**Myanmar to get Australian aid to improve schooling, teacher quality**

By Ye Myint

**Yangon, 5 July —** The Australian government will give US$27.8 million in aid to boost services in 43,000 schools and teacher training colleges in Myanmar, according to a press release by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australian government on Saturday.

Promotion of cooperation in Myanmar’s education sector was among the topics discussed at a meeting between Austral-

Lethal weapons found in religious building

**Mandalay, 5 July —** Security forces have found a collection of lethal weapons, following a search of a religious building in Chanayethazan township, in Mandalay on Friday morning, local officials reported.

A mass funeral of a victim of 2 July violence was being conducted when a person from the funeral procession attacked two passengers aboard an express bus at the junction of Shwekyin on Mandalay-Mogok Highway.

The attacker is yet to be identified and the two victims were taken to Mandalay General Hospital, police said.

At a cemetery in Pathe-ningyi township, a crowd set fire to a building with a corrugated iron roof and bamboo-matted walls, with 10 fire engines rushing to the scene, witnesses said.

According to the local government, some people were found to arm themselves with sticks on their way back from the funeral service, resisting arrest and fleeing when security forces stopped them. Four were arrested, police said.

**Vice President U Nyan Tun joins International Co-operative Day**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 5 July—** The 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw and 110 lots of jade have been sold at competitive prices.

Myanmar jades were purchased at prices higher than reservation prices, when compared with those at the previous emporiums, a visitor said.

At the emporium, the Jade Lot No 7318 received over 20 million euros, although its floor price was 800,000 euros, he added.

**Arrest of Myanmar migrant workers in Bangkok turns out to be rumour**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 5 July—** The news that arrests are being made in Bangkok has been found out to be a rumour, sources said.

Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs quoted the Mahachas-based My-anmar Migrant Workers Rights Network as saying that combing all areas in the capital city for illegal migrant workers was just a rumour and that Thai media were found ready for media coverage of the ar-rests as they occurred.

Reports said the Na-tional Council for Peace and Order, the Thailand’s military government, has ordered a crackdown on arm and drug dealers and their rings in Mesok and Chiang Mai as of 1 June, following the apprehension of arm dealers in the north-east of Thailand, near the Cambodian border, in late May.

From 1 to 4 June, Thai immigration authori-ties evicted squatters on the bank of the Thamgyn River in Mesok and de-tained 268 Myanmar mi-grant workers, followed by the return of 103 illegal Myanmar workers to its neighbour. A negotiation between the Myanmar ambass-ador to Thailand and the NCPO’s vice chairman on 6 June saw the release of the remaining workers on 7 June.

According to officials, around 30 Myanmar mi-grant workers faced arrest in a clearout in Chiang Mai from 10 to 12 June, all of whom were released following a negotiation between high-ranking officials of two countries on 15 June.—MNA
Welaung dam benefits cultivation of sesame in Taungtha Tsp

Myeik, 5 July—Welaung dam is located 15 miles to the southwest of Taungtha town in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region. Normally the dam feeds water to monsoon and summer paddies for rice cultivation. This year, about 150 acres of land have been put under sesame as a pilot project. “After the summer paddy cultivation season, we put sesame on the land and the cost for cultivation of sesame is less than cost for growing rice. As sesame is in high demand we can get much profit from this crops,” said farmer U Kyaw Win of Aungchantha village of Welaung village tract. Kyaw Myo Naing

Outstanding students, best pass rate school honoured in Myeik Tsp

Myeik, 5 July—A ceremony to present prizes to the outstanding students for 2013-14 academic year and grant stipends to the needy students was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 3 in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on Friday. It was organized by Myeik Township Education Microfinance Co-operative Ltd. Chairman of Township Education Microfinance Cooperative Ltd U Tin Maung Swe explained prize awarding and stipend presentation.

Officials of the cooperative society presented overall award to the outstanding students, prizes to the students who passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 academic year and the best pass rate school. The outstanding students were awarded to Thanok BEHS Branch. Myeik District IPRD

WB’s tasks gaining momentum in Kyunsu Township

Kyunsu, 5 July—Officials of the Community-centred project group, formed by Department of Rural Development and the World Bank, met members of the maintenance committee in Mingok Village of Kyunsu Township of Taninthay Region on Thursday. Training specialist Mr Klaus Thomas Kirchmann of Holland, Ms Nodoka Hasegawa of Japan, complaint expert U Banyar Tun of Nay Pyi Taw and Head of Kyunsu Township Department of Rural Development U Than Tun Oo inspected tasks being undertaken by the World Bank in Mingok Village. They gave instructions to members of the maintenance committee for the tasks of WB. Kyunsu IPRD

Village in central Myanmar gets BEMS (Branch)

Myingyan, 5 July—Basic Education Post Primary School in Tuywinoe village in Myingyan Township was upgraded into Basic Education Middle School (Branch) on Friday. The new middle school will enroll children from the village and nearby villages.—U Zaw Min Naing

Construction of asphalt street discussed in Yebyu

Yebyu, 5 July—A coordination meeting on placing of asphalt on Kanyingauk street was held in Aungthawady Hall of Yebyu in Dawei District of Taninthay Region on Wednesday. The street stretches the Wards A and B. Taninthay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Director of Taninthay Region Development Affairs Department U Hla Myo and officials participated in the meeting. Yebyu Township IPRD

University students take part in Computer Quiz

Thaton, 5 July—the University of Computer Studies (Thaton) and Mon State Computer Professionals Association jointly organized the MCPA Quiz at the convocation hall of the university in Thaton on Friday. Principal Dr Win Htay and Chairman of Mon State PCA U Thein Zaw explained the purpose of holding the quiz and registrar U Win Bo, rules of the quiz.

Thet Oo (Thaton)
Vice President U Nyan Tun joins International Co-operative Day

**NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—**The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Lwin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea.

**MYANMAR MILITARY TO HELP ESTABLISH ECONOMIC ZONES WITH THAILAND:**

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—**Myanmar military will help establish the projects at the border areas and economic zones with Thai lander, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Friday, while meeting with Thai army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha in Bangkok.

During the meeting at the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, senior general also appreciated Thai military to legalize Myanmar migrant workers in the Kingdom.

General Prayuth Chan-ocha, leader of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) acknowledged about the successful cooperation of the two military in solving border affairs and Myanmar immigrants.

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES AND MYANMAR DELEGATION**

arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the afternoon.

**SEMINAR ON ‘CHANGE MANAGEMENT’**

**By Khaing Thandar Lwin**

YANGON, 5 July—A seminar on the change of management held in Yangon on Saturday with the suggestion of economists on possible measures to create successful businesses in the country.

Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing, Associate Professor from the Department of Management Studies of Yangon Institute of Economics, said: “Most of Myanmar entrepreneurs need a business partner to create a successful business and they should make more data analysis and market survey.”

“Economic sector is facing many challenges in changing business management because of new products, demographic variation, changes in legislative and economic trends, social and cultural changes and raising competition,” she added.

Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing also suggested to all businesspersons on changing practices in business restructuring and utilization of modern technology, sharing her experience on business management.
NEW HOTEL IN MYAWADY: Ngwe Setkya Hotel II in Myawady in Kayin State is now ready to provide services to foreign guests and local travellers. It was opened on 5 July by owners U Minn Pan Hmwe and Daw Thida San. Located on Yawmingyi Road in Ward-4, the hotel is affordable for travellers.

THUZAR (MYAWADY TOWN)

Lectures on agriculture given to local farmers in MraukU Tsp

MRAUKU, 5 July—Organized by MraukU Township Agriculture Department of Rakhine State, the farmer educational course No 1/2014 was opened at the Agriculture Department of the township recently. Altogether 50 local farmers from 15 village-tracts attended the course.

Head of Rakhine State Agriculture Department U Thein Win explained the point for development of agriculture sector in Rakhine State. Officials of the department gave lectures on production of quality strains of crops and matters related to infection of pests on plants.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Aye Win explained advantages of nurturing the paddy saplings and cultivation of quality paddy strains.

Paddy plants transplanted in Palaw Township

PALAW, 5 July—Officials of Agriculture Department of Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region and World Vision (Myanmar) on Friday met 99 local farmers in Hmaunggyo Village of the township.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Aye Win explained advantages of nurturing the paddy saplings and cultivation of quality paddy strains. Staff of Agriculture Department and Palaw Township World Vision (Myanmar) and local farmers transplanted Shwewahtun paddy plants from the nursery of farmer U Myo Win.

GOOD DEEDS: Myanmar

Construction Entrepreneurs’ Association on 3 July offered robes to monks. President of the association U Thar Htay led its members to offer robes to members of the Sangha.

AUNG THUYA

Myingyan dwellers enjoy electricity

MYINGYAN, 5 July—Myanmar Electricity Supply Board installed 315 KVA transformer at Ward-18 in Myingyan. Thanks to the installation of the transformer, people living in the ward got electricity starting from 3rd of this month. The transformer can handle 300 meter boxes with full capacity. Those living in the ward and who wish to install meter boxes in the ward can submit their application for installation of meter boxes and MESB is ready to give a helping hand.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

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Myawady:

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THUZAR (MYAWADY TOWN)
China’s top graft-buster says no off limits in probes

BEIJING, 5 July — No part of China’s ruling Communist Party is off limits for its crackdown on corruption, the country’s top graft bust was quoted as saying, sounding a warning a few days after the one of the party’s most senior former soldiers was purged.

The party this week announced that Xu Caihou, who retired as vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission last year, had been expelled from the party and will be court-martialled after being accused of corruption.

President Xi Jinping, who heads the Central Military Commission, which controls the 2.3 million-strong armed forces, has launched a drive against pervasive graft since assuming office.

Speaking during a visit to the northern region of Inner Mongolia, Wang Qishan, who heads the party’s efforts to combat corruption, warned that every part of the party would be liable for inspection.

“Inspection work is a health check for the party. There are no off limits for oversight within in the party, and there are no exceptions,” the party’s graft watchdog cited Wang as saying, in a statement issued late on Friday.

President Xi has vowed to take down powerful “tigers” as well as lowly “flies”.

Xu is the most senior political figure to have been felled.

However, a potentially far juicier scandal is brewing — the case of the powerful former domestic security minister, Zhou Yongkang.

Sources have told Reuters that Zhou is under virtual house arrest, and while the party made no announcement about his case, many of his allies have been publicly taken down.

On the same day Xu’s fate was announced, three other former senior officials were also expelled from the party, all closely connected with Zhou, including the one-time head of the state assets regulator and a former deputy public security minister.

The party has sent numerous teams into the provinces and government departments to expose corruption.

Problems discovered during this process show that the party is “absolutely correct” in its judgement that corruption remains a serious and complex problem, Wang added.

“It warns us that we must take the arresting of the spread of corruption as our aim and mission, and that these inspections are absolutely something we cannot do without,” he said.

Reuters

Indonesia seeks ways to tame hunger for food imports

JAKARTA, 5 July — Indonesia’s two presidential candidates have pledged to increase the amount of farmland to improve self-sufficiency, although previous such plans by Asia’s top importer of wheat and a major buyer of other grains and edibles have often stumbled.

In the case of rice, a high-profile attempt by former autocrat Subarto to restore Indonesia’s self-sufficiency in the 1990s under Central Kalimantan’s Mega Rice Project on Borneo island proved disastrous due to the ill-suited peat land soil.

The rich volcanic soil on Java can support up to three rice harvests a year but land is running out on the densely populated central island of the archipelago.

Indonesia plans to import at least half-a-million tonnes of rice this year.

Pawan Kumar, an analyst at Rabobank International, said rice and corn offered the best opportunity to increase production, mostly through improving yields given a scarcity of land.

“But commodities like soybeans, wheat and sugar would be more challenging,” said Kumar, citing the cost of land conversion and cultivation compared to cheaper imports.

Indonesia’s agro-food imports have more than quadrupled in a decade to about $18.4 billion in 2013, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Indonesia has to import all its wheat, with rising wealth encouraging people to eat more bread, noodles and fast foods.

But unless it lifts output of soybeans, corn, sugar and rice Indonesia will have to rely on imports from places such as Australia, the United States, Brazil and Thailand.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono introduced self-sufficiency targets in 2009 after food prices soared, but many have not been met partly due to red tape and corruption scandals over import quotas that caused shortages for food such as beef.

His administration also tried to encourage a greater use of home-grown cassava to replace rice in meals.

In Yudhoyono’s second term, agricultural land only rose by 700,000 hectares, well below a target of 2 million hectares.

Agriculture Minister Suswono told Reuters. Indonesia has less available agricultural land than many countries.

According to the OECD, agricultural land covers about 53.6 million hectares, or around 30 percent of the total land area.

The two contenders to replace Yudhoyono have also made promises to increase food production, though they have given few details. Front-runner Joko Widodo has said he will fix damaged irrigation systems to open up 3 million hectares of agricultural land if elected on 9 July. His rival, ex-general Prabowo Subianto, has said he would open up 2 million hectares of new land for rice, corn, soybeans and sugarcane, that he says will also provide 12 million jobs.

Agriculture policy will be among issues discussed by the presidential candidates during a televised debate on 5 July —Reuters

Several oil tankers catch fire as rockets hit parking lot outside Kabul

KABUL, 5 July — Several oil tankers caught fire and burned to ashes as three rockets fired by militants slammed into a parking lot in the western part of Kabul on Friday night, drivers at the site said.

“It was 11:00 pm Friday night when three rockets hit the parking lot in Arghandi area in the outskirts of Kabul city burning several oil tankers,” a driver Tawab Khan told Xinhua at the site of the incident.

“Two of my own oil tankers have burned to ashes and I have lost whatever I had in my life,” Khan added.

Another driver said he was a witness to the incident and added that his oil tanker was devoured in the fire.

Fire brigade fighters after hours of fighting were able to extinguish the fire at 06:47am local time on Saturday. Officials have yet to make comment on the incident.

Meantime, Taleban militants fighting the government to regain power have claimed responsibility for the attack, saying scores of oil tankers were supplying fuel to the NATO-led forces had been turned to ashes in the attack.—Xinhua

DPRK conducts island landing drill by armed forces

PYONGYANG, 5 July — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has conducted an island landing drill with participation of its armed forces and top leader Kim Jong Un who guided the drill, the country’s official news agency KCNA reported on Saturday.

The ground, naval, air and air defence forces of the Korean People’s Army participated in the training, with the deployment of combatants, artillery pieces with varying calibers, combat ships, bombers and transport planes.

The drill field looked like an “active volcano” after Kim gave the order to start, said KCNA. Kim said it was possible to strike deadly blows to the enemies if the attack time was proper and firepower was concentrated through “prompt, accurate and united actions.”

After the drill, Kim reviewed combat ships aboard a warship and commended the success of the maneuver, saying it has met the requirements of the Juche-based war method, according to the KCNA report.

“History proves that it is impossible to protect the destiny of the country and its people unless the army is bolstered up,” said Kim, underscoring the need to increase the country’s military strength.—Xinhua

A farmer collects rice during harvest time at paddy field in Padalarang, Indonesia’s West Java Province, on 27 May, 2014.—REUTERS

China’s top graft-buster member Wang Qishan
Putin tells Obama he wants better ties, equal treatment

MOSCOW, 5 July — President Vladimir Putin called for an improvement in ties between Russia and the United States on Friday in an Independence Day message to Barack Obama, urging Washington to treat Moscow as an equal partner.

"The head of the Russian state expressed hope that ... ties between the two countries will develop successfully on the basis of pragmatism and equality despite difficulties and disagreements," the Kremlin said in a statement, outlining a telegram sent to Obama on the 4 July holiday.

"Vladimir Putin also highlighted that Russia and the United States, as countries carrying exceptional responsibility for safeguarding international stability and security, should cooperate not only in the interests of their own nations but also the whole world."

The telegram underlined a message Putin has made central to his third term as president — that Russia, like the United States a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, must be treated as a world power and on an equal footing two decades after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin statement made no reference to sanctions imposed on Moscow by Washington after Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March, or to other differences between the two former Cold War enemies.

But the call for "pragmatism and equality" in relations suggested Putin put the onus on Obama to improve ties.

The language was less upbeat than in last year's Independence Day telegram, in which Putin expressed "certainty" that Moscow and Washington would be able to work out solutions to various issues "regardless of the fact that not all approaches of the sides converge."

The telegram sent on 4 July, 2012, at the height of the Syria conflict but long before the Ukraine crisis, was also more positive, referring to an improvement in preceding years and asserting an optimistic outlook for the future.

Relations have deteriorated particularly since Russia annexed Crimea following the overthrow of Viktor Yanukovich as Ukrainian president. He had spurned a trade pact with the European Union in favour of better ties with Moscow.

Russia accused the United States of supporting protests against Putin before his re-election in 2012 and Washington has accused Moscow of suppression of his opponents and of gay rights.

Putin reiterated complaints this week the United States was trying to "contain" Russia, using a term from the Cold War era. Other Russian officials have also taken a tough line this week, deflecting Western accusations that Moscow had not enough to ensure pro-Russian separatists who have risen up in eastern Ukraine stuck to a ceasefire last week.

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Floods hit northern Spain as river bursts banks due to heavy rainfall

MADRID, 5 July — Intense rainfall early on Friday morning has caused the river Baztan in the north Spanish Community of Navarra to burst its banks and flood parts of the town of Elizondo, it was reported on Spanish television.

The heavy rain, which was caused by a deep area of low pressure over central and northern Spain, saw the river Baztan unable to cope with a flow of 350 cubic meters per second and its level rose to almost four metres, flooding the heart of Elizondo, where several people needed to be rescued from their homes and cars were carried away by the strength of the floodwater. This is the latest incident in what has been a chaotic 48 hours in terms of weather in Spain.

Tuesday saw a spectacular hailstorm leave around one meter of ice in the streets of the town of Almazan, which is in the province of Soria.

The hail which fell in the period of just an hour has provoked flood damage of varying degrees in over 60 percent of the buildings in the locality of around 6,000 inhabitants. Wednesday was spent clearing away the hail, although some ice could still be seen on the town streets on Thursday morning, despite it being high summer in Spain. Madrid was also affected by a serious hailstorm on Wednesday, the hail caused flooding in several areas of the Spanish capital and trains had to be suspended on some parts of the city metro.

Meanwhile flights had to be diverted from Madrid’s Adolfo Suarez-Barajas airport and the airport’s Terminal 4 was also badly flooded as the roof of the terminal leaked badly. Hailstorms throughout the region have also caused widespread damage to crops, while over 9,000 lightning strikes were recorded in the country on Wednesday.

Finally service was resumed on the high-speed rail link between Madrid and Alicante on Friday after heavy rain washed away ballast supporting the line on Wednesday, forcing one train to a halt and subsequent trains to be diverted to non-high-speed lines.

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Ukraine’s president seeks new crisis talks at weekend, fighting rages

Kiev, 5 July — Ukraine has proposed a time and a place for talks on Saturday on reaching a durable ceasefire with pro-Russian rebels and is awaiting a reply, the president’s website said, as fighting in the east killed 13 servicemen.

The website did not name the venue but a Western diplomat expected the talks to be held again in eastern Ukraine’s major industrial hub of Donetsk, where the rebels control key points.

In some of the worst violence since President Petro Poroshenko called off a 10-day unilateral ceasefire on 30 June, Ukraine’s “anti-terrorist operation” (ATO) headquarters said at least 13 Ukrainian military personnel had been killed on Friday.

More than 200 people on the government side have been killed, as well as hundreds of civilians and rebels, in more than two months of fighting in Russian-speaking eastern regions that want to quit Ukraine and join Russia.

Kiev said Ukrainian military personnel had sustained losses from sniper fire on its position near the rebel stronghold and flashpoint city of Slaviansk, where shelling has left roads pockmarked and buildings damaged and burnt out.

ATO headquarters said on Friday it had regained control of the nearby village of Myklolajyvka after heavy fighting. “In the course of the operation, a large number of terrorists were taken prisoner and a significant arsenal of various weapons were taken,” a statement on Facebook said.

Slaviansk, a city of 130,000, and surrounding villages have been the main focus of Ukraine’s military drive to force out fighters loyal to rebel commander Igor Strelkov, a Muscovite.

Strelkov made an impassioned appeal to Russia on Friday, warning on a rebel website that without Moscow’s help the entire region the rebels lay claim to, known as Novorossiya (New Russia), would fall to Kiev’s forces.

“Slaviansk will fall earlier than the rest,” he wrote.

Russia’s foreign ministry accused Ukraine of endangering innocent civilians in the region. “We call on the Ukrainian authorities to cease firing on civilian targets and residential areas,” it said.

The statement on Poroshenko’s website said he had informed European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that Kiev had proposed a time and a place for Saturday’s talks. Separatist officials have repeatedly said the talks could be a problem since rebel leaders could be subject to arrest by Ukrainian authorities if they move out of their strongholds.

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Boston, 5 July — A weakened but fast-moving Hurricane Arthur swept along southern New England on Friday night, wielding tropical storm-force winds, after an earlier landfall in North Carolina that caused only slight damage.

Powerful wind and heavy rain lashed the Massachusetts summer resort island of Nantucket, a popular destination for visitors over the Fourth of July holiday weekend that was under a tropical storm warning by the US National Hurricane Centre.

Nantucket reported winds of 49 miles per hour (80 kph) gusts as strong as 62 mph (100 kph), the Centre said in a late-night advisory.

A tropical storm warning also issued for Cape Cod, although it was not being hit as hard as Nantucket.

The centre of the hurricane was offshore about 75 miles southeast of Chatham, Massachusetts, said Jack Beven, a senior hurricane specialist at the Centre.

It was moving northeast at a fairly quick pace but will slow and likely be downgraded to a post-tropical storm system by Saturday, he said.

“The storm is weakening as it moves over cold water,” said Beven. “The storm and the cold are getting tangled together.”

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season, Arthur cut power to almost 20,000 homes and businesses, downed trees and cut off barrier islands from the mainland after making landfall on North Carolina’s Outer Banks late on Thursday.

State officials said there was minimal damage from the storm. A dozen counties were under states of emergency, and the tourist haven of Ocracoke Island was without power.

“This has been a very good day. There have been no casualties or serious injuries reported,” North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory said at a news conference in Raleigh.

Arthur hit with top sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph), earning a Category 2 status on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale. It weakened to a Category 1 as it moved northeast into colder waters of the Atlantic Ocean with 90-nmph (145-kph) top sustained winds.

Kathleen O’Neal, owner of Island Artworks on Ocracoke Island, said she could feel her house lift up as the storm passed overhead.

“It was very bad here,” she said, adding that many trees had been knocked down.

Officials on Ocracoke said power could be re-connected by early Sunday. A generator was supplying power on a rotating basis.

Boston, 5 July — Authorities in Mexico made off with a load of radioactive material, normal practice used in industrial radiography, was housed in a specialized container and which the housing was tampered with, Mexico’s interior ministry said in a statement.

The truck, which belongs to a metalworking company, had been stolen on Thursday.

In December, thieves in Mexico made off with a truck containing dangerous radioactive medical material — Cobalt-60 — that the United Nations’ nuclear agency said could provide an ingredient for a “dirty bomb”, in which conventional explosives disperse radiation from a radioactive source.

That radioactive load was also found dumped by the thieves close to where it was stolen.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has stepped up calls on member states to tighten security to prevent nuclear and radioactive materials from falling into the wrong hands, had no immediate comment on Friday.

Because radioactive material is regarded as less hard to find and the device easier to make, experts say a dirty bomb is more likely threat than a nuclear bomb in a terrorist attack.

However, they say a dirty bomb carries more potential to terrorize than cause a large loss of life.

Moscow, 5 July — The Russian Black Sea Fleet started military exercises of all-arms forces on Friday, the Defence Ministry said.

More than 20 warships and auxiliary ships, over 20 aircrafts and helicopter gunships, as well as Marine Corps and coastal missile units, were involved in the navy exercises, which covered the whole Black Sea maritime area, the ministry said.

The Russian warships test-fired five cruise missiles which hit the targets precisely, the ministry said.

“All the forces that take part in the exercises are acting in almost real combat conditions,” the ministry said, adding that the commanders are improving their decision-making skills in the ever-changing situation during the exercises.”

The drills were supervised by the Black Sea Fleet Commander Alexander Vitko, it added.

However, the ministry did not say how long the drills would last.

Russian Black Sea Fleet has a base in the city of Sevastopol which, along with Crimea Peninsula, became a part of Russia in mid-March. The Ukrainian navy which shared the Sevastopol port with Russia vacated their Sevastopol barracks soon afterwards.

Mexico finds radioactive load from stolen truck

Iraq’s Maliki rejects to withdraw candidacy for third term

Baghdad, 5 July — Iraqi outgoing Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki rejected on Friday to withdraw his candidacy for a third term in office, he said in a statement.

“I will never abandon my candidacy for the post of prime minister, as the Coalition of the State of Law is the largest bloc that has the right to assume the premier post,” Maliki said in the statement broadcast on the state-run Iraqiya channel.

“No party has the right to put conditions, which is dictatorial act which we strongly reject,” the statement said.

Earlier, the outgoing Parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi said in a statement that he with the lawmakers in the first parliament meeting on 1 July failed to agree on electing a new speaker and two deputies.

According to the Iraqi constitution, if the parliament succeeds to elect a new speaker and two deputies, the next step should be choosing new president within the next 30 days.

Saying that, the new head of state will have half of a month to ask the bloc with the most lawmakers to nominate a prime minister, who will be responsible for forming a new government.

The duration for the prime minister designate to select his cabinet members, and present the list to the parliament is 30 days.
Sunday, 6 July, 2014

OPINION

Media should report responsibly in critical situations

By Aung Khin

People take to social media, websites and other technology to spread and get information, and exchange views quickly and effectively. However, ethical media have the role to promote peace and democracy in any state and to report responsibly, avoiding instigating hatred or conflicts in the society, especially in multicultural communities.

Authorities releasing information should also have knowledge about media ethics so as to avoid disinformation, malice and hate speech, which are tantamount to undermining the stability of society.

Although foreign media see a certain conflict from international perspectives, local media should carefully make a wise choice of words in ethical ways, not to worsen the problems, but to ensure peace in the country. Their reports have many effects on the situations of the state and people, as well as on restoring peace.

Prominent writers and experts on conflict issues should make suggestions to calm the problems instead of just pointing out the faults. Media should also deliver their comments fairly to promote peace and democracy.

Media need to handle very sensitive matter professionally without instigating conflict. Both local and foreign media have the power to lessen or exaggerate the degree of conflict, which can change the future of a country.

Though a certain matter is required to be reported comprehensively, media must fairly balance reporting with the ultimate aim to support democracy and the welfare of respective communities or the country.

Media people must uphold professionalism and ethical standards in their reporting, checking the accuracy of materials and realistic situations before publishing.

Write for us

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.

New Light of Myanmar (To be continued)

Enlarging higher education institution capacity

By Myo Myint

One of the national priorities of developing countries is to raise the quality of higher education institutions in order to develop an educated workforce with advanced knowledge, and thinking, technological and research skills in order to promote their economically competitiveness and social advancement.

To promote the quality of higher education, not only must the capacity of individual institutions be enhanced, but competition must also be promoted among them in order to sustain quality development.

As in any large organization, it is the chief executive officer of higher education institutions who has the most responsibility and the authority to raise their standard. On the surface, the role of the chief executive officers of Myanmar universities appears to be no different from that of their counterparts at international universities. The presidents of international universities such as those in the US are usually appointed by the university board of trustees at the recommendation of the search committee which consists of trustees, faculty members, students and administrative staff. University presidents are responsible for implementing the directive of the board of trustees or directors, and making recommendations to the board. They carry out day-to-day administration of the university. They undertake fiscal management of the institution. They are in charge of staff matters. They have wide-ranging authority regarding personnel appointments, promotion and transfers and fixed staff salary. They also have the responsibility to raise funds for the university, to interact with members of the legislature and to campaign for higher education.

Rector, on the other hand, is appointed by the Government at the recommendation of the Ministry of Education. In Myanmar, rectors are appointed from among the professors with high academic qualifications and the potential to lead a higher education institution and after at least one year’s service as pro-rectors they can be promoted as rectors. A Myanmar rector serves as the chair of the senate which is the board for academic matters, as well as the chair of the administrative board and is guided by the higher education law. Rectors are assisted by senior faculty and senior administrative officers in implementing the programmes and activities set by the Ministry of Education and in making recommendations related to their institution to the higher education department. As chair of both the academic and administrative wings, rectors appear to have wide-ranging authority. However, in reality, regarding the administration of staff they only have the authority to appoint, promote and take action against junior administrative staff. They can make recommendations regarding promotion and disciplinary matters of academic and senior administrative staff, the department of higher education concerned and it is the department of higher education that carries out appointments, transfers, promotions and disciplinary matters of administrative and academic staff with the approval of the Ministry of Education. Rectors, themselves, are under the direction of the department of higher education which is again under the administration of the Ministry of Education.

Since there are many functions that a university can perform in addition to teaching and carrying out research, such as undertaking staff development programmes, participating in community development, and so on, rectors have to set the quality of higher education and be able to judge the offerings of each department, concerning not only their careful consideration in accomplishing more important tasks.

Myanmar universities are on the path to autonomy and during the transitional period from a centralized system to a decentralized one, rectors play vital roles both in the smooth transition as well as the swift promotion of quality. The tasks of rectors are too numerous to be covered in this brief discussion and seven areas that are deemed to advance the current stage of transition of higher education are highlighted.

Another important

Authors of the first stage of the transitional system of having a rector, near the beginning of the academic year, is to set institutional priorities, strategies and activities for the year based on the vision, mission and objectives of the university so that activities can be done systematically and as an ad hoc manner. In this connection, it is useful to develop an event calendar for the university with the participation of faculty members, in deciding what activities of individual departments can also be incorporated. The planning of the calendar itself will guide the rector and faculty members in determining the priority tasks for the university and departments. Each year, new focuses will emerge in tandem with the changing direction of the institution. For instance, if the university wants to emphasize the development of partnership with local industries, then one of the items on the calendar could be to hold an event such as an exhibition to showcase the university’s capabilities to fulfill the research needs of industries, or it could be a seminar on exploring research needs of local industries participated by industrialists and faculty. Together with the development of institutional priorities, the rector also needs to set his/her personal priorities, since as the head of an institution, he/she need to utilize a vast amount of time administering the institution. He/She must ensure that administrative and personal priorities do not clash, and if he/she is fond of writing, which can take up a lot of time, he/she should not be spending office hours indulging in his/her hobby.

Prominent writers and experts on conflict issues should make suggestions to calm the problems instead of just pointing out the faults. Media should also deliver their comments fairly to promote peace and democracy.

One of the tasks that requires immediate attention of the rector is the development of a Quality Assurance System. A demand for an institutional quality assurance system is highlighted. According to the Quality Assurance in Higher Education (QAI) model, such as the ASEAN Quality Assurance System which enjoys worldwide recognition, can be used to measure the quality of the programmes to students and stakeholders outside the institution but it will also provide feedback to the rector, and most importantly, to the heads of departments and faculty. Equally importantly, the information can be used to assist rectors and heads of departments to improve the quality of each department, consider the remedies that should be taken, and later, find out whether the remedy used was effective or not.

Another important task that the rector might want to consider taking out is the promotion of the culture of interaction among members of the institution community — the rector, senior and junior faculty, students and administrative staff.
Wachet Hospital where local and foreign doctors treating poor patients with loving kindness

Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is providing medical treatment and health care the whole year round to monks, nuns, yogis and lay persons irrespective of race, religion and ethnicity, especially marginalized, vulnerable and poor patients.

The presentation of this article is about a senior Italian surgeon born in Myanmar named Dr. Robin Chan and his colleagues and friends senior surgeon Dr. Mehn Thein Thaung from the United States, senior surgeon from Mandalay Dr. U Nyi Nyi Htun, senior surgeon Dr. U Thein Naing Htun, Anesthetists Dr. U Soe Myint, Dr. Daw Hnin Aye Khaing, Dr. Daw Khin Pyone Nynut (East Malaysia), which provided surgical treatment to the patients suffering from gastrointestinal ailment, illness and motley assortment of diseases from 19 to 25 June 2014.

The Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital was first established in 1984 with the self-sacrificing, shared sentiment and collective endeavors of elderly and senior Sayadaws in the area.

First of all, it is an honor to submit the five-point resolutions of main leading Kyawsa Religious Resort Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana.

Main Leading Venerable Buddhist Monk Kyawsa Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr. Lakkhana, Agga Maha Kamahtana Siriya, Agga Maha Saddhamma Zawthika, has had already laid down five-point Resolutions some years ago. The Supervisory and Logistic Committee of Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills has embraced into their hearts on the resolutions of Sayadaw as its guiding principles and vowed to uphold these mottos in their daily activities for the mankind.

It will make use of my life for all the good things and better atmosphere while having the opportunity to be a human being.

I will employ my mind and body in all the beneficial acts and valuable performances while getting a rare chance of possessing physical existence.

I will develop my mental power while in possession of the brain for the fruitful outcomes and advantages of mankind.

I will exert my human energy while it is still active and energetic for the constructive impact and better achievements.

I will pour out all my worldly resources while it is in certainty and realism for the comfort and happiness of human beings.

Italian senior surgeon Dr. Robin Chan has had profound, significant and strong impression of Kyawsa Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana for many years.

According to the email sent recently from Dr. Robin, he has already supplicated to the Sayadaw over the telephone in person that the communal libation ceremony of the endoscope instrument worth Myanmar Kyats (100) million being donated by Loi Hein Company Family Myanmar Kyats (2.5) million.

Most venerable Sayadaw Ashin Sandadikka + Dr. Mehm Thein Thaung + Daw Khin San Burmese Kyats (1) million.

Most venerable Sayadaw Aw Nanda Wumsa; Kyaswa Rekha Kyaswa Thaung Thaung of Mandalay Dr. U Win Maung Maung and Dr. U Tin Maung Maung.

President Dr. Nay Zin Latt + Daw Khin San CEO Ambo Myanmar Kyats (7) million.

U Kyi Lin + Daw Khin May of Pazundaung Myanmar Kyats (1.2) million.

U Kyi Lin + Daw Khin May of Pazundaung Myanmar Kyats (2.5 million.

The list of donors is as follows.

Endoscope one unit.

Loi Hein Company Family Myanmar Kyats (100) million.

Endoscopic cost Myanmar Kyats (94.472) million.

Loi Hein Company Family embedded eternity funds Myanmar Kyats (5.2518) million for the hospital.

Donors of Laparoscope and other accessories.

U Maung Maung Khin + Daw Khan Nyo of University Myanmar Kyats (20) million.

U San Than + Daw Thuang Thaung of Mandalay Myanmar Kyats (10) million.

In line with the earlier schedules, Dr. Robin Chan have arrived Yangon from Italy. As promised, he conducted a short lecture on the use of the endoscope, worth Myanmar Kyats 100 million generously donated by Loi Hein Company Family at the Pun Hlaing Hospital Conference Hall in Hlaingthaya Township of Yangon Region on 16 June 2014, attended by donors, relatives, Wachet Hospital EC members. After the briefing, Dr. Robin entertained the guests with lunch at Pun Hlaing large and clean buffet hall.

One week later, the official opening ceremony of two combined events such as the “Endoscope Unit” and the “Laboratory Room (2)” was held at the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital on Sagaing Hills on 22 June 2014.

The holy communal libation ceremony was graced and conducted by senior venerable Sayadawz namely Mandalay Maha Wizitarow Sayadaw Bhaddanta Witarin; Han Thar Gyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda Wumsa; Kyawsa Religious Resort Sayadaw U Suddhamma Daja; and ten members of Sangha Order. Libation and merit sharing ritual and rites was attended by respectively donors, relatives, Wachet Hospital Supervisory and Logistic Committee EC (Upper Myanmar) and EC (Lower Myanmar). They were in dilemma with the mixed feeling of joy for the success of opening ceremony and the sentiments of sorrow in memory of late Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana.

Written by Mya Tun, Retired DD of MOFA, Currently working as Independent Freelance Consultant as well as Patron of Wachet Hospital.

Sunday, 6 July, 2014 | 9
State of emergency declared in Paraguay’s flooded capital

Montevideo, 5 July — Paraguay’s President Horacio Cartes on Friday declared a state of emergency in the capital Asuncion, where more than 16,000 families have been displaced by floods.

A total of 5 billion guaranies (1.1 million US dollars) in federal emergency funds have been allocated to aid affected families and handle the disaster, daily newspaper Ultima Hora reported.

Earlier in the day, residents of the severely inundated Banado Sur area had protested outside the presidential residence demanding emergency funds.

Cartes also instructed his minister of Social Action, Hector Cardenas, to make progress on a project to build 524 housing units on state lots in order to relocate families that lost their homes.

Days of heavy rain caused the Paraguay River to overflow, resulting in 16,602 displaced families in the capital, according to the Municipal Emergency and Disaster Bureau, while nationwide, some 50,000 families have had to leave their homes.

Miners carry stretchers as other take cover from rain in a makeshift tent at the site of a landslide at a gold mine in San Juan Arriba, outskirts of Tegucigalpa on 3 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Israel jets raid southern Gaza Strip

GAZA, 5 July — Israeli fighter jets carried out a series of air raids on the Gaza Strip on Friday, as Palestinian militants continued to fire rockets into Israel, security sources said.

Israeli warplanes carried three air raids on a Hamas military site in the city of Rafah and another Hamas site in Khan Younis City, both in southern Gaza Strip, the sources told Xinhua, adding that more air strikes targeted open space in Rafah and Khan Younis.

No casualties have been reported so far. The air raids came as Gaza militants continued to fire rockets into neighboring Israeli cities on Friday. Israel’s Public Radio reported that six rockets hit Israeli cities, causing no damages or casualties.

In the earlier in the day, an Egyptian-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas was restored after bloody days of tit-for-tat violence between the two sides, a Hamas official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“Egypt’s intelligence and UN officials have brokered the ceasefire in order to avoid more deterioration,” the Hamas official said, stressing that both Hamas and Israel are not interested in a wider cycle of violence. Gaza has witnessed an increasing violence since three Israeli teenagers disappeared in the West Bank city of Hebron on 12 June.

Xinhua

Iraq army retakes Saddam’s birthplace; Sistani laments political mess

BAGHDAD, 5 July — The Iraqi army retook Saddam Hussein’s home village overnight, a symbolic victory in its struggle to seize back swathes of the country from Sunni insurgents.

Backed by helicopter gunships and helped by Shi’ite Muslim volunteers, the army recaptured the village of Awja in an hour-long battle on Thursday night, according to state media, police and local inhabitants.

Awja lies 8 km (5 miles) south of Tikrit, a city that remains in rebel hands since Islamic State, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), launched a lightning assault across northern Iraq last month. The offensive to retake Tikrit began on 28 June, but the army has still failed to retake the city which fell after the police and army imploded last month in the face of the militant onslaught that also captured Mosul and other major Sunni areas.

The military spokesman of embattled Shi’ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said Awja had been “totally cleansed” and 30 militants killed, according to state television. A police source told Reuters three insurgents had been killed.

The birthplace of Saddam, Awja benefited hugely from the largesse of the Sunni dictator before his ousting by the US invasion of 2003 and locals remained fiercely loyal to the man who would select his relatives from the area for top posts.

Spokesman Qassim Alta said security forces had seized control of several government buildings, including a water treatment plant, but security sources and residents said militants were still holding Iraqi forces from entering Tikrit.

The army said it now held the 50-km (30-mile) stretch of highway running north from the city of Samarra — which is 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad — to Awja. But the mainly Sunni communities along this corridor remain hostile towards government forces and army convoys continue to come under guerrilla attack.

Military officials in the United States, which has deployed advisers to Iraq, believe the Iraqi army will be able to defend Baghdad but struggle to recapture lost territory, mainly because of logistical weaknesses.

Government forces could benefit if cracks in the loose alliance of insurgents in Sunni majority areas widens.

In the town of Hawija, site of infighting last month between Islamist fighters and Sunni militia forces, members of local Sunni tribes told Reuters that community members had organised to fight against the militants in control of the town.

Reuters
China, ROK pursue FTA to conclusion

BEIJING, 5 July — As the global recovery falters, China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) will seek new opportunities together, with the close economic relationship that a free trade agreement (FTA) brings.

Accompanied by a huge corporate delegation, Chinese President Xi Jinping began his first visit to ROK as Chinese leader on Thursday.

The first tangible result of the visit was a memorandum of understanding between the two central banks on renminbi (RMB) clearing in Seoul, bringing direct trading of the yuan against the won, the ROK currency, a step closer.

Seoul’s bid to become an offshore center for the RMB enjoys increasing international popularity, backed by China’s rapidly stabilizing economy.

For Zhang Jianping, a lead investigator Dr Joel Ehrenkranz, director of diabetes and endocrinology in Chicago.

We have designed a smartphone that allows individuals to monitor their personal biometric stress levels easily and inexpensively, easily and inexpensively,” said lead investigator Dr Joel Ehrenkranz, director of diabetes and endocrinology at Intermountain Healthcare in Murray, Utah.

While a commercial stress test, researchers said the recommended countermeasures include using security software, shunning computer operating systems whose support has already ended, and changing passwords for online banking on a regular basis, they said.

Online threat damage so far this year amounted to 1.4 billion yen as of 9 May, eclipsing the amount for the whole of last year.

Damage to companies reached about 480 million yen, a fivefold increase from last year.

Kyodo News

Spain’s Telefonica buys Mediaset Espana stake in Canal+

MADRID, 5 July — Telefonica (TEF.MC) said on Friday it had agreed to buy the 22 percent stake held by Mediaset Espana (TLS.MC) in pay-TV firm Distribuidora de Television (DTVS), giving full ownership of the TV firm to the telecoms group.

Spanish media group Prisa (PRS.MC) in May agreed to sell 56 percent of its stake was worth 295 million euros ($402.40 million) in a statement the sale of the company.

Mediaset Espana said in a statement that the sale of its stake was valued at 295 million euros ($402.40 million). It will also receive 30 million euros for giving up its preferential right to acquire Prisa’s stake in DTS.—Reuters

New York, 5 July — The next addition to the collection of health apps coming online for smartphones may be a stress test, researchers said at a recent conference.

With a simple tube, some software and a saliva sample, their doctors can measure levels of the stress hormone cortisol, according to a new research presented last week at ICE/ENDO 2014, the joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society in Chicago.

“We have designed a method by which anyone with a smartphone will be able to measure their salivary cortisol level quickly, easily and inexpensively,” said lead investigator Dr Joel Ehrenkranz, director of diabetes and endocrinology at Intermountain Healthcare in Murray, Utah.

While a commercial lab in the United States may charge up to $50 to run a quantitative salivary cortisol test and take up to a week to provide the results, the smartphone test will cost under $5 and give results in less than about 10 minutes, Ehrenkranz told Reuters Health in an interview.

“Parts of the United States and the rest of the world that lack facilities to measure cortisol will now have a way to perform this essential diagnostic test,” he said. “Also, measuring salivary cortisol with this technology will provide a way for individuals to monitor their personal biometric stress levels easily and inexpensively.”

Reuters

Banking group drafts guidelines for online theft compensation

Tokyo, 5 July — Japan’s top banking industry group has drafted new guidelines on how banks should compensate companies, especially small and midsize ones, for damage from online money theft, sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The draft guidelines, scheduled to be released after being formally approved by the Japanese Bankers Association on 17 July, stipulate that banks will consider paying compensation if companies that suffer from online theft took necessary countermeasures, they said.

The recommended countermeasures include using security software, changing passwords for online transactions, and taking the matter to the police, the draft guidelines said.

Xinhua

China’s vaccines system meets WHO standards

BEIJING, 5 July — China’s national vaccine supervision system has met or passed all the standard requirements of the World Health Organization (WHO), according to a WHO announcement on Friday.

The WHO stipulates only countries with an approved national vaccine regulatory system can receive WHO accreditation and have their vaccines added to the WHO international vaccine purchase list. Countries which make it through an initial assessment undergo a second inspection after three years.

China passed the initial WHO evaluation in March 2011, and passed the second in October last year. China has a mature vaccine regulatory system with supervision reinforced continuously, the WHO announcement said.

Zhang Yong, chief of the State Food and Drug Administration, said China will fulfill its duty as a WHO member in disease prevention and control.

Xinhua

Smartphones allow do-it-yourself stress hormone tests

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Reuters
Israel ready to help Jordan fend off Iraq insurgents if asked

Minister of Strategic and Intelligence Affairs for International Relations of Israel Yuval Steinitz attends a news conference at UN headquarters in New York on 25 Sept, 2013. Reuters

46 Indian nurses arrive in Mumbai from Iraq

NEW DELHI, 5 July — Some 46 Indian nurses, along with 100 other Indians, arrived in Mumbai by a special flight Saturday, a day after they were freed by militants in war-torn Iraq, sources said. The sources also said that the para-medics would soon head to their home town of Kochi in southern state of Kerala.

“Israel is ready to meet any Jordanian request to help fight off Islamist insurgents who have overrun part of neighbouring Iraq, an Israeli official said on Friday, although he believed Jordan was capable of defend

India jails 68 in online gambling bust

BEIJING, 5 July — China has jailed 68 people for up to nine years for online gambling, state media said on Friday, making it the country’s largest such bust of a ring, which was valued at $78 billion. The group operated in the southern province of Guangdong via overseas gambling websites — sites that were shut down by Chinese authorities in March 2008 and April 2013, using the sites to lure bettors and take commissions, the official Xinhua news agency said.

UK PM’s ex-media chief Coulson jailed for Murdoch tabloid hacking

LONDON, 5 July — British Prime Minister David Cameron’s former media chief Andy Coulson was jailed for 18 months on Friday for encouraging phone-hacking by journalists to obtain scoops at the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid he edited.

Andy Coulson arrives at the Old Bailey courthouse in central London on 30 June, 2014.— Reuters

Afghan battle leaves six Taleban dead in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD, (Afghanistan), 5 July — Six Taleban militants were killed and 10 others sustained injuries as clash erupted in Farkhar district of Badakhshan Province 315 km northeast of Kabul on Friday night, spokesman of provincial government Ahmad Naved Frutan said on Saturday.

“A group of armed Taleban rebels attacked police checkpoints outside Farkhar city on Friday night and police returned fierce killing six militants on the spot and injuring 10 others,” Frutan told Xinhua.

There were no casualties on the security personnel, he contended.

Taleban militants who have intensified activities since launching their so-called spring offensive in May have yet to make comment.—Xinhua

Xinhua

A visitor tries a slot machine during the Global Gaming Expo Asia in Macau on 19 May, 2014.— Reuters

F Jailed for Murdoch tabloid hacking

Andy Coulson arrives at the Old Bailey courthouse in central London on 30 June, 2014.— Reuters

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Andy Coulson arrives at the Old Bailey courthouse in central London on 30 June, 2014.— Reuters

The sentence was passed exactly three years to the day that the Guardian newspaper published revelations that staff on the paper had hacked into the voicemails of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

That sparked widespread outrage across the country and prompted Murdoch to close the 168-year-old tabloid just days later. It emerged that the newspaper had listened into messages of thousands of targets — from movie stars to crime victims to government ministers — to obtain information for scoops. The judge said Coulson must have known about the failure of the paper to immediately tell police about Dowler’s voicemail, an act he described as “unforgivable.”

Coulson, found guilty of conspiracy to illegally intercept voicemails on mobile phones following a high-profile eight-month trial at London’s Old Bailey court,

“Mr Coulson … has to take the major blame for the phone hacking at the News of the World,” judge John Saunders said. “He knew about it and encouraged it when he should have stopped it.”

The sentence was passed exactly three years to the day that the Guardian newspaper published revelations that staff on the paper had hacked into the voicemails of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

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Coulson, found guilty of conspiracy to illegally intercept voicemails on mobile phones, was the only one of seven defendants to be convicted following a long-running trial, one of the most expensive of its kind in British legal history.

Rebekah Brooks, his predecessor as News of the World editor and later ran News Corp’s British newspaper arm, was among those found not guilty of phone-hacking and other allegations. The two had been lovers for part of the time they worked together, according to testimony that emerged during the trial.

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Reuters
**Pioneering editor sees open Internet in Cuba’s future**

**HAVANA, 5 July —** A magazine editor who has tested the limits of free speech in Cuba believes the Cuban government has no option but to allow universal Internet access, and he plans to exploit that opening to promote a more pluralistic Cuba.

"The government is aware it has to make political openings," Roberto Veiga told Reuters in an interview on Friday. "The government is aware it has to change and the government is aware that we need to allow the people to open up the Internet, to open up the Internet to the Cuban people, to open up the Internet to the Cuban public."  

The previous venture, Cuba Posible, will air a broad range of views, but now they will operate without the protection of the church, which is by far the largest and best organized institution in the Carribean island with a different ideology than that of the Communist Party.

Broadband Internet is available only to a tiny minority of Cubans due to technological and political restrictions imposed by the government. While some authorities have said Cuba needs an open Internet for its economic development, the government still blocks opposition websites, such as 14ymedio.com, a news site run by dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez and her husband, Reinaldo Escobar.  

Veiga and his partner Lenier Gonzalez turned the Roman Catholic magazine Espacio Laical (Lay Space) into a rare forum for critical, open debate in Communist-rulled Cuba, where authorities monopolize the media and censor the opposition.

Espacio Laical operated freely but after 10 years Veiga and Gonzalez resigned under pressure from within the church in May. On Tuesday they announced they were launching a new website and debating forum called Cuba Posible.

Like the previous venture, Cuba Posible will air a broad range of views, but now they will operate without the protection of the church, which is by far the largest and best organized institution in the Caribbean island with a different ideology than that of the Communist Party.

**Greece court rules strike by electricity workers illegal**

**ATHENS, 5 July —** A Greek court ruled on Friday that a strike by electricity workers which caused brief power outages across the country was illegal, in a verdict that will bring relief to the government as the summer tourist season kicks off.

Backed by the leftist opposition, the workers have been protesting against government plans to sell part of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), Greece’s biggest power producer, fearing this will lead to higher tariffs and fewer jobs.

The workers launched a series of 48-hour strikes on Wednesday as lawmakers debated a bill allowing the sale of 30 percent of the firm to a competitor in 2015.

The court ruling, which pave the way for the government to order the strikers back to work, followed a lawsuit filed by PPC against the workers on Thursday.

Privatizing the firm is part of efforts by Greece to liberalize its energy market at the behest of its European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders and one of the conditions for its next aid tranche worth 1 billion euros.

Athens is also eager to avoid major disruption this summer as tourism is the biggest earner of Greece’s economy, accounting for about 17 percent of its output and 20 percent of employment.

Tourism Minister Olga Kefalogianni has said the strike could tarnish Greece’s image abroad, and the United States were due to take part in the exercises.

The drills will involve more than 1,000 Bulgarian marines, 15 ships and cutters, as well as two helicopters and two planes, the ministry said. A US guided missile cruiser and US aircraft are also involved in the exercises.

**13 kg of heroin seized at Vienna Airport**

**VIENNA, 5 July —** Austrian customs officials reportedly seized about 13 kg of heroin at the Vienna International Airport in early May in a blow to a suspected international drug-smuggling ring.

News of the arrest was only made available on Friday due to tactical reasons from law enforcement officers, a Der Standard report stated.

A person arriving from Istanbul was seen acting suspiciously at the airport’s baggage claim area, talking loudly on his cell phone and repeatedly glancing in the direction of the green “Nothing to declare” customs lane.

Upon subsequent inspection by customs officials, his suitcase was found to have a double-bottom, under which the high-grade heroin with an estimated value of over one million US dollars was found.

The officials immediately contacted the police, who in the course of a quick investigation found the courier had an accomplice staying at a hotel in Vienna who was to pick him up. The second suspect was also subsequently arrested.

The duo, both registered residents of Spain, are currently in custody and have partially confessed to the crime, admitting the drugs were meant for both the Austrian and Spanish markets.

**Bulgaria hosts NATO manoeuvres in Black Sea**

**SOFIA, 5 July —** Bulgaria launched naval manoeuvres in the Black Sea on Friday with six other NATO countries including the United States, in the latest demonstration of the alliance’s resolve to support its eastern European members in light of the Ukraine crisis.

Bulgaria’s defence ministry said the 10-day war games, dubbed BREEZE 2014, were designed to boost NATO solidarity and regional readiness, though it added they had been scheduled before Russia annexed Ukraine’s Black Sea region of Crimea in March.

Vessels from Bulgaria and its Black Sea neighbours Romania and Turkey and also from Greece, Italy, Britain and the United States were due to take part in the exercises.

The drills will involve more than 1,000 Bulgarian marines, 15 ships and cutters, as well as two helicopters and two planes, the ministry said. A US guided missile cruiser and US aircraft are also involved in the exercises.
Czech Karlovy Vary film festival awards actor Mel Gibson

Prague, 5 July — At the opening ceremony of the 49th Czech Karlovy Vary International Film Festival on Friday night, Oscar-winning actor Mel Gibson was awarded with the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema.

Gibson was born in the US and moved to Australia when he was 12, he has won two Oscar Academy Awards for Braveheart (1995), directed and produced by and starring him, a Golden Globe and about 30 other film awards.

Although Gibson complained that the 15,000 kilometers’ flight to Karlovy Vary was exhausting, and he had a toothache when driving to the airport and had to be medically treated at three in the morning, he said he would never miss the festival, “I’m honoured by the fact that I can be among so many great people.” —Xinhua

Jessica Alba remembers down-to-earth Paul Walker

Los Angeles, 5 July — Actress Jessica Alba has opened up about her sadness following the death of her ‘Into The Blue’ co-star Paul Walker last year.

Hollywood was stunned in November when it emerged the actor had been killed in a horrific car smash in California aged 40. Now Alba, who teamed up with Walker on their 2005 sea disaster movie, has spoken out to pay tribute to the down-to-earth star, reported Marie Claire magazine. “He had a real childlike innocence and he was game to try anything or do anything. He treated everyone with respect and love,” Alba said. — PTI

Garth Brooks Irish comeback shows canceled over local objection

Dublin, 5 July — Two of American country singer Garth Brooks five sold-out comeback concerts at Dublin’s Croke Park stadium this month were canceled on Thursday after objections were raised by local residents.

Brooks, who retired from recording new music and touring in 2001, chose Dublin for his five-night “Comeback Special Event”, selling a record 400,000 tickets, equivalent to almost 10 percent of the population, ahead of a wider tour later in 2014.

However residents of the densely populated area surrounding the 82,000-seat Gaelic sports stadium objected to the holding of five successive shows and the local council refused permission for the concerts scheduled for 28 July and 29 July.

“The cumulative effect on residents and on some businesses would lead to an unacceptable level of disruption to their lives and livelihoods,” Dublin City Council said in a statement.

Brooks, who has sold more than 125 million albums and is best known for hits such as “The Thunder Rolls” and “Friends in Low Places”, has played the occasional one-city run of shows and benefit concerts during his retirement but has never toured.

No act, including Irish band U2, has ever played five shows in a row at Croke Park, the country’s largest venue, and concert promoters had said some 70,000 of the 400,000 tickets sold were bought by people living abroad.

Justin Bieber wants ‘open relationship’ with Selena Gomez

Los Angeles, 5 July — Pop sensation Justin Bieber reportedly doesn’t want to commit himself to his on-off girlfriend Selena Gomez as he’d like to date other women as well.

The 20-year-old ‘Baby’ hitmaker has recently rekindled his romance with the ‘Come & Get It’ hitmaker, but he’s now decided he doesn’t want to commit himself to just her, reported Hollywood Life.

“He wants an open relationship with Selena, and he actually thinks he can make it happen. A lot of the guys he hangs out with now get away with that kind of thing, they talk about it all the time and that’s got in Justin’s head,” a source said.

Bieber has been in an on/off relationship with Gomez since 2010. He has been spotted with a string of girls recently, including his former fling Chantel Jeffries, who he took on vacation in February.

Bengaluru, 5 July — Alia Bhatt, who has been busy promoting the upcoming ‘Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania’ with co-star Varun Dhawan, rocked her fans with crooning the famous Punjabi track ‘Main Tenu Samjhawan Ki’ from the film.

The song, however, is rendered in the film by Shreya Ghoshal and Anjgit Singh, but Alia’s version is titled ‘Samjhawan Unplugged.’

Alia Bhatt wows her fans with Punjabi track ‘Main Tenu Samjhawan Ki’

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Roger Federer (SUI) during his match against Milos Raonic (CAN) on day 11 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club.—Reuters

London, 5 July — When Novak Djokovic’s flying forehand kissed the net and bounced into the corner, he let out a primal roar that echoed around Centre Court, the All England Club and probably all the way to his hometown of Belgrade.

It was the point that had spared him going into a nerve-jangling fifth set.

It was the point that secured him a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(7) over world No. 1 over shot-maker extraordinary Grigor Dimitrov.

Most importantly it was the point that propelled him into a final showdown at Wimbledon with seven-times champion Roger Federer.

The so-called revolution by the ‘generation next’ of men’s tennis failed to gather further momentum on Friday as 23-year-olds Dimitrov and Milos Raonic came up short in their bids to overthrow the establishment.

Instead a 27-year-old father-to-be and a 32-year-old father of four — who between them own 23 grand slam titles — will battle it out for the biggest prize in lawn tennis.

A nonchalant 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 demolition of Canadian Raonic left Federer standing just three sets away from becoming the oldest man to triumph at the grasscourt major in the professional era. That particular statistic, however, mattered little to a tennis great who is chasing a record eighth Wimbledon trophy to take his overall grand slam haul to 18.

“I have a lot of energy in the tank. I am very excited for the final because that’s how you want to feel before a final, totally energised and eager to play,” said the Swiss, who will be contesting a 25th grand slam final.

After watching a sure-footed Federer neutralize Raonic’s bullet-like serve and firecracker forehand with casual ease, no one would have guessed that the same court had resembled a treacherous and dusty minefield only minutes earlier.

Razzle-Dazzle tennis

The all-white uniforms Djokovic and Dimitrov had walked out wearing soon turned into not-so-white outfits as they spent more time rolling about in the dust in the worn out areas around the baseline than standing on their feet.

But there was no denying the quality of the contest that could have graced any grand slam final as the duo produced a three-hour display of spellbinding shot-making and heart-thumping drama.

When Djokovic led 6-4 and with a break point to go 4-1 up in the second, no one could have guessed the razzle-dazzle tennis that was just around the corner.

Those who had never laid eyes on 11th seed Dimitrov soon realized why he had been christened “Baby Fed” as he produced Federer-esque shots that drew a 15,000-strong chorus of “ohs” and “aahs” to draw level at one set all.

The elastic-arms of both players were tested to their limits as they hit eye-popping winners while on their knees, while doing the splits and while diving into the ground.

Djokovic and Federer show that Big Four still rule

Novak Djokovic (SRB) celebrates recording match point in his match against Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) on day 11 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club. —Reuters

Roger Federer (SUI) during his match against Milos Raonic (CAN) on day 11 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club.—Reuters

New York, 5 July — Hot-dog eating champs, backyard picnickers and small-town parade lovers pressed on with Fourth of July celebrations on Friday, some featuring less sizzle than usual after Hurricane Arthur dampened many Independence Day plans.

In Washington, President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, presided over a barbecue and concert on the White House South Lawn attended by members of the US military and their families.

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Neymar out of Cup as Brazil and Germany make semis

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 5 July — Hosts Brazil suffered a huge blow when they lost leading forward Neymar for the rest of the World Cup through injury on Friday as they set up an epic-looking semi-final against Europe’s biggest remaining team Germany.

Brazil’s poster-boy, in terrific form with four goals at the tournament, fractured a vertebra near the end of a 2-1 quarter-final win over Colombia and will be out for several weeks.

“It doesn’t need surgery, but he’ll need to immobilize it to recover,” team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said.

The news dampered the host nation’s celebrations, given the team’s reliance on the 22-year-old Barcelona forward’s skill and talismanic presence. Many bookmakers now have Brazil and Germany as joint favourites at around 9/4.

“It’s the worst possible news. Neymar is so important to us. It is going to be so difficult against Germany now,” said shocked student Fabian Ruiz, 19, dressed in a yellow Brazil shirt and quaffing beer with friends in a Belo Horizonte street.

“They must do it for him. We all have to unite now.”

Brazil face their biggest test of the tournament in the semi-final in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday against Germany, who defeated France in their quarter-final earlier on Friday.

The clash of styles and continents will excite fans around the world, but Neymar’s absence is a big disadvantage.

Neymar said.

Colombia’s man-of-the-match James Rodriguez pulled his side back into the match from the penalty spot, his sixth goal of the tournament, with just over 10 minutes remaining.

But Brazil’s passion and will saw them hold firm.

“It was a great match, both teams played beautiful football,” said the emotional Luis, who played on the pitch and hugged Rodriguez in consolation at the end.

Rodriguez, the target of rough treatment from the Colombians, was distraught at the end. But he will long be remembered as one of the great players of this World Cup.

“We wanted to carry on, but we hold our heads high,” he said. “We left our skins out there.”

Predictably, Brazil came to a standstill during the game, with businesses closed and cans rattling in empty streets as locals packed into homes, bars and beachside fan zones.

The final whistle signaled a cacophony of parties and fireworks in a nation whose people believe they are destined to win a sixth World Cup on home soil. That joy, though, was quickly tempered by the news about Neymar.

In a further worry for Brazil, they will be without captain Thiago Silva for the Germany game after a yellow card for a needless foul on goalkeeper David Ospina.

In the earlier quarter-final in Rio de Janeiro, defender Mats Hummels shook off the effects of flu and fever to win a surprisingly subdued match against France with a well-steered 13th minute header from a free kick.

It gave Germany a remarkable fourth successive World Cup semi-final spot.

“I hope our ride isn’t over yet and I hope we’ll be back here,” the 25-year-old Hummels said, referring to the 13 July final, also at Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana stadium.

Germany want first World Cup in 24 years

He brushed off a challenge from France’s Raphael Varane, appearing to push him lightly, to meet the ball perfectly before wheeling away in delight after securing a dream early lead.

Though perennially competitive, the Germans have not won football’s ultimate crown since 1990 despite having a bigger pool talent since the unification of West and East.

Les Bleus’ looked uninspired but did have their moments, not least a stinging last-gasp shot by striker Karim Benzema that goalkeeper Manuel Neuer stopped one-handed. “That was just an automatic reaction,” said the modest Neuer.

In truth, Germany, whose team showed no ill effects of a flu virus menacing their camp in recent days, never looked in great danger of losing and substitute Andre Schurrle wasted two chances to secure a more flattering scoreline.

Though losing once more to old rivals Germany was painful, France have at least restored some pride after the embarrassment of in-fighting and a first round exit in 2010.

“We had our chances. But they had more experience than we did. They had us under control,” said coach Didier Deschamps.

Away from the action, disgraced Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez received a second offer to continue playing football during his four-month ban for biting an Italian defender at the World Cup.

Nart FC, a club in the self-declared Republic of Abkhazia within Georgia, said Suarez could join them and keep match fit because the local federation is not part of FIFA.

Hàyvalia from Kosovo have also offered the Liverpool striker — reportedly in talks in over a possible transfer to Barcelona — the chance to play for them. The Kosovo Football Federation is also not a member of soccer’s world governing body.

In the remaining two quarter-finals Saturday, Europe squares off against Latin America.

First, Lionel Messi-led Argentina take on dark horses Belgium in a match that is hard to predict. Both teams have won four games from four, but curiously every win was by a single-goal margin, and neither have yet sparkled as expected. — Reuters

I never meant to hurt Neymar, says Colombia’s Zuniga

FORTALEZA, (Brazil), 5 July — Colombia defender Juan Zuniga said he did not deliberately try to hurt Brazil forward Neymar when he kneed him in the back on Friday, fracturing his vertebra and ruling the marquee player out of the rest of the World Cup.

Brazil held on for a 2-1 quarter-final win over their fellow South Americans but will be without Neymar against Germany in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and the final should they progress.

“We wanted to score, and it was a tough game. Brazil was marking strongly. I hope it’s nothing serious, let’s pray to God,” Zuniga told reporters.

“On the pitch I’m defending my shirt, my country, but I didn’t expect him to fracture a vertebrae. He is a great talent for Brazil and for the world.”

Zuniga jumped into the back of Neymar and his knee struck the Brazilian’s third vertebra two minutes from the final whistle, dealing a major blow to the hosts who are seeking a sixth World title.

“It’s a normal action, I tried to shadow him,” Zuniga said. “I was not thinking of hurting him. I was defending my country’s colours.” Neymar had to be taken off on a stretcher and was transported to hospital where the extent of the injury was diagnosed.

Colombia were desperate for an equalizer after falling 2-0 behind before cutting the deficit with a late penalty.

“Sadly it happened this way, I hope he gets well, God willing,” the Colombian defender said.

Neymar, who had netted four times in the tournament, will not require surgery but will be out for several weeks, team doctors said. — Reuters

Brazil’s David Luiz celebrates after scoring a goal against Colombia. — Reuters

Germany’s Mats Hummels (L) scores the winner past France’s goalkeeper Hugo Lloris (C) during their quarter-final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. — Reuters

World Cup 2014 Results

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