IWT ADVISED TO SELL

IWT considers corporatisation or privatisation to recover losses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IWT has been operating passenger and freight services along the navigable waterways in Myanmar and ferry services, with a fleet of more than 400 ships, including 225 powered vessels, 138 passenger-cum-cargo ships, 27 cargo ships, 30 powered barges, one water tender, 22 tugs, one oil tanker, 149 non-powered vessels, 138 cargo barges, 11 oil barges and 39 station pontoons, according to 2014 statistics from the ministry.

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

Inland Water Transport is under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
Myanmar chefs to participate in Food Hotel Asia 2016 in Singapore

A MYANMAR chef delegation left Yangon for Singapore yesterday to take part in the Food Hotel Asia 2016 event which is scheduled to run from 12 to 15 April. The delegation comprises 30 chefs from the Myanmar Chefs Association (MCA).

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

The Myanmar chefs are sponsored by the MCA and partners as well as Myanmar National Airline. MCA has been a full member of World Chefs WACS since 1999.

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

Aung Thant Khaing

Trains with air-cushioned suspension to run during Water Festival

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

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

“The departure time is just the same for both Yangon and Mandalay stations. If you leave Yangon for Mandalay, you will reach your destination at 5.30 am the next day. And, if you come from Mandalay, you arrive Yangon at 6 am. The running time is about 14 hours. The trains are installed with air cushioned suspension allowing passengers to travel comfortably,” said U Aye Maung, assistant General Manager (Traffic) at Mandalay Railways Station from Myanmar Railways.

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

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

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Has Cataract Surgery

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

The operation was performed at a special hospital in Nay Pyi Taw where a cataract was removed from one of her eyes according to sources within the National League for Democracy.

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

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

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

Five sub-rural health centres in Magway Region handed over

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

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

The handover ceremonies of the projects took place in Mindon Township, Ngaphe Township, Setoktaya Township and Saw Township on 3, 4, 5 and 6 April 2016 respectively in Ta Kaung Net Village in Mindon Township, Lay Eain Su Village in Ngaphe Township, Kan Paik Village in Ngaphe township, Yae Thoung Village in Setoktaya Township and Yaw Let Pan Village in Saw township.

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

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets MPs of Yangon Region Parliament

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

At a time when the country is in its transitional period MPs are obliged to effectively perform the duty of legislation in order to build the democratic nation as inspired by the people, said the Speaker at the meeting with the MPs.

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

Felocities not declining

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

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

Included in these cases are some 36 murders, 39 cases of rape and 16 robberies. Felony cases in 2014 numbered 397 and cases in 2025 to 397, it has been reported by the Yangon Region Police Commanders Office.—Ko Moe

161 prisoners of conscience released so far

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

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

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

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. Photo: MNA

The RBE train is seen Mandalay Railways Station. Photo: Aung Thant Khaing
Price of beans rises due to demand from India

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

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

Bean prices have risen in both local and foreign markets. Beans priced for K75 per viss have jumped to K150 in the local market and K 60,000 per tonne to K200,000 per tonne in the foreign market.

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

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

Australia, India likely to invest millions in mining industry

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

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

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

Yams for elephant feed seeing high demand

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

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

Local farmers expect to break into the new market in Japan in addition to their established China market. Authorities exported 172 tonnes of dry yams to China via the Muse trading zone in March.

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

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

Value of Myanmar kyat continues to rise

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

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

High supplies of the US dollar have produced low prices. This is the main reason the value of kyat is growing stronger.

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

The value of the Myanmar kyat rose to K1,181 per US$1 last week, up from K1,197 per $1 (the previous week). However, these rates are lower than they were at this time last year.

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

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

Border trade volume rose by US$400 million

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

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

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

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

Beans are one of Myanmar’s primary crops. In Mindat and Kanpetlet townships, farmers are currently exporting yams to China.

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

Local farms expect to break into the new market in Japan in addition to their established China market. Authorities exported 127 tonnes of dry yams to China via the Muse trading zone in March.

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Kawthaung Police Force inspect bars and restaurants to reduce crime

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

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

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

Crime NEWS

AD van overturns in Myinmu

AN AD van en route to Mandalay—Myinmu-Monywa road. PHOTO: Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung—IPRD)

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

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

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

Four passengers killed in traffic accident

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

According to an investigation, a vehicle with 21 passengers on board turned over when the breaks failed. The accident threw four passengers from the vehicle. A local resident said that Bamauk township is seeing an increase in passenger vehicles and so also an increase in accidents. We have to ask them to follow the traffic rules, the resident said. The reckless driver has been charged by local police.—Aye Lwin

Fugitive captured in Kawthaung

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

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

Trailer sideswipes motorbike in Kyaukkon

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

The trailer, heading for Kyaukkon from Ah Thauge, was being driven by one Htein Win, 45 when he crashed into a motorbike being driven by Nyunt Thein A3, with Ko Pwin Cho, 29 and U Kyi Soe, 35 on board.

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

Man dies following fall

A MAN reportedly fell from the second floor of an apartment building in Dhaana Theikdi ward, Zabuthiri township, Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. According to an investigation, Maung Maung Myint 46, who was visiting his brother jumped out of the apartment window on second floor.

The deceased was reportedly suffering mental health issues. Police sent his body to hospital for a post-mortem. Police are still in investigating the case.—Min Min Latt (Physic)

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

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

At the ceremony, Mawlauw Ahlie, chairman of Mohammad Day commemoration and inter-faith goodwill ceremony organising committee delivered the opening speech while Sayadaw U Pyinnya Wuda from Kanlai monastery, HI Saya U Thien Win Aung representing Islam, Pastor U Myint Oo representing Christianity and Sayar U Aye Maung representing the Hindu faith gave speeches.

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

Fugitive captured in Kawthaung

Than Aung alias Aphogyi seen at the Kawthaung police station. PHOTO: Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung—IPRD)
North Korea invited to June ministerial meeting on nuclear test ban

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

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

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

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

It is the first time

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

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

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

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

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervises test of new engine for missile

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

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

Tension has remained high on the Korean peninsula after the North’s nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch earlier in the year and South Korean and US troops conducted large-scale joint drills amid harsh rhetoric from both rival Koreas.

The engine was ignited at Kim’s command and “although the blast and test showed the indigenous designed rocket fulfilled all required conditions, the North’s official KCNA news agency said.”

“The test was conducted at the North’s missile station near its west coast, where, in February, the country launched a long-range rocket that put an object into space orbit, KCNA said.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thailand’s Indian Ocean coastal provinces are also a Muslim minority area.

“Two Chinese ethnic Uighur men from China’s far west are a Muslim minority and Chinese authorities accuse some of being involved in militancy.”

In March, Indonesian forces killed two ethnic Uighurs who linked up with an Indonesian militant on Sulawesi island. Four Uighurs were jailed in Indonesia last year after trying to join the same network. — Reuters
Sri Lanka requests equity swap for some of its $8 billion China debt

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

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

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

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

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

“We want to reduce the current debt by inviting Chinese companies, Chinese investors, to look at some of the enterprises in Sri Lanka, the state-owned enterprises, with a view to taking at least part of that equity over,” he said.

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

Sri Lanka upset China when it ordered a review of a $1.4 billion Colombo port city project last year, citing irregularities in the award of the contract to state-owned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) (601800.SS) by the previous government.

Last month, the government, grappling with a difficult foreign investment project, that includes apartments, shopping malls and marinas. But CCCC, which had estimated that the shutdown would result in losses of more than $380,000 a day, has sought compensation of $125 million, according to Sri Lanka, which has said it can’t pay and wants to negotiate.

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

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

“It’s an opportunity for everyone to make money. That’s what we do in Asia.”

— Reuters

New cargo train service to link China, Europe

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

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

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— Xinhua

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

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

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

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

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

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

The US government late last year cleared General Atomics’ proposal to market the unarmed Predator XP in India. It was not clear when the delivery of the drones would take place.

The navy wants them for surveillance in the Indian Ocean, where the pilotless aircraft can remain airborne for 35 hours at a stretch, at a time when the Chinese navy is expanding ship and submarine patrols in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has signalled its willingness to move forward with the proposed pacts after the previous administration did not act on moves in that direction.

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

— Reuters
Belgians seize key suspects in Paris, Brussels attacks

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

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

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

Earlier, police seized a man prosecutors named only as Oma- ma K, and who local media said was a Swede named Osama Krayem. The prosecutors said Krayem, detained with another man, was checked by German police in October using a fake Syrian passport in a car rented by Salah Abdeslam, prime surviving suspect in the Paris attacks, who was detained in Brussels three weeks ago.

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

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

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

But there was no change in the national security alert level and Jambon added: “The struggle against terrorism goes on.” Police searched premises in western Brussels late on Friday.

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

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

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

Panama not planning to retaliate over French move on Panama Papers

BRUSSELS, April 8 — Officials said Panama was not planning to retaliate over a French proposal to exclude it from a blacklist of countries that offer havens to tax evaders.

Panama had been among 13 countries identified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as not meeting international standards on tax matters.

French officials said on Friday that they were likely to propose a blacklist of tax havens at a March 30-31 conference of G-20 finance ministers.

But the French said they were not planning to retaliate over the move.

Panama’s foreign ministry said it would propose a tax-cooperation treaty to France this year to free up its own tax laws.


cardinal’s residence.

Panama City — Panama will focus on diplomacy with Spain following a standoff over a mass data leak dubbed the “Panama Papers,” President Juan Carlos Varela said after speaking with his French coun- terpart Francois Hollande.

France announced it would put the Central American nation back on its blacklist of uncoop- erative tax jurisdictions, follow- ing a major leak of documents from a Panamanian law firm.

Panama had at first warned it could retaliate, but the presi- dent said on Friday he prefers a diplomatic solution and would not seek “retortion measures.”

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

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

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

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

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

The leaks shone a spotlight on the shadowy world of offshore companies and embased- several world leaders.

Trump extends his lead among Republicans with 42 per cent support

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

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

Cadez: Serbian firms could enter international supply chains

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US Defence Secretary to visit India on Sunday

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

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

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

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

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email us at global@mysite.com with your name and title.

Dear Friends and Sisters!

Poetical Traits of Aing-chin Poems

Maung Phyo (WYU)

This is the second poetical trait of aing-chin poems in which a theme is brought to the fore with use of a comparison. The post or postess shows her thoughts, feelings, or emotions on the theme with such comparison which summarizes a better understanding on the part of the reader.

For instance, in "While I Miss Him" the maiden hinted that she could use an image or metaphor to explain the type of love she was living. In "I Miss You" the maiden hinted that she could use an image or metaphor to explain the type of love she was living. The maiden hoped that the poem reflected her feminine demeanor. It was subtly demonstrated how she was longing for her love's return.

"Do come and dig yourself. In that pulpy stuff, at the advent of Buddha's Lent, mulathin and ginger if you want. But if you want me instead, then, Mr. Tharpe! You bloom you, so, When Tabung turns into Tags. Let! I meet him, with a “punch” (gatered) there. Grandstand he stands.

(translated by the author)

I Miss Him (Taungtwin Shin Nein Me)

Dear Friends and Sisters!

In the grid of paddy plantations, at the foot of rice seedlings, I do place the center of “My self”!

(translated by the author)

When I Miss Him (Taungtwin Shin Nein Me)

Dear Friends and Sisters!

When I Miss Him, "Want Me", the village maiden was melancholy, dropping a subtle hint by urging her love to marry her. In "Tabung and Tags like Big ups gingers and mulathin in Wao and Walalung, The way of presentation she applied in the poem reflected her feminine demeanor. It was subtly demonstrated how she was longing for her love's return. It is as they desire to love, Since puberty we fostered, So when "Miss You" "Want Me", we "Learn it against a corne". For, in the aing-chin poems, we are conveyed with the said characteristics. They help the readers arrive at the theme of a specific aing-chin. In addition, composition and choice of words are very attractive and effective at the same time. Collageous songs are reflected in the aing-chin poems, therefore, they possibly become indicators of socio-linguistic features of a particular aing-chin. In brief, aing-chin poems and postesses used very simple and direct language in that they manipulated simple sentences with nouns and verbs, very few modifiers and clauses. Therefore, aing-chin poems are effective and effective for linguistic usage, and also the people besides. Folk elements like rural customs, rituals, superstitions and socio-economic features are recorded in the aing-chin poems, many of which have already been banned in obscenity nowadays. They are a must because they become the new arm.

References:
(2) Tin, Khaungdeinde, Tha, Shin publishing, 2013
(4) Than Tun, 2012

(Endnote)

i general term for centipede and (to) be feared with a centipede.
ii a native of Ava or a native of Sino-vo

(1) general term for “ghee”, the di-ozone of which smells like anise.
(2) Calophyllum amomum
(3) lepida amomum
(4) microsorum cinnamomum
(5) acacia pensa
(6) sterculia fusilida
(7) adina cordifolia
Syrian govt releases US citizen, Russia helped — State Department

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

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the Russian military had taken a US citizen from Syria to Moscow, after President Barack Obama personally asked President Vladimir Putin to help search for Americans in Syria.

The man was handed over to the US Embassy in Moscow and has now left Russia, the ministry said on Friday.

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

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

Toner did not elaborate on Moscow’s involvement.

Toner said US authorities have been in touch with Syrian officials, an instance of rare cooperation in which “there were no diplomatic solutions. We have also been in direct periodic contact with the Syrian government regarding consular issues in general and American citizens detained in Syria,” Toner said.

The United States has called repeatedly for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down since Syria’s civil war broke out in 2011.

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

Tice’s family declined to comment.—Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Afghan lawmakers confirm key government posts amid infighting

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

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

The two new appointees will be crucial to the government’s top priorities, confronting the Taliban’s growing insurgency and combating endemic corruption.

Both were nominated in February after the resignation of former interior minister Noor-ul-Haq Okomi, who had faced heavy criticism over deteriorating security in Afghanistan.

The relatively swift confirmation of two key appointees contrasts with wrangling over the defence portfolio, still formally held by an acting minister more than a year-and-a-half after the national unity government led by Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was formed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It is deplorable that it took over a year for these records to be produced to our committee, and that our Democrat colleagues never lifted a finger to help us get them,” Gowdy, a Republican, said in the statement. Democrats have complained since the investigation began that the panel is a partisan project bent on hurting Clinton’s candidacy.—Reuters
Global Fund gives Burkina Faso over 100m euros to fight AIDS, malaria

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

An official of Global Fund Africa, Caty Fall, who was speaking in Ouagadougou after holding talks with Burkina Faso Prime Minister Paul Kaba Thieba, said the funds will also go towards reinforcing Burkina’s health system within the period 2015-2017.

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

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

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

Eating fresh pear regularly may improve BP, heart function

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

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

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

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

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

“Eating fresh pear regularly may improve blood pressure and vascular function in middle-aged men and women who are at risk of developing cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes for their health,” said lead researcher Sarah A. Johnson, who conducted the research while at Florida State University.

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

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

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

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

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

SpaceX rocket booster makes breakthrough landing at sea

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

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

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

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

A live video feed broadcast on NASA television showed the rocket booster, its four landing legs extended, descending over the ocean before settling itself upright on the barge-like platform, roughly eight minutes after launch.

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

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

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

SpaceX plans to plans to start launching rockets about every two weeks from its sites in Florida and California later this year as the company tackles satellite-delivery orders worth some $10 billion, company officials said.

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

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

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

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

Viet Nam’s HCM City confirms one Zika case

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

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

Earlier, Nha Trang city in central Khanh Hoa Province confirmed a Zika case after a 64-year-old woman from the city’s Phuoc Hoa district had been tested positive to the virus.

Since the first two Zika patients were confirmed in Viet Nam on Tuesday by the country’s Health Ministry, Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang City and many other localities nationwide have strengthened disease prevention and fight, including cleaning environments and exterminating mosquitoes’ larvae in residential areas. Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. People with Zika virus disease usually have symptoms that include mild fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.—Xinhua
**Pope calls for compassionate Church open to ‘imperfect’ Catholics**

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

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

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

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

Under current Church teaching they cannot receive communion unless they abstain from sex with their new partner, because their first marriage is still valid in the eyes of the Church and they are seen to be living in an adulterous state of sin.

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

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

Presenting the document at a packed Vatican news conference, Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna, called it “a classic case of the organic development of doctrine,” which he described as being a continuation of theological thought without rupture with the past.

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

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

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

Peru’s stock market closed 4 per cent higher after Wall Street favourite Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was seen in second place with 20.8 per cent of valid votes, ahead of leftist Veronika Mendoza with 16.5 per cent, according to a survey by GfK.

Polls by Ipsos and Datum showed the second place contests between within one point of each other, though Mendoza’s momentum appears to have slowed.

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

Fujimori, the daughter of jailed former president Alberto Fujimori, was still seen about 10 points short of the 50 per cent of votes needed to win outright. Her support has slipped since tens of thousands protested against her on Tuesday.

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

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO (1609) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (032N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP 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.

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIS LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV AMORITA INYS VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMORITA INYS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The drinking water system is recovering,” Rob- ert Kaplan, the US Environmental Protection Agency’s acting administrator for the region that includes Flint, told local and state officials meeting in the city to dis- cuss the crisis. “You’ve got a dramatic decrease in the soluble lead. What we’re seeing today is particulate lead, which indicates that the system is unstable,” he told the meeting by phone.

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

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

“When we see a positive trend in Flint’s wa- ter quality, that’s good news, but we still have much work to do to get people the quality of water they need and deserve,” Michi- gan Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement on Fri- day.

Kaplan said while the addition of chemical phos- phates to treat the water to inhibit corrosion is work- ing, the almost invisible lead particles remain a ran- dom and unpredictable problem.

Kaplan said water fil- ters reliably deal with the lead, but the best approach would be for residents to vigorously flush their home water systems by turning on all faucets and spigots and running the water to clean the sediment out and re- build the protective phos- phate coating.

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

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

The pipeline, which de- liveries crude from Hardisty, Alberta, to Cushing, Okla- homa and to Illinois, was shut last weekend after a potential leak in South Da- kota.

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

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

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

The spread between front to second month US crude futures widened by as much as 7 cents in the 10 minutes following news of the Tuesday restart. It set- tled with May crude at a $1.27 a barrel discount to June barrels.

The outage caused Canadian cash crude prices to fall throughout the week with barrels for May deliv- ery dropping to two-month lows in the Hardisty, Al- berta, contract.

“There are only a handful of pipelines available to export barrels out of Canada and when a large pipeline like Keystone goes offline, Canadian bar- rels become stranded and prices suffer,” said Mi- chael Tran, director of energy strategy at RBC Capit- al Markets in New York.

The restart quickly propped up Western Cana- dian Select heavy blend crude for May, which trad- ed last at $14.35 a barrel below benchmark West Texas Intermediate, ac- cording to Shorcan Energy brokers, from an intraday high of $19.05 a barrel discount. — Reuters

Serbia accuses Croatia of obstructing its EU membership talks

LONDON — Serbia accused Croatia on Friday of obstructing its negotia- tions with European Union membership and said it would not submit to blackmail by its neigh- bour.

Serbian Prime Minis- ter Aleksandar Vucic said his government was “stunned by Croatia’s de- cision not to support Ser- bia’s European path” after

Triana Canada to restart Keystone pipeline by Saturday upon PHMSA approval

NEW YORK — TransCan- ada Corp expects to restart its Keystone crude pipeline by Saturday, upon receiving conditional approval from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Admin- istration (PHMSA), the com- pany said in emailed state- ment on Monday.

TransCanada said its 590,000 barrel per day pipe- line should be fully opera- tional by end of day Satur- day.

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

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

The pipeline, which de-

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

Serbia to claim jurisdic- tion for war crimes com- mitted on the entire terri- tory of the former Yugoslavia.

With Serbian elec- tions set for 24 April, the dispute could give ammu- nition to ultra-nationalists who loathe Vucic’s poli- cies of integration with the EU and instead favour close ties with Russia.— Reuters
Bollywood actress to help Japan attract more tourists from India

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

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

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

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

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

Clara, Ludacris to host 2016 Billboard Music awards

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

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

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

The annual extravaganza will take place on 22 May at the T-Mobile Arena.

“I am looking forward to another great show in a new and exciting venue. The Billboard Music Awards is one of best awards shows to honour chart success,” Ciara added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miller, who moved from blues to pop and back again to produce 1970s hits such as “The Joker” and “Fly Like an Eagle,” lashed out backstage at the induction process.

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

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

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

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

The ceremony will be broadcast on HBO on 30 April.

Oscars’ like prom now: Michael Shannon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 April 2016
CAIRO — Egypt’s hard-currency crisis and competition from modern factories in Asia and at home threaten one of the last dying workshops in Egypt but one of its owners takes comfort in the trade’s ancient resilience.

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

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

Times are tough. Mostafa says prices for raw materials have exploded since an uprising ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, triggering political upheaval and bringing the economy to its knees. Before those days, when protests in Tahrir Square raised high hopes of upheaval and bringing the economy back on track to First Dynasty, 3,100 years before Christ. Born in 1937, Salama Mahmoud Salama still exudes pride despite the challenges after 42 years on the job. He speaks of customers from Cairo, Alexandria and Aswan as he sits beside sacks near a poster of a politician with Happy New Year wishes glued to a wall.

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

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

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

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

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

— Reuters

In Egypt, dye workshop fights to survive

Coffee and canines at California dog cafe

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

At The Dog Cafe, customers can buy their hot drink and then head to an adjacent, puppy-filled room to spend time with the dogs, all of which are up for adoption after they were rescued and rehabilitated by cafe owner Sarah Wolfgang and her staff.

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

“Realised that there was such a greater intake of dogs than there were adoptions. And I was like, what’s a good way to combat this? And so I was like, why not bring a bit of home back from Korea here but implement the dog adoption aspect of things as well.”

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

— Reuters

Sam the toy dog sent into space by school pupils

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

Sam was attached to a large balloon and sent off on a mission to take pictures on Tuesday.

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

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

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

— Reuters

Condolences

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

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

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

United’s Rooney returns to training after injury layoff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Watson takes his final bow on Masters stage

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

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

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

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

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

As the ball disappeared into the cup an adoring gallery stood and applauded while Watson hugged his caddie Neil Oxman, his wife, his children and friends.

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

This was Watson’s 43rd Masters. His first was in 1970 as an amateur. He won in 1977 and 1981 and made his last cut in 2010, nine months after he stunned the golf world when at 59 when he had a chance to win a sixth British Open title, but lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink.

Watson started his final round believing he had a chance to make the weekend one last time, especially after the way he putted on Thursday. “I’m just a golfer,” said Watson. “I just go out and I try my damnedest to play the best golf I possibly can every time I’m on the golf course when I’m in competition.

“I didn’t feel like it was a final walk until basically the last couple holes because I still had a shot at it. That’s just me.” — Reuters

Injury hits England midfielder Henderson’s Euro 2016 hopes

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

“In the gym the knee injury he picked up in training on Tuesday during Liverpool’s clash with Borussia Dortmund on Thursday night has shown isolated damage to his lateral collateral ligament,” the club said on their website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

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

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

Kerber eases into semi-finals in Charleston

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

Defending champion Kerber will next face seventh-seed Monica Puig of Puerto Rico, the lights on Thursday.

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

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

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