

Myanmar Investment Commission reformed to attract more foreign investors



Myanmar received 2.21 billion US dollars in foreign investment in the first four months of 2014, with the Myanmar Investment Commission hoping that its reform will prompt more foreign companies to conduct business here.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON, 29 May—The Myanmar Investment Commission has been reformed with the appointment of a new chairman, the creation of a vice chairman position and the number of commission members increased from 11 to 13, a MIC official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed on Thursday following a notification released Wednesday. The move is aimed at attracting more foreign investment, he said.

According to its new organizational setup, the commission will be chaired by Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, replacing U Win Shein, Minister for Finance, who was appointed as MIC chairman on 3 May, 2013. The new position of vice chairman will be held by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U

Htay Aung who served as one of the members of the old 11-member commission.

The commission also added Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein as new members, with Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration U Aung Naing Oo appointed as secretary. No other members have been replaced, according to the official.

The MIC, which is currently under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, said it is making necessary arrangements to act as an independent organization like the Central Bank of Myanmar.

This year, the MIC has

given investment permission to local businessmen for 30 projects, while 60 went to foreign investors. Most foreign investment

has so far been pumped into the transport and communication sectors, followed by manufacturing and real estate, according to reports.

NLM

Hlegu Township to provide top health care services for rural people with Korean aid

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — The Korean Foundation for International Health Care (KOFIH) and the Ministry of Health will upgrade the primary health care system in Hlegu Township with the aim of turning Hlegu Township into a role model for health care services for rural people.

“We discussed establishing the health care system which will be better than the current health care services in Hlegu Township,” said an official of the Ministry of Health after a meeting between authorities from the ministry and KOFIH in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

There is great need for health care infrastructure in Hlegu Township and local people do not trust the health care services provided by the government as the infrastructures are very old, said David Sir, General Secretary

of KOFIH.

The project aimed at strengthening the primary health care system in Hlegu Township is the first of its kind in Myanmar and will take six to nine years to de-

velop, according to KOFIH.

KOFIH also plans to improve health care services in other areas after the implementation of the Hlegu Township project. According to the Ministry of Health,

the township currently has a 16-bed hospital, two 6-bed station hospitals—in rural areas and 35 small health care units, as well as one department for fighting malaria. — NLM



Myanmar and Korean officials discuss strengthening the health care system in Hlegu, Yangon Region, during a consultant planning workshop on primary health care.—PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Follow-up news regarding ASEAN Scholarship exam

YANGON, 29 May—Applicants for the ASEAN Scholarships will not just be tested in Mandalay, but also in Yangon at Basic Education High School No. 4, Ahlon Township on 31 May.

NLM

Only one-sixth of population has opportunity of formal education: vice president

TOUNGGOO, 29 May—The government has been trying to enroll all school-aged children this academic term as only one-sixth of the population of Myanmar has had the chance to go to school, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a ceremony at a Basic Education High School in Yedashe Township, Bago Region on Thursday morning.

The vice president and his delegation also visited BEHS in Tounggoo, Bago Region and inspected school enrollment activities there.

The school enrollment week is being held across the country until 31 May, with officials saying they

are hoping to enroll as many children as possible this term.

The number of students enrolling at schools this year is larger than in previous years as the Ministry of Education and state/region governments are encouraging parents and children to enroll at schools by providing free textbooks, six note books and K1,000 for each primary school student and free textbooks for each middle school student in accordance with the government appeal that “All the people of Myanmar are to participate in the enrollment of all school-aged children.”

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents gifts to children at a ceremony at a Basic Education School.—MNA

Lower house vice speaker receives US law professor

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—Vice Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and lower house U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Professor of Minority Protection Law Mr Tobias Wolff and delegation of the US on Thursday morning in Nay Pyi

Taw.

They exchanged views on legislation and constitution of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Lower House Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat and officials.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—Failing to enact laws that conform to the current situation will not make the democratic system and the market economic system successful as parliament is mainly responsible for legislation, Speaker of both

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann said in a meeting that took place at Zathuthiri Hall of Parliament Building here on Thursday afternoon, sources said.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also called on parliamentary committees to sharpen their ability in carrying out their respective responsibilities for the remaining tenure of parliament.

At the same venue at 4pm on the same day, the Myanmar Parliamentary Union held a meeting, with addresses by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann as chairman of MPU and Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint as vice chairman, officials said. In his opening speech, Thura U Shwe Mann urged Region/State parliaments to be frank with their discussion.

Regarding the legislative sector, U Khin Aung Myint stressed parliament should steer the country

into a democracy while being in the vanguard of legislative processes, calling for unity in the three main national causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

In his conclusion remarks, Thura U Shwe Mann commented that a group is always better than an individual in any undertaking, calling on members of parliament to work for the nation and the people as well.—MNA



Vice Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets with Professor of Minority Protection Law Mr Tobias Wolff and delegation of the US.—MNA

Gov't welcomes youth participation in politics

YANGON, 29 May —The government is welcoming the participation of youths in the political sector to create a modern developed country in the future, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane on Thursday at a seminar on youth participation in political parties.

He urged the youths to actively participate in building a peaceful and

stable nation, with democracy at its core.

Compare with developed nations like Denmark and Singapore, Myanmar still has weak points regarding the encouragement of youths to participate in politics, the Union minister said.

During the seminar organized by the Innovation and Action Aid in Yangon, two officials from the Danish Institute for

Parties and Democracy-DIPD discussed their political experiences.

U Ko Ko Gyi, General-Secretary of the 88 General, Peace and Open Society Group urged the new generation “to work hard to become professionals in their fields with new ideas and liberal views” so that they can build a new democratic nation.

The older generations should create opportuni-

ties for the new generations and should let them learn from their mistakes, he added.

The seminar was attended by members of 58 political parties and organizations. The workshop on youth participation in political parties will be held on Friday at the same venue to discuss sectors of priority for the youth and challenges.

Khaing Thanda Lwin



Patron Brig-Gen Abel (Retd) of U Hla Tun Myitta Yeikmon Cancer Foundation (Cancer Hospice) accepts K5 million donated by Managing Director Mr. Onodara of Yangon International Hotel.—MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Japanese and Omani Ambassadors



Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, the newly-accredited Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar presents his credentials to President U Thein Sein.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for photo with Sheikh Sultan Bin Saif Bin Hilal Al Mahruqi, the newly-accredited Omani Ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at presidential palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am on Thursday.

Similarly, Sheikh Sultan Bin Saif Bin Hilal Al Mahruqi, the newly-ac-

credited Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to the President on the same day.

Present on the occasions were Union Minis-

ter of Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for President Office (2) U Soe Maung and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA



Deforestation, vehicle and competition tax among top issues in Myanmar Parliament discussions

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—The Lower House's second day session continued on Thursday with deforestation among the main topics of discussion, with the Upper House focusing on the vehicle and competition tax among other issues.

While answering a question of a Lower House representative who criticized excessive logging despite an announcement by the government that export of logs would be banned this year, Deputy Minister for Environ-

mental Conservation and Forestry said that timber extraction was conducted with minimal impact on prime forests, meeting demands of domestic wood-based industries.

Among the main issues discussed in the Upper House was the question of whether a plan to differently tax vehicles and heavy machinery imported through border trading and used in states and regions was feasible or whether a nationwide tax should be applied.

Deputy Minister for

Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein said that the government revenue from taxes on imported vehicle could decrease if vehicles registered in states and regions would be lower taxed. He also said it would pose a major challenge to monitor whether or not the vehicles are really registered in the places claimed.

Regarding the upgrading of all township level hospitals into 50-bed ones, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung said that not all hospitals can be upgraded, but that the min-

istry is now building new 50-bed hospitals across the nation depending on local needs.

During Thursday's session, the Upper House accepted to discuss the competition bill submitted by Union Minister U Win Myint at parliament.

According to the Union minister, the bill is aimed at protecting the interest of people against monopoly and manipulation, ensuring free and fair trade, allowing mergers and acquisitions in accordance with the laws and removing unwanted restrictions among economic firms.—MNA

Inclusive green economy discussed at forum in Yangon to promote sustainable development

By Thant Zin Win

YANGON, 29 May—A free public seminar on inclusive green economy was held by Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet, the President's Economic Advisor and member of the President's National Economic and Social Advisory Council, on Thursday at UMFCI Conference Hall in Yangon.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet said critical thinking must be promoted, with the seminar focusing on topics such as poverty reduction, job creation and inequality. "Myanmar is embark-

ing on a series of radical and far-reaching political, economic and social reforms. Inclusive Green Economy is a path way bringing together social, economic, and environment objectives of sustainable development. It will benefit poor and vulnerable groups and help reduce inequality. It combines 'Inclusive Growth' with 'Green Growth'," according to an official statement.

Development can be measured not only in terms of GDP and but also in terms of GNH — Gross National Happiness, participants said.

JITI donates computer, accessories for MR

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Japan International Transport Institute donated software, comput-



ers and accessories to the Ministry of Rail Transport on Thursday morning.

Software donated by JITI can draw train timetables automatically, safely and systematically.

Managing Director of Myanma Railways received the computers and accessories.

Experts from Japan International Consultant for Transportation Co., Ltd are conducting courses on the software for staff of MR.

MNA



Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet giving talks at public seminar on inclusive green economy.—PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Thai junta says “right conditions” needed before polls



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha

BANGKOK, 29 May — Thailand’s military rulers held out little hope for early elections on Thursday, a week after the army seized power, saying conditions had to be right and divisions healed before there could be a return to civilian rule.

Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha ousted the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on 22 May to end months of protests that had depressed Southeast Asia’s second-biggest economy and raised fears of enduring chaos.

“It is the council’s intention to create the right conditions ... to put Thailand on the path to free and fair elections,” Lieutenant General Chatchalerm Chalernsukh, deputy army chief of staff, told reporters, referring to the junta.

Thailand has become

polarised between supporters of Yingluck and her influential brother, deposed premier Thaksin Shinawatra, and the royalist establishment that sees Thaksin and his pro-business, populist ways as a threat to the old order.

Chatchalerm did not elaborate on what conditions were needed for an election, but said the military wanted to see reconciliation and an end to the

political rift that emerged after Thaksin won his first election in 2001.

“I want to ask you how long it takes to heal divisions between two groups that has been going on for 10 years?” Chatchalerm said. “The two sides do not have to love each other but we want the situation to stay calm and peaceful. We need a period of time for all sides to cool down.”

The United States and

other allies have criticised the coup and called for a quick return to democracy.

Chatchalerm said the army had been forced to step in reluctantly because of six months of debilitating anti-government protests, organised by a pro-establishment politician, Suthep Thaugsuban.

“Administrative paralysis has been devastating for Thailand. It put a strain on Thailand’s GDP which

became negative for the first time in many years,” he said.

Gross domestic product shrank 2.1 percent in the first quarter of 2014, as the anti-government protesters damaged confidence and scared off tourists. Data on Wednesday showed Thailand’s trade shrank in April and factory output fell for the 13th straight month, underscoring the tough job the military government

faces in averting recession.

The military has moved quickly to tackle economic problems, notably preparing payments for hundreds of thousands of rice farmers that the ousted government was unable to make.—Reuters

Thailand mulls lifting curfew in Phuket, other resorts

BANGKOK, 29 May — Thailand’s coup leaders are considering lifting the midnight-4 am curfew in some major tourist destinations such as Phuket Island and Pattaya, with a decision expected possibly next week, media reports said Wednesday.

A spokesman of the National Council for Peace and Order, which is ruling the country after the 28 May coup, said the popular destinations may be exempted from the curfew if officials deem them peaceful, according to the online edition of *The Nation* newspaper. The curfew was initially imposed from 10 pm to 5 am immediately after the coup but was shortened Wednesday after calls grew for an easing to alleviate its impact on tourism, one of the country’s key industries.—Kyodo News



Protesters scuffle with Thai soldiers during an anti-coup demonstration at the Victory Monument in Bangkok, Thailand Wednesday, on 28 May, 2014.—REUTERS

PM Narendra Modi to unveil top 10 policy priorities

NEW DELHI, 29 May — Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to unveil his top 10 policy priorities on Thursday, seeking to unblock an investment logjam and setting deadlines for action in order to revive the economy.

A top aide flagged the action points ahead of a cabinet meeting at which Modi will begin the task of meeting the aspirations of voters who handed his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) the strongest electoral mandate in India in 30

years. “The entire machinery will be geared up to fulfil the mandate of the new leader,” Nripendra Misra, newly named as principal private secretary in the Prime Minister’s Office, told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Misra said that Modi’s policy priorities will “necessarily have to be implemented in a time-bound manner”. They would focus on overcoming delays to major infrastructure projects and addressing why India has become a coal importer, he added.

Reuters reported exclusively last week that Modi was considering restructuring Coal India (COALNS), the state-controlled mining behemoth, in a bid to halt a decline in output.

The Prime Minister’s Office is expected to become a powerful centre of policy making under Modi, who has named loyalists such as Arun Jaitley to key posts like finance but whose cabinet team lacks strength in depth.

Modi was due to chair a cabinet meeting at 11 a.m., his office said, with a briefing to follow afterwards.

Reuters

S Korea denies reported deployment of US missile shield

SEOUL, 29 May — South Korea’s Defence Ministry on Thursday denied the reported deployment of a US missile defence system, saying that it will pursue an indigenous missile shield separately from the US one.

Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a routine press briefing that South Korea is not considering the adoption of the Lockheed Martin’s Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) designed to intercept ballistic missiles in an ascending stage.

Kim said the ministry was unaware of whether the United States was seeking the deployment of a THAAD battery on the Korean Peninsula, denying a US daily’s reports. According to the reports, the US military has conducted a site survey for its THAAD battery deployment in South Korea though no final decision has been made yet. The South Korean military planned to purchase PAC-3 missiles designed to shoot ballistic missiles in a descending stage, while developing L-SAM, a long-range ground-to-air missile that will intercept missiles at an altitude of 50-60 km, Kim said. The military planned to develop its indigenous interceptor missile by 2022.

Citing experts, Kim said that Scud missiles fired from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) could be intercepted by the PAC-3 missiles which would be hard to shoot down the medium-range Rodong missiles. The spokesman said the military will shoot down ballistic missiles in a descending stage with PAC-3 missiles while developing the L-SAM to intercept missiles at a higher altitude. Denying speculations that South Korea will join the US-led missile shield, Kim said that the Korea Air and Missile Defence (KAMD) is a separate system from the US missile defense, reiterating that the two systems are different geographically and structurally.—Xinhua



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

WORLD

Doubt raised over whether 'pings' came from missing Malaysia jet

SYDNEY, 29 May — The US Navy described as “speculative and premature” a media report on Thursday that said four acoustic pings at the centre of the search for a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner are no longer believed to be from the aircraft’s black boxes.

The report on CNN quoted Michael Dean, the US Navy’s deputy director of ocean engineering, and said authorities now almost universally believe the pings did not come from the onboard data or cockpit voice recorders of Flight MH370.

The Boeing 777, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared on March 8 shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing.

Australian search authorities narrowed the search for the missing jet last month after picking up a series of pings near



A crew member sits in the cockpit of a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft as it continues searching in the southern Indian Ocean for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, in this picture taken on 1 April, 2014.—REUTERS

where analysis of satellite data put the last location of the plane some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) off Australia’s northwest.

“Our best theory at

this point is that (the pings were) likely some sound produced by the ship ... or within the electronics of the Towed Pinger Locator,” Dean told CNN.

However, a US Navy spokesman said Dean’s comments were “speculative and premature”. “We continue to work with our partners to more

thoroughly understand the data acquired by the Towed Pinger Locator,” the spokesman said in an emailed response. “As such, we would defer to the Australians, as the lead in the search effort, to make additional information known at the appropriate time.” Australian authorities leading the search did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The discovery of the pings on 5 and 8 April was hailed as a significant breakthrough, with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott expressing confidence that searchers knew, within a few kilometres, where the plane wreckage was.

A source close to the investigation has said that those pings were certain to be from MH370’s black boxes because of their frequency and transmission at one second intervals.

However, a thorough scan of the area around the

pings with an unmanned submarine failed to find any sign of wreckage. No debris linked to the plane has been picked up despite the most extensive and expensive search effort in aviation history.

MH370 was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished. Authorities have not ruled out mechanical problems as a cause but say the evidence, including the loss of communications, suggests it was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometres from its scheduled route.

Malaysia’s government and British satellite firm Inmarsat this week released data used to determine the path of MH370.

Families of passengers are hoping that opening up the data to analysis by a wider range of experts could help verify the plane’s last location.

Reuters

Israel raids Palestinian publisher, warns against printing Hamas dailies

RAMALLAH, 29 May — A Palestinian publishing house said Israeli forces raided its headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Wednesday morning and warned it not to publish papers close to the militant group Hamas.

Palestinian officials criticised the move, saying it violated their freedom of expression. Israeli authorities did not immediately respond to a request by Reuters for comment.

The headquarters of

the *al-Ayyam* newspaper began publishing three pro-Hamas newspapers earlier this month after a reconciliation between the Palestinian parties Hamas and Fatah. The agreement ended their seven-year political rift and a mutual ban on media friendly to their rivals in their respective strongholds in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

In a statement, the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate condemned the dawn raid on *al-Ayyam*’s

printing press, saying “Israeli authorities informed the newspaper that it would not allow the printing and distribution of newspapers that allegedly incite against Israel, referring to the three newspapers — *Falastin*, *al-Resala* and *al-Istiqlal*.”

Israel objects to the unity moves and considers Hamas, which has refused to recognise Israel or relinquish its arms, a terrorist group.

Palestinians hope to reconcile Hamas’s militant stance with Fatah leaders’ willingness to negotiate with Israeli in order to achieve statehood in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in a 1967 war.

“The raid into the borders of the Palestinian state and the violation of its sovereignty and its media institutions is a flagrant attack on Palestinians’ basic human rights and a violation of norms along with international and humanitarian laws that ensure freedom of opinion and expression,” top Palestinian diplomat Hanan Ashrawi said in a statement.

Reuters



A Palestinian man sits beside a stand selling the Al-Ayyam newspaper in Gaza on 1 May, 2008.

REUTERS

Policemen shot, wounded near New Caledonia nickel mine

SYDNEY, 29 May — Two French police on the Pacific island of New Caledonia were shot and wounded on Wednesday by young Melanians, angered by mining giant Vale’s chemical spill in a river. The two gendarmes suffered slight injuries after being hit by shotgun pellets fired by protesters blocking a highway near the Vale’s \$6 billion nickel mine, a spokeswoman for the nearby city of Mont Dore told Reuters.

Police had since restored order and were maintaining a large security presence in the area, she said. Southern New Caledonia has been the centre of violence since Saturday when rioters torched vehi-

cles and buildings near the controversial mine, causing more than \$20 million worth of damage, according to Vale’s estimates.

Protesters have been frustrated by the lack of response from indigenous Kanak chiefs to the chemical spill. Vale representatives and local authorities were due to hold a meeting late Wednesday with the chiefs to discuss the situation, she said.

The local government suspended operations at the nickel processing plant in Goro three weeks ago after some 100,000 litres of acid-tainted effluent leaked, killing about 1,000 fish.

An independent report on the acid spill which was expected to be submitted to

the southern province on Wednesday had prompted speculation the Vale plant could re-open soon.

“We are expecting a decision by the southern province as early as today to partially allow the re-opening of the site,” said Catherine Wehbé, director of New Caledonia business organization Medef. The southern provincial government and Vale declined to comment on the timing of any production restart.

The local government had previously said it would not allow a resumption of production until safety procedures were revised, an oversight committee was reinstated and an independent expert’s report was completed.—Reuters

Boko Haram still holding 219 girls, after escape of four more reported

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria), 29 May — Four more of the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram last month have escaped than previously thought, Nigeria’s Borno state said on Wednesday, but 219 others were still missing and assumed held by the Islamist militants.

The girls were taking exams at a secondary school in the remote northeastern village of Chibok on 14 April when the Islamist gunmen surrounded it, loaded 276 of them onto trucks and carted them off, according to official figures.

Fifty-three escaped shortly afterwards, say authorities in Borno state, which lies at the epicentre of Boko Haram’s insurgency.

Education commissioner Musa Inuwa told Reuters by telephone the four had been reunited with their parents since then, but he declined to give further details of their escape or say when it happened. A senior Borno state official said it was not clear when they escaped, and it may even have been several weeks ago. The parents had not contacted authorities when the girls returned.—Reuters

East Ukraine city largely calm after battle, rebels seek Russian help

DONETSK (Ukraine), 29 May — Relative calm returned to the streets of Donetsk on Wednesday after the biggest battle of the pro-Russian separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine, a conflict transformed by the landslide election of a pro-European leader who vowed to crush the revolt.

Reuters reporters heard sounds of distant gunfire coming from the south of the city and local media reported brief outbreaks of fighting on the outskirts, although this could not be independently confirmed.

However, this appeared minor compared with on Monday and Tuesday when government forces killed dozens of rebel fighters in an assault to retake Donetsk International



Miners from around the region walk during a demonstration in support of the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' in Donetsk, on 28 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Airport, which the rebels had seized the morning after Ukrainians overwhelmingly elected Petro Poroshenko as president.

Pro-Moscow gun-

men have declared the city of a million people capital of an independent Donetsk People's Republic. On Wednesday their leader Denis Pushilin

appealed again for Russia's help.

"The residents of the Donetsk People's Republic are on the verge of a humanitarian catastro-

phe," he said. "We are Russians and this is precisely why they are killing us. We want to become part of Russia."

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West of pushing Ukraine into "the abyss of fratricidal war", and reiterated his call for an end to Kiev's military offensive. His ministry urged Kiev to let it send humanitarian aid to civilians trapped by the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The rebels' plight puts pressure on President Vladimir Putin to act, even though he has reduced the number of forces he has massed on Ukraine's eastern border and has said he would recognize the outcome of Sunday's election in Ukraine.

Rebel fighters were

strengthening their barricades with sandbags on the road to the airport near the hulk of a truck where many of them were killed by government fire on Monday.

The assault was the first time Kiev has unleashed its full military force against the fighters after weeks of restraint. Morgues were filled on Tuesday with bodies of rebel gunmen, some missing limbs.

The separatist authorities say as many as 50 died, including a truckload of wounded fighters blasted apart as they were driven away from the battlefield.

The government said it suffered no losses in the operation, when its aircraft strafed the airport and paratroops landed to reclaim it.

Reuters

Abe wants Cabinet approval on Japan's defence reform by year-end



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

TOKYO, 29 May, — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday he wants Cabinet approval within the year for a plan to reinterpret Japan's pacifist Constitution and lift the ban on the right to collective self-defense, amid heated debate in the Diet and within his ruling coalition.

Abe expressed his desire as Japan has been working with the United

States to revise their guidelines for defence cooperation by the end of December.

Exercising the right, which requires Japan to lift its decades-old self-imposed ban, means the country would come to the defence of an ally, most notably the United States, when it is under armed attack that is not necessarily targeted at Japan.

"Japan and the United States have agreed to complete work on revising the guidelines by year-end," Abe said at a session of the House of Councillors' Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

"It is desirable that (the Cabinet) will make a decision in time for that," he added.

Kyodo News

Snowden: 'no relationship' with Russian government

WASHINGTON, 29 May — Former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden told a US television interviewer on Wednesday he was not under the control of Russia's government and had given Moscow no intelligence documents after nearly a year of asylum there.

"I have no relationship with the Russian government at all," Snowden said in an interview with NBC News, his first with a US television network. "I'm not supported by the Russian government. I'm not taking money from the Russian government. I'm not a spy."

The remarks by Snowden, whose leaks about highly classified US surveillance programs shook the NSA and prompted limited reforms by President Barack Obama, were his most extensive to date on his relations



"NBC Nightly News" anchor and managing editor Brian Williams (L) sits during an interview with former US defence contractor Edward Snowden in Moscow in this undated handout photo released by NBC News on 28 May, 2014. —REUTERS

with his host government.

Current and former US intelligence officials have said it is unlikely Russian security services have not squeezed Snowden for secrets.

"I think he is now being manipulated by Russian intelligence," former NSA director Keith Alexander said last month.

But Snowden — who said he wants to return to

the United States — said he destroyed classified materials before transiting to a Moscow airport, where he was prevented from onward travel.

"I took nothing to Russia, so I could give them nothing," he told NBC's Brian Williams in the hour-long interview.

Later in the interview, Snowden briefly criticized the crackdown on freedom of expression under Russian President Vladimir Putin. Casting himself as a defender of privacy and civil liberties, he deemed it "frustrating" to "end up stuck in a place where those rights are being challenged in ways that I would consider deeply unfair."

Snowden, who fled to Hong Kong and then Moscow last year, is believed

to have accessed about 1.5 million secret documents, US officials have said, although how many he actually took is unclear. The leaked documents revealed massive programmes run by the NSA that gathered information on emails, phone calls and Internet use including, in many cases, by Americans.

He was charged last year in the United States with theft of government property, unauthorized communication of national defence information and willful communication of classified intelligence to an unauthorized person.

"If I could go anywhere in the world, that place would be home," Snowden said.

US officials said he was welcome to return to the United States if he wanted to face justice for leaking details of massive US intelligence-gathering programmes.

Secretary of State John Kerry invited Snowden to "man up and come back to the United States." "The bottom line is this is a man who has betrayed his country, who is sitting in Russia, an authoritarian country where he has taken refuge," Kerry told the CBS "This Morning" programme on Wednesday. —Reuters

Israeli soldier suspended after fatal West Bank shootings

JERUSALEM, 29 May — Israel has suspended a soldier in the fatal shootings of two Palestinian teenagers at a protest held on 15 May in the occupied West Bank, Israeli media reported on Wednesday.

The incident stirred an outcry after a human

rights group released video footage it said showed the youths had not posed any danger to soldiers and they were shot unlawfully.

The killings took place as protests erupted across the West Bank on Nakba Day, when the Palestinians mark the loss of the 1948

war that resulted in the creation of Israel and the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Muhammad Abu Thahr and Nadim Nuwara had both been shot in the heart, Palestinian hospital officials said, giving their ages as 16 and 17.

Two Israeli media organisations, the Haaretz news Web site and Channel 10 television, said on Wednesday the Israeli military had suspended a soldier from a communications unit and confiscated his weapon soon after the incident. —Reuters

WORLD

Egypt's Sisi sweeps to victory in presidential vote

CAIRO, 29 May — Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the general who toppled Egypt's first freely elected leader, swept to victory in a presidential election, provisional results showed on Thursday, joining a long line of leaders drawn from the military.

But a lower than expected turnout figure raised questions about Sisi's credibility after his supporters had idolised him as a hero who can deliver political and economic stability.

Sisi captured 93.3 percent of votes cast as counting nearly came to a close, judicial sources said.

His only rival, leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, gained 3.0 percent while 3.7 percent of votes were declared void.

Fireworks erupted in Cairo when Sisi's results began to emerge.

His supporters waved Egyptian flags and sounded car horns on the crowded streets of the capital.

Celebrations lasted through the early hours of the morning.

About 1,000 people gathered in Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of the popular uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and raised hopes of a democracy free of influence from the military.

Sisi supporters

honked car horns and waved flags.

Dancing dolls dressed in army fatigues quickly went on sale in Tahrir, a reminder of the army's wide influence in Egypt.

Sisi is the latest in a line of Egyptian rulers from the military that was only briefly broken during Islamist President Mohamed Mursi's year in office.

Sisi, who ousted Mursi last year after mass protests against his rule, is seen by supporters as a strong figure who can end the turmoil that has convulsed Egypt since the revolution that ended Mubarak's 30 years in power.

But critics fear he will become another autocrat who will preserve the army's interests, and quash hopes of democracy and reform aroused by the protests that swept Mubarak.

Sisi enjoys the backing of the powerful armed forces and the Interior Ministry, as well many politicians and former Mubarak officials now making a comeback.

"We are joyful because Sisi got so many votes, the results will come after an hour, we are here to celebrate," said Kawther Mohamed, who went to Tahrir with her daughters.

Reuters

At least 11 killed in church attack in C African Republic

BANGUI, 29 May — At least 11 people were killed when Muslim gunmen sprayed bullets and hurled grenades at people sheltering in a church in the capital of Central African Republic on Wednesday, witnesses said.

The attack on the Our Lady of Fatima church took place after hours of skirmishes between anti-balaka Christian militia and residents of the nearby Muslim neighbourhood of PK5, locals said. Frederique Nakombo, the general secretary of the Episcopal commission for peace and justice, told Reuters that armed men threw grenades into the church compound and opened fire on the crowd, killing priest Paul Emile Nzale.

The priest of the church, Jonas Bekas, said at least 11 people were killed in the attack, which began at around 3.00 pm

local time (1400 GMT). The church compound was home to some 5,000 Christians displaced by violence, he said.

"The toll will probably be higher because there are many wounded," Bekas said. "It would have been much worse if the anti-Balaka militia had not come to defend us."

Fulgence, a displaced person in the church, told Reuters by telephone he had counted at least 28 bodies. A Reuters TV cameraman at the scene also said he saw dozens of bodies being taken away by vehicle.

Peacekeepers from the African Union's Miska peacekeeping force arrived in armoured vehicles to take control of the scene after the attack. A helicopter from France's Sangaris peacekeeping mission flew overhead as dusk fell.

Reuters



People march on a street in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 29 May 2014. Approximately 300 people on Thursday marched in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, to call for the Anti-Corruption Unit and the National Assembly to further focus on the protection of natural resources, an organizer said. — XINHUA

Syria chemical arms destruction deadline won't be met — UN

UNITED NATIONS, 29 May — The United Nations has confirmed that the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal will not be completed by 30 June, a final deadline set as part of a 2013 deal that averted US air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government.

In a letter to the Security Council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Syrian government to finish "remaining removal operations as quickly as possible, as the authorities have pledged to do."

"However, it is now evident that some activities related to the elimination of the chemical weapons program of the Syrian Arab Republic will continue beyond 30 June 2014," Ban said in the letter, obtained by Reuters on Wednesday.

He also voiced concern about allegations that chlorine gas has been used in recent fighting in Syria and urged all sides in the conflict to cooperate with an investigation launched by the global chemical weapons watchdog.

Assad, embroiled in the fourth year of a civil war with rebels fighting to oust him, agreed last year to hand over the country's entire chemical weapons stockpile and ensure its total destruction by 30 June 30 after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin nerve gas attack near Damascus.

The September agreement with Russia and the United States averted US military strikes threatened in response to the worst chemical weapons attack in decades, which Washington and its European allies blamed on Assad's govern-

ment.

His government, which denies the allegation and blames the rebels for all chemical attacks in Syria, still has roughly 7 percent of 1,300 metric tonnes it declared to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, enough highly toxic material to carry out a large-scale attack.

Ban said he expected a joint UN-OPCW mission overseeing the elimination of the Syrian poison gas stocks "will continue its work for a finite period of time beyond 30 June 2014."

Assad's government has already indicated it wants the mission shut down as soon as all chemicals are shipped out of Syria. But Western governments want it to continue working for the foreseeable

future.

Western officials say they want the UN-OPCW mission to continue investigating what they describe as ambiguities in Syria's chemical weapons declaration. They have cited US, French and British intelligence that Assad's government failed to disclose all of its poison gas stocks.

The Syrian government has missed several deadlines, most recently its own promise to hand over the remaining chemicals by 27 April. It has also failed to destroy a dozen facilities that were part of the chemical weapons programme.

The government has blamed those failures on security problems and rebel activities, but Western officials have voiced skepticism about those explanations.

Reuters



Indonesian police officers clash with mock protesters during a security drill for upcoming presidential elections in Jakarta, Indonesia, 29 May, 2014. Indonesia's presidential campaign is to be held from 4 June to 5 July and presidential polls on 9 July, 2014.

XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 30 May, 2014

Are rent-regulated apartments for low-income families possible in Yangon?

By Myint Win Thein

Recently, the Yangon UNICEF office said that its financial resources have been strained by the high rent prices in Yangon, stating that it has to pay about US\$ 90,000 a month for its compound, which is still less compared to what other international organizations have to pay.

Another UN agency, the World Health Organ-

ization also has a compound in Yangon, larger than that of UNICEF, with the rent price not publicized.

The best properties in Yangon are in the hand of a few people resulting in skyrocketing rents, insiders said.

While the financial resources of well-funded international organizations are already strained by the high rents in Yangon, how can low income families find a place to live in Yangon?

According to news reports, apartment rents in downtown Yangon rose by K 200,000 per month this year. In addition, tenants have to pay rent for at least six months or a year in advance. Paying the rent on a monthly basis which is common practice in most other countries is impossible here.

Most tenants in Yangon have to move out of downtown Yangon as they can no longer afford the rents. This also causes the rents in the suburbs of Yangon to rise, forcing those who have already been

living in suburbs to move to the outskirts of the city where rents are cheaper but no proper infrastructure exists. Many now buy huts as the construction costs less than one month rent in the suburbs.

Myanmar is a country where taxes on rents are loosely levied and lease of property is poorly regulated. In the US, there are rent-regulated apartments for low income families. Incentives are given to landlords of such apartments with tax breaks on their rents. If taxes are levied strictly on rents, rent-regulated apartments may be possible for low-income families in Yangon too.

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.

All-round Developments of Renovation and Constructions of Religious Edifices and Implementations of Religious matters and affairs of the Buddhism throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

According to the present statistical census of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the present population of the entire nation stands at over 60 millions. About 85 per cent of population takes faith in Theravada Buddhism.

It is known that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a predominant Theravada Buddhist Nation in the world throughout age since years ago. Consequently, the members of the Sangha, the entire multifarious Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to carry out the noble tasks of all-round developments of renovations and new constructions of religious buildings and implementations of religions matters and affairs leading to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana throughout the country. We all Buddhists know that such all-round developments of renovations and new constructions of religious edifices have been done since the time of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar. We all Buddhists, from generation to generation, throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will never forget such noble tasks of these historic events in the history of Buddhism of Myanmar.

During the period of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, the noble tasks and historic noble events leading to the purification, perpetua-

tion, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully carried out. And now, the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is carrying out these noble tasks in continuation.

In order to confer more religious titles on the eminent members of Sangha for their outstanding activities and contributions to promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Buddha) at home and abroad, the law of presentation of religious titles was enacted in 1991 as Law No. 41/91 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar. According to the Law for presentation of religious titles, more religious titles have been presented to the eminent members of Sangha at home and abroad since then. It is learnt that members of Sangha from foreign countries have not been presented religious titles since 1962.

With a view to strengthening the friendly and religious relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and to promote and propagate the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Buddha) all over the world, the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha from People's Republic of China was conveyed to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1955, 1994, 1996 and 2011 respectively for being paid homage here. While the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha from the People's Republic of China was being paid homage in the Union of Myanmar in 1994 and the other two Sa-

cred Replica-Tooth Relic of the Buddha were also paid homage at the same time.

According to the strong wishes of the members of the Sangha, the pious Buddhist people and the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the guidance of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, these other two Sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha were enshrined each in the two Buddha Tooth Relic Pagodas, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay. The Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) was completed in November 1996 and the Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay) in December 1996 respectively. These two Pagodas will stand forever as significant symbol of everlasting friendship and relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and also will be a sacred place of Buddhist people and Buddhist communities throughout the world.

And again, members of Sangha and Buddhist people across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are very pleased and greatly honored to learn that the three sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha have been donated by the People's Republic of China in order to be paid homage by members of Sangha and Buddhist people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. These three sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha have already been conveyed to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by authorities concerned.

It is further learnt that

these sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha will be located and paid homage, one at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the nation, one the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon the second capital of the nation, and one at the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Mandalay, the third capital of the nation respectively.

The everlasting noble tasks for hoisting the grand new golden umbrella (Hti-taw) of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda and all-round developments of renovations and restorations of the sacred stairways and gateways of the Pagoda were successfully carried out by generous donations and supporting of the government and the pious multifarious Buddhist people throughout the country.

And also, some parts and edifices of Sule and Botahtaung Pagodas in Yangon have been renovated and restored by generous donations of the Buddhist people.

And also, the most ancient pagodas in Bagan (the famous ancient city of the nation) are being renovated and restored in original style by generous pious Buddhist people under the aegis of the Government. Renovations and restorations of most ancient pagodas in Bagan have been completed. In addition, renovations and new constructions of many pagodas, monasteries and other religious buildings in States and Regions throughout the country were carried out. Besides, the Lokamunicula Pagoda which was built by the Government of the Union of Myanmar in Lumbini Park, the Birthplace of the Buddha, Nepal, was com-

pleted in 1995.

In addition, it is further learnt that according to the arrangements of the concerning ministries of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Buddhist people throughout the nation are allowed to visit the four sacred places of the Inspiring Awareness and Apprehension of the Omniscient Buddha in India and Nepal every year.

Moreover, the immense sacred Lokachantha Abhaya Labha Muni Marble Buddha Image was respectfully established by the Government of the Union of Myanmar in order to be paid homage by internal Buddhist people and international Buddhist communities. The Buddha Image is respectfully located in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

Furthermore, we all Buddhists across the world heartily know that the fourth significant World Buddhist Summit which was attended by both internal and international Buddhist delegates and representatives was successfully held in of the Union of Myanmar in December 2004. The Summit was earnestly organized and sponsored by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. This concrete and noble event of successfully holding such significant world Buddhist Summit is the most important milestone in the world Buddhist history.

And now, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and honored to learn that the **Uppatasanti Pagoda of 325 feet in height, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda**, has been already built in Nay Pyi Taw,

the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Paying homage to the newly-built Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, will be like just paying homage to the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built in the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha in 103 Great Era (589 BC) over 2557 years ago.

And also, we all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that the monastic education schools which were faint out and nearly disappeared in our country could have been re-introduced by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. For higher studies of Buddhism, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities could be established, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay. And now, young members of the Sangha at home and abroad are attending these two universities for further studies of Buddhism. Besides, an International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University has been established already in Yangon, the second capital of Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This university will be a permanent learning centre for further studies of the genuine Theravada Buddhism in the Buddhist world.

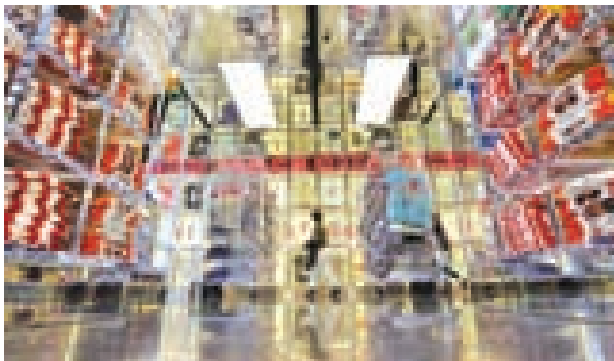
Such noble tasks of all-round developments of renovations and new constructions of pagodas, monasteries and other various religious buildings throughout the country were successfully carried out in a large scale across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is leaning forward, interacting with a young girl. The girl is wearing a blue patterned shirt and a colorful headscarf with a red and yellow design. She is holding a small blue object. In the background, a group of other children, also wearing blue shirts and various colorful headscarves, are looking on. The setting appears to be outdoors, possibly at a school or community event.

A: Last year when text books for primary schools were distributed, commission from the sale of middle and high schools text books was spent to settle the transportation fees. But this year, text books for the middle schools are distributed free of charge, and therefore the

Japan April retail sales tumble after tax hike, rebound may take time

TOKYO, 29 May — Japanese retail sales fell in April at their fastest pace in three years due to declining sales of cars and electronics, offering the first indication of how much consumers are trimming their purchases after a sales tax hike took



A shopper walks in a clothing retail store at Ginza shopping district in Tokyo on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

effect on 1 April.

The 4.4 percent annual decrease in retail sales was more than the median estimate for a 3.3 percent decline, and marked the biggest drop since a devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

In one encouraging

sign, declines in sales of apparel and toiletries were limited, which suggests consumer spending will pick up in May in line with the Bank of Japan's scenario, but there are worries that a recovery in durable goods could take more time.

"There are signs that declines in spending on daily necessities is already bottoming out, which supports a gradual recovery in spending," said Shuji Tonouchi, senior fixed income strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities.

Reuters

Moderate exercise helps maintain mobility in older adults

WASHINGTON, 29 May — A daily 20-minute walk can help older adults reduce the risk of losing the ability to walk without assistance, thereby enhancing the quality of their later years, a US study said on Tuesday.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that moderate exercise including walking can help aging adults maintain their mobility, or the ability to walk without assistance, at a rate 18 percent higher than older adults who did not exercise.

Called the Lifestyle Interventions and Independence for Elders (LIFE) trial, the study recruited 1,635 sedentary men and women aged 70 to 89 to investigate how daily physical activity will prevent older adults' loss of mobility, defined in the study as the ability to walk 400 meters, or about a quarter of a mile.

Although 400 meters might sound like an arbitrary number, it's an important figure for older

adults, according to the study led by researchers at the University of Florida (UF).

"Four hundred meters is once around the track, or from the parking lot to the store, or two or three blocks around your neighborhood," Co-principal investigator Jack Guralnik, professor of the University of Maryland who also holds a faculty position at UF. "It's an important distance in maintaining an independent life."

The participants in the study could walk a quarter mile within 15 minutes but were at risk of losing that ability. Low physical performance is common in older adults and is a risk factor for illness, hospitalization, disability, and death.

"These are people who are patients we see every day. This is why this study is so important: It includes a population that is typically understudied," principal investigator Marco Pahor, director of the UF's Institute on Aging said.

Reuters

Asian shares at one-year high, bonds fly high on ECB hopes

TOKYO, 29 May — Asian shares inched up to a one-year high on Thursday while global bond prices surged, pushing their yields to multi-month lows, supported by expectations of easier monetary policy from the European Central Bank.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.15 percent, led by gains in Hong Kong and Singapore shares and hitting one-year highs for the fifth time in the last six sessions.

Japan's Nikkei share average gained 0.1 percent.

Spreadbetters see European shares opening mostly flat, with Germany's DAX seen unchanged after hitting a record high the previous day and Britain's FTSE 100 seen up to 0.1 percent higher.

On Wall Street, the S&P500 index snapped a four-session winning streak on Wednesday to end slightly below a record closing high hit on Tues-

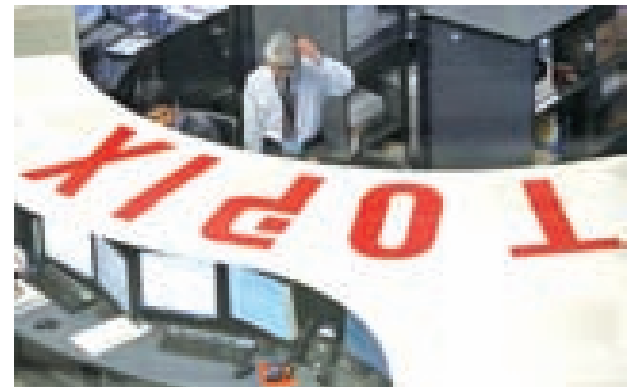
day, though it achieved an intraday record high.

Bond yields fell sharply as investors prepared for the ECB's expected easing. German 10-year Bund yields fell to a one-year low of 1.285 percent and periphery euro zone debt yields also tumbled, with Spanish debt yielding a record low of 2.823 percent.

"In the past, when share prices rise, bond prices fell. But that no longer applies. We are likely to see a combination of high share prices and low bond yields," said Daisuke Uno, chief strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

An unexpected increase in German unemployment and a deceleration in the euro zone money supply on Wednesday reinforced expectations that the ECB will introduce further stimulus at its meeting on 5 June.

ECB executive board member Yves Mersch ramped up the rhetoric, saying the next meeting



Employees of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) look at a monitor at the bourse at the TSE in Tokyo on 3 March, 2014.—REUTERS

could yield a combination of policies to tackle low inflation and low credit growth, but the timing of implementation could vary.

Measures being prepared by the ECB are likely to include cutting the deposit rate into negative territory — effectively charging banks to hold cash at the ECB overnight — and bank loans to increase lending to smaller companies.

"The ECB's easing is the biggest thing for markets for now. Nobody at this point clearly knows the

ramifications of negative rates. In our dealing room, we have had heated debate but got no conclusion," said a proprietary trader at a major Japanese bank.

"But at least it's something that will help bring down long-term bond yields," he added.

The prospect of radical easing spilled over to other markets, with the 10-year US Treasuries yield falling to 2.44 percent from 2.52 percent, hitting its lowest level in almost 11 months.—Reuters

Top scientists warn WHO not to stub out e-cigarettes



A customer tests e-liquids for e-cigarettes during the first international fair of electronic cigarette and vapology "Vapexpo" in Bordeaux, southwestern France, on 13 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 29 May — A group of 53 leading scientists has warned the World Health Organization not to classify e-cigarettes as tobacco products, arguing that doing so would jeopardize a major opportunity to slash disease and deaths caused by smoking.

The UN agency, which is currently assessing its position on the matter, has previously indicated it would favor applying similar restrictions to all nicotine-containing products.

In an open letter to WHO Director General Margaret Chan, the scientists from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia argued that low-risk products like e-cigarettes were "part of the solution" in the fight against smoking, not part of the problem.

"These products could be among the most significant health innovations of the 21st century — perhaps saving hundreds of millions of lives. The urge to control and suppress them

as tobacco products should be resisted," the experts wrote. Leaked documents from a meeting last November suggest the WHO views e-cigarettes as a "threat" and wants them classified the same way as regular tobacco products under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

That has set alarm bells ringing among a number of medical experts — and in the booming e-cigarette industry. A total of 178

countries are parties to the international convention and are obliged to implement its measures, with the United States the one notable non-signatory.

A move to classify e-cigarettes alongside regular cigarettes would push countries into taking similar tough measures to restrict demand, including raising taxes, banning advertising, introducing health warnings and curbing use in public places.

Uptake of electronic cigarettes, which use battery-powered cartridges to produce a nicotine-laced inhalable vapor, has rocketed in the last two years and analysts estimate the industry had worldwide sales of some \$3 billion in 2013.

But the devices are controversial. Because they are so new there is a lack of long-term scientific evidence to support their safety and some fear they could be "gateway" products to nicotine addiction and tobacco smoking — though the scientists said they were "unaware of any credible evidence that supports this conjecture".

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New Zealand study fills gap in understanding climate change impact on poles

WELLINGTON, 29 May — New Zealand scientists said on Thursday they had made a breakthrough in understanding how large waves were breaking up Antarctic sea ice, which could change understanding of how climate change is affecting the two global ice caps.

Studies by the government's National Institute of Water and Atmosphere Research (NIWA) showed that large waves those

bigger than 3 meters can break sea ice over greater distances than previously believed.

They said this process could be "the missing science" that explained the increase in Antarctic and rapid decrease in Arctic sea ice. The findings were in contrast to the predictions from climate change models that Antarctic sea ice should have already begun retreating and could explain the accelerating loss

of Arctic sea ice, NIWA scientist Dr Alison Kohout said in a statement.

"In the Arctic there is a lot of evidence of sea ice retreat, yet scientists have been unable to reproduce the speed of sea ice retreat in their modeling. This suggests something is missing from the models," she said.

Sea ice played a critical role in moderating the global climate system and the state of the sea ice was an indicator of how climate

was changing around the poles.

The Southern Ocean was continually generating large and unforgiving swells that broke the sea ice apart, removing the barrier between the ocean and atmosphere.

The breakthrough was due to new technology that enabled scientists to collect more and better data about large waves, NIWA's Dr Mike Williams said in the statement. —Xinhua

Intel readies 3D-printed robots for handy consumers

RANCHO PALOS VERDE (California), 29 May — Intel Corp introduced a walking, talking robot on Wednesday made from 3D-printed parts that will be available to consumers later this year, if they are willing to assemble it with a kit that costs around \$1,600.

The company's Chief Executive Brian Krzanich was accompanied by "Jimmy" on stage at the Code Conference in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. The white 2-foot tall robot shuffled onto the stage, introduced itself and then waved its arms.

Intel describes Jimmy as a research robot, but the company intends to make 3D-printable plans available without charge for a slightly less advanced version, and partners will sell components that cannot be 3D-printed, such as motors and an Intel Edison processor, in kits. Jimmy can be programmed to sing, trans-

late languages, send tweets and even serve a cold beer.

Under Krzanich, who took over a year ago, the chipmaker is trying to be an early player in emerging technologies like smart clothing, after coming late to the mobile revolution and making little progress in smartphones and tablets.

Its strategy includes

engaging tech-savvy do-it-yourselfers and weekend hobbyists working on everything from Internet-connected baby blankets to robots and drones.

Owners of the robots will be able to programme them to perform unique tasks. They can then share the programmes with other owners as downloadable

apps. Intel, based in Santa Clara, California, hopes the price for the robot kits will fall below \$1,000 within five years. Separately on Wednesday, entrepreneur Bill Gross announced plans for a 3D printer that would sell for \$149, far less than devices that now typically sell for \$1,000 or more.

Reuters



Intel's Jimmy the Robot is shown in this publicity photo released to Reuters on 28 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Multinational crew blasts off, arrives aspace station



The Soyuz TMA-13M spacecraft carrying the International Space Station crew of Alexander Gerst of Germany, Maxim Surayev of Russia and Reid Wiseman of the US blasts off from the launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 29 May, 2014.

REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, 29 May — Leaving politics behind, a veteran Russian cosmonaut and a pair of rookie astronauts from the United States and Germany blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Wednesday for a six-month mission aboard the International Space Station. The crew's Russian Soyuz rocket lifted off at 3:57 pm EDT and headed into orbit, a live broadcast on NASA Television showed.

Perched on top of the rocket was a Russian Soyuz capsule holding cosmonaut Maxim Suraev, a retired Russian Air Force colonel; NASA astronaut and US Navy pilot Reid Wiseman; and German astronaut and geophysicist Alexander Gerst.

"Adrenaline is rising but feel relaxed," Gerst, 38, posted on Twitter as he and

his crewmates rode a bus out to the launch pad.

Less than six hours after liftoff, Gerst and his crewmates reached the station, a \$100 billion research laboratory as it flew about 260 miles (418 km) above the Pacific Ocean west of Peru.

The Soyuz slipped into a berthing port on the station's Rassvet module at 9:44 pm EDT.

The station, a project of 15 nations, is overseen by the United States and Russia. Tensions between the countries have been strained following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and economic sanctions imposed by the United States as punishment. But until recently, the space partnership was largely exempt from the political rancor and the sanctions' financial impacts.—Reuters

Google building self-driving cars with no driver seat, steering wheels

RANCHO PALOS VERDES (California), 29 May — Google Inc is building cars that don't have steering wheels, accelerator pedals or brake pedals, in an ambitious expansion of the Internet company's efforts to develop self-driving cars.

The small electric cars, which seat two passengers, are currently prototypes that Google has been building through partnerships with automotive suppliers and manufacturers, Google co-founder Sergey Brin said at the Code conference in Southern California on Tuesday.

Google aims to build



A driverless car is seen in an artist's rendition provided by Google in Mountain View, California on 28 May, 2014. — REUTERS

up to 200 such cars in the near term and hopes the vehicles will be available in various cities within a couple of years, he said.

Google has been testing self-driving cars since 2009, incorporating laser sensors and radars into

standard automobiles such as the Prius from Toyota Motor Corp and sport-utility vehicles from Toyota luxury car division Lexus.

While those vehicles require a human to remain in the driver's seat and to take over in certain situa-

tions, the new cars operate completely autonomously.

Brin said the cars could operate as a service, picking up passengers when summoned, and potentially even operate as fleets of interconnected "trains".

"Ten seconds after getting in I was doing my email, I had forgotten I was there," Brin said of his experience riding in one of the pod-like vehicles, which resemble a cross between a Smart car and Volkswagen Beetle. "It ultimately reminded me of catching a chairlift."

Brin declined to specify whether Google intend-

ed to build and sell the cars itself, saying only that the company would "work with partners".

The driverless cars are currently limited to a maximum speed of 25 miles (40 km) an hour, but Brin said there was no reason the cars could not go as fast as 100 miles an hour or more once they had been proven to be safe.

The front of the cars contain about 2 feet (61 cm) of foam and the windshield is made out of plastic instead of glass to make the cars safer, he said.

"Within a couple of years I hope we will sur-

pass the safety metrics we've put in place, which is to be significantly safer than a human driver, and we will start testing them without drivers and hopefully you'll be able to utilize them at some limited cities," Brin said.

A handful of US states, including California and Nevada, have passed legislation to allow testing of self-driving cars on public roads. Brin said he was optimistic that the new, passenger-only self-driving cars would be approved for testing in the US and overseas in the future.

Reuters

Merkel's hesitation on Juncker opens race for EU Commission



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin on 28 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 29 May — Chancellor Angela Merkel's diluted support for Jean-Claude Juncker's bid to be European Commission president has thrown the field open to other candidates, although it will be weeks before a single nominee emerges.

While Merkel did not rule Juncker out after talks with EU leaders on Tuesday, she acknowledged there was opposition to his candidacy and said a range of top EU jobs could only be decided in negotiations running until late June.

The European People's Party, the EU's centre-right political movement of which Merkel's party is a core member, won the most seats in European Parliament elections and is firmly backing Juncker to become Commission president.

"I am a member of the EPP. We nominated Jean-Claude Juncker ... The entire agenda can be implemented by him, but also by

many others," Merkel said, choosing her words carefully as reporters peppered her with questions. "But I still have to respect the treaty."

Her reference to the treaty is heavily laden. It says the 28 heads of state and government must agree on a candidate by a "qualified majority", which effectively means all but a handful agreeing.

But with British Prime Minister David Cameron openly opposed to Juncker, who he regards as an old-style European federalist, and countries like Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland and some in eastern Europe and the Baltics sharing

Britain's concerns, it is not clear there is majority support for the Luxembourger.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said EU leaders had caved into Britain over Juncker's candidacy and called Tuesday's informal summit "sobering, verging on pathetic".

The treaty also says EU leaders must nominate someone "taking into account" the results of the European elections. It does not say they must nominate the candidate chosen by the party that won the European elections.

The only obligation on leaders is to ensure that whoever they pick comes

from the centre-right EPP family. The nominee must then be approved by parliament.

If Juncker is dropped over the coming weeks—or perhaps given another job such as president of the European Council, who chairs EU summits—plenty of other names are already circulating for the Commission presidency.

The person who is eventually picked for arguably Brussels' most powerful job will go a long way to indicate how genuine the EU is about moving in a new direction prioritising growth and jobs, which leaders say is necessary to win voters back.—Reuters

US investigates reports of American suicide bomber in Syria

WASHINGTON, 29 May — US government agencies were examining social media postings purporting to show how an American who was fighting with an al-Qaeda affiliate blew himself up recently in a suicide attack in northern Syria, US officials said. The officials, who declined to be identified, said US agencies assessed that the postings were likely authentic. One said some investigators believed they knew the "US person's" true identity, but declined to give further details. According to Internet postings, the suicide bomber, who called himself "Abu Hurayra al-Amriki" carried out one of four suicide bombings on 25 May in Syria's Idlib Province on behalf of Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's affiliate fighting to oust the government of President Bashar al Assad.

If his identity is confirmed, he would be the first American known to have committed a suicide bombing in Syria on behalf of al-Qaeda, said Laith Alkhouri, a senior analyst with Flashpoint Global Partners, which monitors militant websites for government and private clients. Alkhouri said social media postings, including Twitter messages and a video posted on YouTube, showed Abu Hurayra posing in a still picture with three other suicide bombers, one of whom was Syrian. The other two were foreigners.—Reuters

Venezuela government accuses opposition leader of 'coup' plot

CARACAS, 29 May — Venezuelan officials on Wednesday accused hardline opposition leader Maria Corina Machado of leading plots to topple President Nicolas Maduro in league with US officials.

The allegations are the latest in a torrent from the government, which says three months of protests this year were a veneer for a US-backed conspiracy to unseat the successor to late socialist leader Hugo Chavez.

Opposition leaders deny and deride those accusations as a smokescreen for a struggling government, saying the demon-

strations, in which 42 people died, were a spontaneous response to economic hardship, insecurity and state repression.

Maduro's top officials lined up for a much-touted news conference, which all local broadcasters were required to carry live, to denounce Machado and other opposition figures for "assassination" and "coup" plots against the president.

They also accused US envoy to Colombia, Kevin Whitaker, of being involved and in touch with Machado. A spokeswoman for the US Embassy in Colombia did not immediately respond to requests for



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado

comment.

"What we are presenting is part of a criminal investigation," ruling Socialist Party official Jorge Rodriguez said, showing emails he said were proof of the plans. Machado, 46, who was instrumental in

calling Venezuelans onto the streets for three months of demonstrations against Maduro this year, scoffed at the accusations as "infamy" via Twitter.

Rodriguez, a psychiatrist as well as a politician, showed iPad screenshots of various emails he said were from Machado, showing language typical of "serial killers."

"We need to clean up this rubbish, starting at the top, taking advantage of the global climate with Ukraine and now Thailand, as soon as possible," read one.

"The time has come to join forces, make the

necessary calls and obtain the funds to annihilate Maduro."

Machado and another hardline opposition leader, Leopoldo Lopez, were the main proponents of the protests that began in February.

Lopez was jailed in mid-February and his wife, Lilian Tintori, who is also close to Machado, met Pope Francis at the Vatican on Wednesday during an international tour to garner support for her husband.

Three generals and an army captain were also imprisoned in March on charges of "coup" plots.

Reuters

Tanker hit by explosion in Seto Inland Sea, one missing

KOBE, 29 May — A fuel tanker captain is missing and four crew members sustained severe injuries following an explosion aboard the vessel on Thursday morning in the Seto Inland Sea off Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, in western Japan, the Japan Coast Guard said.

Seven crew members were rescued, but boat-swain Yoshimichi Ogata, 61, one of the four injured crew, was listed in critical condition, according to the coast guard. The ship's captain, Masaichi Ando, 64, is missing. The 998-ton *Shoko Maru* was anchored about 5 kilometres

off Himeji port when the explosion occurred around 9:20 am, the coast guard said, adding that the vessel did not have oil in its storage at that time. A fire apparently occurred aboard the tanker when a crew member was trying to grind off rust on an oil storage tank with a machine tool, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Much of the ship's hull was burned and blackened due to the explosion. The Japan Transport Safety Board sent three investigators to the scene of the explosion. The tanker left Hiroshima Prefecture on 22 May and unloaded about

2,000 kilolitres of heavy fuel oil at a power station in neighboring Hyogo the following day, according

to Syoho Shipping Co, a shipping company in Hiroshima that owns the tanker.

Kyodo News

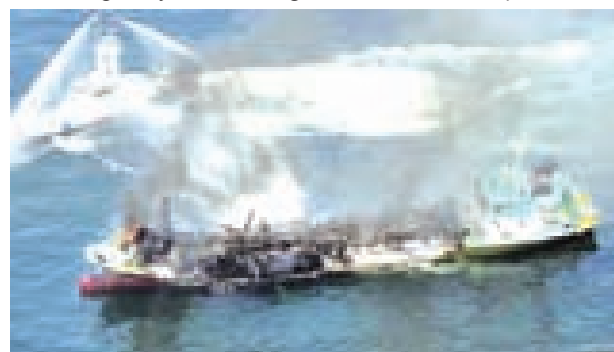


Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows black smoke rising from the tanker *Shoko Maru*, while firefighting is under way, in the Seto Inland Sea off Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, in western Japan, after an explosion aboard the vessel on 29 May, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

EU sends soldiers to help in relief operations after Bosnia floods

SARAJEVO, 29 May — Around 400 soldiers from Austria, Slovakia and the United Kingdom will join the EU peacekeeping mission in Bosnia this week to help conduct relief operations after the worst floods in living memory hit the country, EUFOR said on Wednesday.

More than 50 people were killed by flooding and landslides in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia. The heaviest rainfall in more than a century had caused rivers to burst their banks, sweeping away roads, bridges and homes. EUFOR took over from NATO in 2004 military im-

plementation of the Dayton peace accords, which ended Bosnia's 1992-95 war. It now comprises around 640 soldiers from 22 countries.

Three companies of around 140 men from Austria, Slovakia and the United Kingdom will start arriving in Bosnia from Friday to help Bosnia's armed forces conduct disaster relief operations, after nearly one million people were displaced by flooding. "They were coming anyway for a previously planned exercise but will now be deployed in relief operations," EUFOR spokesman Jim Love told Reuters.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (028)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (028) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (375)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (375) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2014 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (010)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (010) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VISA SHIPPING LINE PTE**
Phone No: 2301185

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Providing technical assistance in connection with the establishment and/or operation of door-to-door and internet based retail merchandising of various goods, namely, cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; door-to-door and internet based retail merchandising of various goods, namely, cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; providing product demonstrations in the field of cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; providing information regarding consumer products via global computer network; computerized online retail and wholesale services and distributorships in the field of cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; business consultation in the nature of providing assistance to others in connection with establishing and operating distributorships, wholesale and retail sales, all in the field of cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps, laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; mail order catalog services featuring cosmetics and toiletries, household cleaners, soaps; laundry products, dietary and food supplements, nutritional snack foods and beverages, household paper products, cookware, domestic water and air treatment systems; association services, namely, promoting the interests of independent business owners; assistance, advisory services and consultancy with regard to business planning, business analysis, business management, and business organization. (Int'l Class 35)

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Aung Naing Moe, Advocate Ong Minn U, Advocate May Phyto Kin, H.G.P
For Alticor Inc.

Myanmar Global Law Firm Ph:0973220023

Dated:30 May 2014

China, Malaysia industrial parks under construction

NANNING, 29 May — More than 6.2 billion yuan (about 1 billion US dollars) has been pumped into the construction of an industrial park jointly built by China and Malaysia as

part of an ambitious plan to rejuvenate the ancient maritime Silk Road. The China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has

invested over 1.2 billion yuan on roads, sewage disposal plants, water and power supply as well as housing projects for workers since construction started in April 2012.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) 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: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ALAW VOY NO (6)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALAW VOY NO (6) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2014 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
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TRADE MARK CAUTION
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EM - 1

Reg. No. 3381 / 2014

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Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to Law.

KAR THO OHN, LL.M
Advocate

No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon

info_japan@emresearch.com

Dated: 20th May 2014

Singapore to build more sheltered walkways for commuters

SINGAPORE, 29 May — Singapore will begin its enhancement work for sheltered walkways from transport nodes to schools and health care facilities from the four quarter this year, the city state's Land Transport Authority said on Thursday.

The sheltered walkway building programme will add totally more than 200 kilometers of new sheltered walkways, which is four times more than the 46 kilometres nowadays, aiming at more convenience to all who walk to their ride on the public transport network, no matter rainy days or sunny days.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (2/2014)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars (CIF Yangon)

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/1	Toyota Towing Tractor (Brand-New) for Aviation Dispenser (2014-2015)	4 Nos.	Kyats
(2)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/2	Server, and Accessories (2014-2015)	11 Items	Kyats
(3)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/3	Projector, Copier, Printer, Fax and Scanner (2014-2015)	5 Items	Kyats
(4)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/4	Air Conditioner (2014-2015)	5 Sets	Kyats
(5)	MPPE/LP/MCY//T/1	Battery (2014-2015)	2 Items	Kyats
(6)	MPPE/LP/TTS/T/1	Tyre with Tube and Flap (2014-2015)	2 Items	Kyats
(7)	MPPE/LP/CHEM/T/1	Shell Water Detector Capsules (2014-2015)	890 Boxes	Kyats
(8)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/1	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven) (2014-2015)	2 Items (each 2 nos)	USD
(9)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/2	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump with Trailer inductor (2014-2015)	2 Sets	USD
(10)	MPPE/MCY/T/1	Butterfly Valves, Swing Joints, Expansion Joints and Flexible Connectors (2014-2015)	8 Items	USD

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-6-2014, 12:00 Hrs.

3. Tender document are available at our office starting from 27-5-2014 at during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone 067-411487.

**Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw**

Justin Bieber, Kylie Jenner spotted out for dinner?



Kylie Jenner

LONDON, 29 May — Reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been spotted having dinner with teen pop sensation Justin Bieber.

The pair were spotted tucking into some posh Italian grub last evening at the Rainbow Club on Sunset Strip in Hollywood, reported *Daily Mirror*.

Dressed in a black tee, denim hot-pants and biker boots, reality star looked casual for her date, while 'Baby' hitmaker blinged himself up in some gangster chains.

The pair spent the night taking selfies and posting them on Twitter.—PTI

US author, poet, rights activist Maya Angelou dies at 86

WASHINGTON, 29 May — American author and poet Maya Angelou, whose groundbreaking memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" earned her international acclaim with its unflinching account of rape and racism in the segregated South, died on Wednesday at age 86.

The prolific African-American writer, known for her lyrical prose and regal speaking voice, died quietly at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Angelou's family said in a statement. No cause of death was given.

Major League Baseball had planned to honour her in Houston on Friday as part of the Civil Rights Game festivities, but Angelou announced last week that she would be unable to attend due to health reasons.

Angelou, who was also a civil rights activist, playwright, actress, singer, dancer and professor during her varied career, penned more than 30 books and won numerous awards, including the country's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President Barack Obama in 2011.

Her latest work, "Mom & Me & Mom," about her mother and grandmother and what they taught her, was released last year. In her last tweet on 23 May, Angelou said, "Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God."

Literary and entertainment figures, politicians and fans mourned her passing on Wednesday.

Obama said his sister, Maya, was named for the author, whom he called "a brilliant writer, a fierce friend and a truly phenomenal woman."

"A childhood of suffering and abuse actually drove her to stop speaking — but the voice she found helped generations of Americans find their rainbow amidst the clouds, and inspired the rest of us to be our best selves," Obama said in a statement.

Media mogul Oprah Winfrey, who frequently threw lavish birthday parties for Angelou and considered her a mentor, said she would remember her friend most for how she lived her life.

"She moved through the world with unshakeable calm, confidence and a fierce grace," Winfrey said.—Reuters



Maya Angelou receives a Medal of Freedom from US President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, on 15 Feb, 2011.—Reuters

Prankster hits Brad Pitt in the face at "Maleficent" premiere



Cast member Angelina Jolie and actor Brad Pitt

LOS ANGELES, 29 May — An infamous red carpet prankster struck actor Brad Pitt in the face as he signed autographs at the Hollywood premiere of a film starring his partner Angelina Jolie on Wednesday, police said. Pitt, a Golden Globe-winning actor, was at the premiere of "Maleficent", at the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood, California, when Vitalii Sediuk leaped over a fence and hit him, said Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Gus Villanueva.

Pitt was not seriously hurt and authorities quickly subdued Sediuk, who was

arrested for misdemeanor battery and remained in police custody on Wednesday night, Villanueva said. Sediuk is now being held pending payment of \$20,000 bail.

"The officers who were handling him said it looked like it was intentional, but at this point, it remains to be determined," said Sergeant Leonard Calderon for LAPD Hollywood.

Sediuk, 25, is a Ukrainian television reporter who has often pranked celebrities at red carpet events.

In previous exploits, Sediuk has hugged actor Leonardo DiCaprio's

crotch at a Santa Barbara Film Festival event, stormed the stage during singer Adele's Grammy acceptance speech, and been slapped by Will Smith after kissing the actor at a Moscow premiere.

Sediuk did not appear to be armed at the time of the attack on Pitt, and investigators have not yet determined a motive, said Villanueva, adding that he was likely to be arraigned on Thursday.

"Maleficent" is Disney's modern reimagining of the "Sleeping Beauty" fairytale, and Jolie stars as its villain.—Reuters

Coldplay tops Billboard album chart with year's best sales week

Will Champion (L) and Jonny Buckland of Coldplay react after winning the British Live Act category during the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 20 Feb, 2013.—Reuters



LOS ANGELES, 29 May — Coldplay's new album topped the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday in its opening week, notching the highest weekly sales by any artist so far this year and scoring the British rock group its fourth No 1 album on the chart. "Ghost Stories," the sixth studio album from the quartet fronted by Chris Martin, sold 383,000 copies in the United States last week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan. That beat country singer Eric Church's February release, "The Outsiders," for the top US sales week this year by nearly 100,000 copies.

Downloads accounted for 64 percent of total sales for "Ghost Stories," Billboard said.

Country singer Brantley Gilbert's "Just As I Am" debuted at No 2 on the chart with sales of 211,000 copies. Michael Jackson's posthumous release, "Xscape," fell to third from second, while the hit soundtrack to Disney's \$1.2 billion-grossing animated film, "Frozen," held at No 4. Last week's top album, The Black Keys' "Turn Blue," dropped to No 5.

New releases in the top 10 this week include singer-songwriter Phillip Phillips' "Behind the Light" at No 7 followed by the soundtrack to the film "The Fault in Our Stars" at No 8.—Reuters

GENERAL

Cherry blossoms blooming earlier due to global warming: US EPA

WASHINGTON, 29 May — Cherry blossoms near the Potomac River in Washington are reaching their peak bloom date around five days earlier than they were 90 years ago due to global warming, the US Environmental Protection Agency said on Wednesday.

While the peak bloom varies from year to year, the date for the average year has moved up, the agency said. The schedule of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, which draws more than 1.5 million visitors every year, could in the future be affected as a result, it added.

The peak bloom date is defined as the day 70 percent of blossoms are in full bloom, according to the EPA.

Cherry blossoms in the US capital got their start from saplings sent from Tokyo in 1912, with



File photo taken in April 2014 shows cherry blossoms in Washington, with Washington Monument seen in background. On 28 May, 2014, the US Environmental Protection Agency said cherry blossoms near the Potomac River in Washington are reaching their peak bloom date around five days earlier than they were 90 years ago due to global warming. —KYODO NEWS

approximately 3,800 planted around the Tidal Basin.

While the average peak bloom date during the past 90-odd years is 4

April, it has become unexceptional that the peak comes in March since the start of the 1990s.

This year's peak, how-

ever, fell on 10 April due to the effects of an extremely cold winter in the eastern United States.

Kyodo News

Socceroos land in Brazil ahead of World Cup

CURITIBA, 29 May — Australia midfielder Tommy Oar says his team's lack of experience and relative anonymity could work in their favor during the World Cup. The Socceroos were the first team after hosts Brazil to arrive in the South American nation ahead of the 12 June-13 July tournament on Wednesday.

"We are an unknown quantity. It's going to be a great opportunity for the team to surprise and that is really exciting," Oar was quoted saying by FIFA.com. "The fact the tournament is in the home of football provides even more

motivation."

FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke was on the tarmac in the southern city of Curitiba to welcome the Socceroos before they boarded a chartered flight to their World Cup base in Vitoria, about 500km north of Rio de Janeiro. "The @socceroos have landed in Brazil! Welcome to the #WorldCup. #bemvindos #jatempcopa," Valcke wrote on Twitter. Australia will meet Croatia in a friendly in Salvador on 6 June before their opening Group B fixture against Chile in Cuiaba eight days later. —Xinhua

Pakistani Taliban splits as divisions grow within insurgency

PARACHINAR, (Pakistan) 29 May, — The Pakistani Taliban split into two groups on Wednesday, highlighting growing divisions within the movement and diminishing the government's chances of finding a negotiated settlement with the insurgency. The split is between two rival groups from the powerful Mehsud tribe which provides the Taliban the bulk of their money and fighters from its base in the South Waziristan region.

The breakaway group is in favour of peace talks with the government while the main insurgency has announced that it will

continue attacks against government and security targets. "The (Taliban's) present leadership and fighters have become a band of paid killers involved in un-Islamic activities like killings, robberies, extortion and kidnappings for ransom," Azam Tariq, a spokesman for the breakaway faction, told *Reuters*. The Taliban leadership could not be reached for comment.

The Pakistani Taliban — separate to but allied with the Afghan Taliban — is already fractured, a loose union of groups who often fight with each other.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(30-5-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
- 2. Song & Dance of National Races
- 7:00 am
- 3. News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 4. Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am
- 5. News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- 6. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 7. News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- 8. Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am
- 9. News
- 11:15 am
- 10. Clever
- 12:00 pm
- 11. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 12. Myanmar Movie
- 2:00 pm
- 13. Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- 14. News
- 4:15 pm
- 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Chemistry)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:30 pm
- 17. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 18. News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 19. Amazing World
- 7:00 pm
- 20. News
- 7:25 pm
- 21. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 22. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:45 pm
- 23. People Talks
- 9:00 pm
- 24. News
- 9:30 pm
- 25. Documentary
- 26. Hyper Sports

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-5-14 07:00am~
31-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Who can match their Unique Music and Fashion?
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review : The Giggle
- * Local News
- * History of Mrauk U Pagoda
- * World News
- * Family of Toys
- * Local News
- * Wa Traditions & An Engagement Ceremony
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- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary and its Rare Star Tortoises
- * World News
- * Sagaing Guitar
- * Local News
- * Gold: King of All Metals
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * Local News
- * Product of Myanmar -Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip To Upper Myanmar Sagaing, Kawlin
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"

Manchester United, Tampa Bay Buccaneers owner Malcolm Glazer dies at 85

MIAMI, 29 May — Malcolm Glazer, a reclusive self-made billionaire and patriarch of the family that owns the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Manchester United soccer club, died on Wednesday, the teams said. He was 85.

Glazer, who as a teenager sold watch parts from a suitcase before building a wide-ranging business empire, bought the Buccaneers in 1995 for a then-NFL record of \$192 million. He later persevered with the purchase of Manchester United, one of England's most-storied soccer teams in 2005, a deal that fueled controversy because of its

debt-driven financing.

However, Glazer was largely sidelined in recent years from both the teams' business dealings by a series of strokes.

After his purchase of the Buccaneers, he led what had traditionally been one of the weakest teams in the National Football League to its first Super Bowl championship in 2003.

"A dynamic business leader, Glazer helped mold the Buccaneers into a model franchise and one respected league-wide," the Buccaneers said in a statement on their website.

His supporters credited him with spending big to



Malcolm Glazer, owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, holds the Vince Lombardi trophy aloft after his team won Super Bowl XXXVII at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, on 26 Jan, 2003.—Reuters

hire players and a coaching staff to turn around a team in one of the NFL's smallest markets.

While the team has struggled on the field recently, Glazer's investment has proved profitable and the business magazine *Forbes* estimates it is now worth more than \$1 billion.

His death is unlikely to lead to any ownership change, according to a statement by the Buccaneers. The family's "long established estate succession plan" means the team "will remain with the Glazer family for generations to come," the team said.

Glazer raised his profile in 2005 with an aggressive debt-driven \$1.47 billion takeover of Manchester United that was widely opposed by many of the club's fans.

Fans, under the banner "loveUnitedhateGlazer," argued the debt built up in the deal would hurt the club and force supporters to pay higher ticket prices.

Glazer went on, however, to preside over one of the most successful eras in the club's storied history. "The thoughts of everyone at Manchester United are with the family tonight," the team said in a statement.

Reuters

Serena shocked at French Open, Djokovic and Federer cruise



Serena Williams of the US and Garbine Muguruza of Spain react during their Women's Singles second round match on day 4 of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on 28 May, 2014.—XINHUA

PARIS, 29 May — Serena Williams was caught cold at the French Open on Wednesday by a Spanish 20-year-old who trounced the defending champion 6-2, 6-2 in the second round to provide the shock of the tournament.

The American's defeat by Garbine Muguruza came an hour after her elder sister Venus was shown the exit by another youngster, 19-year-old Anna Schmiedlova of Slovakia, a defeat which ruined the chance of possibly the last meeting of the famed siblings at a grand slam.

But Maria Sharapova, last year's losing finalist, and Agnieszka Radwanska, the highest surviving women's seed at three, struggled through on a day when long sleeves and leggings were needed to ward off the Paris chill. The top men, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Tomas Berdych and Milos Raonic, showed few frail-

ties in progressing to the third round with the loss of one set between them.

Right from the start of her match on court Suzanne Lenglen, Serena never looked the force who has



Roger Federer of Switzerland

won 17 major titles. Her serve was broken twice early in the first set and she looked leaden-footed as she was kept on the move by Muguruza.

The Spaniard, ranked 35 in the world, did not release the pressure for

the full 64 minutes and the match became a repeat of the nightmare of 2012, when Williams lost in the first round, not the glory of 2013 when she beat Sharapova in the final.

"I don't think anything worked for me. It was just one of those days, you can't be on (your game) every day," said Serena. "It's not the end of the world, there's always next year."

The world number one said she was proud of Muguruza, who leapt about the court in ecstasy after the final point.

"It's amazing," Muguruza said. "I had to be really aggressive and focused."

"Today is a great day, I'm so happy," the Spaniard

round on Tuesday, it is the first time since tennis turned professional in 1968 that the top two women's seeds have failed to reach the third round at a grand slam.

It is also the third time, after 2004 and 2008, that both Williams sisters have lost on the same day at the French Open. They had been due to meet in the third round here.

Venus, the 29th seed, has never won the claycourt grand slam in 16 visits and, now 33, she may have to accept she never will after a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 loss.

"This is the biggest win of my life," said Schmiedlova, ranked 56 in the world, who broke down when expressing how much Venus had meant to her when she was growing up. Seventh seed Sharapova, in Serena's quarter of the draw, also had an off day against Tsvetana Pironkova but eventually prevailed 7-5, 6-2 against the Bulgarian.

"I think it's always a challenge to go into a match knowing that it's going to be cold and might be a bit windy. So you have to mentally be prepared for that," Sharapova said. "I started off quite cold, wasn't moving my feet enough."

Radwanska beat Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic 6-3, 6-4 and one ray of American sunshine among the clouds was Taylor Townsend, an 18-year-old playing in her first grand slam, who hung in there to

beat Alize Cornet of France 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

FEDERER THROUGH

Serbia's Djokovic, the second seed, despatched Jeremy Chardy of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 while Federer, seeded fourth, won 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 against Diego Sebastian Schwartzman of Argentina, a player the Swiss had never seen before.



Serena Williams of the US reacts during her women's singles match against Garbine Muguruza of Spain at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 28 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Chardy, who beat Federer at the Rome Masters earlier this month, spelled out why Djokovic is fancied to end eight-times champion Rafa Nadal's reign here.

"He was simply stronger than me, bigger than me in all compartments. You're always under pressure. He knows everything. He can do everything," he said.

Czech Berdych, the sixth seed, started slowly before beating Aleksandr Nedovyesov of Kazakhstan 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-5, 6-3. Eighth seed Raonic of Can-

ada got past Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-1.

As night and the rain fell on Roland Garros, American 10th seed John Isner felled Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin 6-7(6), 7-6(4), 6-3, 7-6(4).

Sharapova looked frustrated with her own performance on a windy

Philippe Chatrier court and she needed a heavy net cord in her favour on set point to take the first set.

Pironkova, who had a lengthy massage between the sets, stayed with the Russian until she was broken in the sixth game of the second, and Sharapova ended it in style by breaking her opponent in the final game. Flavia Pennetta of Italy, seeded 12th, joined the Williams sisters in heading for the exit after going down 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to Sweden's Johanna Larsson.—Reuters

Winners of ManU camps to be announced



SOCCER SCHOOLS

YANGON, 29 May — On Saturday, 31st May at 4 pm the two winners of the Manchester United Soccer School Camps will be announced in a televised appearance at Marketplace, City Mart at No.403 / A, Dhamazedi Road & Golden Valley Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. (951) 523840 / 43 /. This is the first time that the Manchester United Soccer School Camps have been offered in Myanmar, giving

local kids the chance to attend a one-week intensive training programme in England run by the famed Manchester United coaches.

Entries will be accepted up until 12 pm time on Saturday. Enter yourself if you're of age, or your children, nieces or nephews for the chance to win a trip of a lifetime:

Visit the MySQUAR Facebook page [www.facebook.com/SquarMyanmar],

Onsite at Marketplace City Mart,

Asia tours, Arkar Thet Tin, 095148366, asiataours.atm@gmail.com.

For more information, please visit:

www.ManchesterUnitedMyanmar.com

NLM

Nicklaus says Tiger can win a record 19 majors, if healthy

NEW YORK, 29 May — Tiger Woods has endured a victory drought of almost six years at the majors but Jack Nicklaus remains convinced that the former world number one is capable of winning at least five more over the next decade, if he stays healthy. Woods, who has been sidelined from competitive golf since late March because of back surgery, needs a further five wins in golf's grand slam events to surpass the record 18 career majors piled up by Nicklaus, his childhood idol.

"If he's healthy, I think Tiger's got 10-plus years to play top quality tournament golf," Nicklaus told reporters on Wednesday, on the eve of this week's Memorial Tournament which he hosts in Dublin, Ohio.

"I've said many times, he's got a little over 40



Tiger Woods of the US is congratulated by Jack Nicklaus (L) after his final round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, on 3 June, 2012. —REUTERS

tournaments to play the major championships, he's only got to win five to pass my record. As good a player as he is, I don't think that should be a big deal.

"But then again he's gotta do it. Plus he's also got to be healthy to be

able to do it," said the 74-year-old American, who has long been known as the 'Golden Bear.'

Woods, 38, clinched the most recent of his 14 major wins in the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines, where he edged out fellow

American Rocco Mediate after 19 extra holes.

He has since failed to add to that number, despite a few close calls along the way, and the aura of dominance he once enjoyed is a fading memory with the young guns of today holding no 'Tiger' fear.

"The first time that Tiger ever lost a tournament coming down the stretch was against YE Yang," Nicklaus said, referring to the 2009 PGA Championship where South Korean Yang Yong-eun stunningly overhauled Woods in the final round. "It was the first time somebody challenged him and actually beat him. (Woods) will probably have more of those challenges because more young players are coming along. But that's part of the game, and I think he expects that."

Reuters