Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets villagers in Lashio

Gov’t pledges K3.2 billion assistance for flood-hit Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — The Union Government announced a K3.216 billion package Thursday to resettle displaced people and rebuild damaged infrastructure in Rakhine State following severe flooding in late June.

Six people died during three days of torrential rain that struck 14 townships in the state from 24 June. The flooding also killed 25,055 animals, according to the Rakhine State government.

The natural disaster destroyed 2,564 acres of rice fields, 592 houses, seven schools, two monasteries, 54 bridges and 42 road sites.

Around half of the assistance package, or some K1.6 billion, is allocated to reconstruction of roads and bridges. Another K891.1 million is to be spent on reconstruction of houses. The education, health and livestock sectors will also receive funding under the plan.

The damage bill was highest in An Township, which incurred nearly K1.44 billion worth of losses.

A delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win started relief efforts on 30 June, delivering K20 million worth of aids to flood victims in three townships.

The state government has been closely supervising resettlement and reconstruction efforts.

SMBC scholarship offers Japan internships for university students

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 9 July — Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation launched a scholarship programme Thursday at the Yangon University of Economics and the Yangon University of Foreign Languages will be eligible for the program, with scholarship winners also receiving US $1,000 per year. (See page 3)

Myanmar ratifies Chemical Weapons Convention


In his address, the Union Minister congratulated the Organization for having destroyed 90 per cent of the world’s declared Chemical Weapons stockpiles and its well-deserved 2013 Noble Peace Prize. Turning to Myanmar’s reform efforts, he said that since taking the state responsibility in March 2011, the Government has been undertaking political and socio-economic reforms. He also said that domestic legal framework was reviewed to bring it into line with State Constitution and international norms and efforts were made to become a state party to human rights and disarmament instruments. As a result, Myanmar signed a Protocol Additional with International Atomic Energy for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Since 1995, a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament has been tabled and adopted annually at the United Nations General Assembly. He went on to say that Myanmar ratified the Biological Weapons Convention on December 1, 2014. As a manifestation of success in Myanmar’s reform efforts, progress has been achieved in the political and socio-economic life of the people as well as disarmament issues.

He also mentioned that in connection with the Chemical Weapons Convention-CWC, a series of workshops on awareness-raising and technical (See page 3)
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates extension of retirement age

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 July — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heard vigorous debate Thursday from MPs arguing for and against extending the retirement age for civil servants from the current 60 years. Fourteen representatives discussed two separate proposals on the issue—one seeking to keep the retirement age at 60 and the other pushing to raise it to 63.

U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw constituency supported maintaining the status quo, while L T C O Hlaing Win, representative of defence services, spoke in favour of raising the age, arguing civil servants aged 60 and above with rich experience would contribute a lot to the country, provided they were healthy enough to continue working.

The parliament approved three bills—the boiler bill, the election commission amendment bill and the dams bill—that came from the president with remarks.

The parliament also put on record four bills concerning television and radio broadcasting, preservation and maintenance of ancient artefacts and buildings, and development of border areas and national races.

Tatmadaw combs areas of Asia Highway

Tatmadaw members who forcefully collected heavy weapon shots into areas of armed forces members along New Asia Highway were issues related to reform of village-tracts in Rakhine State, Shan State, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region.

KBZ receives two banking awards in Singapore

Executive Director Daw Nang Kham Nawnt of KBZ Bank accepts Best Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2015 and Best Credit Card Initiative of the Year in Myanmar 2015.
Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets villagers in Lashio

LASHIO, 9 July — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon on Thursday met local residents from 27 village-tracts in northern Shan State’s Lashio District at the University of Computer Science (Lashio).

At the meeting, also attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, the vice president said union government officials had visited regions around the country throughout the government’s term.

The vice president said low-interests loans had been issued and affordable tractors, tricycles and sewing machines had been sold to members of local cooperative societies by the government.

The vice president and party later met with faculty members of the University of Computer Studies and Technological University (Lashio).

In the afternoon, the vice president and party visited Cherry Myaing Development Project and Htinyu Myaing (Pine Villa) Urban Development Housing Complex in Lashio.—IPRD

Myanmar, Thailand discuss anti-drug cooperation, boat people issue

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received a delegation led by Lt-Gen Wanlop Rugsanaoh, Director of Joint Operations of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, on Thursday.

They discussed sustaining good results from the Senior Staff Talk, regional peace cooperation, and further coordination between the armed forces of the two countries in combating drug trafficking and responding to the boat people situation.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief Office and the Thai Military Attaché (Army) to Myanmar.

The Director of Joint Operations of the Royal Thai Armed Forces arrived in Myanmar to attend the 4th Myanmar-Thailand Senior Staff Talk in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myawady

Myanmar ratifies Chemical... (from page 1)

workshops on all stakeholders to require comprehensive understanding of the implementation processes were conducted in Myanmar in preparation for ratifying the Convention and that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has unanimously approved for the ratification of the Convention. He added that Myanmar signed the CWC on January 14, 1993, the day after its opening for signature, however, it took time for Myanmar to ratify it because of domestic priorities and capacity constraint. In concluding, he announced that Myanmar has deposited the instrument of ratification on July 8, 2015 in New York and proud to becoming a State Party to it and also that Myanmar will join hands in making the world free of chemical weapons.

The treaty will enter into force for Myanmar after 30 days of depositing its instrument of ratification.

By ratifying the treaty, Myanmar joins the mainstream of international standards, commits to the principles and ideals of disarmament and enhances confidence-building among nations. Such actions will further project the image of the country and will be able to stand tall.

From security perspective, Myanmar will receive assistance from state parties if it is attacked by the Chemical Weapons. More opportunities will be secured in import, transfer of chemicals and instruments and exchange of technical information. There will be more job opportunities for Myanmar nationals in the Organization.

As of July 9, 2015, a total of 190 nations have joined the Convention as State Parties.—MNA

SMBC scholarship offers Japan... (from page 1)

At a ceremony to launch the scholarship programme, SMBC President Mr Takeshi Kunibe gave a speech to 200 students, urging them to cultivate their powers of reason and have an international outlook in order to handle the rapid changes brought by globalization.

Mr Kunibe presented a plaque to the rectors of the respective launch of the programme. SMBC is also planning a separate internship programme at its Yangon branch, as well as a capacity building programme for teachers in Myanmar, according to a press release from the bank.

SMBC opened its branch in Yangon on 23 April, becoming one of the first international banks to operate an outlet in Myanmar.—GNLM

Union Minis- ter U Wunna Maung Lwin signs Chemical Weapons Convention-CWC.

SMBC President Mr Takeshi Kunibe poses for photo together with students. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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Jetties reinstalled at storm-hit Dala port

Dala, 9 July — Myanmar Port Authority workers reinstalled two jetties at their original locations Wednesday in Dala, Yangon Region, after they were dislodged in a storm earlier in the week.

Powerful winds on Monday night dislodged the jetties used by Cherry Ferries, causing them to drift.

An official said, “We use Konbaung-1 and Myopya-1 ships in relocating the jetties.”

Than Htay
(Dala)

Myanmar firm partners with Hitachi to produce transformers

Yangon, 9 July — Myanmar’s Soe Electric & Machinery is teaming up with Japan’s Hitachi Industrial Equipment Systems Co., Ltd. to establish a joint-venture company to manufacture transformers.

The firms will cooperate in design, production, sales, installation, maintenance and market research. Soe Electric & Machinery Managing Director U Kyaw Min Tun said, “At present, we manufacture transformers, accounting for 20 percent of local demand.” U Kyaw Min Tun said. “In cooperation with Hitachi, we can beef up production.”

The joint venture, Hitachi Soe Electric & Machinery Co., Ltd., will be established with US $45 million in capital and more than 400 technicians. The firms signed an agreement on supply of electricity, creation of designs for the products, manufacturing, sales, installation and maintenance at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 7 July.

The company plans to start operation next March.

Kyemon-001

New rules ease parking dilemma for freight truck drivers

Yangon, 9 July — With the rainy season already putting a damper on their business, Yangon freight truck drivers are further challenged by a lack of places to park between jobs, as many roads around the commercial capital’s cargo-handling areas are off-limits to stationary heavy vehicles.

To make life easier for the drivers, the Myanmar Highway Cargo Transport Entrepreneurs Association is allowing stationary vehicles on some roads in the cargo terminal compound of Bayinnaung Brokerage, said Ko Aung Zaw of Delta Economic Zone and six Yangon townships, is near completion.

The YCDC supplies 205 million gallons of water each day to Yangon City from the Gyobu, Pugyi and Hlawga reservoirs, as well as the two Ngamoeik water treatment plants.

The YCDC is implementing further projects to increase water supply, which still falls short of demand in the city.

Kyemon-001
China, Laos pledge closer military ties

BEIJING, 9 July — China and Laos pledged closer military ties, as senior Chinese military officials met with visiting Lao Defence Minister Senganan Sanyalath on Wednesday in Beijing.

With long-standing solidarity and friendship between the two countries and militaries and their fruitful cooperation in various fields, China and Laos are good neighbours, friends, comrades and partners, said Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xu called on the two sides to step up all-round cooperation, sustain sound development momentum and prepare for the next stage.

Senganan agreed that the two militaries have been supporters of each other for a long time and enjoy a profound friendship.

“Laos is willing to learn from China’s experiences in army building and further strengthen bilateral friendship and military relations,” Senganan said.

Senganan also held talks with his Chinese counterpart Chang Wanquan later of the day and expressed gratefulness for the military assistance from China.

Chang noted that it is the common aspiration and responsibility of both sides to consolidate and deepen their traditional friendship, which was jointly nurtured by the two countries’ founding fathers.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Laos to boost high-level military exchanges, advance practical cooperation, strengthen border defence exchanges, and deepen multilateral security cooperation, to constantly push bilateral military ties to a higher level, Chang said.

Local Indonesian leaders withhold almost $20 billion in state funds before polls — palace

Jakarta, 9 July — Regional Indonesian leaders are withholding nearly $20 billion of government funds, including money for social assistance programs, while they wait for the start of election campaigns in August, palace officials said on Thursday.

The delay in fund disbursements, which represents around 13 percent of the national budget, is contributing to the worst slowdown in Southeast Asia’s largest economy since 2009. Only 1 percent of the 250 trillion rupiah ($18.75 billion) allotted to regencies and cities from the national government in this year’s budget has been spent.

Coordining Minister for Economics Sofyan Djalil said on Thursday.

A senior palace official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject, told Reuters: “The local governments are delaying this because they would like to spend the money closer to the local elections.”

Sluggish government spending, particularly on infrastructure projects, has prevented a rebound in Indonesia’s economy, which is expected to have stayed below 5 percent in Q2 for the second straight quarter.

The home affairs minister will form a team to speed up budget disbursement to kick start economic growth. They will visit regions to see what the problem is,” Djalil said.

The central bank forecast growth to reach the higher end of its 5.5-5.4 percent target this year if the government was able to speed up spending.

Indonesia’s more than 500 local government have on average spent only around 25 percent of their regional budgets in the first half of this year, said Reynoldzyar Moenoeq, director general of regional finance at the home affairs ministry.

Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo, who represents one of Indonesia’s most populous provinces, said some spending had been slow but denied funds were being withheld for political purposes ahead of elections.

“We’re very careful in terms of social help and grants. Everything must be verified because if it turns out to be fictional, we will be arrested,” Pranowo said.—Reuters

Malaysia govt audit finds nothing suspicious in 1MDB probe

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 July — An interim report by the Malaysian government into debt-laden state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) has found nothing suspicious after vetting its accounts, a parliamentary committee said on Thursday.

The bi-partisan Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said the report by the auditor-general revealed nothing out of the ordinary but criticized 1MDB for failing to fully cooperate in investigations.

“There is nothing suspicious in the interim report,” said Najib, who chairs the PAC.

Meanwhile Najib is currently weighing his legal options against the journal. — Reuters

Vietnam needing 4 bln USD for Mekong Delta infrastructure

HO CHI MINH CITY, 9 July — The Vietnamese Transport Ministry has estimated the Mekong Delta would need around $11 billion for road projects, 6.5 trillion Vietnamese dong for waterway developments and 1.5 trillion Vietnamese dong for aviation facilities.

Hefty funding is being sought for construction of the Thuan-Can Tho expressway, a proposed railway line linking the two provinces, the second phase of a coastal road in the delta’s southern part as well as upgrade and widening of national highways.

Local Vietnamese economists, however, say the plan is unfeasible and demands urgent evaluations.

The ministry said in its recent report that 64 trillion Vietnamese dong of the total funding would go to road projects, 6.5 trillion Vietnamese dong for waterway developments and 1.5 trillion Vietnamese dong for aviation facilities.

The firm is an entity of the Malaysian government into debt-laden state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) has found nothing suspicious after vetting its accounts, a parliamentary committee said on Thursday.

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Meanwhile Najib is currently weighing his legal options against the journal. — Reuters

India to induct home-made air defence system on Friday

NEW DELHI, 9 July — India will on Friday formally induct its home-made air defence system into its Air Force, sources said on Thursday.

“The induction of the Akash Air Defence System will be done by Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at Gwalior in the central state of Madhya Pradesh,” the sources said.

In the first phase, eight squadrons — each consisting of two firing units with four launchers — is likely to be deployed at Air Force bases in Gwalior, and four other places, they said.

The missile system, developed by the state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization, is capable of targeting enemy aircraft and missiles up to 30 kms away, at an altitude of 18,000 metres. — Reuters
Chinese premier again blasts lazy officials as corrupt

BEIJING, 9 July — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has again expressed his frustration with officials who are ignoring orders to reduce bureaucracy amid an economic slowdown, blasting them for being little better than the corrupt cadres the government is trying to root out.

Li has repeatedly criticized officials over the past year or so for being slack and lazy in implementing Beijing’s policy directives as they kept their heads down to stay out of trouble amid Jinping’s sweeping anti-graft campaign.

In May the government sent out 11 investigation teams to 18 provinces and cities to ensure orders are being followed, a report from which was given to the Cabinet this week. “This investigation was a shove in the back” for government departments, Li told a Cabinet meeting, according to a government statement released late on Wednesday. “The aim is to vigorously enforce policy implementation.”

While some examples of good practices were found, there were also many problems, including unused funds and land left idle, which, while the statement does not give details, were presumably supposed to have been used for projects.

“Holding down a job without doing a stroke of work and accomplishing nothing is a typical example of official corruption, and these officials should be held responsible!” Li said. While administrative approvals for projects and other paperwork are supposed to have been simplified, Li said some localities were seeing a rise in bureaucratic red tape.

“Are they playing word games? We must resolutely investigate this!” he added.

Politician, peace activists protest Australian-US war games in Queensland

SYDNEY, 9 July — A senior Australian politician discovered the multi-day Australian-US war games involving 30,000 troops currently underway in Queensland as protesters planned to again trespass on the operation's base.

Acting Greens leader Senator Richard Di Natale, speaking at the biannual Australian and US “Taliban Sam” war games were not about defending a country from an invasion, but practicing “expeditionary wars and invasions.” For the first time the Japanese military is taking part in Talisman Sabre which involves all defense forces, and Ludlam said it was sending the wrong message to neighbours.

“Most people join the ADF (Australian Defence Forces) expecting that they’re there for the defence of Australian territory,” he told reporters at a peace conference in Brisbane on Thursday. “That’s not what they are training for, it’s about landing on beaches and invading other people’s countries.”

Professor Richard Tanter, Australian chief of international peace think tank the Nautilus Institute, said the exercise, which is simultaneously being held near Darwin, wasn’t in Australia’s best security interests. He also questioned Japan’s involvement.

“War games I consider to be an unwelcome increase in our integration not only with the United States but with Japan, where Japan has the most nationalist government that country has had since 1945,” he said. Peace activists have already trespassed on the main Queensland Shoalwater Bay training area, with the US military using the live-ammunition training area on Wednesday.

More activists are planning to campaign on the site later this week.—Xinhua

S Korea reaffirms plan to send back only two N Korean fishermen

SEOUL, 9 July — South Korea on Thursday reaffirmed its plan to send back only two of five North Korean fishermen rescued in the South’s waters last week. “Our position remains unchanged to repatriate two fishermen as soon as possible, and three who have clearly expressed their will to defect (to the South) will be excluded (from the repatriation),” the government’s Unification Ministries, which handles relations with North Korea, said in a statement.

South Korea has also informed the North in a message of its plan to send back the two fishermen via the truce village of Panmunjom at 11-am Friday and called on the North to take necessary measures toward that end.

The South Korean position was contained in a message that the head of South Korea’s National Red Cross sent to the North’s counterpart.

The statement was issued a day after North Korea demanded the repatriation of all five fishermen and threatened to take “stem actions” if the South refused to do so, according to Yonhap News Agency.

The five fishermen were rescued by the South’s coast guard last Saturday while drifting on a vessel due to engine failure near the eastern island of Ulleung.—Kyodo News

Japan, S Korea envosys to US hail improvement in bilateral ties

WASHINGTON, 9 July — The Japanese and South Korean ambassadors to the United States hailed their governments’ achievements on Wednesday in improving bilateral ties as they attended a political discussion event together in Washington.

Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae noted a recent agreement with South Korea that led to the registration as a UN World Cultural Heritage of Japanese sites to commemorate the country’s industrial revolution in the Meiji Era which began in the late 1800s.

The most important outcome was “the fact that we consulted and reached an agreement” even though some differences remain between Tokyo and Seoul, Sasae said.

The two envoys’ participation at the event organized by The Heritage Foundation think tank came amid US urging that the two countries, both with American security allies, mend fences by settling long-standing disputes over wartime history as well as a territorial row.

South Korea had opposed adding the Japanese sites to the World Heritage list, saying Koreans had been forced to work at seven of the sites when the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945. But South Korea withdrew its opposition after Japan acknowledged that a large number of Korean and other people “were brought against their will and were forced to work under severe conditions.”

South Korean Ambassador Ahn Ho Young said the two governments should maintain “the good momentum which was created” on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of normalization of bilateral ties.

Ahn said the positive spirit currently felt in bilateral ties with Japan should be kept for “all issues we have.”

Ahn did not elaborate but was apparently referring to differences on history-related issues including women from the peninsula who were forced to work at wartime Japanese military brothels. The women are euphemistically called in Japan “comfort women.”

The two countries also have a territorial dispute, with Japan claiming a pair of South Korea-controlled islands in the Sea of Japan, called Dokdo by Seoul and Takeshima by Tokyo.

Sung Kim, deputy assistant US secretary of state for Japan and Korea, participated as a panelist in the event.—Kyodo News

Venezuela’s Vice President Jorge Arreaza (centre L) attends a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the graduation of late president Hugo Chavez from the Military Academy, with daughter of Chavez, Rosa Virginia Chavez (centre R), in Caracas, Venezuela, on 8 July, 2015. Venezuela’s Vice President Jorge Arreaza took part in the ceremony on Wednesday and stressed the importance of the civic-military alliance sown by Chavez, according to local press.—Xinhua

Protesters attack Thai consulate in Istanbul over Uighur expulsions

ISTANBUL, 9 July — Turkish protesters attacked the Thai honorary consulate in Istanbul overnight, smashing windows and ransacking parts of the building, in protest over Bangkok’s expulsion of nearly 100 Uighur Muslims back to China.

China’s treatment of its Turkic language-speaking Uighur minority is a sensitive issue in Turkey. Many Turks see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious heritage with their Uighur “brothers” and Turkey is home to a large Uighur diaspora.

Thailand confirmed on Thursday that it had sent nearly 100 Uighurs back to China. Rights groups have expressed concern over Thailand’s decision, fearing they could face ill-treatment and even torture.—Reuters
Russia says Iran talks at their most difficult phase

UFA, (Russia), 9 July — Nuclear talks between Iran and the world’s six major powers have entered their most difficult phase, but all involved parties are working on new proposals submitted by Tehran, Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Thursday.

“These talks are like alpinists claiming a peak: 95 percent of the way has been completed, but there are still several steps, the last few metres (which are) the most difficult,” Ryabkov told journalists on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Ufa.

Iran has offered some new solutions to resolve the disputes in the nuclear talks on Wednesday, but Western officials suggested they had heard nothing new from Tehran, —Reuters

European Commission to evaluate Greece’s new bailout request

BRUSSELS, 9 July — The head of the eurozone finance ministers’ group on Wednesday gave the go-ahead to the European Commission to consider risks and costs associated with the launch of a new bailout programme for Greece in response to a loan request from Athens.

Earlier in the day, Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos formally requested the launch of a new three-year bailout programme and pledged to implement measures on tax and pension reforms possibly starting next week, according to Reuters news service.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who chairs the board of governors of the European Stability Mechanism, acknowledged the receipt of the Greek request for aid from the ESM in his letter to the commission and the European Central Bank. Dijsselbloem called on the commission and the bank to gauge the financing needs of Greece and the bailout programme’s risk to the financial stability of the eurozone. He also asked the two institutions, together with the International Monetary Fund, to weigh whether Greece’s public debt is sustainable. The commission’s assessment of the Greek proposals is expected to form the basis of eurozone finance ministers’ negotiations scheduled for the weekend and culminating in a summit of all 28 European Union leaders on Sunday to make a final decision on the country’s bailout. Greece has received nearly 240 billion euros in aid from the EU and the IMF since 2010. With the reforms-for-rescue talks between Greece and its creditors failing to achieve a breakthrough, the eurozone bailout expired at the end of June.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde recognized that Greece is “in a situation of acute crisis” but ruled out the possibility for now that her Washington-based multilateral lender could provide an additional loan to the financially troubled state.

“The IMF has to follow its rules, should not bend the rules,” the IMF managing director told an event in Washington on Wednesday. The IMF should always be even-handed and “there cannot be any special treatment,” she added. On 20 July, Athens will have to pay 3.5 billion euros to the ECB.

With the expiration of the aid programme, Greece imposed a three-day lockdown on its ports, a move designed to tighten the grip on its international trade, to stem the outflow of capital and of goods and services. In July, Greece missed the deadline for repaying 1.6 billion euros in debts to the IMF on 30 June, becoming the first developed country to fall into arrears on payments to the IMF.—Kyodo News

US spy agency tapped German chancellor for decades — WikiLeaks

BERLIN, 9 July — The US National Security Agency tapped phone calls involving German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her closest advisers for years and spied on the staff of her predecessors, WikiLeaks said on Wednesday.

A report released by the group suggested NSA spying on Merkel and her staff had gone on for longer and more widely than previously realised. WikiLeaks said the NSA targeted for long-term surveillance 125 phone numbers of top German officials.

The release risks renewing tensions between Germany and the United States a month after they sought to put a row over spying behind them, with US President Barack Obama declaring in Bavaria that the two nations were “unseparable allies”.

WikiLeaks published what it said were three NSA intercepts of Merkel’s communications, and data it said listed telephone numbers for the chancellor, her aides, her office and even her fax machine.

“The names associated with some of the targets indicate that spying on the Chancellorry predates Angela Merkel as it includes staff of former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (in office 1998-2002), and his predecessor Helmut Kohl,” WikiLeaks added in a statement.

No comment was immediately available from the German government.

The intercepts released on Wednesday detailed communications from Merkel in 2009 on the international financial crisis, with the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates in 2009 on Iran, and with advisers in 2011 on the eurozone crisis.

The targeted phone numbers included those for the cellphones of senior officials at the chancellery and included that of Ronald Pofalla, Merkel’s former chief of staff, WikiLeaks said.

Spying is a sensitive issue in Germany because of the abuses of the Nazi and Communist eras. Revelations about former NSA contractor Edward Snowden about wide-ranging US espionage in Germany caused outrage when they surfaced.

The spying row has also been stirred by allegations that Merkel’s staff gave the German BND foreign intelligence agency a back door at green light to help the NSA spy on European firms and officials.

The latest WikiLeaks release comes just over a week after it published a report showing the NSA wire-tapped the communications of two successive French finance ministers and collected information on French export contracts, trade and budget talks.—Reuters

US Air Force leader sees Russia as ‘biggest threat’

WASHINGTON, 9 July — Russia is the biggest threat to US national security and America must boost its military presence throughout Europe as NATO allies face budget challenges and scale back spending, US Air Force Secretary Deborah James said on Wednesday.

“I do consider Russia to be the biggest threat,” James told Reuters in an interview after a series of visits and meetings with US allies across Europe, including Poland.

Russia was responding to Russia’s recent “worrisome” actions by boosting its presence across Europe, and would continue rotational assignments of F-16 fighter squadrons.

“This is no time to in any way signal we want to resolve in the face of these Russian actions,” she said.

James said she was disappointed that only four of NATO’s 28 members had thus far met the NATO target of spending 2 percent of gross domestic product on defence.

“This is not something that came up out of thin air. This is something that we as NATO members agreed to do. All of us need to be advocates,” she said.

The top Air Force civilian leader acknowledged that Europe was facing difficult immigration and economic challenges at the moment, but said the NATO military alliance and associated commitments should be a clear priority. Britain on Wednesday said it would commit to the 2 percent spending pledge for the next five years, which will raise the number of NATO allies meeting the spending goal to five in 2015.

Given the tensions, the Air Force is continuing its effort to reduce US reliance on Russian RD-180 rocket engines for military and intelligence satellite launches, James said.

She said there were huge demands on US Air Force assets now, given the tensions with Russia and the fight against Islamic State, but the Air Force was also working hard to defend its weapons systems and networks against growing cyber attacks.

James said her records were involved in a massive breach of personnel records held by the Office of Personnel Management that some US officials have blamed on China. China denies any involvement in hacking US databases.

James said the Air Force took a hard look at its cyber security immediately after the revelations and decided to redouble its efforts, although no new actions were needed.

She said the service was cataloging weapons and IT systems to detect any possible vulnerabilities, while also working to set up 39 cyber security teams around the country.
A Brief Introduction to Health Care of India

By Sayar Mya

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an Indian government ministry charged with the health policy in India. It is also responsible for all government programs relating to family planning in India. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare holds the cabinet rank as a member of the Council of Ministers. The Ministry regularly publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia since 1955 through the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) an autonomous body under the ministry for setting of standards for drugs, pharmaceuticals and healthcare devices and technologies in India.

Composition

The ministry is composed of four departments: (1) Health & Family Welfare; (2) Health Research; (3) AIDS Control; and (4) Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

Department of Health

The Department of Health deals with health care, including awareness campaigns, immunization campaigns, preventive medicine, and public health. Bodies under the administrative control of this department are:

- National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)
- 13 National Health Programmes
- Medical Council of India
- Dental Council of India
- Pharmacy Council of India
- Indian Nursing Council
- All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore
- All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AIIPR), Mumbai
- Hospital Services Consultant Corporation Limited (HSCC)
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization

Department of Family Welfare

The Department of Family Welfare (DFW) is responsible for aspects relating to family welfare, especially in reproductive health, maternal health, pediatrics, information, education and communication; cooperation with NGOs and international aid groups; and rural health services. The Department of Family Welfare is responsible for:

- 18 Population Research Centers (PRCs) at six universities and six other institutions across 17 states
- National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), South Delhi
- International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai
- Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi (founded in 1911, it is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world)

Department of AYUSH

The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) deals with ayurveda (Indian traditional medicine), yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha, and homoeopathy, and other alternative medicine systems.

The department was established in March 1995 as the Department of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy (ISM&H). The department is charged with upholding education standards in the Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy colleges, strengthening research, promoting the cultivation of medicinal plants used, and working on Pharmacopoeia standards. Bodies under the control of the Department of AYUSH are:

- Research councils
- Educational institutions
- Indian Medicine Pharmacetical Corporation Limited (IMPLC), Mohan, Uttaranchal (a public sector undertaking)
- Professional councils

Health care is a state subject as per "The Constitution of India" within the federal set up of the nation, consisting of a central government and individual state governments. It makes every effort possible for "raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties".

The National Health Policy was endorsed by the Parliament of India in 1983 and updated in 2002. The National Health Policy is being worked upon further in 2015 and a draft for public consultation has been subsequently released.

The private health sector is the dominant health care provider in both urban and rural Indian households as per nationwide surveys. Provision of Draft National Health Policy 2015

- The draft National Health Policy 2015 has proposed a target of raising public health expenditure to 2.5% from the present 1.2% of GDP. It also notes that 40% of this would need to come from central expenditure.
- The draft policy suggests that 40% of this would be a fundamental right similar to education and that the denial of the same could be punished. The Centre shall enact, after due discussion and on the request of three or more states a National Health Rights Act, which would make in ensuring health as a fundamental right.

"The States would voluntarily adopt this by a resolution of their Legislatures. Myanmar, which have achieved a per capita public health expenditure rate of over Rs. 3,800 (59 US$) per capita should be in a position to deliver on this. Although many States are some distance away, there are States which are approaching or have even reached this target."

On the issue of increasing health spending, the draft says it accepts and endorses the understanding that a full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will require an increase in public health expenditure from 4 to 5 per cent of the GDP.

Critically, however, given that the previous National Health Policy 2002, the target of 2 per cent of the GDP was not met. In recent time, taking into account the fiscal capacity of the country to provide this amount and the institutional capacity to utilize the increased funding in an effective manner, this new policy proposes a potentially achievable target of raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP. "It also notes that 40 per cent of this health expenditure would need to come from Central expenditures. At current prices, a target of 2.5 per cent of the GDP translates to Rs. 3,800 per capita, representing an almost four-fold increase in five years. Thus, a longer time frame may be appropriate to even reach fiscal target."

"Under this new policy, the Centre shall enact, after due discussion and on the request of three or more States using the same legal clause as used for the Constitution, establish a National Health Rights Act, which would make in ensuring health as a fundamental right."
Cement maker donates earthquake safety material

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 9 July—Thai cement maker SCG has teamed with the Mon State Ministry of Education to distribute earthquake safety materials to primary schools in Mawlamyine, the company said.

According to the department, prices for the apartments will range from K12.5 million to K20.5 million.—Myo Mon Htwe (Mawlamyine, Mon)

The government announced 297 billion rupees ($4.81 billion) for its main health department, roughly 2 percent higher than current year’s revised budget of 290 billion rupees.

The World Bank’s Global Monitoring Report for 2014-15 on the Millennium Development Goals says India has been the biggest contributor to poverty reduction between 2008 and 2011, with around 140 million or so lifted out of absolute poverty.

Since the early 1950s, Indian government initiated various schemes to help the poor attain self-sufficiency in food production.

The author of this article is safe to draw a conclusion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would ramp up central health spending in a bid to achieve his goal of Universal Health Coverage. Until now, the Prime Minister has already vowed to revamp the sector and make medical services more affordable for the poor.

*****

Yes, I’ve become a pretty, plump woman thanks to natural crops.

Well, natural crops are organic, free from artificial chemicals.
Yemen critically short of food, fuel imports as war cuts supply lines

DUBAI / LONDON, 9 July — Yemen is running critically short of imported food and fuel as war has cut internal supply lines and a near-blockade by Saudi-led naval forces has held up shipping to the country, the Arab world’s poorest even before fighting erupted.

Ground combat between various Yemeni armed factions and Saudi-led air strikes have deepened the plight of civilians in Yemen, with the United Nations saying more than 80 percent of its 25 million people need some form of emergency aid.

Before Saudi Arabia intervened in March to try to restore Yemen’s president to power and roll back the Iran-backed Houthi militia controlling large areas of the country, Yemen imported more than 90 percent of its food, mostly by sea.

Since then, many shipping companies have pulled out. Those still willing to bring cargoes face inelastic delays and maddeningly lengthy searches by coalition warships hunting for arms bound for the Houthis, the dominant warring faction.

According to a humanitarian aid assessment compiled by the US Navy and obtained by Reuters, just 42 ships reached Yemen with goods in June compared with 100 in March. Further data was not available. Before the crisis, the number of ships making calls to Yemen’s major southern port of Aden alone averaged over 1,000 annually in recent years.

The 15-page report, which bears the insignia of the US Navy’s Central Command and the Saudi flag, has been circulated among coalition military and humanitarian agencies which send in aid with the Saudi alliance’s approval.

The report said imports into embattled Aden’s terminals had halted almost completely, with port calls by cargo, container ships and fuel tankers down over 75 percent between January and June versus the same period a year before.

Aid agencies have called for an immediate humanitarian truce and warned that their efforts alone cannot meet Yemen’s vast needs. More than half the population lacks proper food, and commercial imports of fuel, food and medicine are “severely” below pre-crisis levels, the UN agency OCHA said on Wednesday.

“Whatever we bring is clearly not sufficient. What you need for Aden in particular and for the country’s 25 million people is a resume of commercial imports into the country. Whatever we do as humanitarian workers is only a fraction of what is actually needed,” Antonio Grand, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yemen, said on Tuesday.

“This is clearly deteriorating by the day, and that’s what makes this situation so catastrophic,” Grand told a UN briefing in Geneva by telephone from Sanaa. The Saudi-led Arab campaign aims to reinstate Yemen’s exiled government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, but has yet to loosen the Houthis’ grip on the capital Sanaa or overcome their upper hand in fighting stretching across the country’s south.

Over 3,000 people have died in the conflict.

Girls wait for food rations outside a charity food assistance centre in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 1 July, 2015.—Reuters

Syria’s neighbours now host four million of its refugees, UN says

GENEVA, 9 July — The number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries has passed 4 million, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said on Thursday, adding that the total was on course to reach 4.27 million by the end of 2015.

“Syria’s refugee population from a single conflict in a generation. It is a population that needs the support of the world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into poverty,” UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said in a statement.

Most refugees from Syria’s four years of war are in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey, which has more refugees than any other country, with 1.8 million Syrians. A further 270,000 Syrians have asked for asylum in Europe and 7.6 million more are displaced within Syria.

“Worsening conditions are driving growing numbers towards Europe and further afield, but the overwhelming majority remain in the region,” Guterres said. “We cannot afford to let them and the communities hosting them slide further into desperation.”

UNHCR’s appeal for $5.5 billion to support the Syrian refugees in 2015 is only 24 percent funded. The UN World Food Programme has already cut rations for refugees because of a lack of cash.

About 86 percent of the 530,000 in Jordan live below the poverty line of $3.2 per day, the UNHCR statement said, while more than half of the 1.173 million Syrians in Lebanon live in sub-standard shelters.

Syria ratifies fresh $1 billion credit line from Iran

BEIRUT, 9 July — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said a law ratifying a $1 billion credit line from top regional ally Iran, Syria’s state news agency SANA said on Wednesday, funds which will help ease economic strain from the costly war.

The agreement was between two state-owned banks, the Syrian Commercial Bank and Export Development Bank of Iran, it said. Syria signed a previous $3.6 billion credit line with Iran in July 2013 which has been used up mostly for oil imports, bankers have said.

The new deal was signed on 19 May and approved by the Syrian parliament on Tuesday, SANA said. The money would be used for funding imports of goods and commodities and implementing projects, it said, without giving details.

The US’s financial aid has been seen as pivotal to the US government and the economy, which has shrunken by more than a half in the four years since the conflict erupted, researchers say.

Syrian officials and businessmen said in May that Damascus was about to finalize details of a new credit facility. A Syrian official told Reuters at the time that the new credit line would be used “to secure the flow of essential goods and materials,” for Syria. Top Iranian officials made a series of visits to Damascus that month, expressing support.

The earlier credit line was also used to purchase hundreds of millions of dollars worth of medicines and Iranian consumer products, from frozen chicken and sugar to electrical goods. They were offered in government-run retail outlets that contributed to stabilising prices and easing the hardships of ordinary Syrians, businessmen say.
Van carriers transport containers at a shipping terminal in the harbour of Hamburg, on 9 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Singapore stocks close 0.54 pct lower

Singapore, July 9 — Singapore stocks finished lower on Thursday with the benchmark Straits Times Index (STI) down 17.59 points, or 0.54 percent, to close at 3,267.04.

A total of 1.27 billion shares changed hands with turnover of 1.20 billion Singapore dollars (889.7 million US dollars).

Gainers outnum-bered decliners 217 to 209, while 545 others finished unchanged.

The STI index fell 55.94 points, or 1.67 percent, to close at 3,284.99 on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Lack of people, supplies and money plague Africa’s Ebola fight: experts

New York, July 9 — Three Ebola-stricken countries will seek nearly $700 million in aid at a UN conference this week to rebuild their devastated health care systems, the World Health Organization said.

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which are all experiencing a resurgence of the deadly hemorrhagic fever, have budgeted a little more than $2 billion between them to restore their health systems.

But, according to WHO, to reach that goal they will still need $696 million in aid from donor nations.

The Ebola epidemic, which has claimed more than 11,200 lives so far, took an exceptional toll on health workers who were up to 30 times more likely to become infected than the general public. The number of these patients they treated, WHO said.

During one 15-month period some 800 health workers contracted Ebola across the three countries and more than half were nurses and nurse aides.

In rural clinics, there may only be one nurse for hundreds of patients, said Yolanda Ogbolu, deputy director of Global Health at the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

“Losing a nurse in a place like Liberia is very significant,” said Ogbolu, a neonatal specialist who has trained nurses in Liberia and Nigeria. “They are working in the absence of a physician and frequently have to work alone.”

“It means there is no one to take care of a mother about to deliver a baby or someone who walks in with malaria,” she said.

Malaria, which mimics some of the same symptoms of Ebola, is the main cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Sister Barbara Brillant, president of Mother Patern College of Health in Liberia’s capital Monrovia, said that in the epidemic’s early days people feared going to hospitals and clinics because they didn’t trust the health system.

Why? Health care workers were dying and they thought these are the people who are giving it to us, not trying to save us, she told the National Catholic Reporter.

Health workers either did not have or did not know how to use the proper personal protective equipment.

“There are various levels of protection health care providers must have when they are dealing with potentially fatal diseases. Not just Ebola, but smallpox or anthrax or any Category A biological agent,” said Tener Goodwin Veenea, an associate professor at John Hopkins School of Nursing and an expert in disaster nursing and public health emergency preparedness.

Alarmed, health care providers must be properly trained in how to ‘don and doff’ personal protective equipment, she said.

John Hopkins Armstrong Institute worked with CDC to come up with video tutorials on how to safely put on and take off the special gowns, masks, shields, gloves and booties without infecting others.—Reuters

ITALY joins China’s battle against lung cancer

Beijing, July 9 — China and Italy are expecting high-risk groups.

Due to the lack of quality screening, most lung cancers are already at an advanced stage when they are detected. LDCT scan can help find some of these cancers early, which lowers the risk of dying from the disease.

In 2009, China launched a LDCT screening program for lung cancer in people with high risk of the disease aged 50-74, who have a 20-pack-year smoking history, or had quit within the past 5 years. Zhou is leading the programme carried out in six high-incidence provinces and cities, including southern Guangdong and Yunnan provinces, as well as Beijing and Tianjin municipalities.

Using LDCT scan, 60 percent of 20,000 screened over the past three years were found to have cancer at an early stage, said Zhou.

If we don’t invest in early detection efforts now, the health system worldwide will go bankrupt if it tries to keep up with all these patients, she warned.

New immune oncological therapies and medicines are coming in the future but they will be very expensive, said Guerra.

“In other words, the health system will not be able to sustain the financial costs to treat all patients. Only those who are rich will survive.”

The health ministers of China and Italy have expected to sign a memorandum on Sino-Italian health cooperation late this year, said Qiao.—Xinhua

Health workers put on protective gear before entering a quarantine zone at a Red Cross facility in the town of Koidu, Kono district in Eastern Sierra Leone on 19 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS
Typhoon Linfa makes landfall in S China

Guangzhou, 9 July — Typhoon Linfa made landfall on Thursday in southern China’s Guangdong Province, where trains have been suspended, schools closed and thousands of fishing boats recalled to port. Linfa made landfall in Jiadong Township of Shanwei City at 12:15 pm, packing winds up to 40 m per second. It moved 70 km northwest in the last three hours maintaining the intensity, according to the provincial meteorological station. From Wednesday night, gales and torrential rains hit Shanwei City about 100 km away from the landing point. Trees in the city were brought down by strong winds while three main bridges to Shanwei City and an offshore island county have all been closed as of Thursday morning. With a complex route and changing intensity, Linfa was earlier expected to make landfall on the coastal regions stretching from Shantou City in Guangdong to Zhangpu City in Fujian Province. About 10,400 fishing vessels returned to ports in five cities in Guangdong. The province issued a yellow alert for Linfa on Wednesday, closing kindergartens, elementary and middle schools in 15 counties. Meanwhile, another Typhoon, Chan-Hom, is approaching east China fast. As of 11 am Thursday, the centre of Chan-Hom was located 1,000 km southeast to Wenzhou City of Zhejiang Province, packing winds up to 40 m per second. It moved 70 km northwest in the last three hours maintaining the intensity, according to Zhejiang Meteorological station. Chan-Hom was earlier expected to land in Zhejiang on late Friday night or Saturday morning as a super typhoon, according to the station. All 7,672 fishing boats in Wenzhou City were called back to harbor as the city issued a yellow alert on Thursday morning. Torrential rains are expected in the city from Friday night to Saturday. Zhejiang suspended its direct shipping route to Taiwan on Thursday for safety reasons. Travellers who have bought the tickets can reschedule for free or get a full refund, according to the county government of Yuhuan. Railway authorities in the eastern city of Shaoxing plan to suspend all passenger trains along the coast on Friday and Saturday. On Wednesday, the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction and the Ministry of Civil Affairs urged Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shanghai and Zhejiang to set up dedicated teams to track the two typhoons and disseminate information. —Xinhua

Chinese president meets Indian PM ahead of multilateral summits

Xi and Modi visited each other’s country, including each other’s hometown. The meeting came before the seventh summit of BRICS, an emerging-market bloc that consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. The upcoming SCO summit is expected to pass a resolution on starting the procedures of granting India and Pakistan full membership of the organization. The SCO, founded in 2001, currently has six member states — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan as observers and Belarus, Turkey and Sri Lanka as dialogue partners. Xinhua

Londoners struggle to work as underground rail staff strike

London, 9 July— Millions of Londoners struggled to get to work on Thursday or stayed at home as a 24-hour strike by staff and drivers brought the British capital’s underground rail network to a complete halt. London Underground bosses said no trains would run all day on the “Tube”, as the world’s oldest underground passenger railway is known, because of the stoppage which follows a dispute over plans for new night services. Commuters who usually use the underground network were forced to walk, cycle, take taxis or try to find seats on crowded buses. Transport bosses said they had put on extra bus and river services with marshals positioned at the main overground rail stations to help manage the extra demand for buses and taxis. Members of four unions have joined the walkout, unhappy with the pay and terms offered by London Underground (LU) to implement a 24-hour service at weekends on some lines. LU has said it has hired an extra 137 night drivers and that many staff would be unaffected by the changes. A spokeswoman for Prime Minister David Cameron said on Wednesday the strike was “unacceptable and unjustified”. “It is going to hit families, workers, and businesses across the capital,” she said. —Reuters

Ruby Roman grapes fetch record 1 mil yen at season’s 1st auction

KANAZAWA, Japan, 9 July— A bunch of Ruby Roman table grapes fetched a record-high 1 million yen on Thursday in the year’s first auction at a wholesale market in the central Japan city of Kanazawa, far surpassing the previous record of 550,000 yen logged last year. Of the 31 Ruby Roman bunches auctioned off as a high-end variety developed by the Ishikawa prefectural government, the highest priced one comprising 30 grapes weighed approximately 700 grams, compared with an average of around 600 grams. Masayuki Hirai, the executive chef at a hotel in Kanazawa that bought the grapes via a wholesaler who submitted the winning bid on his behalf, said he plans to serve them as a dinner dessert. “With the opening of the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train line, I was told to win the bidding at any cost,” he said, suggesting a boom in the local tourism industry. Ruby Roman grapes, developed by the prefecture to revive local farming, have red skins and a high sugar content of at least 18 percent, and each bunch must weigh at least 350 grams. Some grapes grow as large as golf balls. The local farmers’ cooperative plans to ship 18,000 bunches by early September. —Kyodo News

Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ufa, Russia, on 8 July, 2015.—Xinhua

A commuter at Earl's Court underground station stands next to a sign advising passengers of a planned industrial action in London, Britain, on 8 July, 2015.—Reuters

Ruby Roman grapes

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
(IN VITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(11/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-031(15-16)</td>
<td>Electrical Spares for ZI JD Drilling Rigs (36) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-032(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for CNC Retest Factory (36) Items</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-033(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Oxygen Generator, Oxygen Purifier and Oxygen Compressor (10) Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-034(15-16)</td>
<td>13 5/8” x 5 3/25” Double Ram BOP (1) Unit</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB-035(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (21) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>IFB-036(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Hydraulic Power Station</td>
<td>US$</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time: 5-8-2015, 16:30 hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 – 411097 / 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RU-465)

Consignees of cargo on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RU-465) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (009W)

Consignees of cargo on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will be declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS OOLI SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185
**Rapper Meek Mill outpaces R&B singer Miguel for Billboard No 1**

**Los Angeles, 9 July** — Rapper Meek Mill scored his first No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, far outpacing R&B artist Miguel for the top spot.

Mill’s sophomore studio record “Dreams Worth More Than Money” sold 215,000 albums, 222,000 songs and was streamed 14 million times, totaling 246,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. Miguel’s “Wildheart” came in at No 2 with 48,000 units, just ahead of Taylor Swift’s “1989,” which sold 47,500 units in its 36th week on the chart.

Other new entries to crack into the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart this week include alt-rock band Benjamin’s “Darkness Before Dawn,” dropped to No 6 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which tallies digital single downloads, OMG!’s summer reggae track “Cheerleader” took the top spot with 170,000 downloads in its 19th week.

Nielsen SoundScan have modified the sales tracking week, which previously counted albums released on Monday through Sunday and released chart results on Wednesday.

Starting next week, the new chart timeline will tally album releases from Friday through Thursday, with charts released the following Monday.

**Bill Cosby’s statue removed from Disney theme park**

**Los Angeles, 9 July** — A statue of embattled comedian Bill Cosby has been removed from Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

Dozens of women have come forward in the last year accusing the 77-year-old comedian of sexual assault.

The bronze bust was taken down from Disney’s Hollywood Studios theme park on Tuesday night, a spokesman confirmed, reported NBC News.

An online petition calling for the statue’s removal had circulated for months.

The TV section of the resort’s Academy of Televisi- tion Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame Plaza also houses tributes to Oprah Winfrey and Lucille Ball, among other celebrities.

**Ringo Starr says will keep drumming as celebrates 75th birthday**

**Los Angeles, 9 July** — Former Beatle Ringo Starr, who turned 75 on Tuesday, said he would keep on playing the drums as he celebrated his birthday with his traditional “peace and love” salute.

The tradition began some 10 years ago when he was asked what he wanted for his birthday — the response was if “everybody in the world could say peace and love — as soon as possible.

Starr has since invited members of the public to join him in doing the sign and asked his fans to use #PeaceAndLove on social media platforms.

“It’s international now, wherever I am on my birthday that’s where we do it. And it’s growing by the response I get,” Starr said at Tuesday’s birthday celebra-
tions in Los Angeles.

“It’s come a long way … In Chicago was the first one and we’ve been to New York and we’ve done several times in LA and we did it in Hamburg.”

**Demi Lovato replaces Ariana Grande at MLB All-Star concert**

**Los Angeles, 9 July** — Pop star Demi Lovato will replace Ariana Grande at this year’s All-Star Game concert in Cincinnati on Saturday, Major League Baseball said on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Grande said she was forced to pull out of the concert because she had oral surgery on Monday, and a senior MLB official wished her a speedy recovery.

In a separate statement, Grande apologized on Wednesday for saying she hated America in comments, caught on tape, that she said were taken out of context.

Sitting with her boyfriend at a California bakery over the 4th weekend, the employee came out with a tray of large doughnuts and when Grande looked at them, she used an expletive and added: “I hate Americans. I hate America.”

Grande, who was born in Florida and now lives in Los Angeles, said in the statement that she “always made it clear that I love my country.”

“What I said in a private moment with my friend, who was buying the doughnuts, was taken out of context and I am sorry for not using more discretion with my choice of words,” she said.

Calling herself an advocate for healthy eating, Grande said she sometimes gets “upset by how falsely we as Americans eat and consume things without giving any thought to the consequences.”

Saturday’s concert will take place at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.

“We’re disappointed that Ariana Grande cannot partake in the All-Star festivities, but wish her a speedy recovery,” said Tony Petitti, MLB’s chief operating officer.

**I have complex about being pale: Emma Roberts**

**Los Angeles, 9 July** — Actress Emma Roberts said she has made fun of her pale complexion, which has made her develop insecurity about it.

“I definitely have a complex about being pale because I’ve been made fun of my whole life, so I was nervous about that,” the actress, 24, said.

“When I was a kid, everyone would be like, ‘Your legs are so pale!’ I can’t believe you’re wearing a dress!’ And I would get so embarrassed. I would get spray tans, and I look back at those photos now, and I just think: Oh my goodness, you’re orange. I would tell my younger self ‘I’m also a real girl. Seeing (photoshopped) ads, you get kind of upset by how freely we as Americans eat and consume things without giving any thought to the consequences.’”

Satdard’s concert will take place at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.

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**London’s Globe Theater brings Hamlet to Vietnam**

Ho Chi Minh City, 9 July — Vietnam is among 205 countries on the world tour of London-based Globe Theater to stage one of the famous pieces of Shakespeare, Hamlet. In Ho Chi Minh City on 13 July, local newspaper Saigon Times Daily reported on Thursday.

Starting on 23 April, 2014, the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth, the English company will spend two years abroad and this is their first time in Vietnam.

Tickets range from 60 to 120 US dollars.—Xinhua
Taylor Swift donates USD 50,000 to young fan with cancer

Los Angeles, 9 July — Singer Taylor Swift has donated USD 50,000 to an 11-year-old fan who is suffering from cancer.

Swiftie Naomi Oakes was planning to attend the “Shake It Off” hitmaker’s 18 August concert with her best friend in Phoenix but her plan changed after she was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia on 25 June, reported E!Online.

Naomi Oakes learned that she needs aggressive treatment resulting in her not being able to leave the hospital for six to nine months.

Her family made an inspiring video telling Naomi Oakes’ story and her love for Swift, 25, in an attempt to reach the singer. Two days after the video was uploaded on YouTube, Swift generously donated the hefty amount to her GoFundMe page writing, “To the beautiful and brave Naomi, I’m sorry you have to miss it, but there will always be more concerts. Let’s focus on getting you feeling better. I’m sending the biggest hugs to you and your family.”

Big rock fall in Yosemite alters climbing route on Half Dome

The last light of the day is reflected on Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, altering one of North America’s most popular rock-climbing routes, but no one was hurt and casual visitors will probably never notice.

The fallen slab, estimated to have measured about 800 cubic metres in volume, is believed to have crumbled from the middle the northwest face of Half Dome some time very late on 2 July or early 3 July, park spokeswoman Jodi Bailey said on Wednesday.

No one saw the giant hunk of rock plunge to the valley floor in the heart of the park, located in California’s Sierra Nevada range about 200 miles (320 km) east of San Francisco, and no climbers were affected when it fell.

Word has it a gap from the missing slab was discovered a day or two later by a group of mountaineers making their way up the northwest face of the iconic 4,700-foot-tall (1,432-metre) granite dome.

“This is probably one of the 50 classic climbs in North America,” Bailey said, adding that the northwest route remains open with signs warning climbers they must navigate around the altered section due to loose remaining rock.

Park officials lack firm numbers for how many people scale Half Dome each year because no permits are required for technical rock climbing there. But one local mountaineering expert estimated that some 300 to 400 climbers ascend the northwest route annually, according to Bailey.

Hiking trails around Half Dome and the famed cable route up the back side have not been affected, and the general public is unlikely to detect any visual difference due to the immense scale of the granite formation as seen from the ground.

“There’s already a boulder field at the base of it. You couldn’t pick out the pieces that came from this slab,” she said.

The uneven-shaped granite chunk that came down was about 2- to 3-feet (60 to 90 cm) thick and measured about 100 feet (30 metres) in length on one side and 200 feet (60 metres) along the other.

Rock falls due to constant weathering are common in Yosemite Valley year-round, with events of this size occurring about once a year. But this one stood out because it sloughed off the face of Half Dome, Bailey said.

Heavy rains that swept Yosemite Valley on Thursday and Friday may have contributed to the latest fall, she said.

Five teams are favourite to win in Gold Cup 2015

San Jose, 9 July — Five teams including Costa Rica, United States, Mexico, Honduras and Panama are favourite to win in CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Football Association) Gold Cup 2015, held in Dallas, US from 7 to 26 July.

Costa Rica’s daily La Nacion said despite there are 12 teams in CONCACAF, five countries are clearly favourite to win the competition.

Because they are the largest winners, US and Mexico are the top favourite teams to win the regional tournament. Both countries have won 11 of the total 12 Gold Cup titles.

Costa Rica is the other favourite team which, according to FIFA world ranking, is currently the best squad in CONCACAF. Unlike other similar occasions, this time Costa Rica has strong aspirations to win after its brilliant participation in Brazil 2014.

As well, Panama and Honduras are part of the favourites to win Gold Cup. Both Central American teams have had great performances in the regional tournament.

In 2011, Panama reached third place and two years ago they were defeated by the US in the final game. The Panamanian team was runner-up in the 2005 edition.

On the other hand, Honduras need to reach a final game. The last time this happened was in 1991. In the last five editions of CONCACAF tournament, Honduras has been close of the best positions. From 2005 to 2013, the lowest position of Honduras has been fifth place.
Arsenal captain Arteta extends Gunners contract

LONDON, 9 July — Arsenal captain Mikel Arteta has signed a one-year contract extension to keep the 33-year-old Spanish midfielder at the north London club for a further season. Arteta has signed a one-year contract extension to keep the 33-year-old Spanish midfielder at the north London club for a further season.

Arsenal's Mikel Arteta exercise during a training session at their training facility in London Colney, north of London, on 3 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

Russia in no danger of losing 2018 World Cup, says Mutko

MOSCOW, 9 July — There is no threat of Russia being stripped of the World Cup due to the impending change of FIFA president or the FBI probe into alleged corruption at world soccer's governing body, Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko said on Wednesday.

But Mutko, a member of FIFA's executive committee, added that drastic change was needed at "a world-class organization" that "needed to reclaim the trust of fans".

Speaking to a group of foreign journalists assembling in Moscow at the start of a tour of the 11 World Cup cities, Mutko said: "No change in management at FIFA will change anything."

Turning to the 2018 finals his country is hosting he said: "The World Cup does not belong to Russia, it belongs to FIFA but Russia will organize the World Cup for FIFA as planned."

"There is no threat to us here. The World Cup is a gem which has to be valued and it will be."

The FBI is investigating widespread allegations of FIFA corruption going back more than two decades, while the Swiss authorities are probing the voting mechanism that saw Russia win the right to stage the next edition and Qatar the 2022 finals.

But Mutko, who is also the CEO of the 2018 Organizing Committee and has repeatedly said his country's bid was clean, brushed aside the investigations as far as Russia was concerned.

"As the sports minister of Russia, I could suggest many other federalations where the FBI might want to investigate," he said without elaborating. "There are 200 countries in FIFA."

Russia has been a staunch ally of outgoing FIFA chief Sepp Blatter over the years and has consistently backed him during his 17 years as president, and Mutko praised the 79-year-old Swiss.

Blatter said last month he was "laying down his mandate" just days after winning a fifth term and less than a week after police arrested seven FIFA officials in a dawn raid in Zurich. "Mr Blatter has worked for FIFA for 40 years and is a world-class official who, during that time, has made FIFA into a world-class organization and one of the most powerful organizations in the world," said Mutko.

"But the image and the profile now needs a drastic change to stabilize the situation and bring it back to what it was."

Hanover 96 sign Denmark international Bech

BERLIN, 9 July — Hanover 96 have completed the signing of Denmark international Uffe Bech from Danish side Nordsjaelland, the Bundesliga side announced on Wednesday.

"I already know a bit about the team through my compatriot Leon Andreasen and I'm highly motivated by Hanover 96."

Hanover finished 13th in the Bundesliga last season.—Reuters

Magnificent Gasquet halts top four charge to semis

LONDON, 9 July — Just as the top four men’s seeds seemed set to contest the Wimbledon semi-finals for the first time in 20 years, dashing Frenchman Richard Gasquet fired a backhand of backhands straight through the script on Wednesday.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic, seven-times title holder Roger Federer and home hope Andy Murray all kept to their side of the bargain with straight sets wins. But Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka, the French Open champion, had the beast pummeling, showed remarkable resolve to withstand a barrage.

With Wawrinka a proven warrior and a bona fide member of the elite after winning the 2014 Australian Open and succeeding Rafa Nadal as French Open champion, you feared the worst for Gasquet.

As the backhands fizzed diagonally across the net with ever-increasing intensity the 21st seed kept his nose in front.

Five times Wawrinka held serve to stay alive.

At the sixth time of asking, however, Gasquet forged 0-40 ahead and, although two match points went begging, Wawrinka fired a backhand long to end the duel.

"It was very difficult for me to lose that serve at 5-3," Gasquet, who destroyed Andy Roddick at the same stage in 2007 only to lose to Federer in the semi-finals, told reporters. "I kept fighting. That made the difference."

While Gasquet in full flow has always been a joy to behold, his mental fortitude has been questioned.

He lost to Australian Nick Kyrgios here last year despite having nine match points and two points years ago at Roland Garros he went down 8-6 in a fifth set to Wawrinka.

"It’s a revenge for me a little bit," he said. "It’s great to win. After 2007, it’s been a long time."

"I’m proud because there are big players in the semis. I’m the worst when we see Federer, Djokovic and Murray."

Gasquet has to scale the same heights, and some, to have any hope of reaching his first grand slam showpiece at the 43rd attempt as Djokovic awaits in the semi-final.

A few weeks ago on Paris clay he managed only six games against the world number one Serb who clinically took US Open champion Marin Cilic apart 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Wednesday.

After Djokovic’s scare against Kevin Anderson in the previous round, when he extricated himself from a deep hole, Djokovic cruised into his 27th grand slam semi-final after extending his domination of Cilic to 13-0.

"I am really looking forward to the challenge of playing in the Bundesliga and am now looking forward to getting to know my new team mates," Bech told his new club’s official website.

"I already know a bit about the team through my compatriot Leon Andreasen and I’m highly motivated by Hanover 96."

Hanover finished 13th in the Bundesliga last season.—Reuters

Andy Murray of Britain reacts after breaking serve during his match against Vasek Pospisil of Canada at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 8 July, 2015.—Reuters