An overpass on Strand Road helps ease traffic congestion in downtown Yangon City.

Photo: benbansal.me

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—On the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tsakhiia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia and His Excellency Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, Prime Minister of Mongolia.

MNA

YANGON, 10 July—The Yangon City Development Committee is planning to construct six new footbridges in the commercial capital this year, according to officials.

Two bridges will be built in the downtown area, three on Pyay Road, and one in Bahan Township.

A senior official said the YCDC is conducting pre-engineering works for the projects and is studying the feasibility of including escalators at the footbridges.

A pedestrian who was asked about footbridges said commuters faced difficulties crossing roads due to vehicles not slowing down for foot traffic.

Social service advocates have called for the new footbridges to be accessible for disabled persons.

The YCDC official said vendors will not be allowed to sell goods on the bridges.

YCDC built four footbridges on Pyay Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Strand Road and downtown last fiscal year.

GNLM

An overpass on Strand Road helps ease traffic congestion in downtown Yangon City.

Photo: benbansal.me

China’s stock slump poses limited risk to Myanmar: analysts

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 10 July — While China’s recent stock market crash wiped out more than US $3 trillion in “paper wealth” from the country, analysts say there will be limited impact on Myanmar, despite its reliance on the world’s No. 2 economy as an investment source and export destination.

“There will be no direct impact on Myanmar, as the country has no link with the stock market and related developments in China,” the economist said.

The economist said recent outbreaks of fighting on export routes within Myanmar were a real situation which had triggered a slowdown in trade.

Dr Soe Tun, vice-chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation, however, said there were concerns for border trade, especially in rice and agricultural produce, stemming from China’s bursting stock market bubble.

“Bad debts are likely to be seen in border trade if Chinese companies go bankrupt,” the vice-chairman said.

Most rice exports to China are sold through a credit system, he added, saying some payments had yet to be made on roughly 300,000 tons of rice.

Dr Soe Tun said a gradual decline in export volume to China was likely.

U Saw Naing said some Chinese buyers could use the stock market crash as an excuse to avoid making payments.

According to another economic observer, China’s stock market and related developments are not yet seen as posing systematic risks, and wealth effects from equity price changes in China are likely to be limited.

However, Myanmar should diversify its export markets and improve its business environment to attract more FDI from a broader variety of sectors, the observer said.

(See page 2)

Port authority compensates farmers displaced by Thilawa SEZ

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 10 July — Myanma Port Authority paid compensation Friday to eight farmers displaced by development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

A total of K42.21 million in compensation was paid to the farmers for land plots 25 and 26 of the economic zone, at K 6.7 million per acre, according to local farmers.

“I have already received compensation and now I again got K13.4 million from MPA for two acres of my land,” local farmer U Zaw Win said, adding he was pleased with the payment.

U Soe Maung, a volunteer who helped the farmers win compensation said the claim process was difficult.

When compensation was initially paid, farmers received K7 million for land and K100,000 for rent from companies, but rates were now a little lower, he said.

(See page 2)

New lecture hall opens at Lashio University

UEC issues guidelines for voting outside constituency

Government tender policies questioned at Pyithu Hluttaw

Exhibition puts spotlight on Toungoo artists

Let your name be your fame
Government tender policies questioned at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAT PYI TAW, 10 July — U Kyi Tha of the Gwa constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday about the government’s tender policies and procedures, with the deputy minister responding to the query.

Daw Lei Lei Thein of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development explained directives on tender procedures for procurement, construction services, and rental, adding that government departments invite tenders for procurement of lower monetary value, but open tenders are required when higher costs are involved.

Tender systems differ from ministry to ministry, she said.

Dr Win Myint of the Hlaing constituency queried the number of SIM cards sold, annual earnings and taxes from foreign mobile operators.

Licences have been issued to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Ooredoo Myanmar Ltd and Telenor Myanmar Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Min Latt said the gallery is set to host a series of upcoming art exhibitions, including another group show this month and a solo exhibition and watercolour event next month.

Pyithu Hluttaw

U Kyi Tha of the Gwa constituency

MNA

Ooredoo and Telenor are licensed from 5 February 2014 to 4 February 2029, with the ministry hinting at possible extension in accordance with the communications laws, rules and regulations.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the Red Cross society bill, the evidence act amendment bill and the society bill, the evidence act amendment bill and the society bill, the evidence act amendment bill and the society bill.

China’s stock slump poses limited risk to global economy.—GNLM

Director of Research Department, said although China is experiencing difficulties, the IMF should not assume it will have an immediate impact on the global economy.—GNLM

Exhibition puts spotlight on Toungoo artists

YANGON, 10 July — River Ayeawady Gallery will host a collective exhibition in mid-July showcasing works depicting Myanmar’s beautiful landscapes, founder U Nay Min Latt said Friday.

At the exhibition, entitled “Withan U,” painter U Win Sein will display four oil and acrylic creations.

“One of the objectives of the expo is to explore the artistic skills of unknown artists,” U Win Sein said.

The five-day exhibition aims to give particular exposure to artists from Toungoo of Bago Region, where there are no galleries, he said The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The event is scheduled to open to the public from 18 to 22 July, and is set to feature roughly 80 artworks by 19 artists from Yangon, Mandalay and Bago regions in a variety of media and styles. Subjects include still life, ethnic nationalities, traditional arts and culture.

All work will be on sale at reasonable prices, U Win Sein said. The gallery is located on 35th Street (Middle Block) in Kyauktada Township in Yangon. River Ayeawady Gallery founder U Nay Min Latt said the gallery will also host a series of upcoming art exhibitions, including another group show this month and a solo exhibition and watercolour event next month.

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

A painting by Star Mya Than, displayed at a previous group exhibition to mark the one-year anniversary of River Ayeawady Gallery from 26 June to 3 July.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Sarpay Beikman hall allowed to be used for literary affairs

YANGON, 10 July — The Ministry of Information issued an announcement on Friday that journalist and librarian organizations will be allowed to use Sarpay Beikman Hall equipped with sound system and chairs on Merchant Street in Yangon to host enthusiasts for literary talks, paper-reading sessions, workshops and literary seminars and shows free of charge.

The organizations and enthusiasts may send applications attached to type of literary ceremony, attendance, date of ceremony, name of organizer, telephone number, e-mail and address to the managing director, Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Ministry of Information and call 087-412206.
New lecture hall opens at Lashio University

LASHIO, 10 July—Lashio University needs a long-term plan for the construction of lecture halls, staff quarters and student housing, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said Friday during a meeting with faculty and students.

The vice president attended an opening ceremony for a new lecture hall at the university where Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung, Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and Rector Dr Maung Maung cut the ribbon to open the new lecture hall.

In speech, the vice president said it was important to ensure the longevity of the university. He later presented cash assistance to Shan, Palaung, Myaungzwe, Wa, Kachin and Kokang literature and cultural troupes.

The three-storey U-shape lecture hall includes 30 classrooms for undergraduate courses, post-graduate qualification courses in addition to academic departments and meeting hall. The vice president and party returned to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—MNA

National Spatial Development Plan essential for country: union minister

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—The National Spatial Development Plan is essential for the advancement of the country, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane said at a meeting Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The plan covers agriculture, industrial and all-round development, the union minister said at a coordination meeting on drafting the plan, as well as manufacturing development in Myanmar.

The plan is still at the conceptual stage, and a master plan must be drafted and submitted to the Union Government and the Hluttaws, the union minister added.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw later explained requirements for the plan.

Afterwards, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane explained the efforts of the government for economic development and poverty reduction during its term, saying it was necessary to cooperate with civil society organizations including the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Officials then reported work being carried out for development.

Present at the meeting were union ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers and officials from states and regions.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw to host national health forum

YANGON, 10 July—The Ministry of Health will host the inaugural Myanmar Health Forum in Nay Pyi Taw later this month.

The two-day event will start 28 July, and provide a platform for discussing the development of the country’s health sector, including the goal to ensure universal health coverage by 2030. Some 700 attendees are expected to take part in discussions.

Experts will talk about critical issues ranging from the impact of health sector reform to development needs during the event at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2).—GNLM

UEC issues guidelines for voting outside constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—The Union Election Commission on Friday issued guidelines for registration of voters who have been living outside their constituencies for at least 180 days.

Those who do not wish to return to their permanent constituencies to cast votes in the general election may apply for voter’s registration at their temporary constituency.

Applications must be submitted with a reference from an employer or government official at least 30 days before the election, the notification said.

The ward or village tract election sub-committee shall register the voter at the temporary constituency if an application is properly submitted, it said.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—On the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2015, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.—MNA
Singapore's train services operator may face 50 mln SGD fine

Singapore, 10 July — Singapore's train services operator SMRT may face a 50 million Singapore dollars (37.1 million US dollars) fine for Tuesday's unprecedented train service disruption, Maybank Kim Eng Securities said in a report on Friday.

On how the estimated amount came out, the report said that the Bill, passed by the parliament on 17 February, 2014, increased the maximum fine for every rail disruption to 10 percent of an operator's annual fare revenue for the relevant rail line.

SMRT's FY3/15 rail revenue was 644 million Singapore dollars (477.5 million US dollars) for its MRT, North East, Circle Line, which suggests a maximum fine of 64.4 million Singapore dollars.

SNAG, 10 July — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks on the sidelines of the summit. The leaders of the nuclear-armed neighbours to raise the profiles of their national security advisers in New Delhi to discuss terrorism, India's foreign secretary said at a regional security summit in Russia on Friday.

The announcement came after Indian Prime Minister Narendran Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif smile in New Delhi on 27 May, 2014.—Reuters

Indonesia closes five airports due to volcanic activities in E Java

JAKARTA, 10 July — Indonesia on Friday closed the operation of five airports following the escaping volcanic activities, the airport operator, Lombok International Airport, Selaparang Airport, Blimbingsari Airport and Nototahidegunor Airport, all located in three provinces of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) and East Java.

“The closure was based on five NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Air Transport Directorate General,” JA Barata, a spokesperson at the Transport Ministry said in a statement.

According to the NOTAM, closure of those five airports was conducted at different times. Ngurah Rai Airport was closed until 5 p.m. Central Indonesian Time (WITA). The airports in NTB province, Lombok International and Selaparang were closed until 9:00 WITA.

Meanwhile, the airports in East Java, Blimbingsari and Nototahidegunor in cities of Banyuwangi and Jember were closed until 12:00 and 8:00 Western Indonesian Time (WIB).—Xinhua

Malaysian investigators say looking into PM’s wife bank account

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 July — Malaysian investigators are looking into bank transactions by the prime minister’s wife, a statement by a special task force probing allegations of misappropriation of funds from state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) on Thursday was condemned by Human Rights Watch.

“The task force knew about this (transactions into Rosmah Mansor’s bank account) before (the media) expose and an investigation is being conducted,” said the task force probing allegations of misappropriation of funds from state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).—Xinhua

Thailand says rejected China request to deport all Uighurs Muslims

BANGKOK, 10 July — Thailand said on Friday that it had rejected a request from Beijing to deport all Uighur Muslims held in detention camps back to China, two days after the deportation of nearly 100 Uighurs sparked international criticism.

Beijing’s request was denied based on the grounds that the Uighurs’ nationalities had to be “verified” by Thai authorities first, Colonel Weerachon Sukhondenpatipak, deputy Thai government spokesman, told reporters.

“We did this according to international agreement and international law and keeping in mind human rights,” said Weerachon.

“This decision was difficult to make. It is not like all of a sudden China asks for Uighurs and we just give them back. China asked for all Uighur Muslims in Thailand to be sent back but we said we could not do it,” he said.

More than 170 Uighurs were identified as Turkish citizens and sent to Turkey from Thailand over the past month, said Weerachon, while nearly 100 were sent back to China. Fifty others still need to have their citizenship verified.

Thailand’s decision to deport nearly 100 Uighurs from several immigration detention centres in Bangkok late on Wednesday was condemned by the United States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who strongly urged China to ensure proper treatment of the Uighurs.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of Uighurs have fled unrest in China’s western Xinjiang region where hundreds of people have been killed, prompting a crackdown by Chinese authorities. They have travelled clandestinely through Southeast Asia to Turkey.

China’s treatment of its Turkic-language-speaking Uighur minority is a sensitive issue in Turkey and has strained bilateral ties against a planned visit to Beijing this month by President Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan plans to raise the plight of the Uighurs during his trip.

The deportation of the Uighurs has sparked protests in Turkey. Police used tear gas on Thursday to disperse about 100 protesters at the Chinese Embassy in the capital Ankara after they knocked down a barricade and protested attacking ‘Turkey’s honorary consulate in Istanbul late on Wednesday, smashing windows and breaking in.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha has raised the possibility of shutting the Thai embassy in Beijing if said he wanted to maintain good relations with both Turkey and China.

Thailand and Turkey are not rivals and we do not want to destroy trade and commerce with Turkey,” Prayuth told reporters in Bangkok. “At the same time, we do not want to destroy the relationship between China and Thailand.”

Turkey has vowed to keep opening its doors open to Uighur migrants fleeing persecution in China. Some Turks see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious heritage with their Uighur “brothers” and Turkey is home to a large Uighur diaspora.

Human Rights Watch called on Thailand to halt the deportations of Uighur Muslims to China in a statement on Friday, fearing they could face ill-treatment.

The New-York based rights group said the risks to Uighurs forcibly returned to China were “grim and well established.”

Thailand should make it clear it won’t further violate international law by immediately announcing a moratorium on additional deportations of Turkish people to China,” said Sophie Richardson, China director for Human Rights Watch.

On Monday, Global Times, an influential tabloid published by China’s ruling Communist Party’s official newspaper, said China’s Public Security Ministry confirmed that police “successfully repatriated” more than 100 people from Thailand.

The newspaper said the people were mostly from China’s Xinjiang region, the heartland of the Muslim Uighur people who call the region home, and were “illegal immigrants” or members of gangs involved in people smuggling.

“Many among them planned to reach Turkey through Southeast Asian countries and then head to Syria and Iraq to participate in terrorist groups,” the newspaper said.

The Ministry of Public Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Beijing denies restricting the Uighurs’ religious freedom and blames Islamist militants for a rise in violent attacks in Xinjiang in the past three years in which hundreds have died.

China is home to about 20 million Muslims spread across its vast territory, only a portion of whom are Uighurs.

An Affin Bank spokesman said it is unable to comment or disclose information in relation to the bank’s customers and accounts.

Rodham’s spokesman declined immediate comment.

French military chief assumes post

MANILA, 10 July — Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III has named incumbent Army commander as the new chief of staff of the 140,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Outgoing military chief General Gregorio Pio Catapang turned over the post to Lieutenant General Hernando Delfin Carmelo Iriberr, 55, on Friday during a ceremony at AFP headquarters in Quezon City, Metro Manila.

Catapang retired from the military service on his 56th birthday, the mandatory retirement age of men in uniform.

Iriberr, member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, is the 46th AFP chief.

Aquino, in his message during the turnover ceremony, ordered Iriberr to continue the reforms that Catapang has pursued in the military.

With the upcoming elections next year, he said that part of Iriberr’s work is to ensure peaceful and clean polls.
As deadline looms, Kerry says US in no rush to get Iran deal

VIENNA, 10 July — The United States and other major powers are not in a rush to reach a nuclear deal with Iran, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday, suggesting an accord would unlikely be had ahead of a deadline set by the US Congress for a quick review.

Adding to signs that a deal was not close at hand, a top adviser to Iran’s supreme leader was quoted by Iranian news agency Tasnim as saying that Teheran’s “redlines” should be respected in talks aimed at a deal under which Iran would curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

“A deal can be reached only if our redlines are respected,” Ali Akbar Velayati, the adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He also accused Kerry of making comments that were “part of America’s psychological warfare against Iran.” Velayati’s reported remarks came after a senior Iranian official in Vienna accused the United States and others of shifting their positions and backtracking on an 2 April interim agreement that was meant to lay the ground for a final deal.

“We here because we believe we are making real progress,” Kerry told reporters in the Austrian capital. “We will not rush and we will not be rushed.”

However, Kerry said Washington’s patience was not unlimited. “We can’t wait forever,” he said. “If the tough decisions don’t get made, we are absolutely prepared to call an end to this.” He did not say how much longer the talks could continue. Shortly after Kerry spoke, the White House said the talks would not likely drag on for “many more weeks.”

Briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, the senior Iranian official sought to put the onus on the West for any failure to reach an agreement.

“There have been changes of position … particularly since last night,” said the official, “Suddenly everyone has their own red lines. Britain has its red line, the US has its red line, France, Germany …”

The official also said that Iran was looking forward to seeing whether the United States would “abandon its obsession with sanctions.”

Negotiators have given themselves until the end of the day on Friday. But if a deal is not reached by 6:00 am in Vienna (0400 GMT), the sceptical Republic-led US Congress will have 60 days rather than 30 days to review it, extra time US President Barack Obama’s administration worries could derail it. The central bargain of an interim deal struck on 2 April in Lausanne, Switzerland as well as of the final deal that the two sides are now trying to work out is to limit Iran’s nuclear work in return for easing economic sanctions crippling its economy.

A joint meeting of Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians is held in Tokyo on 10 July, 2015. In a message read at the gathering by a government spokesman, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed hope for better bilateral ties.

Abe wants stronger Japan-S Korea ties, tells nations’ lawmakers

TOKYO, 10 July Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians on Friday that he wants to see better bilateral ties, as the two countries seek to hold a summit between him and South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

In a message sent to the parliamentarians during their joint meeting in Tokyo, Abe called for “building a new era” for their countries and said, “I would like to work together with President Park Geun-hye (to such an end).”

Abe’s remarks were read before a gathering of a Japan-South Korea parliamentary group and its South Korean counterpart that took place after their nations commemorated separately late last month in Tokyo and Seoul the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations in commemorative events. The joint meeting is seen as a step toward mending relations for an Abe-Park summit at an early date, political watchers say.

Abe and Park have yet to hold a formal one-on-one summit meeting since they took office, Abe in 2012 and Park in 2013, due to disagreements over territory and perceptions of wartime history. Among the topics discussed on Friday were the “comfort women” including Koreans who were procured for wartime brothels for the Japanese military.

The lawmakers also discussed ways to cooperate during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Fukushiro Nukaga, a former Japanese finance minister, heads the nonpartisan Japan-South Korea parliamentary group, while the South Korean parliamentary group is led by Suh Chung Won.

Ties between Japan and South Korea have been soured over historical and territorial disputes including the comfort women issue. Tensions also grew due to a spat over Japan’s move to have the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” added to the World Cultural Heritage list.

South Korea initially opposed this, saying Koreans had been forced to work at seven of the sites when the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910-1945.

But on 21 June, the countries’ foreign ministers agreed in Tokyo to work together to get each other’s sites added to the World Cultural Heritage list, and the following day, Abe and Park issued forward-looking messages on bilateral ties. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee unanimously decided on Sunday to add the sites in Japan and South Korea to the heritage list.

A joint meeting of Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians is held in Tokyo on 10 July, 2015. In a message read at the gathering by a government spokesman, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed hope for better bilateral ties.

Opinion: Kerry suggests no pressure on Iran

WASHINGTON, 10 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday the US government’s personnel management agency by hackers, with suspicions centering on China, involved millions more people than previously estimated, US officials said on Thursday.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said data stolen from its computer networks included Social Security numbers and other sensitive information on about 4.2 million people who have undergone background checks for security clearances.

That is in addition to data on about 4.2 million current and former federal workers that was stolen in what the OPM called a “separate but related” hacking incident. Because many people were affected by both hacks, a total of 22.1 million people were affected, or almost 7 percent of the US population.

The breach had already been considered one of the most damaging on record because of its scale and, more importantly, the sensitivity of the material taken.

Those exposed includ- ed 19.7 million people who applied for the clearances — current, former, and prospective federal employees and contractors — plus 1.8 million non-applicants, mostly spouses or co-habitants of applicants, the agency said.

The OPM/data breach was one of several security lapses at the Office of Personnel Management that prompted the US Senate and House committees to demand OPM Director Katherine Archuleta’s resignation. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s Republican Chair Boehner, a Republican, said President Barack Obama “must take a strong stand against incompetence starting from the very top and instill new leadership at OPM.”

“The technological and security failures at the Office of Personnel Management predate this director’s term, but Director Archuleta’s slow and uneven response has not inspired confidence that she is the right person to manage OPM through this crisis,” Boehner said.

Democrat Senator Mark Warner. Archuleta said neither she nor OPM chief information officer had been resigning. “I have committed to the work that I am doing at OPM,” Archuleta told reporters during a conference call. “I have trust in the staff that is there.”

The White House said Obama retains confidence in Archuleta. — Reuters

Millions more of Americans hit by government personnel data hack

WASHINGTON, 10 July — Data breaches at the US government’s personnel management agency by hackers, with suspicions centering on China, involved millions more people than previously estimated, US officials said on Thursday.

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The White House said Obama retains confidence in Archuleta. — Reute
Greeks hope for deal after latest bailout proposals

ATHENS, 10 July — Greeks awoke on Friday hoping their government would finally seal a cash-for-reforms deal with its international creditors after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras offered last-minute concessions to try to save the country from bankruptcy. The Greek parliament will vote on whether to throw its weight behind the new proposals and two senior figures from the ruling Syriza party sounded an optimistic note on Friday morning on securing the lawmakers’ backing.

The creditors have not commented on the merits of the latest Greek offer, which included plans for more tax hikes and pension reforms. The lenders’ backing is crucial for eurozone leaders to support the programme for Athens despite widespread exasperation in Germany, where attitudes towards giving Greece its place in the eurozone are now set to become more crucial for eurozone leaders to support the programme for Athens.

Europeans markets rallied on the improved prospects for a last-ditch deal to keep Greece in the currency area, with Eurostoxx futures up 1.7 percent.

Greece asked for 53.5 billion euros ($59 billion) to help cover its debts until 2018, a review of primary surplus targets in the light of the sharp deterioration of its economy, and a “reprofiling” the country’s long-term debt.

But the plan could cause trouble for Tsipras at home, from hardliners in his own party as well as his junior coalition ally. Any new deal would also have to be endorsed by national parliaments including in Germany, where attitudes towards giving Greece more money have hardened. Tsipras has called a snap vote in parliament on Friday asking for its backing to negotiate a list of “prior actions” — measures his government would take to convince creditors of its intent for an aid deal, and to secure the first disbursement.

Asked if there would be a deal, Syriza’s parliamentary spokesman Nikos Filis told journalists: “Certainly. Today we are speaking in parliament.”

Interior Minister Nikos Voutsis was also upbeat, telling reporters ahead of a Syriza party meeting that he was optimistic that a good deal for Greece could be reached. The latest offer also included defence spending cuts, a timetable for privatising state assets such as Piraeus port and regional airports, hikes in VAT for hotels and restaurants and slashing a top-up payment for poorer pensioners.

“The prime minister seems to have made the right choice between his party and the interest of Greece,” an editorial in the centre-right daily Kathimerini said.

“His decision to accept a tough package of measures will ensure the country stays in the euro. This is not the time for gripes and assessing the damage, what’s most important is securing the country’s interests and its place in the euro zone.”

Greek banks have been closed since 29 June, when capital controls were imposed and cash withdrawals rationed after the collapse of previous bailout talks. Greece defaulted on an IMF loan repayment the following day and now faces a critical 20 July bond redemption to the ECB of 3.49 billion euros, which it cannot make without aid.

The country has had two bailouts worth 240 billion euros from the eurozone and the IMF since 2010, but its economy has shrunk by a quarter, unemployment is more than 25 percent and one in two young people is out of work. Germany, Athens biggest creditor, made a small concession on Thursday by acknowledging that Greece will need some debt restructuring as part of the new programme to make its public finances viable in the medium-term.

“What is most important is that the package of measures will have the parliament's authorisation, not only from the two ruling parties but also the other three pro-European parties of the opposition — New Democracy, Potami and PASOK,” the Greek newspaper Ethnos said.

“It is a consensus that has been delayed for five years, costing Greek people a lot. But what really counts is that it came about at last, perhaps at the most appropriate time.”—Reuters

Britain warns against travel to Tunisia as tourists head home

LONDON, 10 July — Britain’s Foreign Office (FCO) advised against all but essential travel to Tunisia on Thursday, telling Britons to leave the North African country and warning that further terrorist attacks were “highly likely” there.

Thirty Britons were killed by an Islamist gunman in Tunisia on 26 June 26, the worst loss of British lives in such an incident since bombings in London in July 2005.

The FCO said it was working with tour operators including Thomas Cook and TUI Travel, to bring holidaymakers back to the UK. British authorities did not believe that the security measures put in place in Tunisia were sufficient to keep holidaymakers safe, Foreign Minister Philip Hammond said in a statement.

“Since the attack in Sousse the intelligence and threat picture has developed considerably, leading us to the view that a further terrorist attack is highly likely,” he said.

Britain had already cancelled all future bookings to Tunisia two weeks ago. In March, two gunmen killed 24 people dead, 21 of them foreign tourists, in an attack at the Bardo museum in the Tunisian capital Tunis.

The cancellation of holidays to Tunisia could prove costly for TUI and Thomas Cook.

Holidays in North Africa account for about 10 percent of their total passengers, with Tunisia about a third of that. Shares in the two tour operators have fallen over the last two weeks, hurt mainly by the deadly attack on tourists at Sousse and the cost of cancellations and rebooking.—Reuters

Two shot dead in southern Germany, police arrest suspect

BERLIN, 10 July — A man shot and killed two people near the town of Ansbach in northern Bavaria and the suspect was under arrest, German police said on Friday.

The gunman shot a woman from his silver Mercedes convertible in Leutershausen-Tiefenthal and later shot a cyclist in nearby Rammersdorf, police in southern Germany said.

Two police vehicles block a car at a petrol station in Bad Windsheim, Germany in this 10 July, 2015 handout courtesy of Windsheimer Zeitung. —Reuters

The man also appears to have shot at two other people, a farmer and another motorist, but they were unhurt, police said.

Local media reported that the suspect was detained at a petrol station in Bad Windsheim, several kilometers (miles) to the north of Ansbach.

Police plan to hold a news conference on Friday afternoon.

Reuters

Tourists queue to leave Tunisia at the Enfidha international airport, on 27 June, 2015. Picture taken through a window.—Reuters

A pensioner (R) stands outside a National Bank branch as others line up to receive part of their pensions in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece on 9 July, 2015.—Reuters
Turkey warns next wave of Syrian refugees may end up in Europe

UN says Yemen’s warring factions agree to humanitarian truce

Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Istanbul, 10 July — Turkey would struggle to cope with a new influx of refugees from Syria’s civil war, and many of them would likely end up trying to get into Europe, Turkey’s EU Affairs minister was quoted as saying in comments published on Friday.

Turkey is already sheltering close to 2 million Syrian migrants, more than any of the war-torn country’s other neighbours, making it the world’s leading host of refugees. It now fears fighting around the northern Yemeni city of Aleppo could push as many as 1 million more over its border.

“Turkey has reached its total capacity for refugees. Now, there is talk that a new wave of refugees may emerge. That would exceed Turkey’s capacity, and it would put the EU face to face with more migrants,” Volkan Bozkir told the newspaper Hurriyet during a trip to Brussels.

Europe is already struggling with an immigration crisis, and Europeans are already tiring of trying to cope with it. More than 135,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea in the first half of this year, and almost 2,000 have died this year trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Many of them are fleeing war, repression and poverty in Africa and the Middle East. A large number are Syrians, some of whom try to cross the waters between Turkey and Greece.

Bozkir said the amount Turkey had spent on refugees was not established and it was a string of camps along its 900 km (560-mile) border with Syria — dwarfed the contribution from the European states of which Turkey wants to join.

“We have spent $6 billion (3.89 billion pounds) so far. The total amount that the EU has provided is 70 million euros and it is still just a promise, it has not yet arrived with us,” he said.

Reuters

Syria says Island State migrant boats set fire to government HQ in north

Beirut, 10 July — A mortar round fired by Islamic State militants caused a major blaze at a Syrian government headquarters building in the northeastern city of Hasaka and firefighters had put it out, state television said on Friday.

The ultra hardline jihadi militants have been a threat to the army and its allies in Yemen’s army in an effort to restore Hadi and bolster armed opponents of the Iran-allied Houthis.

The Houthis, who took over the capital Sanaa last September, deny Saudi allegations that they are an Iranian proxy and describe their armed advances throughout Yemen as a revolution against a corrupt government backed by the West.

The group has previously said it welcomed any ceasefire but has yet to accept a UN Security Council Resolution passed in April which recognises Hadi as the legitimate president and calls on them to quit seized land.

The United States fears the turmoil will strengthen al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the deadliest branch of the global militant group.

AQAP’s new leader Qassim al-Raymi, appointed after his predecessor was killed in US drone strike last month, called for attacks on the United States in a taped speech released on Thursday.

— Reuters

12 migrants drown, 500 rescued in Mediterranean off Libya

Rome, 10 July

Twelve migrants died on Thursday when their overcrowded rubber dinghy sank off the coast of Libya, the Italian Coast Guard spokesman said, while some 500 were rescued in the latest episode of the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

The corpses of the victims were found in the sea by the Coast Guard ship Dattilo some 40 miles north of Libya, a Coast Guard spokesman said. The Dattilo saved 106 people from the same dinghy, which was “half submerged” when help arrived.

The Dattilo is still involved in other rescue operations involving boats in difficulty, the spokesman said.

A total of 393 other migrants were saved in four different operations carried out by the Dattilo on Thursday. Another 106 migrants were saved by two Coast Guard frigates operating off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa.

No details were available on the nationalities of the victims or those rescued.

Tens of thousands of migrants fleeing war and hunger in Africa and the Middle East have crossed the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece this year, with the vast majority departing from the coast of Libya. More than 2,000 are estimated to have drowned.

Reuters
EMBRACE DEMOCRACY

Kyaw Mun

Why should we embrace democracy? Simply because democracy is very loveable, desirable, admirable and obtainable. Another reason is everybody-kindness to enjoy democracy and is, by birthright, entitled to embrace it. Democracy, in fact, is our natural right to enjoy, just as we can naturally enjoy, without incurring any cost, sunshine, air, and rainwater, if there is no artificially contrived human obstructions, exploitations and oppressions of all sorts. Since Myanmar is a very loveable country and its citizens very simple and respectable, we all must rise up as one man and embrace democracy with all our minds, with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our strengths.

Now, let us engage in an honest soul-searching manner how we can embrace democracy as follows:

- **E** = Establish Democracy
- **M** = Motivate the People
- **B** = Be bold
- **R** = Respect Freedom and Human Rights
- **A** = Accountability
- **C** = Commitment
- **E** = Economic Development

**ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY**

Myanmar citizens are, indeed, very simple, honest, hardworking, friendly and religious. Most of the people of Myanmar nation have been brought up under the influence of Loving-kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy and Equanimity. Myanmar people have also the righteous pride of nationalism which had been shown brilliantly in their fight for liberation from the British colonialism and Japanese Fascism. Myanmar people, just like the people all over the world, love and cherish national independence, freedom, liberty, equality, fraternity and so on. Establishing democracy in Myanmar is a historical necessity. It is a high time democracy has got to be established throughout the length and breadth of Myanmar before it is too late. Myanmar has got the imperative national task of catching up with the rest of the region. Myanmar cannot afford to be left behind economically, technologically, educationally any longer. Myanmar can advance to the regional level if we have resolute determination to develop and modernize the beloved country dynamically and vehemently.

**MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE**

Establishing democracy is not an event; but it is a process. In fact, building democracy takes time, because certain conditions are necessary for democracy to flourish. We need internal peace, national unity, political will, political and economic security, awakening of the broad masses of the people to the dawn of democracy, patience, tolerance and maturity of the dominant classes and international understanding and cooperation. It is very important for establishing democracy to have the broad-based participation of the entire people of all the races in Myanmar. The broad masses of the people must be brought into the movement for democracy politically, economically, educationally, so-

a single bad deed is powerful enough to dilute all good deeds we have performed throughout our lives. Another important thing to remember is that the evil we commit lives after us. It is the good that is buried in our bones.

From the religious point of view, our days are numbered. In the short span of our lives, we should not spend precious time arguing over small stuff. Instead, we should put our efforts into the betterment of all mankind. It is necessary for us to understand that what we leave behind when we take our last breath is not in our possessions, but in how we live.

In this age, it has become a lot easier to shoot to wealth through wicked means. Unfortunately, growing numbers of people these days have come to associate power with wealth and fame. What we do and how we live before death will determine how we will be remembered after death. After all, we would only have ourselves to blame if our names were mud.

**CONCLUSION**

To be democratic is to be basically humane. Democracy should be built with the firm belief of:

- • People-developers enabling people to advance with better & higher expertise, and
- • Values guardians

Democracy should be built with the firm belief of: “One for All and All of One”.

**COMMITMENT**

Commitment means: You are true to yourself, You are true to job, and You are true to relationships.

In establishing democracy, all of us must be totally true to:

- • Our Nation
- • Our People
- • Our Culture
- • Our Faith

Ourselves, always adhering to the democratic values, norms and practices

We all must have the unwavering commitment:

- • To dare nobly
- • To will strongly, and
- • Never to fatten in the path of duty.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Economic conditions are the infrastructure. All the rest of the nation’s sectors are the superstructure, such as the political systems, socio-cultural conditions and the educational levels. In a democracy, economic conditions should be strong at the base, and the middle income levels should be progressive and prosperous with science, technology and general education as their backbone. The top level should always have the political will to have the cutting edge in competition which enables them to add value to the industry and to create wealth for the society. Unemployment and underemployment should be manageable. For a developing country such as Myanmar, economic infrastructure must be widely and strongly built, taking agriculture as the stable base from which industrialization must spring forth as a strong priority. Scientific, technological and all-round education must be strategically developed and modernized. The socio-cultural standards of the broad masses of the people must be meticulously raised continuously. Concurrently, nature must be conserved, environmental conditions must be optimally corrected and maintained or preserved. Although human living conditions are tactically sophisticated and modernized, they must be strategically grounded in mother nature. Natural environment must be highly respected.

U Kyaw Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.
Myoma band to mark 90th anniversary with singing contest

Mandalay, 10 July — Mandalay’s Myoma amateur band held a meeting Thursday at its Aungmyethazan Township office to organize a singing contest in commemoration of the band’s 90th anniversary.

Region minister for finance Dr Myint Kyu, Chairman of the band Dr Hla Khaing and officials participated in the discussions.

Officials of the band will choose songs composed by Nandawshae Saya Tin, A-1 Saya Hnyar, Myoma Nyein, U Bo Khin, U Ba Than and Myoma Ko Paw for the contest.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

SPEI wins inter-club football tournament

Mandalay, 10 July — The Institute of Sports and Physical Education Mandalay emerged winners of the Thanlwin Myanmar Cup Men’s Novice Inter-Club Football Tournament in a 5-4 victory over Star-45 Club at Bahtoo Stadium, here, on 9 July.

Director U Khin Maung Hay of Thanlwin Myanmar Trading Co Ltd and Vice Chairman of Region Football Subcommittee U Sein Win Gyi presented medals to the winners and runners-up.

Htet Min Thant of Star-45 won the award for best player, while U Thurein Win was presented the award for most progressive referee.

Thanlwin Myanmar Trading Managing Director Daw May Myat Nwe presented the championship trophy and cash prize to the winning team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Lack of funding hampers IDP camps in Kachin State

Myitkyina, 10 July — Camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kachin State face difficult times during the rainy season due to a lack of funding from local NGOs and stricter budgetary controls for UN agencies, according to an aid programme coordinator.

There are more than 40,000 IDPs at 70 camps managed by the Kachin Baptist Convention and other charitable organizations, the Myitkyina-based church’s Programme Officer Ko Bwam Kharan said. “In 2015, funds of local social organizations are declining day by day. UN agencies strictly scrutinize the assistance for the IDPs.”

The camps are ill-equipped to handle any increase in numbers, according to Ko Bwam Kharan. “If the number of IDPs rises unexpectedly due to fighting, the organizations cannot give any assistance to new victims,” he said.

Many school-age camp residents lack basic access to education.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

MPC, Nippon Foundation distribute aid in Kayin State

Hpa-an, 10 July — The Myanmar Peace Centre and Nippon Foundation distributed solar lamps, mosquito nets and rice to local residents at the Kayin State government office in Hpa-an recently.

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min and Mr Matsushima of Nippon Foundation presented more than 2,000 bags of rice, nearly 600 solar lamps and over 600 mosquito nets to officials.

The donation ceremony was also attended by the deputy speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw, the state minister for security and border affairs, departmental officials, representatives of ethnic armed groups, and officials of the Nippon Foundation.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)
China stocks jump again after Beijing puts floor under market

Shanghai, 10 July — Chinese stocks rose strongly for a second day on Friday, buoyed by a barrage of government support measures, but worries persist about the long-term impact that four weeks of stock market turmoil may have on the world’s second-largest economy.

Over the past two weeks Chinese authorities have cut interest rates, suspended initial public offerings, relaxed margin lending and collateral rules and enlisted brokerages to buy stocks, backed by cash from the central bank.

Some analysts predict further moves to come from the central bank, which often makes policy announcements over the weekend, such as another rate cut or relaxation of the amount of cash banks must hold as reserves.

The frantic efforts to stem the market slide finally began to gain traction on Thursday, when shares rose around 6 percent after the securities regulator banned shareholders with large stakes in listed firms from selling.

The CSI300 index.CSI300 of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen rose another 6.1 percent on Friday, while the Shanghai Composite Index SSEIC gained 5.4 percent.

“Chinese investors move in herds,” said Samuel Chien, a partner of Shanghai-based hedge fund manager BoomTrend Investment Management Co. “After panic selling drove the market down to the extreme, prices are now starting to move in the other direction.”

At the depths of their slump earlier this week Chinese shares had fallen more than 30 percent from their mid-June peak, and for some global investors China’s market turmoil had become a greater concern than the crisis in Greece.

Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a research note they expected the ripple effect of eventually hit the real economy and patient corporate earnings.

“We expect this will likely hurt consumption down the road,” the note said. “More critical is a potential distortion to credit flows due to the impingement to financial institutions’ balance sheets.”

While Beijing’s efforts appear to have put a floor under the stock market for now, it was still far from firming up globally.

Around 1,300 of China’s listed companies — nearly half the market — remained suspended after a scramble by firms earlier in the week to escape the carnage by having trading in their stock halted. About 60 companies resumed trading on Friday.

Many of those that remained trading, meanwhile, were propped up by state-directed buying.

On Friday Shanghai Securities News reported that insurers had brought 112.3 billion yuan ($18.1 billion) of equity since the rout began.

The plunge in China’s previously booming stock markets, which had more than doubled in the year to mid-June, has created a major headache for President Xi Jinping and China’s top leaders, who are already grappling with slowing growth.

New investors say China’s unprecedented attempts to arrest the slide have undermined its commitment to give markets a “decisive” role in pricing asset sets.

“They can probably stabilize the market, but it will not be a political decision, as they will have to compel government, state agencies, banks, pension funds, insurance companies to buy,” said Ashok Shah, investment director at London & Capital.

“Essentially the political decision to transfer the potential losses from private investors ... to the state in some manner.”

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) logo is seen at the IMF headquarters building during the 2013 Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 10 July — The International Monetary Fund on Thursday trimmed its forecast for global economic growth this year to take into account the impact of recent weakness in the United States. But the global financial institution said growth prospects for next year remain strong, despite Greece’s debt crisis and recent volatility in Chinese financial markets.

In an update to its World Economic Outlook report, the IMF said the global economy should expand 3.3 percent this year, 0.2 percentage point below what it predicted in April. Growth should speed up to 3.8 percent next year, it said, unchanged from earlier forecasts.

The IMF pinned much of the blame for the lower growth forecast on the United States. The US economy contracted in the first quarter, hurt by unusually heavy snowfalls, a resurgent dollar and disruptions at West Coast ports. The IMF said it expected the US economy to grow 2.5 percent this year — it lowered the US growth forecast last month from 3.1 percent in April. The IMF also said US economic sluggishness had spilled over to Canada and Mexico.

“But (for the most part, it was a series of accidents ... and the rest of the year should not be very much affected),” Olivier Blanchard, the IMF’s chief economist, said in a Press conference.

The IMF maintained its forecasts for a pickup in growth in the euro zone, despite Greece moving closer to the edge of default and an exit from the euro bloc as it races to find a last-minute third bailout.

“The stress tests of the last 10 days (around events in Greece) reassure us and make us think that if things go badly in Greece ... the rest of the world would probably survive quite well,” Blanchard said.

In developing economies, the IMF said growth had been damped by lower commodity prices, tighter financial conditions tied to economic rebalancing in China and geopolitical factors.

Chinese stock markets have traded by more than 30 percent over the last month, prompting regulators to impose heavy-handed intervention to stem the rout.

The IMF said the market crash suggests China could face difficulties as it tries to move from an investment-led economic growth model to one focussed on domestic consumption.

The Fund also repeated its warning that asset price shifts and financial market volatility could disrupt predictions, though it expects geopolitical tensions tied to Russia and the Middle East to calm down next year.

New analysis of smoking and schizophrenia suggests causal link

A man smokes in his car in London on 16 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

London, 10 July — In research that turns on its head previous thinking about links between schizophrenia and smoking, scientists say they have found that cigarettes may be a causal factor in the development of psychosis.

After analyzing almost 15,000 tobacco users and 273,000 non users and their relative rates of psychoses — where patients can experience delusions, paranoia and hear voices in their heads — the researchers said cigarette smoking appears to increase risk.

“A while it’s always hard to determine the direction of causality, our findings indicate that smoking should be taken seriously as a possible risk factor for developing psychosis,” James MacCabe, a psychosis expert who co-led the research at King’s College London’s Institute of Psychiatry, told reporters.

He added, however, that tobacco was only one of many factors, including certain genetic, diet, lifestyle and other influences, raising a person’s risk of developing schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia, a severe psychiatric disorder that affects around one in 100 people, typically begins in early adulthood. Its most common symptoms are disruptions in thinking and perception, and patients often have psychotic experiences.

Although the link between smoking cigarettes and schizophrenia has been noted before, until now many doctors have followed a self-medication hypothesis whereby patients smoke to counteract the stressful symptoms of schizophrenia or the side-effects of antipsychotic medication.

For this study, MacCabe’s team analyzed rates of smoking in people presenting with their first episode of psychosis and found that 57 per cent of these individuals were smokers.

People with a first episode of psychosis were three times more likely to be smokers than those in the control groups.

Robin Murray, a professor of psychiatric research at King’s who worked with McCabe, said activity in the brain’s dopamine system might be one explanation of a possible causal link between smoking and psychosis.

“Excess dopamine is the best biological explanation we have for psychotic illness,” he told the briefing.

“It’s possible that nicotine exposure, by increasing the release of dopamine, causes psychosis to develop.”

Previous studies, some by Murray, have also linked cannabis use to psychosis. But there is much debate about whether this is causal or whether there may be shared genes which predispose people to both cannabis use and schizophrenia.

McCabe said the new results on smoking suggest “it might even be possible that the real villain is tobacco, not cannabis” — since cannabis users often combine the drug with tobacco.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowers global growth forecasts, cites US weakness

The IMF lowers global growth forecasts, cites US weakness

The annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Global New Light of Myanmar
China’s ZTE to partner with Softbank on ‘pre-5G’ technology in Japan

The company logo of ZTE is seen through a wooden fence on a glass door during the company’s 15th anniversary celebration in Beijing on 18 April, 2013.

Reuters

Hong Kong, 10 July — Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE Corp said on Friday it has struck a deal with SoftBank Corp to deploy its “pre-5G” technology in Japan, with a commercial trial to begin early next year.

ZTE has touted its “pre-5G” technology as providing faster speeds on 4G network. It sees it as intermediate step between current 4G technology and 5G, the next generation of networks that the wireless industry is hoping to have up and running by 2020.

ZTE’s Vice President Li Cui said ZTE plans to set up a research and development centre for wireless technologies in Tokyo by the end of 2015, but declined to say how much it planned to invest in Japan.

Globally, the company plans to invest 200 million euros ($220 million) in 5G and mobile communication technologies between 2015 to 2018.

“Our goal is to utilize core 5G technologies on existing commercial networks...so users can enjoy the 5G-like experience ahead of time,” she told Reuters in an interview.

Shenzhen-based ZTE posted a 42 percent rise in quarterly net profit in April as strong global demand for 4G infrastructure boosted sales.—Reuters

Most US smartphone owners check devices at least hourly: survey

NEW YORK, 10 July — More than half of US smartphone owners check their devices a few times an hour or more, and most Americans have their smartphones with them all day and many all night, according to a Gallup report released on Thursday.

Eleven percent of respondents said they check their smartphone every few minutes and 41 percent said they check a few times an hour, Gallup said. Another 20 percent said they check about once an hour and 28 percent check less frequently.

The Gallup survey included responses online or through the mail from 15,747 US adults who own smartphones in all 50 states from 17 April to 18 May. It had a 1 percent margin of error.

The report did not address how respondents are using their smartphones, whether for email, texting, the Internet, etc.

Young Americans checked their smartphones most frequently, Gallup said. Twenty-two percent of respondents from 18 to 29 years of age said they checked their smartphones every few minutes, compared to 3 percent of people 65 or older, Gallup said.

More than four out of five owners, 81 percent, said they keep their smartphone nearby almost all the time while they are awake and 63 percent said they keep the phone near them while sleeping, Gallup said.

Gallup said the close proximity at night may be for people checking it before going to sleep and upon waking, or may reflect the phone’s use as an alarm clock.—Reuters

Nobel medal to be auctioned to help train scientists

LONDON, 10 July — A Nobel Prize Medal for medicine awarded to German Jewish refugee Hans Krebs is to be auctioned by Sotheby’s to raise money to train scientists, the auction house said on Thursday.

Krebs won the medal in 1953 when the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was divided equally between Krebs, for his discovery of the citric acid cycle, and Fritz Lipmann, for work on enzymes.

The Krebs medal will be offered for sale on 14 July and has a pre-auction estimate of 250,000-300,000 pounds ($385,000-$462,000), Sotheby’s said.

The proceeds are to be used by Sir Hans Krebs Trust for its work “to provide grants for the support of refugee scientists and the training of young scientists in the biomedical sciences,” Sotheby’s said.

Krebs fled Nazi Germany in the early 1930s and settled in Britain, where he received assistance to resume his work as a scientist.

Krebs’s son John, a member of Britain’s House of Lords, said in a statement that he was sure his father would have supported the sale of the medal to provide funds for a similar purpose.

“My father was a passionate believer in the importance of training the next generation. I believe that he would have thoroughly approved of the creation of the Trust by the sale of his Medal,” Krebs is quoted as saying in the statement.—Reuters

Chinese woman receives 3D-printed sternum implant

XI’AN, 10 July — Chinese doctors have successfully implanted a 3D printed titanium alloy sternum into a woman to replace her tumour-affected breastbone, the first such operation in the country.

The 54-year-old patient surnamed Gu has been recovering without complications since the surgery in late June at Tangdu Hospital affiliated with the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi Province.

A retired worker in Luoyang City, Henan Province, Gu was diagnosed with a sternum tumour last year. The tumour was six to seven cm in diameter before the operation, said Wang Xiaopeng, a senior thoracic surgeon with the hospital.

Typically, when the sternum is removed, a patient’s heart will lose its protection, seriously affecting breathing and safety, said Wang.

Doctors spent half a month designing a sternum for Gu and asked a key laboratory at Northwestern Polytechnic University to print it using 3D technology.

“I feel well now,” said Gu at the hospital.

Doctors around the world have increasingly turned to 3D printing. Last month, the technology helped doctors in Shanghai separate three-month-old twin sisters who were conjoined at the hip.

Xinhua

China fears propel Apple shares toward five-day losing streak

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 July — Apple Inc’s (AAPL.O) stock was heading toward its first five-session losing streak since January on Thursday, as investors worried about the economic health of China, a key market for iPhones.

Apple shares were down 2 percent at $120.15 in afternoon trade and have lost about 4 percent since 1 July.

In the first three months of the year, for the first time, Apple sold more iPhones in China than in the United States, a trend expected to grow as Chinese consumers upgrade from less expensive handsets.

But with around 30 percent knocked off the value of Chinese shares since mid June, some investors fear that the turmoil could hurt consumer demand and the Chinese economy at whole.

Individuals account for a major chunk of stock investing in China and the market sell-off may curtail their disposable incomes.

“China is poised to be Apple’s high-octane fuel for the next few years, especially for iPhones,” said FBR analyst Daniel Ives.

“Given a lot of the dark clouds we are seeing in China, that has spooked investors.”

Also rattling investors was a report this week by research firm Slice Intelligence that sales of the Apple Watch have dropped since its launch in April. Apple has not disclosed sales of the devices.

The Apple Watch is not seen as significant for profits in the short term but the wrist-worn gadget is Chief Executive Tim Cook’s first major product and its failure would be poorly received by Wall Street.

Apple’s stock was also within 1 percentage point of falling below its 200-day moving average, an indicator watched closely by traders, for the first time since April 2014.—Reuters

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24 taken to hospital after expressway pileup in Tokyo

Tokyo, 10 July — Twenty-four people were taken to hospital on Friday morning after a police vehicle carrying detainees apparently caused a four-car pileup on an expressway in central Tokyo, police said.

The police van, carrying 16 detainees and several police officers, apparently rear-ended a line of backed-up vehicles on the expressway’s Inner Circular Route at around 9 am, according to the police.

The police vehicle, driven by a 34-year-old male senior officer of the Metropolitan Police Department, was on its way to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors office. The 24 people are believed to have sustained minor injuries.

In a statement, an official in charge of detention administration at the police said they will make all-out efforts to prevent similar accidents.

The lack of rain is believed to have compounded chronic food shortages in North Korea, which has seen external aid decline in recent years.

“We believe the drought was eased considerably in June,” South Korea’s Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a news briefing. “Rainfall in June rose to almost 90 percent of the average year so it should have eased considerably.”

The North’s official media said in mid-June the country had been hit by the worst drought in 100 years. The lack of rain is believed to have compounded chronic food shortages in North Korea, which has seen external aid decline in recent years.

“We believe the drought was eased considerably in June,” South Korea’s Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a news briefing. “Rainfall in June rose to almost 90 percent of the average year so it should have eased considerably.”

Jeong said rainfall in May was about half the average year.

The North’s KCNA news agency said in June that paddies around the country — including in the main rice farming regions of Hwanghae and Phyongan provinces in the south — were drying up due to the lack of rainfall, causing great damage.

North Korea’s farm production periodically suffers from droughts and floods in the summer, but experts said the state has learned to cut damage and starvation by updating farming methods and allowing the emergence of grassroots markets and unofficial commerce that promotes food trade.

The shortage of rainfall in May prompted the UN resident coordinator for North Korea, Graham Isaccai, to warn of a looming food crisis, especially after rains in 2014 were the lowest in records going back 30 years.

North Korea, on 20 June, 2015. Reuters
BAY INFERENCE:
According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST yesterday, the low pressure area over North-west Bay of Bengal has moved to the West Bengal (India). Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th July, 2015:
Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin states, fairly widespread in Shan, Rakaine and Mon States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA:
Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Congratulations!
We extend our heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious launching of Underwriting Operations of MSIG “Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance” in Myanmar on 11th July 2015.
We wish you great success towards the further development of insurance sector in Myanmar.

Chairman
IKBZ Insurance Co., Ltd.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise

Invitation to interested parties regarding a Joint Venture for the Importation, Storage, Distribution of Petroleum Products

1. The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The enterprise operates storage facilities, conducts sales and distributes petroleum products through four (4) main fuel terminals, twenty four (24) sub-fuel terminals and twelve (12) gas stations in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of petroleum products in Myanmar and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, interested foreign companies are invited to submit a bid to form a joint venture.

3. Interested parties may enquire at the following address for the details, rules and requirements of the tender starting from the date of this announcement.

4. The Invitation to Tender documents shall be available for purchase on 20-07-2015 at the address listed below.

5. The application must be submitted in person and shall be submitted not later than 1:00 pm on the 20-10-2015.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office Building No. 6
Nay Pyi Taw
Tel : +95 67 411488, +95 67 411053, +95 67 411119, +95 67 411092
Fax: +95 67 411101, +95 67 411137
Email: mppe.b2@mptnmail.net.mm

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-031(15-16)</td>
<td>Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Drilling Rigs (36) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-032(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for CNG Retest Factory (36) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-033(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for Oxygen Generator, Oxygen Purifier and Oxygen Compressor (10) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-034(15-16)</td>
<td>13 5/8” x 5K Double Ram BOP (1) Unit</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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

Edwin Fujinaga (R), who ran Las Vegas-based investment firm MRI International Inc before its business license expired in 2014, and his lawyer are seen in Las Vegas on 9 July, 2015, after the first hearing of his trial at the US District Court in Las Vegas. Fujinaga, indicted the previous day for his alleged involvement in a $1.5 billion Ponzi scheme targeting Japanese, pleaded not guilty to a series of fraud charges and was released pending the next hearing in September.—KYODO NEWS
Keith Richards release first solo album since 1992

LOS ANGELES, 10 July — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards said on Thursday he is releasing his first solo album in more than 20 years. “Crosseyed Heart,” which will feature rock, reggae and country songs, will be released on 18 September, Richards said on his website. “Trouble,” the first single, will be released on 17 July.

Richards, 71, plays electric and acoustic guitars, bass, and piano and sings vocals on the 15-track album. It includes collaborations with singer Norah Jones, keyboardist Ian Neville and guitarist Waddy Wachtel. Richards wrote most of the songs on the album with drummer and co-producer Steve Jordan.

Harper Lee’s new novel big as ‘Harry Potter’ in Amazon pre-orders

NEW YORK, 10 July — “Go Set a Watchman,” the much-anticipated second novel by “To Kill a Mockingbird” author Harper Lee, is the most pre-ordered print title on Amazon.com since the last book in the “Harry Potter” series, Amazon said on Thursday. The online retailer said the novel, to be published on 14 July, 55 years after Lee’s classic “To Kill a Mockingbird,” was already the No 1 best-selling book on the website.

It is the most pre-ordered book on Amazon, companion to Rowling’s “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” in 2007 — the seventh and final novel about the British teenage boy wizard.

Amazon did not provide figures for either book but publisher Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins, said it had ordered an initial US print run of 2 million for “Go Set a Watchman.” Harper anticipated the literary world in February when it announced it would publish a book that only a few people knew existed.

Harper said at the time that the manuscript came to light recently after Lee’s lawyer Atticus Finch 20 years after the events depicted in “Mockingbird” as his adult daughter Scout returns to visit him in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama.

“To Kill a Mockingbird,” about racism and injustice in the American South, became an instant best-seller and has sold an estimated 40 million copies worldwide. It was also made into an Oscar-winning film starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch.

Lee’s home town of Monroeville, Alabama, is marking Lee’s publication by recreating a 1950s feel and organizing walking tours of the town that inspired the two novels. US bookstores are holding readings and some are opening at midnight.

“Watchman” features lawyer Atticus Finch 20 years after the events depicted in “Mockingbird” as his adult daughter Scout returns to visit him in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama.

The changes that happened in my life from doing these movies are so permanent that I don’t think I’ll ever really say goodbye, it’ll always be a part of me,” said Lawrence.

“The Hunger Games” franchise, which has taken some $2.2 billion at the global box office since 2012, helped make Lawrence one of Hollywood’s most sought-after actresses. She won an Oscar for 2012 comedy “Silver Linings Playbook.”

Willie Nelson adds Gershwin Prize to storied music career

Los Angeles, 10 July — Country singer Willie Nelson was named on Thursday as the 2015 recipient of the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, joining the likes of Paul McCartney, Billy Joel and Carole King in one of the highest US music honours.

The Library of Congress said Nelson, whose career spans six decades, would be given the prize, which recognizes lifetime achievement, at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in November. Librarian of Congress James Billington described Nelson in a statement as a “musical explorer” who has “helped make country music one of the most universally beloved forms of American artistic expression.”

Nelson, 82, said he was honored to be chosen for the award, which was established in 2007 and named for composers George and Ira Gershwin. “I appreciate it greatly,” Nelson said.

Tex-as born Nelson has recorded more than 60 albums, written songs such as “Crazy,” and appeared in more than 30 movies and TV shows.

The most recent album, a collaboration with Merle Haggard called “Django and Jimmie,” made its debut at No 1 on the Billboard Country Album chart in June. — Reuters

Los Angeles, 10 July — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards performs during their “14 on Fire” show at Waldhause in Berlin on 10 June, 2014. — Reuters

Jennifer Lawrence and ‘Mockingjay’ cast take final Comic-Con bow

SAN DIEGO, (Calif), 10 July — “Make no mistake, the game is coming to its end.” President Snow tells Katniss Everdeen in the first official “Mockingjay” Part 2 trailer, released on Thursday, as Jennifer Lawrence led “The Hunger Games” stars in their final Comic-Con line-up.

“Mockingjay — Part 2,” due in theaters on 20 November, will conclude the popular dystopian young adult “Hunger Games” film franchise that follows heroine Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence) as she leads a revolution against oppressive leader President Snow.

The trailer shows sweeping scenes of the Capitol of Panem burning as Katniss brings war to the city and glimpses of all her relationships, from her sister Prim, who started her on the journey, to Plutarch, played by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman.

“It is an intimate movie,” producer Nina Jacobson said. “It is a little different for a Marvel movie.”

Rudd says “Ant-Man” a normal, relatable guy, actor Rudd says

LONDON, 10 July — Superhero “Ant-Man” makes his debut on the silver screen this month, a character Hollywood actor Paul Rudd describes as “normal and relatable” but unique to the Marvel cinematic universe.

A familiar face from comedies like “Anchorman” and “This Is 40,” Rudd dons the superhero suit for the first time in the film about a thief who can shrink in size but grow in power.

His character, Scott Lang/Ant-Man, needs to help his mentor Dr Hank Pym, played by Michael Douglas, safeguard his Ant-Man suit and the two plan a heist to save the world.

“Superhero” Ant-Man, a normal, relatable guy, actor Rudd says

Actor Paul Rudd

Former US President George W Bush (L) awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom to American novelist Harper Lee (C) in the East Room of the White House, on 5 Nov, 2007. — Reuters

Lee, who suffered a stroke in 2007 and is reported to have difficulty seeing and hearing, is not expected to appear to promote the book.

The Wall Street Journal, which like HarperCollins is owned by News Corp, will publish an advance first chapter of “Watchman” on Friday, along with Britain’s Guardian newspaper. — Reuters

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Residents in soggy Seattle rebel against the sun

Seattle, 10 July — Seattle’s mayor is losing sleep over the unusually hot, dry weather that is causing a run on air conditioners and fans in the famously rainy city.

Washington state’s largest metropolis sweated through its hottest June on record, going fortnights without even a drizzle. Seattleites jokingly refer to the month of “Juneuary” for the largest metropolis sweated in the famously rainy city.

Officials test for possible toxic algae in Oregon river

PORTLAND, (Ore), 10 July — Tests are underway to determine if a green film shimmering on the surface of Portland’s Willamette River may mark the return of toxic blue-green algae that could be dangerous to both people and animals, officials in Oregon said on Thursday.

The concerns come as dozens of people from across the country have signed up to participate in the 10.7 mile Portland Bridge Swim at the weekend, said Travis Williams, executive director of Willamette Riverkeeper, a non-profit that reported algae concerns to public health officials.

“From a preliminary look conducted in Portland, it looked like microcystis, the toxic blue-green algae, but that’s totally unofficial,” Williams said.

Oregon Health Authority officials said on Thursday they were unable to provide information about when official test results might be available.

Until last year, when riverside homeless camps were cautioned to avoid the water and a rowing regatta was canceled, state public health authorities had not previously spotted toxic algae in Portland’s Willamette River, which bisects the city and is a hub of recreation and industry.

“Typical algae blooms have been a growing problem in the US Pacific Northwest during the past several years, a trend scientists attribute to warming waters. But typically, microcystis is found in still water, like lakes and ponds, not fast-flowing rivers. And last year’s algae blooms were not detected until September, after snow from nearby mountains had fully melted, river levels had dropped and water had begun to warm.”

“Is this indicative of unusual conditions this year, especially this early in the year,” Williams said. “We have low water flows, which makes the lower Willamette very lake-like. The temperature waters are high, and nutrient levels could feed algae.”

Swallowing or inhaling water contaminated by the toxic algae can cause numbness, digestive distress or fainting, and skin contact can cause a rash. Filtering the water will not make it safe, and fish or shellfish from the river could be dangerous to eat, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Dogs are particularly vulnerable, and can die within an hour of contact, according to the agency.

TYO, 10 July — Shinsuke Yamanaka will make the ninth defence of his WBC bantamweight title against former WBA bantamweight champion Anselmo Moreno of Panama, his Teiken Gym announced on Friday.

The fight will take place at Ota Ward Gymnasium in Tokyo on 22 September.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport received just 0.23 inches (0.58 cm) of rain for June, down from the normal 1.57 inches (3.98 cm). To be sure, drought conditions are affecting cities down the US West Coast, which is embroiled in a particularly fierce wildfire season that has prompted water-use and burn restrictions.

Seattle’s public utility downsgraded the water supply outlook from “good” to “fair” on Wednesday amid higher-than-usual water consumption and record-low flows into reservoirs, urging residents to limit plant-watering.

The Space Needle and Mount Rainier are pictured at dusk in Seattle, Washington on 12 March, 2014. — Reuters

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**Tiger too old to regain invincibility**

--- Cowen

**Spaín’s Garbine Muguruza returns a ball to Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska during their women’s semi-final match on day ten of the 2015 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 9 July, 2015.**

Muguruza won 2–1.—Xinhua

**Serena dishes out inevitable defeat to Sharapova**

If Williams pulls off the feat for the second time in her career, no one can accuse her of taking the easy route to glory as Sharapova became the third former world number one, after sister Venus and Victoria Azarenka, to be beaten this week.

“Whenever I have to play Maria, I know I have to be focussed because she wasn’t the best in the world for no reason,” said the 33-year-old, who will be gunning for her 21st grand slam title on Saturday.

With the Spaniard serving for the match at 5-3, 40-40 up in the third, Radwanska stopped the next point mid-rally after hearing cries of “out, out” from people in her players’ box who were convinced Muguruza’s backhand landed behind the baseline.

Radwanska hit the ball back over the net before calling out to the umpire for a late Hawk-Eye challenge in the last game of her 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 defeat.

The result propelled her into a 25th grand slam final but more importantly for the American, she stands one win away from completing what she calls a “Serena Slam” by winning all four majors concurrently.

**MFF gives Avramović new contract as national head coach**

YANGON, 10 July — The Myanmar Football Federation on Friday extended Radjko Avramovic’s tenue as national team head coach, agreeing to a new 17-month contract.

An existing contract between the MFF and the Serbian coach will expire at the end of the month.

In addition to leading the senior national team, Avramovic will provide technical assistance to the Myanmar U-22 and U-23 teams.

Head coach U Kyi Lwin, who led Myanmar’s U-23 team to a silver medal at this year’s 28th SEA Games, will join the national team as an assistant coach. U-20 goalkeeper coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw will also move to the senior national team.—MFF