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# IWT ADVISED TO SELL

## IWT considers corporatisation or privatisation to recover losses

**Aung Thant Khaing**

TO cover losses stemming from the water transportation business the Ministry of Transport and Communications is considering turning its Inland Water Transport programme to do either corporatisation or privatisation, said Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung yesterday.

“The Asia Development Bank has suggested two options : Either corporatisation or privatisation for the Inland Water Transport to cover from losses. We will carry out the transformation by joining hands with experts depending on the framework and policies laid down at the workshop with ADB,” said U Thant Sin Maung to reporters in Mandalay during his visit to Mandalay Railways Station.

The ministry has invited experts from the ADB and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency to hold a workshop on 19 and 20 May on possibly reforming the Inland Water Transport.

The Inland Water Transport needs to be reformed as it is running at loss, he added.

To compete with private navigation services across the country, the state-owned business announced in October 2014 its plan to build 37 ships for passengers.

The number of navigable transportation service routes operated by IWT has been decreasing as the ministry's decades-old ships experience delays and higher running costs and cannot compete with modern ships run by private entrepreneurs, according to the ministry.



A ferry called “Cherry (3)” shuttles in the Yangon River. PHOTO: MOORE ZACK

Meanwhile, the Inland Water Transport programme is facing challenges in transforming its services from a public service to a commercial based operation with its decades old ships being to be able to stand on its own budget as the new government adopted new policy.

Inland Water Transport has

been operating its transportation at loss and at affordable prices for people for decades thanks to budget allocations from the successive governments.

IWT has been operating passenger and freight services along the navigable waterways in Myanmar and ferry services, with a fleet of more than 400 ships, in-

cluding 225 powered vessels, 138 passenger-cum-cargo ships, 27 cargo ships, 30 powered barges, one water tender, 22 tugs, one oil tanker, 149 non-powered vessels, 138 cargo barges, 11 oil barges and 39 station pontoons, according to 2014 statistics from from the ministry.

The passenger-cum-cargo

ships owned by the IWT, which is practicing the old system and still using the British-colonial era ships, are not helpful today to fulfil the demand of passengers as they want to arrive their destinations on time.

Inland Water Transport is under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

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The RBE train is seen in Mandalay Railways Station. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

## Trains with air-cushioned suspension to run during Water Festival

Aung Thant Khaing

TRAINS with modern air cushioned suspension will be in operation from 9th April in addition to Water Festival special trains to facilitate smooth travel during the long holiday of Thingyan and new year.

The air-cushioned suspension trains have five coaches and they will be running between Yangon and Mandalay from 9 to 12 April and then from 17 to 18 April. The RBE trains will leave Yangon and Mandalay Central railway stations at 3.30 pm. The train fare is K5,800 which is the same rate as first class on the regular train service.

“The departure time is just the same for both Yangon and Mandalay stations. If you leave Yangon for Mandalay, you will reach

your destination at 5.30 am the next day. And, if you come from Mandalay, you arrive Yangon at 6 am. The running time is about 14 hours. The trains are installed with air cushioned suspension allowing passengers to travel comfortably,” said U Aye Maung, assistant General Manager (Traffic) at Mandalay Railways Station from Myanma Railways.

In the event of trains being unable to transport all waiting passengers Myanma Railways will arrange more RBE trains for the convenience of the increased number of customers.

Concerning the purchase of tickets, enquiries can be made to railway staff on 24-hour duty including the deputy station master general, said the station master general.

## Myanmar chefs to participate in Food Hotel Asia 2016 in Singapore

A MYANMAR chef delegation left Yangon for Singapore yesterday to take part in the Food Hotel Asia 2016 event which is scheduled to run from 12 to 15 April.

THE delegation comprises 30 chefs from the Myanmar Chefs Association (MCA).

The chefs will take part in cu-

linary competitions in 13 classes as part of an educational global network project for young Myanmar Chefs, said Oliver E Soe Thet, President of the Myanmar Chefs Association.

The Myanmar chefs are sponsored by the MCA and partners as well as Myanmar National

Airline.

MCA has been a full member of World Chefs WACS since 1999.

Held every two years, the Food and Hotel Asia (FHA) in Singapore is the largest international food tradeshow in the Asia region.—GNLM

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Has Cataract Surgery

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and for the President's office underwent successful cataract surgery yesterday.

The operation was performed at a special hospital in Nay Pyi Taw where a cataract was removed from one of her

eyes according to sources within the National League for Democracy.

A cataract will be removed from her other eye mid April.

The operations were scheduled to coincide with the 12-day New Year holiday, which begins on 9 April.—GNLM

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets MPs of Yangon Region Parliament

U WIN MYINT, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, met with lawmakers of the Yangon Region Parliament in Yangon yesterday calling for greater cooperation between parliamentarians in terms of understanding and magnanimity and without falling into a cult of personality, racism or attachment to parties.

At a time when the country is in its transitional period MPs are obliged to effectively perform the duty of legislation in order to

build the democratic nation as inspired by the people, said the Speaker at the meeting with the MPs.

He also urged the MPs to digest the constitution and learn it hard as well as parliamentary laws, rules and regulations and financial procedures. He called on all members to strive to perform their duties diligently and to use their rights correctly in order to bring success to future work.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

## Five sub-rural health centres in Magway Region handed over

FIVE sub-rural health centers respectively built in five villages in Magway Region using grant assistance from the Japanese government were handed over to local authorities on Wednesday.

The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has granted US\$354,958 for the maintaining of five health centres.

The handover ceremonies of the projects took place in Mindon Township, Ngaphe Township, Setoktaya Township and Saw Township on 3, 4, 5 and 6 April

2016 respectively in Ta Kaung Net Village in Mindon Township, Lay Eain Su Village in Ngaphe Township, Kan Pauk Village in Ngaphe township, Yae Thoung Village in Setoktaya Township and Yaw Let Pan Village in Saw township.

The Government of Japan has assisted 774 various grassroots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993: the number consisting of 367 education projects, 195 healthcare projects, 138 public welfare and environment projects, 38 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects.—GNLM



A diplomat seen together with local ethnic women in Lay Eain Su Village in Ngaphe Township at health centre handing over ceremony. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Felonies not declining

THE number of felonies committed during the first quarter of 2016 do not show a decline when compared to the same period last year, it has been learned.

There have been a total of 91 felony cases during the first quarter of 2016 – 31 in January, 32 in February and 28 in March.

Included in these cases are some 36 murders, 39 cases of rape and 16 robberies. Felony cases in 2014 numbered 397 and cases in 2015 to 397, it has been reported by the Yangon Region Police Commander's Office.—*Ko Moe*

## 161 prisoners of conscience released so far

ACCORDING to update information, 161 political 'prisoners of conscience' including political activists and students facing trial connected with political causes were released from prisons across the country on 8 April.

Among them, 161 are men, 36 are women and two are children, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# LOCAL Business



An employee from a money changer counts Myanmar currency in Yangon. PHOTO: MOORE ZACK

## Value of Myanmar kyat continues to rise

ECONOMISIS estimate that the value of the Myanmar kyat will continue to rise in the international currency market.

The value of Myanmar kyat has gradually increased against the US dollar starting earlier this year, thanks to the efforts of the Central Bank of Myanmar, according to economists.

High supplies of the US dollar in the foreign exchange mar-

ket have produced low prices. This is the main reason the value of kyat is growing stronger.

The rise is also linked to the launch of the Yangon Stock Exchange, which collects greater interest from investors.

The value of the Myanmar kyat rose to K1,181 per US\$1 last week, up from K1,197 per \$1 [the previous week]. However, these rates are lower than

they were at this time last year.

Currently, brokers are trading US currency at prices lower than the official rate in the black market. Supply is greater than demand in the local market as US dollar investors are rushing to sell their dollars.

The Central Bank put more effort into buying and selling dollars to stabilise the local currency market.—PPN/Union Daily

## Border trade volume rose by US\$400 million

THE volume of Myanmar's cross-border trade with neighbouring countries through official border trading points in the 2015-2016 financial year rose 6 per cent higher than the previous fiscal year, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total volume of cross-border trade in the 2015-2016 fiscal year reached \$7.04 billion, including \$2.5 billion from imports and \$4.4 billion from exports. The cross-border trade volume saw an increase of US\$400 million from the 2014-2015 financial year.

Myanmar primarily trades

with Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh through 15 border trade camps.

Located in northern Shan State, Muse, a border town between Myanmar and China, processes the largest volume of cross-border trade in Myanmar.—PPN/Union Daily

## Price of beans rises due to demand from India

THE price of beans have risen recently as the demand from India is higher this year compared to last, according to local bean marketers.

"The price of beans has seen spiraling upward this year due to the high demand from India", said a bean trader of Bayintnaung wholesale center.

Bean prices have risen in both local and foreign markets. Beans priced for K75 per viss have jumped to K150 in the local

market and K 60,000 per tonne to K200,000 per tonne in the foreign market.

The price of Matpe has jumped from K1.47 million per tonne to K1.675 million per tonne and the price of pigeon peas is soaring up from K1.39 million per tonne to K1.45 million per tonne.

Beans are one of Myanmar main exports. Matpe bean and gram are the most consumed beans domestically.—200

## Australia, India likely to invest millions in mining industry

AUSTRALIA-based First Light Mandalay Mining and Metals Co and India-based Balasore Alloys Co are likely to receive permission from authorities in Chin State to set up underground mining operations, according to a spokesperson for the Chin State government.

Both companies submitted proposals to the relevant ministries and to the state government in order to carry out mineral extraction in Tiddim, Tonzang, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships.

"Based on their techniques and experience in mineral extraction, the two companies are believed to be able to conduct mining operations without seriously impacting the natural environmental," the spokesperson said. "The state government plans to announce its final decision on whether to grant mining licences to the companies in mid-2016." If they receive a green light from the state government, the companies are expected to invest millions of dollars in Myanmar.—200

## Yams for elephant feed seeing high demand

YAMS, used to make elephant feed, are grown by farmers in Magwe Region who are currently seeing higher earnings as a result of high demand from China.

"China buys both dry and wet yams. But Japan has bought only the qualified and clean crops", said U Htu, a local farmer.

Local farmers expect to break into the new market in Japan in

addition to their established China market. Authorities exported 172 tonnes of dry yams to China via the Muse trading zone in March.

To make dried yams the local farmers dry them under the sun or by using steaming devices.

Locals will need expertise in technology to make dried yams on a grander scale and infrastructure is reportedly lacking.—200

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
English Daily Newspaper

# Joyful Thingyan Festival & Auspicious Myanmar New Year, 1378 M.E.

The Global New Light of Myanmar wishes our valued readers, contributors, advertisers and entire people of Myanmar an Exciting, Colourful and Enjoyable Thingyan Festival and a Prosperous, Successful & Healthy New Year!

## Kawthaung Police Force inspect bars and restaurants to reduce crime

THE Kawthaung Police Force have taken preventive measures to reduce crime in Kawthaung Town in anticipation of the Myanmar Traditional Water Festival.

The police force inspected local bars and restaurants and

took a legal action against the owners who did not abide by the rules and regulations in the license agreements. Police also inspected unlicensed bars and restaurants in Kawthaung Town on Friday.

Moreover, officials of the police force met with grocers and gave an education talk on avoiding the crime and urged them not to sell unlicensed alcoholic beverages.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung—IPRD)*



Officials inspecting a restaurant. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG—IPRD)

## Mohammad Day celebrated together with inter-faith goodwill ceremony in Pyinmana



Sayadaw U Pyinnya Wuda from Kanlai monastery making a speech at the ceremony. PHOTO: MIN MIN LATT

IN Pyinmana Township the 1490th Mohammad Day was reportedly celebrated by the community with an inter-faith goodwill ceremony in Mingalar Kantaw hall in Pyinmana town yesterday.

At the ceremony, Mawlawa Ahlie, chairman of Mohammad Day commemoration and inter-faith goodwill ceremony organising committee delivered the opening speech while Sayadaw

U Pyinnya Wuda from Kanlai monastery, HJ Saya U Thein Win Aung representing Islam, Pastor U Myint Oo representing Christianity and Sayar U Aye Maung representing the Hindu faith gave speeches.

The ceremony was attended by local people from Pyinmana township and other invited guests from Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi.—*Min Min Latt (Man University)*

## Crime NEWS

### AD van overturns in Myinmu



AD van overturning on Mandalay- Myinmu-Monywa road. PHOTO:624

AN AD van en route to Mandalay from Monywa being driven by U Maung Maung, 62, turned over on Thursday between mile-posts 51/3-4, Mandalay- My-

inmu-Monywa road, Myinmu township when the driver lost control. The accident injured the driver. Police are filing charges against the man.— (624)

### Fire destroys nine houses in Chauk

A FIRE destroyed nine houses in Thwe Net village, Chauk township, Magwe region on Thursday. According to an investigation the fire broke out in a house owned by U Tun Myint, 42. The fire quickly got out of control and

damaged nine more houses.

The fire was brought under control by firemen with the help of local residents. The police have filed charges against the house owner for negligence.— *Win Ei Mon*

### Fire destroys two houses in Mong Khat

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed two houses in Par Khar Wan village, Mong Khat township, Shan State East on Thursday. The accident was caused by an overheated

ing solar panel on the roof of a house owned by U Lao Jie. The fire was brought under control by firemen with the help of local residents.— *Maung Maung Naing (Keng Tung)*

### Trailer sideswipes motorbike in Kyaukkon

A MOTORBIKE was sideswiped by a trailer in Ywar Thit Kone village, Kyaukkon township, Ayeyawady region on Thursday leaving three injured.

The trailer, heading for Kyaukkon from Ah Thauge, was being driven by one Htein Win, 45 when he crashed into a motorbike being driven by Nyunt Thein, 43, with Ko Pwin Cho, 29 and U Kyi Soe, 35 on board.

The accident seriously injured U Nyunt Thein, Ko Pwin Cho and U Kyi Soe. The driver Htein Win has been charged by police.—*Win Kyine (IPRD)*

### Man dies following fall

A MAN reportedly fell from the second floor of an apartment building in Dhana Theikdhi ward, Zabuthiri township, Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. According to an investigation, Maung Maung Myint, 46, who was visiting his brother jumped out of the apartment window on second floor. The deceased was reportedly suffering mental health issues. Police sent his body to hospital for a post mortem. Police are still investigating the case.— *Min Min Latt (Physic)*

### Four passengers killed in traffic accident

A PASSENGER vehicle accident occurred when two cars collided while driving home from a pagoda near Banmauk town in Sagaing region on Thursday, leaving two dead.

According to an investigation, a vehicle with 21 passengers on board turned over when the breaks failed. The accident

threw four passengers from the vehicle. A local resident said that Bamauk township is seeing an increase in passenger vehicles and so also an increase in accidents. We have to ask them to follow the traffic rules, the resident said. The reckless driver has been charged by local police.— *Aye Lwin*

### Fugitive captured in Kawthaung

MEMBERS of the police force based in Kawthaung Town, Tanithayi Region captured a fugitive identified as one Than Aung alias Aphogyi, 25, son of U Than Maung on Thursday.

Action on a tip-off the police raided a house on Myapalei street in Zinyaw Ward, Kawthaung Town and arrested the fugitive who had been living in the residence. The man was incarcerated in 2011 following his being sentenced to 11 years in prison according to Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The suspect later fled from the Bawa Thit prison camp during a breakout. Police have filed further charges related to his escape.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung-IPRD)*



Than Aung alias Aphogyi seen at the Kawthaung police station. PHOTO KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG—IPRD)

## North Korea invited to June ministerial meeting on nuclear test ban

VIENNA — North Korea has been invited to attend the ministerial-level meeting in Vienna in June to commemorate 20 years since nations began signing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, according to the executive secretary of the preparatory commission for the treaty.

North Korea, which conducted its fourth nuclear test on 6 January, has been asked to attend the ministerial talks slated for 13 June, which offer “a platform for discussion at a time it is needed more than ever,” said the executive secretary Lassina Zerbo.

“We need to engage the DPRK directly and listen to their concerns, so a diplomatic solution can emerge,” Zerbo said, referring to the reclusive country by the acronym for its official name -- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“I believe in dialogue, not in isolation. The Iran deal demonstrates that multilateral diplomacy can achieve results,” he added.

It is the first time

Pyongyang has been invited to a high-level meeting of the preparatory commission for the treaty, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1996 but has yet to enter into force.

The CTBT aims to establish a verifiable global ban on all types of nuclear explosive tests. The pact has been signed by 183 countries and ratified by 164.

To take effect, the CTBT must be signed and ratified by the 44 countries that had nuclear reactors for research or power generation while the treaty was under negotiation. Eight of those states — the United States, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan — have yet to ratify it.

Zerbo also said in a recent interview with Kyodo News that he is “looking very much forward to (Japanese) Foreign Minister (Fumio) Kishida attending the meeting.”

Japan co-chaired a conference with Kazakhstan last year pressing the eight countries to ratify the CTBT.—*Kyodo News*



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance during a visit to the Tonghungsan Machine Plant under the Ryongsong Machine Complex in this undated photo released by North Korea’s Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), on 2 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## North Korean leader Kim supervises test of new engine for missile

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a successful test of a new engine for an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), state media said on Saturday, in their latest report of advances in an arms programme that has attracted UN sanctions.

South Korea and the United States have shown scepticism over the North’s statements about rapid progress in its nuclear and missile programmes ahead of a ruling party congress in May, where analysts expect it to declare itself a major nuclear weapons state.

Tension has remained high on the Korean peninsula after the North’s nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch earlier in the year and South Korean and US troops conducted large-

scale joint drills amid harsh rhetoric from both rival Koreas.

The engine was ignited at Kim’s command and released a fiery blast, and the test showed the indigenously designed rocket fulfilled all required conditions, the North’s official KCNA news agency said.

“Dear Comrade Kim Jong Un said now we can mount an ever more powerful nuclear warhead on a new intercontinental ballistic rocket and put the den of evil in the United States, and all over the world, within our strike range,” the agency said.

The test was conducted at the North’s missile station near its west coast, where, in February, the country launched a long-range rocket that put an ob-

ject into space orbit, KCNA said.

South Korea’s defence officials did not immediately provide comment on the authenticity of Saturday’s report.

The North said in March it had miniaturised a nuclear warhead to be mounted on ballistic missiles and conducted a simulated re-entry test of a ballistic missile, which could indicate advances in its ICBM programme, if true.

But South Korean officials questioned those assertions and said the North was several years away from developing an ICBM. The United States said there was no proof of the North’s statements and urged Pyongyang to halt actions that fuel tension.

The North conducted

its fourth nuclear test in January and the rocket launch in February, in defiance of international warnings and past UN sanctions, triggering a new Security Council resolution that imposed more punishment.

Despite its assertions, the North has yet to conduct a flight-test of a long-range missile or an ICBM and show mastery of the technology needed to bring a missile back into the atmosphere and hit a target with precision.

The North said its January nuclear test was a successful hydrogen bomb test, but many experts and officials in the South and the United States said the blast was too small to have been from a successful test of such a weapon.—*Reuters*

## Thailand steps up security after Uighurs ‘linked to terror’ visit

BANGKOK — Thai police have stepped up security after two ethnic Uighur men from China linked to “foreign terror groups” visited a holiday island, a senior officer said on Saturday.

Fears of a militant attack in Southeast Asia have risen recently, especially after the Islamic State group claimed an attack in the Indonesian capital in January in which eight people, four of them attackers, were killed. “At the end of March, two Uighurs came to Phuket and stayed one night and then left Thailand,” police

Lieutenant General Suchart Teerasawat told Reuters, referring to a tourist island on Thailand’s Indian Ocean coast.

“These two have links to foreign terror groups”, he said. Suchart said police did not have information about who the Uighurs met or where they went on the island.

“We’re investigating this. After staying one night the pair travelled to Malaysia and Indonesia. We understand they were eventually caught in Indonesia,” he said. Suchart said author-

ities were also investigating several ethnic Chechens following reports last week that some were on Phuket.

On Thursday, Thai Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said he had ordered surveillance of Uighur and Chechen visitors who might have entered Thailand on fake travel documents. Two Chinese ethnic Uighur men were arrested last year for their involvement in the 17 August bombing at a Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people. They were charged with murder and possession of

explosives.

Authorities said the bomb was in retaliation for a crackdown on human smuggling gangs and not a “terrorist” attack. The Uighur people from China’s far west are a Muslim minority and Chinese authorities accuse some of being involved in militancy.

In March, Indonesian forces killed two ethnic Uighurs who linked up with an Indonesian militant on Sulawesi island. Four Uighurs were jailed in Indonesia last year after trying to join the same network.—*Reuters*

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# Sri Lanka requests equity swap for some of its \$8 billion China debt

BEIJING — Sri Lanka has asked China to swap some of the \$8 billion the Indian Ocean country owes Beijing for equity in infrastructure projects and offered to sell stakes in Sri Lankan companies to Chinese ones, Sri Lankan officials said on Saturday.

The ouster of President Ma-hinda Rajapaksa, who steered Sri Lanka toward China until 2015, was a setback for ties, as his successor reviewed projects to check if they were fair and legal.

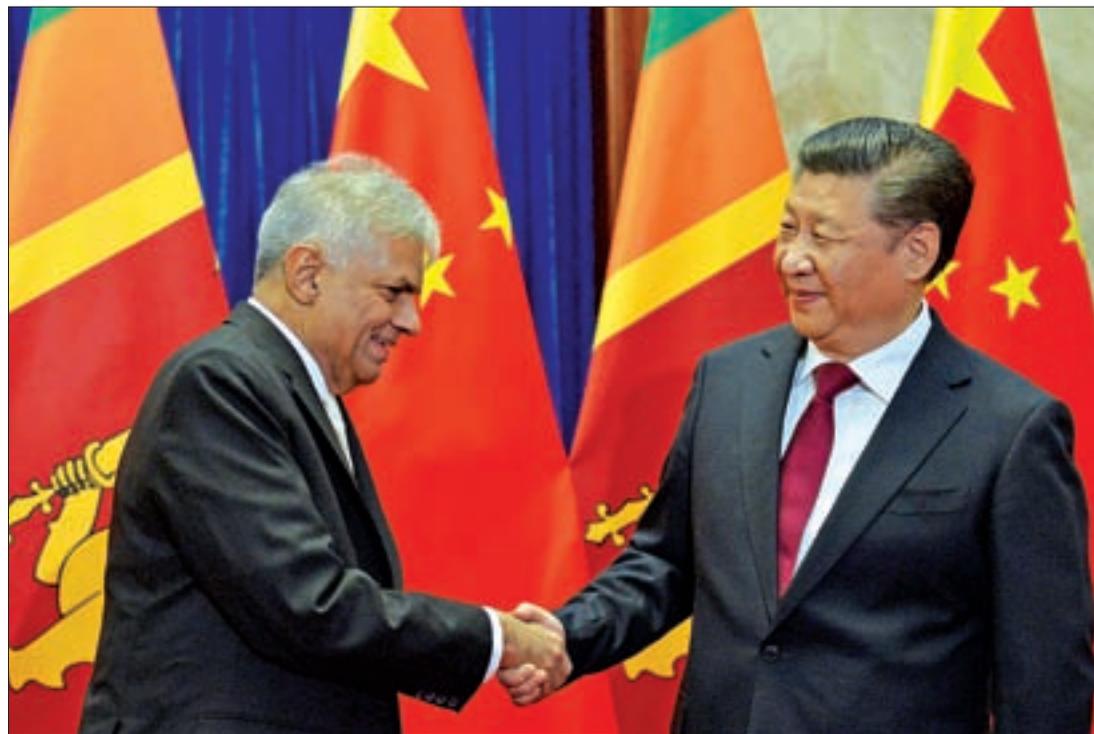
Now President Maithripala Sirisena's government, faced with falling foreign reserves, a balance of payments crunch and few, if any, alternative investors, is heading back into China's embrace, albeit asking for better terms.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said his indebted country was suffering because of global economic uncertainty.

"We've been talking with some companies and also the government of China about the possibility of some infrastructure projects becoming public-private partnerships, in which part of the debt will become equity held by the Chinese companies," he said.

International trade minister Malik Samarawickrama said Sri Lanka would also like additional funds from China, though they had not asked for a specific amount.

"We want to reduce the current debt by inviting Chinese



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting at Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 8 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

companies, Chinese investors, to look at some of the enterprises in Sri Lanka, the state-owned enterprises, with a view to taking at least part of that equity over," he said.

"Then we can reduce the current debt that we have and open up the opportunity for us to take more funds from Chinese banks."

Sri Lanka upset China when it ordered a review of a \$1.4 billion Colombo port city project last year, citing irregularities in the award of the contract to state-owned China Communi-

cations Construction Company (CCCC) (601800.SS) by the previous government.

Last month, the government, grappling with a difficult economy, ordered the Chinese firm to resume work on the project, the country's biggest foreign investment project, that includes apartments, shopping malls and marinas.

But CCCC, which had estimated that the shutdown would result in losses of more than \$380,000 a day, has sought compensation of \$125 million,

according to Sri Lanka, which has said it can't pay and wants to negotiate.

"The company has asked for additional compensation in view of the fact they say there has been a delay," Wickremesinghe said. "But I think we can talk and settle it."

Chinese projects in Sri Lanka have unnerved India, but Wickremesinghe said there was no security threat from the port.

"It's an opportunity for everyone to make money. That's what we do in Asia."—Reuters

## Plane crash kills two in northern Melbourne

MELBOURNE — Two people were killed after a light plane crashed Saturday in northern Melbourne, Australia, according to local media reports.

At around 11:30am, the out-of-control aircraft was witnessed diving into a paddock in Lancefield, and exploded shortly after it hit the ground. According to local police, the two people on board had both died, and they were working to confirm their identities. Air Traffic Safety Bureau authorities are investigating.—Xinhua

## New cargo train service to link China, Europe

HOHHOT — A new cargo train service linking north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region with Europe is to open soon, local authorities said on Friday.

The new route will link Erenhot, an Inner Mongolian city bordering on Mongolia, with Europe via the Russian capital Moscow.

The cargo train will slash the Erenhot-Europe transportation time to just 12 days instead of about a month via shipping. It will mainly carry goods such as auto parts, iron and steel products and daily necessities from Chinese cities of Hohhot, Baotou, Erdos and Ulanqab, and then return to China with Russia's wood and fertilizer, Germany's machine parts and northern Europe's packing materials, according to sources with the Erenhot government.—Xinhua

# India in talks to buy US Predator drones, has eye on China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI — India is in talks with the United States to purchase 40 Predator surveillance drones, officials said, a possible first step towards acquiring the armed version of the aircraft and a development likely to annoy Pakistan.

India is trying to equip the military with more unmanned technologies to gather intelligence as well as boost its firepower along the vast land borders with Pakistan and China. It also wants a closer eye on the Indian Ocean.

New Delhi has already acquired surveillance drones from Israel to monitor the mountains of Kashmir, a region disputed by the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals and the cause of two of their three wars.

As defence ties deepen with the United States, which sees India as a counterweight to China in the region, New Delhi has asked Washington for the Predator series of unmanned planes built by privately-held General Atomics, military officials said.

"We are aware of Pred-



A US Air Force MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle assigned to the California Air National Guard's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing flies near the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, California on 7 January 2012 USAF handout photo obtained by Reuters on 6 February 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

ator interest from the Indian Navy. However, it is a government-to-government discussion," Vivek Lall, chief executive of US and International Strategic Development at San Diego-based General Atomics, told Reuters.

The US government late last

year cleared General Atomics' proposal to market the unarmed Predator XP in India. It was not clear when the delivery of the drones would take place.

The navy wants them for surveillance in the Indian Ocean, where the pilotless aircraft can

remain airborne for 35 hours at a stretch, at a time when the Chinese navy is expanding ship and submarine patrols in the region.

Moves by India to enhance its defence capabilities have in the past provoked sharp reactions from Islamabad, where the government and military are worried about falling further behind their bigger rival in the arms race.

Pakistan's foreign ministry could not be reached for comment on Friday, the start of the weekend there, while the military had no immediate comment.

India's air force has also asked Washington about acquiring around 100 armed Predator C Avenger aircraft, which the United States has used to carry out strikes against Islamist militants in Pakistan's northwest and neighbouring Afghanistan.

But it would need clearance from the Missile Technology Control Regime group of 34 nations as well as approval from US Congress before any transfer of lethal Predators could happen, officials said.

The push for the drones comes as US Defence Secretary Ash Carter heads to India this weekend for talks to cement military collaboration in the final months of the Obama administration.

Indian military officials said they expected the request for the armed aircraft to figure in Carter's talks with his Indian counterpart, Manohar Parrikar.

Washington wants India to sign a set of agreements including on the use of each other's military bases that would help them operate together.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has signalled its willingness to move forward with the proposed pacts after the previous administration did not act for more than a decade.

Retired air vice marshal Manmohan Bahadur said the proposed acquisition of armed Predators would give the military the ability to carry out cross-border strikes, or even attack targets lying deeper inside a neighbouring country.—Reuters

# Belgians seize key suspects in Paris, Brussels attacks



Police officers detain a suspect during a raid in which fugitive Mohamed Abrini was arrested in Anderlecht, near Brussels, Belgium, on 8 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Belgian police detained two key suspects on Friday in the Islamic State attacks on Paris and Brussels as operations go on to track down militants who have fought with or take direction from leaders in Syria.

Mohamed Abrini, a Belgian thought to have helped prepare the 13 November bombing and shooting attack that killed 130 people in the French capital, was held with two others, prosecutors said. They were trying to confirm that he was also the “man in the hat” seen with the Brussels airport suicide bombers on 22 March.

Aged 31, Abrini was seized close to the Brussels borough of Molenbeek, where he was long known to police for petty crimes.

Earlier, police seized a man prosecutors named only as Osama K., and who local media said was a Swede named Osama Krayem. The prosecutors said Krayem, detained with another man, was checked by German police in October using a fake

Syrian passport in a car rented by Salah Abdeslam, prime surviving suspect in the Paris attacks, who was detained in Brussels three weeks ago.

Krayem is suspected of being the man seen on CCTV with a suicide bomber before he struck the Brussels metro on 22 March and of buying the holdalls used by the attackers that day.

The arrests mark a signal success for Belgian security services, which have faced fierce criticism at home and abroad since Brussels-based militants organised the attacks in Paris and, four months later, those in the Belgian capital that killed 32 people, four days after the arrest of Salah Abdeslam.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon, who offered to resign over the failure to arrest one of the Brussels suicide bombers last year, tweeted congratulations to those involved in the arrests, as did the Belgian head of state, King Philippe.

But there was no change in

the national security alert level and Jambon added: “The struggle against terrorism goes on.” Police searched premises in western Brussels late on Friday.

Belgium has struggled to contain a threat from hundreds of young men, many with chequered criminal histories and from the country’s substantial Moroccan immigrant community, who have travelled to Syria. For the size of its 11 million population, Belgium has the biggest contingent of Islamist foreign fighters.

The arrests came a day after police issued new images of “the man in the hat” seen on airport cameras walking through the terminal with Brahim El Bakraoui and Najim Laachraoui.

These two would detonate the heavy bags they were pushing on trolleys but the third abandoned his bomb and was tracked walking for miles on CCTV back from the airport into the city, all the while his face hidden by glasses and a floppy hat. —Reuters

# Panama not planning to retaliate over French move on Panama Papers

PANAMA CITY — Panama will focus on diplomacy with France following a standoff over a mass data leak dubbed the “Panama Papers,” President Juan Carlos Varela said after speaking with his French counterpart Francois Hollande.

France announced it would put the Central American nation back on its blacklist of uncooperative tax jurisdictions, following a major leak of documents from a Panamanian law firm.

Panama had at first warned it could retaliate, but the president said on Friday he prefers a

diplomatic solution and would not seek “retorsion measures.”

“The step taken by the French government is wrong and unnecessary,” Varela told reporters. “(But) first we are going to use diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation.”

He said Panama’s finance minister will fly to Paris next week to discuss cooperation.

French companies like transport group Alstom SA have several pending deals in the country, such as building new cars for the Panama Metro.

Asked whether France’s

decision on the blacklist would affect these deals, Varela said: “When I’ve had to act firmly, I have done it, but I’m a person who prefers to avoid confrontation... and you must practice what you preach.”

Earlier on Friday, Hollande urged Varela to help French tax authorities with their enquiries following the Panama Papers leaks, his press office said.

The leaks shone a spotlight on the shadowy world of off-shore companies and embarrassed several world leaders. —Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Five migrants drowned off Greek island of Samos after boat capsizes

ANKARA — Five migrants — four women and one child — drowned when their boat capsized off the Greek island of Samos close to Turkey’s coast, Greek coast guard officials said on Saturday.

Five other migrants were rescued, the officials said, and coast guard vessels assisted by a helicopter were searching for more survivors. The incident occurred a day after two ferries took more than 120 migrants back to Turkey from the Greek island of Lesbos, in the second round of returns under an EU deal with Ankara to halt mass migration across the Aegean Sea to Europe.

The accord, which came into force on Monday, aims to stem an uncontrolled influx into the European Union of people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and beyond, after more than 1 million arrived last year. —Reuters

### Trump extends his lead among Republicans with 42 per cent support

WASHINGTON — Celebrity real estate developer Donald Trump has extended his lead nationally over Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Ohio Governor John Kasich for the Republican presidential nomination, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll.

The national online poll from 4-8 April showed that 42 per cent of Republicans support Trump, compared with 32 per cent for Cruz and 20 per cent for Kasich. Trump has topped the poll of Republican voters since July, though his lead narrowed considerably in recent weeks as Trump retweeted unflattering pictures of Cruz’s wife and his campaign manager was charged with battery in an incident involving a reporter at a campaign event. Meanwhile, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton led Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont for the Democratic nomination. The poll showed that 53 per cent of Democrats support Clinton and 43 per cent support Sanders. —Reuters

### Cadez: Serbian firms could enter international supply chains

BELGRADE — President of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce (PKS) Marko Cadez said on Friday that Serbia had a large number of high quality firms that could act as suppliers to international companies.

Speaking at a programme-conference titled Siemens — Suppliers’ Day, Cadez said that a key task for the PKS was to help domestic producers connect with large companies and enter the international supply chain. Cadez voiced confidence that more than 50 firms that were taking part in the conference would succeed in starting partnership talks with Siemens. Entering a supply chain of an international company such as Siemens means opening the road to other markets, he said.

Cadez stressed that Serbia had quality firms, which Siemens knew very well, as it had already had about 40 suppliers from Serbia included in its supply chain. —Tanjung

### Iran exporting 350,000 bpd oil to India, hopes for more

TEHRAN — Iran is exporting around 350,000 barrels of crude oil a day to India, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted as saying on Saturday after meeting Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan.

The Shana news agency, linked to Iran’s oil ministry, quoted Zanganeh as saying Indian oil purchases from Iran were at 350,000 barrels a day, and that “we hope this number will increase now that sanctions have been lifted”.

Zanganeh added that Indian companies were looking to invest in oil, gas and petrochemical projects in Iran, but that reaching deals was “a difficult task and needs time”. —Reuters

### US Defence Secretary to visit India on Sunday

NEW DELHI — US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter will arrive in India on Sunday on a three-day visit, sources said on Saturday.

During his India tour, Carter will visit both the national capital and the western state of Goa at the invitation of Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, the sources said.

On the eve of his visit, the US Defence Secretary has said that Washington has a “whole global agenda” with India covering all issues.

“The days are gone when we only deal with India as the other side of the Pakistan coin, or Pakistan as the other side of the India coin,” he said in New York. —Xinhua

OPINION

P.O.C's release signals a step forward to ending arbitrary arrests

Aye Min Soe

ONE day after newly minted State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's pledge to release those who were detained on charges related to politics and political activism scores of prisoners of conscience including student protesters were released under presidential pardon.

Remaining prisoners of conscience will be released once the process of dropping their charges is completed at court when the courts re-open after the Myanmar new year holidays, according to the statement issued by the State Counsellor's Office on 8 April.

The move, which saw the new government use the president's pardoning power for the first time, has sent a strong message to the public regarding the NLD government's intention to end the cycle of arbitrary arrests in Myanmar.

The release of prisoners of conscience is merely the first step. To end arbitrary arrests, the NLD government must get to the root causes of arrests.

To do this, repealing and amending the country's legal framework, which has caused friction between the authorities and activists, will be one of the top priorities of the new government.

Meanwhile, some issues, which have brought human rights defenders and activists to the streets and caused conflicts, should be settled as soon as possible.

If not, politically active citizens will remain at risk of arbitrary arrest for expressing their opinions.

To break the cycle of political arrests, the new government must prioritise the amending of the nation's laws used to clamp down on dissent to ensure that speaking out is no longer a crime.

Write for us

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

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

It is welcome news to note that Canada has stood by Myanmar to help the newly emergent democracy to establish as nation of hope, promises, prosperity and opportunities for her resilient people in their journey towards self sufficiency (Canada commits CAD 44 million to support Myanmar; GNLM, April 8). Last year I have explicitly written for Canadian support to Myanmar and I am glad it has come true and that the Myanmar-Canada relationship is going to take a new and positive turn. Myanmar with her rich natural resources and strategic location between giant economies (China and India) is a gateway to South East Asia form the vast and thickly populated Indian subcontinent. With new economic corridors being developed connecting China and India through Myanmar to South East Asia and future joining hands of the SAARC and ASEAN economic platforms; Myanmar has a pivotal role to play. As a Canadian, I feel proud to be beside a new and rising Myanmar and would request the Canadian government to establish further economic, strategic, diplomatic as well as strong people to people contact. Once again a warm wish for the long term Myanmar-Canada relationship.

Thanking you Sincerely yours Saikat Kumar Basu

Poetical Traits of Aing-chin Poems

Maung Phyo (WYU)

THE term "Aing" stands for "chanting a song in a lavish and rhythmic manner" and "chin" for "song" itself. Dr Hla Pe categorized "Aing-chin" into the genre of folk songs or songs of lament. Again, Saya Zawgyi in his "A Note of Ancient Aing-chins" said, "Aing-chins should be termed as good poems as they can soften the hearts of the village folks if Yadus are called good poems because they can tenderize those of the palace-bred. For, however distant the two are in terms of life styles and ways of thinking, nothing differs from each other at the fact that both are human beings."

As regards their thematic preferences, aing-chins are composed of palm-hut, star-fruit yard, farm, bulls, mosquitoes, larva, Gyo tree, Hnaw tree, Htanaung tree, Kyaunggyit tree, grilled beef, Tazet water (water poured down from a roof-gutter when it rains), wizards, goblins, apparitions, harp, gong, black-strip silk, blue turban and Nat-shrines. Most aing-chins are themed with feminine lament or nostalgia for unrequited or parted love. At this point, the two literary genres, yadus and aing-chins, bear resemblance simply because both palace girls and village maidens can fall prey to a human frailty, i.e. being in love.

According to Saya Zawgyi, aing-chins generally possess four characteristics as follows;

- (1) Going to a theme through gradual steps
(2) Bringing a theme to the fore with the help of a comparison
(3) Bringing to notice subtleties and minute details of a theme and
(4) Indirect emphasis.

Aing-chins possess this poetical trait quite distinctively. Aing-chin poets or poetesses help the readers to reach a theme with use of this poetic tool. During his perusal, a reader eventually arrives at a theme of an aing-chin by following the lead of an artistic display of the preceding examples.

For instance, in the aing-chin "When I Miss Him", the aing-chin poetess disclosed two backgrounds; two waves of nostalgia for her parents, which again brings the reader to the foreground, that is, her longing for her love that outweighs the previous two like,

When I Miss Him (Taungdwin Shin Nyein Me) Dear Friends and Sisters! Thus have I relieved myself, When I missed my mother, offering cool drinking water, a quid of betel and Eugenia leaves, to the Lord Buddha, and pouring the cool water, down on the Bo tree.

Thus have I relieved myself, When I missed my father, offering cool drinking water, a quid of betel and Eugenia leaves, to the Lord Buddha, and pouring the cool water, down on the Bo tree.

But I can't relieve myself anyhow, as I miss my man now, offering cool drinking water, a quid of betel and Eugenia leaves, to the Lord Buddha, and pouring the cool water, down on the Bo tree. Moved like a larva in a cool-water jar, And this is how I feel.

(Translated by the author)

"မောင့်ကိုလွမ်းတော့" သုံးထောင့်အိုင် (တောင်တွင်းရှင်ငြိမ်းမယ်) ချစ်တဲ့သူငယ်လေး၊ သူငယ်ချင်းကောင်း၊ယောင်မတို့လေး။ မိကိုလွမ်းလည်း၊ သော ကံစေ တော်စေ ရ ချမ်း။ စားစေ တော် ကွမ်းနှင့်၊ သူနဲ့ တွဲညှာ စေရ၊ ပန်းသပြေနှင့်၊ ပြေဖူးငှဲရှင်၊ အကိုလွမ်းလည်း၊ သော ကံစေ တော်စေ ရ ချမ်း။ စားစေ တော် ကွမ်းနှင့်၊ သူနဲ့ တွဲညှာ စေရ၊ ပန်းသပြေနှင့်၊ ပြေဖူးငှဲရှင်၊ မောင်ကလေး၊ မောင့်ကိုလွမ်းတော့၊ သောက်တော်စေချမ်း၊စားတော်ကွမ်းနှင့်၊ သူနဲ့ တွဲညှာ စေရ၊ ပန်းသပြေနှင့်။

မပြေပါလို့။ သော ကံစေ တော်စေရခိုး၊ ကျွမ်းထိုး တောင်နယ်၊ အချိုဖြူငယ်နမမှာ၊ ကြုံရတယ်ရှင်။

(1) Bringing a theme to the fore with the help of a comparison This is the second poetical trait of aing-chins in which a theme is brought to the fore with use of a comparison. The poet or poetess attempts to put more emphasis on the theme with such comparison that can help create a better understanding on the part of the readers.

For example, in "Who Infected You With Sweat Fungus?" the maiden in the poem hinted at her suspicion towards her lover with two comparisons such as placing the "kin" at the foot of rice seedlings and infector of the sweat fungus as follows;

"Who Infected You With Sweat Fungus?" Yar Pyae Aing (Taungdwin Shin Nyein Me) Dear Friends and Sisters! In the grid of my paddy plantation, at the foot of rice seedlings, where do I place a "kin"?

On the clean, straight neck, of my beloved, who infected you with sweat fungus?

In the grid of paddy plantation, at the foot of rice seedlings, I do place in the center my "kin".

On the clean, straight neck, of my beloved, I infected you with sweat fungus.

Not in broad daylight, only at night, my secret fungus, to you, I spread. But something still left, out of my fungus patch, distinctively spotted, and here I, Shwe-in-thu<sup>2</sup>, stay with my parents, in a house with yard and detached. O how I miss my childhood love!

(Translated by the author)

"ညှင်းကိုဘယ်ကွမ်းပါလိမ့်" ရာပြည့်အိုင် (တောင်တွင်းရှင်ငြိမ်းမယ်) ချစ်တဲ့သူငယ်လေး၊ သူငယ်ချင်းကောင်း၊ယောင်မတို့လေး။

စိုက်ရေးငယ်မှကျင်းကျင်း၊ နမကြီး မယ်သာစိုက်သည့်၊ ကောက်ပင် ရင်းမှာ၊ ကင်းကိုဘယ်ကထားသလဲတော်။

ညှင်းလွင်မှကြောရှင်၊ မောင်ကလေး မောင့်လည်ပင်းမှာ၊ ညှင်းကို ဘယ်ကွမ်းသလဲတော်။

စိုက်ရေးငယ်မှ ကျင်းကျင်း၊ နမလေး မယ်သာစိုက်တဲ့ ကောက်ပင် ရင်းမှာ၊ ကင်းကို လယ်က ထားသတဲ့။

ညှင်းလွင်မှ ကျော့ရှင်၊ မောင်ကလေးမောင့်လည်ပင်းမှာ၊ ညှင်းကို မယ်ကွမ်းသတဲ့။

နေ့ကိုမပေး၊ ညှင်းကိုပေးသည့်၊ ညှင်းသေးငယ်မှပြုပြု၊ အမယ်မင်းငယ်နှင့်၊ဖမ်းငယ်နေသည့်၊ အိမ်ခြေဝင်းနှင့်၊ ရွှေအင်းသူငယ်ပျို၊ညှင်းအုံကို၊ အတုနမပေး၊ကြွင်းသေးငဲ့လေး။

အချိုဖြူငယ်ကကျွမ်းသည့်၊ လွမ်းတဲ့ တင်လေး။

(2) Bring to notice subtleties and minute details of a theme

According to Saya Zawgyi, aing-chin poets and poetesses are very much like good storytellers in this regard. A thoughtful poet or writer tends to be aware of minute details and subtleties of nature in its simplest form. This attribute also belongs to an aing-chin poet or poetess as a good storyteller when he or she composes details of his or her neighborhood that an ordinary person, most possibly, would pass unnoticed. Such detailed composition of the natural environment can be traced in an aing-chin titled "If You Want Me" as follows;

If You Want Me, (Taungdwin Shin Nyein Me)

Dear Friends and Sisters! If you want to know where my house exists, There in the front, a shop and a shrine of Nat-spirit.

There in the south, a bed of onion and a well, There in the north, a bush of lemon grass and a dan tree, There in the backyard, a carpet of mikhailin<sup>3</sup> and ginger. Do come and dig yourself,

In that puffy patch, at the advent of Buddhist Lent, mithalin and ginger if you want.

But if you want me instead, The first Tharaphi "bloom you pluck, When Tabauung turns into Tagu.

Lo! I meet him, With a goncho<sup>5</sup>garland, How grandiose he stands.

(Translated by the author)

"နမထွေး မယ်ကိုလိုလျှင်" (တောင်တွင်းရှင်ငြိမ်းမယ်)

ချစ်တဲ့သူငယ်လေး၊ သူငယ်ချင်းကောင်း ယောင်မတို့လေး။

နမထွေး မယ်ကိုအိမ်ကို၊ သိလိုချင်မှု၊ နတ်ခရိုင်နှင့် ဈေးဆိုင်နှင့်။

အိမ်တောင်ကမှ၊ ကြက်သွန်ခင်းနှင့် ရေတွင်းနှင့်။

အိမ်ခြေကပ်ကမူ၊ စပါးလင်းနှင့်အနီးပင်နှင့်။

အိမ်နောက်ကမှ၊ မိသားစုဝင်နှင့် ချင်းပင်နှင့်။

မိသားစုဝင်နှင့်ချင်းကိုလိုလျှင်၊ ဝါဆိုငယ်မှ ဝါဦး၊ မြေနုနုအိုးကို၊ တူးလှည့်ပါရင်၊ မိသားစုဝင်နှင့်ချင်းကိုမလို၊ နမထွေး မယ်ကိုလိုလျှင်၊ တပေါင်းငယ်မှ တန်ခူး၊ ရွှေဖီဦးကို ခူးလှည့်ပါရင်။

အလို အချိုဖြူ သူနှင့်ဆုံသည့်၊ ဝုံချိုကိုးငယ်နှင့် ဆောင်လုံးညှိုးလေး။

Again in an aing-chin called "In the shade of greyish bushes", the maiden is certain about the way her lover dresses and the place she used to await him in order to relieve herself of lovesickness. He customarily puts on his turban top-knotted whereas she, wearing a Yinma flower, tends to await him under a shady plum beside a broad street in the south of letkhoke tree, a banyan tree and a hnaw tree. All of these are subtly and lamentably expressed in the poem like,

In the Shade of Greyish Bushes Yar Pyae Aing (Letwei Thondra U Myat San)

Dear Friends and Sisters! Waso and Wakhaung see the southern beck,

brimful and adjoining the western streamlet; Htanaung<sup>6</sup>, Kyaungkyit<sup>7</sup> and Suyit<sup>8</sup> in full bloom, and rain not heavily getting on.

Overlooking from my grid of seedlings, that lined the paddy plantation, no sight of thee, but I'm not sorry.

Whenever I take a sweeping glance, over the grid of paddy plantation, standing on an embankment, I never find my beloved man, whose tender hair top-knotted with a turban, to open up our hearts into a romance.

Wearing Yinma<sup>9</sup> flower with a transplanting fork in hand, in the south of Letkhoke<sup>10</sup>tree, a beautiful banyan tree, and a forked Hnaw<sup>11</sup> tree beside a straight street, I momentarily shelter under a shady plum, and try to relieve my lovesickness, in the shade of greyish bushes.

(Translated by the author)

"ချိုညှိစွန်းမှာတည့် အလွမ်းခြေလေး" ရာပြည့်အိုင် (လက်ဝဲသူနုရ ဦးမြတ်စံ)

ချစ်တဲ့သူငယ်လေး၊ သူငယ်ချင်းကောင်း ယောင်မတို့လေး။

ဝါဆိုငယ်မှဝါခေါင်း၊ ရေစောင်စောင်နှင့်၊ ရွှေတောင်ကချောင်း၊ ရွှေနောက်ပေါင်းလို၊ ထမင်းခင်းကြောင့်ကျစ်၊ ဆူးရစ်ပွင့်တာ မိုးမရွာသည့်၊ ရွာပါသော်လည်း မိုးမသည်း။

လယ်ပြင်ငယ်မှပတ်သန်း၊ ပျိုကောက်ငန်းနှင့်၊ အလွမ်းငယ်မှဖျော်ရာ၊ နမကြီးမယ်သာစိုက်တဲ့၊ ကောက်ငန်းတောကို၊ မလာကတည်း၊ နမကြီးငယ် ဝမ်းမနည်း။

ကောက်ငန်းငယ်မှ သွယ်ပိုက်၊ ကန်သင်းပေါ်က မျှော်မိလိုက်တိုင်း၊ ပျိုကြိုက်တဲ့သူ ပေါ်ထည့် ထိပ်လည်မှာပေါင်း၊ ဆံသွယ်ပျောင်းငယ်နှင့် တောင်းကြော့လူကို၊

စိတ်တူနှောလို့ မပြောရလေ။ ရင်းမာပန်လျက်၊ ကောက်စိုက်တက်ကို၊ လက်ခုပ်ပင်တောင်၊ပညောင်ပင်လှ၊ နှောပင်ရွှေနှင့်လမ်းမတိုးလို့၊ ဆီးချိုရိပ်မှာလ၊ တဆိတ်ကယ်ပိုပြီးလျှင်၊ ချိုညှိစွန်းမှာတည့် အလွမ်းခြေလေး။

(3) Indirect Emphasis

With this poetic tool, the aing-chin poets or poetesses tend to help the readers visualize what is hidden in the poem. Significantly, they have a brilliant command of figurative speeches like personification and simile in composing aing-chins. For example, the aing-chin "When I Miss Him", the maiden's insurmountable nostalgia was personified by a larva in the cool-water jar. In the aing-chin titled "If You Want Me", the village maiden was dropping a subtle hint by urging her lover to try to win her hand in Tabauung and Tagu like he digs up gingers and mithalin in Waso and Wakhaung. The way of presentation she applied in the poem reflected her feminine decorum. It was subtly done and also indirectly direct as in;

"Do come and dig yourself, In that puffy patch, at the advent of Buddhist Lent, Mithalin and ginger if you want. But if you want me instead, then pluck the first Thraphi bloom, When Tabauung turns into Tagu."

Again in the aing-chin titled "May You Dehydrate Yourself!" the maiden hinted that she could no longer receive her lover's private visit as her mihtwes (aunts) disfavored him by saying "she has to lean her weaving reed against a corner". In the olden days, there prevailed a custom of courtship in the villages that the young villagers went courting in the village at night, customarily the maidens had to receive them while rolling up cheroots, cutting the areca nuts, or spinning. In the following aing-chin, the maiden indirectly hinted at her situation like,

"Dear Friends and Sisters! My Mi Htwes objected,

As they disagree to our love, Since puberty we fostered, So have the spin I kept, Leaning it against a corner".

In short, all the aing-chin poems are, more or less, endowed with the said characteristics. They help the readers arrive at the theme of a particular aing-chin. In addition, composition and choice of words in aing-chins are also very attractive and effective at the same time. Colloquial usages are reflected in the aing-chins. Therefore, they possibly become indicators of socio-linguistic features of a respective age. Furthermore, aing-chin poets and poetesses used very simple and direct language in that they manipulated simple sentences with nouns and verbs, very few modifiers and clauses. Therefore, aing-chins are forceful and effective languages of the age, and also of the people. Besides, folk elements like rural customs, rituals, superstitions and socio-economic features are recorded in the aing-chins, many of which have already sunken in obscurity nowadays. They are invaluable simply because they mirror the ages.

References;

- (1) Hla Pe, Dr. Burmese Poetry. JBRS, LIV, i and ii, Dec, 1971.
(2) Tin, U. Kabyabandathara. Seikku Cho Cho Publishing. 2013
(3) Shwe Thein Min, Ko. Anthology of Ancient Myanmar Poems. Pan Shwe Pyi Publishing. October, 2012.

(Endnotes)

- i general term for centipede and scorpion, (or) a fork used for transplanting paddy,
ii a native of Ava (or) a native of Shwe-in
iii ginger-like herb, the rhizome of which smells like camphor
iv Calophyllum amoenum
v leptadenia reticulata
vi acacia leucophloea
vii mezoneurum cucullatum
viii acacia pennata
ix chukrassia tabularis
x sterculia foetida
xi adina codifolia

# Syrian govt releases US citizen, Russia helped — State Department

WASHINGTON — Russia played a role in the release of an American citizen held by Syrian authorities and the United States has had “periodic contact” with the Syrian government, the US State Department said on Friday.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the Russian military had taken a US citizen from Syria to Moscow, after President Barack Obama personally asked President Vladimir Putin to help search for Americans in Syria. The man was handed over to the US Embassy in Moscow and has now left Russia, the ministry said on Friday.

*The Washington Post*, citing two US officials, reported that Syria’s government had released Kevin Dawes, who was abducted after traveling to Syria in 2012.

Dawes, described by the newspaper as a freelance photographer, was recently allowed to call family and receive care packages, signaling to officials that the Syrian government was moving toward his release, the *Post* report-



Kevin Patrick Dawes is seen in a 2010 picture from a missing persons poster circulated by the FBI. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed. US State Department Spokesman Mark Toner said the person was freed several days ago and had left Syria but did not identify the individual.

“We are appreciative of efforts on the part of the Russian government that it undertook on behalf of this US citizen in Syria,” Toner told a news briefing.

Toner did not elaborate on Moscow’s involvement.

Toner said US authorities have been in touch with Syrian officials, an instance of rare cooperation between the two countries, which do not have diplomatic relations.

“We have also been in direct periodic contact with the Syrian government regarding consular issues in general and American citizens detained in Syria,” Toner said. The United States has called repeatedly for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down since Syria’s civil war broke out in 2011.

*The Washington Post* said Dawes’ release was seen as a positive sign for American reporter Austin Tice, who also went missing in Syria in 2012.

The State Department is continuing to work through Czech officials in Syria to get information on Tice as well as on other US citizens missing in Syria.

Tice’s family declined to comment.—*Reuters*

# Afghan lawmakers confirm key government posts amid infighting

KABUL — Afghan lawmakers approved government nominees as interior minister and attorney general on Saturday, offering a boost to a struggling administration that has been undermined by infighting since it was formed following a disputed election in 2014.

Parliament voted to confirm Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Jahid, a former army general, and Attorney General Mohammad Farid Hamidi, formerly a member of the Human Rights Commission, avoiding a major embarrassment for President Ashraf Ghani.

The two new appointees will be crucial to the government’s top priorities, confronting the Taliban’s growing insurgency and combating endemic corruption. Both were nominated in February after the resignation of former interior minister Noor-ul-Haq Olomi, who had faced heavy criticism over deteriorating security in Afghanistan.

The relatively swift confirmation of two key appointees contrasts with wrangling over the defence portfolio, still formally held by an acting minister more

than a year-and-a-half after the national unity government led by Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was formed.

Afghanistan’s main intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security (NDS), is also without a permanent director after the former head resigned in December to protest against Ghani’s decision to seek a rapprochement with Pakistan, which many in Afghanistan believe supports the Taliban.

Confirming Saturday’s count, parliamentary speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy asked the government to present nominees for the two unfilled positions.

“We request both Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah to present us nominees for ministry of defence and NDS for a vote of confidence so that we can end the caretaker arrangement,” he said following the vote for Jahid.

The failure to confirm senior security officials has hampered the battle against the Taliban and other insurgent groups, which Afghan troops are now fighting on their own since NATO ended its combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014.—*Reuters*

# No more ‘free’ Saudi money for Egypt — Saudi businessman familiar with matter

CAIRO — Saudi Arabia’s financial support for strategic ally Egypt will no longer involve “free money” and will increasingly take the form of loans that provide returns to help it grapple with low oil prices, a Saudi businessman familiar with the matter said.

“This is a change in strategy. Return on investment is important to Saudi Arabia as it diversifies sources of revenue,” the businessman told Reuters on Friday during what has been described as a “historic” visit to Cairo by Saudi King Salman.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait showered Egypt with billions of dollars after then-military chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi toppled President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

But low oil prices and differences over regional issues have called into question whether such strong support is sustainable.

Egypt is struggling to revive an economy hit by years of political upheaval since the 2011 uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak, as well as an Islamist insurgency based in the Sinai Peninsula.

The more measured Saudi ap-

proach could increase pressure on Sisi to deliver on promises of an economic turnaround and job creation in the most populous Arab nation through infrastructure mega-projects.

“Saudi Arabia will be making investments and soft loans. No more free money,” said the businessman.

Later on Friday, Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr said Cairo had signed development agreements with Saudi Arabia worth \$590 million.

The agreements, signed with the Saudi finance minister, covered development in the Sinai peninsula, agriculture, housing and a university, Nasr told *Al-Ahram* newspaper. Gulf monarchies applauded Sisi after he seized power in 2013, removing the Muslim Brotherhood — seen as an existential threat to their wealthy nations — and mounting the fiercest crackdown on dissent in Egypt’s modern history.

Sisi went on to become elected president on promises of stability but cracks are beginning to appear in what was once the cult-like adulation he enjoyed among many Egyptians, with TV talk show hosts increasingly critical of government officials.—*Reuters*



The US Consulate in Benghazi is seen in flames during a protest by an armed group said to have been protesting a film being produced in the United States in September 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

# US hands over 1,100 pages of Benghazi records — House panel chairman

WASHINGTON — The US State Department on Friday handed over more than 1,100 pages of records to the committee investigating the deaths of US citizens in Benghazi, Libya on 11 September, 2012, the chairman of the House of Representatives panel said.

The records included files from senior employees during the time Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, according to a statement by Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy.

“It is deplorable that it took over a year for these records to

be produced to our committee, and that our Democrat colleagues never lifted a finger to help us get them,” Gowdy, a Republican, said in the statement. Democrats have complained since the investigation began that the panel is a partisan project bent on hurting Clinton’s candidacy.—*Reuters*

## Global Fund gives Burkina Faso over 100m euros to fight AIDS, malaria

OUAGADOUGOU — Global Fund Africa on Thursday promised to support Burkina Faso's fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria with a grant of 117 million euros until 2017.

An official of Global Fund Africa, Caty Fall, who was speaking in Ouagadougou after holding talks with Burkina Faso Prime Minister Paul Kaba Thieba, said the funds will also go towards reinforcing Burkinabe health sys-

tem within the period 2015-2017.

She said talks also centered on investments and allocations covering the period 2018-2020.

"We also discussed the priorities of the new government, one of which is to reinforce human capital," she concluded.

Burkina Faso which recently ended a 13-month transition period, is confronted with a budget deficit, the new authorities revealed recently.—*Xinhua*

## Eating fresh pear regularly may improve BP, heart function

WASHINGTON — Eating fresh pears may improve blood pressure and vascular function in middle-aged men and women who are at risk of developing cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes, according to a new study.

The clinical trial evaluated the antihypertensive effects of fresh pear consumption in middle-aged men and women with metabolic syndrome (MetS), a cluster of major cardiovascular risk factors highly associated with the development of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

Fifty men and women aged 45 to 65 years with three of the five features of MetS were randomly assigned to receive either 2 medium-sized fresh pears (about 178 grammes) or 50 grammes pear-flavored drink mix (placebo) per day for 12 weeks.

Preliminary analyses of 36 participants show that after 12 weeks of fresh pear consumption, systolic blood pressure and pulse pressure were significantly lower than baseline levels, whereas there were no changes in the control group.

Further research is needed to confirm the antihypertensive effects of fresh pears as well as to assess their impact on vascular function, researchers said.

"These initial results are very promising," said lead author Sarah A Johnson, who conducted the research while at Florida State University.

"With metabolic syndrome being of such high prevalence in the US, we feel it is important to explore the potential for functional foods such as pears to improve cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure in affected middle-aged adults," Johnson said, who is now at from the Colorado State University.

"Elevated systolic blood pressure and pulse pressure, which is the difference between systolic and diastolic blood pressure, are strong predictors of cardiovascular disease," she said.

"Age-related vascular dysfunction has been shown to be accelerated in individuals with metabolic syndrome and contributes to these increases in blood pressure," she said.

Among the most popular fruits in the world, pears are an excellent source of fibre and a good source of vitamin C, for only 100 calories per serving.

One medium pear provides 24 per cent of daily fibre needs, researchers said. They are sodium-free, cholesterol-free, fat-free, and contain 190 mg of potassium.—*PTI*



Pears, which are commercially grown in Washington, California, and Oregon, provide vitamin C and necessary fiber all for a mere 100 calories. PHOTO: REUTERS



A NASA image shows the International Space Station as it flew over Madagascar, showing three of the five spacecraft docked to the station in this photo taken by the Expedition 47 Flight Engineer Tim Peake of ESA on 6 April 2016 and released on 8 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## SpaceX rocket booster makes breakthrough landing at sea

CAPE CANAVERAL — A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasted off from Florida on a NASA cargo run to the International Space Station on Friday, and its reusable main-stage booster landed on an ocean platform minutes later in a dramatic spaceflight first.

The successful autonomous touchdown of the booster at sea marked another milestone for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk and his privately owned Space Exploration Technologies in the quest to develop a cheap, reusable rocket, expanding his edge in the burgeoning commercial space launch industry.

The liftoff at 4:43pm EDT (2043 GMT) from Cape Canaveral Air Station also marked the resumption of resupply flights by SpaceX for NASA following a launch accident in June 2015 that destroyed an earlier cargo payload for the space station.

About 2-1/2 minutes after Friday's launch, the main part of the 23-storey tall, two-stage SpaceX rocket separated, turned around and headed toward a landing platform floating in the Atlantic about 185 miles (300 km) northeast of Cape Canaveral.

A live video feed broadcast on NASA television showed the

rocket booster, its four landing legs extended, descending over the ocean before settling itself upright on the barge-like platform, roughly eight minutes after launch.

"The rocket landed instead of putting a hole in the ship or tipping over," Musk told reporters at the Kennedy Space Centre a short time later. "We're real excited about that."

Four previous at-sea landing attempts had failed. But a Falcon 9 main-stage rocket achieved a successful ground-based touchdown in December, the first ever during an actual commercial space mission. President Obama hailed the latest accomplishment on Twitter, saying, "Congrats SpaceX on landing a rocket at sea. It's because of innovators like you & NASA that America continues to lead in space exploration."

The reusable rocket booster should arrive back in Florida on Sunday and will be test-fired about 10 times, then likely relaunched, probably on a commercial flight, as early as May, Musk said.

SpaceX plans to start launching rockets about every two weeks from its sites in Florida and California later this year as the

company tackles satellite-delivery orders worth some \$10 billion, company officials said.

Roughly half the upcoming missions will leave the Falcon 9's booster with too little reserve fuel to fly all the way back to the launch site for a return landing, so the ability to land at sea is essential, Musk said.

He estimates each Falcon 9 booster should be good for 10 to 20 launches, possibly up to 100 with minor refurbishment.

SpaceX also plans to debut a heavy-lift version of the Falcon rocket this year, equipped with 27 engines powering its first-stage, compared to the nine currently used. The cargo ship that lifted off on Friday, a capsule dubbed Dragon, was due to arrive on Sunday at the space station, the \$100 billion laboratory flying about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth. It is packed with about 7,000 pounds (3,175 kg) of food, supplies and experiments, including a prototype inflatable habitat.

Built by Nevada-based Bigelow Aerospace, the lightweight fabric habitat will be tested to see how it compares with more traditional orbiting enclosures made from metal in the hostile environment of space.—*Reuters*

## Viet Nam's HCM City confirms one Zika case

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City on Friday declared a Zika case at a ward scale, the municipal Health Department announced.

The declaration was made after a 33-year-old woman from the city's District 2 had been found infected with Zika virus.

Earlier, Nha Trang city in central Khanh Hoa Province con-

firmed a Zika case after a 64-year-old woman from the city's Phuoc Hoa district had been tested positive to the virus.

Since the first two Zika patients were confirmed in Viet Nam on Tuesday by the country's Health Ministry, Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang City and many other localities nationwide have strengthened disease prevention

and fight, including cleaning environments and exterminating mosquitoes' larvae in residential areas. Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. People with Zika virus disease usually have symptoms that include mild fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.—*Xinhua*

# Pope calls for compassionate Church open to 'imperfect' Catholics

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Friday called for a Church that was less strict and more compassionate towards “imperfect” Catholics, such as those who divorced and remarried, saying “no one can be condemned forever”.

Francis said gays should be respected but firmly re-stated the Church’s position that there are “absolutely no grounds” to equate gay unions to heterosexual marriage.

In a 260-page treatise called “Amoris Laetitia,” (The Joy of Love), one of the most eagerly awaited pronouncements of his pontificate, Francis quoted Martin Luther King, Argentine Poet Jorge Luis Borges and even the 1987 Danish cult film *Babette’s Feast* to make his case for a more merciful and loving Church.

The keenest anticipation centered on what he would say about the full re-integration into the Church of Catholics who divorce and remarry in civil ceremonies.

Under current Church teaching they cannot receive communion unless they abstain from sex with



**Pope Francis arrives to lead the weekly audience in Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican on 6 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

their new partner, because their first marriage is still valid in the eyes of the Church and they are seen to be living in an adulterous state of sin.

The number of divorces has risen markedly in recent decades in most of the leading economies grouped in the OECD. About 42 per cent of marriages in England and Wales ended in divorce in 2013, according to an estimate by the UK Office for

National Statistics.

“No one can be condemned forever, because that is not the logic of the Gospel! Here I am not speaking only of the divorced and remarried, but of everyone, in whatever situation they find themselves,” the pope said.

Presenting the document at a packed Vatican news conference, Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna, called it “a classic case of the organic

development of doctrine,” which he described as being a continuation of theological thought without rupture with the past.

Progressives have proposed the use of an “internal forum” in which a priest or bishop work with a Catholic who has divorced and remarried to decide jointly, privately and on a case-by-case basis if he or she can be fully re-integrated and receive communion.—Reuters

# NATO, Russia council to meet for first time since mid-2014

BRUSSELS — A forum bringing together Russia and its former Cold War adversary NATO will convene in the coming weeks for the first time since the Ukraine crisis halted its activities, both sides said on Friday.

The NATO-Russia Council was established in 2002 but was effectively suspended months after Moscow annexed the Crimean peninsula in March 2014. Both sides have now agreed to hold talks at ambassador level in Brussels in the next two weeks.

While the West and Russia remain at odds over Ukraine, the meeting is a sign of willingness to improve diplomatic relations that could help avoid any accidental military clashes in the region.

Earlier on Friday, Alexey Meshkov, a deputy Russian foreign minister, was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying the meeting could happen “in the coming weeks”. NATO confirmed the meeting would take place at its headquarters in the next two weeks but did not give a precise date.

Russia’s mission to NATO said that the agenda of the meeting, which had been the main sticking point for some time, was now agreed. It did not give a date for the meeting.

NATO has said any meeting would have to address the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and separatists in eastern Ukraine, which has killed more than 9,000 people since April 2014. The West accuses Russia of supporting the rebels, something Moscow denies.

“The NATO-Russia



**NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg holds a news conference during a NATO defence ministers meeting at the Alliance’s headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on 10 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS**

Council will discuss the crisis in and around Ukraine and the need to fully implement the Minsk agreements,” NATO said in a statement, referring to the two rounds of peace efforts agreed in the Belarusian capital but which have yet to be implemented.

“We will discuss military activities, with particular focus on transparency and risk reduction,” it said, adding that Afghanistan and regional threats were also on the agenda.

As NATO accelerates its biggest military build-up in eastern Europe since the Cold War, the alliance wants to talk to Moscow about improved military transparency to avoid misunderstandings.

NATO suspended all practical cooperation with Russia in April 2014 in protest against Moscow’s annexation of Crimea. NATO said high-level political contacts with Russia could continue but NATO and Russian ambassadors met only twice since the Crimea crisis erupted, in March 2014 and then in early June of the same year.—Reuters

# Race for run-off spot heats up ahead of Peru election

LIMA — The race for second place in the first round of Peru’s presidential election on Sunday was still wide open on Friday, with polls split over who would earn the chance to face long-time front-runner Keiko Fujimori in an expected run-off.

Peru’s stock market closed 4 per cent higher after Wall Street favourite

Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was seen in second place with 20.8 per cent of valid votes, ahead of leftist Veronika Mendoza with 16.5 per cent, according to a survey by GfK.

Polls by Ipsos and Datum showed the two second place contestants within one point of each other, though Mendoza’s momentum appears to

have slowed.

“Veronika hasn’t increased voters so much in recent days. She rose a lot since March but less recently,” Urpi Torrado, of pollster Datum, told foreign reporters at a news conference.

Fujimori, the daughter of jailed former president Alberto Fujimori, was still seen about 10 points short

of the 50 per cent of votes needed to win outright. Her support has slipped since tens of thousands protested against her on Tuesday.

A Fujimori-Kuczynski run-off in June would likely ensure Peru’s free-market model of the last quarter century prevails in the top metals producer, no matter the winner.—Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO (1609)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO (1609) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 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 Claim’s 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 MCC TRANSPORT  
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (032N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (032N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 Claim’s 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 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 Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT  
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

## Flint water system improving, but still unstable: agency

FLINT (Michigan) — The drinking water in Flint, Michigan, where high lead levels led to a health crisis that drew national attention, is improving, but remains unstable, a top environmental official said on Friday.

“The drinking water system is recovering,” Robert Kaplan, the US Environmental Protection Agency’s acting administrator for the region that includes Flint, told local and state officials meeting in the city to discuss the crisis.

“You’ve got a dramatic decrease in the soluble lead. What we’re seeing though is particulate lead, which indicates that the system is unstable,” he told the meeting by phone.

Under the direction of a state-appointed emergency manager, Flint switched water supplies to the Flint River from Detroit’s system in 2014 to save money. The state has been criticised for its initial poor handling of the issue.

The corrosive river water leached lead, a toxic substance that can damage the nervous system, from the city’s water pipes. Flint switched back to the Detroit system last October.

“Whenever we see a positive trend in Flint’s water quality, that’s good news, but we still have much work to do to get people the quality of water they need and deserve,” Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement on Friday.

Kaplan said while the addition of chemical phosphates to recoat the pipes to inhibit corrosion is working, the almost invisible lead particles remain a random and unpredictable problem.

Kaplan said water fil-

ters reliably deal with the lead, but the best approach would be for residents to vigorously flush their home water systems by turning on all faucets and spigots and running the water to clean the sediment out and rebuild the protective phosphate coating.

He said local and state officials need to have a simple message for residents in the city of 100,000 people to take that approach.



**Michigan Governor Rick Snyder drinks some water as he testifies before a House Oversight and government Reform hearing on “Examining Federal Administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Flint, Michigan, Part III” on Capitol Hill in Washington on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS**

“If we don’t have an extremely simple message, as in free water, you will not be charged for the water that you use that is related to this flushing, I’m afraid we’re not able to get that lead washed out of the system,” he said.

The state previously approved \$30 million to help Flint residents pay their water bills dating back to when the switch to the Flint River was made.

Kaplan said a full recovery of Flint’s water system will take time, adding experts would not provide a time table at this point.—*Reuters*

## TransCanada to restart Keystone pipeline by Saturday upon PHMSA approval

NEW YORK — TransCanada Corp expects to restart its Keystone crude pipeline by Saturday, upon receiving conditional approval from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the company said in emailed statement on Friday.

TransCanada said its 590,000 barrel per day pipeline should be fully operational by end of day Saturday.

As part of the restart, TransCanada will reduce the pressure on the line to ensure it is functioning properly and meeting conditions laid out by PHMSA, the statement said.

The company also said it will conduct aerial patrols and visual inspections during the restart.

The pipeline, which delivers crude from Hardisty, Alberta, to Cushing, Oklahoma and to Illinois, was shut last weekend after a potential leak in South Dakota.

In an e-mailed statement to media on Friday, the company said it identified a small leak near its Freeman pump station in Hutchinson County, South Dakota.



**A TransCanada Keystone Pipeline pump station operates outside Steele City, Nebraska in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS**

The company added that it would be working with PHMSA to return the line to service following completion of the repairs.

On Thursday, the Canadian pipeline company said about 400 barrels of oil could have leaked in South Dakota from its pipeline, but was still investigating the source of the spill.

The spread between front to second month US crude futures widened by as much as 7 cents in the 10

minutes following news of the Tuesday restart. It settled with May crude at a \$1.27 a barrel discount to June barrels.

The outage caused Canadian cash crude prices to fall throughout the week with barrels for May delivery dropping to two-month lows in the Hardisty, Alberta, hub.

“There are only a handful of pipelines available to export barrels out of Canada and when a large pipeline like Keystone

goes offline, Canadian barrels become stranded and prices suffer,” said Michael Tran, director of energy strategy at RBC Capital Markets in New York.

The restart quickly propped up Western Canadian Select heavy blend crude for May, which traded last at \$14.35 a barrel below benchmark West Texas Intermediate, according to Shorcan Energy brokers, from an intraday high of \$15.05 a barrel discount.—*Reuters*

## Serbia accuses Croatia of obstructing its EU membership talks

LONDON — Serbia accused Croatia on Friday of obstructing its negotiations on European Union membership and said it would not submit to blackmail by its neighbour.

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said his government was “stunned by Croatia’s decision not to support Serbia’s European path” after

Croatian officials in Brussels refused to give their assent to Serbia opening talks on a new chapter or policy area in the negotiations.

“Serbia will not allow itself to be blackmailed, humiliated or disrespected by anyone,” Vucic said in a statement. “Serbia will never be anyone’s punching bag.”

A row has been brew-

ing since Croatia said this week that Serbia must change its law on prosecuting crimes committed during the 1990s Balkan wars as a condition for completing its EU membership negotiations.

Croatia, which fought a 1991-95 war against Belgrade-backed Serb rebels to forge its independence from Yugoslavia, says it is unacceptable for

Serbia to claim jurisdiction for war crimes committed on the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia.

With Serbian elections set for 24 April, the dispute could give ammunition to ultra-nationalists who loathe Vucic’s policies of integration with the EU and instead favour close ties with Russia.—*Reuters*

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./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 Claim’s 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 MCC TRANSPORT  
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (160)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 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 Claim’s 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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 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 Claim’s 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 YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

## Bollywood actress to help Japan attract more tourists from India

TOKYO — Bollywood actress Evelyn Sharma on Friday described a project to attract more tourists to Japan from India.

Sharma, along with Miss World Japan 2015 Chika Nakagawa, will appear in a 2017 calendar featuring photos taken at tourist sites around Japan, with the women clad in clothes featuring hybrid designs from the two countries.

“Fashion is a universal language,” Sharma told a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan. “We can also find places where Indian movies can be shot. It will make

a completely different picture to have the beautiful background of Japan.”

Indian designer Narendra Kumar, who designed the clothes they will wear, said at the news conference that his work will bring India and Japan closer through the appeal of fashion.

The Japanese branding firm La Ditta Ltd will start selling the calendar in June both in Japan and India. The Japanese government aims to welcome 40 million foreign visitors annually by 2020 when Tokyo will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.—*Kyodo News*



(From L) Miss World Japan 2015 Chika Nakagawa, Bollywood actress Evelyn Sharma and Indian designer Narendra Kumar announce on 8 April 2016 at a Press conference at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan a project to help Japan attract more tourists from India. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Ciara, Ludacris to host 2016 Billboard Music awards

LOS ANGELES — Singer Ciara and rapper Ludacris are set to host the 2016 Billboard Music awards.

For the third year in a row, Ludacris will return to host the awards next month, reported E! online.

“It is my honour to host the Billboard Music Awards for the third year and a pleasure to host with my good friend Ciara,” Ludacris said in a statement.

The annual extravaganza will take place on 22 May at the T-Mo-

bile Arena.

“I’m looking forward to another great show in a new and exciting venue. The Billboard Music Awards is one of the best awards shows to honour chart success.

“My great friend Ludacris and I have also shared songs together on the Billboard chart. I look forward to sharing the stage with him on this special night. It will definitely be a night to remember!” Ciara added.—*PTI*



Kid Rock inducts rock band Cheap Trick at the 31st annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Barclays Centre in Brooklyn, New York, on 8 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Jubilant rappers N.W.A join Hall of Fame with attitude and a selfie

NEW YORK — California rappers N.W.A finally took their place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Friday, jubilant about their transformation from one of the most hated bands in America to music’s mainstream.

N.W.A, formed in the 1980s in the troubled Compton neighbourhood of Los Angeles and enjoying new fame through the 2015 biopic “Straight Outta Compton,” were only the fifth hip hop act ever to be voted into the Hall of Fame. They had been nominated three times before.

The group made waves for their often inflammatory songs that reflected the violence, crime and anti-police sentiments of their neighbourhood, but went on to sell more than 100 million records.

Founding member Ice Cube said the group had earned their place in the Hall of Fame, just as the pioneers of jazz, blues, punk, rock and pop before them.

“We have come a long way from being so hated in the industry to making it to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,” Ice Cube said. “Are we rock and roll? You’re goddam right we’re rock and roll. Rock and roll is not conforming to the people who came before you, but creating your own path in music and in life.”

N.W.A celebrated with Dr. Dre taking a selfie on stage of the group.

British metal band Deep Purple, soft rock-pop group Chicago, singer Steve Miller, and 1970s rock band Cheap Trick rounded out the 2016 inductees, who were chosen by fans and more than 800 voters of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Artists are eligible for inclusion 25 years after the release of their first recording.

Miller, who moved from blues to pop and back again to produce 1970s hits such as “The Joker” and “Fly Like an Eagle,”

lashed out backstage at the induction process.

He criticised restrictions over music and video licensing for the show and complained about being offered only two tickets for family and friends for the ceremony.

“This came so close to not happening,” Miller said of his appearance at Friday’s ceremony. “They make it so unpleasant.”

British band Deep Purple, formed in 1968, performed their signature hit “Smoke on the Water.” Introducing the band, Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich, called them timeless, pioneering and mesmerizing.

Chicago, which fused jazz and rock, performed their upbeat hit “25 or 6 to 4,” but left out what was arguably their best-known song, the 1976 romantic ballad “If You Leave Me Now.”

The ceremony will be broadcast on HBO on 30 April.—*Reuters*

## Oscars’ like prom now: Michael Shannon



Michael Shannon himself poses with a fan. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Actor Michael Shannon says the Oscars are just like the world’s most exclusive prom now.

The 41-year-old actor believes Hollywood and the movie-making business is more obsessed with beauty now than at any other time in history, reported Female First.

“Filmmaking is a visual medium. It’s motion pictures. So basically you’re just a model that talks. Look at any actor nowadays — they’re just models.

“Going to the Oscars is like going to the prom. Everybody dressed up. It used to be that when you went to the Oscars, you’d pick up something nice from the mall. Now it’s this big hoo-haa,” Shannon.—*PTI*

## Paul Walker’s daughter gets \$10.1 million settlement in actor’s death

LOS ANGELES — The 17-year-old daughter of late actor Paul Walker has reached a \$10.1 million settlement with the estate of the man driving the car that crashed and killed them both in 2013, her attorney said on Friday.

Walker was a passenger in a 2005 Porsche Carrera GT driven by Roger Rodas when the car, travelling at speeds of 80 to 93 miles per hour (129 to 150 kilometres per hour), careened into trees and a utility pole in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles.

Meadow Walker’s attorney, Jeff Milam, said in a statement that the settlement would go into

a trust for the teen.

The settlement, reached in November 2014, went unnoticed for nearly a year and half because it was filed under “Meadow W.,” according to celebrity news website TMZ, which first reported the story.

According to Milam’s statement, Rodas was only partially responsible for the crash, and the settlement covers a “fraction of what her father would have earned as an international movie star had his life not been tragically cut short.”

Attorneys for Rodas’ estate could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

## Condolences

### U Khin Maung Lunn (Retired Warrant Officer, Navy) 78 years

Our hearts are overwhelmed with sorrow upon hearing the news about U Khin Maung Lunn (Retired Warrant Officer, Navy), father of U Kyaw Thura (editor of the Global New Light of Myanmar), passing. Our most sincere condolences go out to you and your family.

*The Global New Light of Myanmar*

## In Egypt, dye workshop fights to survive

CAIRO — Egypt's hard-currency crisis and competition from modern factories in Asia and at home threaten one of the last dyeing workshops in Egypt but one of its owners takes comfort in the trade's ancient resilience.

Mohamed Mostafa boasts that the trade dates back 3,000 years, so it can survive anything.

"It is sick but it won't die," said Mostafa, who runs the grimy workshop built in 1901 along with his father and brothers. "If God is willing it will last another 100 years."

Times are tough. Mostafa says prices for raw materials have exploded since an uprising ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, triggering political upheaval and bringing the economy to its knees. Before those days, when protests in Tahrir Square raised high hopes of a bright future for millions of Egyptians, the small workshop used to bring in around 700 Egyptian pounds a week. That has fallen to 400.

A shortage of dollars needed for the purchase of goods has also taken its toll on the small business, which once had numerous workers. The workshop, with its old television and water jugs covered in dirt faces fierce competition from factories in countries such as China and India.

The shop, which dyes material used for shirts and sheets and other goods, takes about three days to turn around the

product, relying on a father and two sons to run the show, compared with about 15 people before Mubarak's demise. Still, history suggests obstacles can be overcome. The trade goes back to First Dynasty, 3,100 years before Christ. Born in 1937, Salama Mahmoud Salama still exudes pride despite the challenges after 42 years on the job. He speaks of customers from Cairo, Alexandria and Aswan as he sits beside sacks near a poster of a politician with Happy New Year wishes glued to a wall.

"At first Egypt traded in cotton and silk now they import so the industry is weak," said Salama, dark-skinned and wearing a white skull cap. "Before there was funding by the government."

Puffing on a cigarette, Mostafa still takes great pride in his profession.

His t-shirt, covered in dye stains, speaks volumes about the amount of work he puts in, hoping to overcome the odds while toiling away in the workshop surrounded by narrow alleyways in the Darb al-Ahmar area of informal settlements in old Cairo.

He says there are only four workshops like his in all of Egypt.

"Handwork is better. You have greater control over the colour in phases," he said, recalling how his trade once produced goods in high demand on the same level as tea and sugar.

—Reuters



## Tourists wander through matrix of blooming tulip in E China

YANCHENG — Tourists wander through matrix of tulip in full blossom in Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 8 April. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Coffee and canines at California dog cafe

LOS ANGELES — Billed as a first of its kind in the United States, a dog cafe has opened its doors in Los Angeles, offering coffee and pooch play time.

At The Dog Cafe, customers can buy their hot drink and then head to an adjacent, puppy-filled room to spend time with the dogs, all of which are up for adoption after they were rescued and rehab-

ilitated by cafe owner Sarah Wolfgang and her staff.

"I actually grew up in Korea and I frequented a lot of dog cafes there and I really got involved in animal rescue work there. And when I came here, I visited a shelter within the first month that I was here," she said.

"I realised that there was such a greater intake of dogs than there

were adoptions. And I was like, what's a good way to combat this? And so I was like, why not bring a little bit of home back from Korea here but implement the dog adoption aspect of things as well."

To visit the cafe, customers pay an entrance fee of \$10 that gives them a hot drink and just under an hour with the pooches. —Reuters

## Sam the toy dog sent into space by school pupils

LONDON — Pupils at Morecambe Bay Community Primary School in Lancashire, England launched cuddly toy dog Sam into space this week as part of a science project — but are now searching for him after he went missing during his journey.

Sam was attached to a large

balloon and sent off on a mission to take pictures on Tuesday.

The plan was that when the balloon eventually exploded, a parachute carrying the toy would be deployed, according to a blog on the school's website, which features a video of Sam travelling through the air.

However Sam was not found at the landing area and a search campaign has been launched.

"The search for Sam the dog stretches into a third day," the school wrote. "We have widened the search and hope to have him back home safe before the end of term." —Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(10-4-2016 07:00am ~ 11-4-2016 7:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
07:49	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	110 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
08:37	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances
08:45	Am	The Iron Rider
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Journey to Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
09:46	Am	Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
09:52	Am	Kayah

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Sayit-Wine Girls
10:48	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Yathe Taung Township in A Nut-Shell
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

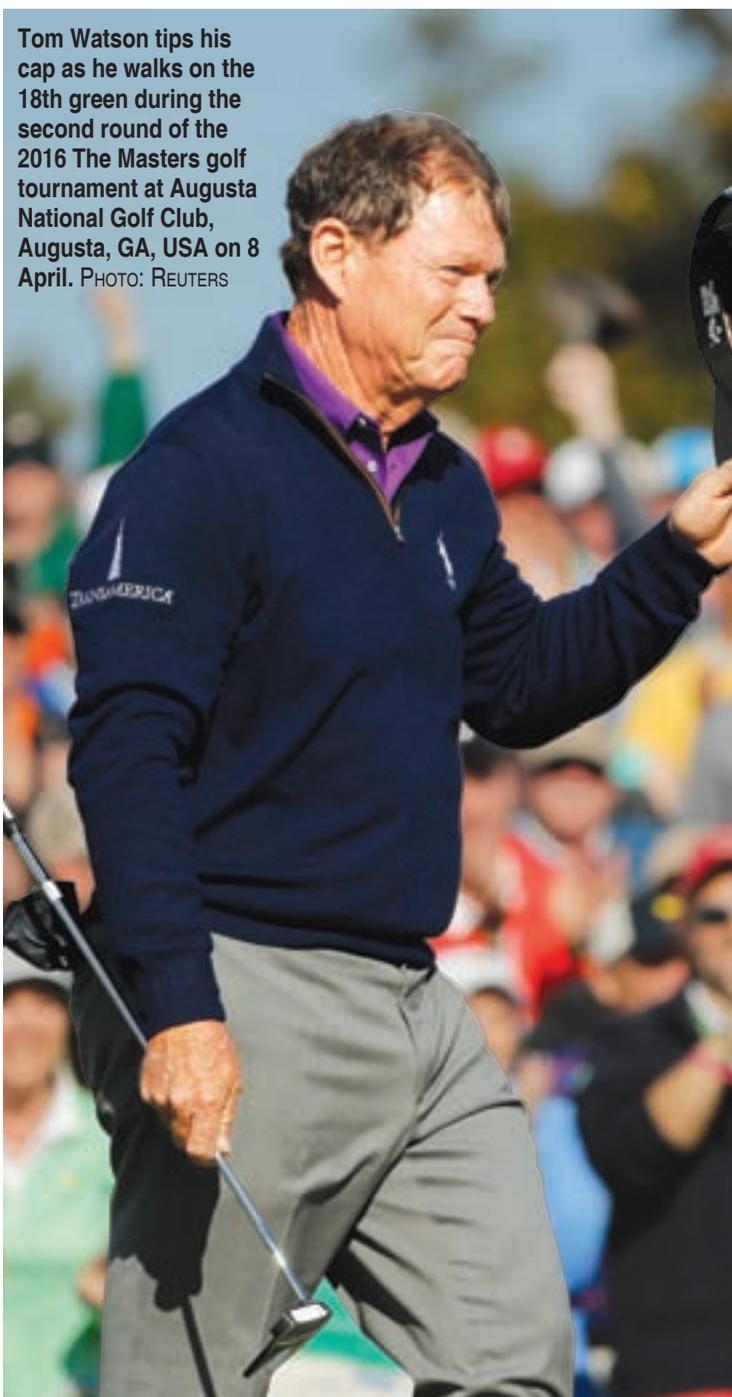
**MRTV Entertainment Channel**

(10-4-2016, Sunday)

<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>9:30 pm</b>
• Weather Report	• Music Programme
• Music Programme	<b>9:50 pm</b>
<b>6:30 pm</b>	• Myanmar Movie
• Thingyan Dances	<b>10:00 pm</b>
<b>7:00 pm</b>	• Myanmar Movie
• Special Movie "Pirate of Caribbean (Dead Man's Chest)"	<b>Midnight</b>
	• Close Down.

\* Night **9:30 pm** — Live: English Premier "League Liverpool Vs Stoke City"

From 10-4-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm  
To 11-4-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm



Tom Watson tips his cap as he walks on the 18th green during the second round of the 2016 The Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, GA, USA on 8 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Watson takes his final bow on Masters stage

AUGUSTA — An emotional Tom Watson shed a tear strolling up 18 at Augusta National on Friday disappointed he missed the cut in his final Masters but happy he doesn't have to play the uphill par-four hole anymore.

The 66-year-old Watson posted a six-over-par 78 in his Augusta goodbye for an eight-over 152 total to miss the cut by two shots.

"It's a little bit out of my league now, the golf course, certain holes in particular," smiled the eight time major winner. "I'm glad I don't have to hit the five woods and three woods at 18 anymore. That's the reason I'm not playing here anymore."

"These kids are hitting it up there and they are hitting seven and eight irons on 18, and I'm back there trying to hit a three wood on that green."

For the record, Watson hit a driver and five-wood to the back of the 18th green and successfully negotiated a nasty left-to-right downhill 66-foot putt for a tap-in par.

As the ball disappeared into the cup an adoring gal-

lery stood and applauded while Watson hugged his caddy Neil Oxman, his wife, his children and friends.

Then he waived goodbye to his competitive career against the "kids." "I know I'm going to continue to play against the old guys (on the Champions Tour)," Watson said. "I doubt if I will play against the kids anymore."

This was Watson's 43rd Masters. His first was in 1970 as an amateur.

He won in 1977 and 1981 and made his last cut in 2010, nine months after he stunned the golf world when at 59 when he had a chance to win a sixth British Open title, but lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink.

Watson started his final round believing he had a chance to make the weekend one last time, especially after the way he putted on Thursday. "I'm just a golfer," said Watson.

"I just go out and I try my damndest to play the best golf I possibly can every time I'm on the golf course when I'm in competition."

"I didn't feel like it was a final walk until basically the last couple holes because I still had a shot at it."

"That's just me."—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Injury hits England midfielder Henderson's Euro 2016 hopes

LONDON — Liverpool's England midfielder Jordan Henderson will be sidelined for six to eight weeks with a knee ligament injury, ruling him out for the rest of the Premier League season and possibly the Euro 2016 campaign.

"A scan on the knee injury Jordan Henderson sustained during Liverpool's clash with Borussia Dortmund on Thursday night has shown isolated damage to his lateral collateral ligament," the club said on their website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

The 25-year-old club captain, hurt in the first half of the 1-1 Europa League quarter-final first leg draw at the Westfalenstadion, will be helped by the fact that he does not require surgery.

England's European Championship challenge starts on 11 June, nine weeks away, leaving Henderson little time to return to match fitness before the tournament in France. Coach Roy Hodgson's squad will be named on 12 May.—Reuters

## United's Rooney returns to training after injury layoff

LONDON — Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney has returned to training as he recovers from a knee injury and will play for the under-21s against Middlesbrough on Monday, said manager Louis van Gaal.

The England forward damaged his knee in February but is on course to return to first-team action in time to get fit to play at this year's European Championship in France.

United visit title-chasing Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday as they bid to finish in the top four and secure a Champions League qualifying spot. They are a point behind fourth-placed local

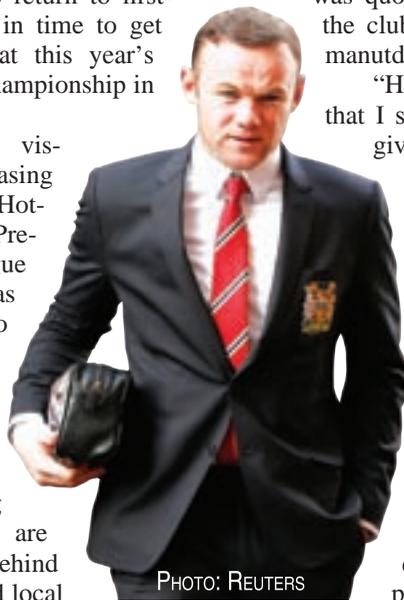


PHOTO: REUTERS

rivals Manchester City.

The Spurs game comes too early for Rooney, who has nonetheless already shown his class in training.

"He scored a goal — he made a fantastic shot, a chip over the goalkeeper. It was his first training session," Van Gaal was quoted as saying on the club website (www.manutd.com) on Friday.

"He can be so good that I shall be forced to give him a position in the team but it depends on what we are seeing (each day)."

Van Gaal was reluctant to say whether the 30-year-old would play at West Ham United in Wednesday's FA Cup quarter-final replay.—Reuters

## Kerber eases into semi-finals in Charleston

NEW YORK — Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber eased past nemesis Irina-Camelia Begu with a 6-2, 6-3 victory on Friday that put her into the semi-finals of the Volvo Car Open clay court event in South Carolina.

Defending champion Kerber will next face seventh-seeded American Sloane Stephens, who battled past 18-year-old Russian Daria Kasatkina, the 14th seed, 6-1, 5-7, 7-5 in two hours 24 minutes.

The top-seeded German had lost two of three encounters with the big-hitting Begu last year and was 2-2 overall against the Romanian in career head-to-head meetings.

"I was trying to focus on myself because it's always tough to play against her. Sometimes you lose your rhythm against her, so that's what I was focussing on," Kerber said in an on-court interview. "Just trying to go for it, move good on clay and just win

the match because I remember the last match against her, I lost!" added the German, who fell to Begu on clay in Rome after losing to her at the 2015 Australian Open.

Begu did not appear to be at her best following a difficult Round of 16 clash against Monica Puig which was decided by a third set tie-break under the lights on Thursday.

The Romanian was loose with her groundstrokes, amassing 35 unforced errors to only nine by Kerber, who did not face a single break point in the 72-minute match.

Later quarter-finals have fifth-seeded Italian Sara Errani facing Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan, and Laura Siegemund of Germany taking on Russian Elena Vesnina.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS