

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets villagers in Lashio

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

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

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

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

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

The damage bill was highest in An Township, which incurred nearly K1.4 billion worth of losses.

A delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing



Skilled workers and engineers of Special Road Group No 18 repair damaged bridge on Taungup-Kyaukpyu road.—MNA

Win started relief efforts on 30 June, delivering K20 million worth of aids to flood victims in three townships.

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

MNA

SMBC scholarship offers Japan internships for university students

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 9 July — Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation launched a scholarship programme Thursday at the Yangon

University of Economics under which 10 local students will undertake a two-week internship in Japan.

Third-year students from the University of Yan-

gon University of Foreign Languages will be eligible for the program, with scholarship winners also receiving US \$1,000 per year.

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Myanmar ratifies Chemical Weapons Convention

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July —The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its press release, said “Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin addressed the 79th session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons-OPCW held in The Hague, the Netherlands on July 9, 2015.

In his address, the Union Minister congratulated the Organization for having destroyed 90 per cent of the world’s declared Chemical Weapons stockpiles and its well-deserved 2013 Noble Peace Prize. Turning to Myanmar’s reform efforts,

he said that since taking the state responsibility in March 2011, the Government has been undertaking political and socio-economic reforms. He also said that domestic legal framework was reviewed to bring it into line with State Constitution and international norms and efforts were made to become a state party to human rights and disarmament instruments. As a result, Myanmar signed a Protocol Additional with International Atomic Energy for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Since 1995, a resolution

on Nuclear Disarmament has been tabled and adopted annually at the United Nations General Assembly. He went on to say that Myanmar ratified the Biological Weapons Convention on December 1, 2014. As a manifestation of success in Myanmar’s reform, progress has been achieved in the political and socio-economic life of the people as well as disarmament issues.

He also mentioned that in connection with the Chemical Weapons Convention-CWC, a series of workshops on awareness-raising and technical

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Naing Myint, Pro-Rector (Academics) at the National University of Cultural and Fine Arts (Yangon) as rector of the university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

UEC allows registration of two political parties

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — The Union Election Commission Thursday announced that Zo Ethnic Region Development Party headquartered at No 150, 5th floor (A), Sangyoung Street, Shin Saw Pu Ward, Myenigon, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register as a political party with registration number 94 and National Development Party headquartered at Room No. 204, Building C, Myintha Housing Project, Ward 14, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region with registration number 95 as of 9 July 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

MNA

Scholarship winner hopes to improve country's science sector

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 July — A University of Yangon student with a passion for physics on Thursday became the latest Myanmar recipient of the prestigious Singapore Scholarship, and will begin fulltime studies in the leading ASEAN economy next month.

Ma Win Shwe Sin Oo, 18, is currently a second-year student at YU. She will leave for Singapore on 27 July to study a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physics/Applied Physics, at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

She aims to one day pursue an academic career in Myanmar and hopes to improve the level of science education in the country. "I want to be a professor specialized in

physics and wish to share my knowledge with local young people, as Myanmar's science sector is still weak," she said.

Ma Win Shwe Sin Oo became the 24th scholar from Myanmar to be awarded the Singapore Scholarship.

The Scholarship is fully funded by the Singapore government and covers tuition fees, return air fares, accommodation and a living allowance of SG \$4,300 per annum.

Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua said the programme is open to students from all nine ASEAN countries outside Singapore. Each year, the Singaporean government chooses 20 to 25 winners.

GNLM



Ma Win Shwe Sin Oo receives scholarship award from Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates extension of retirement age

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heard vigorous debate Thursday from MPs arguing for and against extending the retirement age for civil servants from the current 60 years.

Fourteen representatives discussed two separate proposals on the issue — one seeking to keep the retirement age at 60 and the other pushing to raise it to 63.

U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw constituency supported maintaining the status quo, while Lt-Col Hlaing Win, representative of defence services, spoke

in favour of raising the age, arguing civil servants aged 60 and above with rich experience would contribute a lot to the country, provided they were healthy enough to continue working.

U Htan Lain of Mintut constituency was against the proposed extension, saying it could become a barrier to promotion for subordinates. In a similar vein, U Sai Than Naing of Phapun constituency said extension of the retirement age would fuel the unemployment problem.

U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, said the

issue had undeniable pros and cons, but hinted that the board would extend the retirement age if it was deemed to be in the interests of the country and civil workforce.

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

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



U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil

Services Board.—MNA border areas and national races. Also put on record were issues related to reformation of village-tracts in Rakhine State, Shan State, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region.—MNA

Tatmadaw combs areas of Asia Highway



Tatmadaw columns combing areas of armed forces members along New Ashia Highway in Kawkaik Township.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — Myawady-Kawkaik section of Asia Highway was scheduled to commission in July, but Tatmadaw columns have to clear the areas of armed forces members who forcefully collect-

ed money from the people.

Myawady-Kawkaik New Asia Highway was built with the aims of contributing to flow of commodity in border areas, development of border areas and promotion of links

between regional countries and tourism by the union government, the region government and a neighbouring government.

As small armed groups led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung, breakaway fac-

tions of KKO built tax collection centres on the road and collected money from the people, regional government and authorities had to warn them and to leave the road many times. Fighting broke out on 2 July as they refused to withdraw and started fighting at Tatmadaw members who were clearing the area.

During the fighting, the small armed groups shot a heavy weapon fire at the basic education high school in Chaungtaung Village and set two buildings on fire in rubber plantation of the Ministry of Industry on 7 July. On 8 July, they fired heavy weapon shots into downtown Kawkaik.

The Tatmadaw, together with border guards, fought against them 29 times until 9 July and successfully cleared the former Myawady-Kawkaik road and the new Asia Highway this afternoon.—Myawady

KBZ receives two banking awards in Singapore



Executive Director Daw Nang Kham Nawnt of KBZ Bank accepts Best Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2015 and Best Credit Card Initiative of the Year in Myanmar 2015.—MNA

SINGAPORE, 9 July — Kanbawza Bank Ltd won two categories Wednesday at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards in Singapore.

The bank was awarded Best Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2015 and Best Credit Card Initiative of the Year in Myanmar 2015.

Executive Director Daw Nang Kham Nawnt accepted both awards on behalf of the bank.

Kanbawza Bank Ltd

has 330 branches across the nation with more than 14,000 staff and has plans for a further 400 branches, the bank said.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets villagers in Lashio



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views progress of Htinyu Myaing (Pine Villa) Urban Development Housing Complex in Lashio.—IPRD

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

puter Science (Lashio).

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

government's term.

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

ernment in Lashio yesterday. Village administrators and officials reported to the vice president on education, water supply, electricity and transportation requirements.

The vice president and

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

In the afternoon, the vice president and party visited Cherry Myaing De-

velopment Project and Htinyu Myaing (Pine Villa) Urban Development Housing Complex.

The vice president urged officials to complete the projects ahead of schedule. — MNA

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

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

They discussed sustaining good results from the Senior Staff Talk, regional peace cooperation, and further coordination between

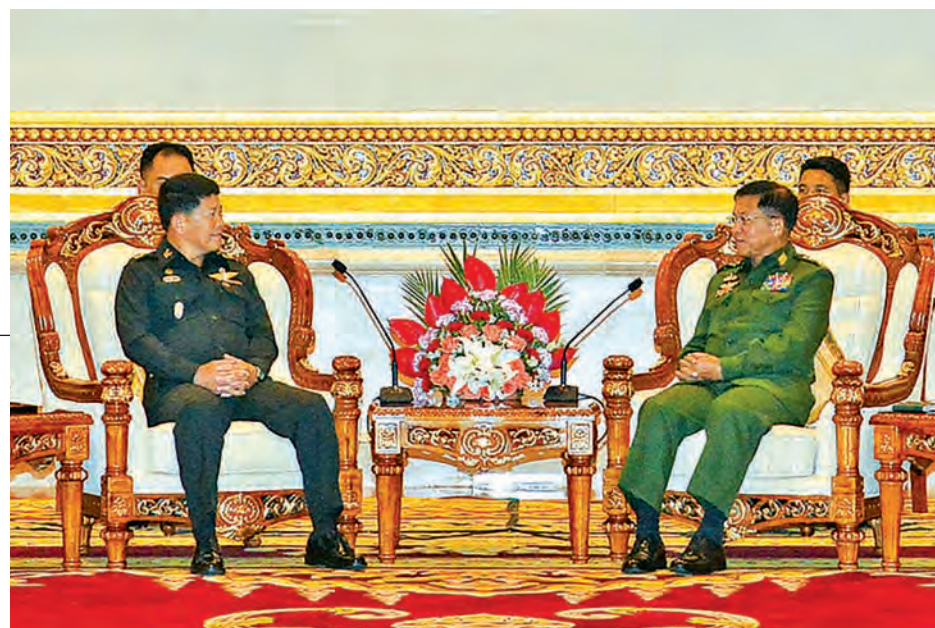
the armed forces of the two countries in combating drug trafficking and responding to the boat people situation.

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

The Director of Joint

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

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Lt-Gen Wanlop Rugsanaoh, Director of Joint Operations of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.
MYAWADY



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

MNA

Myanmar ratifies Chemical...

(from page 1)

workshops on all stakeholders to require comprehensive understanding of the implementation processes were conducted in Myanmar in preparation for ratifying the Convention and that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has unanimously approved for the ratification of the Convention. He added that My-

anmar signed the CWC on January 14, 1993, the day after its opening for signature, however, it took time for Myanmar to ratify it because of domestic priorities and capacity constraint. In concluding, he announced that Myanmar has deposited the instrument of ratification on July 8, 2015 in New York and proud to become

ing a State Party to it and also that Myanmar will join hands in making the world free of chemical weapons.

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

By ratifying the treaty, Myanmar joins the mainstream of international standards, commits to the principles and ideals of disarmament and enhances

confidence-building among nations. Such actions will further project the image of the country and will be able to stand tall.

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

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

SMBC President Mr Takeshi Kunibe poses for photo together with students.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

SMBC scholarship offers Japan...

(from page 1)

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

Mr Kunibe presented a plaque to the rectors of the respective

launch of the programme.

SMBC is also planning a separate internship programme at its Yangon branch, as well as a capacity building programme for teachers in Myanmar, according to a press release from the bank.

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



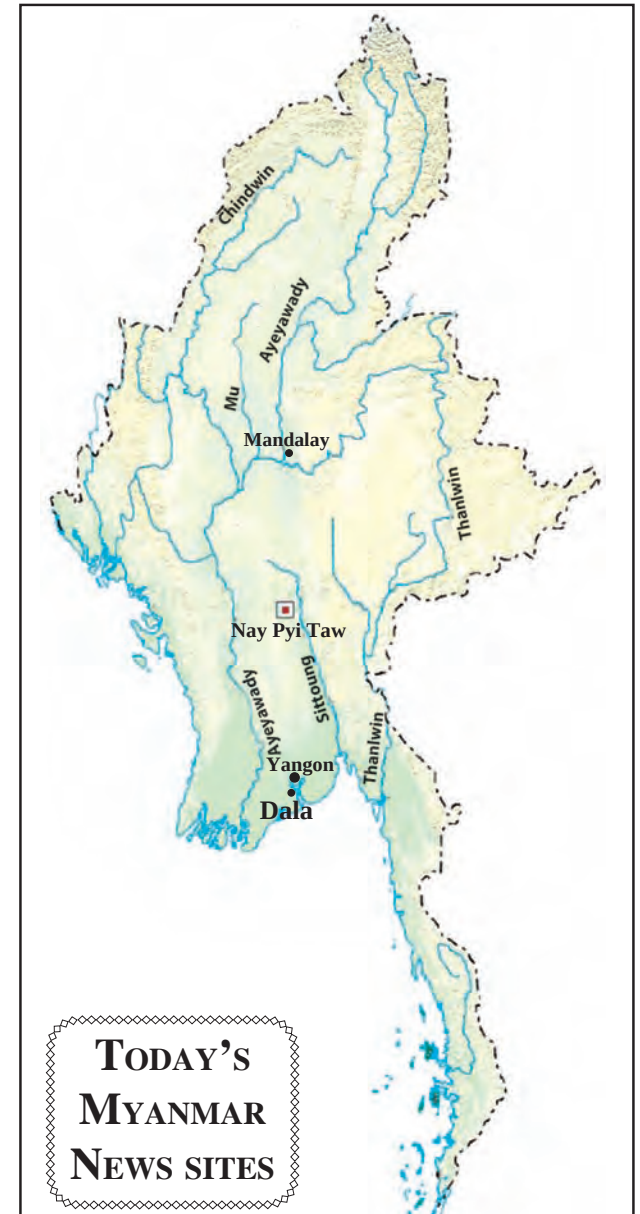
Jetties reinstalled at storm-hit Dala port

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

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

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

Than Htay
(Dala)



Myanmar firm partners with Hitachi to produce transformers



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

for the domestic and ASEAN markets.

The firms will cooperate in design, production, sales, installation, maintenance and market research.

Soe Electric & Machinery Managing Direc-

tor U Kyaw Min Tun said, “Thanks to cooperation with Hitachi Industrial Equipment Systems Co., Ltd., Myanmar technicians will have advanced technologies, experience and job opportunities.”

“At present, we manufacture transformers, accounting for 20 percent of local demand,” U Kyaw Min Tun said. “In cooperation with Hitachi, we can beef up production.”

The joint venture, Hitachi Soe Electric & Machinery Co., Ltd., will be established with US \$45 million in capital and more than 400 technicians. The

firms signed an agreement on supply of electricity, creation of designs for the products, manufacturing, sales, installation and maintenance at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 7 July.

The company plans to start operation next March.
Kyemon-001

New rules ease parking dilemma for freight truck drivers

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

To make life easier for the drivers, the Myanmar Highway Cargo Transport Entrepreneurs Association is allowing stationary vehicles on some roads in the cargo terminal compound



of Bayintnaung Brokerage, said Ko Aung Zaw of Delta Region Cargo Truck Terminal.

A total of 115 vehicles are permitted be stationed

from July to October on Kyun Shwewah Road, the circular road of the brokerage, Yegyichaung circular road, Ingyin Road and Yinmar Road.—Khin Hsaing

1st Myanmar Financial Inclusion Conference set for 2 Aug

YANGON, 9 July — The Myanmar Institute of Finance will hold the inaugural Myanmar Financial Inclusion Conference at the National Theatre, here, on 2 August.

It will be attended by economic adviser to the

President Dr Aung Tun Thet, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, officials and processors to discuss financing for small-to-medium enterprises, insur-

ance, the state economy, and the stock exchange.

Members of the public may attend the conference free of charge by registering at <http://mfic2015.wufoo.com/forms/mg5x-n281dx8rwv/> or calling 09-254052195.—Kyemon



Water supply project for Thilawa SEZ, townships nears completion

YANGON, 9 July — The Lagunbyin water supply project, which aims to distribute 40 million gallons a day to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and six Yangon townships, is now 90-percent complete, the Yangon City Development Committee said.

New infrastructure, including channels, wells and an electric sub-station, will

carry water from Lagunbyin Dam in Helgu region to the four Dagon Myothit townships, Thakayta and Dawbon townships, and the SEZ. A resident from Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township said those living in new townships face a range of difficulties. “If we get water from the project, we can overcome one of those difficulties,” he said.

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

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

Kyemon-001

China, Laos pledge closer military ties



Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan (L) and visiting Lao Defence Minister Sengnuan Saiyalath inspect the guards of honour before their talks in Beijing, capital of China on 8 July, 2015.
XINHUA

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

With long-standing solidarity and friendship between the two countries and militaries and their fruitful cooperation in various fields, China and Laos are good neighbours, friends, comrades and part-

ners, said Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission.

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

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

“Laos is willing to

learn from China’s experiences in army building and further strengthen bilateral friendship and military relations,” Sengnuan said.

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

Chang noted that it is the common aspiration and responsibility of both two sides to consolidate

and deepen their traditional friendship, which was jointly nurtured by the two countries’ founding fathers.

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

Xinhua

Malaysia govt audit finds nothing suspicious in 1MDB probe



Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks at a presentation for government interns at the Prime Minister’s office in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 8 July, 2015.
REUTERS

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

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

“There is nothing suspicious in the interim re-

port,” said Nur Jazlan Mohamed, head of the PAC, a group tasked to examine government accounts.

“1MDB is not fully cooperating with the auditor-general,” Jazlan told a news conference.

1MDB, with debts of over \$11 billion, is being probed by authorities for financial mismanagement and graft.

The firm is an entity of the country’s finance ministry, and Prime Minister Najib Razak chairs its advisory board.

Last week the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ), citing documents from a government probe, reported that Najib had close to \$700 million in deposits from 1MDB wired into his personal account.

Reuters have not verified the WSJ report.

Najib has denied taking some \$700 million for his personal gain while 1MDB said the allegations were “unsubstantiated”.

On Wednesday, police raided 1MDB’s office to collect materials for its ongoing investigations. Meanwhile Najib is currently weighing his legal options against the *Journal*.

Reuters

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

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

The delay in fund disbursements, which represents around 13 percent of the national budget, is contributing to the worst slowdown in Southeast Asia’s largest economy since 2009. Only 1 percent of the 250 trillion rupiah (\$18.75 billion) allotted to

regencies and cities from the national government in this year’s budget has been spent, Coordinating Minister for Economics Sofyan Djalil said on Thursday.

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

Sluggish government spending, particularly on infrastructure projects, has prevented a rebound in Indonesia’s economy, which

is expected to have stayed below 5 percent in Q2 for the second straight quarter.

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

The central bank forecast growth to reach the higher end of its 5-5.4 percent target this year if the government was able to speed up spending.

Indonesia’s more than 500 local government have on average spent only around 25 percent of their regional budgets in the

first half of this year, said Reydonnyzar Moenoek, director general of regional finance at the home affairs ministry.

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

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

Vietnam needing 4 bln USD for Mekong Delta infrastructure

HO CHI MINH CITY, 9 July — The Vietnamese Transport Ministry has estimated the Mekong Delta would need around 87 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 4 billion US dollars) in the 2016-2020 period to invest in important infrastructure projects, local newspaper *Saigon Time Daily* reported on Thursday.

The ministry said in its recent report that 64 trillion Vietnamese dong of the total funding would

go to road projects, 6.5 trillion Vietnamese dong to waterway developments and 1.5 trillion Vietnamese dong to aviation facilities.

Hefty funding is being sought for construction of My Thuan-Can Tho expressway, Dai Ngai bridge linking Tra Vinh and Soc Trang provinces, the second phase of a coastal road in the delta’s southern part as well as upgrade and widening of national highways.

Xinhua

India to induct home-made air defence system on Friday

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

“The induction of the Akash Air Defence System will be done by Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at Gwalior in the central state of Madhya

Pradesh,” the sources said.

In the first phase, eight squadrons — each consisting of two firing units with four launchers — is likely to be deployed at Air Force

bases in Gwalior, and four other places, they said.

The missile system, developed by the state-owned Defence Research and Development Organ-

ization, is capable of targeting enemy aircraft and missiles up to 30 kms away, at an altitude of 18,000 metres.

Xinhua

Chinese premier again blasts lazy officials as corrupt

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

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

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

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

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

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



Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang

The investigation team had such success that this system should be made permanent and results made public, Li said.

"We must publicise examples of irresponsibility," he added.

To support the economy, China's central bank cut its lending rates for the fourth time in seven months in June, and lowered the amount of cash that some banks must keep as reserves.

But the easier supply of credit has not visibly boosted China's real economy as firms that need the money the most, such as small businesses, are still encumbered by prohibitively costly bank loans.

Most analysts believe China could lower rates yet again, alongside further reductions to the reserve requirement ratio to ensure the economy grows by about 7 percent for the full year, as targeted by the government.

The government is due to release second-quarter gross domestic product data on 15 July and many economists expect growth to dip below 7 percent, which would be the weakest performance since the global financial crisis.—Reuters

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

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

with North Korea, said in a statement.

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

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

North's counterpart.

The statement was issued a day after North Korea demanded the repatriation of all five fishermen and threatened to take "stern actions" if the South refuses to do so, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

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



Venezuela's Vice President Jorge Arreaza (centre L) attends a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the graduation of late president Hugo Chavez from the Military Academy, with daughter of Chavez, Rosa Virginia Chavez (centre R), in Caracas, Venezuela, on 8 July, 2015. Venezuela's Vice President Jorge Arreaza took part in the ceremony on Wednesday and stressed the importance of the civic-military alliance sown by Chavez, according to local press.—XINHUA

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

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

Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae noted a recent agreement with South Korea that led to the registration as a UN World Cul-

tural Heritage of Japanese sites to commemorate the country's industrial revolution in the Meiji Era which began in the late 1800s.

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

The two envoys' participation at the event organized by The Heritage

Foundation think tank came amid US urging that the two countries, both close American security allies, mend fences by settling long-standing disputes over wartime history as well as a territorial row.

South Korea had opposed adding the Japanese sites to the World Heritage list, saying Koreans had been forced to work at seven of the sites when the Korean Peninsula was un-

der Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945. But South Korea withdrew its opposition after Japan acknowledged that a large number of Korean and other people "were brought against their will and were forced to work under severe conditions."

South Korean Ambassador Ahn Ho Young said the two governments should maintain "the good momentum which was cre-

ated" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of normalizing bilateral ties.

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

Ahn did not elaborate but was apparently referring to differences on history-related issues including women from the peninsula who were forced to work at wartime Japanese military

brothels. The women are euphemistically called in Japan "comfort women."

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

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

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

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

Acting Greens leader Senator Scott Ludlam said the biannual Australian and US "Talisman Sabre" war games were not about defending a country from an invasion, but practicing

"expeditionary wars and invasions." For the first time the Japanese military is taking part in Talisman Sabre which involves all defense forces, and Ludlam said it was sending the wrong message to neighbours.

"Most people join the ADF (Australian Defence Force) expecting that they're there for the defence of Australian territory," he told reporters at a peace conference in Brisbane on Thursday. "That's not what

they are training for, it's about landing on beaches and invading other people's countries."

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

"These war games I think are an unwelcome in-

crease in our integration not only with the United States but with Japan, where Japan has the most nationalist government that country has had since 1945," he said. Peace activists have already trespassed on the main Queensland Shoalwater Bay training area, with three being arrested in the live-ammunition training area on Wednesday.

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

Protesters attack Thai consulate in Istanbul over Uighur expulsions

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

China's treatment of its Turkic language-speaking Uighur minority is a sensitive issue in Turkey. Many

Turks see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious heritage with their Uighur "brothers" and Turkey is home to a large Uighur diaspora.

Thailand confirmed on Thursday that it had sent nearly 100 Uighurs back to China. Rights groups have expressed concern over Thailand's decision, fearing they could face ill-treatment and even torture.—Reuters

WORLD

Russia says Iran talks at their most difficult phase



Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov

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

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

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

European Commission to evaluate Greece's new bailout request

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

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

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

IMF chief Christine Lagarde recognized that Greece is "in a situation of acute crisis" but ruled out the possibility for now that her Washington-based multilateral lender could provide an additional loan to the financially troubled state. "The IMF has to follow its rules, should not bend the rules," the IMF managing director told an event in Washington on Wednesday. The IMF should always be even-handed and "there cannot be any special treatment," she added. On 20 July, Athens will have to pay 3.5 billion euros to the ECB. With the expiration of the aid programme, Greece imposed capital controls on its banks on 29 June.

Greece missed the deadline for repaying 1.6 billion euros in debts to the IMF on 30 June, becoming the first developed country to fall into arrears on payments to the IMF.—Kyodo News

US spy agency tapped German chancellery for decades — WikiLeaks

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

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

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

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

"The names associated with some of the targets indicate that spying on the Chancellery predates An-



Visitors walk in front of the Chancellery during the second day of an open door weekend of several ministries in Berlin. —REUTERS

gela Merkel as it includes staff of former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (in office 1998-2002), and his predecessor Helmut Kohl," WikiLeaks added in a statement.

No comment was immediately available from the German government.

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

advisers in 2011 on the euro zone crisis.

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

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

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

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

US Air Force leader sees Russia as 'biggest threat'

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

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

James said Washington was responding to Russia's recent "worrisome" actions by boosting its presence across Europe, and would continue rotational assignments of F-16 fighter squadrons.

"This is no time to in any way signal a lack of resolve in the face of these Russian actions," she said.

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



USAF ground support aircraft A-10 participates in the multinational NATO exercise Saber Strike in Adazi, Latvia, on 11 June, 2015.—REUTERS

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

The top Air Force civilian leader acknowledged that Europe was facing difficult immigration and economic challenges at the moment, but said the NATO military alliance and associated

commitments should be a clear priority. Britain on Wednesday said it would commit to the 2 percent spending pledge for the next five years, which will raise the number of NATO allies meeting the spending goal to five in 2015.

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

launches, James said.

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

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

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

She said the service was cataloguing weapons and IT systems to detect any possible vulnerabilities, while also working to set up 39 cyber security teams around the country.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 July, 2015

Public trust is crucial issue for winning election

By Kyaw Thura

Five years have passed since the previous general election organized by the military government. Myanmar will have its first ever general election on 8 November under a democratic government, according to an announcement by the Union Election Commission on 8 July.

With the passage of time, the electorate has

become convinced that elections can deliver a legitimate and democratically elected government that is responsive and accountable to their needs. In addition, free and fair elections play a vital role in fostering political openness and expanding political participation, two factors that can help peaceful, democratic transformation to take place and assure stability and prosperity.

Naturally, there is no person who does not want to lead a comfortable life. For their dreams to come true, development is the name of the game. There is no doubt that critical development efforts will not meet with success if the government fails to concentrate on advancing democratization and encouraging political liberalization.

An important point to remember is that no government will ever come up with a panacea for outstanding issues. People do, however, expect a government that shows respect for human rights

and the rule of law, assures the equal administration of justice, and improves standards of living in a sustainable way.

In no sense can a country be a genuine democracy unless its citizens enjoy the right to choose their representatives through free and fair elections which can be a beacon of hope for finding their own destiny.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

A Brief Introduction to Health Care of India

By Sayar Mya

The author of the article had served as a Myanmar diplomat in the Republic of India for a number of years and had travelled to some states. With the backdrop of 1.252 billion (2013) population in that nation, the planning and implementation of health care programs are quite interesting.

India is a federal union of states comprising twenty-nine states and seven union territories. The states and union territories are further subdivided into districts and more into smaller administrative divisions.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is an Indian government ministry charged with health policy in India. It is also responsible for all government programs relating to family planning in India.

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare holds cabinet rank as a member of the Council of Ministers. The Ministry regularly publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia since 1955 through Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) an autonomous body under the ministry for setting of standards for drugs, pharmaceuticals and healthcare devices and technologies in India.

Composition

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

Department of Health

The Department of

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

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

Department of Family Welfare

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

- 18 Population Research Centers (PRCs) at six universities and six other institutions across 17 states
- National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW),

South Delhi

- International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai
- Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi; (founded in 1911, it is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world).

Department of AYUSH

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

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

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

Health care is a state subject as per "The Constitution of India" within the federal set up of the nation,

consisting of a central government and individual state governments. It makes every state responsible for "raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties".

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

The private health sector is the dominant health care provider in both urban and rural Indian households as per nationwide surveys.

Provisions of Draft National Health Policy 2015

- The draft National Health Policy 2015 has proposed a target of raising public health expenditure to 2.5 % from the present 1.2% of GDP. It also notes that 40 % of this would need to come from central expenditure.
- The draft policy suggests in making health a fundamental right similar to education and that the denial of the same could be punishable. The Centre shall enact, after due discussion and on the request of three or more states a **National Health Rights Act**, which will ensure health as a fundamental right, whose denial will be justifiable.
- The draft policy has been placed in the public domain until 28 February 2015 for

public consultation. The new health policy is being introduced almost 13 years after the last health policy was drafted.

International covenants

The proposal for a **National Health Rights Act** comes after a debate on whether India should pass a Bill to make health a fundamental right as was done for education. "Many industrialized nations have laws that do so. Many of the developing nations that have made significant progress towards universal health coverage, such as Brazil and Thailand, have done so and therefore such a law is a major contributory factor for health care in India. A number of international covenants to which India is joint signatories give such a mandate, and this could be used to make a national law. Courts have also rulings that, in effect, see health care as a fundamental right, and a constitutional obligation flowing out of the right to life," the draft policy says.

Pointing out that there has been a 10-year discussion on this issue but "without a resolution," the draft popped up questions whether India has reached the level of development in economic and health systems to make this a justiciable right on health care, implying that its denial is an offence.

The **draft National Health Policy 2015** proposes that "the Center shall enact, after due discussion and on the request of three or more States using the same legal clause as used for the Clinical Establishments Bill, a National Health Rights Act, which

will make in ensuring health as a fundamental right."

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

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

Potentially achievable

However, given that the previous National Health Policy 2002, the target of 2 per cent of the GDP was not met. In recent time, taking into account the financial capacity of the country to provide this amount and the institutional capacity to utilize the increased funding in an effective manner, this new policy proposes a potentially achievable target of raising public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the GDP.

"It also notes that 40 per cent of this health expenditure would need to come from Central expenditures. At current prices, a target of 2.5 per cent of the GDP translates to Rs. 3,800 per capita, representing an almost four-fold increase in five years. Thus, a longer time frame may be appropriate to even reach this modest target," the policy notes.

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Monywa apartment complex set for completion in fiscal year

MONYWA, 9 July — A residential and commercial complex is under construction in Nandawun Ward, Monywa, through a public-private partnership,



the Sagaing Region Urban and Housing Development Department said.

The Nandawun housing complex, funded by region and union governments, is around 15-percent complete, the department said.

Prospective buyers can apply for apartments when the project reaches the halfway stage, it said.

Department Director U Shwe Win said construction companies and the region government would share the profits 30:70.

“In selling the apartments, priority will be given to retired service personnel, war veterans, workers with disabilities and families of fallen soldiers.”

The complex is sched-

Cement maker donates earthquake safety material

Kyaw The-ein
(MNA)

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

Dr. Hla Oo, Social Affairs Minister of Mon State and Mr. Wijit Terasarun, Managing Director of Mawlamyine Cement Limited, a subsidiary of SCG, spoke at a ceremony to present the materials.

SCG in June delivered earthquake safety and teaching materials to the Yangon Region Ministry of Education.

uled for completion within the fiscal year. The development will include at least 22 apartment buildings including retail spaces.

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

A Brief Introduction to...

(from page 8)

The Indian government's **draft National Health Policy 2015** clearly articulates its goals and principles going forward, which is a laudable departure from previous policy pronouncements. It is very candid in its acceptance of the failures of past health initiatives, but does not identify the reasons for such failure. By failing to do so, the solutions offered for existing problems seem to be an effort to patch up over the past oversights, rather than straight forward policy actions that can achieve future progress.

The policy explicitly talks of the difficulties in enhancing public expenditure on healthcare, and prefers to limit its expectations to a modest 2.5% of the GDP. But no country in the world has achieved universal health coverage with such low levels of investment in health care and the policy overlooks that sphere. No policy actions can work and go ahead without appropriate fiscal allocation and this is where the policy does not meet the identified gaps in healthcare provision.

Moreover, the policy seeks to garner additional resources for health through a health “cess” (assessment or tax being collected and exclusively earmarked for health care) and “sin” taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and other products—and this is regressive. The universal

health “cess” will not be equitable and reasonable, as those at the lower ends of the income quintiles (one of five equal groups at the lowest) will pay a higher proportion of their incomes when compared to those at higher income levels, which is morally unacceptable.

The policy looks towards market driven expansion to meet the workforce needs for providing comprehensive primary health care. Yet, unfortunately, the very same market forces have failed so far to provide even rudimentary primary health care.

The draft policy has recognized the relevance of medical technologies for a strong and robust health care delivery system, but it has placed medical devices within the legal framework of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, making conceptually different from drugs. This does a disfavor to the medical devices industry, and also to end users who will not have the protection of effective regulations for devices.

The policy proposes to make health care “affordable” instead of “universal”. It does not recognize or enact two essential principles necessary for universal health care access in a federal system: **solidarity** and **portability**. The principle of **solidarity** provides the moral basis for making care available for those who are not always able to pay. The principle of **portability** en-

ables citizens to have the right to health care across all the states of the country, which is very important in a federal political system. By failing to make this policy jump from affordable to universal, the government abdicates on its responsibility towards securing equality of status and opportunity for its citizens.

Conclusion Still heading for Universal Health Coverage

Aditya Kalra of New Delhi recently reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked for a drastic cutback of an ambitious health care plan after cost estimates came in at \$18.5 billion over five years, delaying a promise made in his election manifesto, several government sources have commented.

Modi has had to make difficult choices to boost economic growth, his government's first full annual budget, announced in last week of February 2015, ramped up infrastructure spending, leaving less federal funding immediately available for social sectors.

In fact, the health ministry developed a draft policy on universal health care in coordination with the prime minister's office in 2014. The National Health Assurance Mission aims to provide free drugs, diagnostic services and insurance for serious ailments for India's 1.2 billion people.

Universal health care, sometimes referred to as **universal health coverage**, **universal coverage**, or **universal care**, usually refers

to a health care system which provides health care and financial protection to all citizens of a particular country.

PM Modi's manifesto ahead of the election that brought him to power last year accorded “high priority” to the health care sector and promised a universal health assurance plan. The manifesto said previous public health schemes that have been mired in payment delays recently had failed to meet the growing medical needs of public.

The health plan was drafted in consultation with the PM office and an expert panel, including an expert from the World Bank. The proposal included insurance to cover more expensive and serious ailments such as heart surgeries or organ failure.

The health ministry has originally proposed for rolling out the system from April 2015 and in October 2014 projected its cost as \$25.5 billion over four years. By the time the pro-

ject was presented to Modi in January 2015 the costs had been pared away to 1.16 trillion rupees (\$18.5 billion) over five years.

That was still too much. The programme was not approved; three health ministry officials and two other government sources told the media. Three officials said the health ministry has been asked to revamp the policy, but work is yet to start.

The PM has another four years left in his first term to fulfill the promise. India currently spends about 1 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on public health, but funds are not fully utilized. A health ministry vision document in December proposed to pull up for spending to 2.5 percent of GDP but did not specify a time period.

The Indian government in February 2015 kept its healthcare budget for 2015-16 on a tight leash and asked states to contribute more funds for running the country's flagship health care programmes.

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

The World Bank's Global Monitoring Report for 2014-15 on the **Millennium Development Goals** says India has been the biggest contributor to poverty reduction between 2008 and 2011, with around 140 million or so lifted out of absolute poverty. Since the early 1950s, Indian government initiated various schemes to help the poor attain self-sufficiency in food production.

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

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

Well, natural crops are organic, free from artificial chemicals.



Hmat Gyi (Aungpinle)

Islamic State supporters hack website of Syria rights watchdog

BEIRUT, 9 July — Purported supporters of the hardline Islamic State group hacked the website of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights watchdog on Wednesday and threatened its Syrian director who has documented abuses on all sides of Syria's war.

The Britain-based Observatory, which tracks the conflict using sources on the ground, took down its website after the online attack from a group calling itself "The Cyber Army of the Khilafah".

The cyber attackers had posted the face of Observatory director Rami Abdulrahman superimposed over a hostage wearing an orange jumpsuit and kneeling next to an Islamic State militant holding a knife, according to the SITE monitoring service.

Islamic State, which holds large tracts of northern and eastern Syria, has posted several videos showing captives in orange jumpsuits being beheaded, including journalists and aid workers.

"They are trying to stop us," Abdulrahman said by telephone, confirming the SITE report.

"When you work in human rights, you know you get such threats but never like that. It is a serious message."

The hackers also posted a message in English and Arabic using threatening and derogatory language in reference to the rights group, which is one of the most comprehensive observers of the war and a major source of information on the ground.

The Observatory has received letters, tweets and emails from Syrian government and jihadi supporters in the past threatening to kill them but this complex cyber attack was unprecedented, Abdulrahman said.

The cyber attack comes two days after Islamic State released a video which purported to show two young Syrian activists being killed with gunshots to the head in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, a jihadist stronghold.

The activists, dressed in orange jumpsuits, were accused of spying.—Reuters

Yemen critically short of food, fuel imports as war cuts supply lines

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

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

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

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



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

According to a humanitarian aid assessment compiled by the US Navy and obtained by Reuters, just 42 ships reached Yemen with goods in June compared with 100 in March.

Further data was not available. Before the crisis, the number of ships making calls to Yemen's major southern port of Aden alone averaged over 1,000 annu-

ally in recent years.

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

The report said imports into embattled Aden's terminals had halted almost

completely, with port calls by cargo, container ships and fuel tankers down over 75 percent between January and June versus the same period last year.

Aid agencies have called for an immediate humanitarian truce and warned that their efforts alone cannot meet Yemen's vast needs. More than half the population lacks prop-

er food, and commercial imports of fuel, food and medicine are "severely" below pre-crisis levels, the UN agency OCHA said on Wednesday.

"Whatever we bring ... is clearly not sufficient. What you need for Aden in particular and for the country as a whole is to resume commercial imports into the country. Whatever we do as humanitarian workers is only a fraction of what is actually needed," Antoine Grand, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yemen, said on Tuesday.

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

Over 3,000 people have died in the conflict.

Reuters

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



Syrian Kurds from Kobani wait behind the border fences to cross into Turkey as they are pictured from the Turkish border town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province, Turkey, on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

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

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

Most refugees from Syria's four years of war are in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey, which has more refugees than any other country, with 1.8 million Syrians.

A further 270,000 Syrians have asked for asylum in Europe and 7.6 million more are displaced within Syria.

"Worsening conditions are driving growing numbers towards Europe and further afield, but the overwhelming majority remain in the region," Guterres said. "We cannot afford to let them and the

communities hosting them slide further into desperation."

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

About 86 percent of the 630,000 in Jordan live below the poverty line of \$3.2 per day, the UNHCR statement said, while more than half of the 1.173 million Syrians in Lebanon live in sub-standard shelters.—Reuters

Syria ratifies fresh \$1 billion credit line from Iran

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

The agreement was between two state-owned

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

The new deal was signed on 19 May and approved by the Syrian parliament on Tuesday, SANA

said. The money would be used for funding imports of goods and commodities and implementing projects, it said, without giving details.

Teheran's financial aid has been seen as pivotal to the Syrian government and the economy, which has shrunk by more than a half in the four years since the conflict erupted, researchers say.

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

expressing support.

The earlier credit line was also used to purchase hundreds of millions of dollars of much-needed Iranian consumer products, from frozen chicken and sugar to electrical goods. They were offered in government-run retail outlets that contributed to stabilising prices and easing the hardships of ordinary Syrians, businessmen say.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

German exports post strongest monthly rise of the year



Van carriers transport containers at a shipping terminal in the harbour of Hamburg, on 9 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 9 July — German exports rose at their fastest pace this year in May, boosting expectations that Europe's largest economy will pull off stronger growth in the second quarter after expanding modestly in the first.

Seasonally-adjusted exports climbed by 1.7 percent on the month while imports increased by 0.4 percent, widening the trade surplus to 22.8 billion euros, data from the Federal Statistics Office showed on Thursday.

Singapore stocks close 0.54 pct lower

SINGAPORE, 9 July — Singapore stocks finished lower on Thursday, with the benchmark Straits Times Index (STI) down 17.59 points, or 0.54 percent, to close at 3,267.40.

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

Gainers outnumbered decliners 217 to 209, while 545 others finished unchanged.

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

Italy joins China's battle against lung cancer

BEIJING, 9 July — China will embrace Italy as its new partner in the uphill battle against lung cancer, with a focus on detecting the disease.

"This time our efforts will rest on capacity building work for lung and gynecological cancers prevention in less developed west China," said Qiao Youlin, a cancer epidemiologist with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, adding that in the past "we've been focusing on clinic work when it comes to cooperation."

The government health departments and companies of two countries will cooperate on screening, detection and treatment as well as home care or palliative care of lung and gynecological cancers.

As part of this programme, county-level medical workers in Chongqing will be given training on screening for breast, cervical and ovarian cancers. Zhou Qi, ex-director of Chongqing Cancer Centre, noted that the lack of quality early screening has meant that some patients have missed an opportunity to get cancer treatment early.

These patients usually had short post-treatment survival periods and left a heavy financial burden to their families.

Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer-related death among men and women in China, partially due to the poor survival rate. The five year survival rate of cancer in China is 30.9 percent for both male and female. According to Qiao, lower than

half of that of America. The situation is even worse in rural China, where the survival rate is 21.8 percent, compared to 39.5 percent in urban areas.

Figures newly released by the National Cancer Centre showed that there are approximately 650,000 new cases of lung cancer in China and that cancer claims 530,000 lives a year.

Globally, it estimates that there are 1.82 million new cases per year, and 1.59 million people will lose their lives to the disease.

The inability to provide quality early screening for cancer is the major fac-



tor behind the poor survival rate. This is particularly true in the economically disadvantaged western regions of China, Qiao said.

Lou Xiqu, a peasant in Wenjiang county on the skirts of Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan Province, is a heavy smoker, smoking pipe tobacco and cigarettes for about 40 years.

He is 65 years old and was diagnosed with lung cancer this year. He has had a couple of CT scans in the past, but these tests missed pre-cancerous changes in his lungs. Now the cancer is at an advanced stage. Zhou Qinghua, an internationally

acclaimed thoracic surgeon at the Lung Cancer Centre of West China Medical University, performed surgery on Lou. He survived. But, Zhou said his post-treatment times may not be as long as the patients whose cancers were detected at an early stage.

"The CT scan requires experienced radiologists, equipment as well as lots of fund to support nationwide lung cancer screening," said Zhou, adding result from randomized controlled demonstrated a 20 percent reduction of lung cancer mortality with annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan in specific

high-risk groups.

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

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

and cities, including southwestern Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, as well as Beijing and Tianjin municipalities.

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

Lung cancer is particularly a life-threatening disease as it tends to spread before it can be detected using simple imaging tests such as a chest x-rays. Zhou says, "The number of lives that surgery alone can save is limited, no matter how good you are as a thoracic surgeon. Therefore, LDCT as primary detection method is crucial. Surgery or chemotherapy, or radiotherapy is the last option."

The population is aging in China and the incidence rate of cancer increases as a consequence. Dr Ranieri Guerra, director general for Preventive Health with Italian Ministry of Health, warned that if "we don't invest in early detection efforts now, the health system worldwide will go bankrupt if it tries to keep pace."

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

"In other words, the health system will not be able to sustain the financially related costs for all patients. Only those who are rich will survive."

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

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

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

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

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

The Ebola epidemic, which has claimed more than 11,200 lives so far, took an exceptional toll on

health workers who were up to 30 times more likely to contract the disease than the general public because of the number of patients they treated, WHO found.

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

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

"Losing a nurse in a place like Liberia is very significant," said Ogbolu, a neonatal specialist who has trained nurses in Liberia and Nigeria. "They are



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

working in the absence of a physician and frequently have to work alone."

"It means there is no one to take care of a mother about to deliver a baby or someone who walks in with

malaria," she said.

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

Control and Prevention (CDC).

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

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

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

"There are various levels of protection health care providers must have when

they are dealing with potentially fatal diseases. Not just Ebola, but small pox or anthrax or any Category A biological agent," said Tener Goodwin Veenema, an associate professor at John Hopkins School of Nursing and an expert in disaster nursing and public health emergency preparedness.

"And the health care providers must be properly trained in how to 'don and doff' personal protective equipment," she said.

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

Reuters

Typhoon Linfa makes landfall in S China



Shenzhen-Shantou highway is temporarily closed as Typhoon Linfa sweeps Shantou, south China's Guangdong Province, on 9 July, 2015. Typhoon Linfa made landfall on Thursday in Guangdong, where trains have been suspended, schools closed and thousands of fishing boats recalled to port. —XINHUA

GUANGZHOU, 9 July — Typhoon Linfa made landfall on Thursday in south China's Guangdong Province, where trains have been suspended, schools closed and thousands of fishing boats recalled to port.

Linfa made landfall in Jiadong Township of Shanwei City at 12:15 pm, packing winds of up to 35 m per second, according to the provincial meteorological station.

From Wednesday night, gales and torrential rains hit Shantou City about 100 km away from the landing point. Trees in the city were brought down by strong winds while three main bridges to Shanwei City and an offshore island

county have all been closed as of Thursday morning.

With a complex route and changing intensity, Linfa was earlier expected to make landfall on the coastal regions stretching from Shantou City in Guangdong to Zhangpu City in Fujian Province.

About 10,400 fishing vessels returned to ports in five cities in Guangdong.

The province issued a yellow alert for Linfa on Wednesday, closing kindergartens, elementary and middle schools in 15 counties.

Meanwhile, another Typhoon, Chan-Hom, is approaching east China fast.

As of 11 am Thursday the centre of Chan-

Hom was located 1,000 km southeast to Wenzhou City of Zhejiang Province, packing winds up to 40 m per second. It moved 70 km northwest in the last three hours maintaining the intensity, according to Zhejiang Meteorological station.

Chan-Hom is expected to land in Zhejiang on late Friday night or Saturday morning as a super typhoon, according to the station.

All 7,672 fishing boats in Wenzhou City were called back to harbor as the city issued a yellow alert on Thursday morning. Torrential rains are expected in the city from Friday night to Saturday.

Zhejiang suspended its

direct shipping route to Taiwan on Thursday for safety reasons. Travellers who have bought the tickets can reschedule for free or get a full refund, according to the county government of Yuhuan. Railway authorities in the eastern city of Shanghai plan to suspend all passenger trains along the coast on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction and the Ministry of Civil Affairs urged Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shanghai and Zhejiang to set up dedicated teams to track the two typhoons and disseminate information.—Xinhua

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

KANAZAWA, (Japan) 9 July — A bunch of Ruby Roman table grapes fetched a record-high 1 million yen on Thursday in the year's first auction at a wholesale market in the central Japan city of Kanazawa, far surpassing the previous record of 550,000 yen logged last year.

Of the 31 Ruby Roman bunches auctioned off as a high-end variety developed by the Ishikawa prefectural government, the highest priced one comprising 30 grapes weighed approximately 700 grams, compared with an average of around 600 grams.

Masayuki Hirai, the executive chef at a hotel in Kanazawa that bought

the grapes via a wholesaler who submitted the winning bid on his behalf, said he plans to serve them as a dinner dessert.

"With the opening of the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train line, I was told to win the bidding at any cost," he said, suggesting a boom in the local tourism industry.

Ruby Roman grapes, developed by the prefecture to revive local farming, have red skins and a high sugar content of at least 18 percent, and each bunch must weigh at least 350 grams. Some grapes grow as large as golf balls.

The local farmers' cooperative plans to ship 18,000 bunches by early September.—Kyodo News



Masayuki Hirai, the executive chef at Hotel Nikko Kanazawa in Kanazawa, central Japan, holds a bunch of Ruby Roman table grapes on 9 July, 2015.

KYODO NEWS

Chinese president meets Indian PM ahead of multilateral summits



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

UFA, (Russia), 9 July — Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday in the southwestern Russian city of Ufa ahead of two multi-

lateral summits.

It is the fourth bilateral meeting between the two leaders since their first in Fortaleza, Brazil, last July. Respectively in September 2014 and May 2015,

Xi and Modi visited each other's country, including each other's hometown.

The meeting came before the seventh summit of BRICS, an emerging-market bloc that consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

The upcoming SCO summit is expected to pass a resolution on starting the procedures of granting India and Pakistan full membership of the organization.

The SCO, founded in 2001, currently has six member states — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan as observers and Belarus, Turkey and Sri Lanka as dialogue partners.

Xinhua

Londoners struggle to work as underground rail staff strike

LONDON, 9 July — Millions of Londoners struggled to get to work on Thursday or stayed at home as a 24-hour strike by staff and drivers brought the British capital's underground rail network to a complete halt.

London Underground bosses said no trains would run all day on the "Tube", as the world's oldest underground passenger railway is known, because of the stoppage which follows a dispute over plans for new night services.

Commuters who usually use the underground network were forced to walk, cycle, take taxis or try to find seats on crowded buses.

Transport bosses said they had put on extra bus and river services with marshals positioned at the main overground rail sta-

tions to help manage the extra demand for buses and taxis.

Members of four unions have joined the walk-out, unhappy with the pay and terms offered by London Underground (LU) to implement a 24-hour service at weekends on some lines. LU has said it has hired an extra 137 night

drivers and that many staff would be unaffected by the changes.

A spokeswoman for Prime Minister David Cameron said on Wednesday the strike was "unacceptable and unjustified".

"It is going to hit families, workers, and businesses across the capital," she said.—Reuters



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

REUTERS

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Dated: 10th July, 2015

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th July, 2015: Rain will be scattered in Shan State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-031(15-16)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Drilling Rigs (36) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-032(15-16)	Spares for CNG Retest Factory (36) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-033(15-16)	Spares for Oxygen Generator, Oxygen Purifier and Oxygen Compressor (10) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-034(15-16)	13 5/8" x 5K Double Ram BOP (1) Unit	US\$
(5)	IFB-035(15-16)	Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (21) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-036(15-16)	Spares for Hydraulic Power Station	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-8-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

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

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

1. The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The enterprise operates storage facilities, conducts sales and distributes petroleum products through four (4) main fuel terminals, twenty four (24) sub fuel terminals and twelve (12) gas stations in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of petroleum products in Myanmar and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, interested foreign companies are invited to submit a bid to form a joint venture.
3. Interested parties may enquire at the following address for the details, rules and requirements of the tender starting from the date of this announcement.
4. The Invitation to Tender documents shall be available for purchase on 20-07-2015 at the address listed below.
5. The application must be submitted in person and shall be submitted not later than 1:00 pm on the 20-10-2015.

Managing Director
 Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
 Ministry of Energy
 Office Building No. 6
 Nay Pyi Taw
 Tel : +95 67 411488, +95 67 411053, +95 67 411119,
 +95 67 411092
 Fax: +95 67 411101, +95 67 411137
 Email: mppe.ho2@mptmail.net.mm

Man arrested for driving car on train track for 1 km

OSAKA, 9 July — A 73-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly driving a car on a railway track for about 1.3 kilometres the previous night in Osaka Prefecture after entering the tracks at a crossing, police said.

While no one was injured in the incident, the car was witnessed by Hankyu Kyoto Line train drivers proceeding in the opposite direction. A restaurant clerk who also witnessed the incident said the sedan "was travelling at 30-40 km per hour, shooting sparks."

Held on a charge of endangering traffic, Hiro-michi Masui from Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, was quoted as telling the

police, "I don't remember where I entered the train tracks and how far I travelled." According to the police, the car entered the tracks at a crossing near Minamikata Station in the city of Osaka at around 10:20 pm Wednesday and continued for about six minutes in the direction of Kyoto Station, getting back on a road at a crossing near the next station.

Some train drivers reported by radio that they had "passed by a car." The police found the vehicle about 2 km northeast of Minamikata Station. Masui initially told them he had got lost on his way to see a friend and entered a railway track.—Kyodo News

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MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-465)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-465) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OOCL SHIPPING LINES
 Phone No: 2301185

Rapper Meek Mill outpaces R&B singer Miguel for Billboard No 1

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

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

Other new entries to crack into the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart this week include alt-rock band X Ambassadors' "VHS" at No 7, "Found in Far Away Places" by metalcore band August Burns Red at No 9 and the soundtrack to Warner Bros' raunchy male stripper film "Magic Mike XXL" at No 10.

The Billboard 200 chart



Meek Mill performs during the 2015 BET Awards in Los Angeles, California on 28 June, 2015.—REUTERS

tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Last week's chart-toppers, alt-rock band Breaking Benjamin's "Darkness Before Dawn," dropped to No 6 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which tallies digital single downloads, OMI's summer reggae track "Cheerleader" took the top

spot with 170,000 downloads in the past week.

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

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

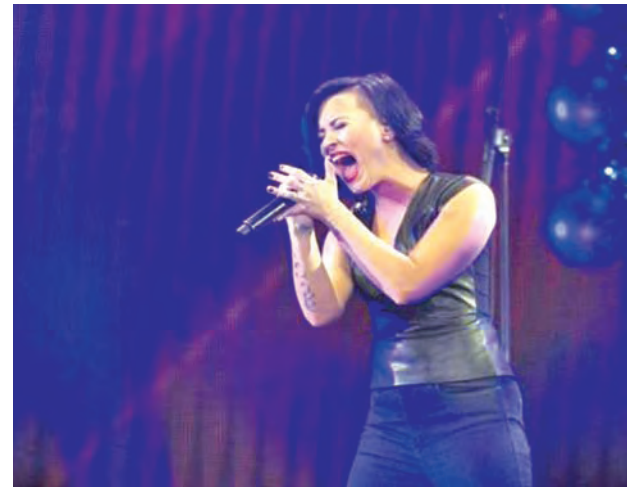
Demi Lovato replaces Ariana Grande at MLB All-Star concert

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

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

In a separate statement, Grande apologized on Wednesday for saying she hated America in comments, caught on tape, that she said were taken out of context. Sitting with her boyfriend at a California bakery over the 4 July weekend, an employee came out with a tray of large doughnuts and when Grande looked at them, she used an expletive and added: "I hate Americans. I hate America."

Grande, who was born in Florida and now lives in Los Angeles, said in the statement she has "always



Singers Demi Lovato performs during KIIS FM's Jingle Ball 2014 at Staples Centre in Los Angeles, California on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

made it clear that I love my country."

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

Calling herself an advocate for healthy eating, Grande said she sometimes gets "upset by how freely

we as Americans eat and consume things without giving any thought to the consequences."

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

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

Bill Cosby's statue removed from Disney theme park



Bill Cosby

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — A statue of embattled comedian Bill Cosby has been removed from Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Florida.

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

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

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

The TV section of the resort's Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame Plaza also houses tributes to Oprah Winfrey and Lucille Ball, among other celebrities.—PTI

Ringo Starr says will keep drumming as celebrates 75th birthday

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — Former Beatle Ringo Starr, who turned 75 on Tuesday, said he would keep on playing the drums as he celebrated his birthday with his traditional "peace and love" salute.

The tradition began some 10 years ago when he was asked what he wanted for his birthday — the response was if "everybody in the world could say peace and love ... at noon on 7 July."

Starr has since invit-

ed members of the public to join him in doing the sign and asked his fans to use #PeaceandLove on social media platforms.

"It's international now ... Wherever I am on my birthday that's where we do it. And it's growing by the response I get," Starr said at Tuesday's birthday celebrations in Los Angeles.

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

In April, Starr was inducted as a solo artist into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the last of the Beatles to receive the accolade.

When asked what lay ahead, Starr said: "Well, keep playing, that's what's left to do. I love to play, I play drums so that will just continue."

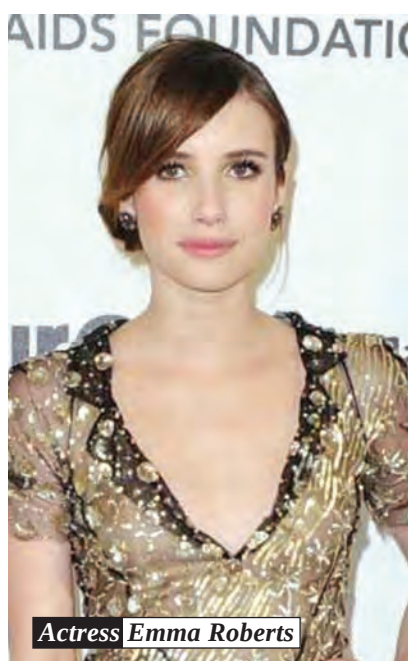
"It's what I do, it's what I did before The Beatles and before the peace and love birthday. I'll play drums and entertain and sing a few songs."

Reuters



Musician Ringo Starr speaks during a 'Peace & Love' event to celebrate Starr's 75th birthday in Los Angeles, California, on 7 July, 2015.—REUTERS

I have complex about being pale: Emma Roberts



Actress Emma Roberts

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — Actress Emma Roberts says she been made fun of her pale complexion, which has made her develop insecurity about it.

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

"When I was a kid, everyone would be like, 'Your legs are so pale! I can't believe you're wearing a dress!' And I would get so embarrassed. I would get spray tans, and I look back at those photos now, and I just think: Oh my goodness, you're orange. I would tell my younger self to stop spray-tanning so much. Just own it," Roberts said.

A lingerie brand launched the award-winning ad campaign, which

features un-retouched shots of women of all skin tones and body types, last year, and Roberts was eager to take part, reported *People* magazine.

"I just loved the messaging behind it. I thought the whole idea was so inspiring," says the "Scream Queens" star.

"Yes, I'm an actress, but I'm also a real girl. Seeing (photoshopped) ads, you get kind of bummed. You're like, 'Ugh, do these people really look like that?'" The star hopes that by embracing her insecurities, she will inspire others to do the same.

"I feel like whenever girls see the word 'real', they automatically think 'flaw,'" said Roberts. "I hope that with this campaign they start seeing 'real' as beautiful and just who you are, inside and out."—PTI

London's Globe Theater brings Hamlet to Vietnam

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

Starting on 23 April, 2014, the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, the English company will spend two years abroad and this is their first time in Vietnam. Tickets range from 60 to 120 US dollars.—Xinhua

GENERAL

Taylor Swift donates USD 50,000 to young fan with cancer

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

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

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

months.

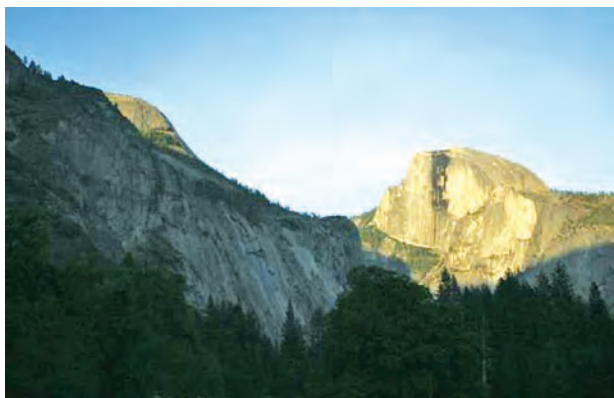
Her family made an inspiring video telling Naomi Oakes’ story and her love for Swift, 25, in an attempt to reach the singer.

Two days after the video was uploaded on YouTube, Swift generously donated the hefty amount to her GoFundMe page writing, “To the beautiful and brave Naomi, I’m sorry you have to miss it, but there will always be more concerts. Let’s focus on getting you feeling better. I’m sending the biggest hugs to you and your family.”—PTI



Singer Taylor Swift has donated USD 50,000 to an 11-year-old fan, who is suffering from cancer. PTI

Big rock fall in Yosemite alters climbing route on Half Dome



The last light of the day is reflected on Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, California on 17 May, 2009. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 9 July — A 2,400-ton chunk of granite broke loose last week from the towering Half Dome formation in Yosemite National Park, altering one of North America’s most popular rock-climbing routes, but no one was hurt and casual visitors will probably never notice.

The fallen slab, estimated to have measured about 800 cubic metres in volume, is believed to have crumbled from the middle

the northwest face of Half Dome some time very late on 2 July or early 3 July, park spokeswoman Jodi Bailey said on Wednesday.

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

Word has it a gap from the missing slab was dis-

covered a day or two later by a group of mountaineers making their way up the northwest face of the iconic 4,700-foot-tall (1,432-metre) granite dome.

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

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

Hiking trails around Half Dome and the famed cable route up the back side have not been affected, and the general public is unlikely to detect any

visual difference due to the immense scale of the granite formation as seen from the ground.

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

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

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

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

Reuters

Five teams are favourite to win in Gold Cup 2015

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

Costa Rica’s daily *La Nacion* said despite there are 12 teams in CONCACAF, five countries are

clearly favourite to win the competition.

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

Costa Rica is the other favourite team which, according to FIFA world ranking, is currently the best squad in CONCACAF.

Unlike other similar

occasions, this time Costa Rica has strong aspirations to win after its brilliant participation in Brazil 2014.

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

In 2011, Panama reached third place and two years ago they were defeated by the US in the

final game. The Panamanian team was runner-up in the 2005 edition.

On the other hand, Honduras need to reach a final game. The last time this happened was in 1991.

In the last five editions of CONCACAF tournament, Honduras has been close of the best positions. From 2005 to 2013, the lowest position of Honduras has been fifth place.

Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(10-7-2015 07:00 am~11-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|--|
| * News | * News |
| * Enchanting Rakhine Land | * Sons of the lake |
| * Ywar Thit’s Monhinkhar | * Simple Living With High Spirit |
| * News | * News |
| * Continuation In Rural Tradition | * Hanlin, A Treasure Trove of The Ancient Pyu City |
| * News | * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin” |
| * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM) | * Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names |
| * [Doctor] [Painter] | * News |
| * News | * Products of Myanmar — Pottery Business |
| * The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting | * We Love U-20 |
| * Super Myanmar Traditional Stick Form (EP-2) | * Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Decision” |
| * News | * News |
| * Rakhine Tourist Area | * Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan Part (1) |
| | * Myanmar Street Food |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(10-7-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:10 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe (Part-7) |
| 6:25 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Traditional Boxing |
| 7:35 am | 3:30 pm |
| • People’s Talks | • Head Line News |
| 8:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News / International News | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Maths) |
| 8:30 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 9:35 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • Current Affairs |
| 10:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • MRTV’s Youth Programme | • Hyper Sports |
| 11:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News |
| 12:00 noon | 7:35 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Documentary |
| 12:35 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 2:00 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Documentary | • News |
| | • Hluttaw Image |
| | • Amazing World |
| | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-7-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:45 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 8:55 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Teleplay |
| 6:40 am | 9:05 am |
| • Analysis of Myanmar Movies | • Song Programme |
| 6:55 am | 9:25 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 7:15 am | 9:40 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) |
| 8:00 am | 10:00 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |

Arsenal captain Arteta extends Gunners contract



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

LONDON, 9 July — Arsenal captain Mikel Arteta has signed a one-year contract extension, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Spanish midfielder joined the north London club from Everton in 2011 and has since made 136 appearances — winning the FA Cup in 2014 and 2015.

“He will stay with us for one more year because he has extended his contract,” manager Arsene Wenger told the

club's official website.

“He's one of the leaders in the club because he's the captain of the team. I expect him to contribute much more than last season but he also faces a battle.

“With the number of games we have ahead, we could use his experience, his desire and his quality as it will be vital for next season.”

Arsenal will compete in the Community Shield against Premier League champions Chelsea at Wembley Stadium next month.—Reuters

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

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

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

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



Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko

change anything.”

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

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

The FBI is investigating widespread allegations of FIFA corruption going back more than two

decades, while the Swiss authorities are probing the voting mechanism that saw Russia win the right to stage the next edition and Qatar the 2022 finals.

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

“As the sports minister of Russia, I could suggest many other federations where the FBI might want to investigate,” he said without elaborating. “There are 209 countries in FIFA.”

Russia has been a staunch ally of outgoing FIFA chief Sepp Blatter over the years and have

supported him during his 17 years as president, and Mutko praised the 79-year-old Swiss.

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

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

Hanover 96 sign Denmark international Bech



Denmark's Uffe Bech in action with Sweden's Abdulkhalili on 27 June, 2015.—REUTERS

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

The 22-year-old midfielder, who has won three international caps, has penned a four-year contract.

“I am really looking forward to the challenge

of playing in the Bundesliga and am now looking forward to getting to know my new team mates,” Bech told his new club's official website.

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

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

Magnificent Gasquet halts top four charge to semis

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

Defending champion Novak Djokovic, seven-times title holder Roger Federer and home hope Andy Murray all kept to their side of the bargain with straight sets wins. But Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka, the French Open champion, let the side down.

Then again, there was no shame in a 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 11-9 defeat against a daring man playing one of the matches of his life in a contest dubbed “the battle of the backhands”.

Gasquet, a former world junior champion who has fallen short of the heights expected of him, served for the match at 5-3 in the fifth set but fourth seed Wawrinka broke

back, gesturing with a finger pointed to his head that he had the mental edge.

But Gasquet, whose trademark single-hander, like Wawrinka's near identical backhand stroke, has the purists purring, showed remarkable resolve to withstand a barrage.

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

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

Five times Wawrinka held serve to stay alive.

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

“It was very difficult

for me to lose that serve at 5-3,” Gasquet, who destroyed Andy Roddick at the same stage in 2007 only to lose to Federer in the semi-final, told reporters. “I kept fighting. That made the difference.”

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

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

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

“I'm proud because there are big players in the semis. I'm the worst when you see Federer, Djokovic and Murray.”

Gasquet will have to scale the same heights, and some, to have any hope of reaching his first grand slam showpiece at the 43rd attempt as Djokovic awaits

in the semi-final.

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

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

“I'm hoping I have that extra gear. I'm hoping it can come out now in the semi-finals,” the 28-year-old said.

Federer was more inconvenienced by a couple or irritating rain delays as he swept past Gilles Simon in the day's first Switzerland v France contest on Court One, winning 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.

The only blot was finally dropping a service game after 116 successive holds stretching back to

last month's Halle Open.

Third seed Murray, playing in the quarter-finals for the eighth year in a row, was kept on his toes by the only non-European in the last eight, Canada's unseeded Vasek Pospisil, but with a royal audience in the shape of Prince William and his wife the Duchess of Cambridge he delivered a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 win.

He has faced nobody ranked higher than 23 so far but things are about to

get considerably trickier with second seed Federer looming on Friday.

The last of the Swiss maestro's 17 grand slam titles reduced Murray to tears on finals day in 2012, though a few months after that Murray beat the Swiss on Centre Court to win Olympic gold.

“It will bring back those memories of a great summer for both of us,” Federer told reporters.

Reuters



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