

VP U Myint Swe,
Vice-Senior General
Soe Win enjoy
Thingyan water festival

PAGE 3



Thingyan revellers
converge on Nay
Pyi Taw roads for
second Akyat Day

PAGE 3



ANALYSIS

Why not setting
short-term new
year resolutions?

PAGE 8

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Police busy trying to keep revellers safe during water festival

THE police are on full alert across the country seizing weapons and bottles in order to prevent crime, cracking down reckless driving and tightening security and safety measures at lakes and reservoirs to prevent drowning.

According to Myanmar Police Force, 20 people have been killed and 146 injured in 132 incidents over the first three days of the annual Thingyan festival which kicked off on April 12.

Two revelers drowned in the Thaungyin River in Kawthaung in Taninthayi Region yesterday, according to local authorities.

A policeman was injured in an accident when a car carrying revelers ran over the officer yesterday while he was on duty directing traffic on a busy road in Yangon.

One person drowned in the moat of Mandalay Palace yesterday following a similar case just two days before.

Meanwhile, a truck carrying 55 pilgrims overturned on Thursday in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State, killing two and leaving the remaining pilgrims injured.

A traffic accident in Thaton in Mon State left nine pilgrims dead on Tuesday, the first day of the new year festival. —GNLM



Police help revellers as they work to ease traffic congestion on a busy road in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT



Travellers throng to an entrance of Mingun Pahtodaggyi.

PHOTO: AUNG YE THWIN

Tourists flock to ancient sites over Thingyan festival

ARRIVALS of local visitors and tourists in Mandalay increased during the Thingyan water festival, according to sources.

Tourist arrivals to Mingun region and Innwa old city during the festival period was up from the number of visitors last year, said Ko Moe Thu, a local in Mingun region.

Foreign visitors were keen to take part in the festival and vis-

it Myanmar handicraft shops, he added. "Trade in handicrafts is doing well this year as the numbers of foreign and local visitors are higher," said Ko Moe Thu.

Groups of local visitors, comprised mainly of families, visited Mingun region as they have an interest in spending their vacations in rural areas during the Thingyan period, Ko Aung Nyunt of Mandalay Region.

A German tourist who visited Innwa old city said that he was very pleased and excited about his visit to Myanmar and that he could experience the country's water festival. Mingun Bell, Pahtodaggyi and Myatheindan Pagoda in Mingun region and Mae Nu Oak Kyaung and Bagaya monastery were packed with visitors during the Thingyan period, said locals. —Aung Ye Thwin



Vice-President U Myint Swe and Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoy Thingyan water festival in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MYAWADY

VP U Myint Swe, Vice-Senior General Soe Win enjoy Thingyan water festival

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe took part in Thingyan water festival at water-throwing pavilions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General enjoyed the dances of the Thingyan Yein troupes and presented cash to them at pandals in the compound of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and near Zeyarthiri Shopping Mall.

In the afternoon, Vice-Presi-

dent U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay joined a water-throwing pavilion of families from the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) Office, and enjoyed the dances of Thingyan Yein troupes.

Also present at the pandal were the Vice-Senior General, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, senior military officers and their wives.—*Myawady*

President U Htin Kyaw felicitates Danish Queen over her birthday

U HTIN KYAW, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday which falls on 16 April, 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw felicitates Danish Prime Minister

U HTIN KYAW, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday which falls on 16 April, 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Danish counterpart

DAW AUGN SAN SUU KYI, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kristian Jensen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday which falls on 16 April, 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Rakhine women participate in a ceremony to make sandal wood scented water by grinding sandal wood in Yangon, on 11 April.
PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Thingyan revellers converge on Nay Pyi Taw roads for second Akyat Day



Revellers enjoy the water festival in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT

REVELLERS packed roads across Nay Pyi Taw yesterday for second Akyat Day of Myanmar's Thingyan New Year Water Festival.

Water-throwing pavilions, including Hotel ACE and Shwe Thanlwin pandals in the Hotel Zone and Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee's water-throwing pandal on Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo road, in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were bursting

with merrymakers celebrating the fourth day of the festival.

Similarly, Pann-khinn road, Pyinmana-Taungnyo road and urban streets in Pyinmana Township were also filled with Thingyan partygoers in cars and on motorbikes.

Likewise, water-throwing pavilions of the Office of Chief of Armed Forces Training and the Office of the Director of Medical Services in Zeyarthiri

Township were also crowded with festival-goers.

In the afternoon, Thingyan revellers packed Safari Garden, Hlay Khwin Taung, Zoological Garden, National Landmark Garden, Water Fountain Garden and found shady places to rest.

During the festive days, pagodas and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw were also packed with devotees and pilgrims making merit.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Road accidents, fights cause the most patients at Mandalay General Hospital

THOSE injured in road accidents and fights accounted for more than half of all patients hospitalized during 2016 Thingyan water festival, said a public relations officer of Mandalay General Hospital.

During the festive days, more than 50 percent of patients being treated at the hospital are those

injured in road accidents and fights and were usually under the influence of alcohol, said U Min Lwin, public relations officer of the hospital.

Mandalay General Hospital received 171 patients including out-patients and in-patients on April 12 and 99 on April 13.

Among them, six died in hospital.

According to Mandalay Region Police, seven were killed in road accidents and fights while two men had drowned in Mandalay moat up until yesterday. Myanmar's Thingyan festival kicked off last Tuesday.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Crime NEWS

Two deaths in Kawthaung



Thingyan revellers being seen. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG IPRD)

POLICE reported two deaths on April 14 in Kawthaung. According to the police, a 12-year-old boy from PadoukShwewah ward drowned when he was

playing at Maliwarm water fall with his family.

The police also found a dead body alongside a motorbike at a ravine near milepost

149/4, Kawthoung- Boadpyin road.

The police are still investigating the case.—KyawSoe (Kawthoung IPRD)

Three people drown in Thaung Yin River

THREE people drowned in Thaung Yin River under the Myawaddy friendship bridge, Myawaddy town on April 14.

According to the investigation, Daw Le Le said that

Ma SoeSoe alias Ma Tin Tin Tun and a strange man died when trying to save Ma Tin Tin Tun.

The police are still investigating the identity of the strange

man. The Myawady Township Cetana Social Assistance Association have since put up a bamboo fence to prevent further drownings. — Htean Lin Aung (IPRD)

Fire destroys 12 houses in Laymyethnar



Fire destroyed 12 houses in Laymyethnar. PHOTO: (DISTRICT IPRD)

A fire destroyed 12 houses in LaeKhoneGyi village, Lay Myinthnartownship, Ayeyawady Division on April 13. According to the investigation, the fire

broke out around 2:00 pm when U Chit Hlaing left his house, unable to extinguish the fire. The flame quickly got out of control and spread to the other houses.

The fire was eventually put out by firemen with the assistance of neighbors. The police have pressed charges against U Chit Hlaing.— (District IPRD)

Yabba and ice seized in Tachilek

A combined investigation team made up of officers and staff from Tachilek Myanmar police force searched the house of AikPhun, 46, at Par Kaung village, Tachilektownship on April 13 where they seized 1.5 grams of ice and 18 Yabba tablets from Su Htam, 46.

The police also discovered

0.5 gram of ice on NweArr, 42, and 1682 tablets of Yaba as well as 10 grams of ice in a room. In total, 1,710 tablets of Yabba and 12 grams of ice were seized by the police.

The police filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— Myanmar Police Force



Aik Phun, Su Htam, Nwe Arr and Ma Ei Par. PHOTO: MPF

Car accident injures 46

A vehicle en route to Lewe from Nay Pyi Taw overturned on April 13 on Naitban road when the driver lost control. The vehicle driven by KhinSoe alias U Par Gyi had 46 passengers on board when the accident oc-

curred. All 46 passengers were taken to Nay Pyi Taw and Lewe general hospitals where they are receiving medical treatment. The police are searching for the driver and have filed a lawsuit against him.—MNA

Bus accident kills driver and injures 21

AN accident involving a passenger bus occurred near milepost 112/7, Shwebo- Myitkyina road, Htigyaingtownship, Sagaing region on April 10, leaving one dead and 21 others injured.

According to the investigators, the vehicle driven by MyoThura, 30, with 21 passengers on board, turned over when the driver lost control. Police found

the bus conductor on the driver's seat. The accident killed the bus conductor at the wheel while 21 passengers were seriously injured. The injured are undergoing medical treatment at Innadaw general hospital. Police are searching for Moe Di, 42, who was sitting in the driver's passenger seat but managed to escape from the scene. —Maung Chit Lin



The passenger bus being seen overturned. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

Saudi FM confirms massive 'donation' to Malaysian PM

KUALA LUMPUR — Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir confirmed that his country gave a "donation" to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, the official news agency Bernama reported on Friday, marking another development in a scandal that has engulfed Najib's administration.

"We are aware of the donation and it is a genuine donation with nothing expected in return. We are also fully aware that the Attorney General of Malaysia has thoroughly investigated the matter and found no wrongdoing. So as far as we are concerned, the matter is closed," Bernama quoted him saying.

Adel had earlier held a bilateral meeting with Najib on the sidelines of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit in Istanbul on Thursday.

A *Wall Street Journal* report caused a stir last July when it claimed that nearly \$700 million was deposited into Najib's private bank accounts purportedly from firms linked to beleaguered

state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad.

Najib and 1MDB had previously denied the WSJ report.

Najib admitted receiving the money but maintained that it was a political donation although he never revealed the source.

In January, Attorney General Mohamed Apandi Ali said a probe by the anti-corruption agency found that the \$681 million transferred into Najib's accounts in March and April 2013 was indeed a "personal donation" from the Saudi royal family.

Apandi also said Najib returned \$620 million of unutilized money to the Saudis in August 2013.

Apandi concluded that Najib had not committed any criminal offenses in relation to the "donation" nor were the transactions linked to SRC International Sdn. Bhd. SRC International used to be an energy company controlled by 1MDB but now is under the Finance Ministry, which Najib heads.—*Kyodo News*



Evacuees gather in front of the town office building after an earthquake in Mashiki town, Kumamoto prefecture, southwestern Japan, on 15 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Aftershocks rattle southwestern Japan after quake kills nine

TOKYO — Aftershocks rattled southwestern Japan on Friday after a strong quake the night before killed nine people, injured at least 1,000 and cut power and water across the region, forcing the temporary shutdown of several auto and electronics factories.

By afternoon, more than 130 aftershocks had hit the area around the city of Kumamoto in the wake of the initial 6.4 magnitude quake the night before. Officials said the frequency was tapering off but the risk of further strong aftershocks will remain for about a week.

While the magnitude of Thursday's quake was much lower than that of the 9.0 on 11 March 2011 quake that touched off a massive tsunami and nuclear meltdowns at Fukushima,

the intensity was similar because it struck on land and at a much shallower depth.

"We managed to huddle into a space, that's why we were saved," one man told NHK national television after he and his family were rescued from their collapsed house two hours after the quake hit. "We're all safe, that's what counts."

More than 44,000 people initially fled to schools and community centres, some spending the night outside after the first quake hit around 9:30pm.

Roads cracked, houses crumbled, and tiles cascaded from the roof of the 400-year-old Kumamoto Castle in the centre of the city.

Among those pulled from the wreckage was an eight-month-old baby girl,

wrapped in a blanket and passed hand to hand by firefighters. Several hospitals had to evacuate patients.

Japanese stocks ended down 0.4 per cent, with the impact of the quake limited primarily to regional shares that could experience some direct impact. Regional utility Saibu Gas Co Ltd (9536.T) finished 2.7 per cent lower.

Several companies, including Honda Motor Corp (7267.T), suspended operations at plants in the area.

More than 3,000 troops, police and firemen were dispatched to the area from around Japan, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said more would be sent if needed. "We will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of local residents," Abe told a

parliamentary committee.

Most of the dead came from Mashiki, a town of around 34,000 people near the epicentre of the quake, where firefighters battled a blaze late on Thursday. Daylight showed splintered houses under tiled roofs and an apartment building whose ground floor was pulverized, where two people died.

"I want to go home, but we couldn't do anything there," one boy at an evacuation centre told TBS television as he bounced a baby in his arms.

Though the intensity of Thursday's quake on the Japanese scale matched that of the March 2011 quake that left nearly 20,000 dead, the absence of a tsunami helped keep the death toll down.—*Reuters*

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North Korea's failed missile launch prompts 'sabre-rattling' jibe from Chinese state media

SEOUL — North Korea attempted and failed to launch what experts believe was an intermediate-range ballistic missile on Friday in defiance of UN sanctions and in an embarrassing setback for leader Kim Jong Un, drawing criticism from major ally China.

The failed launch, as the reclusive country celebrates the "Day of the Sun" on the birthday of Kim's grandfather, follows the

North's fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch in February, which led to new UN sanctions.

But the North has nevertheless pushed ahead with its missile programme, supervised by Kim.

The US-based 38 North website, which specialises in North Korea, has said there has been activity at the country's nuclear site based on satellite imagery,

and on Wednesday said the possibility of a fifth nuclear test "could not be ruled out".

China, North Korea's most important economic and diplomatic backer, has been angered by Pyongyang's nuclear tests and rocket launches in the face of UN sanctions that China has also backed.

"The firing of a mid-range ballistic missile on Friday by the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), though failed, marks the latest in a string of sabre-rattling that, if unchecked, will lead the country to nowhere," China's official Xinhua news agency said in an English language commentary.

"...Nuclear weapons will not make Pyongyang safer. On the contrary, its costly military endeavours will keep on suffocating its economy."—*Reuters*

In China, Australian prime minister urges greater openness

BEIJING — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull invoked the spirit of late reformist leader Deng Xiaoping on Friday to urge China to continue opening up to the outside world, as he addressed concerns about Internet freedoms and market access for foreign firms.

Turnbull's China visit, leading a delegation of 1,000 business leaders, the largest ever by an Australian leader, comes amid a slowing of growth in the Chinese economy, which is crucial for Australian jobs.

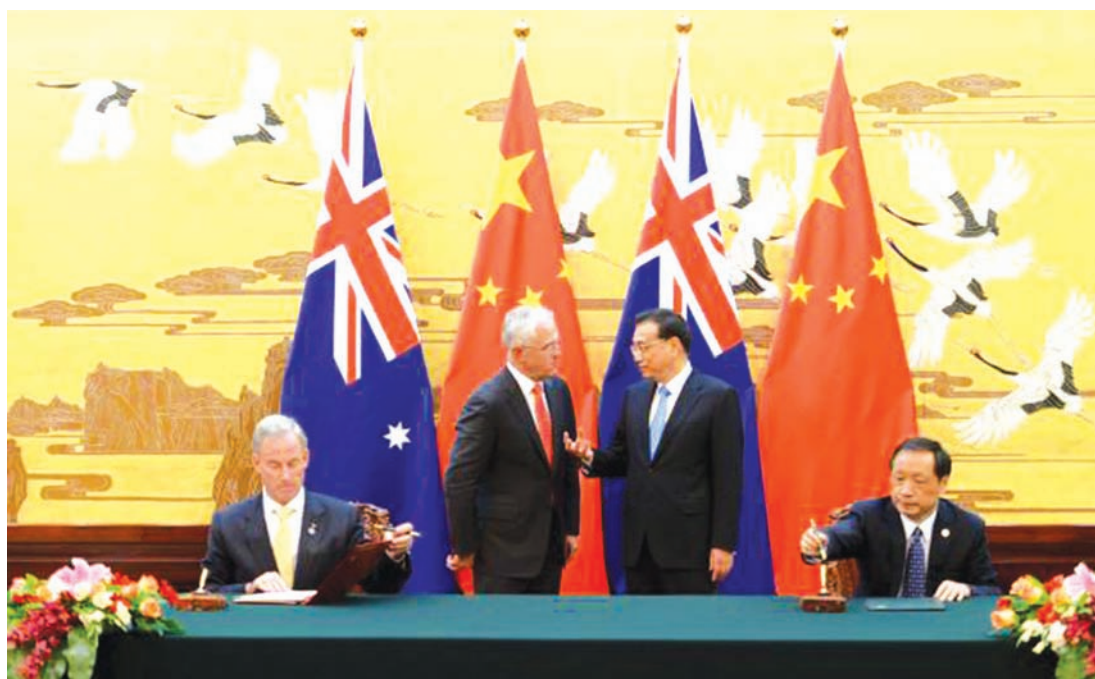
Earlier this month, China raised taxes on goods bought on overseas e-commerce platforms, then sparked more confusion with a last-minute list that restricted some products from being sold through these channels, leading to sharp share price gyrations by firms in close trade partners like Australia.

Asked about the new e-commerce restrictions, as well as China's tightening controls on the Internet and human rights issues in general, Turnbull said Australia and China have regular and very open discussion about rights.

"The truth is, as I said in Shanghai, the more open China is the stronger it is," Turnbull told reporters.

"Deng Xiaoping said, in the days when China was open to the world it was strong; when it became closed it became weak," he added, citing the man who ushered in China's landmark economic reforms more than three decades ago.

China, the world's second-largest economy, is trying



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

to shift to a more consumption-driven economic model as growth stalls.

Shortly after Turnbull spoke, China announced its economy grew 6.7 per cent in the first quarter from a year earlier, meeting expectations but at its slowest pace in seven years.

Turnbull said Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told him how he was trying to boost the small business sector in China.

"Premier Li explained how he saw enabling the small business sector, giving the small business sector the freedom to incorporate new businesses," Turnbull said.

"So he recognises as part of his economic plan the freedom

of businesses to incorporate, to get on and have a go as we would say, is critical to job creation and developing that more diverse economy that he aspires to. Of course we will all benefit from a stronger Chinese economy."

While China and Australia have close business ties, including a free trade agreement, Canberra is also a strong security ally of the United States.

Turnbull said all claimants in the disputed South China Sea should settle their disputes peacefully. China claims most of the energy-rich waters, through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year, but the Philippines, Brunei,

Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.

Plans to deepen US-Philippine military ties, including joint patrols in the South China Sea, reflect a "Cold War mentality", China's defence ministry said on Thursday, pledging to resolutely oppose any infringement on its sovereignty.

"The remarkable economic gains in this region, by every country, including our own and of course including China, has been based on a foundation of peace and stability. And anything which has the potential of disturbing that peace and stability works against the interests of all nations," said Turnbull.—*Reuters*

Japan to propose basic rules for AI at G-7 meeting

TOKYO — The Japanese government plans to propose basic rules for the research and development of artificial intelligence at a Group of Seven meeting of ministers in charge of information and communication technology later this month in western Japan, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The envisioned proposal is expected to seek the establishment of eight principles, including the importance of respecting human dignity and protecting privacy when developing computer science that gives machines human-like intelligence.

Japanese Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi is expected to present the eight principles at the two-day G-7 meeting starting on 29 April in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, and call for deeper discussions involving international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Artificial intelligence has advanced to the point where Google's AI programme AlphaGo was recently able to defeat a Go grandmaster for the first time.

AI technologies are expected to generate economic effects worth around 121 trillion yen (around \$1.09 trillion) in Japan in 2045, according to an estimate that the Japanese government plans to present at the G-7 meeting.

Amid concern that AI could eventually pose a threat to human beings, the envisioned eight principles will urge AI research and development to ensure respect for human life and dignity.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese destroyers, sub arrive in Australia for defence exercise

SYDNEY — Two destroyers and a submarine belonging to Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force arrived in Sydney on Friday for a bilateral exercise.

The destroyers are the JS Umigiri and JS Asayuki, while the submarine is the Soryu-class JS Hakuryu. Exercise Nichi Gou Trident begins Friday and ends on 26 April. Held since 2009, this is the first time the exercise is being conducted off Sydney.

It will also be an opportunity for Australian forces to get a closer look at a Japanese submarine before a decision is made regarding a contract to replace its aging Collins-class subs. Japan, France, and Germany have all submitted bids for the contract to build 12 new submarines for the Australian Defence Force.—*Kyodo News*

China says enhanced US-Philippine military ties invoke 'Cold War mentality'

BEIJING — Plans to deepen US-Philippine military ties, including joint patrols in the South China Sea, reflect a "Cold War mentality", China's defence ministry said, pledging to resolutely oppose any infringement on the country's sovereignty.

The comments, published on the defence ministry's website late on Thursday, come after the United States said it would ramp up its military presence in the Philippines and announced that the two countries had started the joint patrols in the disputed waters.

"A strengthening of the US-Philippine military alliance...is a manifestation of the Cold War mentality and is not conducive to peace and stability

in the South China Sea," the defence ministry said.

China claims most of the energy-rich waters of the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. But the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.

Countries across the region have express concern over China's growing assertiveness in the region, which has intensified with a rapid buildup of man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago, to which Philippines and Viet Nam lay claim.

Joint US-Philippine naval patrols "promote the militarisation of the region", the Chinese defence ministry said, urging



US military forces aboard Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) manuevre on South China Sea near the shore of San Antonio, Zambales during the annual 'Balikatan' (shoulder-to-shoulder) war games with Filipino soldiers in northern Philippines in April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

that the bilateral military cooperation avoid prejudicing the interests of third parties.

"The Chinese army will monitor this trend closely, and will resolutely safeguard China's territorial sovereignty as well as

maritime rights and interests," it said. Visiting the Philippines, US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Thursday the broader American military presence was not meant to provoke conflict with the Chinese.—*Reuters*



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton listens as Senator Bernie Sanders speaks during a Democratic debate hosted by CNN and New York One at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton, Sanders spar in uproarious debate

NEW YORK — Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and rival Bernie Sanders assailed each other on Thursday over their judgement and experience before a rowdy crowd in a high-volume debate five days before a crucial New York nominating contest for the US presidential election.

In their fifth one-on-one debate, Clinton and Sanders showed the mounting pressure of their marathon White House race with a series of heated exchanges on Wall Street, guns and other issues that featured the two of them shouting in unison while an evenly split crowd roared its support.

"If you're both screaming at each other, the viewers won't be able to hear either of you," moderator Wolf Blitzer of CNN warned at one point at the debate in the New York borough of Brooklyn.

The last nine opinion polls taken in New York, a state where Sanders was born and Clinton served eight years as a US senator, show her holding a double-digit advantage over him ahead of Tuesday's New York vote, the next nominating contest on the road to a July national con-

vention and the 8 November election.

As the two-hour debate ended, the Brandwatch company which analyses social-media sentiment said Sanders had more than 173,000 mentions on Twitter, 55 per cent of them positive, while Clinton had more than 191,000 mentions, 54 per cent of them negative.

Sanders, who had questioned the former secretary of state's qualifications to be president, conceded she was qualified but said she had shown poor judgement by taking money from Wall Street for speeches she gave, by voting as a US senator to back the 2003 Iraq invasion and by supporting free trade deals.

"Does Secretary Clinton have the intelligence, the experience to be president? Of course she does but I do question her judgement," Sanders said at the debate in the New York borough of Brooklyn.

"I question her judgement which voted for the war in Iraq, the worst foreign policy blunder in the history of this country," he said. "I question her judgement about running Super PACS that

are collecting tens of millions of dollars from special interests ... I don't believe that is the kind of judgement we need."

Clinton, 68, responded the charges were also an attack on President Barack Obama, who as a candidate raised money on Wall Street and utilized Super PACS, outside funding groups that can raise unlimited sums of money, but still fought for tough regulations on the financial services industry.

"This is a phony attack that is designed to raise questions when there is no evidence or support," she said. The debate took place at the historic Brooklyn Navy Yard, a sprawling facility now home to artists and businesses, including a distillery and a film studio. Supporters on both sides strove to out-shout one another from beginning to end.

Clinton said Sanders had shown his lack of depth on policy issues. She cited an interview with the *New York Daily News* editorial board where she said he was unable to clearly explain how he would achieve his oft-stated goal of breaking up the big banks.—*Reuters*

Kerry says Russian flights near US warship provocative

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday condemned as dangerous and provocative a military encounter in the Baltic Sea that the United States has described as a simulated attack on a US destroyer by two Russian warplanes.

"We condemn this kind of behaviour. It is reckless. It is provocative. It is dangerous. And under the rules of engagement that could have been a shoot-down," Kerry said in an interview with CNN Espanol and the Miami Herald.

"People need to understand that this is serious business and the United States is not going to be intimidated on the high seas. ... We are communicating to the Russians how dangerous this is and our hope

is that this will never be repeated."

The repeated flights by the Sukhoi SU-24 bombers on Tuesday, which also flew near the ship, the USS Donald Cook, a day earlier, were so close they created wake in the water, a US official said on Wednesday.

It was one of the most aggressive interactions between the two former Cold War foes in recent memory, the official said, although the planes carried no visible weaponry.

A Russian KA-27 Helix helicopter also made passes around the vessel, taking pictures. The nearest Russian territory was about 70 nautical miles away in its enclave of Kaliningrad, which sits between Lithuania and Poland.

In Moscow, Interfax news agency quoted Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying on Thursday that the crews of the Russian bombers that flew near the US destroyer respected all safety rules.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said Kerry will raise the incident with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters at a daily press briefing that Washington had raised its concerns with Russian officials.

"I can tell you that that communication has occurred, and we'll seek to resolve our differences through well-established military channels," he said.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Magnitude 6.5 quake hits off coast of Pacific nation of Vanuatu: USGS

RICHMOND (Virginia) — A magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck off the coast of the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu on Friday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter of the quake was 84 miles (135 km) northwest of the town of Santo and it was registered at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 km), USGS said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said there was no threat of a tsunami.—*Reuters*

CEFC China interested in investing in agriculture

BELGRADE — Serbian Minister of Agriculture Snezana Bogosavljevic Boskovic talked on Thursday with representatives of China Energy Company Limited (CEFC) which demonstrated interest in investing in several segments of the Serbian agriculture industry.

Representatives of the Chinese company showed interest in investing in the meat, dairy, fruit and vegetable industries, given China's huge demand for the products, the Serbian agriculture ministry said in a release.

A special emphasis was placed on the existing and potential capacities for producing lamb, beef and pork, reads the release.

Bogosavljevic Boskovic pointed to the south of the country where there is a large number of underutilized capacities and quality pastures and meadows.

The two sides agreed to set up a working group that will consider all the potentials and investment opportunities, and tour prospective locations.—*Tanjug*

Spanish minister resigns after alleged links to offshore deals

MADRID — Spain's acting Industry Minister Jose Manuel Soria said on Friday he was resigning from his position with immediate effect after alleged links to offshore companies in Panama and Jersey.

Soria has denied all wrong-doing, but said he was stepping down to limit any damage to the caretaker government, the People's Party (PP), at a time when Spain is facing a likely second general election after an inconclusive December vote.—*Reuters*

Russian state news agency Sputnik says site blocked in Turkey

MOSCOW — The website of Russian state news agency Sputnik has been blocked in Turkey, its Turkish editor-in-chief said on Friday, a move that could further strain relations between Moscow and Ankara after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane last year.

"There is no access to sputniknews.com and subdomains from Turkey. We've sent a letter to the regulatory agency asking for the reasons. We were not expecting a ban at all," Mahir Boztepe told Reuters.

No one was immediately available for comment at the telecoms and internet regulatory agency.—*Reuters*

Two missing after marble quarry falls down in Italy

ROME — Two quarrymen were reported as missing in Italy on Thursday after a wall of marble in the quarry where they were working in central Italy collapsed, local media said.

Another worker was rescued after firefighters found him hanging by a rope, while a fourth man, reportedly the quarry's responsible, was taken to hospital in a state of shock, ANSA news agency said.

The accident happened in a large quarry in the Apuan Alps, a mountain range in Tuscany region which contains immense deposits of marble, named "marble of Carrara" after the name of a nearby city, and considered as one of the most precious marbles in the world.

According to first reconstructions, the three men were on top of a mountain to check the marble cutting when a wall of rock, almost 2,000 tons of marble, suddenly crumbled, and two of them who were not wearing a harness fell down for about 30 metres along with their cutting machine.

The two quarrymen, aged 55 and 46, were reportedly buried by marble slabs and other debris.—*Xinhua*

Brussels metro bomb suspect talking to police, lawyer says

BRUSSELS — A Swedish man held in Belgium on suspicion of taking part in last month's Islamic State attacks on Brussels is talking to investigators, his lawyer said on Thursday, after Osama Krayem's detention was extended by a month.

Krayem, who was charged with terrorist murder after his arrest in Brussels last Friday, is accused of being the man seen with suicide bomber Khalid El Bakraoui minutes before he blew himself up on a metro train. Police are still searching for a rucksack Krayem was carrying that may have contained a bomb.

"He walked away. He turned back," defence counsel Vincent Lurquin told reporters. "We must ask ourselves why?"

"He's talking. That means the investigation is progressing," Lurquin added, saying his client's cooperation could help understand what motivated the attackers and who gave the orders.

Among five other suspects whose detention was extended by a month was Mohamed Abrini. He is accused of having accompanied two suicide bombers to Brussels Airport before leaving behind a bomb in a bag and walking back into the city.

Belgian media group Sud-presse quoted an unidentified

source as saying Abrini had told a magistrate he had been forced to go to the airport but had not detonated his device: "I was never in Syria. I wouldn't hurt a fly," it quoted Abrini, 31, as saying.

On the run since November's Paris attacks, Abrini was dubbed the "man in the hat" after he was seen on CCTV on 22 March with airport bombers Najim Laachraoui and Brahim El Bakraoui, elder brother of the metro bomber El Bakraoui. Sud-presse said Abrini blamed the Bakraouis for forcing him. Their plan, he said, was to hit three check-in lines — for flights to the United States, Russia and Israel.

On Wednesday, Islamic State hailed the Bakraouis for a role in preparing attacks in both Paris and Brussels.

Abrini is accused of helping organise the 13 November attacks that killed 130 in Paris with Salah Abdeslam, another Brussels man.

According to an earlier statement by Abrini, Abdeslam's arrest on 18 March prompted the conspirators to push forward plans for a follow-up attack in Brussels and to carry it out four days later.

Krayem, using a fake Syrian passport, was registered by German police in a car rented by Abdeslam the month before the Paris



Belgian special forces police officers stand guard outside a courthouse, while Brussels attacks suspects Mohamed Abrini and Osama Krayem appear before a judge to decide if they remain in custody, in Brussels, Belgium, on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

attacks. Investigators believe he returned to Europe from Islamic State's Syrian base among refugees reaching Greece.

Separately on Thursday, a Brussels appeal court increased to 15 years from 12 the sentence

handed down last July to Khalid Zerkani for recruiting young Belgians to fight in Syria.

Dubbed the "Santa Claus" of jihad by Arab youths in the Brussels borough of Molenbeek, Zerkani was accused of recruit-

ing among others Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who is believed to have been a key local organiser of the Paris attacks.

Abaaoud died in a gun battle with French police five days after the bloodshed.—Reuters

New Aleppo assault casts fresh cloud over Syria peace talks

BEIRUT/GENEVA — Syria's army backed by Russian warplanes launched an assault north of Aleppo on Thursday, threatening to block a vital rebel route into the city in fighting that has cast new clouds over Geneva peace talks.

Syria's recent upsurge in fighting, particularly around the northern city of Aleppo, has proven the most acute challenge yet to a cessation of hostilities deal agreed in February and soured an already bleak mood as opposing sides gather in Geneva.

Outlining its bargaining position, the opposition High Negotiating Council (HNC) told Reuters it would be willing to share equally in a transitional council with the government, but repeated its rejection of a role for President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian government, buoyed by Russian and Iranian military support, has ruled out any discussion of the presidency. Moscow and Tehran have also rejected what they see as Western efforts to predetermine Assad's future. The warring sides have sought to portray the fighting as the fault of the other, pushing towards breaking point a ceasefire that was designed to improve the political climate ahead of the Geneva talks.

In addition to the Aleppo assault, heavy government air strikes were reported north of Homs, where a doctor described the most intense government bombardment since the cessation of hostilities agreement took effect.

In Aleppo, government forces and their allies were focused on the area around Handarat Camp, overlooking an important access point held by rebels into the city, which is split into zones held by the government and opposition.

"The escalation started at night. The area is of great importance. If the regime advances, this will tighten the grip on Aleppo," said Abdullah Othman, head of the politburo of the Levant Front rebel group.

Speaking to Reuters, he described the battle as "to-and-fro" and said: "the bombing is Russian, and very fierce". His account was echoed by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based group that monitors the war.

Separately, the monitor said it had received information that Islamic State hit and may have brought down a Syrian jet near the southern city of Sweida although the pilot had apparently been rescued. Amaq, a news agency close to the militants, also said IS had

downed a Syrian army plane.

Syrian state TV reported that the army had seized control of the northern part of Handarat camp, to the north of Aleppo, after fierce battles with armed groups. A number of militants had been killed, it said.

Handarat camp is important because it is perched on a hilltop above a main road leading to opposition-held districts of the city.

The government and its allies have launched several major offensives in the Aleppo area, cutting the rebels' shortest supply line to Turkey in February. Yet rebels still control territory around the city, including its western approaches. Fighting near Aleppo has been escalating for two weeks, mostly to the south of the city where government forces backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah and other militias have been waging fierce battles with rebels including Nusra Front fighters.

The al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front and Islamic State groups are not included in the cessation of hostilities agreement.

Speaking in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the rebels of breaching the truce to reconquer lost ground. "The opposition is trying to recover what they lost," he said.—Reuters

Brazil sees rising threat from Islamic militants — intelligence agency

RIO DE JANEIRO — The threat of attack by militant Islamists is on the rise in Brazil as the country prepares to host the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August, the national intelligence agency said on Thursday.

Brazil has long regarded itself as an unlikely target of extremists thanks to its historical standing as a non-aligned, multicultural nation that is free from enemies.

But Counterterrorism Director Luiz Alberto Sallaberry said in a statement the threat had increased in recent months due to attacks in other countries, and a rise in what he described as the number of Brazilian nationals suspected of sympathizing with Islamic State militants.

Sallaberry also confirmed that a credible threat to state security had been made last year.

A tweet threatening Brazil sent in November by Maxime Hauchard, a French national identified as an executioner in Islamic State propaganda videos, was genuine, Sallaberry said.

"Brazil, you are our next target," the tweet said.

Sallaberry said his agency

had taken several measures to avert a potential attack, including sharing information with foreign security forces and improved training.

But security experts have warned that many Brazilian officials do not realise how big a stage the Olympics is for anyone seeking to sow terror, either through an attack on game venues, infrastructure nearby or the athletes and 500,000 tourists expected to attend.

Brazilian officials, eager to pull off South America's first Olympics after successfully hosting the football World Cup last year, have said previously they will ensure a safe games starting 5 August.

Olympic organisers plan to deploy around 85,000 security personnel for the games, double the number used in London in 2012.

A large part of this group will be members of the National Force for Public Security, a body of police and other law enforcement officials whose commander stepped down last month amid reports he had criticized embattled President Dilma Rousseff.—Reuters

OPINION

Why not setting short-term new year's resolutions?

Khin Maung Aye

THERE are some people who take their new year resolutions seriously. Nevertheless, there are also some who just bid farewell to the old year on new year's day. As Myanmar new year falls on the day after Water Festival or Thingyan Festival, many people are accustomed to thinking that they have washed away all evil, their bad habits and dirty thoughts with the water they have thrown during the Water Festival. There is no denial that everybody has made some sort of new year resolutions regardless of whether they

realize it or not. Quite obviously, people change with the passing of time. So do their wishes and aspirations. Seriously taken, new year resolutions provide us with an opportunity to gauge our goals. For adventurous souls, it is an opportunity to tackle a funny bone or to try something bold. Some new year resolutions are simple whereas some are exotic. Each is unique in its own way. Whatever resolutions have been made, it is important to look at where you stand now, i.e., how far you have accomplished your goals? This is to monitor your progress and to allow you to change your resolutions mid way if they are not realistic because sticking to an unrealistic goal is like weaving dreams in the air. It takes you nowhere.

As the new year will fall tomorrow, you still have enough time to change your mind. Naturally, there is no one who will want to dump his or her new year's resolutions in a few short weeks. However, the majority of people fail to keep their resolutions every year. It doesn't have to be that way. You can actually use the beginning of a new year to make significant changes that can have a lasting impact on your life. If you have already set long-term goals,

it is high time you set short-term goals too. Maybe, we ought to choose new month's resolutions at the beginning of every month instead of making new year's resolution once a year. Try breaking down a larger, long-term goal into shorter periods of time. Why shouldn't we shorten the timing of our new year's resolutions to suit our particular goals rather than just allocating something that fits neatly on the calendar?

This being so, why don't we write down our goals and share them with our peers or seniors to seek their opinion. Upon getting their feedback, we may change our mind and set new goals!

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.

An Acariya Puja Ceremony at Vesali Hall in Yangon University Campus

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

IT was already past 3 pm 7 March, 2016. The Vesali Hall in the north-western corner of Yangon University campus was standing staidly in the teeth of the severe heat of the sun. The age-old trees attired in pale green buds and leaves growing across the tarred road from the hall could hardly afford a good shade to it. The scorching sun and frequent gales of hot wind seemed to promise a much hotter summer this year. Overlooking the merciless heat of the summer, many students in their finery arrived at the main door into the hall - some on foot and some in their car. In a jiffy, Room No. V.III was fully taken by them. At 4 pm on the dot, an aged but fresh-looking Sayagyi, with his waist girdled with a large belt to relieve his waistache, assisted by two young students, walked gingerly into room. All the students, whose ages range from the twenties to the sixties, stood up simultaneously without prompting from anyone. They all assumed an air of respect for the Sayagyi. He plodded slowly but firmly to the middle of the five chairs placed on the dais at the head of the room and sat down slowly there. Then, he, registering a trace of smile on his lips, threw a sweeping look at other chair which were still vacant and then at the students sitting on the floor with

their eyes glued to his face. His face, though wrinkled out of old age, beamed with joy, his eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. He turned towards the students and spoke some words as a gesture of greeting them to remove their uneasiness. Only then did the class tense with great reverence for him return to normal with the whispers exchanged among the students. Some late-comers tiptoed timidly into the room and took their seat in the rear part of it. At that instant, a student hesitantly approached the Sayagyi and appealed him to pose with him for a documentary photograph. He gave the former the nod with a smile. Other watching students took to that chance as a duck to water. They flocked to the Sayagyi and posed, individually or in groups, together with him for the photographs. The Sayagyi seemed to be much pleased with being photographed together with his students. He was none but Sayagyi Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, one of the most authoritative historians and eminent writers in Myanmar of our times. Soon, Dr. Kyaw Win, Dr. Margret Woung, U Than Lwin and Dr. Myint Thein came in succession into the hall and took their seats in the vacant chairs.

It was the scene of the Ceremony of Paying Homage to Teachers held by the first-batch students of the Diploma of Myanmar History and Culture (DMHC) opened by the History De-

partment of Yangon University in the 2015-16 academic year. With the arrival of the invited teachers, Dr. Thaingi Nwe, an associate professor from the History Department, who acted as master of ceremonies, read out the agenda of the ceremony. In light of the agenda, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt first gave a few words of admonition to the students on behalf of all other teachers. His admonition was so interesting that we were carried away. In the course of the admonition, he beirfed on the first acariya puja ceremony organized by Myanmar students like U Pe Maung Tin, I.C.S U Tin Htut, etc at Oxford University in the 1920s and then, in an evocative mood, reminisced about the another acariya puja ceremony held by himself at Oriental Restaurant opened by Daw Mya Sein in London in the late 1950s while he was studying at London University for his Ph. D degree. Finally, he concluded his admonition by calling upon the student to study history up to the professional level and to apply as much historical knowledge as possible in their everyday life. Next, U Hla Thein (Retired Director-general), for all the students, spoke words of thanks to the teachers. In the meantime, he said that teachers were recognized as one of the Five Infinities (Panca Anadoananda) in the Myanmar Buddhist tradition, that their gratitude, therefore, was beyond measure and that it

was opportune for us to owe their gratitude while they were alive. Afterwards, U Kan, monitor of the students, who won the love of every student in the class for his philanthropic spirit, explained to those present at the ceremony how he had managed to accomplish the ceremony. The ceremony ended with a special dinner and the students singing happily to the Karaoke at about 7 pm.

At the diploma class initiated in the 2015-16 academic year, four branches of history were taught: Diplomatic History, Political History, Art and Architecture and Cultural History. The first branch was taught by Dr. Margret Woung, Head and Professor of the History Department of Yangon University, the second by Saya U Than Lwin, a retired history professor, the third by Sayagyi Dr. Kyaw Win, retired Head and Professor of History Department of Yangon University and Secretary of the Myanmar Historical Commission and the last by Sayagyi Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt.

The Diplomatic History lectured by Dr. Margret Woung covered all the Myanmar's foreign relations with China, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British, the French, the American, etc. from Pyu, Bagan, Inwa, Taungoo and Nyaung Yan Periods up to Konbaung Period. The Political History taught by U Than Lwin encompassed political and

socio-economic situations of Myanmar from Pyu, Bagan, Inwa, Taungoo, Nyaung Yan, Konbaung, Colonial Periods up to Post-independence Period. During their lectures, both of them employed not only traditional chronicles and other local sources but also external sources. If necessary, they examined the validity of these sources on the scrutiny of contemporary evidences like annals of the neighbouring countries which contacted Myanmar in those days, travelogues written by foreigners who visited Myanmar at that time and stone-inscriptions erected since then, interviews with those personally involved in the recent historical events, etc. Therefore, their lectures could provide us with a glimpse into the long international relations and political and socio-economic conditions of Myanmar spanning over a thousand years.

Dr. Kyaw Win's lectures embraced a vast arrays of topics on stupas, temples, pagodas, Buddha images, coins and votives tablets of the Pyus, the Mons, the Rakhine and the Myanmars. He, showing illustrations and photographs with the aid of the power-point, elaborated on the exterior and interior decorations of the stupas, temples and pagodas, hand-gestures (mudra) and leg-postures (asana) of Buddha and Bodhisatta images, the ancient scripts like

See Page 9 >>

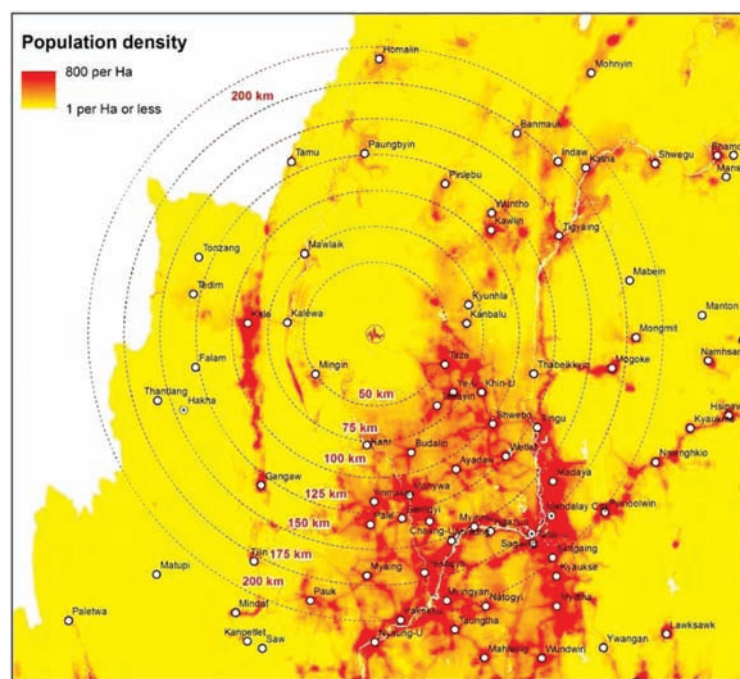
UNOCHA Myanmar ready to respond to earthquakes

UNOCHA Myanmar has emergency response efforts in place in case of future earthquakes, according to a statement made by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Myanmar on Thursday.

The statement said that an earthquake measuring 6.8 in magnitude struck 42-mile east, south-east of Kalay Township, 134 kilometers into the earth's crust, last Wednesday night causing slight damage in the area.

Works are underway to evaluate the initial damage and gather further information.

According to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, there were no reports of deaths, injuries or any major damage as a result of the earthquake but there was minor damage to some buildings and pagodas. Amid warnings, an aftershock measuring a magnitude 4.4 struck an area 30-miles north-west of Mawleik Township last Thursday afternoon. — *GNLM*



Diplomats enjoy Myanmar water festival



Thingyan Water Festival at Yangon City Central Pavilion. PHOTO: MNA

DIPLOMATS and their families enjoyed Thingyan Water Festival at Yangon City Central Pavilion yesterday.

Together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo

Min Thein, his wife and Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and his wife, members of diplomatic corps led by Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hany Riad Moawad took

part in Thingyan festival at the Yangon City Central pavilion.

They also enjoyed dances of Thingyan Yein troupe and other cultural troupes. — *Myanmar News Agency*

An Acariya Puja Ceremony at Vesali Hall in Yangon University Campus

>> from page 8

those of Pallava, Kaddaba and Gupta engraved on stone-inscriptions, votive tablets, scrolls and plates of gold, silver and copper, etc, symbols on coins like conch-shell, trichula, Srivatsa, stupa, throne, wheel, sun, moon, etc. Therefore, we felt as if we were studying the real ones during the field. Especially, interpretation of the symbols on the ancient coins and hand-gestures and leg-postures of Buddha images and deciphering of ancient scripts helped us know what our ancestors believed, how their thoughts were shaped religiously, culturally, politically, architecturally, etc. So we acquired much architectural, iconographic, epigraphic and numismatic knowledge. In fact, the truth of historical claims can be testified through the examination of relevant archaeological artefacts. Therefore, the subject Dr. Kyaw Win lectured on can be said to equip the students with the scholarly knowledge which will help them turn out to be new generation historians and archaeologists.

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt lectures embodied a wide range of subjects on tangible and intangible cultures, historical background of Myanmar music, basic

musical scales, musical timing, musical instruments, ten kinds of Myanmar traditional fine arts and handicrafts, Myanmar dramas, Myanmar puppetry, Myanmar seasonal festivals and development of Myanmar literature throughout Myanmar history. In the course of his lectures, Sayagyi was always so much lost in the topics he dealt with that he personally sang some Myanmar classical songs to ဝဉ္ဏ (timing bells) and ဝါး (wooden clappers), explaining the three kinds of musical timing such as နှစ်ဝဉ္ဏ (Alternative performance of two chimes of ဝဉ္ဏ and one beat of ဝါး), ဝါးလတ်ဝဉ္ဏ (Alternative performance of one chime of ဝဉ္ဏ and one beat of ဝါး) and ဝဉ္ဏစုံဝါးစုံ (Simultaneous performance of one chime of ဝဉ္ဏ and one beat of ဝါး). Sometimes, he was compelled to mime performance and mimic voices for ဂိဇ္ဈ (grief), လေးခင်း (fights) and မိန်းမတိုင်း (commotions), ရွတ် (stealth), and ရှိင် (longing) and so on. While lecturing on the dramatic performances, he frequently emphasized the wisdom of the dramatic performers by saying “ဇာတ်သမား လာရင် မှတ်သားစရာ ပါရမယ်။ အတိသမား ပြန်ရင် မှတ်သားစရာ ကျန်ခဲ့ရမယ်” meaning “When performing artists come, they must bring with them knowl-

edge and information; when they depart, they must leave moral lessons”. To our surprise, he alone could engage himself not only in monologue but also in dialogue. He supplied an explicit explanation on how Myanmar music originated in nature, musical notes were invented based on rustling sounds of Bayan leaves and those of various animals and အနိမ့်သဘင် (the on-ground performance) and အမြင့်သဘင် (the on-stage performance) were developed throughout history. He also patiently explained musical terminologies such as မင်းသား/မင်းသမီး (leading performing actors and actresses), လူရွတ်တော် (comedians), ဖျော်တော်ဆက် (court-jesters), လူပြတ် (clowns), လူကြမ်း (villains), ရုပ်သေးရုပ် (puppets), ရုပ်သေးဆရာ (puppeteers), ကြိုးဆွဲ (manipulators), စာဟောဆရာ (elocutionists), ကွက်စိပ်ဆရာ (narrators of Jataka stories with oral music), etc, Myanmar traditional musical instruments like ကြေး (brass instruments), ကြိုး (string instruments), လေ (wind-instruments), သားရေ (percussion instruments) and လက်ခုပ် (clapping instruments), different kinds of dramas like နတ်သီချင်း (spiritual dance), မြေပိုင်း (open dramatic performance on a circular patch of land), ကွက်စိပ် (narration of Buddha's birth-sto-

ries with oral music), နိဝါတ်ခင်း (performance of Buddha's birth stories as dumb show), ထီးဖြူရုံကတိဝ္ဏ (theatrical performance in a tent of white umbrella), ပြဇာတ် (day-time dramatic show staged in large theatres), etc, and various literary genres such as ကာချင်း (military songs), ရတု (lyrical odes on seasons, love, etc), ဇချင်း (royal lullabies extolling glory of ancestors), ဇော်ကွန်း (epics), သာချင်း (poems composed for the sake of euphony), တောလား (lyric poems about journeys through forests), တောလယ် (plaintive songs), တေးထပ် (lyric poem), ခေတ်စမ်းစာပေ (literature marking renaissance of Myanmar literature which appeared in the 1930s). Therefore, we were left agape-mouthed and wide-eyed by his ingenious, informative lectures. Thus we came to be impressed with our ancestors' insight into nature, their innovative power for music, high standard of Myanmar music and literature.

In short, a person who knows nothing about his race is the one who has no knowledge of himself. Due to this course, we came to know what the Myanmar are and what they did and thought in the past. We could pry into their heart, feelings, sentiments and emotions. We could

retrace the lost foot-steps left by them along the banks of the river of the past whose water flowed away with the current of time. Consequently, we feel as if we knew more about ourselves as well as our people. A person who does not know about himself is, in fact, a dumb-witted one. Here, the truth of Dr. Than Tun's sensible saying “One should learn history not to be dumb-witted”, dawn upon us. Therefore, we should learn history to make ourselves highly efficient, sharp-witted citizens, especially during the transition to the full-fledged democracy like this. Today, Myanmar, which is the eastern paradise of untold riches, is in the lime-light of the foreigners who want to explore nature and to seek economic profits. So we should try to be credited by them as a sharp-witted people by telling them what we are and what we did, thought and felt in the past. Therefore, the author would like to invite the readers to attend the Myanmar History and Cultural Diploma course opened at the History Department of Yangon University so that we can take our chances to claim boldly that we are not dull-witted citizens to that extent!

Not just China: Japan, South Korea push cheap steel as world reels

MANILA/TOKYO — As the world reels from a flood of cheap Chinese steel, other countries including Japan and South Korea are selling products overseas at prices as much as a third lower than in their home markets, according to industry data and officials.

The underpricing by the world's second and third biggest steel exporting countries underscores the pressure facing steelmakers around the globe as the industry grapples with chronic oversupply and sluggish demand.

India's Tata Steel has blamed a flood of cheap steel imports for a decision to pull out of Britain, putting 15,000 jobs at risk, while one of Australia's only two steelmakers, Arrium Ltd, has been placed in administration, a form of bankruptcy.

Top producer China has taken much of the blame for plant closures, but other steelmakers are similarly fighting to stay in business.

Japanese companies are selling steel overseas cheaper than in the domestic market partly to compete with China, said an official at a Japanese steel producer, declining to be named because he didn't want to discuss pricing strategies publicly.

The price is also higher locally to cover the "extras" that steelmakers provide clients such as specific delivery times and services including product quality that make it easier for customers to process them, the producer said.



Workers check steel products at a factory in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China, on 30 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

"That's something many foreign makers cannot offer," he said.

H-beam, used in construction, is sold in Tokyo at 69,000 yen (\$629) a tonne and is exported at \$470 a tonne, free-on-board, according to data from Japanese and Chinese agencies that track the prices.

South Korean hot-rolled steel plate was exported at \$522 a tonne on average last year, less than the domestic price of \$581 a tonne, according to Korea Iron & Steel Association data.

"As far as the importing country is concerned, it is nothing but dumping from these countries,"

said Seshagiri Rao, joint managing director at India's JSW Steel Ltd.

Japan and South Korea export steel at prices that are 35 per cent lower than their domestic prices, said Rao.

"If they are making money in the domestic market, by exporting, as long as they're able to recover some contribution towards their fixed cost, they're pushing volume," he said.

Countries, responding to rising imports and complaints from local producers, are imposing protections and raising objections through international channels.

India in February set a floor

price for imports of steel products to deter exporters from undercutting domestic mills, having seen imports from Japan and South Korea jump by almost half in April-February.

Japan has told India it will object to India's minimum import price and a safeguard duty on imports of some steel products at a World Trade Organisation council meeting on Friday, according to an Indian government letter seen by Reuters.

"By doing so, we want to prevent other countries from following India's step," which violates WTO rules, a Japanese govern-

ment source told Reuters.

Tokyo is asking the United States, the European Union and Taiwan to support its proposal, he added.

India has also started investigations into possible dumping of cheap steel products into the country by six nations including China, Japan and South Korea following complaints from companies such as JSW.

In Australia, Federal Industry Minister Christopher Pyne said the government had applied 41 anti-dumping measures to imported steel products in recent times, including 13 for China and eight for South Korea.

On Thursday, China scrapped some export subsidies on a range of products, including some specialty steel goods, in an effort to reduce trade frictions with the United States.

Japan and South Korea sell more than 40 per cent of their steel output overseas, most of it to Asia. Last year, the two countries shipped a combined 75 million tonnes versus 112 million tonnes from China.

Top Korean steelmaker POSCO, the world's fifth-largest, declined to comment on pricing of exports.

"It is true that Japanese and South Korean steel companies are underpricing some of their steel exports," said Li Xinchuang, vice-secretary general of the China Iron and Steel Association.

Li dismissed claims Chinese steel companies were doing the same.—Reuters

Apple forms team to explore App Store changes: Bloomberg

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc has formed a secret team to explore changes to its App Store, including a new strategy for charging developers to have their apps more prominently displayed, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the plans.

The iPhone maker is considering paid searches, similar to Google's model, where companies would have to pay to have their apps appear among top search results based on what a customer is seeking, Bloomberg said.

About 100 employees are

working on the project, including many engineers from Apple's advertising group iAd, which is being scaled back, Bloomberg said, adding that the initiative is being led by Apple Vice President Todd Teresi, who headed iAd. Apple declined to comment.—Reuters



The new iPhone SE is seen on display during an event at the Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California on 21 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Toshiba, Fujitsu, Vaio may drop talks to integrate PC units

TOKYO — Talks to integrate the personal computer units of Toshiba Corp., Fujitsu Ltd., and Vaio Corp. are likely to break down amid disagreements over restructuring steps and other details, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The three companies have been unsuccessful in drawing up a business strategy following the envisaged merger, and they are at odds over which production facility to scrap, the sources said.

The companies are still in negotiations, but no agreement is in sight at present, according to

the sources.

The integration would enable the three companies to gain dominance in Japan's PC market, which is facing difficulties as consumers increasingly turn to smartphones and tablets, prompting PC makers to explore new ways for growth.

Engulfed in an accounting scandal that led to a broad restructuring of its unprofitable businesses, Toshiba is seen as willing to separate its PC business, while Fujitsu has already spun off its own PC unit.—Kyodo News

Instagram to add video channels to 'Explore' section

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook's picture sharing app Instagram is updating its "Explore" section to add video channels that will appear in a feed according to users' preferences.

The feature will have a personalised channel called "videos you might like" that will collect videos from across Instagram's

global community and also will include a "Featured" column highlighting videos on specific topics, Instagram said. For now, the upgrade will only be available in the United States, Instagram said on Thursday.

Instagram version 7.20 is available on Apple's App Store and Google Play.—Reuters

Surgery directors like flexible schedules for trainees

CHICAGO — Doctors who oversee training programmes for young surgeons are strongly in favour of flexible work hours for these trainees, a study found.

They believe flexible hours lead to improvements in patient safety, overall care and trainees' education and wellbeing.

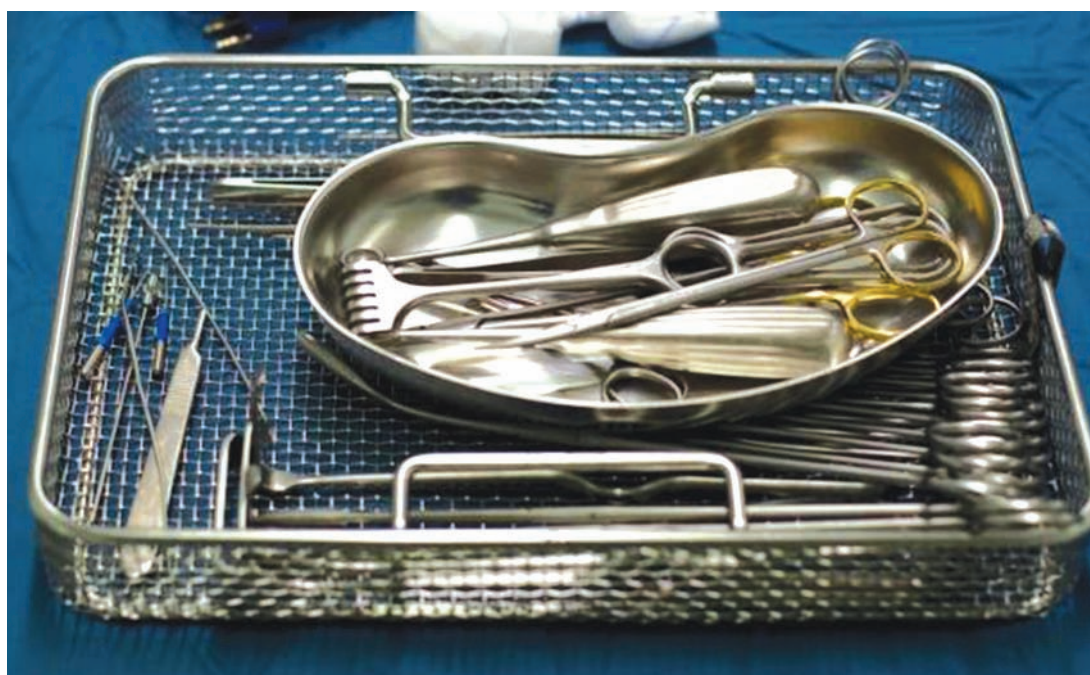
Public concern over residents' work hours led the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to impose restrictions in 2003 and again in 2011. Current policy limits the work week of trainee doctors, known as residents, to a maximum 80 hours, regulates mandatory time off between shifts and limits on-call periods.

To see if the restrictions led to improvements in patient safety, researchers conducted the FIRST Trial from 2014 to 2015. Of the 117 participating US surgical training programmes, 59 followed current restrictions while the other 58 allowed for flexible working hours.

Overall, patient outcomes were similar in both groups.

For the new study, Dr. Anthony Yang of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago and colleagues collected the perceptions of the surgical faculty who oversaw the training programmes.

Where residents had flexible work hours, programme directors said the trainees used the time to finish operations and the stabilise



Surgery instruments are pictured during procedures to clean the wound of an amputee patient with MRSA (Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*) in the operating theatre at the Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin (UKB) hospital in Berlin. PHOTO: REUTERS

patients.

Compared to programme directors at hospitals with restricted work hours, those with flexible hours overwhelmingly reported more positive effects on patient safety, uninterrupted patient care and freedom for residents to attend educational activities.

Most doctors in either group also said flexible hours would improve patient care and resident education and wellbeing, the researchers report in the

Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

"I didn't expect it to be so uniform," said Yang.

The researchers caution that the results are subject to a number of limitations. For example, they surveyed only the 117 programme directors involved in the trial, whereas there are 252 accredited surgical training programmes in the US.

Also, the survey was subjective, since it asked for programme directors' perceptions,

and not for information like trainee performance on exams.

The trial was also only one year, and the perceptions of programme directors may change over a longer period of time, they write.

Yang said he hopes the results put people at ease about longer work hours for residents since these programme directors view the flexible policy as beneficial.

They "haven't seen this as a bad thing," he said.—Reuters

Seven quarantined in NW Nigeria over Lassa fever

LAGOS — At least seven people have been quarantined in Nigeria's northwest state of Katsina after testing positive to Lassa fever, an official said Thursday.

Shamsuddeen Yahaya, the State Director of Public Health, who made this known to reporters, said only one person died of Lassa fever in the state.

Other victims were in stable condition and responding to treatment, he added, noting that another person who tested positive had been treated and discharged.

According to him, other 18 persons whose blood samples were taken to Lagos for screening had tested negative. The director said the 18 persons had been discharged from the General Hospital and Federal Medical Centre, Katsina, where they were isolated.

The director told reporters that the Lassa fever situation in Katsina is under control and there is no need for panic among the public.

He called on the public not to stigmatize those that were treated and discharged. Yahaya revealed that the case recorded in the state was a transmission from person-to-person during contact with an infected person.

Lassa fever is an acute and often fatal viral disease, occurring mainly in West Africa. It is usually transmitted by contact with the saliva or excreta of rats accessing homes and food stores.—Xinhua

Antimalarial resistance to drug unable to spread by mosquitoes

WASHINGTON — In a study they might be helpful for malaria control, scientists said Thursday that resistance to the antimalarial drug atovaquone cannot be passed on by mosquitoes.

Atovaquone was introduced in 2000 and is safe for pregnant women and children, but it was largely phased out of use because resistance was initially observed.

The new study revealed that although some malaria parasites had developed a genetic mutation that protected them against the drug in early life, the mutation eventually killed the parasites by stopping production of an essential type of energy as they grew.

The results, published in the *US journal Science*, were based on studying a model strain of rodent malaria and a deadly strain of human malaria.

Lead authors Professor Geoff McFadden and Dean Goodman of the University of Melbourne called it a "genetic trap" that could prove to be a significant step forward in the anti-malaria fight.

The pair, together with collaborators from Indonesia, the US and Japan, investigated the evolution and life cycle of the malaria parasite for the past six years.

"These results are very exciting because the spread of drug resistance is currently destroying our ability to control malaria," said McFadden from the School of Biosciences at the University of Melbourne.

"We now understand the particular genetic mutation that gave rise to drug resistance in some malaria parasite populations and how it eventually kills them in the mosquito, providing new targets for the development of drugs."

McFadden said the findings mean that the development of resistance to atovaquone "may not be a major problem" and that the drug could be more widely used in malaria control.

This is the first time that drug resistance was found unable to spread by mosquitoes, thereby preventing the re-infection of humans, the researchers said.

"Our next challenge will be to look for any spread of this drug resistance in field settings such as Kenya and Zambia," McFadden said.

"We are hopeful that with the development of cheaper generic forms of the drug atovaquone, that there is a new hope in the treatment of malaria."—Xinhua

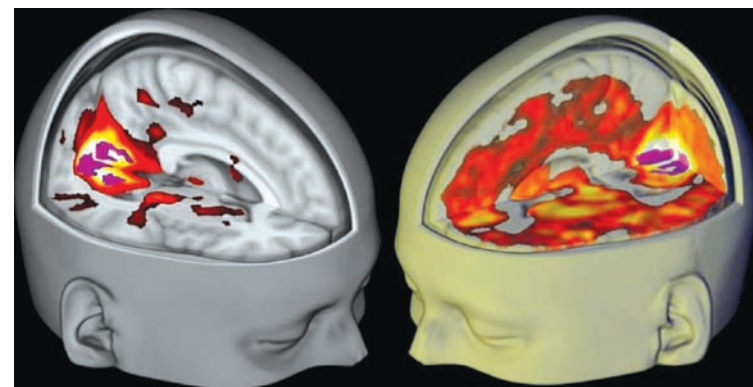
Brain scans show how LSD mimics mind of a baby

LONDON — Scientists have for the first time scanned the brains of people using LSD and found the psychedelic drug frees the brain to become less compartmentalized and more like the mind of a baby.

A research team led by scientists at Imperial College London said that while normally the brain works on independent networks performing separate functions such as vision, movement and hearing, under LSD the separateness of these networks breaks down, leading to a more unified system.

"In many ways, the brain in the LSD state resembles the state our brains were in when we were infants: free and unconstrained," said Robin Carhart-Harris, who led the study. "This also makes sense when we consider the hyper-emotional and imaginative nature of an infant's mind."

The findings, published on Monday in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal*, also showed that when the volunteers took LSD, many extra brain areas — not just the visual cortex — contributed to visual processing.



The brains of subjects lying awake with their eyes closed, under a placebo (L) and the drug LSD (R), are seen when being examined using functional MRI, in this handout image from Imperial College London and The Beckley Foundation. PHOTO: REUTERS

This could explain the complex visual hallucinations that are often associated with the LSD state, the scientists said.

Carhart-Harris, a researcher at Imperial's department of medicine said the experience also seemed to be linked to "improvements in well-being" after the drug's effects subside, suggesting the findings may one day lead to psychedelic compounds being used to treat psychiatric disorders.

Such drugs could be particularly useful in mental disorders where negative thought patterns have become entrenched, the scientists explained, such as in de-

pression or addiction.

"For the first time, we can really see what's happening in the brain during the psychedelic state, and can better understand why LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide) had such a profound impact on self-awareness," said David Nutt, a professor of neuropsychopharmacology who worked with Carhart-Harris.

"This could have great implications for psychiatry."

The Imperial team worked alongside the Beckley Foundation, a British-based group that backs scientific research into the potential medical benefits of psychoactive substances.—Reuters

Haiti will miss election deadline, no date for new president

PORT-AU-PRINCE —

Haiti will not meet a deadline to complete its presidential election by 24 April, the top election official said on Thursday, without giving a new date to hold the already delayed vote in the impoverished Caribbean country.

The election was postponed in January after sometimes violent protests over allegations of fraud in the first round. An interim government has been running the country since the last president's term ended in February.

"It is clear that the elections won't take place on 24 April, but we are still assessing the election machinery as we make decisions about the way forward," the head of a newly appointed electoral council, Leopold Berlangier, told Reuters.

He said the delay, which comes after political battles over the formation of the interim government, meant that temporary President Jocelerme Privert would not hand over to an elected successor by 14 May, as agreed



Residents hold signs of presidential candidate Jovenel Moise as they look at a demonstration by PHTK political party to demand for the organisation of a postponed presidential runoff election in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

in a cross-party deal to overcome the crisis.

"It is also clear that the fact that the elections won't take place this month means it is impossible to have a new elected president by 14 May," Berlangier said.

The results of the first round in October put Jovenel Moise in first place

and Jude Celestin in second for a runoff, but Celestin and several more of the 52 losing candidates rejected the outcome.

Before completing the process, the election council is overseeing a second evaluation of the results to test the claims of fraud and decide which candidates

should take part.

Supporters of former president Michel Martelly and his favoured candidate, Moise, have protested in recent days, claiming Privert is dragging his feet so his allies can cling on to power. The protesters demand the election be held as soon as possible.—Reuters

Refugee teachers go back to school to train for work in Germany

POTSDAM (Germany) — Syrian asylum seeker Alaa Kassab can't believe her luck. Four months after arriving in Germany, the 23-year-old English instructor has joined a programme that gives refugee teachers German lessons and qualifies them to work in German schools.

Along with 25 other migrants, mainly from Syria, Kassab is spending six hours a day learning German at the University of Potsdam near Berlin. Once her language skills are up to scratch, she will take seminars on the German school system and the teaching methods used here.

"This course is exactly what I wanted — I was so happy when I got it," she said. "I'm already at the university so I can meet German friends and get to blend in faster."

Kassab is one of more than a million migrants who arrived in Germany

last year. Some politicians argue the record influx could help alleviate a labour shortage caused partly by the ageing of the population, but many newcomers lack the training and language skills that Europe's largest economy needs.

Nonetheless, the programme in Potsdam offers hope that some of the better-educated migrants will be able to take up jobs relatively quickly. Kassab and her peers are expected to start working as teaching assistants in about a year's time.

"We realised that a lot of the refugees had a background in teaching and refugee children have to go to German schools, so we saw this as a chance to use their cultural similarities and offer refugee children someone they can speak to," said Andreas Musil, vice president for teaching at the University of Potsdam.—Reuters

Putin blasts Panama Papers 'provocation,' soothes crisis-hit Russians

MOSCOW — Vladimir Putin on Thursday dismissed media reports that billions of dollars in Panama offshore accounts might be linked to him as a US-backed "provocation", as he told ordinary Russians that the country's economic crisis will ease next year.

The leak of confidential documents from a Panamanian law firm earlier this month has angered the Kremlin, forcing it to field questions about offshore accounts allegedly belonging to one of Putin's best friends.

Speaking during a televised national phone-in, Putin dismissed the leak and subsequent media reports as part of a shadowy US-backed plot designed to discredit Russian politicians ahead of parliamentary elections later this year.

"They must understand that the issue is not about specific people, individuals, no matter what position they hold in Russia," said Putin, after lashing out at US officials and US bank Goldman Sachs.

"The issue is about the

country, which cannot be manipulated."

Putin delivered a spirited defence of his friend Sergei Roldugin, who, according to reports based on the Panama Papers, has a business empire involved in offshore transactions that might be linked to Putin.

"Who does it, these provocations? We know that there are some staff from official American institutions," said Putin.

Putin's primary focus however was voters' workaday problems.

He cast himself and the ruling United Russia party as an anchor of stability at a time when the economy is shrinking and the financial knock-on effects of Russia's stand-off with the West are still being felt.

With real incomes down and people worried about high food inflation, unpaid wages, and corrupt officials, Putin adopted a father-of-the-nation stance, letting people know he understood that many, especially in the regions, were suffering but that economic growth would

return next year.

Addressing public concerns over the economy is crucial for the Kremlin ahead of a parliamentary election in September and it is carefully monitoring the regions for any signs of social unrest. Thursday's event provided a controlled platform for people to let off steam and feel listened to.

Wrapping up the event after three hours and 40 minutes, Putin said he had heard a lot of impassioned questions from worried citizens.

"I share your concerns

in nearly 100 per cent of cases," he said. "We'll work together so that your problems are relieved."

Putin took questions via video link from two women, Tatiana and Yelena, who said they had not been paid for months of work at a fish processing plant on a Pacific island, and that officials had ignored their complaints.

The issue is a widespread one since Russia's economy slowed, with businesses that are struggling with falling sales often delaying wages.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.4.2016 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY NO (004N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY NO (004N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2016 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (055 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (055 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Eurogroup head sees no Greek debt breakthrough this week

WASHINGTON — There will be no breakthrough on unlocking new loans for Greece in Washington this week, but euro zone ministers will seek a deal next week in Amsterdam that could pave the way for debt relief talks, a top euro zone official said on Thursday.

“In Amsterdam we will have more time, everyone around the table and try to really get somewhere,” the chairman of euro zone finance ministers, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, told reporters on the sidelines of International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington. He said euro zone lenders were adamant that the key to a deal was sticking to the assumption that Greece’s government had to reach a 3.5 per cent of GDP primary surplus in 2018.

“I don’t see any flexibility on the 3.5 per cent in 2018 because it was one of the anchors of the agreement of last summer. So that’s going to take a huge effort on the part of Greece but I think it can be done,” Dijsselbloem said.

The IMF, one of the lenders to Greece, believes that asking Athens to maintain a surplus of that size for decades after 2018 — an assumption of the euro zone

programme — is unrealistic.

The Fund believes the target for the surplus — the budget balance before debt servicing — should be lowered and that euro zone governments, who are Greece’s main creditors, should offer the country deeper debt relief to compensate.

“I think the IMF is right, it (the surplus target) is courageous, so the question is how to deal with the uncertainty around that, what do we do ‘if’,” Dijsselbloem said.

He noted that no-one knew exactly how quickly Greece’s economy would grow in the coming years and what its rate of inflation would be, yet those indicators were crucial to assess the ability to repay loans.

He said euro zone lenders and the IMF would eventually align their views on where Greece stood now, what fiscal effects would materialize from reforms that Greece was implementing and what the most likely scenario was for the future.

“We will try to close these differences and baseline assessments and then we will go to the political level, because in the end it is up to the ministers to decide if Greece has done enough,” Dijsselbloem said.—*Reuters*



Dutch Finance Minister and Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem reacts as he arrives at a eurozone finance ministers meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 14 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rome metro eternally delayed under reforming Renzi’s feet

ROME — In power for two years, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has initiated many reforms aimed at invigorating the anemic economy, including his flagship overhaul of the constitution which was approved by parliament this week.

But the woes of a major infrastructure project right under his feet reveal how much work still must be done to get Italy back on track.

Rome’s Metro C was meant to link the city’s two main cathedrals in time for the Holy Year in 2000. Sixteen years later, the underground line has not yet reached the first church and might never make it to the second, St Peter’s Basilica.

While the initial section of the state-of-the-art driverless network was finally inaugurated in 2014, no-one knows where the underground line will end or when the next station might open.

The state of confusion reflects similar problems besetting myriad business projects in the euro zone’s third-largest economy, where, despite Renzi’s reform drive, bureaucracy and tangled laws are dragging



People walk next to a construction site for the Rome Metro underground system in Rome, Italy, on 23 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

down Italian development.

“All of the problems, vices and defects of Italian public works are evident in this one project,” said Luigi Giampaolino, head of the National Audit Court between 2010-2013 when it launched an initial investigation into early cost overruns.

The builders say that in seven years they have had to make 45 major changes to the original plans because of demands from the state, city and re-

gion, which are funding the project, taking into account everything from new safety standards to archaeological finds that were uncovered by their work.

“Trying to manage a major project here is almost impossible,” said Fabio Giannelli, the director of the Metro C consortium, which includes Astaldi, VininiLavori, a unit of Calta-girone, and Ansaldo STS.

“Look at major Italian contractors over the past four or five years. They

have totally changed their work profile and are increasingly working abroad to avoid the problems here.”

Renzi has introduced a welter of changes that he says will get Italy back on its feet, including the constitutional reform that strips the Senate of much of its powers — a move aimed at boosting political stability and ending an era of revolving-door governments that has snarled decision-making.—*Reuters*

Egyptian government warns against protests over Red Sea islands

CAIRO — Egypt’s interior ministry said on Thursday it would take legal action against people who participate in demonstrations called by activists to protest Egypt’s unexpected decision to transfer two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

The ministry urged Egyptians “not to get carried away by tendentious calls for protests and it

warns against any attempts to break the law,” adding in a statement that it would take “all decisive legal measures” to maintain security.

Egypt’s media has been in uproar since the government announced on Saturday the signing of a maritime demarcation accord that puts two islands at the southern entrance to the

Gulf of Aqaba in Saudi waters. Saudi and Egyptian officials say Tiran and Sanafir belong to the kingdom and were only under Egyptian control because Saudi Arabia asked Egypt in 1950 to protect them.

On Wednesday President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi tried to calm the furore, reiterating the government’s assertion that the islands

had always been Saudi and that Egypt had only been looking after them.

Calls for protest have gathered thousands of supporters on Facebook, including the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Eleven people protested against the transfer of the islands earlier this week and five of them were briefly detained.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO (157)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO (157) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (110N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (110N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2016 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

James Cameron developing four 'Avatar' sequels

LOS ANGELES — Filmmaker James Cameron is extending the world of "Avatar" by adding a fourth sequel to his franchise plans.

The director, 61, scored a box office hit in 2009 with the release of the original fantasy blockbuster, which starred Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana.

It currently holds the title as the highest-grossing movie in history, said the *Hollywood Reporter*.

He then announced there would be three follow-ups, with "Avatar 2" scheduled to hit cinemas in late 2016, but last year, Cameron admitted the writing process was taking longer than expected, and the second instalment was postponed until Christmas, 2017.

Cameron made a surprise appearance at CinemaCon in Las Vegas and offered up both good and bad news to fans.

"We're making four epic

films that stand alone but together form a saga. These movies were designed to be seen in theatres first."

"I've been working with the top four screenwriters and designers in the world to design the world of Avatar going forward. The environments, new cultures... From what I'm seeing, the art on the wall... In pure imagination is just beyond the first film. I'm speechless."

"Avatar 3" is pegged for release in 2020, with the fourth and fifth instalments following in 2022 and 2023.—PTI

I don't care about missing out on normal childhood: Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has refused to complain about her life in the spotlight because she chose it.

Gomez, 23, said it has often been difficult to navigate life in the public eye, reported *Us* magazine.

"I didn't have an opportunity to figure out my life without people having an opinion every step of the way," she said.

"(But), I chose this. So I'm not gonna sit here and say, 'Oh, my God, poor me, I didn't have a normal childhood.' I don't care about that."

The singer recently explained that early on in her career her image was very guarded, but she has learned to be more open and raw. "I think the beginning of my career, it was very tailored, it was very precise. Sharing the vulnerable, raw, messy side wasn't necessarily encouraged. I think the definition of strength is being vulnerable and being honest. — PTI

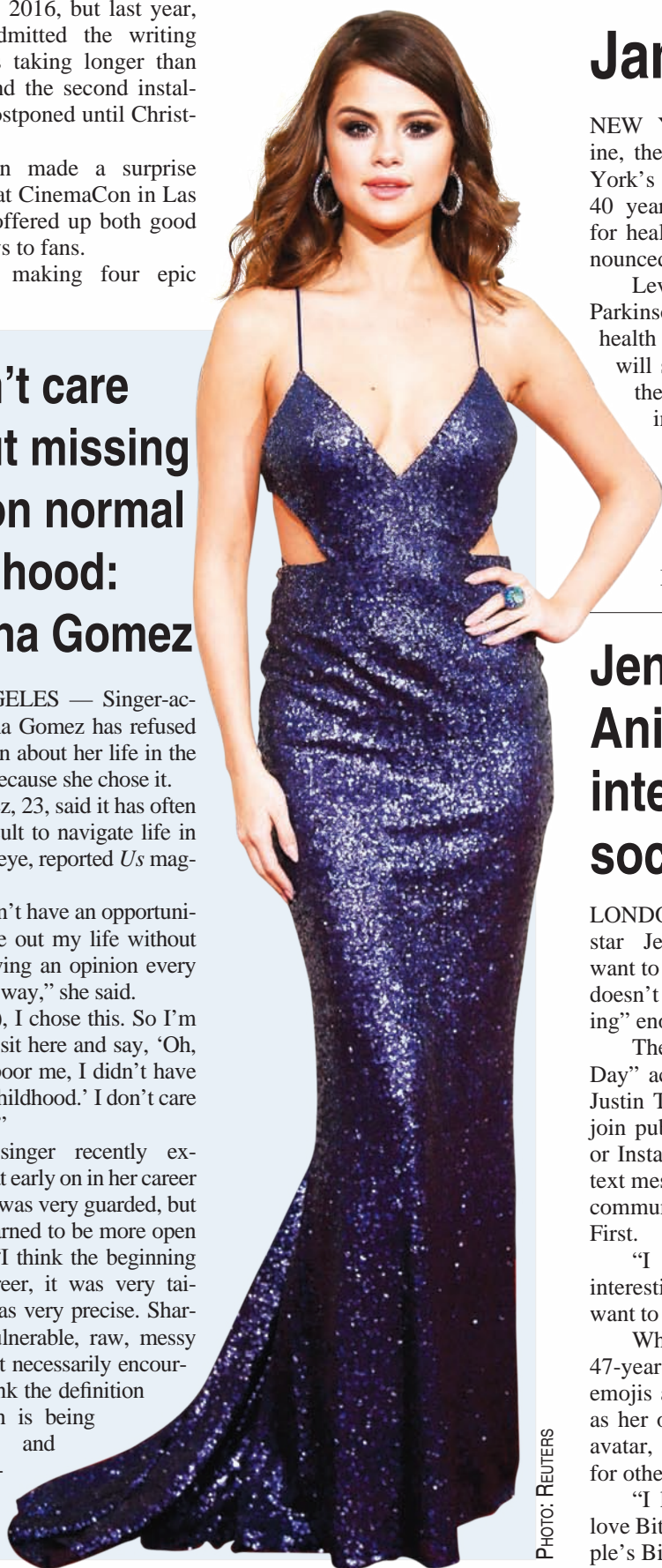


PHOTO: REUTERS



Metropolitan Opera (MET) musical director James Levine, conducts the MET Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

New York Met Opera's music director James Levine to retire after 40 years

NEW YORK — James Levine, the music director at New York's Metropolitan Opera for 40 years, will retire this year for health reasons, the Met announced on Thursday.

Levine, 72, who has battled Parkinson's disease and other health issues in recent years, will step down at the end of the current 2015-16 season in May. He will be named music director emeritus and will continue to work with the Met's young talent development programme, the Met said in a statement.

His successor at the Met, one of the most prestigious opera houses in the world, will be named in the coming months.

With his wild hair, portly figure and bespectacled face, Levine is beloved by musicians, singers and audiences.

He made his Met debut in 1971, becoming music director five years later. He has led more than 2,500 performances, conducting more than 85 different operas ranging from classical to contemporary works.

But ill health has taken an increasing toll. In 2011, he injured his spine in a fall and was

left partially paralyzed. After a two-year absence, he returned to conduct using a wheelchair at the orchestra's podium.

Thursday's statement said that in recent years Levine had "struggled with the effects of Parkinson's disease, making it increasingly difficult for him to conduct a full schedule of Met performances."

Peter Gelb, the Met's general manager, said on Thursday that there "is no conductor in the history of opera who has accomplished what Jim has achieved in his epic career at the Met."—Reuters

Jennifer Aniston not interested in social media

LONDON — Former "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston doesn't want to be on social media as she doesn't have anything "interesting" enough to say.

The 46-year-old "Mother's Day" actress, who is married to Justin Theroux, has no desire to join public sites such as Twitter or Instagram as she finds simple text messaging is all she needs to communicate, reported *Female First*.

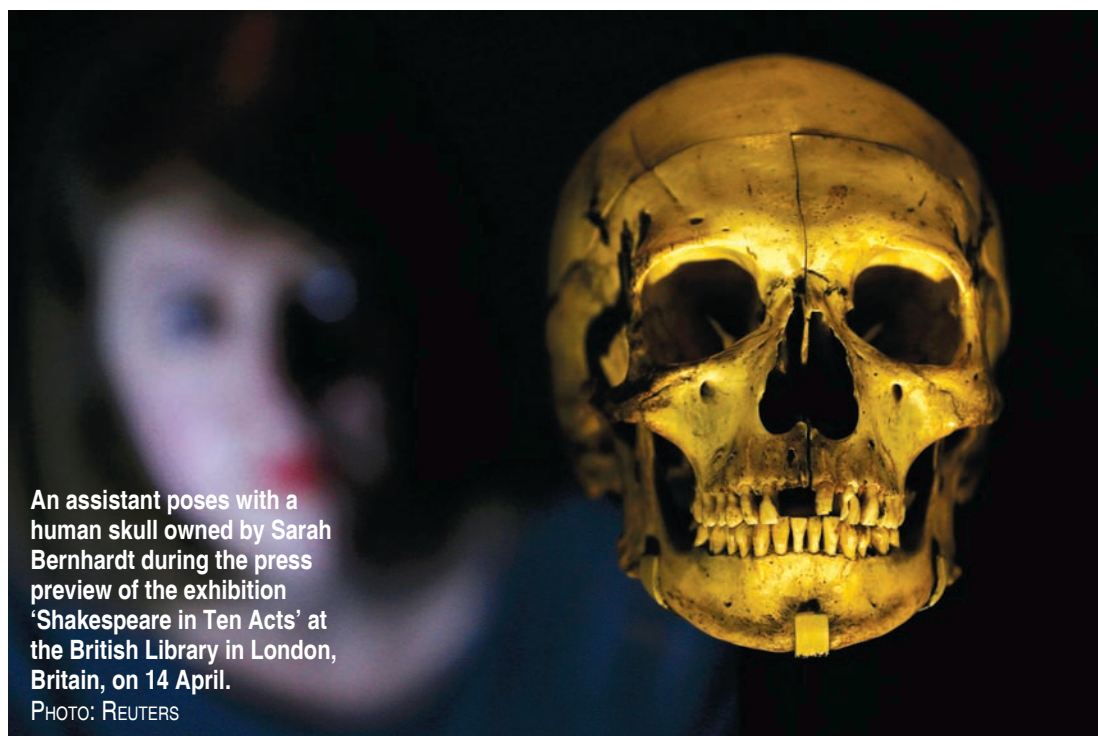
"I can't think of anything interesting enough that I would want to put out there...I just text."

When she does text, the 47-year-old actress is a big fan of emojis and Bitmojis and as well as her own personalised cartoon avatar, she loves creating them for other people.

"I love me a good emoji. I love Bitmojis. I like to make people's Bitmojis."—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS



An assistant poses with a human skull owned by Sarah Bernhardt during the press preview of the exhibition 'Shakespeare in Ten Acts' at the British Library in London, Britain, on 14 April.
PHOTO: REUTERS

On 400th anniversary, new exhibit looks at key Shakespeare acts

LONDON — From a dress worn by Vivien Leigh as Lady Macbeth to a "Hamlet" script owned by famous stage actors, a new exhibition explores how William Shakespeare became "the Bard" 400 years after his death.

"Shakespeare in Ten Acts" looks at 10 key performances of the playwright's works, from the first showing of "Hamlet" at the Globe theater around 1600 to a contemporary version of that play in the digital age.

The exhibition opens at London's British Library as theater fans prepare to mark the anniversary of Shakespeare's death on 23 April 1616.

"It's really difficult to do full justice to Shakespeare's

legacy over the last 400 years," exhibition lead curator Zoe Wilcox said in a British Library video handout.

"We're not just looking at Shakespeare the man or his most famous plays, we're focusing in on 10 significant performances of his work that tell us something about the way that his plays have been constantly reinvented through the ages."

Highlights include the only surviving play-script in Shakespeare's handwriting, in which he describes the plight of refugees. Also on show is a human skull inscribed with poetry given by French writer Victor Hugo to actress Sarah Bernhardt, which she used when playing Hamlet in 1899.

Visitors will also be able to see a "Hamlet" script owned by the likes of Michael Redgrave, Peter O'Toole and now Kenneth Branagh and theater playbills showing the career highs and lows of Ira Aldridge, the first black actor to play "Othello" on the English stage in 1825, organisers said.

"We are using the full range of things we have at our disposal to bring them (the acts) to life," Wilcox said.

"So sound, video, costumes, props, paintings, everything we can to give people a sense of what those performances would have felt like had you been attending them."

"Shakespeare in Ten Acts" runs until September.—Reuters

'Some Like it Hot' dress among Marilyn Monroe collection at auction

LONDON — The world's largest private collection of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia will go up for auction in November, with stage costumes from movies "Some Like it Hot" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" expected to fetch up to \$400,000.

Julien's Auctions said on Thursday that the collection, owned by Briton David Gainsborough Roberts, is conservatively valued at around \$3 million. As well as several costumes and personal wardrobe pieces owned by Monroe, the collection includes posters, jewelry and personal prescriptions.

Gainsborough Roberts has said he began buying Monroe and other memorabilia in 1991 and has amassed what is widely recognised as the largest private collection of the movie icon's film costumes in the world.

Gainsborough Roberts, who is in his 70s, said in a statement he wanted to sell off the collection, which has been stored at his home

in Jersey, in the Channel Islands.

"It is now time for me to share this with the world," Gainsborough Roberts said, noting that Monroe would have turned 90 years old in June. The actress died in 1962 at the age of 36.

Highlights of the auction include the sheer black and nude beaded cocktail dress Monroe wore in "Some Like it Hot" in 1959 while singing on top of a grand piano. That is expected to sell for \$200,000-\$400,000, Julien's said.

The silver and white beaded dress Monroe wore in the 1954 musical "There's No Business Like Show Business" is estimated at \$100,000-\$200,000, while the green satin leotard she wore in "Bus Stop" could sell for up to \$100,000, Julien's said.

Marilyn Monroe is one of the most sought-after celebrities for collectors. The billowing ivory "subway" dress she wore in "The Seven Year Itch" sold for a stage costume record of \$5.5 million in 2011.—Reuters



A sheer black cocktail dress worn by actress Marilyn Monroe in the film "Some Like It Hot", which has an auction estimate of \$200,000-\$400,000 on 13 April.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Chinese couple win a room with a view — of 35 sharks

PARIS — A lucky Chinese couple won an unusual, underwater sleepover — in a clear, cylinder-shaped room submerged in a 10-metre (33-foot) deep aquarium surrounded by 35 swimming sharks.

The contest, which was spon-

sored by the Paris Aquarium and the holiday home and rental website Airbnb to teach the winners and their guests about sharks, was not for the weak or faint-hearted.

Di Tang, a 27-year-old history student from Xian, China, described the experience as magical.

"I think I will not be able to sleep," she said. "I will take advantage of the whole night to watch the sharks." The structure, which was tested in the Mediterranean, was open to competition winner for three nights and will now be turned into a research hub.—Reuters

El Salvador declares drought emergency for first time ever

SAN SALVADOR (El Salvador) — El Salvador declared a water shortage emergency for the first time in its history on Thursday, citing the effects of climate change and the El Niño phenomenon, the country's president said.

In the last four years, rainfall has decreased considerably in the Central American country, and river and water reserve levels have reached a critical state, President Salvador Sanchez

Ceren said at a news conference. In recent weeks, residents from neighborhoods on the outskirts of the capital city of San Salvador have protested because of water shortages in their communities. Countries across Central America declared an agricultural alert last year as a result of the severe drought which has affected some 1.6 million people in the region, in particular growers of coffee, corn and beans.—Reuters



(16-4-2016 07:00am ~ 17-4-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Great Shwedagon — The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas
07:53 Am Sagaing: Gold Leaf
08:00 Am Live: Thingyan Festival

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

03:00 Pm Live: Thingyan Festival
06:03 Pm News
06:26 Pm Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda
06:47 Pm Thingyan Songs & Dances

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Interesting Features of Rakhine
07:47 Pm Today Myanmar
08:03 Pm News
08:25 Pm An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques (ဦးစိန်မြင့်၊ ရွှေချည်ထိုးရေးဟောင်းဝတ္ထုတုံး)
08:56 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
09:03 Pm News
09:26 Pm Myanmar Game Changer (Episode - II)
09:53 Pm A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving

(10:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (06:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 04:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 08:00 Am)

04:03 Am News
04:26 Am Auspicious and Traditional Thingyan
04:36 Am The Beauty in The North of Myanmar
04:53 Am Thingyan Songs & Dances
(05:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (Repeat - 09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Liverpool stun Dortmund, Sevilla edge through

LONDON — Liverpool added another fairytale comeback to the history books as they fought back from 3-1 down against Borussia Dortmund to reach the Europa League semi-finals after Dejan Lovren's towering stoppage-time header secured a 4-3 win on Thursday.

Lovren rose at the far post to rifle home his header in the first minute of added time, recalling memories of Liverpool's 2005 Champions League final comeback against AC Milan and propelling them into the last four with a 5-4 aggregate victory.

Liverpool, 2-0 down after nine minutes, will be joined in Friday's draw by holders Sevilla, who needed a penalty shootout to edge past Spanish rivals Athletic Bilbao.

Spain will have two sides in the last four after Villarreal beat Sparta Prague 4-2 and 6-3 over the two legs, while Shakhtar Donetsk defeated Braga 4-0 at home to complete a 6-1 aggregate triumph.

Liverpool's victory at Anfield was greeted by typically exuberant celebrations from manager Jurgen Klopp, who spent seven years at Dortmund and would have been no stranger to the quick-fire counter attacks that earned the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Liverpool might have felt they had a slight advantage over Dortmund having snatched an away goal in a 1-1 first-leg draw, but the tables were turned in the blink of an eye after a whirlwind start by the Germans.



Divock Origi scores their first goal for Liverpool against Borussia Dortmund during UEFA Europa League Quarter Final Second Leg at Anfield, Liverpool, England on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Liverpool were slapdash in possession, Dortmund ruthless on the counter as they brutally punishing Liverpool's errors with both early goals starting from the hosts gifting them the ball.

Dortmund played with the same intensity they did when Klopp led them to two Bundesliga titles and a Champions League final, harrying Liverpool all over the pitch and winning back the ball in dangerous areas.

The first goal arrived after five minutes as a rapid break ended with Simon Mignolet saving brilliantly from Pierre-Emerick

Aubameyang, only for Henrikh Mkhitaryan to sweep home the rebound.

It was soon 2-0 as Marco Reus powered through the Liverpool midfield and fed Aubameyang to rifle his finish into the roof of the net, beating Mignolet at his near post.

Having never lost at home to German opposition in 13 games, Liverpool were suddenly facing a mountainous climb back into the encounter, but they were given hope three minutes into the second half when Divock Origi raced through and poked his fin-

ish past Roman Weidenfeller.

Their spirits were swiftly dampened, however, when Reus made it 3-1 after 57 minutes, before being partially restored through Philippe Coutinho's curling effort.

The Anfield roar went into overdrive when Mamadou Sakho levelled with a header from a corner with 12 minutes remaining and the final blow was delivered when Lovren rose to head home James Milner's cross.

That sparked euphoric celebrations among the home support and left the visiting contingent

holding their heads in disbelief.

"It is difficult to explain. A wonderful, wonderful night at Anfield and to be honest the game was strange," an almost disbelieving Klopp said.

Liverpool are no strangers to titanic fightbacks with perhaps the greatest moment in their history coming when they came back from 3-0 down against Milan to win a fifth European title on penalties.

Just as on that night 11 years ago, their opponents were left wondering how they had lost control of the match.—Reuters

Murray survives Paire scare to reach Monte Carlo quarters

MONACO — Andy Murray avoided following Novak Djokovic out of the Monte Carlo Masters exit door after surviving a scare against local favourite Benoît Paire to reach the quarter-finals with a 2-6, 7-5, 7-5 victory on Thursday.

A day after world number one Djokovic suffered a stunning defeat by 55th-ranked Czech Jiri Vesely, Murray looked in trouble against Paire before subduing his opponent to set up a meeting with Canadian Milos Raonic.

World number two Murray was 5-4 down in the third set when Paire cracked under pressure and lost the remaining three games to hand victory to the Briton.

"I panicked. It's the biggest disappointment of my career," said Paire, who won the first set easily and was two breaks up in the second before Murray fought back.



Andy Murray of Britain reacts after missing a point during Monte Carlo Masters at Monaco, on 14 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eight-times Monte Carlo champion Rafa Nadal was made to work hard by Dominic Thiem before advancing to the last eight 7-5, 6-3 after the Austrian wasted 15 of 16 break points in the opening set.

The Spaniard will next face Stan Wawrinka after the Swiss, who won the claycourt Masters in 2014, demolished Frenchman Gilles Simon 6-1, 6-2.

"From the start I was very strict with myself. I had to keep

my tactics, be patient, attack him whenever I had the opportunity," said fourth seed Wawrinka.

"My concentration was very good. This is important against Gilles. From the start I needed to dominate and be very present on the court. I succeeded in doing that."

Third seed Roger Federer, back in action after a 10-week layoff, eased past Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 6-4.—Reuters

Rashford keeping his feet on the ground, says Carrick

LONDON — Marcus Rashford is staying level-headed after making a stunning start to his Manchester United career, the club's vice-captain Michael Carrick said on Thursday.

Rashford, 18, has shone since being promoted from the club's academy this season, scoring six goals in his 11 appearances, including a stunning strike in Wednesday's FA Cup quarter-final win over West Ham United.

"Not in his wildest dreams could he have predicted the last two or three months that he's had," Carrick told the club's website (www.manutd.com).

"He's still got his feet on his ground though. He keeps coming in, he doesn't change, he works hard, he listens, he's willing to learn and I think he's got a great chance of staying at the top for a long time.

"I don't think it's a flash in the plan, in and out. I think he's here to stay and goals like that



Marcus Rashford. PHOTO: REUTERS

(against West Ham) — we'll welcome more of them."

United, who are fifth in the Premier League, are vying with local rivals Manchester City for a spot in next season's Champions League. City, who are fourth and hold the final qualifying spot, visit Chelsea on Saturday, while United are home to bottom club Aston Villa, whose relegation could be confirmed this weekend.—Reuters