov, a Muscovite, issued an order banning media from operating in combat areas.

Local health officials said 432 people had been killed and 1,015 wounded since hostilities began in the Donetsk region. The uprising started when a Ukrainian president sympathetic to Moscow was forced out of office and Russia then annexed the Crimea region.

Both Kiev and the West accuse Russia of supporting the separatist rebellion, including by providing fighters, arms and financing. Moscow denies the charges.

Germany calls for quick decisions on further EU sanctions over Ukraine

BERLIN, 24 July — The German government on Wednesday expressed support for EU decisions to introduce further sanctions over Ukraine situation and called for quick decisions on this issue. In a government statement issued on Wednesday Deputy Government spokesman Georg Streiter said despite some progress, the German government did not see “full cooperation” of militants in eastern Ukraine in clarifying the Malaysian Airlines flight crash and ensuring international experts unhindered access to the crash site, as well as in recovering bodies and securing plane wreckage and retrieved belongings of the victims.

As a result, German Chancellor Angela Merkel supports decisions of the meeting of EU foreign ministers on Tuesday, which saw “a substantial package of sanctions” if Russia does not exert its influence at the required level, according to Streiter. The European Union (EU) said Tuesday it would introduce a new package of further sanctions over Ukraine situation on Thursday.

The EU called its executive branches to finalize preparatory work on possible targeted measures and to present proposals for taking action, including on access to capital markets, defense, dual use goods, and sensitive technologies, including in the energy sector. For the chancellor it is necessary to come to “quick decisions” and she supports preparations.

Also the European Council is ready for a special meeting on this issue if necessary,” he added.

Speaking of a council meeting over Ukraine crisis last week, the spokesman said the implementation process of its decisions, which saw an extension of sanctions to companies, would be accelerated.

Further decisions on restrictions of investment and trade with Crimea will be introduced before the end of July.

He stressed the Contact Group, which is comprised of representatives from the OSCE, Russia and Ukraine, were making efforts to make a direct meeting with separatist groups reality in order to reach a bilateral ceasefire in Ukraine.

S Korean President Park to meet Tokyo governor on Friday

SEOUL/TOKYO, 24 July — President Park Geun Hye will meet with Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe on Friday, a South Korean government official said Thursday, in a move that appears to reflect the South Korean policy of building ties with local Japanese authorities despite strained state-to-state ties.

The meeting will be Park’s first with a Japanese politician since a trilateral summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama in March in the Netherlands.

Although Korea-Japan relations remain strained, (we) hope good exchange and cooperation between local authorities of the two countries will continue so as to contribute to the promotion of friendship between the two peoples,” Park’s spokesman Min Kyung Wook told reporters, according to Yonhap News Agency.

During Friday’s meeting, arranged at the request of the Tokyo governor, Masuzoe is expected to convey Abe’s message that the Japanese leader hopes to improve bilateral ties with South Korea, a Tokyo metropolitan government source said.

“It’s not bad for us to have dialogue through various channels,” even as difficult challenges exist between Japan and South Korea, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference. —Kyodo News

Malaysian airliner’s voice recorder in good condition, says ICAO

OTTAWA, 24 July — The cockpit voice recorder of the Malaysian airliner downed over Ukraine is in good condition, the UN civil aviation body said on Wednesday, adding that it was holding talks with airlines and states on how to assess the danger posed by conflicts. Malaysian Airlines lines flight MH17 was shot down by a missile over eastern Ukraine last week, killing almost 300 people.

The plane crashed in territory held by Russian-backed separatists, raising fears the wreckage might be tampered with.

Officials from the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization are helping Ukrainian and Dutch authorities probe the crash. Most of the victims on the Amsterdam-Kuala Lumpur flight were Dutch.

“The cockpit voice recorder is in good condition ... the digital flight data recorder is still under review,” ICAO said in a statement.

The Dutch Safety Board, which is leading the international inquiry into the crash, said earlier in the day there was no evidence the voice recorder had been tampered with.

Britain said on Wednesday it had taken delivery of the two recorders, a day after a senior rebel leader in Ukraine handed them over to Malaysian experts. ICAO, which groups 191 countries, has no operational role and does not issue advisories about the dangers of armed conflict. —Reuters

A mother and her daughter reflect at the gate of the Korporaal van Oudheusden barracks, after bringing flowers to remember the victims killed in Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 plane disaster, in Hilversum on 23 July, 2014.—Reuters
US lifts ban on flights to Israel as Gaza toll tops 700

Jerusalem, 24 July — Israel won a partial reprieve from the economic pain of its Gaza war on Thursday with the lifting of a US ban on commercial flights to Tel Aviv, while continued fighting pushed the Palestinian death toll over 700. A truce remained elusive despite intense mediation efforts. Israel says it needs more time to eradicate rocket stocks and cross-border tunnels in the Gaza Strip and Hamas militants demand the blockade on the enclave be lifted.

An Egyptian official said on Wednesday that a more limited humanitarian ceasefire may go into effect by the weekend, in time for the festival, Islam’s biggest annual celebration that follows the fasting month of Ramadan. But the United States, whose Secretary of State John Kerry is spearheading the indirect negotiations, was more circumspect.

“Things would not be accurate to say that we expect a ceasefire by the weekend,” said a senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “We are continuing to work on it, but it is not set at this point.”

The death toll in Gaza rose above 700 on Thursday as Israeli tank fire besieged a wave of bombings in the Gaza Strip, mostly civilians, have been killed by rocket attacks from Gaza... — Reuters

Israel PM calls UNHRC decision on war crimes ‘travesty’

Jerusalem, 24 July — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that the United Nations Human Rights Council’s (UNHRC) decision to form an inquiry committee into possible Israeli war crimes in Gaza is a “travesty.”

“The (decision is) a travesty and should be rejected by decent people everywhere,” Netanyah said, according to a statement released from his office.

The prime minister said that the UNHRC should investigate Hamas’ actions, which he said was committing a double war crime, firing rockets at Israel and hiding behind Palestinian civilians. “By failing to condemn Hamas’ systematic atrocity of human shields and by blaming Israel for the deaths... the UNHRC is sending a message to Hamas and terror organizations everywhere that using civilians as human shields is an effective strategy,” Netanyah said.

The UN committee met in Geneva earlier on Wednesday and its chairwoman Navi Pillay said that Israel may have committed war crimes by killing civilians and shooting at houses and hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier on Wednesday, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) attacked targets at the Al-Wafa hospital compound, charging that Hamas militants fired at Israeli soldiers from the premises. The hospital’s director told the Haaretz daily that the hospital has been empty since last week.

More than 600 Palestinians have been killed in the past two weeks and more than 4,000 were wounded. Ten of whom were children. On the Israeli side, 32 soldiers have died since Israel’s ground incursion started on Thursday, one soldier is missing but presumed dead by the IDF, and three civilians were killed by rocket attacks from Gaza... — Reuters

Islamic State says carried out Baghdad suicide bombing

Baghdad, 24 July — Islamic State militants claimed responsibility on Wednesday for an overnight suicide bombing in a Shiite district of Baghdad which killed 33 people, one of the deadliest recent attacks in the Iraqi capital.

The hardline Sunni Islamist group which has led an offensive through northern and western Iraq said the attack in Kadhimiyah, site of a major Shiite shrine, was carried out by a fighter it named as Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Tunisi (Iraqi Tunisian).

Officials initially put the death toll from the bomb at 23, but hospital and monitional officials said on Wednesday morning it had risen to 33, with more than 50 wounded.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings in Baghdad, including several blasts on Saturday which killed 27 people.

Residents gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 19 July, 2014. — Reuters

Smokes rise during an Israeli ground offensive in the east of Gaza City on 23 July, 2014. — Reuters

Smoke rises during an Israeli ground offensive in the east of Gaza City on 23 July, 2014. — Reuters

A shooting and bombing attack on a bus in Iraq killed 51 prisoners, nine policemen and three civilians. — Reuters

A shooting and bombing attack on a bus in Iraq killed 51 prisoners and nine policemen on Thursday, Ministry of Justice and medical sources said. The bus was transporting prisoners from a military base in the town of Taji to Baghdad when it was hit by roadside bombs, the sources said.

Smoke rises during an Israeli ground offensive in the east of Gaza City on 23 July, 2014. — Reuters

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Effective Management

Kyi Mun

Effective Management is here analytically defined as follows:

M = MAKING THINGS HAPPEN by doing the
   RIGHT things which means EFFECTIVENESS;
   and GETTING THINGS DONE by doing
   the things RIGHT, which means EFFICIENCY.
   Doing the right things is Leadership:
   Strategic Direction Giving, and doing the
   things right is Management: Tactical Performance.

A = ACTION PLAN : Establishing Organizational
   Goal, Business Objective and Functional Targets.
   For example, Organizational Goal: To be
   the Undisputed Market Leader; Business Objective:
   To Deliver Best Value to Customer; and
   Functional Target: Market Penetration by staging
   a Sales Blitz in the unpenetrated areas in the
   existing market.

N = NETWORKING : Strategically establishing
   communications in the important market seg-
   ments, by organizing marketing campaigns deploy-
   ing mainly direct marketing activities, high-
   lighting the Brand Image. For example, Getting
   the Lists of existing customers and the potential
   Prospects; Making Offers that are very attractive
   in terms of competitiveness; Giving Creative
   messages such as Quality, Differentiation and Value.
   Establishing a Market-Position in the marketplace by positioning oneself as the
   Best Choice for Best Value.

A = ACCOUNTABILITY, Everybody in the organ-
   ization must have Commitment, Involvement,
   Participation and Contribution in the Perform-
   ance of the Organizational Movements-(Popu-
   lar CIP) as follows:
   • Commitment to Total Quality Manage-
     ment-TQM.
   • Involvement in the business activities of the
     company.
   • Participation in Fulfilling the Functional
     Targets of the Departments.
   • Contribution to the attainment of the Busi-
     ness Objective.

G = GOAL-DRIVEN : The whole organization from
   top to bottom along the entire length and breadth of
   the company must be driven by the planned
   GOAL. Every activity, every movement must be
   GOAL-FOCUSED, GOAL-CENTERED and
   GOAL-ORIENTED. The agreed GOAL must be
   constantly pursued as a life and death problem. If
   the goal is to be the market leader, the entire or-
   ganization must go all-out to become the Market
   Leader.

E = EXCELLENCE : It means to take utmost care
   to be excellent in :
   • Strategy
   • Cutting Edge
   • Distinctive Capabilities
   • Morale and
   • Resources
   These are the (5) Areas in which Excellence must
   flourish sustainably for Peak Performance. It is
   the most important aspect of organizational ef-
   fectiveness to have excellence in Technological
   Skills, Knowledge & Talent; in Conceptual
   Skills; Knowledge & Talent; and in Interpersonal
   Skills, Knowledge & Talent in order to be able to
   beat the competition.

M = MISSION-MINDED : The entire organization must be
   MISSION-MINDED. It means all the
   PEOPLE in the company must thoroughly under-
   stand and believe in the MISSION of the Compa-
   ny. It means the Main Purpose of the Business. It
   means THE REASON FOR BEING IN BUSI-
   NESS, or simply the Reason for its existence.
   First of all, the leadership must define its busi-
   ness: What Business Are We In ? For example,
   are we in Rail Road Business ? or In TRANS-
   PORTATION ? Are we in Petroleum Business ?
   or in ENERGY Business ? Are we in Cinema
   Business ? or in ENTERTAINMENT Business ?
   Are we in Hotel Business ? or in HOSPITALITY
   Business ? Are we in Newspaper Business ? or in
   INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION BUSINESS ?

E = ENABLING : One of the priority jobs of an
   Effective Management is TO ENABLE THE
   PEOPLE. The entire mass of the employees of
   the company must be ABLE & WILLING PEO-
   PLE. There can be Four Categories of
   Employees:
   • Able & Willing • Unable but Willing
   • Able but Unwilling • Unable & Unwilling
   The management must be RUTHLESS in
   STAMPING OUT the Elements of the UN-
   WILLING MINDSET. The H/R policy should
   be : “To Unite Together to
   Turn Heaven & Earth Upside Down!”. So,
   PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT must be high in
   the company’s policy. PEOPLE should be of
   very High Caliber in Quality and Capability. This is a
   Tall Order, but it is quite essential.

N = NEVER-SAY-DIE : Management, especially
   Effective Management must :
   “Be Strong Inside; Permit No Defeat and
   Fight All You Can”.
   Effective Management must :
   “Never Give Up, Never Give In;
   Stand Up to it; Fight It Through!”
   To be effective, Management should :
   “Be Strong and Of Good Courage; Be Not
   Afraid. Neither Be Thou Dismayed!”
   Effective Management should :
   “Be Resolute, Fear No Sacrifice and Surmount All Difficulties to
   Win Victory.”
   Effective Management should be: “Bold, Strong
   and Prudent”.
   It should be surrounded by a High-Caliber “Mas-
   ter-Mind”— People with Masterful Minds.

T = TALENT : Talent means:
   • T = tough-minded or single-minded, totally
     dedicated
   • A = Action-Oriented : Audacious Pursuit of
     the Organizational Goal
   • L = Learning-biased : Always Learning to
     Lead
   • E = Energetic : Earnest Endeavour
   • N = Networking-focused : Information &
     Communication Sharing
   • T = THINK-AND-WIN-ATTITUDE, Can-Do-Spirit

In short, Effective Management must have the will
and the determination as well as the capability to strategi-
cally achieve the following five international best prac-
tices:
   • Financial Viability
   • Operational Efficiency
   • Managerial Effectiveness
   • Customer and Employee Satisfaction
   • Competitive Advantage

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of
NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (24-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K674,400 per tical: Selling K675,200
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K674,200 per tical: Selling K675,000

FE RATE
USD Buying K971 - Selling K976
SGD Buying K779 - Selling K788
Euro Buying K1300 - Selling K1318
**Myanmar and international software companies to cooperate**

Yangon, 24 July—The MCC-SAP Day was organized by the MCC Group, which is the largest ICT group of companies in Myanmar, at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday.

SAP is one of three greatest software companies across the world in producing enterprise solutions to Microsoft, Oracle and other companies.

SAP North Consulting Group and MCC Group will give services of enterprise resource planning software to the ICT companies of Myanmar.

At the ceremony, Chairman of MCC Group U Tin Win Aung discussed transformation of Myanmar business, taking it into the 21st century. A penal discussion on the significance of strategy & systems governance in Myanmar’s development roadmap followed with participation of Managing Director Dr Sanda Tun of Shwe Taung Property Management Co., Ltd. CEO U Win Than of Ayeya Shewewah Group of Companies and Managing Director Mr Liher Urbizu Sierra of SAP Indochina.

Managing Director Mr Liher Urbizu Sierra of SAP Indochina and Chairman of MCC Group U Tin Win Aung then signed the agreement on the use of SAP Enterprise Resource Planning software at MCC Group.

Aung Thura

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**Entrepreneurs urged to renew work licences**

Mandalay, 24 July—The Sanitation Department of the Mandalay City Development Committee has informed their work licence at the department for the 2014-15 fiscal year, not later than 26 June 2014. However, there remain 2,279 entrepreneurs to renew their work licences.

MCDC informed that the entrepreneurs who fail to renew the licences until 26 September 2014 will be fined K30,000 for the first time, and second-time offenders who do not renew the licence by September will be fined K50,000 and works will be terminated. Action will be taken against entrepreneurs who do not abide by the law.

A combined team comprising officials of MCDC and Development Affairs Police Corps are checking entrepreneurs without work licences in the townships and action has been taken against 60 entrepreneurs from 1 to 22 July.

Thihia Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

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**Gifts, toys given to pre-primary children, national race girls**

Tachilek, 24 July—Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt and Chairperson Daw San San Win met pre-primary children, pregnant women and girls from ethnic groups in Tachilek of eastern Shan State on Tuesday.

They presented milk powder, breads and toys to 33 children at ShweUti pre-primary school in Yanaungmyay Ward of Tachilek and donated K100,000 to the fund of the school.

They also gave nutritious foods and medicines to 25 pregnant women at the delivery room of Township MCWA in Maoka hom Ward. At the administrative office of Wamkaung Ward, they gave talks on prevention against traffick- ing in persons to 30 ethnic girls and gifts and cash assistance to them.

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**Ambulance donated to social association in Budalin Township**

Budalin, 24 July—A ceremony to donate an ambulance to ThadaU social association was held at the rural health branch in Dan taing Village of Budalin Township in Sagaing Region on Wednesday.

Wellwisher U Tun Lwin and wife Daw Yi Yi Swe and family donated a Super Custom ambulance worth K5 million to the association with the aim of transporting patients to hospitals or clinics.

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**Ambulance donated to social association in Budalin Township**

Budalin, 24 July—Anyone from villages in Budalin Township may ask help from the association at any time, dialing 09-256674874.

Tun Ko Ko

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**Wakema Township to build village library**

Wakema, 24 July—The government allotted funds to the villages of Ayeyawady Region, including K2 million to the construction of a village library in Kyabyu Village of Wakema Township for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Kyi and officials visited the village to view the place for the library on Tuesday.

The place for the library was donated by village ad-

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**Myotha Industrial City construction project under implementation**

Myotha, 24 July—The region chief minister and his delegation inspected maintenance of road sections and construction of bridges along the Myotha-Chaungkh-wa-Umin-Dwehla-Kyauk-se Road.

Thihia Ko Ko
(Mandalay)
US condemns bomb attacks in Nigeria

WASHINGTON, 24 July — The United States on Wednesday condemned the twin bombings in Nigeria, which have killed 82 people.

The United States deplores the attack targeting Shagari Dahiru Usman Bauchi, one of the Nigeria’s most respected Muslim scholars, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement. Two bomb blasts rocked Nigeria’s northern state of Kaduna, killing 82 persons and security sources, eyewitness said on Wednesday. Shehu Umar, the state police commissioner, put the official death toll at 39. The United States is also concerned about reports that these blasts may have also targeted former head of state General Muhammadu Buhari, Harf said.

“We call on Nigerian authorities to fully investigate these attacks,” Harf said. The United States also urges all Nigerians to avoid reprisals and continue to practice the interfaith cooperation that violent extremists seek to undermine, the spokeswoman added.

Seleka to sign ceasefire, drops call for Central African Republic split

BRAZZAVILLE/DAKAR, 24 July — Central African Republic’s mainly Muslim Seleka rebels will sign a ceasefire with ‘anti-balaka’ Christian militia on Wednesday, having dropped their demands for the country to be split in two along religious lines, Seleka officials told Reuters.

Seleka’s call for the country to be officially partitioned into a Muslim north and a Christian south risked derailing talks in Congo Republic aimed at ending religious violence that has killed thousands of people and forced 1 million to flee their homes. “We will be signing the cessation of hostilities agreement this afternoon,” Colonel Youssouf Ben Moussa, a senior Seleka official, said by telephone from the Seleka-controlled north of Central African Republic.

“Our demand for the partition of the country has been dropped. That demand is obsolete now: what we have agreed to is the sharing of power,” Moussa added. Most Muslims have fled the south of the former French colony, creating a de-facto partition, but Seleka leaders had pushed for this to be formalized. Members of Seleka’s negotiating team in Congo Republic confirmed the information. They said they would provide further details after the signing of the deal in Brazzaville.

Suicide bombs in Nigeria’s Kaduna kill 82, ex-leader Buhari targeted

KADUNA, 24 July — At least 82 people were killed on Wednesday in two suicide bombings in the north Nigerian city of Kaduna, one aimed at opposition leader and ex-president Muhammadu Buhari and another at a moderate Muslim cleric about to lead a crowd in prayer.

The attacks bore the hallmarks of Islamist militant group Boko Haram, which considers all those who do not share its views to be enemies. But it may also have been linked to politics before the 2015 elections. In the deadliest attack, a bomber in a car full of explosives hurtled towards Buhari’s convoy at the crowded Kawo market, his son told Reuters on the scene and police said later. A Red Cross official said at least 50 people were killed there. Buhari was the main opposition party contender against President Goodluck Jonathan in the 2011 election and remains a key figure in the opposition alliance. He was riding in an armored-plated sport utility vehicle and was not wounded.

A crowd gathered at the scene of the explosion until the military dispersed them by firing shots in the air. Smoke rose from another vehicle destroyed in the blast. “When I came out of my car I saw many dead bodies littered around,” Buhari said in a statement, calling the attack “mass murder” and “clearly an assassination attempt.”

Earlier, a suicide bomber on foot, targeting a moderate cleric, killed at least 32 of his congregation on a busy commercial road.

Thousands were gathered for prayers with Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi in Murtala Mohammed square. When his convoy pulled up, the bomber lunged at him before being stopped by his private security, witnesses and police commission-er Shehu Umar Ambursa said.

Seleka fighters take a break as they sit on a pick-up truck in the town of Goya on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Rebel commander Alexander Khodakovsky of the so-called Vostok battalion — or eastern battalion — speaks during an interview in Donetsk, on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Khodakovsky accused the Kiev authorities for provoking what may have been the missile strike that destroyed the doomed airliner, saying Kiev had deliberately launched air strikes in the area, knowing the missiles were in place. “I knew that a BUK came from Luhansk. At the time I was told that a BUK from Luhansk was coming under the flag of the LNR,” he said, referring to the Luhansk People’s Republic, the main rebel group operating in Luhansk, one of two rebel provinces along with Donetsk, the province where the crash took place. — Reuters

Ukraine rebel commander acknowledges fighters had BUK missile

DONETSK, 24 July — A powerful Ukrainian rebel leader has confirmed that pro-Russian separatists had an anti-aircraft missile of the type Washington says was used to shoot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 and it could have originated in Russia.

In an interview with Reuters, Alexander Khodakovsky, commander of the Vostok Battalion, acknowledged for the first time since the airliner was brought down in eastern Ukraine on Thursday that the rebels did possess the BUK missile system and said it could have been sent back subsequently to remove proof of its presence. Before the Malaysian plane was shot down, rebels had boasted of obtaining the BUK missile, which can shoot down airliners at cruising height. But since the disaster the separatists’ main group, the self-proclaimed People’s Republic of Donetsk, has repeatedly denied ever having possessed such weapons.

Since the airliner crashed with the loss of all 298 on board, the most contentious issue has been who fired the missile that brought the jet down in an area where government forces are fighting pro-Russian rebels.

‘Mariam’ speaks during an interview in Donetsk, on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

A Sudanese Christian woman held in Khartoum after being condemned to death for apostasy, should be arriving in Italy on Thursday, an Italian govern-ment official said. Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, was on a plane ac-companied by Italy’s vice minister of foreign affairs, Lapo Pistelli, according to the official who asked not to be named.

“Mariam, the young Christian woman held in Khartoum after being condemned to death for apostasy, should be arriving in Italy on a government flight,” the official said in a text message, without specifying when the flight had left.

‘Mariam, the young Christian woman held in Khartoum after being condemned to death for apostasy, should be arriving in Italy on a government flight,” the official said in a text message, without specifying when the flight had left.—Reuters
LG Electronics beats second-quarter estimates as mobile division turns profit

SEOUL, 24 July — LG Electronics Inc reported on Thursday its strongest quarterly profit in more than three years, beating analyst estimates thanks to a pickup in television sales and a turnaround in its mobile phone business.

The world’s second-largest TV maker after local rival Samsung Electronics Co Ltd said profit at its TV arm improved in April-June from a year earlier, while its smartphone shipments rose 20 percent to a record 14.5 million handsets.

The global TV market is showing signs of life as demand from advanced markets picks up, with sales of larger-sized ultra high-definition (UHD) TVs widely seen as a potential boost. But LG and market analysts said a likely rise in marketing costs by TV makers may limit the extent of any earnings boost.

“The results were better than expected,” said HMC Investment analyst Greg Roh. “A key factor to watch is how well the G3 smartphone fares in the United States, but the outlook appears to be bright given the second-quarter numbers.”

For the April-June period, LG Electronics reported an operating profit of 606 billion won ($589.04 million), compared with a 224 billion won mean estimate of 39 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

That was LG’s best operating profit since at least 2011. The company restated its earnings last year due to accounting changes and did not have new figures available for 2010 or earlier, said a company spokesman.

Shares of LG Electronics were trading up 4.6 percent as the wider market traded flat, extending gains following the company’s earnings disclosure.

LG’s TV division reported operating profit of 154.5 billion won, up from 93.7 billion won a year earlier on an improved product mix and lower fixed costs.

The mobile phone division turned an operating profit of 85.9 billion won, from a 61.2 billion won profit a year prior. The company said sales of smartphones featuring Long-Term Evolution (LTE) communication technology rose sharply due to new products including the G3 high-end smartphone.

The G3 smartphone launched in late May to generally positive reviews, boosting hopes for a turnaround for the handset division as the product began selling in major markets such as the United States and Europe earlier in July.—Reuters

US scientists to map interior of Mount St Helens volcano

SEATTLE, 24 July — A series of explosions set off by a team of scientists were expected to rattle Washington state’s Mount St Helens on Wednesday as researchers map the interior of the volcano, whose 1980 eruption was the deadliest in US history.

Mount St Helens, about 95 miles (150 km) south of Seattle and 50 miles (80 km) north of Portland, erupted in an explosion of hot ash in May 1980, spewing debris over a wide area, killing 57 people and causing more than a billion dollars in damage.

Scientists from across the United States are trying to get a better handle on the magma stores and internal workings of the 8,300-foot (2,530-meter) volcano to improve warning systems prior to eruption.

“Mount St Helens and other volcanoes in the Cascade Range threaten urban centers from Vancouver to Portland,” lead scientist Alan Levander of Rice University in Houston said in a statement.—Reuters

Facebook beats Wall Street targets, stock hits record high

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 July — Facebook Inc’s fast-growing mobile advertising business helped drive a 61 percent increase in revenue during the second quarter, beating Wall Street’s financial targets and sending shares to a record-high in after-hours trading on Wednesday.

The world’s No 1 Internet social network said on Wednesday that it saw increased interest from both advertisers and from users during the second quarter, while the company’s profit margins expanded. Facebook now counts 1.5 million advertising customers and the company’s ad business saw strong growth across all of its geographic regions, Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.—Reuters

NASA puts out call for satellite communication services — on Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 July — In what may be the ultimate in long-distance telephone service, NASA put out a call for a commercially owned and operated satellite network on Mars.

The US space agency needs to keep in touch with its rovers, landers and orbiters that have been shipping away at studies and experiments to learn if the planet most like Earth in the solar system ever supported life.

The robotic probes, however, are useless if they cannot relay their results, and the two communications satellites currently in orbit are getting old. The Mars Odyssey spacecraft was launched in 2001. Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter followed in 2005.

“The aging of NASA’s Mars communications system comes as the United States, Europe, Russia and India mount a fresh wave of science campaigns, including two atmosphere probes slated to arrive at Mars in September and two life-hunting rovers due to launch in 2018 and 2020,” NASA wrote in its solicitation, which was posted on the agency’s procurement website.

“With that in mind, NASA is interested in exploring alternative models to sustain and evolve the Mars relay infrastructure,” the solicitation said.—Reuters

An AT&T sign is shown on a building in downtown San Diego, California on 18 March, 2014.—REUTERS

AT&T, Chernin Group close to deal to buy YouTube network Fullscreen — tech blog

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 July — AT&T Inc and the Chernin Group are close to buying a majority slice of Fullscreen, in a deal that will value the popular YouTube video network at $200 million to $300 million, said tech blog Re/code, citing unidentified prospective investors.

Chernin, beat out several media entrepreneur Peter Chernin, beat out several investment group headed by venture between the telco, Fullscreen and AT&T, Fullscreen and the Chernin Group were not immediately available for comment.

The acquisition would follow on the heels of Walt Disney Co’s $500 million acquisition of Maker Studios earlier this year, which cast a spotlight on the potential value of fast-growing original content channels on Google Inc’s YouTube.

Time Warner Inc, Yahoo Inc and Relativity Media LLC are among the companies that have reportedly eyed or held talks with Fullscreen, which caters to a younger-skewing audience and a younger-skewing audience and a turnaround in its mobile phone business.

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NASA’s Mars Odyssey spacecraft passes above Mars’ south pole in this artist’s concept illustration handout released by NASA on 24 July, 2012. — REUTERS

NASA puts out call for satellite communication services — on Mars

San Diego, California on 18 March, 2014.—REUTERS

An AT&T sign is shown on a building in downtown San Diego, California on 18 March, 2014.—REUTERS

A sales assistant uses his mobile phone in front of mock LG electronics smart phones displayed at a store in Seoul on 22 July, 2014.—REUTERS

NASA’s Mars Odyssey spacecraft passes above Mars’ south pole in this artist’s concept illustration handout released by NASA on 24 July, 2012. — REUTERS

Mount St Helens emits a plume of steam and ash on 1 Oct, 2004, from an area of new crevasses in the crater glacier south of the 1980-86 lava dome. — REUTERS

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US scientists to map interior of Mount St Helens volcano

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NASA’s Mars Odyssey spacecraft passes above Mars’ south pole in this artist’s concept illustration handout released by NASA on 24 July, 2012. — REUTERS
**Investigators discover new leak clues in US nuclear site**

**HOUSTON, 24 July** — A lead-tainted glove left in a waste container might have triggered a chemical reaction and led to February’s radiation leak at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico, local media reported on Wednesday.

The New Mexican said Nan Sauer, an official with a leading nuclear weapons manufacturer Los Alamos National Laboratory, revealed the new information had come to light during an internal investigation.

Underground nuclear waste repository WIPP in Carlsbad has been shut down since on 14 February. Investigators have been working since to discover the cause of the leak.

A prior leading theory had been that a change of kitty litter, used to absorb moisture in nuclear waste, caused a chemical reaction inside a container.

Officials have so far been tight-lipped about the anticipated cost of rehabilitating WIPP following the shutdown, but have previously said it could take the federal government two years or more to seal off the underground rooms, while full resumption of operations could take up to three years.

WIPP stores transuranic waste left over from nuclear weapons research and testing from the nation’s past defense activities. Such waste materials include clothing, tools, rags and other debris contaminated with radioactive elements, largely plutonium.

**Billionaires in Singapore expanded to 26 this year: Forbes Asia**

**SINGAPORE, 24 July** — Singapore’s richest got even richer. The billionaires club in Singapore has expanded to 26 this year, up from 21 in 2013, said Forbes Asia on Thursday.

The combined net wealth of Singapore’s 50 richest in 2014 is 97.13 billion US dollars. The richest in the city-state again goes to property tycoon Robert and Phelho Ng, the brothers who own hotel and mall conglomerate Far East Organization and Sino Land. They added 2.2 billion US dollars to their fortune on rising values of their companies, pushing up their net worth at 12.8 billion US dollars.

Chairman of City Developments, Kwek Leng Beng and his family seized the second place with a net wealth of 7.8 billion US dollars. And the Khoo family, which takes charge of Goodwood Group of Hotels, ranked the third with a net wealth of 7 billion US dollars.

Other bigger gainers include Eduardo Saverin, co-founder of Facebook, who has gained almost 1.6 billion US dollars since August 2013 with the climb in the value of Facebook shares, pushing his total net wealth to 4.2 billion US dollars this year.

Among the seven newcomers of the 50 richest list, two entered the list after taking their companies public: shipping veteran Pang Yoke Min of Pacific Radiance, an offshore vessel operator, and Lim Chap Huat of property group Soilbuild.

The list was compiled using shareholding and financial information obtained from the families and individuals, stock exchange analyses, analysts and other sources.

Unlike the Forbes billionaire rankings, this list includes family fortunes such as those shared among extended families. Net worths are based on stock prices and exchange rates as of the close of markets on 11 July, Forbes Asia said.

**Iran nuclear talks to resume in early September**

**DUBAI, 24 July** — Iran said on Wednesday nuclear talks with six world powers would resume in early September, according to state television, after both sides agreed to continue talking for four more months to try to reach a final agreement on Teheran’s nuclear programme.

The preliminary accord had been due to expire on Sunday but was extended with some adjustments, after the two sides failed during negotiations in Vienna to meet a self-imposed 20 July deadline for a long-term deal to end the decade-old nuclear standoff.

“The extension of talks shows this is a positive atmosphere,” Iranian foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said during a weekly Press conference.

She said the biggest difference between both was in enrichment capacity. Iran says it is only refining uranium to fuel nuclear power plants or research reactors, not to develop a nuclear weapons capability as the West suspects.

The six powers — the United States, France, China, Russia, Germany and Britain — want Iran to reduce its uranium enrichment programme significantly to make sure it cannot produce nuclear bombs.

Some other issues that have yet to be agreed upon include the heavy water Arak reactor, sanctions relief and the Fordow enrichment site, said Afkham. Iran wants sanctions on the oil-dependent economy to be lifted as soon as possible.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said last week that talks would resume in September but gave no further details.
TOKYO, 24 July —

Britain’s first urban cable car eyes more international tourists

London, 24 July—Britain’s first urban cable car service, which flies over various landmark tourist attractions across the River Thames in London, is bracing for more international visitors during the peak tourism season in summer.

The Emirates Air Line, also known as the Thames cable car, is a ten-minute gondola lift cable link above the River Thames.

Serving both as a transport facility for commuters and a leisure attraction, the gondola lift offers spectacular views of London’s iconic buildings, including the St Paul’s Cathedral, the Royal Observatory Greenwich, the Olympic Stadium, the Old Royal Naval College and the Shard, which is a 95-storey skyscraper and the tallest building in western Europe.

The cable car service, first opened in 2012 and operated by Transport for London (TfL), is introducing new packages this summer for international tourists and domestic commuters alike to help them explore “a unique part of London,” said Danny Price, TfL’s head of the Emirates Air Line.

He said that the service, with nearly half of its passengers being Londoners, is exploring more options to encourage international visitors.

The Emirates Air Line has teamed up with Thames Clippers, a popular river bus service in London, to create attractive joint packages to fly over and glide down the River Thames.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (050)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (050) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER APEX VOY NO (431)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (431) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Weather report
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th July, 2014: Rain will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tann-thayas Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h.

TAINAN, 24 July — The leaders of China and Taiwan expressed condolences on Thursday for victims of a TransAsia Airways turboprop plane that crashed during a thunderstorm the previous day giving 48 people including two French nationals.

The plane, a 70-seat ATR 72, crashed near the runway while trying to land on the small island of Penghu, west of Taiwan island, with 54 passengers and four crew on board. Ten people were injured and taken to hospital.

“Today is a very sad day in the history of Taiwan aviation,” Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou said in a statement.

“All of Taiwan is grieving.”

China’s president, Xi Jinping, who is on a Latin America tour, felt “deeply saddened” after learning the tragedy has caused heavy casualties, the mainland’s State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said in a statement, according to the Xinhua news agency.

The mainland and Taiwan have been rivals for decades, with the mainland regarding Taiwan as a renegade province, though commercial relations have grown in recent years.

Of the 48 victims, two were French nationals, the French foreign ministry said in a statement. The aircraft took off from Taiwan’s southern city of Kaohsiung, headed for the airport of Makong, but crashed-landed in Huxi town of Penghu County, the main island of the chain also known as the Pesca-dores.

No one on the ground was hurt.

Typhoon Matmo hit Taiwan on Wednesday, bringing heavy rain and strong wind, shutting financial markets and schools. It later passed the island and headed into China, downgraded from typhoon to tropical storm.

Taiwan’s civil aviation authorities said the weather on Wednesday had been suitable for flying and they were trying to determine the cause of the crash.

“There were nine flights on the same route between 2 pm and 7 pm yesterday. Only the TransAsia flight crashed,” said Jean Shen, director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

“The weather reports showed it was totally OK for landing. We can not say for sure what went wrong at this point. The flight safety committee has opened an investigation. They will complete an official report within a year.”

Shares of TransAsia Airways fell 7 percent on the opening bell and were down 5 percent at noon. The main index was up 0.1 percent.

Taiwan has had a poor record for aviation safety over the last two decades, though it has improved recently after the government tightened up safety measures.

TransAsia and bigger rivals, China Airlines and Eva Airways, have been facing pressure from higher energy prices and the increasingly popular short-haul budget airlines. TransAsia Airways is a Taiwan-based airline with a fleet of around 23 Airbus and ATR aircraft, operating chiefly short-haul flights on domestic routes as well as to mainland China, Japan, Thailand and Cambodia, among its Asian destinations. —Reuters

Leaders of Taiwan, China offer condolences for 48 dead in plane crash
Post ‘Mary Kom’, Priyanka Chopra had to tone down for ‘girly role’ in ‘Dil Dhadakne Do’

MUMBAI, 24 July — Actress Priyanka Chopra says director Zoya Akhtar wanted her to lose weight for her next film “Dil Dhadakne Do”.

Priyanka is essaying the role of boxing champion Mary Kom in a biopic for which she had to build muscles. Her next is Zoya’s “Dil Dhadakne Do”.

“Zoya had warned me to lose all the muscles. I was not muscular but had acquired bulked-up physique. I had to be in right shape as I was playing a girly role. I had to work for it … go on a crash diet and lose shape,” Priyanka told reporters here at the trailer launch of ‘Mary Kom’.

“Dil Dhadakne Do” also features Ranveer Singh, Farhan Akhtar, Anushka Sharma, Anil Kapoor and Shefali Shah among others. The film revolves around a dysfunctional family on a cruise trip and is set to release on June 5 next year. Priyanka even revealed that for her special song in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s ‘Ram Leela’, her ‘Mary Kom’ avatar posed a problem. “He had told me I should not shoot in this shape for the song. I had put sleeves (on choli) so that I didn’t look muscular,” she said.—PTI

Adele wins damages over paparazzi photos of son

LONDON, 24 July — ‘Skyfall’ hitmaker Adele and her partner, Simon Konecki have won a privacy case over the paparazzi photos of her two-year-old son Angelo Adkins.

The Oscar-winning singer had brought the case against photo agency Corbis Images UK Limited over pictures of the child’s “milestone moments, such as his first family outing and his first trip to playgroup, were photographed and published worldwide expressly against his family’s wishes,” said Afia. —PTI

Shia Labeouf does not want to look unfit to Brad Pitt

NEW YORK, 24 July — Troubled star Shia Labeouf is reportedly taking his addiction therapy seriously as he does not want to look unfit in front of Brad Pitt during promotional events of their film ‘Fury’. The 28-year-old ‘Transformers’ star, who was arrested last month for his alleged disorderly conduct and harassment at a theatre, does not want top embarrass himself in front of the Hollywood superstar, reported The New York Post.—PTI

‘Weird Al’ Yankovic parodies his way to top of Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — “Weird Al” Yankovic, the parody singer and cult figure, on Wednesday earned his first No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on the strength of several viral videos released online.

Parodying pop hits such as Pharrell’s “Happy” (“Tacky”) and Lorde’s “Royals” (“Foil”), Yankovic’s “Mandatory Fun” album sold 104,000 copies in its debut week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan. Billboard said it is the first comedy album to top the chart since 1963, adding that “Mandatory Fun” had the most weekly sales for a comedy album since 1994.

Paris Hilton compares herself with Albert Einstein

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Socialite Paris Hilton has revealed that her zodiac sign, Aquarius, has some kind of cosmic link to the German physicist Albert Einstein.

Einstein, according to the calendar, was a Pisces and not an Aquarian, reported Us magazine. “We are social butterflies, humanitarians, geniuses: Einstein was one,” she said.

The ‘Come Alive’ singer, 33, says she has developed a thick skin over the years, with friends as well as strangers. “So many people have bad intentions, so many girls want to hang out to be someone. I weed those people out of my life. I call them hungry tigers,” she said.

She also feels guilty about her famous sex tape with then-boyfriend Rick Salomon, which went viral in 2004. “It was devastating because that was someone I was with for a few years. I don’t think I’ll ever be able to fully trust any man again after that. It was just the most hurtful and awful thing that anyone could do to a little girl. I was very young, it wasn’t my fault.”—PTI
Arizona inmate takes nearly two hours to die in execution

PHOENIX, 24 July — An Arizona inmate took almost two hours to die by lethal injection and his lawyers said he “gasped and snorted” before succumbing to the latest botched execution to raise questions about the death penalty in the United States. The execution of convicted drug smuggler and murderer Joseph Wood began at 1:52 pm local time at a state prison complex, and the 55-year-old was only pronounced dead at 3:49 pm, the Arizona attorney general’s office said.

During that time, his lawyers filed an emergency appeal in federal court that sought to have the execution halted and their client given life-saving medical treatment. The appeal said Wood had been “gasping and snorting for more than an hour,” and that the procedure violated his constitutional right to be executed without providing details.

Yang Yulin, deputy head of Bhutan, the newspaper cited a local media report saying that an extension of the border of the country to the Nepali-Tibetan border is needed to the 2016-2020 period to two separate points, one on the border of Nepal and the other on the border with India and Bhutan, the newspaper cited Yang Yulin, deputy head of Tibet’s railways, as saying, without providing details.

China plans railway to India, Nepal borders by 2020

BEIJING, 24 July — China plans to extend a railway line linking Tibet, with the rest of the country to the borders of India, Nepal and Bhutan by 2020 once an extension to a key site in Tibetan Buddhism opens, a senior official said on Thursday. China opened the railway to Tibet’s capital Lhasa in 2006, which passes spectacular icy peaks on the Tibetan highlands, touching altitudes as high as 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level, as part of government efforts to boost development.

Critics of the railway, including exiled Tibetans and rights groups, say it has spurred an influx of long-term migrants who threaten Tibetans’ cultural integrity, which rests on Buddhist beliefs and a traditional herding lifestyle.

The Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, said that an extension to Shigatse, the traditional seat of Tibet’s Buddhist’s second-highest figure, the Panchen Lama, would formally open next month.

That link is scheduled for its own extension during the 2016-2020 period to two separate points, one on the border of Nepal and the other on the border with India and Bhutan, the newspaper cited Yang Yulin, deputy head of Tibet’s railways, as saying, without providing details.

China has long mooted this plan, but the delay is partly due to expense and building such a rugged and remote region has slowed efforts.

Elvis’ library card, movie script to be auctioned at Graceland

NASHVILLE, (Tenn), 24 July — A library card signed by Elvis Presley in seventh grade is expected to be among the highest items at an auction of the late singer’s possessions at his Memphis mansion next month, Graceland officials said on Wednesday.

The card, which contains Elvis’ earliest known authentic signature, is one of 72 items featured at Graceland’s 14 August auction, according to Angie Marchese, Graceland director of archives.

“The takes us back to a time when we can identify with Elvis,” Marchese said of the card. “We were all kids, and we all signed our library cards.”

Other treasures of the “King of Rock’n’Roll” include a script for his “Love Me Tender” 1956 movie debut and a gold lion’s-head pendant, encrusted with 24 diamonds, two emeralds and a ruby, that Elvis wore on his famous Oval Office visit with President Richard Nixon in 1970.

Fans can start perusing items at the Graceland.com/auction site on 1 August and make early bids. The auction will be live-streamed.

The items are not part of the Graceland collection but belong to a private Australian collector, Greg Page, a founding member of “The Wiggles” children’s music group. Marchese said she has authenticated that every item did indeed belong to Elvis, and the estate may make its own bids.

The auction is the first on Graceland’s grounds, and it will be part of “Elvis Week,” which this year runs from 9-17 August. Thousands of fans visit Memphis every year to mark the anniversary of Presley’s death on 16 August, 1977.

Other items up for auction include a maroon-and-silver 1976 Cadillac Seville, the last known Cadillac purchased and driven by Elvis; a 1969 agreement for the singer to be paid $100,000 a week for shows at the old International Hotel in Las Vegas; and a 1975 Martin D-28 acoustic guitar.

Elvis Presley’s “Love Me Tender” script is shown in this photo courtesy of Elvis Presley’s Graceland released to Reuters on 23 July, 2014. Reuters

Elvis Presley’s ‘1975 Martin D-28’ guitar is shown in this photo courtesy of Elvis Presley’s Graceland released to Reuters on 23 July, 2014. Reuters
Barcelona to sign defender Mathieu from Valencia

Valencia’s Jeremy Mathieu celebrates after he scored against Sevilla during their Europa League semi-final second leg soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on 1 May, 2014.—Reuters

**Barcelona**

Jeremy Mathieu will join Barcelona for a fee of 20 million euros. Midfielder Cesc Fabregas and forward Lionel Messi continue the restructuring of the squad under new coach Luis Enrique.

The Frenchman, who can also play at left back, continues the restructuring of the squad under new coach Luis Enrique. His addition is widely reported in British media this week, the 20 clubs in the Premier League will travel a combined 175,000 air miles in the weeks leading up to kickoff on 16 August.

Tartan-tastic ceremony opens Glasgow Games

The Commonwealth flag is carried into the stadium during the opening of the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park in Glasgow, Scotland, on 23 July, 2014.—Reuters

**Newcastle lead the Premier League jet-setters**

Newcastle United manager Louis van Gaal earlier on Wednesday sounded less than enthusiastic about his club’s commitments which begin against LA Galaxy in Pasadena and then continue with least three more matches in Denver, Washington and Detroit as part of the International Champions Cup. "We have to prepare the season and when you have commercial activities and dreadful distances, having to fly a lot and the jet lag, it is not very positive for a good preparation," he told British media.

New Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal sounded less than enthused by his club’s commitments which begin against LA Galaxy in Pasadena and then continue with at least three more matches in Denver, Washington and Detroit as part of the International Champions Cup.

The Commonwealth Games open. "To you, the Commonwealth athlete, I send my good wishes for success in your endeavours," she said.

"Your accomplishments over the coming days will encourage us all to strengthen the bonds that unite us."

After an opening night of celebration, the sporting action begins on Thursday with the first gold of the Games up for grabs in the women’s triathlon. The closing ceremony will be held at Hampden Park on 3 August.—Reuters

**Barcelona to sign defender Mathieu from Valencia**

Valencia’s Jeremy Mathieu celebrates after he scored against Sevilla during their Europa League semi-final second leg soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on 1 May, 2014.—Reuters

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