Coalition Update: 19-25 July

‘Hackgate’

'Murky practices' revealed, says Nick Clegg (Independent, 21 July)
Clegg tries to establish a distinctive position for his party, saying: "I don't think anyone should be surprised that the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives come at this issue from completely different directions.

Nick Clegg defends Cameron’s discussions with NI executives over BSkyB bid (FT Westminster blog, 21 July)
Nick Clegg plays the loyal deputy in his press conference and resists the temptation to distance himself from David Cameron.

News International 'bullied Liberal Democrats over BSkyB bid' (Guardian, 23 July)
Party claims it was told it would be 'done over' by Murdoch papers if deal did not go through as company wanted
http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/23/news-international-liberal-democrats-bskyb

How phone hacking scandal took the shine off the Prime Minister (Guardian, 24 July)
David Cameron's Tory backbenchers cheer him in Parliament. But in private MPs complain of U-turns and being marginalised by an elite that lavished attention on News International
http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/24/david-cameron-hacking-conservative-fallout

Europe

Nick Clegg opens rift with David Cameron over eurozone crisis (Guardian, 21 July)
Nick Clegg rejects Downing Street plans to demand concessions for Britain in talks on managing the euro
http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/21/nick-clegg-david-cameron-eurozone

Chris Huhne orders inquiry into fossil fuel lobby influence over Tory MEPs (Guardian, 22 July)
Groups may have swung crucial vote on ambitious carbon target, says energy and climate change minister
http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/22/chris-huhne-fossil-fuel-lobby

The euro crisis could pull the Coalition apart (Telegraph, 23 July)
David Cameron’s troops want him to seize the moment over Europe – but will Nick Clegg let him?
Lib Dem Voices

Andrew Stunell MP writes: Re-localisation of business rates will give councils real financial freedom (LibDem Voice, 19 July)

Lib Dem councillors attack Government plans for elected police commissioners (ConservativeHome, 23 July)
15 Lib Dem councillors urge the Government to drop the proposal for elected police commissioners.

Don’t blame Nick (Liberator, 25 July)
"The coalition is not the primary cause of the party’s woes. Rather, it has precipitated more fundamental and longer-term weaknesses. In particular, it has tested to destruction the party’s ‘strategy’."  
http://www.liberator.org.uk/article.asp?id=224704181

Cable waxes as Murdoch wanes (Guardian, 25 July)
Vince Cable has not actually said 'I told you so', but the crisis at Murdoch's empire has given him renewed authority and he is using it to press for a bigger banking shakeup

Miscellaneous

No 10 discloses salaries of political advisers (Independent, 20 July)
With the attention of the British press and public concentrated on the committee hearings at Portcullis House over the phone-hacking scandal, Downing Street chose yesterday to publish the salaries of ministerial special advisers.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/no-10-discloses-salaries-of-political-advisers-2317178.html

Flatlining economy puts pressure on Coalition partners (Independent, 25 July)
Cabinet tensions are rising over Britain’s flatlining economy as ministers brace themselves for weak figures on growth, to be announced tomorrow.