

Information and communication technology vital for development: experts

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 6 July— Information and communication technology is essential for the development of the State, the socio-economic status of people and the poverty reduction plan of the country, according to experts.

Ko Kyaw, a local IT technician told The New Light of Myanmar on Sunday, that “Myanmar needs better ICT security services when it is expanding the use of this technology in many sectors.”

He added that security is a crucial aspect for banks to get the trust of their customers, and that international standard products

should be effectively used to ensure security.

Security must be seriously considered when financial transaction is made with other organizations, he said.

The local AYA Bank has recently introduced AYA i-Banking, the first Internet Banking Service, in Myanmar.

The bank said that AYA i-Banking system has used advanced technologies, including the SSL technology of the Global Sign to ensure security in connection with AYA i-Banking Server.

An expert remarked that Myanmar should have better information and telecommunication technology for online banking or on-line shopping systems.

Education Ministry says basic education to get a boost with better qualified teachers

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 6 July— School-based early childhood education plays a crucial role for the development of national education and the Ministry is trying to implement the Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD) as soon as possible, said Dr Khin Myo Myint Kyu, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Education Planning and Training under the Education Ministry, on Sunday.

At the seminar on implementation of basic education at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Kamayut Township in Yangon, she added the ministry will appoint local pre-school teachers in all regions and states as government service personnel.

Dr Khin Myo Myint Kyu said, the Ministry has invited contributions from both, government and public, to turn out qualified

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U Ko Ko Tin, Director-General of Department of Education Planning and Training.



MCF President U Khun Oo speaking at the wrap-up session of the ICT for Myanmar Forum 2014.—PHOTO: MYANMAR COMPUTER FEDERATION

ICT infrastructure in Myanmar include Fiber link between major cities as national backbone; cross border Fiber link between Myanmar-India, Myanmar-China, and Myanmar-Thailand; Sea-Me-We (3) Cable and Satellite for international link.

“The Myanmar Com-

puter Federation already has a framework for the use of ICT. The federation will also develop ICT industry into a business tool to support GDP of the country through competitiveness and production by using ICT to help implement clean government and good governance,”

U Khun Oo, president of the Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF), said during the ICT for Myanmar Forum held in March 2014.

Experts remarked that Myanmar started the ICT sector a decade ago, but there have been no remarkable results.—NLM

Workers to file lawsuit against Korean-run factory



The closure of Master Sports factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone has left 755 workers jobless.—PHOTO: LRDP

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 6 July — Workers of Master Sports factory, which was shut down in June, are planning to file a lawsuit against the owner of the factory, according to former staff.

The closure of Master Sports factory which pro-

duces sports shoes in Hline-thaya Industrial Zone has left 755 workers jobless.

After closing temporarily from 20 to 25 June due to a lack of customers, the shoe factory announced to its workers on 26 June that operations will be shut down, but that compensation would be given.

“We decided if the factory cannot pay outstanding

salaries and compensation to us by 7 July, we will file a lawsuit against the factory and will also inform the Korean embassy to bring the factory’s Korean owner back to Myanmar,” Ko Zaw Min, 30, a worker of the factory said.

The factory opened in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone more than one year ago.

The first negotiation

between the workers and the factory’s responsible personnel broke off and the two sides again sat at the negotiating table on 30 July in an attempt to find solutions for settling the issue, agreeing that the factory will pay salaries for June to workers on 5 July.

However, the factory and mediators from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security have requested the workers to wait until 10 July.

“We have urged the factory’s responsible personnel to bring factory owner Mr In Ho Bang back to Myanmar, because he has already left the country. If the factory can’t pay salaries, we will sell properties of the factory in accordance with the law to be able to raise the required money for the workers,” an official of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security said on condition of anonymity.—NLM

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State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting concludes

YANGON, 6 July—The fifth plenary meeting of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued for a second day at Wizaya Mingala Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township of

Yangon on Sunday.

The participating monks discussed the Vinichaya, religious and education tasks of the third branch of the committee during its duty-assigned period. Mem-

bers of the duty-assigned branch made clarifications on their efforts in religious and education affairs. Joint Secretary of the committee Agga Maha Pandita Dvipitakadhara Bhaddanta Ag-

gadhamma approved the report of the branch after seeking approval. Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win and his delegation attended the meeting of the committee.—MNA

Heavy industry needs to step up marketing strategy not to delay sales of products

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Although No 23 Heavy Industry manufactures says it is producing quality products, it needs to step up its marketing strategy and not

delay the sale of products, Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said in meeting with staff and technicians of the industry in Padaung Township of

Bago Region on Saturday.

If necessary, the industry officials should cooperate with local and foreign companies to increase production and turnover, he

said.

No 23 Heavy Industry (Nyaungchaydauk) is manufacturing machine tools, transformers, PVC wires, enameled copper wires, bare copper wires, power cables, copper bars and wires. The union minister also visited No 12 Heavy Industry (Htonbo) of Padaung Township in western Bago Region that is producing Myanmar Double Cab cars and Myanmar Single Cab cars.

The industry was established in 1970. Since 1974, the industry had manufactured B600 cars, GS 70 engines, pistons and piston rings, but has now moved on to produce vehicles, including Myanmar utility vehicles.

MNA



Union Minister U Maung Myint on inspection tour of No 23 Heavy Industry (Nyaungchaydauk).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Addressing the aftermath of the riots in Mandalay, members of the Interfaith Organization met at the Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township in Yangon and issued an eight-page statement on Friday.

The statement urges all parties involved to settle the conflicts according to law, to provide enough

Interfaith Organization releases statement on Mandalay riots

security as soon as a conflict breaks out, to take effective action against offenders without bias, not to spread rumours in the media, to state only facts without personal opinion, to use responsible journalism, to regard all those living in Myanmar as broth-

ers and sisters irrespective of religious differences.

A similar meeting took place at the Oriental House in Mandalay on Sunday, with participants issuing a joint statement.

The statement thanked Buddhist monks and leaders of other religions who

have helped maintain stability and stop riots, and urged authorities to take strict and immediate action against the ring leaders and those who committed crimes during the riots, and to provide security to the public.

MNA

Curfew violators, criminals prosecuted in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 6 July — Authorities have said that in connection with the recent riots that broke out in Mandalay a week ago, 16 people have so far been charged with 15 separate counts of illegal possession

of weapons and other criminal charges, while those involved in two murder cases, three assault cases and one incineration case are still under investigation.

On 3 July in six townships, 145 people were ar-

rested for violation of the current curfew and later released, while 201 people from seven townships in Mandalay District were charged on 4 and 5 July with violation of the curfew and are still under investigation.

MNA

Registration counters for Myanmar migrant workers to open end of July at Yangon International Airport

YANGON 6 July—To keep a record of the number of Myanmar migrant workers and provide better assistance, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will open counters at Yangon International Airport, commencing 20 July, according to an announcement of the

ministry on Sunday.

Myanmar Migrant Workers' Reporting Counters will be set up at the departure and arrival sections of the airport.

The ministry said that potential migrant workers will get information about phone numbers of Myanmar embassies and labour

affairs officers in the destination country, as well as a brief on rules and regulations of the host country.

According to the announcement, the counters will help prevent illegal migration, and protect the rights of legal migrant workers abroad. The number and data of inbound and

outbound migrant workers will also be collected at these counters, with the passengers having to fill out forms upon arrival or departure. If they fail to do so, their labour registration cards will be confiscated or they will have to pay a cash fine, the statement said.

MNA

Academics hold talks on basic education promotion



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein addresses seminar aimed at promoting the basic education sector.—MNA

YANGON, 6 July—The Ministry of Education conducted a seminar aimed at promoting the basic education sector at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University here on Sunday, sources said.

The seminar drew leading figures from academia.

Union Minister at the President Office U Tin

Naing Thein and Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi delivered speeches at the seminar, followed by group discussions on the improvement of nursery education, the training of preschool teachers, the promotion of basic education and pedagogical skills, the drawing plans for basic education and budget.—MNA

Education Ministry says basic education to get ...

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pre-school teachers, adding that plans are underway to increase the number of school-based pre-schools yearly and to open the early childhood educational branches in every region and state.

In the private sector, there are 159 private schools in the 2013-2014 academic year and the Ministry has provided training to basic and middle school teachers in these schools, said U Ko Ko Tin, Director-General of the Department of Education Planning and Training.

U Aung Ba Thein, Principle of Magway Education College, urged educational staff to participate

in the development and modernization of the country.

U Ko Lay Win, Director of Administration at the Department of Education Planning and Training, said that the Ministry is discussing with Microsoft Co., to give training to teachers to promote computer science skills, and ICT course conducted by Intel will be opened in August in Yangon for basic education teachers.

He also discussed characteristics of a modern education plan, a credible education plan, a decentralized planning approach and modern education sector management.

NLM

Gems Emporium brought to a successful close

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Jade lots totalling 74 were sold at reservation prices at the close of the 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium, which took place at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

The hall was packed with gems merchants of-

fering reservation prices for jades being sold at floor prices.

Reports said that plans are under way to put emphasis on the production and sale of value-added finished jewelry to reap greater profits rather than selling uncut gems.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Midwives complete training in Kyaukdaga Township

KYAUKDAGA, 6 July—A midwifery course concluded at the hall of Kyaukdaga Township Health Department in Bago Region on Friday, with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

The Union minister presented completion certificates and medicine kits to 30 trainees who began the training course on 1 March.

Kyaukdaga Township Lower House MP Dr Khin Maung Swe, Region Hluttaw MP U Kyaw Hsan Oo and officials joined the ceremony.

Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)



School uniforms, stationery provided to students, teachers



MYINGYAN, 6 July—A ceremony to donate school uniforms and stationery was held at the Basic Education Post-Primary School in Shadaw Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Saturday.

Wellwisher Daw Pyone, owner of Kyaw Myitta sawmill of Ward 15 from the township, presented school uniforms and sta-

tionery to the students and prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination.

The wellwisher donated school uniforms to 328 students and uniforms to 18 teachers, and milk to 600 students from Pobbayon monastic education school in Shadaw Village, who also received stationery.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Assistance given to triplets in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 6 July—Myanaung Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association provided on Friday K40,000 to Zaw Mar Mar Aye who gave birth to triplets in Napiseik Village of Myanaung Township of

Ayeyawady Region.

The children were born at Yaykin Station Hospital in Moonyo Township on 12 April, with bother and babies said to be in good health, according to hospital staff. Further assistance

has been asked from the Ayeyawady Region Social Welfare Department to support the new family, said an official of Township General Administration Department.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



DHF prevention taken in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 6 July—The Myanaung Township General Administration Department led a team of service personnel and workers of Township Health Department, as well as village administrators and local people, who took preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever at two

Basic Education Primary Schools, one monastery and several houses in Ward 2 and Myoma Tegyi Village in Myanaung of Ayeyawady Region on Saturday.

They cleaned residences and buildings, sprayed houses and schools and chlorinated water tanks.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



**Beware
of
Dengue
Fever**

Kyunhla Township gets upgraded BEMS

MYANAUNG, 6 July—The handover ceremony of a new school building was held at the newly-upgraded Basic Education Middle School in Kyaukaing Village of Kyunhla Township in Sagaing Region on Saturday, with an address by Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr

Myint Thien.

Chairman of the construction committee presented documents related to the new school building to the township education officer.

Village administrator U Htay Hla and headmistress Daw Khin Mya presented commemorative

pennants to the region minister and officials.

The region minister gave a TV for the school and cash award to the dance group that performed at the ceremony, the Region Hluttaw representative copy books to the headmistress.

The school building was built at a cost of K43.2 million in the 2013-14 academic year.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)



Basic tailoring course concludes in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 6 July—A basic tailoring course concluded at the hall of the General Administration Department in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on 3 July.

Chairman of Myingyan Township Maternal

and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee made a speech and Chairman of the Township MCWA Daw Ni Ni presented gifts to the instructors. They also observed the works of the trainees during their visit.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



India's Modi to target record asset sales in first budget

NEW DELHI, 6 July — India's new government will seek to raise up to a record \$11.7 billion in asset sales in its maiden budget this week, a senior government source said, bolstering state finances and buying time for structural reforms to revive a weak economy.

The privatization target could reach 700 billion rupees, almost equal to all proceeds over the last four years, in a budget Prime Minister Narendra Modi hopes will launch the growth and jobs agenda that in May won him India's biggest election mandate in three decades. The budget is due on Thursday.

"The finance ministry has approached different ministries to increase the divestment target," said the senior official with direct knowledge of the budget process. The previous government had penciled in sell-off proceeds of 569 billion rupees (\$9.5 billion). The 63-year-old premier has made a decisive start by naming a streamlined cabinet, approving a slew of infrastructure projects and embarking on what promises to be a whirlwind first year of trade diplomacy.

But his government has been plagued too by the economic ills that brought down its predecessor: weak growth and high inflation caused by spending too much and investing too



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to a crowd at a gathering after inaugurating a train on a new stretch of railway to the town of Katra, northwest of Jammu on 4 July, 2014.—REUTERS

little.

Despite the market reforms of 1991 that brought down the curtain on decades of socialist isolation, tracts of Asia's third-largest economy remain off limits to outside investors.

Modi wants to open up industries like defense, but selling controlling stakes in bloated state enterprises is out of the question. They are not competitive and any job cuts ordered by a foreign owner would cause an outcry.

Instead, he will whittle down state stakes in firms that have already been partly sold, like Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL.NS), without surrendering overall control, said the official

and other sources familiar with the plans.

Indian stocks .BSESEN have enjoyed a Modi boom, rallying 23 percent this year. Listed state firms have outperformed on hopes that wider ownership would discipline managers and that their bottom line would benefit from a loosening of price controls.

Leading the pack is Indian Oil (IOC.NS), which has gained 62 percent in 2014. ONGC (ONGC.NS), another oil firm, is up 46 percent. Coal India (COAL.NS) has risen 36 percent.

Tax, Subsidy Reforms

In setting an ambitious asset-sale target, the

government will face inevitable scepticism from investors who are used to seeing its predecessors miss their privatization goals.

The Modi government will also have limited scope to put its stamp on this first budget, which has been delayed by the election and will be delivered three months into the budget year to March 2015. The deficit is already near half the annual goal inherited from the last government: 4.1 percent of GDP.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is expected to roll out other revenue measures in addition to the asset sales, including a General Sales Tax that would unite

India's 29 federal states into a common market.

The measure would make it easier to do business and, over time, broaden the tiny tax base, which last year was a mere 8.9 percent of India's \$1.9 trillion gross domestic product — about a quarter of the average for the OECD club of developed nations.

Some of the "bitter medicine" that Modi has warned Indians to expect would come, the senior government official said, in the form of reductions to subsidies on fuel, fertilizer and food that cost 2.3 percent of GDP.

Jaitley in turn has warned against "mindless populism", heeding the advice of officials at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who have warned him that fiscal laxity would complicate their task of curbing inflation, now in the high single digits.

Fiscal consolidation, predictable taxes and low inflation are key anchors that India needs for economic and financial stability, Governor Raghuram Rajan wrote in the RBI's recent financial stability report, underlining that message.

Oil Companies

The government has signaled its willingness to trim its stakes in listed companies by backing a regulatory move to gradually increase the minimum

free-float requirement for stocks included in India's benchmark indexes, to 25 percent from 10 percent now. State-controlled firms currently have a 16 percent weighting in the indexes.

"It is the right time to sell stakes in public sector companies as the stock market is booming," said the official, who requested anonymity as the budget process is confidential.

Jaitley plans to front-load share sales, with a 5 percent stake in Steel Authority of India, worth \$340 million, on the docket for late July, say sources familiar with the deal.

That is likely to be followed by a 10 percent stake in Coal India, the world's largest coal miner that is now 90 percent state owned. A deal would, based on current market pricing, be worth around \$4 billion.

A senior oil ministry official said some of India's leading oil companies were contenders for the share-sale program, but did not name any names. A final decision would be taken by the finance ministry.

Deutsche Bank Securities forecasts proceeds of 600-800 billion rupees (\$10-\$13 billion) from asset sales in this fiscal year. That would enable the government to avoid borrowing more even if it raises its deficit target to 4.3-4.4 percent of GDP.—Reuters

Abe plans creation of new ministerial post for security

TOKYO, 6 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday he plans to create a new ministerial post for security to revise and introduce relevant laws necessary to exercise the right to collective self-defence.

"We want to prepare the legal framework...for areas ranging from 'gray zone' incidents to collective self-defence. As this will be a major legal change, I want to appoint a new minister in charge of this," Abe told reporters.

The remarks came after his Cabinet on Tuesday approved reinterpreting the Constitution so the Self-Defence Forces can defend allies under

armed attack in collective self-defence, marking a departure from its postwar security policy.

The government will set new conditions on the use of force in self-defence, broadening the notion of "the minimum" allowed under the supreme law to include collective self-defence, or defending allies under armed attack, even when Japan itself is not.

It would also speed up the dispatch of the SDF to "gray zone" low-intensity situations that stop short of military attacks, and examine extending logistical and other support in peacekeeping missions overseas.

Kyodo News

Indonesia presidential candidates spar over corruption scandals in final debate

JAKARTA, 6 July — Four days before Indonesia's presidential election, the two candidates and their running mates traded barbs over food security and graft in their final television debate on Saturday.

Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and former general Prabowo Subianto are running neck-in-neck to be the new leader of the world's third-largest democracy.

The debate was the last day to get their message across to voters before the elections body imposed a so-called quiet period leading up to the 9 July poll.

Food, energy, and the environment were the topics under discussion in the debate, and both presidential candidates looked to win over undecided voters, which one survey estimated at around 20 percent.



Indonesian presidential candidates and their running mates attend the presidential debate in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 July, 2014.—XINHUA

The typically cordial debate got heated when Jokowi's running mate Jusuf Kalla repeatedly raised the topic of corruption scandals involving key supporters of Prabowo.

"I'm not saying there

are no thieves in my party ... but what I meant was (corruption) is a phenomenon in our country," Prabowo said in reference to a speech made at a campaign rally earlier in the week.

In recent years, Indonesia has seen a number of food corruption scandals over import quotas that caused shortages and price spikes for foods such as beef and garlic.

Xinhua

WORLD

Iraqi Islamic State leader purported to make public appearance



Iraqi security forces and armed volunteers move with military vehicles during clashes with militants of the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in the town of Dalli Abbas in Diyala Province on 3 July, 2014. —REUTERS

DUBAI, 6 July—A man purported to be the reclusive leader of the militant Islamic State has made what would be his first public appearance at a mosque in the centre of Iraq's second city, Mosul, according to a video recording posted on the Internet on Saturday.

There had previously been reports on social media that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would make his first public appearance since his Islamic

State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) changed its name to the Islamic State and declared him caliph — a title held by successors of the Prophet Mohammad.

The Iraqi government denied that the 21-minute video, which carried Friday's date, was credible. "We have analysed the footage ... and found it is a farce," Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan told *Reuters*.

Maan said government forces had recently wounded Baghdadi in an air strike and that he had been transferred by Islamic State militants to Syria for medical treatment. But he declined to give further details and there was no way to confirm the claim independently.

If Baghdadi did preach in Mosul on Friday, it would be the first public appearance by the head of the militant group that led a military

offensive last month that saw swathes of northern Iraq fall to ISIL and other Sunni armed factions. The campaign started on 10 June in Mosul, the north's biggest city, which was quickly taken by ISIL. The recording showed a bearded man in a black robe and black turban slowly ascending the pulpit below the black flag of the Islamic State, before delivering a sermon and leading prayers.—*Reuters*

Israeli aircraft attack 10 targets in Gaza

JERUSALEM, 6 July — Israeli aircraft attacked 10 sites used by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in response to persistent rocket strikes from the enclave, the Israeli military said.

Rocket launchers and a weapons manufacturing facility were among the targets of the air strikes, which followed the firing of a rocket, intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome system late on Saturday, at the major southern city of Beer-sheba.

"Following constant rocket fire at Israeli communities in the south, Israeli aircraft targeted 10 terror sites in the central and southern Gaza Strip," the military said in a statement.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the air strikes.

Israel beefed up ground forces along the Gaza frontier on Thursday, signalling that an invasion was an option if rocket fire did not stop. Egypt, a bordering country, has been trying to mediate a truce.

The current flareup began in mid-June after Is-

rael began a crackdown in the occupied West Bank on Hamas, whose power base is in the Gaza Strip, after blaming the Islamist group for the abduction of three Israeli teenagers. Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied the Israeli allegations.

The Israeli youngsters' bodies were found in the West Bank last week. A day after their burial on Tuesday, a Palestinian teen was snatched off the street in East Jerusalem and his charred body was found in a forest on the edge of the city.

Palestinians believe he was the victim of a revenge attack by far-right Jews. Israel has said the motive for Mohammed Abu Khudair's killing is still under investigation. No arrests have been announced in the case.

The teen's death set off violent Palestinian protests in Jerusalem, which continued on Saturday and spread to several Arab villages and towns in northern Israel. Israeli police said those areas were quiet early on Sunday.—*Reuters*

Two militants blow themselves up in southern Saudi Arabia

DUBAI, 6 July —Two suspected al-Qaeda militants blew themselves up on Saturday after being trapped inside a government building in southern Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry said, following an attack on a border post with Yemen that also killed four security men.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the two were part of a group of six al-Qaeda militants who attacked the Wadia border post on Friday from Yemen. Three of them were killed on Friday and a fourth was captured after being injured.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has long viewed its 1,800 km (1,100 mile) border with impoverished, conflict-ridden Yemen as a major security problem and has been building a fence to deter militants and criminals. The Interior Ministry spokesman, Mansour al-Turki, said security forces surrounded the two men on the second floor of the local intelligence service

building in al-Sharurah area after they had forced their way into the building on Friday. The militants, who Turki said had been identified as people wanted by the authorities, declined a chance to surrender.

"At an early hour this morning ... the two attackers resorted to blowing themselves up," Turki said in remarks carried by the state news agency SPA.

"The attackers made no demands, nor heeded appeals by security men" to surrender, he told a news conference later in the day.

Saudi-owned al-Arabiya television earlier reported that the militants had put up "stiff resistance" to security forces surrounding them, firing automatic weapons and hurling grenades at security forces.

Saudi Arabia has been wary of potential al-Qaeda infiltration across its northern border from Iraq, where militants have swept through the Sunni Muslim heartland close to the border with Saudi Arabia.

Reuters

Arson behind E China bus fire

HANGZHOU, 6 July — A bus fire that injured 32 people in east China's Hangzhou on Saturday was caused by arson, police said on Sunday.

Police have found that the fire was ignited by banana oil, a lacquer thinner. A man seriously injured in the incident is suspected to have been the arsonist. He is being treated in hospital along with 28 others.

The fire broke out at around 5 pm on Saturday, when the No 7 line bus carrying 80 people was at a crossing between Dongpo Road and Qingchun Road in the downtown of Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.

Police have recovered video captured by a CCTV camera on the bus showing a man near the vehicle's back door pouring liquid from his backpack at 5:03 pm and using a lighter to set the fire. Flames quickly spread through the bus.

Police also ascertained through the footage that the man, wearing shorts and slippers, got on the bus at the terminal station of Lingyin Temple at 4:09 pm. Police are still



Police cordon off the site where a bus was in flames in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province on 5 July, 2014. Thirty-two injured people were sent to hospitals after a bus caught fire on Saturday afternoon in downtown Hangzhou. No death case has been reported. The cause of the blaze is being investigated. —XINHUA

verifying the suspect's identity.

Lingyin Temple is a famous tourist attraction in the scenic city, known for its picturesque West Lake. Investigators said that many of the passengers aboard the bus were tourists from five prov-

inces and cities outside Hangzhou. There are three minors among the injured.

A source with the Hangzhou Public Security Bureau told *Xinhua* on Saturday that police have not found any clues suggesting the incident was related to terrorism.

Witnesses said drivers of nearby private cars took out their extinguishers to join efforts to put out the bus fire. Passengers on the burning vehicle rushed out after its front door opened. Some smashed window glass to escape.

Xinhua

UKRAINE GOVERNMENT FORCES RECAPTURE SEPARATIST STRONGHOLD

SLAVIANSK, (Ukraine), 6 July — Ukrainian forces routed pro-Russian rebels in a flashpoint area of eastern Ukraine on Saturday and raised the country's blue and yellow flag again over what had for months been the separatist redoubt of Slaviansk.

A *Reuters* reporter saw a convoy of about 20 military transport vehicles and buses filled with armed rebels driving out of Kramatorsk where they had gone after apparently fleeing Slaviansk 20 km (12 miles) to the north.

About 100-150 Ukrainian troops patrolled the centre of Slaviansk and some soldiers were bringing out weapons and ammunition from one of the administration buildings the rebels had been using as a headquarters.

Shooting could be heard from the outskirts of the town which had served as a stronghold for rebel forces command, and one Ukrainian soldier said the city was not yet fully under government control.

Newly-appointed Defence Minister Valery Heletey appeared confident in reporting to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.



Ukrainian soldiers drive a military vehicle with a Ukrainian flag at a checkpoint near Slaviansk in eastern Ukraine on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

ko.

"Your order to free Slaviansk from the (separatist) fighters has been carried out," he was quoted as saying on the presidential website.

The rebellion in largely Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine has been a source of great tensions between the West and Russia. Moscow, which has

already come under economic sanctions, denies Western accusations it has been backing the insurrection possibly with a view to dismembering the former Soviet republic.

Heletey said the Ukrainian flag had been hoisted over the main administrative building in Slaviansk, replacing the Russian white-blue-red

tricolour separatists had hoisted in early April when they seized key buildings in the city of 130,000.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said a large number of separatists had fled in the face of sustained fire from Ukrainian forces.

"A significant number of militants have left Slaviansk ... along the way, our battle groups are greeting

them. They are suffering losses and surrendering," he said in a statement on his Facebook page.

A source close to the rebels told *Reuters* they had been outnumbered by 50 to one. "(The Ukrainian forces) have greater numbers of troops and military hardware," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The rebels acknowledged the loss.

Aleksandr Borodai, a leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying: "The punitive forces of Ukraine ... moved into a large-scale offensive."

"Given the disproportionate numerical superiority of the enemy troops, units of the armed forces of the Donetsk People's Republic were forced to leave their previous positions on the northern sector of the front."

Slaviansk has been the strongest redoubt of militants fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine. Its re-capture represents Kiev's most notable military victory in three months of fighting in which more than 200 Ukrainian troops have been killed as well as hundreds of civilians and rebels.

On Saturday evening, a white flag with the St George's ribbon on it — one of the standards of the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic — lay on the ground in front of one of the main buildings used by the rebels.

Reuters

German spy warns firms 'easy prey' to espionage as Merkel visits China



Fans of Germany wear masks of German Chancellor Angela Merkel as they pose before the 2014 World Cup quarter-finals soccer match between Germany and France at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 4 July, 2014.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 6 July — A German intelligence chief warned, as Chancellor Angela Merkel embarks on her latest visit to China, that some firms in Europe's biggest economy face a growing threat from industrial espionage by Chinese

government agencies with huge resources.

"Many German Mittelstand companies are easy prey," Hans-Georg Maassen, head of the BfV domestic intelligence agency, told a Sunday newspaper, referring to the small

and medium-sized family firms that are the backbone of the economy.

"They often don't really know what their crown jewels are or what the other side is interested in," he told *Welt am Sonntag*.

"They are up against

very powerful adversaries. The Chinese technical intelligence agency alone has over 100,000 employees," Maassen said, in an excerpt of an interview to be published on Sunday, when Merkel begins her seventh trip to China.

Beijing rejects US charges it uses cyber espionage to acquire technology to modernize its military.

The former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden has leaked documents that purportedly show that the US National Security Agency has spied on Chinese companies such as Huawei Technologies.

Trade between Germany and China has been worth about 140 billion euros (110.74 billion pounds) per year for the past three years but in the first quarter of this year, German exports to China surged by 9.8 percent, according to one German trade organization, the GTAI.—*Reuters*

US asks Israel to probe beating of American teen in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON, 6 July — The United States called for speedy investigation of an incident in which a 15-year-old American of Palestinian descent appeared to have been badly beaten by Israeli paramilitary police during riots in East Jerusalem.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed that the teen, Tariq Khdeir, was being held by Israeli authorities in Jerusalem and said a consular officer visited him on Saturday. "We are profoundly troubled by reports that he was severely beaten while in police custody and strongly condemn any excessive use of force. We are calling for a speedy, transparent and credible investigation and full accountability for any excessive use of force," Psaki said. A video clip circulated on the Internet on Saturday showed two Israeli border police holding down and repeatedly pummeling a masked youth before carrying him away.

The family of Khdeir, from Tampa, Florida, who was visiting relatives in East Jerusalem, say he was the target of the punches, although the footage is blurred and the victim cannot be identified as he appears also to be wearing a head covering. A later part of the video shows Khdeir's face with a heavy black eye and swollen lip. He is a cousin of Mohammed Abu-Khdeir, the youth whom Palestinians believe was abducted and murdered by far-right Israelis on Wednesday.

The Israeli Justice Ministry said in a statement that the police investigations department was looking into the incident. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said Khdeir was one of six rioters caught and detained in the incident, three of whom were found to be carrying knives.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Pakistan fighting reverses flow of refugees, stirs unease in Afghanistan

KHOST, (Afghanistan) 6 July — Thousands of refugees fleeing an offensive by Pakistan's army have poured across the lawless border into ramshackle camps on rugged hills in Afghanistan, stirring unease that Taliban militants may be hiding among them.

The mass departures over the porous border, which many in any case do not recognize, mark a change. For the first time in more than 30 years beleaguered residents are escaping into Afghanistan and not out of it, an irony not lost on local officials or refugee agencies.

Authorities in Khost Province are offering a warm welcome and what little they have to shelter the newcomers. But intelligence officers and the army are uneasy — some refugees from North Waziristan Province could be Islamist activists of the Pakistani Taliban, the target of Pakistan's offensive.

"These communities for decades have been the ones benefitting from support from tribal communities in North Waziristan when they had to flee," said Bo Shack, the top official in Afghanistan of the UN-High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Today they want to provide these families with equal help."

Refugees poured over the border in the other direction after Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1979. More followed after Moscow's pullout a decade later sparked mass disorder and still more fled after Afghanistan's own Taliban took power in 1996.

Some 3.8 million Afghans have returned to Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted by a US-led coalition of forces in 2001, while 1.6 million remain there as refugees.

Circumstances are now different.

The Pakistani Taliban,

stronger and more audacious but with few aims in common with their Afghan brethren, last month attacked Pakistan's largest airport outside Karachi. The military, weary of negotiations, told residents in the Taliban's Waziristan stronghold to get out in advance of a crackdown.

A two-week bombing campaign gave way to a ground offensive. Pakistani officials say all civilians have left and anyone still there is classed as a militant.

The governor of Khost Province applauded the hospitality of Afghan border villages last week at a gathering of Afghan officials and UN representatives at the refugee camps.

"People displaced from the other side of the border are our friends," said governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi. "People are trying to help families, even though they themselves haven't much." — Reuters

Three European engineers probably kidnapped in Libya

TRIPOLI, 6 July — Three Europeans working for an Italian construction company have likely been kidnapped in Libya, a government official said on Sunday. The car of the Ital-

ian, Macedonian and Bosnian engineers was found abandoned in the town of Zuwara, west of the capital Tripoli, an official in the local town council told Reuters. "They are missing,

and we suspect they have been kidnapped." No other details were immediately available.

The North African country has seen a rise in kidnappings of diplomats,



A road is destroyed by flood water in Xiushui County of Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 4 July, 2014. Heavy rainfall hit parts of Jiangxi in last two days. —XINHUA

Mexico police detain alleged serial child killer

MEXICO CITY, 6 July — Mexican police have detained a man who allegedly murdered four children and a woman in a small town in the centre of the country, authorities said on Saturday, as statistics show a marked increase in the number of

women being murdered.

The state attorney's office in the town of San Luis Potosi said Filiberto Hernandez, 43, was detained on Thursday and confessed to five murders between 2010 and 2013. The office said he also raped his victims. The crimes took place in Tamuin, a town of 16,000 southeast of San Luis Potosi, where Hernandez was a zumba and karate teacher. The state attorney

said it used the confession to find the remains of two of his victims, 9-year old Dulce Jimena Reyes, who disappeared in April, and Eliehoenai Chavez, 32, abducted in May after leaving the factory where she worked.

He is also alleged to have killed Adriana Martinez, found dead in 2011 at the age of 13 after disappearing on the way home from school. — Reuters

Yemen bombs Shi'ite rebels after truce collapses, 70 killed

SANAA, 6 July — The Yemeni air force bombed Shi'ite Muslim fighters north of Sanaa on Saturday in fighting that killed at least 70 people, local officials said, after a truce reached last month between the insurgents and government forces collapsed.

The fighting in northern Yemen, which has taken on a sectarian tone, is further destabilizing a country struggling to overcome a range of problems including a secessionist movement in its south and the nationwide spread of an al-Qaeda insurgency.

Shi'ite Houthi fighters, officially known as Ansarullah, blamed army units linked to the Sunni Muslim Islah party for breaking the 23 June ceasefire on Friday, when government troops advanced on an area in al-Jouf Province, north-east of Sanaa.

A Yemeni government official said the army's advance on the town of

al-Safra had been prompted by the failure of Houthi fighters to vacate positions in compliance with the ceasefire. Tribal sources in al-Jouf, which is partly controlled by the Houthi rebels, said at least 10 Houthi fighters, five tribesmen and three soldiers had been killed in fighting on Friday.

The fighting later spread to the adjacent Omran Province, where the Yemeni air force bombed Houthi positions around the provincial capital early on Saturday. Local officials said at least 40 Houthi fighters, four government soldiers and eight Sunni tribesmen had also died.

Ansarullah said on its website that its fighters had managed to drive what it said were "takfiri" — a term used to refer to hardline Sunni Islamists — from several positions in Omran. But the Houthis gave no figures for casualties on their side. — Reuters

At least five killed in attacks in Somali capital



Somali government soldiers gather near the wreckage after a suicide car explosion near the Somali parliament building in Mogadishu on 5 July, 2014. —REUTERS

MOGADISHU, 6 July — Five soldiers and police were killed in the Somali capital on Saturday and a dozen others were wounded in bomb and gun attacks by Islamist militants, police and witnesses said.

Al Shabaab fighters, who have threatened to step up attacks during the

Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, said they detonated a car bomb that killed two soldiers guarding the Somali parliament, a few hundred metres from the presidential compound.

"This is our second attack against the parliament building and we shall continue it," said Sheikh

Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's spokesman for military operations.

Police said soldiers guarding the parliament building had prevented it reaching its target.

"The suicide car bomb was targeting the parliament entrance but it was fired on from all sides as it

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 7 July, 2014

Lessons should be learnt from the past

By Aung Khin

History or happenings in the past cannot be changed in present. But many history books do not portray the events accurately. Looking back at the massacre in Katyn Forest of Russia in April and May 1940, many history books said that the crime was committed by Nazis and this was taught in schools for 30 to 40 years.

Premier Gorbachev admitted in 1989 that

the Soviet NKVD executed the Polish service personnel in 1940 under Stalin's orders. Historic facts can be changed, lied about, and exaggerated, but the reality cannot be changed.

It would be witless for the new generation to try and cover or change the history of predecessors. Instead, the former can take measures to avoid bitter experiences. Moreover, new generations should reveal the intentionally concealed events to make sure such things do not happen again.

While misconduct needs for secrecy, no hide-out is required for good conduct.

There might be many mistakes in the history of individuals or a state, causing certain losses. We can take lessons from past mistakes, but we cannot change past mistakes.

Succeeding governments cannot change the

history of their predecessors. However, the former must do the best for the state and people. A building which was destroyed in the past cannot be rebuilt to its original form; an earth pot broken into pieces cannot be repaired so it looks new. But, the new generation should educate itself on how the building fell onto the ground and how the pot was broken to prevent similar incidents.

While history teaches us many lessons, sincerity, honesty and transparency are the best policies for the development of the state.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Enhancing higher education institution capacity

By Myo Myint

(continued from 6-7-2014)

Listening is the basis of interaction and everyone in the institution from the rector to the cleaners must learn to listen carefully to each other, and try to understand the needs and wants of each other. The very act of listening shows regard for the opinion of another person. The act of giving consideration to a person's suggestion and reacting to it shows appreciation of a person's effort to contribute to the well being of the institution. We get fresh ideas and views from interactions. Many of the misunderstandings in an institution are caused by lack of interaction. Dialogue promotes understanding which is the first step to co-operation and friendship. In addition, dialogue also serves as the basis to set common objectives for one's institution. Formal meetings serve as excellent forums for exchange of thoughts but rectors can learn a lot, if not more, from conversations with teachers, students and administrative staff in informal settings. Hence, rectors must take every opportunity to visit departments, classrooms, recreation centres, canteens, and offices to interact with people and learn from them in order to develop realistic solutions that will solve problems. The rector must remember that he/she needs the goodwill and cooperation of everyone on the campus, especially the heads of departments who serve as the middleman and the voices of wisdom and experience

at the institution, to accomplish his missions.

Just as rectors need to constantly interact with the community in his/her institution, so also as the leading figure of the university, he/she needs to build strong links with the local community in order to get its goodwill, assistance and to better learn and fulfil its needs. It is well-known that many of the regional and international institutions have been financially and academically strengthened by alumni and members of the local community. Myanmar rectors need to explore this channel in order to raise funds for their universities, expand programmes, improve facilities and establish linkages with local specialists. At the same time, higher education institutions can contribute enormously to community development at a time when Myanmar is striving to catch up with her more developed neighbours, by offering their technical and research expertise to local businesses, industries and social organizations. University and community partnership is best enhanced through frequent visits by parents and members of the local community, industries and businesses to universities to develop better understanding of the contribution of higher education institutions to community development and nation building. Similarly, students and faculty should visit local organizations, enterprises and industries to gain job related and real life experience as well as to form networks for future employment as graduates.

The aim of the Myanmar

higher education sector is to leapfrog to reach the education standards of leading ASEAN member countries. To realize this ambitious goal, one of the strategies Myanmar rectors must utilize is to broaden their linkages with regional and international higher education institutions, and conduct student and faculty exchange programme and other academic collaboration activities to gain international experience. Regarding this matter, at the initial stage, it would be wise to give full consideration to all offers of collaboration from international institutions and organizations in order to widen networking and cooperation as much as possible. Only later on institutions should be more selective to ensure that the partnerships are beneficial for both sides.

Creativity is the hallmark of the 21st century and is a characteristic that all universities seek to develop in their students to guarantee that they succeed when they graduate. To ensure that their students develop this ability, rectors must first ascertain that faculty are also imbued with this quality. Rectors must lead, through example, in developing creativity. Staff development programmes, with development of creativity as one component, need to be continuously carried out, if possible with the partnership of international universities, so that creativity is instilled in faculty as swiftly as possible.

The whole country is now on the road to modernization to catch up with economically and technologically more advanced

countries. Education is the leading force of economic progress, technological advancement and social development and therefore the higher education sector has a guiding role to play in this very important matter. Rectors must strive to ensure that the curriculum of their institutions is on par with those of international institutions and be in tandem with the developments of the time. Universities must introduce new disciplines and programmes to cater to the demand for new knowledge and skills by a developing economy. The faculty must update their teaching method and move away from rote learning to problem based, student centred learning. Students must be taught to think independently and solve problems creatively. Reference

and research facilities must be modernized to enable students and faculty to utilize the latest technologies and books in carrying out research. Even the appearance of the campus needs to be modernized so that students can study in a learning environment that will stimulate them to become more innovative. The rector as the leader of the institution must exploit his/her imagination as much as possible and in this connection he/she might need to gain inspiration by observing local as well as foreign campuses either through visits or by studying through other means such as the internet.

Being able to move an institution onto the fast track to development is very much dependent on the qualities of the rector.

His/Her strong leadership, devotion to bring about excellence in teaching and research, wisdom, excellent judgment, courage and commitment to promote integrity and equality will be the abilities that can harness the cooperation of faculty and students in developing a modern progressive higher education institution that will foster the knowledge and skills needed to successfully face the challenges of the 21st century.

In matters of education, honesty is the best policy. Therefore, rectors need to examine the level of achievements of their institutions frankly, so that they can formulate effective strategies to raise the quality of their institutions which will surely contribute to the holistic development of our youths and enable our country to join the ranks of fast developing countries.

Wachet Hospital where local and foreign doctors treating poor patients with loving kindness

Sayar Mya

(continued from 6-7-2014)

Anesthetists

1. Dr. Daw Khin Pyone Nyunt (Retired), Consultant Anesthetist (Retired), Duchess of Kent Hospital, Sandakan, Sabah, East Malaysia.
2. Dr. Hnin Aye Khaing, Anesthetist (Retired), Jivitadana Hospital, Yangon
3. Dr. U Soe Myint, Consultant Anesthetist (Retired), United Nations Volunteer,

Namibia, Malawi, Lesotho and South Africa.

List of surgery cases treated during the visit.

1. Gall-Stone (20)
2. Hernia (5)
3. Hydrocele (4)
4. Thyroid Nodule (5)
5. Varicose Vein (6)
6. Fistula in Anus (4)
7. Pile (6)

Total patients (50)

As the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is providing health care, medical treat-

ment and saving lives of the marginalized, vulnerable and poor patients from upper Myanmar and many parts of the country by the Good Samaritans foreign doctors, it is indeed the golden opportunity for our Myanmar compassionate and generous doctors to cooperate, in the context of modern and advanced procedures, with the foreign counterparts hand in hand in treating our patients and preserving souls.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Union minister inspects progress of Sports and Physical Education Institute in Taunggyi



TAUNGGYI, 6 July—To support young sports talents and nurture a new generation of athletes, officials

plan to open more Sports and Physical Education

Institutes in regions and states. Chairman of the My-



anmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik and Shan State Minister for Social Affairs

U Myo Tun inspected progress of facilities in Taunggyi, which will open in the 2015 academic year.

After inspecting the construction works, the minister discussed construction of the ringroad in the compound of the institute, preparations for constructing more buildings in the coming years, and training of students in all sports events.

The Union minister also visited Shan State sports ground and the Shan State gymnasium in Taunggyi.

The union minister and officials also took a tour of the gymnasium of Taunggyi University to host the Shan State Chief Minister's Cup Volleyball Tournament.—MNA

Cowboys at Ayeyawady River leave as floods increase

AMARAPURA, 6 July—As the water level of Ayeyawady River is rising day by day, the lands and wetlands are starting to be inundated, with hired cowboys

from Nato-gyi, Taungtha and Ngazun townships of Mandalay Region bring their cows to alluvial lands in Amarapura, Shangalekyun, and Madaya townships during the summer months, where cold season crops can be harvested. As their families usually follow, construction of temporary

hats were requested from authorities, with the task not carried out adequately, forcing them to return home.

About four to five families of cowboys currently live in the flooded areas to look after herds of up to 150 cows and oxen.

Nanda Min Lwin



Village gravel road under construction in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt looked into progress of a gravel road in Aungchantha village of Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.

He also visited rice mills and a paddy dryer factory.

The gravel road will link the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Pyinmana-Taungnyo road. The placing of gravel on the road will cost K31.66 million.

More plans are underway to upgrade the gravel road to an asphalt road in Thabyegon Ward,

repair the earthen roads in Tegyigon and Shadaw villages and tarmac the roads in Aungzabu Ward and

Nyaungpinwaing village in the township.

Nay Pyi Taw Council is planning to spend K1.5

billion on social, education, health and economic development of the township.—District IPRD



Kokkokon Village of Kyunhla Tsp gets power supply, new school building



KYUNHLA, 6 July—Electrification for Kokkokon Village was launched in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region on Friday, attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye.

The chief minister unveiled the signboard of the power supply for the village, with other officials launching the supply of power.

The chief minister also attended a ceremony to hand over the new school building identified as Mu Nadi. Construction Committee chairman U Maung Nyunt handed over the documents related to the

school building to Deputy Region Education Officer U Lu Maw.

The chief minister and his delegation presented one TV set, copy books, sports gear and publications for the school and cash award to the dance troupe members.

The school building was built at a cost of K 43.2 million.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

Aerial bundle cable covers substituted with new ones

YANGON, 6 July—Thingangyun Township Administrator U Hla Myint and Township Electrical Engineer U Saw Thura of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board supervised erection of concrete lamp-posts on Pawhsanhmwe street in No 29 Ward of Thuwunna in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on Friday.

They also looked into

substitution of aerial bundle cable covers with new ones along Thanthuma Street in Sanpya Ward and the route from Pyidawtha Street to Post Office Street in Thingangyun Township and carried out substitutions of cables to ensure safety.

A plan is underway to continue replacing old cables, said an official.

Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)

Overweight osteoarthritis patients have more pain

NEW YORK, 6 July — Overweight and obese people with arthritis in their knees tend to report more pain than slimmer people with the chronic joint disease, suggests a new study.

Past studies have found that heavier people, especially women, are more likely to develop osteoarthritis and often have more severe osteoarthritis (OA).

This study goes a step further. It suggests that people with a higher body mass index (BMI), a measure of weight in relation to height, may have more pain than normal-weight people with the same amount of arthritis-related damage.

“My main innovation here was that I wanted to link up BMI, OA severity and pain to try to see what causes the pain,” Elizabeth Weiss told Reuters Health.

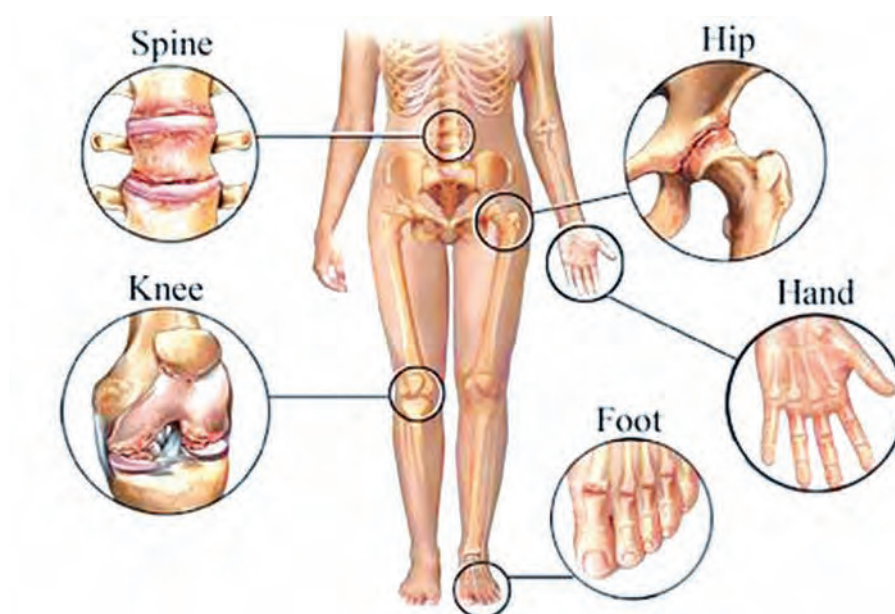
Weiss, an anthropologist at San Jose State University in California,

studies the bones of past populations. She said that no matter where and when populations existed, osteoarthritis seems to be as common among those long gone as it is today.

Osteoarthritis occurs when the protective cartilage around joints — such as in the hands, neck, knees and hips — starts to wear down. When this happens, the bones begin to rub together, which can make walking and other everyday activities painful.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 14 percent of adults in the US over age 25 have some form of osteoarthritis.

Weiss studied modern people because she wanted to know whether knee arthritis would have caused similar amounts of pain among past peoples who were less likely to be overweight or obese, compared



to today's population.

“I figured that if the data showed that BMI was the real culprit of pain in knee OA patients, then past people would not have felt much pain, and for (doctors) it would mean that decreasing BMI would help patients feel better even

if their OA was not improved,” she said.

Weiss studied the health records of almost 5,000 people between 45 and 79 years old who were part of the four-year National Institutes of Health Osteoarthritis Initiative study.

Of the participants,

1,390 had already been diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis, 3,284 did not have the disease but were at risk of developing it and 122 did not have osteoarthritis or related risk factors.

Weiss analyzed X-rays to determine the severity of patients' arthritis and

used the health records to gather information on their BMI and pain levels during everyday activities.

She found that patients with a higher BMI reported more pain, even after taking into account the severity of their joint damage.

For each category of arthritis severity, pain scores were substantially higher among obese patients than among normal-weight patients. Scores for overweight patients fell somewhere in the middle.

Excess weight can intensify the amount of stress on the weight-bearing joints of the knees, and without a normal amount of protective cartilage, moving around gets more and more painful, Weiss said in her report. Certain hormones associated with obesity may also play a role in the severity of both knee arthritis and pain.

Reuters

How well do people identify stinging bugs?



A bee sting therapist holds a bee to sting the arm of a patient in a bee farm in Silang, Cavite south of Manila on 6 June, 2012. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 6 July — Most adults have a tough time telling hornets, wasps and bees apart, which could spell trouble if a sting causes a severe allergic reaction, according to a new study.

Stings from bees, wasps, yellow jackets, hornets and ants — all members of the Hymenoptera order of insects — resulted in 25,360 hospital visits from 2001 through 2004.

Insect identification is helpful in diagnosing a Hymenoptera venom allergy, prescribing a treatment and providing guidance on prevention, said Dr Troy Baker of the Malcolm Grow Medical Clinics and Surgery Centre at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and colleagues, writing in the

Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Insects can sting without being seen, are relatively small, and can look similar to one another, making it hard to identify the perpetrator in many cases, they added.

To see how good people are at identifying common stinging insects, Baker and colleagues enrolled 640 adults from four different air force bases in Maryland, Florida, Ohio and Nevada.

The study participants looked at pictures of four stinging insects and two different nests in photographs on a six-question multiple choice test. They also answered questions about themselves, including whether they had ever been

stung by an insect.

Nine of every ten participants had been stung by at least one insect in the past, with 41 percent stung two or three times and 20 percent stung four to six times.

On average, people answered three out of six questions correctly. Just 20 people had a perfect score and 10 had them all wrong.

The honeybee was correctly identified 90 percent of the time. Next was the yellow jacket, correctly identified 72 percent of the time, and the hornet and wasp, each correctly identified about half the time.

Only a minority of participants recognized the nests. About 30 percent recognized the hornet nest and 18 percent knew the wasp nest.

Perhaps not surprisingly, people who'd been stung were better at identifying honeybees, wasps and wasp nests.

“Overall, this study supports the general perception that adults are poor discriminators in distinguishing stinging insects with the exception of the honeybee,” the authors write.

For that reason, they advise that people who've had a bad reaction to an insect sting should be tested for the venom of all flying

stinging insects.

Patrick Liesch, who manages the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab but was not involved with the study, told Reuters Health by email that a lot of stinging insects have evolved to look fairly similar. “They have these bright flashy colors — yellow and black — and it kind of serves as a warning pattern,” he said.

“They can deliver a painful sting,” he added. “So I think that in general people probably have a pretty good feel for these yellow and black insects — that they may be able to sting.” But when it comes to telling them apart, “things may get blurred a little bit.”

Liesch said people who are stung can capture the insect and keep it at home in a container.

“If you start having some kind of adverse reaction you can get it to the physician, who then may be able to identify it and if they can't positively identify it, they can get it to another resource, like an entomologist,” he said.

He added that if the bug can't be captured, experts can often identify insects from photographs, as long as they're not too dark and the resolution is good.

Reuters

Genome sequencing back on track

BEIJING, 6 July — The first batch of qualified genome sequencing tools for prenatal checks was approved by the State Food and Drug Administration on Monday.

In a bid to regulate the industry, the agency in February called a halt to all genome sequencing in clinical practice and said that related appliances, reagents and medical-use software must be registered with the SFDA.

It said also that clinical practices must be approved by the National Health and

the president of Shanghai First Maternity and Infant Hospital said.

“It also reduces the need for invasive practices such as amniocentesis,” he said.

Dr Li Ruzhi from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University, however, said that while genome sequencing is an effective diagnostic tool for diseases due to chromosome variation it is not effective in identifying diseases caused by gene mutation.

“Genome sequencing



Family Planning Commission.

Dr Duan Tao said yesterday he was delighted the new rules had been put in place and that the first batch of equipment had passed muster.

“Genome sequencing in prenatal checks can identify 99 percent of all Down's syndrome cases,”

is a useful tool and it is a trend for the medical development, but it shouldn't be misused,” Li said. Only people with positive results in primary screening or those with a risk of miscarriage as a result of undergoing amniocentesis should be put forward for genome sequencing, according to Li.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Snow Dragon” prepares for North Pole



China's icebreaker “Xuelong” (Snow Dragon)

BEIJING, 6 July — China's icebreaker “Xuelong” (Snow Dragon) is all set to leave its Shanghai base next Friday to embark on a sixth expedition to the North Pole.

A total of 128 scientists and crew, including six foreign experts and one from Taiwan, will take part in the 76-day trip, which will mostly

focus on environmental research in the polar region, officials from the Polar Research Institute of China said on Friday.

The team will set up eight short-term and one long-term observation stations on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean.

“It will be the largest number of on-ice observation stations we've ever set up during an Arctic expedition,” said chief scientist Pan Zengdi.

“The location for the long-term station hasn't been decided, as we need to check the condition of the sea ice,” he said.

Team leader Qu Tanzhou said the mission will also seek to determine how El Nino might affect the polar region.

“It is unknown how sea ice coverage will change if El Nino arrives,” Qu said.

“We will collect data from the ocean and the ice as part of our research into global climate change,” he said. — *Xinhua*

5G networks not just next step beyond 4G networks: EU commissioner

BRUSSELS, 6 July — It is important to understand that 5G mobile will be more than just the next step beyond today's 4G networks, Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes said on Friday.

“It will also offer totally new possibilities to connect people, and also things — cars, houses, energy infrastructure. All of them at once, wherever you and they are,” said the commissioner. The EU-funded

research projects were based on various technical requirements, including addressing the capacity crunch and finding new ways to use spectrum to ensure citizens and business would be able to benefit from 5G.

According to the EU, the European telecom industry, representing more than 1.7 million direct and indirect jobs in Europe, has been historically in the forefront of mobile technology. — *Xinhua*



Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes

NASA, Boeing to develop most powerful rocket for Mars

WASHINGTON, 6 July — NASA and Boeing have inked a USD 2.8 billion deal to develop a giant rocket which is set to be the largest and most powerful ever built, paving the way for manned missions to Mars. Boeing has finalized a contract with NASA to develop the core stage of the Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket ever built.

In addition, Boeing has been tasked to study the SLS Exploration Upper Stage, which will further expand mission range and payload capabilities.

The agreement comes as NASA and the Boeing team complete the Critical Design Review (CDR) on the core stage — the last major review before full production begins.

“Our teams have ded-

icated themselves to ensuring that the SLS — the largest ever — will be built safely, affordably and on time,” Virginia Barnes, Boeing SLS vice president and programme manager said in a statement.

“We are passionate about NASA's mission to explore deep space. It's a very personal mission, as well as a national mandate,” said Barnes. — *PTI*



Space Launch System, a NASA rocket designed by Boeing that will be intended for deep-space exploration.—PTI

Tata Motors to launch two new vehicles every year till 2020



NEW DELHI, 6 July — Tata Motors is looking at launching a couple of models each year till 2020 as the company looks to ramp up its portfolio in the competitive Indian car market.

“We are working on a product strategy that started last year. The plan is to bring a couple of new vehicles every year,” Tata Motors President, passenger vehicles, Ranjit Yadav told *PTI*. The new vehicles will also cater to global markets and service various “attractive” segments, he added.

He, however, did not share more details on the product launches.

The company is also working on various other measures such as enhancing quality of manufacturing facilities and improving customer buying and after sales experience, Yadav said. As part of the strat-

egy to reach out to its customers, Tata Motors today unveiled a country-wide campaign to showcase its new 1.2 litre petrol engine that will power its soon-to-be-launched models Zest and Bolt.

“The Revotron 1.2 T will power our upcoming cars, the Zest and Bolt. To narrate this exciting story, we are engaging with our customers through various platforms,” Yadav said.

The company will showcase the engine thorough Revotron Labs to customers across 15 cities. It plans to extend the campaign to digital platforms.

Tata Motors senior vice president, programme planning and project management, Girish Wagh said the Revotron range of engines would be manufactured at the company's Pune plant. — *PTI*

iPhone 6 to launch on 25 September, 5.5-Inch model named iPhone Air

NEW DELHI, 6 July — Another day and another iPhone 6 rumour. This time a report out of China details an astonishing new launch date for the next iPhone from Apple, ahead of most dates in previous leaks. The report is accompanied with purported pricing details, as well as the name of the anticipated larger 5.5-inch iPhone 6 variant — iPhone Air.

The report citing industry sources claims Apple will unveil the iPhone 6 on 15 September, which falls on a Monday, while retail availability will begin on 25 September, which falls on a Thursday.

Apple traditionally starts sales of new iPhone models on a Friday to capture the weekend crowd, so the dates seem a little fishy. Previous leaks (including a purported internal communication from a German telecom carrier) had indicated a more credible launch date



of 19 September, which happens to be Friday.

According to the China.com report (via GforGames), China will also be amongst the first countries to receive the iPhone. The report also details the pricing, which matches previous leaks, claiming the 4.7-inch iPhone 6 (32GB) will cost CNY 5,288 (roughly Rs. 50,800), while the 5.5-inch iPhone 6 (16GB) will be priced at CNY 5,998 (roughly Rs. 57,600). This would also imply the

4.7-inch iPhone 6 (32GB) is cheaper than the current 4-inch iPhone 5s (16GB), which costs CNY 5,300.

The same report claims the much-rumoured 5.5-inch iPhone 6 variant will be called the iPhone Air, following the naming scheme of the latest, largest iPad. The report adds that China Mobile and China Unicom, Apple's carriers in the country, have begun field testing the iPhone 6 on their networks.

PTI

An EU agenda: keeping British in, Russians out, Germans down

ROME, 6 July — The first secretary-general of NATO, Lord Ismay, once said the Western defence alliance was created “to keep the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans down”.

The task facing the European Union now might be described as to keep the British in, the Russians out and the Germans down.

British in

Prime Minister David Cameron’s demand to redraw Britain’s relationship with the EU and put the result to a referendum in 2017 means the next few years are bound to be dogged by haggling over Brussels’ powers and about opt-outs for London.

If Britain, Europe’s third largest economy, main financial centre and joint biggest military and diplomatic power, were to become the first country ever to leave the bloc, it would deal a severe blow to itself but also to the EU’s global standing.

Last month’s confrontation over the nomination of Jean-Claude Juncker as European Commission president against adamant British opposition was a foretaste of the fraught negotiations ahead if Cameron is re-elected next year.

Under fierce pressure from Eurosceptics at home, the British leader risks

overplaying his hand, misreading and alienating his main allies, as he did with German Chancellor Angela Merkel over Juncker, and demanding too high a price.

Some continental politicians, exasperated by 40 years of British efforts to block a federal Europe and secure favourable terms by hardball negotiating tactics, are tempted to let the UK go in a belief that their life would be easier afterwards.

Yet keeping Britain in, provided it undertakes not to obstruct closer economic and political integration of the euro single currency area, must surely be a priority for the EU.

Russians out

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s seizure and annexation of Crimea, cut-off of gas supplies to Ukraine and destabilisation of eastern Ukraine have put Moscow’s geopolitical challenge to Europe — and reducing the EU’s dependency on Russian gas — high on the policy agenda.

Brussels officials fear Moscow may do more to punish Ukraine and fellow ex-Soviet republics Georgia and Moldova economically for signing trade and cooperation pacts with the EU.

Member states differ on how far to go in



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron holds a news conference during an European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 27 June, 2014.—REUTERS

sanctioning Russia for its behaviour, whether to give Ukraine a long-term prospect of membership and what incentives to offer Moscow if it changes course.

The Germans are reluctant to jeopardize their energy and trade interests, the French to cancel the sale of helicopter carriers and the British to endanger London’s role as an off-shore banking center and playground for Russia’s rich.

While former Soviet bloc states such as Poland and Estonia favor a tougher line with Moscow, others such as Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria are wary of putting energy supplies and business ties at risk.

Preventing Russia from destabilizing the EU’s eastern neighbourhood is a common European interest,

but where and how to draw red lines will be a major challenge for the bloc.

Germans down?

Yes, but why the desire to keep the Germans down?

Germany is in many ways a beacon of economic success and stable democracy, anchored in the bosom of Europe and NATO.

But its growing political ascendancy over the EU in the wake of the euro zone crisis has stirred unease in many European capitals, ensuring that a tug-of-war with Berlin over economic and fiscal policy is likely to escalate.

French weakness, British detachment, the enfeeblement of the European Commission and the muscle-flexing of the German constitutional court have all contributed to tilting the balance in the EU, thrust-

ing Germany uncomfortably into the spotlight.

So too have impending changes in voting rules among EU states that give more weight to population size, and the growing power of the European Parliament, where Germans make up the largest contingent.

Long under-represented, Germans have secured an unprecedented grip on the reins of the main EU institutions that is raising concern in London and Paris.

Former Merkel aide Uwe Corsepius is secretary-general of the EU Council of ministers; Klaus Welle is secretary-general of the European Parliament; Johannes Laitenberger, chief-of-staff of the outgoing Commission president, is to be deputy head of the legal service; Martin Selmayr is leading Juncker’s transition team in the Commission and is likely to be his chief-of-staff.

In addition, Klaus Regling heads the euro zone’s financial rescue fund and Werner Hoyer, a former German Europe minister, is chief of the European Investment Bank.

The fact that these trained lawyers and economists all hold German passports does not make them pawns of Merkel. As

EU civil servants, they are loyal to a vision of a federal Europe rather than to the Federal Republic of Germany.

But the dominance of German economic thinking, with an emphasis on austerity and a deep-seated culture of saving rather than spending or investing, needs to be tempered if Europe is to avoid a lost decade of stagnation and high unemployment.

Just last week, the German government congratulated itself on approving the first balanced budget since 1969, at a time when many economists say Berlin should be cutting taxes to boost domestic demand and investing more in infrastructure.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, trying to shake up a highly indebted country often seen as an economic and political basket case, is challenging Berlin’s policy prescription, using the rotating EU presidency to try to change the debate.

His offensive, supported by France and other southern states desperate for fiscal leeway to revive growth, has drawn limited concessions from Merkel and offers the incoming Juncker a chance to make the EU’s economic policy mix a bit less German.

Reuters

TPP talks in full gear as chief negotiators join working-level meeting

OTTAWA, 6 July — Talks for a Pacific Rim free trade pact got into full swing on Saturday, with chief negotiators from the 12 countries involved joining working-level discussions that started earlier.

“This is a crucial meeting” to cut a deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative toward the end of the year, Koji Tsuruoka, Japan’s top TPP negotiator, said prior to meeting with his counterparts. “We hope to make progress on remaining issues and move toward a ministerial meeting.”

The chief negotiators’ talks are part of the unusu-

ally long 10-day officials’ meeting that started on Thursday, following US President Barack Obama’s call for an agreement on the framework by November.

According to participants, the chief negotiators discussed legal and institutional matters as well as labour, and made some progress on forging a framework for curbing serious labour problems.

A ministerial gathering, which usually follows working-level talks, is not being scheduled on the margin of the session in Ottawa. It is as yet unknown whether a ministerial meeting, at which trade chiefs

could make final political decisions to seal a pact, will take place later somewhere else.

TPP talks have been delayed partly due to Japan-US bickering over tariff issues. If successfully realized, the TPP would create a massive free trade area bordering the Pacific, making up roughly 40 percent of global gross domestic product and one-third of all world trade.

The TPP involves Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

Abe leaves for three-nation trip to Oceania

TOKYO, 6 July — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left on Sunday for a three-nation tour of New Zealand, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Abe will hold summit talks with the prime ministers of each country — New Zealand’s John Key on Monday, Australia’s Tony Abbott on Tuesday and Papua New Guinea’s Peter O’Neill on Thursday.

The premier said he is eager to build a “new Japan-Australia era” as he is to sign bilateral agreements on free trade, as well as defence equipment and technology cooperation, during his stay in Canberra.

“This trip is intended to demonstrate a new type of proactive pacifism. I want to strengthen cooperation not only through diplomatic ties but also defence and security ties,” he told reporters just prior to his departure from Tokyo’s Haneda airport. In Canberra on Tuesday, Abe will become the first Japanese prime minister to deliver a speech at the Australian parliament, according to the Japanese government. He is scheduled to return home on Saturday.—Kyodo News



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) and his wife Akie wave before boarding a plane at Haneda airport in Tokyo on 6 July, 2014.—Kyodo News

GENERAL

Economy stalled, Cuba resists speedier path to free enterprise

HAVANA, 6 July— Cuban President Raul Castro told parliament on Saturday the communist country's market-oriented reforms must remain gradual, a clear signal he would resist calls to accelerate change in order to address an underperforming economy.

He also praised Cubans for "defeating imperialism" by resisting US aggression ever since the 1959 Cuban revolution.

Since taking over for his ailing older brother Fidel in 2008, Raul Castro, 83, has enacted widespread reforms such as turning state enterprises into private cooperatives, freeing Cubans to work in small private businesses, and reducing the role of the state in everyday life.

The reforms have raised expectations for improvements in the economy while also generating debate within the ruling Communist Party about how much more free enterprise should be allowed.

Castro said the pace of reforms would remain deliberate.

"The gradual nature of a series of activities that we are approving is indispensable," Castro told 548 members of the National Assembly in its one-day, semiannual meeting.

The reforms have created a new class of wealthy Cubans, but a large majority still lives on \$20 a month and overall Cuban productivity has stagnated. Low



A farmer works the land in La Lisa on the outskirts of Havana on 28 March, 2014.

REUTERS

salaries remain a chronic complaint, even with free education, healthcare and a ration card good for a small amount of basic foodstuffs.

Castro blamed the 52-year-old US economic embargo of Cuba for much of the country's economic difficulty, saying the Cuban people deserved a medal for resisting US hostility.

"We have had success. We have had success in which our people have played a fundamental role. ... They have resisted and they are defeating imperialism," Castro said.

The man charged with implementing the reforms, Marino Murillo, told the assembly more salary increases would be tied to productivity and that more state enterprises would be turned into private cooper-

atives in order to improve efficiency.

For example in the food products and services sector, the government had authorized 498 cooperatives, of which 249 were functioning, said Murillo, a member of the elite Politburo.

Cuba has also now authorized 467,000 people to work in the private sector, making them eligible to work in nearly 13,000 businesses, mostly restaurants, Murillo said.

The assembly meets more to hear updates on the economy and government activities rather than to approve laws. Special sessions are sometimes called to pass major legislation, as with a foreign investment law approved in March.

The Cuban economy

grew just 0.6 percent in the first half, forcing the government to revise down its full-year projection to 1.4 percent from a target of 2.2 percent established in December, Economy Minister Adel Yzquierdo told the assembly.

Yzquierdo attributed the downward revision, which had been previously reported, to industries such as tourism, sugar and nickel mining coming up short of projections.

Other sectors outperformed expectations, Yzquierdo said. Transportation, warehousing and communications grew 6.2 percent while agriculture, livestock and fishing grew 5.6 percent. Sugar was up 5.3 percent, but well short of the target of 17.5 percent.

Reuters

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Arthur, no longer a hurricane, moves into southeast Canada



A worker from the local cable company works on the utility lines after Hurricane Arthur in Nags Head, North Carolina on 4 July, 2014.—REUTERS

BOSTON, 6 July — Arthur weakened from hurricane force on Saturday and pelted parts of southeast Canada with heavy rain and strong winds, as the storm swept away from New England. Arthur weakened to a tropical storm on Saturday morning after having reached landfall on North Carolina's Outer Banks late on Thursday as a Category 2 hurricane, snarling plans for tourists at the start of the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

North Carolina re-

ported only slight damage from the hurricane, which quickly traveled northeast. Near midday on Saturday, Arthur, now a post-tropical storm, was centered about 95 miles (155 km) west-northwest of Halifax, Nova Scotia, the US National Hurricane Center said. Arthur left tens of thousands of customers in Nova Scotia without power, and strong winds and heavy rain were expected to continue over parts of southeastern Canada through Saturday night.—Reuters

Boeing 737 fuselages damaged in train derailment

SEATTLE, 6 July — A train derailment in Montana this week damaged a shipment of jetliner fuselages and other large parts on its way to Boeing Co (BA.N) factories in Washington state from Spirit Aerosystems (SPR.N), Boeing said on Saturday.

It was not yet known if the accident might affect production of planes, the company said. Boeing's production depends on a complex supply chain that deliver many parts just in time for assembly, but the company often has the ability to prevent minor problems in logistics from idling its factories.

Boeing said a BNSF Railway Co train loaded with six 737 narrowbody fuselages and assemblies

for its 777 and 747 wide-body jets derailed in Montana while en route from Wichita on Thursday.

A total of 19 cars in the 90-car train derailed in the incident about 18 miles (30 km) east of Superior, Montana, said Rail Link Montana. The rail company links with BNSF to carry freight from Billings in southern Montana through the state to Spokane, Washington where it links back to BNSF.

Of the derailed cars, three cars carrying 737 plane fuselages went down an embankment and into the Clark Fork River.

Spirit Aerosystems, based in Wichita, Kansas, builds all of Boeing's 737 fuselages and Boeing currently produces 42 fin-



Three Boeing 737 fuselages lie on an embankment on the Clark Fork River after a BNSF Railway Co train derailed on Thursday near Rivulet, Montana in this picture taken on 4 July, 2014.—REUTERS

ished 737s a month. So the six fuselages involved in Thursday's derailment represent 14 percent of Boeing's monthly production of 737s.

Boeing declined to

comment on whether it would seek a second source for the fuselages, as some industry experts have suggested.

The cause of the derailment was not yet known,

said Montana Rail Link spokeswoman Lynda Frost, but added that speed was not considered to be an issue. There is a 35 mph (48 kph) speed limit on that section of the track, which is curvy as it tracks the Clark Fork, she said.

The line was being reopened on Saturday afternoon, Frost said. There were no injuries in the accident.

Boeing said it had experts at the scene "to begin a thorough assessment of the situation."

Montana Rail Link had called in three contractors to undertake the recovery of the derailed cars, Frost said, but she did not have details of the state of the freight in the derailed cars.

Montana Rail Link, a

privately-held company, is investigating the cause of the accident.

Spirit said it was working closely with Boeing following the incident.

"We are confident that, working together, we will overcome whatever challenges may be presented," the company said in a statement. Spirit shut down temporarily in April 2012 after a tornado severed power lines and damaged buildings in the region. At the time, Boeing said its production system had a cushion to help it handle those disruptions.

The train also was carrying fuselage panels for the 777, and a leading edge flight surface for the 747, the company said.

Reuters



Actor Sylvester Stallone

Sylvester Stallone, all-round good guy, may play a villain

NEW YORK, 6 July — Actor Sylvester Stallone, known for playing heroes like John Rambo and Rocky Balboa, is now considering playing a villain — Greg Scarpa, a notorious mob boss.

The film's screenplay by Nick Pileggi, who wrote *Goodfellas* and *Casino*, will highlight Greg Scarpa's involvement in 20 murders and focus on his career, reports *New York Post* newspaper's Page Six column.

Nick said "It's a fabulous story. Mr Stallone is interested. He likes the script."

Irwin Winkler, of Rocky fame, will produce the film along with Avi Lerner, who produced *The Expendables* and its sequels.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan injured during bike ride

LOS ANGELES, 6 July — Troubled star Lindsay Lohan has sustained injuries during a bicycle ride. The 28-year-old 'Mean Girls' star posted an image of a nasty looking cut on her Instagram account and blamed the injury on a Citi Bike — which are available to rent by the public as part of New York City's bike sharing scheme, reported TMZ online.

The photo shows Lohan, who is dressed in denim shorts, with a red scrape along the top of her thigh. The actress captioned the image, "A citibike gone wrong #notsoquiche (sic)."

Lohan's injuries only added to what seems to have been a difficult week for the star after it was announced she was suing the creators of 'Grand Theft Auto' for using a character in her image without her permission. The 'Canyons' star has filed a civil lawsuit against the company Take-Two Interactive over the character named Lacey Jonas for an unspecified sum of money.—PTI



Lindsay Lohan

Rita Ora will not stop believing in love, despite breakup

LONDON, 6 July — Singer Rita Ora, who broke up with boyfriend Calvin Harris last month, says she will not stop believing in love.

The 23-year-old star split from Harris, 30, following a year of dating, but says the breakup has not put her off falling for someone else in the near future, reported Contactmusic.

"I'm a girl that wants to be loved. I won't stop believing in it (love)," Ora said. "Maybe I just need to stop looking for it (love)."

PTI



Singer Rita Ora

Miley Cyrus will make right choices: Dolly Parton

LONDON, 6 July — Singer Dolly Parton has again defended her god-daughter Miley Cyrus, saying that she has had to be controversial to "prove her point".

The 68-year-old country singer is the godmother of Cyrus and previously appeared as a guest star in TV series 'Hannah Montana', reported BBC online.

"She's a great talent, Miley, who I've known ever since she was a tiny little baby. She's always been smart and quick and she is so gifted and I really, really hope she does great in this world of show business, and I believe she will," Parton said.

The '9 to 5' singer added, "I believe she's gonna make the right choices, she's had to go a little drastic now and then just to prove her point, but I've got a lot of faith in

her and I'm hoping she does great 'cos she is gifted and special.

"You know her comedic timing is very good, so she's got all the goods — I'm just hoping she uses all of it well." —PTI



Katy Perry loves dressing as a teenager

LONDON, 6 July — Pop star Katy Perry says many of her stage costumes reflect her taste from when she was a teenager.

The 29-year-old 'Roar' singer favours bright colours and playful stage costumes by brands like Moschino and Cavalli during her 'Prismatic World Tour' because she still has the same fun-loving sense of style she had when she was a teenage girl, reported *Life-Style* magazine.

"There's a lot of colour in my shows. I have so much fun with it. I'm going to be 30 at the end of this year, but I still feel like a 13 year old. Right now, I'm really obsessed with the Versace early 90s soft-grunge look, but I don't think there should be any rules when it comes to colour," Perry said.

Despite being on stage almost every night during her world tour, Perry ensures she does at least 30 minutes of cardio per day.

"When I'm on tour, the exercise routine is vigorous. I'll work out every day, and I don't have time for a full hour of exercise, I'll run on the treadmill for 30 minutes. I actually love having that uninterrupted time to listen to new music or my favourite albums, and it feels great to get the blood circulating, too," she said.—PTI



Katy Perry says many of her stage costumes reflect her taste from when she was a teenager.—PTI



Harrison Ford's representative has said he was doing well.—PTI

Harrison Ford recovering fast

LOS ANGELES, 6 July — Harrison Ford, who injured himself on the set of 'Star Wars: Episode VII', is undergoing a speedy recovery.

The 71-year-old actor's trainer said his health is progressing faster than the fictional spacecraft in the *Star Wars* movie, reported TMZ.

Ford is back on his feet with the help of a large leg brace as he works to regain full fitness for filming. The actor broke his left leg on 12 June, one of the first days of shooting of the film and was rushed to a hospital for a surgery.

Ford's representative has said he was doing well and looking forward to returning to work.—PTI

GENERAL

Asleep in Jesus
U Saw Doe Saito
(92 years)

Director-General (Retired) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Member (Retired) Public Service Selection and
Training Board (PSSTB)

Son of (U Saw Pha Ha Saito and Naw Lu Ke) of Thandaung, Kayin State; Son-in-law of (U Pho Tint and Daw Ma Ma Lay) of Yangon; beloved husband of Daw Khin San Yi (Administrative Officer, retired, Social Welfare Department) of New York City, NY, USA; father of Dr. Saw Thazin and Dr. Yar Pye; Saw Khaing Khaing and U Min Han Htwe; grandfather of Tha Aung Saw and Hnin Phyu Pye; passed away in New York City, NY, USA at 9:33 am on 5th July 2014.

Bereaved family

California Highway Patrol probes video of officer punching woman

LOS ANGELES, 6 July — California Highway Patrol is investigating a video showing an officer pummeling a woman alongside a Los Angeles freeway during an arrest that began with an attempt to stop her from walking into traffic, an agency spokeswoman said on Saturday.

The video, which was taken by a passing motorist, posted online and broadcast by local television stations, has caused an outcry from community activists who say the officer used excessive force in the arrest on Tuesday. Officials from the Highway Patrol on Friday became aware of the video, which captures an incident that occurred on Interstate 10 in Los Angeles, and they have launched a use of force investigation, Sergeant Denise Joslin, an agency spokeswoman, said in an email.

“We’re looking at every possibility, every fact, every circumstance that have contributed to this situation and we’re going to try to come to a just conclusion,” Highway Patrol Assistant Chief

Chris O’Quinn said at a news conference on Friday. The officer arrived at the location after the Highway Patrol received a call about a woman walking by the side of the freeway, a statement from the Highway Patrol said.

After spotting the woman walking shoeless along the narrow shoulder of the freeway and stepping into traffic lanes, the officer told her to stop, the statement said. When the officer approached the woman she became “physically combative” and he arrested her in fear of her safety and his own, it said. The video from the passing motorist shows the officer pull the woman to the ground at the edge of the freeway and straddle her, as he repeatedly punches her in the head. Another man is seen in the video running up and helping the arresting officer. The Highway Patrol statement described that man as an off-duty police officer who helped the Highway Patrol officer put handcuffs on the woman.

Reuters

Perez apologizes for joke about women drivers



Force India Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico talks to members of the media ahead of the British Grand Prix at the Silverstone Race Circuit, central England, on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

SILVERSTONE, (England), 6 July — Mexican Formula One driver Sergio Perez has apologized to Williams test driver Susie Wolff after a joke about women racers backfired on him. Wolff, who in Friday practice with Williams at the British Grand Prix became the first woman in 22 years to take part in a Formula One weekend, made clear there were no hard feelings.

Interviewed by Spanish television, Perez had hailed Wolff as a great driver but then added jokingly that he would not want to be beaten by a female team mate and felt they would be better off in the kitchen.

The remarks flared up on social media and Perez subsequently put a message on Instagram apologizing “with all my heart” to all women and Wolff in particular.

“It was never my intention to offend anyone,” he said.

The Mexican also explained to his Twitter followers that “I never at any moment spoke badly of Susie. On the contrary, I have a very good relationship with her and admire her for being here.”

Wolff, an experienced racer and the wife of Mercedes motorsport head Toto, defended the Force India driver — even if she could not resist a little dig in his direction.

“Saw some comments made by @SChecoPerez as I was making dinner in the kitchen last night...Please give him a break...,” she Tweeted on Saturday.

“His comments were taken completely out of context. Anyway, as my family will tell you, I drive better than I cook!”

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(7-7-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:35 am
- * Teleplay
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * Documentary
- 9:30 am
- * Cartoon Series
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:15 am
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 12:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- * Myanmar Movie
- 2:40 pm
- * Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:40 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:00 pm
- * News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- * Traditional Boxing
- 7:25 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Documentary
- * Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-7-14 07:00 am~
8-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made: Products of Myanmar “Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar”
- * World News
- * Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
- * Local News
- * Pa-O in the Union
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review “The Giggles”
- * Local News
- * A Day Tour on A Cart (Bagan Trip)
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- * Local News
- * Black Gold
- * World News
- * “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Myanmar’s Secret Beautifier

My dream of being a champion isn’t over, says Neymar

SAO PAULO, 6 July — Injured Brazil forward Neymar thanked fans for their support on Saturday

and said his team mates will do everything to keep his dream of winning the World Cup alive.

“My dream isn’t over. It was interrupted by a play but it continues,” Neymar, who has been ruled out of

the rest of the tournament with a fractured vertebra, said in a video released by the Brazilian Soccer Federation.

“I’m certain that my team mates will do everything possible so that my dream, which is to be a champion, comes true.

“My dream was also to play in a World Cup final but this time it didn’t work out,” the 22-year-old said, his voice cracking with emotion.

“But God willing, they’re going to win this, they’re going to be champions, and I’m going to be by their side, with them. And all us Brazilians are going to be celebrating.”

Neymar, who scored four goals in the tournament, suffered the back

injury during Friday’s 2-1 quarter-final win over Colombia. Brazil will play Germany in the semi-finals on Tuesday in Belo Horizonte.

Globo TV, the country’s most popular network, broadcast Neymar’s message during a live variety show on Saturday. The crowd gave it a standing ovation and many were in tears.

Neymar was strapped to a stretcher on Saturday when he was loaded into a helicopter to fly from the team’s training base to his home on the coast near Sao Paulo.

But he was sitting and appeared to be comfortable in the video, and Brazil’s team doctor said Neymar might be able to attend

Tuesday’s match as a fan.

“It will all depend on his pain,” Jose Luiz Runco told reporters.

“If he’s without pain and comfortable, nothing is forbidden and nothing will compromise his recovery. He just has to be seated, and comfortable with airplane travel.”

Runco said recovery should be complete within 45 days, and that Neymar would be able to sit and walk in the meantime.

Several dozen fans gathered outside the forward’s home in Guarujá to welcome him back, many carrying signs that said “Strength, Neymar.”

His father came outside and applauded, giving the crowd a thumbs-up.

Reuters



Injured Brazilian national soccer team player Neymar waits to be airlifted home from Brazil’s training camp in Teresopolis, near Rio de Janeiro, on 5 July, 2014.

REUTERS

Grassroots Football Festival held in Yangon



YANGON, 6 July — An opening ceremony of a grassroots football festival took place on Sunday at Thuwunna Football Ground in Yangon, with an addresses by Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint and President of the Myanmar Football Federation-MFF U Zaw Zaw.

200 players were taking part in the festival, with players from Yangon East District (A) playing a

match.

An official said that the football matches of Yangon East District (B) will be held on 27 July, Yangon West District (A) on 3 August, Yangon West District (B) on 17 August, Yangon South District on 7 September and Yangon North District on 21 September.

The festival was jointly organized by the MFF and No. 3 Basic Education Department.—*Pho Thaw Zin, Photo: Soe Nyunt*

Brutal Kvitova stamps authority on Canadian upstart

LONDON, 6 July — After delivering a final devastating blow, Petra Kvitova lay sprawled on the turf, her arms raised in celebration having crushed tennis's would-be princess in a Wimbledon final closer to a coronation than a contest.

It took just 55 minutes of thundering forehands and savage serves to hand the Czech a second All England Club title and leave her unwilling victim Eugenie Bouchard licking the wounds of a 6-3, 6-0 mauling.

The manner of her victory was unremorsefully brutal. A lesson in the art of modern women's tennis delivered with such force and conviction it merely begged the question how it had taken the Czech three years to follow up her last success in SW19.

The final point encapsulated the contest — a



Eugenie Bouchard (L) of Canada holds the runner up trophy after being defeated by Petra Kvitova (R) of Czech Republic, holding the winner's trophy, the Venus Rosewater Dish, at their women's singles final tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on 5 July, 2014. —REUTERS

fierce crosscourt winner that left Bouchard stretching in vain to get her racket on the ball and Kvitova to accept the Venus Rosewater dish and the applause of an awe-struck, if slightly disappointed crowd.

Falling just one minute short of Martina

Navratilova's 1983 record for the fastest women's final victory, this was a performance so good it had Saturday's champion reaching into the supernatural realm for an explanation.

"Maybe it was magic," she quipped.

"I was really prepared for everything. I knew I had to go for every, every shot that she played."

The pre-match narrative pitched the encounter as a battle between Bouchard's youthful arrogance and Kvitova's instinctive wariness, drummed into her after repeatedly struggling to follow up her early success.

The Canadian had welcomed comparisons with multiple major winner Maria Sharapova and with remarkable self-assurance for a 20-year-old used words such as "expect" and "belong" after reaching the final.

Bouchard was named by her parents after the Queen's grand-daughter, who was watching from the Royal Box, and she freely admits to a princess personality, but she was soundly beaten by a truly regal display.—*Reuters*

Dutch keeper Krul a shootout hero, Argentina await

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 July — The Netherlands survived a nerve-wracking penalty shootout against Costa Rica on Saturday, with substitute goalkeeper Tim Krul the unlikely hero, to set up a World Cup semi-final against Argentina after the South Americans beat Belgium 1-0.

While the Netherlands and Argentina savoured their progress to the last four, hosts Brazil were still coming to terms with the news that star forward Neymar will miss the rest of the tournament due to a broken vertebra in his back.

The news prompted bookmakers to install Brazil's semi-final opponents Germany as the new favourites to win the title.

In Salvador, Krul was brought on specifically for the shootout at the Fonte Nova Arena after the teams finished extra time locked at 0-0.

Diving full length to his left, Krul saved from Bryan Ruiz and Michael Umana as the Netherlands triumphed 4-3 to end the fairytale run of tiny Costa Rica, who had defied the odds just to make the quarter-finals for the first time.

"What we did on the

pitch, what we showed to the world, I think that is crucial," said Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

"We are not a big power but we demonstrated things, we are leaving very proud."

The Dutch, who have never won the World Cup but reached three finals, including the last one in Johannesburg four years ago, play Argentina in Sao Paulo on Wednesday in one of two classic match-ups between South American and European powerhouses.

Germany will tackle Brazil in Belo Horizonte a day earlier.

Argentina reached the semi-finals for the first time in 24 years thanks to a brilliant eighth-minute goal by striker Gonzalo Higuain at the Brasilia national stadium.

Higuain's instinctive turn and shot flew into the Belgian net after the ball reached him via a deflection off defender Jan Vertonghen in what proved to be the only goal of a match dominated by watertight defence.

"We gave our all, it's a World Cup, it doesn't happen every day," Higuain said. "Now we have to think about the next game. There are two matches left

to achieve this beautiful dream."

Higuain grazed the crossbar with another powerful strike in the second half while Lionel Messi, who teased and tormented the Belgians with his wizardry, blasted the ball straight at Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois when he broke free in stoppage time. Argentina, World Cup champions in 1978 and 1986, spent much of the game defending as a frustrated Belgium struggled to cut out clear chances though Kevin Mirallas and Marouane Fellaini both went close with headers.



Goalkeeper Tim Krul (C) of the Netherlands celebrates with team mates after winning their penalty shootout in their 2014 World Cup quarter-finals at the Fonte Nova arena in Salvador on 5 July, 2014. —REUTERS

"We were not impressed by the Argentines, absolutely not, it's just an ordinary team," Belgium coach Marc Wilmots growled. "Messi is the star player, he never loses the

ball but he made a couple of tackles and fouls, the referee is never against him, every time there was a little foul it was almost always in favour of Argentina."

Reuters



Belgium's Vincent Kompany fights for the ball with Argentina's Lionel Messi during their 2014 World Cup quarter-finals at the Brasilia national stadium in Brasilia on 5 July, 2014. —REUTERS

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
Semi-finals			
 Match-61 Brazil	2:30 MST (9.7.2014)	 Germany	
Match-62 Netherlands	2:30 MST (10.7.2014)	 Argentina	
World Cup 2014 Results			
Match 60	Argentina	1 - 0	Belgium
Match 59	Netherlands	0(4) - 0(3)	Costa Rica
Penalties			