

Maintain the stability already achieved: President

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FIRE SALE CLOSES MALL

Fire at Mingalar Market causes losses in excess of K 3.6 billion

Aye Min Soe,
Zaw Gyi (Panita)

A FIRE broke out at Mingalar Market on Saturday at around 1:40am, engulfing three floors and destroying 1638 shops of the building.

The fire was completely extinguished by 7:15 am.

The cause of the fire and cost of devastation are under investigation.

The Fire Services Department graded it as level 5 blaze. The fire was extinguished by more than 134 vehicles including 55 fire engines, two water towers and various water boxers from various townships in Yangon region.

Nearly 600 firemen, 180 servicemen of the Tatmadaw, 350 police, 153 red cross members, 216 auxiliary firemen participated in putting out the fire.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Commander of Yangon Command and Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint were also at the scene.

It is estimated that the losses caused by the fire will total more than K3.6 billion, according to Police Col Myint Htwe, Head of Yangon Eastern District Police Force.

The fourth floor, which was destroyed by the fire, had cosmetic and medicine stores while



firefighters are fighting to extinguish the fire at Mingalar Market on 9 January, 2016. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

the third floor housed textiles and clothing. There were 48 food stalls on the 5th floor.

“When the Fire Services Department gives us a green light we will open traffic,” said Police

Lt Col Aung Ko Oo of the Yangon Region Traffic Force.

The building was hit by fire

in May, 2010. It took 2 days for the firemen to control the 2010-fire.—GNLM

Ceasefire monitoring mechanism needs \$21 million for three years

Ye Myint

THE monitoring process will cost an estimated US\$21 million to run for three years in ceasefire areas, according to the third round of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the government, ethnic armed organizations and

civil society organizations held on 7-8 January in Yangon.

As it is estimated to cost \$7 to \$8 million a year, we estimated the cost at around \$21 million for three years, said Dr Min Zaw Oo, a programme director at Myanmar Peace Centre in meeting with the media afterwards.

Potential donors of the international community have been informed of the estimated budget for Union, region/state and regional level mechanism to deal with monitoring, verification and conflict resolution processes, the MPC’s director added.

“Now we know how to

structure and implement the monitoring mechanism and how much it will cost,” he said.

Prior to receiving funds from donors, Tatmadaw is committed to working towards implementation of the terms of national ceasefire agreement, said Col Wunna Aung, a JMC secre-

tary on behalf of Tatmadaw.

In the future, there is likely to be an allocation of funds from the defence budget of Tatmadaw for the peace process, the secretary added.

Last Friday at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon,

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More than 90 houses handed over to people in flood-hit areas in Rakhine State



Houses are ready to be handed over to people in flood-hit areas in Mrauk U.

PHOTO: MRAUK U DISTRICT INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

MORE than 90 houses have been handed over to those who lost their houses in Mrauk U, Rakhine State, during the flood in July last year.

Authorities and donors handed over 64 houses to residents in Htamariz Ward and 32 houses to Ywamani Ward on 7 January.

CB Bank funded the construction of houses at the cost of more than K 121 million.

Rakhine State is one of the

worst-hit states, bearing the brunt of the country's worst flood in 100 years.

More than 50 people died in the disaster..

The flooding has inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice fields, damaging more than 600,000 acres and destroying more than 367,000 acres nationwide, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Some people who lost their

houses in landslides in several areas of Chin State have moved to their new houses provided by donors and arranged by local authorities.

Fifty percent of the affordable housing projects comprising about 400 houses in Haka, Chin State, have completed, and the people have moved to 200 houses. — *Mrauk U District Information and Public Relations Department*

Swiss Balloonists take to the air over upper Myanmar

HOT air balloonists from Switzerland flying over tourist sites in upper Myanmar landed in Monywa on Thursday.

A team comprising 16 balloonists from Switzerland including four captains are travelling in four hot-air balloons as of the 27 December on a scheduled a 19-day trip.

The group has stopped in Monywa as part of their Loikaw-Inlay-Mandalay-Monwya-Pakokku and Bagan trip. The group has been visiting Myanmar since 1999.

December and January are apparently the most popular months for good ballooning weather.— *Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*



Hot air balloonists are seen during 17th tour over Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay: PHOTO: KYAW SWAR (TOUNGOO)

Crime News

Raw opium leads to arrests

AN anti-drug squad in Waingmaw discovered 14.4 kilo of raw opium on a motorbike heading from Sadon to Waingmaw on Monday. Charges have been filed against Too Jar, the driver of the motorbike.

Member of the police searched a home owned by one Ma Nan Nu and found 404 yabba pills and K90,000 in Kyatthaung.

Local police further seized 206 yabba pills and 13 grams

of heroin on a motorbike being driven by one Zayyar Tun in Moe Myat town.

The police are filing charges against the suspects under the anti-Narcotic Law.—*Police IPRD*

One woman dies and 32 passengers injured by brake failure

A WOMAN died on the spot and 32 passengers were injured in trailer car accident that occurred on the Taunggyi-Yangon road, Haho township, Shan State

on Monday.

A trailer heading from Haho to Shwe Nyaung being driven by one Maung Oho alias Maung Owne, turned over when

his brakes failed. 32 passengers were injured while Ma Phyu died on the spot. The driver is being charged for careless driving by the police.—*Police IPRD*

Woman dies in car crash in Yangon

A WOMAN was killed on the spot in an accident on Wednesday on the Yangon-Mawlamyine road. According

to the police investigation, Daw Win, 75, was hit by a car being driven by one Okkha, 23, who hit her as she was

crossing the road. The driver is being charged with careless driving by local police.—*Tin Htut (Mawlamyine)*

Woman dies in train-motorcycle accident

A WOMAN was killed on the spot by a train accident that occurred on Monday at milepost 250/17-18 between the Nyaung Toe and Pin Chaung train sta-

tions. According to the police investigation a motorbike being driven by U Maung Maung Htway and his passenger Ma Yee Yee Thein were crossing the rail road

when the passenger fell from the motorbike. She was immediately killed by an oncoming train. The police have filed charges against the driver.—*Police IPRD*

Opium seized in Taninthayi

AN anti-drug squad seized 7.2 kilogram of opium powder from a motorbike in Taninthayi region. Charges have been filed against one Kyaw Ko Ko, 25, the motorcycle driver. When interrogated,

Kyaw Ko Ko admitted that he bought it from one Oh Tot, 45, in Ban law village for K1000. The two men are being charged under the anti-Narcotic law.—*Nan Thar Yee Htein Win*

12 wheel vehicle and passenger vehicle crash in Bago Region

A PASSENGER bus collided with a 12-wheel truck in Toungoo on Tuesday, leaving one dead and seven injured.

The truck was being driven by one Shan Gyi alias Ye Min Tun when it hit the passenger vehicle being driven by one U Kyin Lon of Kywepwe.

Seven passengers were on board. The accident occurred at milepost 186/1-2 on the Yangon-Mandalay road in Kaytumati.

The head on collision killed U Kyin Lone and injured the seven passengers on board.—*Ko Lwin (Swar)*



12-wheel truck is seen after the accident in Toungoo.

PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWAR)

Maintain the stability already achieved: President

President U Thein Sein sent message to the occasion of the 68th Anniversary Kachin State Day.

To the esteemed nationals and brethren residing in Kachin State,

It is my honour to send you this message on the occasion of the 68th anniversary Kachin State Day on 10 January, today.

After gaining independence the Kachin State Government was formed at a Kachin State Council meeting held for the first time on 10th January 1948. As a gesture of hailing the forming of the Kachin State

government, 10th January has been designated as “Kachin State Day” and marked yearly. This year marks the 68th anniversary.

We have encountered armed conflicts as a consequence of political instability since the time of independence. Now is the time for our national brethren to live in harmony and unity and end the conflict, learning lessons from the bitter experiences in the past.

Myanmar brethren residing in Kachin State have made a tough journey and their region is lagging behind in development due to the armed conflicts stemming from differences among our national ethnicities. Now a ray of peace is dawning upon Kachin State and development opportunities are blooming. I would like to urge all the nationals in the state to strive for stability and the development of Kachin State hand in

hand with the Union and state governments.

The Union Government could have managed negotiations to end the armed conflicts which have been breaking out for over 60 years, and as a result, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was signed by eight ethnic armed groups on 15 October 2015. As stability and the rule of law play a pivotal role in national development of a country, all the people need to

maintain the stability already achieved and strive for national development hand in hand.

I send this message to the brethren living in Kachin State to urge all of you to take part in our march towards the goal of a developed country flourishing in democracy while enjoying the stability, unity and development already achieved.

Signed,
Thein Sein
President

Ceasefire monitoring mechanism needs \$21 million for three years

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the 26-member JMC briefed diplomats and officials from foreign embassies and UN agencies about works to be done by the committee and an estimated budget needed to run the monitoring process for three years.

Dr Shwe Khar, JMC's secretary on behalf of ethnic ceasefire signatories, said that attendees to the meeting from the international community expressed their willingness to help, but who will be donors is not known yet.

“Own recourses will be used to run the functions of the committee before funding comes as the monitoring process is the important matter,” added the ethnic secretary.

JMC is the committee formed under the terms of the



Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, chairman of the Joint Monitoring Committee-Union level, speaks at the committee's third meeting at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon on Friday. PHOTO: YE MYINT

NCA in 30 days after the signing of ceasefire agreement by the government and eight EAOs. The committee, which is responsible for dealing with military

affairs, is now pushing forward with the monitoring mechanism in Shan State, to be followed by Taninthayi and Bago regions and Kayin, Mon and Chin states.

Myanmar-Korea Joint Symposium on Hepatitis, Malaria and Tuberculosis held

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held a Myanmar-Korea Joint Symposium on Hepatitis, Malaria and Tuberculosis at the Department of Medical Research (DMR) in Yangon yesterday in order to promote international research cooperation to control communicable diseases across the country.

KOICA has implemented the project of ‘Reinforcement of Research Ability for Communicable Diseases in AMRC at DMR (LM) in Myanmar’ from 2014 to 2015.

Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital has been supporting the project by participating in KOICA's university partnership project, a part of the Public Private Relationship program.

The symposium was planned by both Korea and Myanmar researchers to monitor current re-

search progress of hepatitis, malaria and tuberculosis, and share those processes with KOICA's project. Mr. Chang Chul-hun, Professor of Pusan National University Yangsan Hospital said, “Myanmar has requested the bringing of international interest and support since 70% of the Myanmar people reside in Malaria outbreak areas and more than 70% of newborns are exposed to hepatitis B.” He also mentioned, “This project will help Myanmar to overcome communicable diseases and to strengthen the relationship between Korea and Myanmar.”

Dr. Kyaw Zin Thant, Director General of DMR, Dr. Myat Phone Kyaw, Deputy Director General of DMR and Mr. Cho Sung-Hoon, Resident Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office as well as lesser officials attended the meeting.— GNLM

Cargo train derails on Myitkyina-Mandalay Route causing delays

A CARGO train derailed between Nabar and Indaw stations on the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road yesterday on its route from Myitkyina to Mandalay, causing delays to two express trains on the route.

There were no injuries or

deaths in the accident.

Engineers and workers from Nabar and Indaw stations together with local police and service personnel of a local battalion are carrying out efforts to remove the cars and repair the road. - *Maung Chit Lin (Indaw)*



Officials inspect derailment of cargo train. Photo: Maung Chit Lin

Agate handicrafts begin selling online

VARIOUS kinds of handicraft made from agate are being produced in Monywa with KSM Monywa Jewellery selling them via an online system from 8 January.

“We produce handicrafts using precious stones for both tourists and local visitors who want to purchase souvenirs. We also have online sales for those who live far away. We have uploaded the prices online. The items will be sent within three days. Refunds are offered for three days after purchase, said Ko San Moe Aung from KSM Monywa Jewellery.

At their gallery KSM Monywa



Agate stones are seen at a factory in Monywa. PHOTO: PHO CHAN

wa Jewellery display necklaces, which are made from Jasper, Agate, Quartzite and palm stone.— *Pho Chan (Monywa)*

Joint-committee on monitoring ceasefire in Shan State formed

A JOINT committee on monitoring ceasefire in Shan State was formed yesterday in Kolam.

At a ceremony to form the committee, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Chairman of the Union-level joint committee on monitoring ceasefire, delivered a speech and Vice-Chairman of the union-level committee U Saw Ai Z Phoe extended greetings. During the ceremony, duties on monitoring ceasefire in the state are assigned to the responsible personnel.— *Myawady*

North Korea says South's propaganda broadcasts push situation to 'brink of war'

SEOUL — South Korea's loudspeaker broadcasts aimed at North Korea push the rivals to the "brink of war," a top North Korean official has told a propaganda rally, in the isolated country's first official response to the sonic barrage across its border.

North Korea's fourth nuclear test on Wednesday angered both the United States and China, which was not given prior notice, although the US government and weapons experts doubt the North's claim that the device it set off was a hydrogen bomb.

In retaliation for the test, South Korea on Friday unleashed a ear-splitting propaganda barrage over its border with the North. The last time South Korea deployed the loudspeakers, in August 2015, it triggered an exchange of artillery fire. "Jealous of the successful test of our first H-bomb, the US and its followers are driving the situation to the brink of war, by saying they have resumed psychological broadcasts and brought in strategic bombers," Kim Ki Nam, head of the ruling Workers' Party propaganda department, said at Friday's rally. State media published imag-



A North Korean guard post (bottom) is seen in front of the North Korea's propaganda village Kaepoong in this picture taken from the Unification Observation Platform, near the demilitarised zone which separates the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, on 7 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

es of the rally which appeared to show thousands of people gathered in central Pyongyang, holding propaganda signs glorifying leader Kim Jong Un, whose birthday was also on Friday.

Kim Ki Nam's comments,

which are in line with routine propaganda rhetoric, were the North's first official response to the South's broadcasts, which it considers insulting. The broadcasts, in rolling bursts from walls of loudspeakers at 11 locations along the heavily

militarised border, blared rhetoric critical of the Pyongyang regime, as well as "K-pop" music. North Korea later responded with its own broadcasts. A South Korean military official said Seoul and Washington had discussed the deploy-

ment of US strategic weapons on the Korean peninsula after the test, but declined to give details. Media said these could include B-2 and B-52 bombers, and a nuclear-powered submarine.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State John Kerry said he had told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that China's approach to North Korea had not succeeded.

China's Foreign Ministry said Wang also held talks with his South Korean counterpart, Yun Byung-se. Yun pushed Wang to "sternly punish" North Korea over the test, the South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement.

China is North Korea's main economic and diplomatic backer, although relations between the Cold War allies have cooled in recent years. South Korea's nuclear safety agency said it had found a minuscule amount of xenon gas in a sample from off its east coast but said more analysis and samples were needed to determine if it came from a nuclear test. A joint factory park between the two Koreas was operating as normal on Saturday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.—Reuters

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South Korea-Japan ties improve in wake of North Korea's nuclear test

TOKYO/SEOUL — North Korea's nuclear test this week set off alarm bells in Japan and South Korea, but its more enduring outcome may be the cementing of a fragile reconciliation that could lead to military cooperation between the two key US allies.

Japan and South Korea reached a landmark agreement last month to resolve the issue of "comfort women" forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels, which had been an emotive impediment to better ties. Japan apologised and promised about one billion yen (\$8.47 million) to help surviving women who were coerced into prostitution.

North Korea's latest nuclear detonation could strengthen that reconciliation, say military officials and defence experts, as the two countries unite against a common threat. That, in turn, could lead to military cooperation instead of the frosty distance they have maintained, even though they are Washington's closest allies in the region.

"I think the comfort women pact and the North Korean test could spur military cooperation," a senior Japanese navy officer told Reuters, speaking on condi-

tion he was not identified. "The test has worsened the security situation in the region."

South Korean President Park Geun-hye spoke by phone to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday. They discussed the need for close cooperation with each other, as well as with the United States, China and Russia, according to Park's office.

Senior defence officials from South Korea, Japan and the United States held a video conference on Thursday and agreed "to continue to cooperate closely and share information on North Korea's nuclear threat," Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis said.

US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter also spoke by phone to Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani on Friday and "agreed that trilateral cooperation with the Republic of Korea is critical to deterrence and maintaining peace and security in Northeast Asia and beyond."

The Pentagon said the two reiterated their commitment to continuing close trilateral cooperation and information sharing.

The Japanese and South Korean defence ministers were due to speak on Friday night.

"There may be a broad re-



Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) is greeted by South Korea's President Park Geun-hye at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, on 28 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

view of what can be done to improve security cooperation (with Japan)," a senior South Korean official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. Nothing specific has yet been discussed, he said.

The distance between South Korea and Japan has worried Washington as it increasingly relies on its Asian allies to work together to guarantee security in the region amid China's growing military might.

Past strains have prevented Japan and South Korea from agreeing to share sensitive military information. An attempt to institutionalise security cooperation through the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2012 failed after significant domestic opposition in South Korea.

In a bid to resolve the impasse, Washington agreed last

year to act as a go-between to allow Seoul and Tokyo to swap intelligence.

"It really is in the interest of all three countries that we have no seams between that information when you are trying to defend your country against a ballistic missile," Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin, commander of the US Seventh Fleet, said on Friday.

When asked whether there was hope for greater cooperation between Japan and South Korea in the wake of the latest nuclear test, Aucoin replied "I got to believe so."

In December 2014, Seoul said it would send the Lockheed Martin F-35 fleet it has ordered to Australia for maintenance, well beyond their operating range, rather than to a regional maintenance hub for the stealth fighter to be set up in Japan.—Reuters

Philippines urges ASEAN to pressure China for rules on disputed sea



An aerial view shows the Pagasa (Hope) Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines on 20 July 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Philippine President Benigno Aquino on Friday urged Southeast Asian neighbours to put pressure on China to agree on a binding code of conduct to ease tension in South China Sea following Chinese test flights to an island it has built.

Since 2010, China and the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been discussing a set of rules for rival claimants in the South China Sea aimed at avoiding conflict.

“Can we put a little more pressure on China to sit down and agree on a binding code of conduct?” Aquino said to reporters in southern Davao City, referring to ASEAN. China claims almost the whole of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade passes every year, and has been increasingly assertive in staking its claim.

Brunei, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Taiwan and the Philippines have rival claims to parts of the sea, which is believed to have rich deposits of oil and gas.

Aquino said the Philippines had done everything it could to push forward discussions on the code — a set of rules setting out

how claimant states should behave, and imposing sanctions on countries that violate it, aimed at preventing provocative action, the raising of tension and conflict.

Aquino said China and ASEAN were due to meet next month to draw up elements of the code.

China, which has long said it was ready to discuss rival claims bilaterally, has said it will agree on a code of conduct when “the time is ripe”.

Analysts say it might be waiting for the completion of its work on artificial islands it is building in the South China Sea before sitting down with ASEAN. China landed two test flights on one of the islands on Wednesday, four days after its first landing on the 3,000 metre (10,000 feet) runway on a reef in the Spratly Islands.

The Philippines denounced the flights. In 2013, the Philippines filed an arbitration case in The Hague to force China to negotiate a peaceful settlement of their territorial dispute.

China has ignored the case but Aquino said China, as a responsible member of the international community, could not ignore a ruling from the court, expected in May or June.—*Reuters*

Thai skin-whitening ad sparks outrage on social media

BANGKOK — An advertisement for a skin-whitening product in Thailand has drawn criticism on social media and sparked debate over beauty ideals and advertising standards by claiming you “need to be white to win”.

A pale complexion is highly valued in Thailand, particularly by women, and is associated with a high social status. Darker, tanned skin is associated with lower class people who work outside in the fields.

The advertisement, for a skin-whitening pill called “Snowz”, made by Thai brand Seoul Secret, and posted on video website YouTube, features

one actress whose skin gets darker next to a rival with light skin.

“You just need to be white to win,” runs the tagline.

Some members of Thai-language forum Pantip.com were dismayed and angry.

“I’m perfectly fine being dark-skinned and now you’re saying I’ve lost? Hello? What?” said member 1575141.

“Suggesting people with dark skin are losers is definitely racist,” said another user.

It is the latest in a series of advertisements deemed insensitive that have drawn criticism in Thailand.

“Thai craze for whiteness

rears its ugly head again,” a prominent social-media commentator who goes by the name of Kaewmala posted on Twitter.

The video was removed from YouTube later on Friday.

Wattanapak Jinsirivanich, managing director of Yulihan Group (Thailand), the company that produces Seoul Secret beauty products, apologised and said the advert was not meant to stir controversy.

“We did not intend to create this issue,” he said. “We would like to apologise and we will fix it.” “Our message is to take good care of yourself and continue to do so.”—*Reuters*

Pakistan pledges to cooperate with Indian attack investigation

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s prime minister and army chief pledged on Friday to cooperate fully with India on investigations into an attack on an Indian air base last week, as the fate of scheduled talks between the nuclear-armed neighbours remains uncertain.

The comments come a day after India called on Pakistani authorities for “prompt and decisive” action against militants it blames for the weekend attack that killed seven Indian military personnel and wounded 22.

Participants at a high-level meeting in Islamabad “reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to cooperate with India to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism,” Prime Minister Nawaz Sha-

rif’s office said in a statement.

The meeting was also attended by Army Chief Raheel Sharif, the head of the military’s powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Rizwan Akhtar, and several top civilian and military officials.

India says it gave Pakistan “specific and actionable information” regarding the Pathankot air base attack on Tuesday.

In its statement, Sharif’s office said the meeting had reviewed the progress on the information received from India and would stay in touch with the Indian government.

A meeting between the two countries’ foreign secretaries was scheduled for 15 January, but it is unclear if it will go ahead.

The fate of the talks rested on Pakistan’s response to the information, Indian government spokesman Vikas Swarup said on Thursday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharif have been struggling to keep their renewed dialogue, announced last month, on track in the wake of the attack.

Attempts to restart talks between India and Pakistan, who have fought three wars since becoming separate countries in 1947, have often been derailed by similar past attacks.

Pakistan’s leadership on Friday said it hoped “the two countries would remain committed to a sustained, meaningful and comprehensive dialogue process” in the wake of the attack.—*Reuters*

China makes five more arrests over deadly Shenzhen landslide

SHANGHAI — Chinese police have arrested five more officials of a company involved in a deadly landslide that buried 77 people last month, state news agency Xinhua said, taking the tally of arrests to 16.

The government has blamed breaches of construction safety rules for the disaster in the southern city of Shenzhen on 20 December, when a dump overflowed and destroyed 33 buildings.

A State Council investigation said it was caused by work safety mismanagement, rather than geological causes.

Eleven people, including a

legal representative and a deputy manager of Shenzhen Yixianglong Investment Development, which ran the dump, and officials responsible for supervising it, were arrested this month.

All 16 have been charged with negligence, Xinhua said on Friday, citing a Shenzhen prosecutor.

Calls to Shenzhen Yixianglong Investment Development were unanswered.

The disaster is the latest accident to raise questions about China’s industrial safety standards and lack of oversight over years of breakneck economic growth.—*Reuters*



Damaged vehicles and containers are seen at an industrial estate hit by a landslide in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on 23 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gunman ambushes Philadelphia policeman 'in the name of Islam'

PHILADELPHIA — A gunman claiming allegiance to Islamic State militants shot and seriously wounded a Philadelphia police officer, saying he ambushed his patrol car "in the name of Islam," the city's police commissioner said on Friday.

Edward Archer of Philadelphia approached Officer Jesse Hartnett, 33, shortly before midnight and fired 11 rounds, three of which hit the officer in his arm, authorities said. Police released still images from surveillance video that showed the gunman dressed in a long white robe walking toward the car and firing, eventually getting close enough to shoot at point-blank range through the window.

Hartnett chased Archer, who was arrested by responding officers and later confessed to the attack, police officials told reporters.

"He has confessed to committing this cowardly act in the name of Islam," Ross told a press conference, adding that the 30-year-old assailant also referenced Islamic State militants.

Philadelphia Police Captain James Clark added, "He said he

pledges his allegiance to Islamic State, he follows Allah and that was the reason he was called on to do this."

A top US Muslim advocacy group said it had found no evidence that Archer was an observant Muslim.

US officials have been on high security alert following a series of Islamic State-linked attacks at home and abroad over the last few months.

In November, gunman and suicide bombers affiliated with Islamic State killed 130 people in a series of attacks in Paris. Last month a married couple fatally shot 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in an attack inspired by Islamic State.

Those concerns have led to calls by some Republican governors and presidential hopefuls to restrict the admission of Syrian refugees fleeing that country's long civil war.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, a Democrat sworn in on Monday, told reporters he did not believe Archer's actions reflected Islamic thinking.

"In no way shape or form does anyone in this room believe

that what was done represents Islam," Kenney said. "This was done by a criminal with a stolen gun."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, the leading US Muslim advocacy group, on Friday said Archer "does not appear" to be an observant Muslim.

At the Masjid Mujahideen mosque, which stands around the block from the home where Archer was believed to have lived, Imam Asim Abdur-Rashid said he did not know Archer and was not aware if he had ever prayed at the mosque.

"When it's time to pray, you get to wherever is closest," Abdur-Rashid said, adding, "There's no conflict between us and anyone in the world."

A woman who lived on the same block as Archer's mother but declined to give her name said police had responded to the house on occasion but described the suspect as "pleasant."

Neighbour Natalie King, 68, a retired public worker, said she had seen the man she knew as "Eddie" going to the mosque every Friday. "He's a nice boy. I am shocked," she said.—Reuters

Germans stock up on pepper spray and blank guns after attacks

BERLIN — Demand for pepper spray and blank-firing guns has surged in Germany, particularly after militant attacks in Paris in November and assaults on women in Cologne on New Year's Eve.

Gun dealers and vendors of deterrent devices such as sprays and alarms say sales have taken off since August, when Chancellor Angela Merkel opened Germany's borders to people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

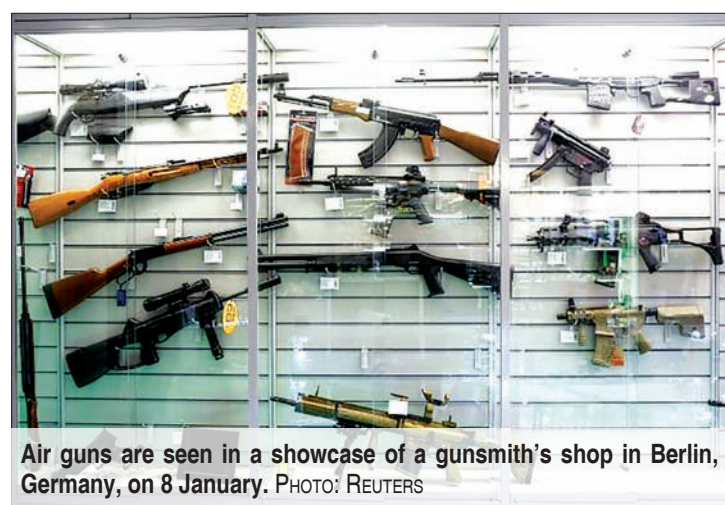
Ingo Meinhard, director of the German association of gunsmiths and specialist gun dealers, said sales of scare devices had "at least doubled" in 2015, citing telephone surveys with his members.

He said demand spiked up after the militant attacks in Paris on 13 November and again after about 120 women complained of being mugged, threatened or sexually assaulted by gangs of men on New Year's Eve in Cologne at New Year.

Similar but smaller-scale assaults on women have been reported in cities including Hamburg and Stuttgart.

A Cologne martial arts instructor, Josef Werner, said inquiries for women's self-defence courses have increased fivefold.

Since German laws put se-



Air guns are seen in a showcase of a gunsmith's shop in Berlin, Germany, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

vere restrictions on the sale of firearms for private use, demand has risen for freely-available devices such as CS gas, pepper spray, body alarms and high performance flash-lights that can blind aggressors for up to three minutes.

Kai Prase, director of Frankfurt-based DEF-TEC Defence Technology GmbH, said sales of pepper spray rose seven-fold in the final three months of last year.

"Normally the first week of January is very quiet but this year it's been a strong week in terms of sales," Prase said, reporting high demand for sprays that fit inside a handbag.

Nine of the top 10 bestselling items in the "Sport & Lei-

sure" section on Amazon's (AMZN.O) German website on Friday were either pepper or CS gas sprays. The seventh-most popular item was a pepper spray shaped like a pink lipstick.

On Friday, officials said asylum seekers were among those suspected of involvement in the Cologne violence.

Pavel Sverdlov, director of the Soldier of Fortune gun shop in Berlin, said the rise in demand since August has been "really quite exceptional, I've never sold so many repellent devices."

He said sales of blank guns had trebled and he had sold out of pepper spray.

"The most recent events have alarmed many people, especially women," he said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pentagon chief reassures Japan on security after North Korea test — US

WASHINGTON — US Defence Secretary Ash Carter called his Japanese counterpart, Gen Nakatani, to discuss the North Korea nuclear test and reaffirm US security commitments to Japan and allies in the region, the Pentagon said on Friday.

"Secretary Carter and Minister Nakatani both agreed that the nuclear test by North Korea is an unacceptable and irresponsible act that undermines regional security and stability," and condemned the act, the Pentagon said in a statement.—Reuters

Syrians return to Damascus after Turkey introduces new air-travel visas

ANKARA — Turkey introduced visa requirements for Syrians arriving by air and sea on Friday, part of efforts to stem the flow of illegal migrants to Europe, forcing hundreds of Syrians to return to Damascus, officials said.

Some 400 Syrians transiting through Beirut were unable to board two flights to Turkey late on Thursday as a result of the move and had to return to Damascus, an airport official said. When it announced the planned restrictions last week, the Turkish foreign ministry made clear its land border would remain open to migrants, a policy in place since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011.—Reuters

Slovak Prime Minister Fico wants EU summit after attacks in Germany

BRATISLAVA — Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico will ask for an extraordinary summit of European Union leaders following a wave of New Year's Eve attacks on women in Germany, a spokeswoman said on Friday.

Fico called a news conference for 4:30pm (1530 GMT) to announce the plan.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has promised to respond decisively to the assaults in Cologne and elsewhere in Germany, which have stoked a fierce debate about her refugee policies after police said the attackers appeared to be of foreign origin.—Reuters

US, allies launch 23 air strikes in Iraq, three in Syria against Islamic State

WASHINGTON — The US-led coalition launched 23 air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq and three in Syria on Thursday, the task force leading the operation said in a statement.

The coalition said 22 strikes in Iraq were coordinated with that nation's government against Islamic State targets, and one strike was against inoperable coalition equipment.

The strikes included seven in the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul and six in Ramadi, where Iraqi troops drove out most of the militants last week after a hard-fought offensive, the Combined Joint Task Force said in a statement on Friday.

In Mosul, the strikes destroyed four Islamic State tactical units, six fighting positions, four assembly areas, a bunker and a tunnel. In Ramadi, they destroyed 16 fighting positions, 13 heavy machine guns and a dozen improvised explosive devices and denied militants access to terrain, the coalition said.

Other strikes in Iraq hit near Al Qaim, Sinjar, Haditha, Irbil, Kisik, Qayarah and Sultan Abdallah, it said.—Reuters

US House eyes passing North Korea sanction bill next week

WASHINGTON — The US House of Representatives is likely to pass a bill next week to strengthen sanctions against North Korea in the wake of the country's recent nuclear test, a House source said Friday.

The bill already cleared the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Republicans-dominated chamber while Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic House leader, said Thursday she believed the bill "will have strong bipartisan support."

The bill would authorise financial punishments on institutions involved in issues such as nuclear programmes, money laundering and human rights violation. It will be enacted into law with an endorsement of the Senate and President Barack Obama's signing.

John Kirby, a US State Department spokesman, said Friday the government will work with Congress in responding to what Pyongyang claimed to be a successful hydrogen bomb test.

"What we most want to see, though, is increased international pressure applied on North Korea. And that is best pursued through the UN," Kirby said.—Kyodo News

Foreign tourists wounded in attack at Egyptian Red Sea resort

CAIRO — Two armed assailants attacked a hotel in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Hurghada on Friday, wounding three foreign tourists, Egyptian officials said.

The Security Information Centre of Egypt's Ministry of Interior said in a statement that two Austrians and a Swede had been injured while the attackers were trying to escape.

One of the assailants was killed by security forces and another was in custody, the statement said, adding that the attackers were armed with an air gun and knives. It said an investigation was underway.

Reports of what transpired at the hotel differed during the day. Security sources had initially said the attackers were armed with a gun, a knife and a suicide belt, and that they had arrived by sea to launch the onslaught on the

beachside hotel.

They said security forces had killed the attacker wearing the suicide bomb, and that one of the injured was from Denmark and the other from Germany.

The Interior Ministry said earlier on Friday that one of the attackers was a student from the Cairo suburb of Giza.

Egypt is fighting a wave of Islamist militancy, which began as attacks on security forces in remote regions of the Sinai, but is increasingly focusing on targets previously considered safe such as the tourist resorts on the Red Sea.

The Islamic State militant group said on Friday that an attack on Israeli tourists in Cairo on Thursday had been carried out by its fighters, in response to a call by the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, to target Jews



Security is ramped up outside a hotel where two attackers opened fire in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Hurghada, Egypt, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

"everywhere".

Security sources said those tourists were Israeli Arabs. None was hurt and Egyptian authorities said the attack was aimed at security forces.

On 31 October, a Russian passenger plane crashed in Sinai, killing all 224 people on board,

most of them tourists returning home from the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh.

Cairo has said it has found no evidence of terrorism in the crash, but Russia and Western governments have said the airliner was probably brought down by a bomb, and Islamic State said

it had smuggled explosives on board.

Tourism is critical to the Egyptian economy as a source of hard currency, but has been ravaged by years of political turmoil since the revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.—Reuters

Erdogan says attempted Islamic State attack vindicates Iraq deployment

ANKARA/BAGHDAD — An attempted attack by Islamic State on a military base in northern Iraq shows Turkey's decision to deploy troops there was justified, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday, suggesting Russia was stirring up a row over the issue.

But Iraq's military later denied that the militant group had attacked or clashed with the Turkish forces "recently".

Turkey deployed a force protection unit of around 150 troops to northern Iraq in December citing heightened security risks near Bashiqa, where its soldiers have been training an Iraqi militia to fight Islamic State. Baghdad objected to the deployment.

The head of the Sunni militia said his fighters and Turkish forces launched a joint "pre-emptive" attack on Islamic State around 10 km (6 miles) south of the base on Wednesday because the militants were building capacity to launch rockets at it.

"Our forces managed to detect the position of these rockets so they conducted a preemptive strike," Atheel al-Nujaifi, former governor of the nearby Islamic State-controlled city of Mosul, told Reuters.

"This operation was ended without a single rocket being launched at the camp," he said.

Erdogan said no Turkish soldiers were harmed while 18 Islamic State militants were killed.

"This incident shows what a correct step it was, the one regarding Bashiqa. It is clear that with our armed soldiers there, our officers giving the training are prepared for anything at any time," he told reporters in Istanbul.

Iraq's military denied the reports.

"The joint operations command denies there was a terrorist attack on the position of Turkish forces in Bashiqa by the terrorist Daesh (Islamic State) recently," said a news flash on state television.

It "denies what was relayed in some media outlets from the Turkish president about clashing between the Turkish forces inside

Iraqi territory and the terrorist Daesh whether in Bashiqa or any other areas."

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi accused Ankara last week of failing to respect an agreement to withdraw its troop deployment, while majority-Shi'ite Iraq's foreign minister said Baghdad could resort to military action if forced.

Erdogan said the problems over the deployment only started after Turkey's relations with Russia soured in the wake of Turkey shooting down a Russian fighter jet over Syria in November.

"They (Iraq) asked us to train their soldiers and showed us this base as the venue. But as we see,

afterwards, once there were problems between Russia and Turkey ... these negative developments began," Erdogan said.

Turkey, he said, was acting in line with international law.

The camp in Iraq's Nineveh province, to which Sunni Muslim power Turkey has historic ties, is situated around 140 km (90 miles) south of the Turkish border.

Iraqi security forces have no presence in Nineveh since collapsing in June 2014 in the face of a lightning advance by Islamic State.

Ankara has acknowledged there was a "miscommunication" with Baghdad over the troop deployment.—Reuters



Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi sits during a meeting with government officials in the country's southern port city of Aden, in December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Former Yemen president say no dialogue with government

CAIRO — Yemen's former president said on Friday he would not negotiate with the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, throwing into doubt the fate of peace talks on ending the conflict in Yemen which are due to restart later this month.

Ali Abdullah Saleh, who enjoys the loyalty of the armed forces despite having stepped down from office nearly four years ago after months of protests, had joined forces with the Iran-allied Houthis in fighting a Saudi-led alliance trying to shore up Hadi.

The warring sides held the latest round of peace talks in De-

cember but failed to find a political solution that would end the conflict, which has killed nearly 6,000 people. Negotiations are set to resume on 14 January.

"There will be no dialogue with the mercenaries who are seeking power ... there will only be dialogue with the Saudi regime," Saleh said in a television address on his television station, Yemen Today.

A coalition led by Saudi Arabia and its Sunni Muslim allies has been fighting the Shi'ite Houthi movement, which controls the capital, since March 2015.

The United Nations said UN

Yemen envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed was in Riyadh and would be travelling to Sanaa "soon".

Riyadh sees the Houthis as a proxy for bitter regional rival Iran to expand its influence. They deny this and say they are waging a revolution against a corrupt government and Gulf Arab powers beholden to the West.

A growing diplomatic dispute between Riyadh and Tehran, triggered by Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shi'ite cleric, has damaged the outlook for any resolution to the conflict in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula.—Reuters

OPINION

Enjoy your rights but be accountable

Khin Maung Aye

Whenever the word human rights is mentioned people tend to think that human rights belong to them and wonder who will grant those rights and where they can be obtained from. There are certain people who assume that it must be the government that will grant them these human rights because the onus is upon the government to provide for citizens. There are also some people who opine that human rights have come into existence to remedy injustice prevailing in the society. There still exist some who are of the opinion that human rights are concerned with personal dignity which should be respected according to human ethics. Last but not the least, there are also certain people who tend to use human rights with a political motivation.

As a matter of fact, human rights have peculiar characteristics and is of fundamental in-

terest. This is evident in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). According to this Declaration, people ought to respect other people in their attempt to achieve what they want. In this juncture, it is worthy of note that all four major religious faiths regard human rights as not just rights but as responsibilities, too. Another note worthy point is that although the concept of human rights originated in the Magna Carta of 1215, the modern day concept is quite different from that of the Magna Carta because the Magna Carta was created to defend landlords against losses of their property. This being so, the Magna Carta can be said to protect the rights of the specially privileged.

When the UDHR is looked at it is found that it consists of five rights: civil rights, political rights, economic rights, social rights and cultural rights. These rights can be enjoyed by the entirety of mankind regardless of race and religion. However, what is important is who will protect them and how. It is true that it is incumbent upon governments of the nations to protect these rights. However, all citizens of the nations of the world are responsible for paying mutual respect and being committed to abiding by the universal principles of human rights.

People are, by nature, not always strictly adhering to ethics, which has no legal binding. Recognising this, the United Nations has formulated

international treaties which have legal binding. As known to all, when a nation has signed and ratified an international treaty, it has to incorporate the international rules and regulations into its national laws. Then only will the citizens of that nation, which has become a signatory to an international convention, abide by their national laws. This is the reason why governments always take time to sign and ratify until they are convinced that that particular convention is beneficial to their nations, regions and the world.

In a nut shell, human rights should be regarded not only as rights, for it involves responsibilities. This being so, the Global New Light of Myanmar would like to remind the entire mass of people that they also have a responsibility while enjoying their human rights to promote them - be it civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights.

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 khinmaungaye@hotmail@gmail.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.

Hello! I'm still alive! Part II

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt**

MY two days with Captain Khin Maung Nyunt's English girlfriend Pamela in London reminded me of the hit film I had seen thrice. It is Roman Holiday in which the hero is a handsome commoner and heroine is a royal princess who escaped herself from the palace, incognito and posed herself as a rural girl. The two met each other at the public fountains. They had a brief period of romantic adventure in Rome. But the heroine returned to where she belonged, the hero became a forsaken lover. In the same vein, my two days affair with Pamela deserved another romantic film "London Holiday". But we two kept our morals and our meetings did not go beyond the limit of brotherhood. I took her to places of interest and cultural education such as the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Tate Gallery and Royal Festival Hall and Opera house. She learned a lot from me regarding English history and culture.

On the third day, early morning her boyfriend Navy Khin Maung Nyunt appeared. He and Pamela came to me to thank and to bid goodbye. Her boyfriend must have heard my

kindness to her. Navy Khin Maung Nyunt heartily shook hands with me and hugged me. I told him in Burmese teasingly but meaningfully:

"I always observe five moral precepts of the Buddha. You believe me"

"Of course, I do. I do."

I did not know whether their love affair bloomed into a flower of marriage. But what I did know was the tragic news of Navy Khin Maung Nyunt. Three months after I returned with my Ph.D degree and rejoined my Alma Mater, Yangon University, the fatal accident Navy Khin Maung Nyunt met with, while practicing a torpedo boat in the Danube River, was reported in the then English Daily "The Nation".

Readers, please follow me back to the story of mistaken identity with my L.S.E Khin Maung Nyunt. One summer evening in the year 1959, when I returned home, the landlady Mrs. Coleman and local medical doctor physician Taylor-Walker were watching me with strange looks at the entrance of the house. Mrs. Coleman began to yell at me:

"Hellow, Mr. Nyunt, are you alright?"

"Of course, I'm. Why you ask so?"

Both the landlady and the physician retorted together:

"No, no, no Mr Nyunt, you are sick. We know you've run away from the hospital. Come, come, we'll take you back for treatment till you are O.K."

Both of them tried to get hold of me and push me into a taxi.

I yelled.

"I'm O.K. Why you two force me to go to hospital. Get your hands off. I'll call the police to help me."

I yelled and I wept.

Mrs. Coleman then explained what had happened. She got a phone call from Myanmar Embassy that Mr. KM Nyunt broke down at the Hyde Park Corner in the early morning and lay unconscious on the meadow. The patrol police found him and took him to St. Georges Hospital. When they found out his identity they phoned Myanmar Embassy and the Myanmar Embassy phoned the lady. Mrs. Coleman could not believe as she never heard any health complaint from me. She went to see Physician Taylor-Walker who was a specialist in Tropical Diseases. She learnt from him that a temporary mental breakdown can occur to a student too much absorbed in studies. So she and the physician were about to visit

me in hospital. When they saw me return they thought I had run away from my ward and so they were sending me back to St. Georges.

"Oh! I see now, another mistaken identity. I told them there were two Khin Maung Nyunts at the L.S.E. "If you don't believe me, you ring up St. Georges hospital to check if there was patient Khin Maung Nyunt in the ward No. G."

Mrs. Coleman rang up. After five minutes, she got the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth. The other Khin Maung Nyunt was undergoing treatment in that ward No. 6.

Mrs. Coleman kissed me many times with "Sorry" repeated endlessly. Physician gave me his apology but he could not understand two Myanmar scholars at L.S.E with identical names.

Dear readers, please keep track with me because my story of mistaken identity did not end in London. It continued in Myanmar when both of us came back after we got Ph.D. degrees from the L.S.E. In June 1960 I rejoined my University of Yangon. A new department International Relations [IR] was already opened and I became lecturer there. A year later in 1961, on May 7th my wedding ceremony was held at the grand hall of Yangon Municipal Town Hall. My bride was Hla Hla

Khin, whom I met in London. She was now the principal of Ady Nursery School, the British Embassy. The other Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt came to my wedding and greeted us. He jokingly asked us to find a pretty girl for him as he could not find one by himself. A few weeks later, a close friend of mine in Mandalay rang me up if I liked his silk acheik longyi he gave as wedding present. I replied I did not get any from him. He said he sent the gift to the Economics Department! When I went to Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt's home to claim my present, he produced nearly 20 wedding presents for me, mis-delivered to his house. He apologized for not informing me about it. When I phoned my Mandalay friend that I got his present from my name sake, as it was mis-delivered he made a very apt naughty and jokey remark:

"Oh, Thank God, only wedding present was mis-delivered to him. Should you bride also was mis-delivered to him what would happen?!"

In addition to this, D. Khin Maung Nyunt I had cases of mistaken identity with other Khin Maung Nyunts in Yangon. Medical doctor Khin Maung Nyunt, and famous singer Hpo Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt [နိုးဆိုးချင် ခင်မောင်ညွန့်].

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Myanmar Geoscience Society to build headquarters

THE Myanmar Geoscience Society (MGS) is planning to build a site for the headquarters of the association in March.

The building will cost around K 700 million, and is expected to be finished within 18 months.

The first ever building for the Myanmar Geoscience Society will house a museum displaying rare mineral resources to the public free of charge.

“Training related to geoscience will be conducted at the building,” said Dr Sone Han, Chairman of the committee for construction of the building and an ex-lecturer of the Geology Department at the University of Yangon.

The building will be constructed on a 60ft by 80ft plot at the corner of Bayintnaung Road and Aungchanthar Road in North Dagon Township.— *Soe Win (MLA)*



A small scale model of the Myanmar Geoscience Society building. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY (MGS)

Hello! I'm still alive! Part II

>> from page 8

One winter night, at ungodly hour of 12pm, my phone rang very loudly.

“Hello, Dr. Please help us. My wife is about to give birth. But she is screaming and about to die. Delivery is not easy. It's perhaps miscarriage. I've no car, cannot get a taxi. Please come to us, the address is”

“You're mistaken. I'm not that kind of a doctor I,m”

Before I finished my explanation he made the following remark and dropped the phone:

“Oh! I see, I see, you are Taleiksan Saya Wun. [တိဇ္ဈာန်ဆရာဝန်]. Instead of Vet doctor [Taleiksan Saya Wun [တိဇ္ဈာန်ဆေးကုဆရာဝန်], he shortened it Animal doctor [တိဇ္ဈာန်ဆရာဝန်]. So I became animal.

Twice I was summoned to the office of Income Tax Officer of my township and reminded me of my failure to report on the income of my private clinic. Only when my old history student who was an I.T.O turned up the matter was settled. In England medical doctors are called physicians. Only Ph.D. degree holders are called doctor.

At the 12th Anniversary State Performing Arts Competitions held at the National Theatre, Dagon Township, judges, including me, veteran dancer U Sein Aung Min and other well-known singers were present to supervise and judge the competitions. Before the programme began, a young lady and her old mother from the Ayeyawady Division came to me and paid me respect with Mon longyi. They said:

“We admired you very much before we saw you. We are the fans of hit songs of Hpo

Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt.”

“Oh, no, no, I'm not Hpo Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt. Take your gift back. Hpo Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt may come later. Give it to him.”

“Oh, is that so. Then please accept it sir, we have another longyi for real Hpo Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt.”

When I insisted them to bake back the gift, they became tearful. U Sein Aung Min whispered to me:

“Please accept it. They gave it to you. They are now weeping.” The other two Khin Maung Nyunts with whom I had the mistaken identity were (1) Pleader U Khin Maung Nyunt and (2) Film star Khin Maung Nyunt who co-starred with film actress Kyi Kyi Htay in the film “Aung Gyin Shitpa”.

When I was Director-General of the Fine Arts Department, Historical Research Department and Archaeology Department, the other Khin Maung Nyunt was the Rector of Economics Institute of Yangon. Often correspondences were misdelivered and seats were misarranged at the meetings and receptions.

The two worst cases occurred – one at the Mandalay University and the other in Yangon. I was transferred to Mandalay University as Professor of History when Dr. Than Tun retired. A year later a new department International Relations was opened and I concurrently was the professor of that department. My family was left in Yangon. I resided alone with some students who could not get room at the hostels. One afternoon in late February, two nicely dressed, and bedecked with diamond jewellery early mid

aged ladies came to me in a very grand car. The brought many presents. Introducing themselves as jewelers with a shop in E building of Zey Gyo Daw, Mandalay, said softly”

“Well Sayagyi Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, we know all about you, before we meet and see you. You are a good professor, learned, and good in teaching, students like you. But you need one thing very badly. We know that you are handsome because perhaps you've not found a good life-long partner. So we come to give what you badly need. Our niece is a pretty young lady. She is selling jewellery with us, the only daughter in the family. She is qualified to be your life partner. Regarding your wedding, we'll arrange it. It would be very grand in our Mandalay. Myo Ma music band is ready. Regarding the dress and diamond jewelleryes for you and your bride, we'll do best to your satisfaction. The only thing we want from you is Yes from you.”

I had no chance to interrupt her. She spoke so much and non-stopped. Finally, I asked her:

“What degree your niece had?”

“Oh, Sayagyi, you've forgotten your pupil. She got B. Com. She worked for four years under your teaching!”

Now, light dawned on this extreme case of mistaken identity. I explained at length that I was a married man with 5 children. I left my family in Yangon. I showed them my family photo and the other Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt was the Rector of Economics Institute, a bachelor residing in Yangon. Crestfallen and ashamed of their mistakes

they two ladies paid me homage and left. I told them to take back their presents, they refused. They said that I deserved them.

When they left, students living with me, who overheard all, said to me:

“Sayagyi, you miss good chance. You should accept that tribute of a young girl [သမီးကညာဆီသို့] brought to the king. You keep your first wife in Yangon and have a good time with a new one in Mandalay. How wonderful your life would become!”

“Shut up. You stupid fellows. Never know the evil consequences of such kind of affairs.”

They enjoyed the food-staff left by the two ladies – noodles, vermicelli, moon-cake, Hto moke etc.

I told him about the event. He did not answer. He only joked that because people thought I was a bachelor and he a married man he missed chances.

The next case was the mistaken identity at the banquet given by Minister Bogyoke Abel, who had held meetings with trade delegation from Japan. At the end of the meetings, he held a dinner at his office in their honour. The Japanese delegation could not visit Bagan as the schedule was tight. But they wanted to know about Bagan. So Minister Abel invited me to his dinner to talk about Bagan. The invitation he sent to me was misdelivered to other Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt who thought he received his invitation and he never informed me. When the minister did not see me at the dinner, he phoned me and sent his car to bring me to dinner. At the table the minister placed the

two Dr. Khin Maung Nyunts, me on his right and the other on his left, telling the Japanese guests to ask about Bagan from the right side Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, pointing at me.

The following day, I phoned up Rector Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and said:

“This mistaken identity between us seems endless. So I suggest that we take the solution of the two writers with identical names in settling their mistaken identity. In the late Konbaung Period there were two brilliant poets with identical names U Min. Both composed poems and verses of high quality. But which U Min composed which poems the king and the people were confused. The two U Mins settled. One U Min made himself an Acolyte (Hpo Thu Daw) and he became Hpo Thu Daw U Min and the other U Min came to be called Lu U Min [U Min, the layman]. Since you are a very pious and almost a confirmed bachelor, why don't you become a monk, Ko Khin Maung Nyunt?”

“Sometimes I think of becoming a monk in my late age. But Ko Khin Maung Nyunt, though I'm a bachelor and have no family I have sisters living with me. I'm so attached to them. I can't leave them.”, he replied.

When I got the news of his passing away, I rushed to the shrine and prayed. I struck the Kyesi three times, calling upon the late Rector Dr Khin Maung Nyunt to share my merits and telling that he had gone out of this life ahead of me and that when I join him later let us not repeat our mistaken identity in our next existence!

(Concluded)

Apple registers automobile domain names, including 'apple.car'

NEW YORK — Apple Inc has registered domain names related to automobiles, adding to speculation about the company's plans to develop an automobile.

The iPhone maker registered the domain names, which include apple.car, apple.cars and apple.auto in December, according to domain information provider Who.is.

MacRumors had first reported the news on Friday, but said the domain names could be related to Apple's CarPlay, which lets drivers access con-

tacts on their iPhones, make calls or listen to voicemails without taking their hands off the steering wheel.

While never openly acknowledging plans to build a car, Apple has been aggressive in recruiting auto experts from companies such as Ford or Mercedes-Benz.

Car technology has become a prime area of interest for Silicon Valley companies including Google Inc, which has built a prototype self-driving car.—Reuters



A portrait of Apple's co-founder Steve Jobs is seen on a BMW car in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. PHOTO: REUTERS

Crash rates for self-driving cars less than conventional car

WASHINGTON — Self-driving cars are involved in fewer crashes on average than vehicles with a driver behind the wheel, a study released on Friday by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute shows.

The study was commissioned by Alphabet Inc's Google unit, which has reported a series of minor crashes involving its self-driving fleet. It looked only at Google's fleet of more than 50 self-driving cars, which has logged 1.3 million miles in Texas and California in self-driving mode.

The test fleet has reported 17 crashes over the last six years, although none were the fault of the self-driving cars, Google said.

After adjusting for severity and accounting for crashes not reported to police, the study estimated cars with drivers behind the wheel are involved in 4.2 crashes per million miles, versus 3.2 crashes per million miles for self-driving cars in autonomous mode.

Crash rates for conventional vehicles at all severity levels were higher than self-driving crash rates, the study found.

A 2015 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study found about 60 per cent of property-damage-only crashes and 24 per cent of all injury crashes are not reported to the police.



Honda Motor Co's personal mobility concept self-driving car "Wander Stand" is seen at the 44th Tokyo Motor Show in Tokyo, Japan, on 28 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

California law requires all crashes involving self-driving vehicles be reported to police.

Google spokesman Johnny Luu said the company asked Virginia Tech "to look into the topic given the interest and develop a robust methodology to be able to make meaningful comparison between regular cars on the road as well as our self-driving cars."

Luu said the study "will be helpful making apples-to-apples comparisons moving forward."

A study released in October by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute compared crash rates among Google, Delphi and Audi self-driving cars in 2013 and found they had a higher rate than for conventional cars.

But that study noted the low

volume of driverless miles — 1.2 million compared with 3 trillion miles driven annually on US roads.

In December, California proposed state regulations that would require all autonomous cars to have a steering wheel, throttle and brake pedals when operating on California's public roads. A licensed driver would need to be in the driver's seat ready to take over in the event something went wrong.

Google, eager to demonstrate its vehicles are safe, criticised the proposed rule, which it said would maintain "the same old status quo and falls short on allowing this technology to reach its full potential, while excluding those who need to get around but cannot drive."—Reuters

China December inflation edges up as expected, producer prices still in deflation

BEIJING — China's consumer inflation barely edged up in December while companies' factory-gate prices continued to fall, adding to concerns about growing deflation risks in the world's second-largest economy.

In line with sluggish activity, China's consumer inflation quickened slightly to 1.6 per cent year-on-year in December, as expected, compared with 1.5 per cent the previous month.

The producer price index was unchanged at minus 5.9 per cent in December, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Saturday, slightly above forecasts but marking a 46th straight month of declines and highlighting the deeply entrenched pressures facing China's manufacturers as the economy cools.

"The inflation profile remains soft and the continuous PPI deflation suggests that Chinese companies will have to reduce their debt as further expansion in many industries will only lead to more loss," wrote Zhou Hao, economist at Commerzbank in Singapore.

An official survey last week showed China's manufacturing sector contracted for a fifth straight month in December and factories continued to shed jobs, dampening hopes that the economy will enter 2016 on steadier

footing. China Beige Book International (CBB) said in its latest private survey that growth in input prices and sales prices for Chinese firms slipped to record lows in the fourth quarter.

"For the first time, it looked like firms were encountering genuinely harmful deflation," the private survey said. That opinion was echoed by other economists.

The risk of entrenched deflation is a nightmare for China, which desperately wants to avoid becoming stuck in a trap where falling prices sap economic vitality.

Deflationary cycles encourage consumers to hold off from buying and businesses to hold off from investing indefinitely, on expectations that prices will contin-

ue falling. Such cycles can prove extremely difficult to escape, and Chinese policy makers have kept a worried eye on the example of Japan, where a strong currency, distorted banking sector and muddled monetary policy combined to suppress growth for decades.

Given how stubborn deflationary pressure has proven in China, regulators appear to be

bringing the exchange rate to bear on the problem. After spending most of 2014 holding the yuan steady while other currencies dropped against the dollar, Beijing since August has let its currency fall more than 6 per cent against the dollar, to its weakest level since 2011.

A weaker yuan could help to fight deflation imported via sliding commodity prices, while providing some support to the struggling export sector and allowing the central bank to stop drawing down its foreign exchange reserves to hold the yuan firm against the dollar.

That would also indirectly support efforts to lower onshore borrowing rates for debt-laden Chinese firms, although it would make the cost of servicing their offshore debt far more expensive. In response, it appears that Chinese corporations with dollar-denominated debt are hurrying to pay it down before the yuan weakens further.

A rising chorus of policy advisers and industrial constituencies is lobbying for an even deeper devaluation to the currency, by as much as 10 to 15 per cent, despite the risk of a potential currency war of competing devaluations in Asia.—Reuters



A vendor arranges vegetables at her stall at a market in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, in December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Exercise prescriptions important for type 2 diabetes

LONDON — Patients with type 2 diabetes should be given exercise “prescriptions” that specify the type, duration, intensity and frequency of workouts, adapted to the individual, according to a new review.

Although exercise improves blood sugar control, insulin sensitivity, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, most people with diabetes do not engage in regular exercise, the authors write.

“Exercise and physical activity can help to control type 2 diabetes,” said lead author Dr Romeu Mendes of the Public Health Unit, ACES Douro I — Marao e Douro Norte in Vila Real, Portugal.

“There are many successful case-studies of patients who reversed metabolic dysfunction only with lifestyle strategies (exercise plus diet),” but the benefits disappear when healthy diet and regular exercise stop, he said.

“Diabetes is a chronic disease and must be managed for life,” Mendes said. “Regular exercise and a healthy nutritional pattern are the basis of the treatment.”

The researchers reviewed published recommendations or guidelines for exercise prescriptions for people with type 2 diabetes issued by international scientific organisations in the field of diabetology, endocrinology, cardiology, public health and sports

medicine. They included 11 publications from institutions like the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, American Diabetes Association, Francophone Diabetes Society and Swedish National Institute of Health.

“We were not aware that there were so many scientific organisations issuing specific recommendations for exercise prescription in this population,” Mendes told Reuters Health by email.

The guidelines agreed that people with type 2 diabetes should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous aerobic exercise per week, spread over at least three days of the week, and also recommend resistance exercise at least twice weekly.

Aerobic exercise can include brisk walking, running, cycling, swimming or other activities, and resistance exercise should target large muscle groups with machines or free weights. Some institutions also recommend some flexibility training, Mendes and colleagues reported in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

“The ultimate and most important variable for people is quality of life,” Mendes said, noting that exercise particularly improves health-related quality of life.

Exercise has indisputable life-saving benefits, but there is

limited research on the benefits of exercise among people with diabetes, said Huseyin Naci, a health policy researcher at the London School of Economics who was not part of the new review.

“According to our previous research, there is a bias against testing exercise,” Naci told Reuters Health by email. “Medical research increasingly favors drug interventions over strategies to modify lifestyle.”

“The vast majority of patients

with type 2 diabetes do not engage in regular exercise,” Mendes said. “This may be explained by insufficient awareness about the potential benefits of exercise and the lack of specific knowledge about current recommendations.”

Advising patients to increase their exercise levels is not enough, he said. Prescriptions should include specific information on the type, mode, duration, intensity and weekly frequency, and the exercise strategies must be adapted

for each individual, based on other health conditions, contraindications and realistic personal goals.

“According to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly one third of doctors prescribe exercise in primary care,” Naci said. “This is promising, but more doctors should discuss and give brief advice to their patients about the benefits of exercise and refer patients with diabetes to structured exercise programmes.”—Reuters



A jogger runs along a snow covered path in Berlin, Germany, on 6 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

SpaceX to retry ocean rocket landing after success on land

CAPE CANAVERAL — Technology entrepreneur Elon Musk’s SpaceX will attempt to land its next Falcon 9 rocket on a barge in the Pacific Ocean, seeking another milestone a month after landing a booster on the ground in a spaceflight first, the company said on Friday.

The Falcon 9 rocket, carrying a NASA ocean-monitoring satellite, is slated to blast off from

Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on 17 January.

About two minutes after lift-off, the first stage of the rocket will separate, flip around, fire engines to slow its fall, deploy landing legs and attempt to touch down on a floating landing pad in the Pacific Ocean.

SpaceX has tried ocean landings twice without success, but officials are optimistic after the

company last month safely returned a Falcon 9 booster to a landing pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Accomplishing an ocean landing will give the California-based SpaceX flexibility to recover its boosters from a wider variety of space missions.

The firm, owned and operated by Musk, wants to refurbish and reflly its rockets, potentially

slashing launch costs.

Similar efforts are underway by fellow tech titan Jeff Bezos’ rocket company, Blue Origin, as well as industry stalwart United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

For now, SpaceX is concentrating on reusing just the first stage of its Falcon rockets, which sell for about \$61 million, the company’s website shows.

Of that, only about \$200,000 is for fuel, Musk said at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco last month.

“With reusable rockets, we can reduce the cost of access to space by probably two orders of magnitude,” or a factor of 100, Musk said at the conference.

SpaceX eventually wants to return the rocket’s second-stage for reuse as well.

The rocket slated to launch NASA’s Jason-3 satellite is an older version of the rocket that flew last month and does not have the power to attempt a touchdown on land, SpaceX said.

The booster that landed on 21 December will be test-fired in Florida, but probably not reflown, Musk told reporters after the landing.

He said the company likely would attempt relaunch of another recovered rocket in 2016.

SpaceX has more than 60 missions on its schedule, worth about \$8 billion.—Reuters

Yellow fever outbreak kills three in Ghana

ACCRA — An outbreak of yellow fever has killed three people in the West Gonja District of Ghana’s Northern Region, health authorities announced on Friday.

Twelve more people are said to be suffering from the disease in the area, some 657 km north of the national capital.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is making efforts to contain the disease, according to a statement signed by Tony Goodman, Public Relations Officer of the ministry.

“It is worthy of note that the response of the regions and districts so far are appropriate and adequate and we expect these response actions to contain and halt the outbreak,” he said in the statement. Yellow fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes. It can kill up to 50 per cent of victims if adequate treatment is not administered. There are an estimated 200,000 cases of yellow fever, causing 30,000 deaths worldwide each year, with 90 per cent occurring in Africa. Symptoms of the disease include fever, jaundice, muscle pain with prominent backache, and headache. Vaccination is the most important preventive measure against the disease.—Xinhua



A long exposure photograph shows the SpaceX Falcon 9 lifting off (L) from its launch pad and then returning to a landing zone (R) at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexico recaptures drug boss 'Chapo' Guzman after shootout

MEXICO CITY — Mexico recaptured the world's most notorious drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman with US help in a violent standoff on Friday, six months after he humiliated President Enrique Peña Nieto with a jaw-dropping escape from a maximum security prison.

The head of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel, who Peña Nieto first caught in February 2014, was captured at a roadside motel after an early morning operation that killed five in the city of Los Mochis in the drug baron's native northwestern state of Sinaloa.

"Mission accomplished: We have him," Peña Nieto said on his Twitter account. "I want to inform all Mexicans that Joaquin Guzman Loera has been arrested." For Peña Nieto, the capture of a trafficker who twice slipped out of Mexican prisons is a sorely-needed victory after his presi-



Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman is escorted by soldiers during a presentation at the hangar belonging to the office of the Attorney General in Mexico City, Mexico on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

dency was tarnished by graft and human rights scandals and the shame of the kingpin's July flight.

It also provides a major boost for US-Mexico relations, strained

by the apparent ease with which Guzman gave Mexican authorities the slip after the United States requested his extradition.

Once featured in the Forbes

list of billionaires, Guzman has led a cartel that smuggled billions of dollars worth of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamines into the United States and fought vicious turf wars with other Mexican gangs.

Scant official details were available of the recapture, but it involved Mexican marines, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and US Marshals, a senior Mexican police source said.

The source said Guzman was captured from the Hotel Doux, a motel on the outskirts of Los Mochis once popular with North Americans travelling south. It was the result of a deadly operation announced earlier on Friday by the Mexican Navy in which five others were captured.

One photograph widely circulated on social media, but that could not be independently veri-

fied by Reuters, appeared to show Guzman sitting handcuffed on a hotel bed, in a room that resembled those shown on the Hotel Doux website.

He was wearing a filthy vest and a poster of a scantily clad woman was pinned on the wall behind him.

A receptionist at the motel told Reuters she understood Guzman had been captured there.

Another photo appeared to show Guzman without handcuffs and wearing the same vest in the back of vehicle next to one of his top assassins. The DEA, which has had a bumpy relationship with its Mexican counterparts, congratulated Mexico on the capture.

"This notorious criminal is — and will remain — behind bars, until he faces justice in a court of law," said DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. —Reuters

Beijing to shut 2,500 small, polluting firms this year

BEIJING — Beijing will shut down 2,500 small and polluting firms in 2016 in its latest environmental protection efforts, said the municipal government.

The Fengtai, Fangshan, Tongzhou and Daxing districts are required to close 2,500 small and polluting enterprises at the end of this year while the whole city will finish the task in 2017.

Structural adjustment in recent years has led to a dramatic fall of heavily polluting and high energy-consuming companies in the Chinese capital. But small polluting sources such as restaurants, hotels, garages, and bath houses are increasing, said an official on Friday.

Vice Mayor Li Shixiang ordered safety and risk assessment and comprehensive law enforcement in closure of small polluters. Beijing aims to basically eliminate coal use in six downtown districts in two years and help 600,000 households shift from coal to clean energy in five years. —Xinhua

Bus fare protest in Brazil's biggest city turns violent

SAO PAULO — Brazilian riot police on Friday fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse a violent protest against a rise in public transport fares in the country's largest city, Sao Paulo.

Television images showed small groups of rock-throwing, masked youths clashing with police in the centre of the metropolis, amid burning piles of rubbish. Protesters smashed the windows of buses and vandalised bank agencies.

Many Sao Paulo residents have been angered by the increase in public transport prices, with inflation in Brazil already running at more than 10 per cent.

More than 1.5 million Brazilians lost their jobs in the year to November, as Latin America's largest economy edged deeper into its worst recession in more than 25 years.

The march gathered thousands in Sao Paulo's downtown area and quickly turned violent when masked youths threw rocks at police. There was no immediate information about arrests or injuries.

Police also clashed with protesters in the city of Rio de Janeiro later on Friday. Television images showed masked pro-

testors spray painting buses and smashing their windows.

The scenes evoked protests that swept Brazil in 2013, sparked by anger over bus fare increases, that brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the

streets. The demonstrations come as left-leaning President Dilma Rousseff, whose popularity has been crushed by the recession and a sweeping anti-corruption investigation that has ensnared her ruling coalition,

faces impeachment proceedings in Congress. Some political analysts say the mood on the streets towards her government could play an important role in determining the outcome of the impeachment process. —Reuters



Riot police fire tear gas at demonstrators during a protest against fare hikes for city buses in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greeks protest against pension reform as government seeks support

ATHENS — Hundreds of Greek pensioners and workers marched in central Athens on Friday, protesting against plans to overhaul an ailing pension system as the government sought backing for its proposals at home and in European capitals.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has said the pension system is on the verge of collapse; but reforming it will challenge his

resolve to implement measures demanded by Greece's international creditors, who must sign off on the plan.

About 100 protesters supporting the Communist-affiliated union PAME unfurled a huge banner outside the prime minister's office, slamming the plan as "a guillotine for the pension system".

Hundreds more public sector workers and pensioners, worn

down by several rounds of wage and pension cuts Greece has imposed over the years in return for rescue funds marched in the city centre.

Tensions flared briefly when the crowd broke past a line of police in riot gear and headed towards Tsipras's office. Police responded with tear gas.

"The government tricked the workers and the farmers into think-

ing that it will create a better society with more justice and less unemployment," 74-year-old pensioner Babis Kattis said from the rally. "Pensioners are about to become beggars."

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos began a tour of European capitals to discuss debt and pension problems with counterparts in Rome, Lisbon, Paris, Helsinki, Amsterdam and Berlin.

According to the proposals Greece sent its lenders on Monday, all six main pension funds will be merged into one and future main pensions could be cut by up to 30 per cent. It sets a lower limit at 384 euros per month and sets a ceiling of 2,300 euros on the maximum monthly pension outlay. The average monthly pension currently stands at about 850 euros. —Reuters

US considers ending programme that lures Cuban doctors to defect

WASHINGTON — The US government is considering putting an end to a programme that encourages Cuban doctors and nurses on overseas assignments to defect, a senior aide to President Barack Obama said, in a gesture emblematic of improving US-Cuban relations.

The Cuban Medical Professional Parole Programme, which started under President George W. Bush in 2006, targets one of Cuba's proudest achievements: sending doctors, nurses and other medical professionals abroad, either on missions of mercy or to raise cash for the Communist government.

The programme grants US officials discretionary authority to allow Cuban medical professionals into the United States, providing assistance at US embassies in the countries where the doctors are posted. It is open to more than 50,000 Cuban medical professionals in more than 60 countries.

The programme has now been placed under review, said Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security advisor to Obama who was part of the negotiating team that reached detente with Cuba a year ago after 18 months of secret talks.

"It's an unusual pol-



Doctors chat at the entrance of a hospital in Havana, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

icy, and I think as we look at the whole totality of the relationship, this is something that we felt was worth being in the list of things that we consider," Rhodes told Reuters.

The United States has approved 7,117 applications since 2006. The numbers have grown in recent years, reaching a record 1,663 in fiscal year 2015, according to data from the US Department of Homeland Security, which administers the programme jointly with the State Department.

Cuba has been openly scornful of the programme, calling it a "rep-

rehensible practice" that is designed to "deprive Cuba and many other countries of vital human resources."

Cuban foreign ministry officials were unavailable on Friday to comment on Washington's review of the programme, which has not been previously reported.

A senior administration official said a decision on whether to end the programme was due early this year.

The programme dates to a period of lingering Cold War animosity, but relations changed dramatically with the detente that Rhodes helped nego-

tiate. Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced in December 2014 they would seek to normalise relations. By July, diplomatic ties were restored after a 54-year rupture.

The two governments have since reached accords on environmental protection and the resumption of direct mail service and scheduled commercial airline flights.

With such a thaw under way, the parole programme no longer seemed to fit what the White House has called a "new chapter" in US-Cuban relations.—Reuters

Swiss missionary kidnapped a second time in Mali's Timbuktu



The Swiss embassy is seen in Bamako, Mali, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

BAMAKO — Armed men kidnapped a Swiss missionary from her home in Timbuktu on Friday, nearly four years after she was abducted by Islamist militants from the same house, Malian and Swiss authorities said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is active

in desert areas north of the city and has a history of seizing foreigners and demanding ransoms.

In April 2012, militants kidnapped Beatrice Stockly and released her days later. She returned to her work as a missionary. A resident of Timbuktu who knows Stockly told Reuters she had again been abducted.

"I confirm that a European woman was kidnapped in Timbuktu at 3.30 am (0330 GMT). A neighbour alerted the security forces around 6 am," said army spokesman Souleymane Maiga.

Four vehicles were used in the kidnap, said a military source in Timbuktu who declined to be identified.

"One vehicle parked in front of the house and armed men got out and abducted the woman, while the other three cars secured the area from a distance," said the source.

French forces drove Islamist fighters from major urban centres in 2013 but they have intensified their insurgency with a series of attacks and roadside bombings last year.

Two militants attacked a luxury hotel in the capital

Bamako on 20 November, killing 20 people, many of whom were foreigners.

Three Islamist militant groups including AQIM claimed responsibility for the hotel attack, which showed the militants extending their reach beyond the north.

In a separate incident, an unidentified gunman shot three people dead outside a Christian radio station in Timbuktu in December. A veteran jihadist called for a return to Islamic sharia law at a recent meeting attended by hundreds of locals near Timbuktu, an AQIM video showed this week.

Dozens of Westerners were abducted by desert militants in West and North Africa in the five years before the French military operation in Mali in 2013.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (124N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (124N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2016 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

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MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT

(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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.

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David Bowie releases new album 'Blackstar' on 69th birthday



David Bowie performs during a concert in Vienna, Austria in 1996.
PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — David Bowie marked his 69th birthday on Friday with the release of a new album, "Blackstar", with critics giving the thumbs up to the latest work in a long and innovative career.

The singer, songwriter, actor and artist returns to the music scene after 2013's chart-topping "The Next Day", itself released after a 10-year gap.

"Blackstar", co-produced

by Bowie's long-time collaborator Tony Visconti, features only seven songs, but critics praised the latest work, with Britain's Guardian newspaper calling it "a spellbinding break with (Bowie's) past".

The album is part jazz but full of what NME describes as "warped showtunes, skronking industrial rock, soulful balladeering, airy folk-pop, even hip-hop".

Ahead of Friday's re-

lease, Rolling Stone magazine last month wrote that the "arty, unsettling 'Blackstar' is Bowie's best anti-pop masterpiece since the Seventies".

The singer this week premiered the video for single "Lazarus", in which he is seen lying in what appears to be a hospital bed with his eyes bandaged.

It was directed by music video and commercial director Johan Renck, who also worked on the film for the album's nearly 10-minute title track.

"I have no desire to do any more videos knowing the process never ever gets as formidable and fulfilling as this was," Renck said in an on-line statement. "I've basically touched the sun."

Born David Jones, Bowie rose to fame with 1969's "Space Oddity" and a bit later through his jumpsuit-wearing alter ego Ziggy Stardust.

In the last few years, the chart-topping singer has kept a low profile after undergoing emergency heart surgery in 2004.

His last live performance was at a New York charity concert in 2006.—Reuters

It is Brie Larson's year: Jennifer Lawrence

LONDON — Actress Jennifer Lawrence says she is expecting to lose to fellow contender Brie Larson at the Golden Globe Awards.

The 25-year-old actress is up for the best actress award for her role in "Joy" but can't see herself picking up the prize as her rival gave a strong performance in "Room", reported Female First.

"I think this is Brie Larson's year, it should be. But [winning] would be very exciting. I am so excited, I'm not nervous," Lawrence said.

"Joy" sees the actress reunite with past co-stars Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro and director David O Russell and she feels much "safer" working with people she's collaborated with before.

"I definitely feel safer, we can hit the ground running. Bradley and I feel very safe when we're acting together, and it's the same with Bob, our dynamic is great and he's always been very protective and paternal."

The actress, however, said it was unusual to co-star with Cooper without him playing her love interest.

"This is a new dynamic for Bradley and I that we haven't done before - allies in commerce and adversaries in commerce.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

'Carol', 'Bridge of Spies' lead nominations for BAFTA awards

LONDON — Lesbian romance "Carol" and Cold War drama "Bridge of Spies" led the running for Britain's British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards on Friday, securing nine nominations each.

"Carol", starring Cate Blanchett as a married woman who falls for a shop assistant (Rooney Mara) in 1950s New York has won critical acclaim since premiering at May's Cannes Film Festival.

Its BAFTA nods include leading actress for Blanchett, supporting actress for Mara, best film, adapted screenplay, cinematography, costume design, make up and hair, production design as well as honours for director for Todd Haynes.

"Bridge of Spies", which stars Tom Hanks as a lawyer negotiating the release of a US pilot held captive by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, won a nomination for director Steven Spielberg as well as for best film.

Mark Rylance was nominated for supporting actor and the drama is also in the running for original screenplay, sound, cinematography, original music, editing and production design.

"The Revenant", in which a bear attack sparks a quest for revenge, earned eight nominations,

including best film, leading actor for Leonardo DiCaprio and best director for Alejandro G. Inarritu, last year's Academy Award winner for "Birdman".

"The Revenant" also garnered nominations for original music, cinematography, editing, sound as well as make up and hair.

Action adventure "Mad Max: Fury Road" earned seven nominations — cinematography, editing, sound, special visual effects, costume design, production design and make up and hair.

Irish immigrant story "Brooklyn" got six nominations, including outstanding British film, adapted screenplay and Saoirse Ronan up for leading actress.

Space adventure "The Martian" was also nominated six times, with Ridley Scott for director and Matt Damon as leading actor.

Financial misdeeds comedy "The Big Short" took five nominations including best film, adapted screenplay, editing, director for Adam McKay and supporting actor for Christian Bale.

Last year's BAFTA leading actor winner Eddie Redmayne is in the running for his role in transgender movie "The Danish Girl", which was nominated for outstanding British film. Co-star



Film director Stephen Spielberg, actors Tom Hanks (3rd R) Amy Ryan (4th R) Sebastian Koch (2nd L) and cast members arrive for the premiere of the film 'Bridge of Spies' in Berlin, Germany on 13 November 2015.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Alicia Vikander will compete in the leading actress category.

Vikander was also named in the supporting actress category for "Ex Machina", also nominated for outstanding British film.

"Spotlight", a film about the investigation into Catholic Church abuse, completed the nominations for best film, and earned nods for original screenplay and supporting actor for Mark Ruffalo.

Other nominees in the leading actor category included Bryan Cranston in "Trumbo" and Michael Fassbender in "Steve Jobs".

The Apple co-founder biopic received nominations for Kate Winslet as supporting actress and for adapted screenplay.

Completing the leading actress nominations were Brie Larson for "Room" and Maggie Smith for "The Lady in the Van".

Sci-fi blockbuster "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" will compete for original music, sound, production design and special visual effects. Other outstanding British film nominees include "45 years", "Amy" and "The Lobster".

Winners will be announced at the BAFTA awards ceremony in London on 14 February.—Reuters

Aviator completes epic flight in vintage biplane with Sydney Harbour flyover

SYDNEY — British aviator Tracey Curtis-Taylor flew her open-cockpit biplane across Sydney Harbour and landed at the city's international airport yesterday, completing a three-month journey from England to retrace a pioneering feat of early aviation.

The 53-year-old aviator set out from Farnborough on 1 October to follow the flight path of legendary aviator Amy Johnson, who in 1930 became the first woman to fly solo between Britain and Australia.

"I need a drink," Curtis-Taylor told waiting media as she climbed from her 1942 Boeing Stearman and was handed a glass of champagne.

"Seeing all the most iconic landscapes, geolo-

gy, vegetation, just the best view in the world," she said. "Very few people get to fly it like I just did."

Braving sea spray and smog in her "Spirit of Artemis", a reconditioned piston-engine plane, Curtis-Taylor crossed 14,000 miles (22,000 kilometres) and 23 countries using 8,000 litres (2,100 gallons) of fuel.

She had struggled to secure supplies of "avgas", or aviation gasoline, not readily available at many modern airports, and relied on a support plane that followed behind.

"In doing something like this you have to be absolutely self-sufficient," Curtis-Taylor told Reuters in an interview before her arrival.

"We have done something like 54 stops and that is what



British aviator Tracey Curtis-Taylor pilots her biplane past Australia's Uluru rock formation during her historic England-to-Australia journey on 6 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

takes the time." Her challenges included scrounging for fuel with the help of Aborigines after an impromptu landing in the Australian outback, and spending a day

scraping salt off her propellers after flying over the Timor Sea.

In the post-9/11 world of aviation security she also encountered wary airport

officials, especially after the Paris attacks in November and the downing of a Russian airliner in Egypt the month before that.

"Everything is in high

alert," Curtis-Taylor said. Bad weather in Romania held the flight up for days, and she had to fly around war-torn Syria. She has met royalty and took a Saudi princess for a spin in the aircraft. In Jordan, underprivileged girls she met were amazed by her audacity at undertaking the journey at her age. It is a far cry from the world of 1930. At that time, most of Johnson's stops lay within the British empire. Red tape was minimal. Johnson was just 26 and her flight ended in Darwin, Australia, which her successor Curtis-Taylor reached on 1 January this year. This week marked the 75th anniversary of Johnson's death, at the age of 37, in a flying accident in England during World War II.—Reuters

Legendary steam locomotive 'Flying Scotsman' set to return

LONDON — One of the world's most famous steam engines, "Flying Scotsman," is set to return after a decade of restoration and over 80 years since it became the first locomotive to reach 100 miles an hour (160 kph).

The venerable engine, which has toured both the United States and Australia since it was retired from service, made a series of short test runs on Friday, ahead of a programme of heritage journeys this year on Britain's main lines.

It emerged dramatically from huge clouds of steam at Bury station in

northern England to the delight of dozens of rail enthusiasts who had gathered to mark the occasion.

Restoration work for the National Railway Museum that has cost some 4 million pounds (\$6 million) has now almost finished, although the engine will not be repainted in its traditional green livery until next month.

"Flying Scotsman is arguably the most famous locomotive in the world," the museum said on its website. "Once restoration is complete, it will be back hauling mainline railtours, steaming proudly into the

21st century."

Built in 1923, the engine hauled the first ever non-stop service between London and Edinburgh in 1928, taking eight hours. It set the record-breaking 100 mph mark in 1934.

After it was retired in 1963 as the age of steam in Britain drew to a close, the Scotsman was sold to a businessman who took it on a tour of the United States where it was fitted with a bell, headlamp and cow-catcher.

In 1988-9 under new ownership, it toured Australia, where at one point it recorded the longest ever

non-stop run by a steam locomotive, travelling 422 miles.

The high cost of restoring and running the engine had always limited its public appearances but in 2004 it was returned to public ownership.

The first mainline test run is expected to be from Manchester to Carlisle, over the scenic Ribbleshead Viaduct, on 23 January. Next month the Scotsman will run between Kings Cross station in London to the railway museum in York, northern England, where it will be based.—Reuters



The Flying Scotsman steam engine leaves East Lancashire Railway in Bury, Britain, on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-1-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am	8:45 am
• Musical Programme	• Sing & Enjoy
6:20 am	9:30 am
• Myanmar Video	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
7:50 am	9:40 am
• Game For Children	• Myanmar Movie
8:20 am	Noon
• Fashion Music	• Close Down

From 10.1.2016 (Sunday) 06:00 am

To 11.1.2016 (Monday) 06:00 am

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

mitv Myanmar International

(10-1-2016 07:00 am ~ 11-1-2016 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The World's Largest Book
07:50	Am	Next Weekend
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
08:56	Am	Kayin New Year Festival
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Ep-2)
09:48	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach
10:47	Am	The Iron Rider

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: The Modernization Of Myanmar Customs
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	"Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2)
08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon

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

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Lowly Exeter hold second-string Liverpool in FA Cup

LONDON — Defender Brad Smith's second-half goal rescued a 2-2 draw as injury-hit seven-times FA Cup winners Liverpool denied fourth tier Exeter City a notable third round giantkilling scalp on Friday.

The Premier League outfit, playing their third match in less than a week and without 11 injured first-teamers, fielded a barely recognisable second-string side and nearly slipped up against Exeter who are languishing in the bottom half of League Two.

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp made 11 changes from the team that beat Stoke City in the opening leg of the League Cup semi-finals on Tuesday with Christian Benteke and forgotten man Jose Enrique, featuring for the first time in nearly a year, the only two with more than four senior appearances.

Exeter, sensing the opportunity to cause a huge upset on home turf, went ahead after nine minutes when a low cross from Jamie Reid was poked home by

top scorer Tom Nichols.

Liverpool, who have never lost in the FA Cup to a side from the fourth rung of English football, were level three min-

utes later when teenage striker Jerome Sinclair took advantage of hesitant defending to fire the ball home.

The hosts went back in

front on the stroke of halftime when Lee Holmes caught out Liverpool keeper Adam Bogdan direct from a corner, his swirling delivery creeping under the

crossbar, but left back Smith's equaliser on 73 minutes earned a replay at Anfield.

While Exeter will be looking forward to reaping the financial benefits from another meeting, Klopp could barely contain his frustration.

"I can't believe we have to play another game now," the German told the BBC.

"It's obvious what we have to learn in the future. We have to be more robust. It was a difficult pitch. Exeter did really well. On one-on-one situations they were more robust than our guys."

Exeter, who as a minor league side held Manchester United to a draw at Old Trafford before losing the replay at home in 2005, caused a young and inexperienced Liverpool plenty of problems.

The hosts missed two good chances in the first half and had strong penalty appeals turned down after the break when Christian Ribeiro went down under a challenge from Kevin Stewart.—Reuters



Liverpool's Christian Benteke in action with Exeter City's Jordan Moore-Taylor during FA Cup Third Round at St James' Park on 8 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man to enter the ring with country's top boxing performer



Saw Gaw Muto. PHOTO: KO MOE

THE challenger Saw Gaw Muto will fight the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Champion TunTun Min at the Challenge to the Myanmar Champion on 17 January at the Theinbyu Stadium in Yangon.

Eight other matches will be held between Shan Ko and Ye Dagon, Saw The Oo and Kyar Ba Hein, Yan Taing Kyaw and Myoe Man Thit, Soe Maung

Oo and Nayru Bi and Tun Lwin Moe and Kyaw Win Aung. The Challenge to Myanmar Champion, an event of the traditional lethwei competition, is jointly organised by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, Naing Moe Entertainment and Myanmar Media Management. Organisers have set admittance prices to 10,000 ks, 20,000 ks and 30,000ks.—Ko Moe

Champion Federer sets up Raonic final in Brisbane

BRISBANE — Defending champion Roger Federer will meet big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic in the final of the Brisbane International after the Swiss top seed dismantled rising Austrian talent Dominic Thiem 6-1, 6-4 on Saturday.

Federer left his opponent and the centre court crowd stunned as he charged to a 5-0 lead at the Pat Rafter Arena before encountering stiffer resistance from his 22-year-old opponent as the match progressed at the Australian Open warm-up.

The youngest player in the top 20, Thiem shrugged off the first set horror show to unleash some exquisite backhand winners in the second that had the Swiss master nodding approval.

Federer's serve was bullet-proof during the clutch moments, however, and the world number three closed out the contest with a booming ace on his second match point.

Federer, who will be contesting his third consecutive Brisbane final and is one victory away from an 89th ATP title, hailed his "best match" of the tournament.

"I really thought I hit the ball very well," the evergreen 34-year-old, lathered in sweat



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria in their semi-final match at the Brisbane International Tennis Tournament in Brisbane, on 9 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

from the muggy Brisbane heat, said in a courtside interview.

"I'm very excited to be back in the final again... It's a great start to the season and I'm very happy."

Raonic earlier won a battle of big servers to down local contender Bernard Tomic 7-6(5), 7-6(5) in the first semi.

Both players held their serve throughout the contest but it was the Canadian who took control in the tiebreaks, jumping out to early leads on each occasion.

After Tomic won four

straight points to make it 5-5 in the second set tiebreak, Raonic whipped a forehand winner down the line to bring up match point.

He closed out the contest in style, lunging for a cross-court backhand volley to end Tomic's solid run at the tournament, which included an upset win over world number eight Kei Nishikori.

"It was a great match today, a difficult one against Bernie. He's been playing so well, I know he's going to do great things this year," Raonic said.—Reuters