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PEACE IN 2017: STATE COUNSELLOR

THE National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw opened in Nay Pyi Taw on the first day of the New Year, with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressing her commitment to achieving lasting peace for the country this year.

"The reason why we opened the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre on New Year's Day is that we wish our peace-making efforts to meet with success this year," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her opening address.

"From this building, we will face the challenge of bringing the country on the right path to the goal of peace, and with the help of the people and our good friends in the world who have a genuine 'cetana' (good will) towards our country, we will strive for national reconciliation and peace in the country," she said.

She also called for cooperation of the people from all strata of the country in the peace-making processes.

In her speech, the State Counsellor also highlighted the importance of giving rather than taking in making efforts for peace.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to have honest



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi plants an olive tree in front of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

ty and openness in order to build trust, which is the most important factor for achieving peace.

In retrospect, she said Myanmar has not achieved peace in nearly 70 years since its inde-

pendence in 1948 due to anger and greed.

"The country would see peace if these two evils are eliminated or dramatically decreased," she said.

As a New Year Day's wish, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for all the people of the country to march with purity of mind towards national reconciliation and peace as from this New

Year day.

To mark the opening of the Centre, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi planted an olive tree in front of the building. — Myanmar News Agency

Action to be taken against police abuse in video clip

ACTION will be taken against police who allegedly beat villagers during an area clearance operations on 5 November in Kotankauk Village, Maungtau Township, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.

A video clip posted online on Saturday night titled "an accident in Rakhine State" shows footage of members of the Myanmar Police Force beating up villagers. The video clip was broadcast by

several media outlets, according to the Information Committee.

As soon as the video was found online, the information committee contacted officials of the Myanmar Police Force and the Ministry of Home Affairs. An investigation was immediately launched.

According to the Myanmar Police Force, the video was made when a combined team comprised of police from the No. 2 Border Guard Post and No. 36 Security

Force made an area clearance operation in Kotankauk Village on 5 November. It was found that Constable Zaw Myo Htike recorded the video clip when 10 policemen detained several villagers.

The area clearance operation occurred after six violent attackers on three motor bikes shot at 11 policemen from the Norular Police Outpost led by Police Inspector Kyaw Myint of No. 22 Security Force at 5:50 pm on 3 November.

In the attack, Police Lance Corporal Min Min Soe died after being shot four times and Police Lance Corporal Myo Zaw Ko was injured.

The police then conducted the area clearance operation in Kotankauk Village on 5 November, acting on a tip-off that the attackers were being sheltered in Kotankauk Village. In the same village, according to the tip-off, lived a man who had distributed documents and placards contain-

ing fake information to villagers that they used during a protest on 3 November when diplomats visited the village, said the press release of the information committee.

In the clearance operation, it was learnt that Nu Arlaung, 22, Sauli Mullah, 35, and Mammud Nawbi, 32, were allegedly involved in the armed attack. The operation also uncovered six machetes, one knife and one spear.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Police search for missing man in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces are conducting a search for the head of the village of Tularulikyun in Maungtaw Township who went missing on Friday.

Larlu Myar, the village lead-

er who is the head of 100 households, saw off an administrator from Mingyi Village who came to Tularulikyun Village to provide security around 7 pm on Friday but he did not return home.

Police were informed of the missing person at 10 pm on Saturday.

Police continue to search for Larlu Myar.
— Myanmar News Agency

744 road accidents happened on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in 2016

A total of 744 traffic accidents happened on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in 2016, killing 167 and injuring 1,307. Following is the table showing monthly accidents, death toll and the number of the injured.
— Myanmar News Agency

No	Months	Accidents	Dead			Injure			Remark
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1.	January	57	6	4	10	52	33	85	
2.	February	47	8	1	9	45	30	75	
3.	March	70	9	14	23	72	46	118	
4.	April	69	12	10	22	121	118	239	
5.	May	73	11	3	14	55	38	93	
6.	June	96	7	2	9	70	24	95	
7.	July	80	9	6	15	66	53	119	
8.	August	70	8	4	12	72	28	100	
9.	September	50	9	2	11	39	11	50	
10.	October	58	3	6	9	64	36	100	
11.	November	61	11	4	15	71	46	117	
12.	December	50	12	6	18	56	60	116	
	Total	744	105	62	167	784	523	1307	

Pyinnyarahlin Free Library opens in Taungoo District to mark 69th Independence Day

TO mark the 69th Independence Day, an opening ceremony of the Pyinnyarahlin Free Library was held in front of the library in Ohegon village, Zidaing village-tract, Taungoo, Bago Region yesterday morning.

The one-storey library, a brick-and-wood building 24 feet in length and 21 feet wide, was built with money donated by villagers.

Regional Hluttaw Representative U Aye Min Win and Taungoo District officer of Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khine Khine Thin delivered speeches after Regional Hluttaw Representatives U Moe Ma Kha and U Aye Min Win, and village administrator formally cut



Officials cut ceremonial ribbons to commemorate the opening of the library. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

ribbons to open the library.

U Zaw Myoe, townsenders U Khin Maung and U Myint Thein gave words of thanks and then

presented certificates of honour of the donors. The official Independence Day falls on 4 January.—Shwe Win (Pyay)

Action to be taken against police abuse ...

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Following the operation, the police released the remaining villagers and urged them to support community peace in the village.

The operation was led by Police Superintendent Ye Tun Naing of the No. 2 Border Guard Police Force and Sub-Inspector

Te Zar Lin of the No. 36 Security Force. It is learnt that the video clip was made by Constable Zaw Myo Htike. The police officer who is seen beating villagers in the video clip is Constable Pyai Phyo Thwin, said the press release of the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.

Further investigations are being carried out to expose other police officers who beat the villagers in the operation, according to the press release.

Measures are being taken to take action against those who violated police force rules.—Myanmar Police Force

2017 NOBEL-MYANMAR LITERARY FESTIVAL [Creative Literature]

နိဘယ်လ်-မြန်မာ စာပေပွဲတော်
၂၀၁၇၊ ရသစာပေ

၂၀၁၇ ဇန်နဝါရီ ၂၂၊ ၂၃၊ ၂၄
အမျိုးသားဇာတ်ရုံ၊ မြို့မကျောင်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

National objectives for the 69th anniversary Independence Day, 2017

1. To build a genuine Union in the future, making use of the common agreement which will emerge from the negotiations and discussions to be reached at the Union Peace Conference – 21st century Panglong.
2. For all nationalities to collectively preserve and protect non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.
3. To strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the union and in accord with democratic principles and norms for the emergence of a democratic federal union.
4. To endeavour to create good economic conditions that ensure equitable development between the regions and the states and that will be in conformity with the national economic policy and goals.

25 arrested heading to neighbouring country

THE navy found 25 villagers in two boats heading to neighbouring country near Maungtaw yesterday early morning.

The navy ship signaled for the two boats at 2:50 am to stop and intercepted them as they attempted to elude the navy ship.

Twenty-three villagers

from Maungtaw township were found among the passengers in the two boats along with two Bangladeshi nationals.

The detainees will be handed over to the Maungtaw Myoma Police Station for further investigation.—Myanmar News Agency



Two boats used by 25 villagers in an attempt to travel to Bangladesh. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

State Counsellor participates in 'peace talks' with youths

THERE will be many New Year wishes and resolutions, the State Counsellor told a group of youths yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, but in order to make them come true, there should be prioritization and propriety, the same standards that must be followed in attempting to achieve peace in Myanmar.

During her opening address to 16 youths at the Peace Talk at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said it is the highest responsibility as well as a challenge for a government elected by the people to find out which wishes are vital. It is also important to decide how to fulfil these wishes.

"Some people think means does not matter and what matters most is to achieve what they want. Some people think that it is important to reach the goal through any path. In my opinion, outcomes will be different from what people expect after the goal has been achieved if the route taken is wrong," she told the youths. "Only by going through the right path, will we will be able to reach our desired goal.

In the New Year, there should be considerations as to what should be given priority, the State Counsellor said.

"There are priorities which we have unveiled since the government was formed by the National League for Democ-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks to youths at the Peace Talk in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

racy, which was elected by the majority of people. One of the most important priorities is internal peace. Internal peace and improvement of the lives of the people are our two priorities. The two priorities are interrelated. Only when our country is peaceful, lives of the people will improve. Only when lives of the people improve, peace can be maintained. Therefore, we set these priorities as our most important goal," she said.

"The path toward peace in Myanmar since the NLD took power involved organizing the Second Panglong Peace Conference, asking for a ceasefire and bringing warring factions to the negotiating table," the State

"It is immensely important for us to know the points of view of youths who are going to take charge of their duties."

Counsellor told the youths.

"Peace cannot be restored while fighting is taking place. Real peace can be achieved only through dialogue. Any organization in the history of the world finally had to seek solu-

tions through dialogues however hard they had fought in however many battles. It is necessary to seek solutions at the table," she said.

"But talking about peace means not just dialogue between the government and ethnic armed groups, but also talking about peace with the people", Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

"It is immensely important for us to know the points of view of youths who are going to take charge of their duties," she said.

She added "It is our responsibility to share the ownership of the peace process with all the people. Ownership does not mean that one can do whatever one wants to with the process. It

means that everyone has responsibility for the ownership of the process and everyone will benefit from the process."

The youth participants exchanged with the State Counsellor their views on trust building for peace, the delegation of more authority to states and regions, promotion of the Union Spirit, unity in diversity, elimination of trauma caused by the civil war, governance under People-centered laws, participation of youth in the peace process and assistance for victims who have lost limbs due to the civil war.

The 16 youth were chosen representing various states and regions. One youth represented persons with disabilities and another represented the female segment of the country. Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of the Peace Commission also attended the event.

The State Counsellor warned the youths that the path to peace is long, and often rocky.

"To enjoy the benefits, everyone has the responsibility to work hard," she said. "In fact, we all encourage one another to work hard in the beginning of a New Year. We all send best wishes. Although making wishes is easy, fulfilling them is difficult."

—Myanmar News Agency (The unofficial translation of the full text of the speech of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is available on www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)



The building of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre is illuminated at night on new year day. The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre opened in Nay Pyi Taw on first day of the New Year, with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressing her commitment to achieving lasting peace for the country this year. (NEWS ON PAGE-1)

International Tourism Expo, Myanmar 2017 to be held in Yangon

TO develop the International Tourism Service Industry and local tourism sector, International Tourism Expo, Myanmar 2017 organised by Travel Support Co Ltd under the auspices of the Myanmar Tourism Federation will be held in Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall in Yangon from 20 to 22 January 2017.

"We have arranged the event with the aim of promoting the development of the local travel and tourism industries in line with the modern travel and tourism industry, promotion of the cooperation between the local travel and tourism companies and international tourism companies, giving information about travel and tourism industry in detail to the public",

said director U Nway Moe Aung of Travel Support Co. Ltd.

The experience from the expo will be of benefit to local visitors who will come to the expo. Officials will elaborate facts of the travel and tourism industry to visitors who do not know facts about place where they want to visit to relax at the exhibition, he added.

The three-day event will be arranged for the public at one place to be able to observe the different types of travel and tourism service industries, he added. The event is first-ever expo for the travel and tourism industry, with 124 booths from hotels, travel agencies, airlines, insurance companies and other agencies related to tour-

ism will be featured at the expo. Moreover, motor service companies and mobile phone companies, cruise companies, foreign and local travel service agencies, travel-related goods sale companies will showcase their services, destinations, tourism attractions, travel packages and products through the booths.

Holding the International Tourism Expo, Myanmar 2017 will make the Myanmar travel and tourism industry develop and increase the country's foreign exchange earnings from tourism. Also, travel-related business sectors will develop and it will provide assistance to develop the tourism areas. — Soe Win (MLA)



U Bein Bridge, a crossing that spans Taungthaman Lake near Amarapura. The 1.2-kilometre (0.75 m) bridge was built around 1850 and is believed to be the oldest and longest teakwood bridge in the world. It is used as an important passageway for the local people and has also become a tourist attraction. PHOTO: NYI NYI (HISTORY)

LOCAL Business



Scale model of Yadana Hninsi Housing Complex. PHOTO: MNA

Over 120 units of Yadana Hninsi complex sold in one week

MORE THAN 120 units of Yadana Hninsi housing project developed by the Ministry of Construction have already been sold during a single week, said an official from sale center.

According to the official, some bought Ks1.2 billion worth of large flats while some others selected Ks600 million worth of smaller flats.

The Yadana Hninsi Housing complex, the new government's first public housing development project in Yangon, started on June 1. It is a model project for future housing com-

plexes in Dagon Seikkan Township, with its five 18-storey buildings.

Those buyers, who purchased the apartments without taking out loans, have to pay 20 per cent of total costs first, with the remaining 80 per cent payable monthly for period of twelve months. They will receive the key of the apartment only after finishing the installment plan.

Some apartments have yet to have electricity or water a supply system installed, although the project is almost completed. Those apartments

will be finished by May.

As part of public housing development, the Yangon Region Government has adopted a five-year plan, from the 2016-17 fiscal year to the 2020-21 fiscal year, to build 180,000 apartments.

Under the plan, 8,000 new apartments will be constructed in two years from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 in the Yangon Region, and the apartments would be sold on an installment plan for K10million, according to the Ministry of Construction. —200

Filipino companies likely to invest in Myanmar's coconut, banana farms

NEW investment by Filipino agricultural companies is likely to go into Myanmar's coconut and banana production businesses this fiscal year, according to agribusiness companies.

The Philippines' coconut production is booming. It plays an important role in the national economy of the Philippines. This is a main reason why the country invited Filipino companies to make an investment in coconut and banana farming.

"The two sides discussed new investment in coconut and banana farming in the first week of December. The Filipinos will soon visit the lands," said U Thaung Ngwe, director of Kaung Htet Farm Sector Investment.

The coconut cultivations are mostly found in Ayeyawady, east and west Bago and Taninthayi regions as well as Mon and Rakhine states.

There are 63,000 acres of coconut plantations in Ayeyawady

Region, 10,000 acres in Mon State, 12,000 acres in Taninthayi Region, 130,000 acres in Rakhine State, 5,000 acres in eastern part of Bago Region and 1,500 acres in the western part of Bago Region. The country formally exports nearly 200,000 coconuts to Thailand each year through Dawei and Myeik towns. According to local entrepreneurs, United Arab Emirates has offered to purchase Myanmar's coconut in the future. —200

Over Ks350 billion in taxes collected from commercial businesses in Yangon in eight months

A TOTAL of Ks356billion of tax was received from commercial businesses in Yangon during the past eight months, and the taxes levied on real estate trading reached Ks47billion, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

The tax earnings from real estate trading of Ks47billion are Ks23billion higher than that of

the similar period of last fiscal year. Those engaged in real estate trading in Yangon have to pay the tax at the prescribed rate and the stamp duty, in line with the real estate price, must be affixed to the contract. A contract not bearing stamp duty is not in accordance with the law and those sellers and buyers will be fined ten times the price of the

real property, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

Buyers who can present how much they earn will pay from 3 to 30 per cent of the real estate's price, depending on the price, in keeping with 2016 Union Tax Law. After the tax rate levied on real estate was reduced, the number of taxpayers rose, it is learnt. —Ko Htet

Ten new cinemas to launch in various regions, states in March

TEN NEW cinemas developed by Paradiso Cinemas under a 100-cinema master plan will be launched in some regions and states, including the Yangon Region, in March, said Maung Maung Oo, the director of the movie Snow White and a shareholder of the company.

Two out of the ten new cinemas will be opened in Yangon's Taikkyi Township and Aungban Township in southern Shan State, with the rest planned in suitable places in big towns in targeted regions and states.

Paradiso Cinemas is now implementing movie theaters in crowded towns across the coun-

try that were previously without cinemas under the long-term 100-cinema plan. The company will spend Ks20 billion on the project.

With the purpose of attracting audiences with high-quality movie theaters, project implementers plan to develop 24 cinemas in the commercial city of Yangon, 15 cinemas in Mandalay Region, nine cinemas in Magway Region, eight cinemas in Sagaing Region, two cinemas in Taninthayi Region, 12 cinemas in Bago Region and Shan State, 19 cinemas in Ayeyawady Region, six cinemas in Mon State and five cinemas in Rakhine State. —200

First Private Bank to commence stock trading on 20th January



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

First Private Bank (FPB) is the fourth company to be listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) and its stock trading will begin on 20th January, according to an announcement released by YSX.

The base price of FPB will be announced on YSX website before the listing day of 20th January. Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) approved First Private Bank for listing after scrutinising submitted application documents and a deliberate listing examination on 30th December.

First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) are currently trading shares at YSX.

Stock trading on YSX in December hit an all-time low with the trading value of only Ks1.5billion this year. The monthly stock trading values by FMI at YSX were Ks 24,714,431,000 in

March and Ks5,867,897,500 in April. With MTSH entering YSX on 20th May, stock trading values of FMI and MTSH amounted to Ks 16,216,528,500 in May and Ks 6,895,863,000 in June and Ks 3,732,548,500 in July respectively. After MCB listed on YSX, the monthly stock trading values were Ks2,907,600,800 in August, Ks 2,482,949,200 in September, Ks 4,027,821,700 in October and Ks 2,213,328,400 in November, it is learnt from monthly report of YSX.

Educative efforts that explain the advantages of stock trading are needed in order to gain widespread public interest, said an observer. On 30th December, 2016, 12,299 shares worth Ks 89,393,500 were traded at YSX, with the share price of Ks13,500 by FMI, Ks4,400 by MTSH and Ks9,200 by MCB, according to the stock trading data of YSX. —Ko Khant

China's Xi says won't let anyone make 'fuss' about its territory

BEIJING — China will never allow anyone to "make a great fuss" about its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, President Xi Jinping said in his New Year's address, while China's top official in charge of Taiwan ties warned of risk ahead in 2017.

China's increasingly assertive moves to push its territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea, including building artificial islands, has unnerved its neighbors.

"We adhere to peaceful development, and resolutely safeguard our territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," Xi said, in comments carried by state media late on Saturday.

"Chinese people will never allow anyone to get away with making a great fuss about it," he said, without elaborating.

China claims most of the South China Sea.

Neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

While Xi made no direct mention of self-ruled Taiwan, aside from extending New Year's greetings to them, the head of China's policy-making Taiwan Affairs Office in his New Year's message said that 2017 would see uncertainty.

"Looking ahead to 2017, the situation in the Taiwan Strait is complex and serious, and the development of relations are facing many uncertain factors and risk," Zhang Zhijun said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

China hopes that people on both sides can show resolve and courage, to ensure the "correct direction" of the peaceful development of ties and work to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, he added.—Reuters

South Korea's Park denies wrongdoing in scandal: media

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Sunday denied allegations of wrongdoing in a political scandal that threatens her presidency, saying the accusations against her were "fabrication and falsehood", local media reported.

Park said Choi Soon-sil, her long-time friend, was "merely an acquaintance", and denied Choi was allowed to wield undue and wide-reaching influence over state affairs, Yonhap news agency and YTN television reported.

Park met domestic media reporters on Sunday in the first public event since her impeachment by parliament on 9 December. Her fate is in the hands of Constitutional Court judges who have up to 180 days to uphold the impeachment or reinstate her.

She has denied wrongdoing previously but apologized for carelessness in her ties with Choi, a friend for four decades, who has also denied wrongdoing. Choi is in detention while on trial.

Park was quoted on Sunday as saying that the decision by the country's national pension fund to back a merger between



South Korean President Park Geun-hye speaks during a meeting with reporters at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, in this handout picture provided by the Presidential Blue House and released by Yonhap on January 1, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

two Samsung Group affiliates was "a just policy decision" made for national interest, and that the deal was supported by many brokerage firms at the time.

"I did not have an iota of thinking to help anyone and the thought never crossed my mind," Yonhap quoted Park as saying.

The merger in 2015 of Samsung Group affiliates Cheil Industries Inc and Samsung C&T Corp has become central to the investigation of the scandal that led parliament

to vote last month to impeach Park.

The merger has been criticized by some investors for strengthening the founding family's control of Samsung Group, South Korea's largest "chaebol", or conglomerate, at the expense of other shareholders.

The National Pension Service, which had 545 trillion won (\$451.78 billion) under management at the end of September and was a major shareholder in the two Samsung affiliates, voted in favor of the merger without calling

in an external committee that sometimes advises it on difficult votes.

Park, 64, is accused of colluding with Choi to pressure big businesses including Samsung to make contributions to non-profit foundations backing presidential initiatives.

Park's comments on Sunday were more detailed than previous ones and also touched on allegations of negligence over the handling of the Sewol ferry disaster in April 2014 that killed more than 300 passengers, mostly school children.—Reuters

Japan business lobby to send mission for talks with Trump officials

TOKYO — Japan's biggest business lobby is sending a delegation to the United States in early 2017 to discuss trade policies with officials of the new US administration of President Donald Trump, according to the head of the group.

"I'm worried about US trade policy," Sada-yuki Sakakibara, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, said in a recent interview with the media. Trump's protectionist undertones "will not only be a negative for Japan but also for the United States," he added.

Underlining his "America First" policy, Trump has said his administration will notify other nations of its intent to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership

pact, a US-led free trade deal that Japan, the United States and 10 other Pacific Rim nations signed last year, as soon as he takes office on 20 January.

Sakakibara said the delegation will urge the Trump administration to maintain the country's strong global economic ties, adding he may join the delegation himself. "While Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is likely to take necessary actions, the business community also needs to take action."

In Japan, the government has compiled draft guidelines for achieving "equal pay for equal work" for workers, regardless of their employment status.

The chairman called the government's move "appropriate," saying that the draft guidelines pay attention to the country's

diverse wage system and employment practices.

Regarding the building momentum for curbing long working hours among Japanese workers after the suicide of an overworked young ad agency employee in Tokyo, Sakakibara said current labor regulations allow unlimited overtime work. "That needs reconsideration."

But he also called for the government to take into account that work can be hectic during some periods and not so busy during others.

Sakakibara said he expects the economy to grow this year. "Signs of economic recovery were already showing in the latter half of 2016," he said, adding he hopes the country "will shrug off its deflationary mindset" and

break the standstill.

Meanwhile, the business lobby said Saturday that Japanese and Chinese economic organizations will co-sponsor an environmental technology exhibition, called the Japan-China Green Expo, in Beijing in 2017 for the first time in six years.

The federation hopes to deepen ties between Japanese and Chinese companies as 2017 marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Tokyo and Beijing.

The exhibition was first held in Beijing in 2011 but was cancelled the following year after bilateral ties deteriorated amid tensions over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that are controlled by Japan but claimed by China.—Kyodo News

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North Korea's Kim says close to test launch of ICBM

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Sunday that the isolated nuclear capable country was close to test-launching an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

North Korea tested ballistic missiles at an unprecedented rate during 2016, although some experts have said it is years away from developing an ICBM fitted with a nuclear warhead capable of reaching the United States.

"Research and development of cutting edge arms equipment is actively progressing and ICBM rocket test launch preparation is in its last stage," Kim said during a televised New Year's Day speech.

The country has been under UN sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The sanctions were tightened last month after Pyongyang conducted its fifth and largest nuclear test on 9 September.

A successful ICBM test launch would mark a significant step forward for secretive Pyongyang's weapons capability. ICBMs have a minimum range of about 5,500 km (3,418 miles), but some are designed to travel 10,000 km or further.

The US state of California is roughly 9,000 km from North Korea.

However, North Korea has



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives a New Year address for 2017 in this undated picture provided by KCNA in Pyongyang on 1 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

struggled to reliably deploy its intermediate-range Musudan ballistic missile, succeeding just once in eight attempted launches last year.

The Musudan is designed to fly about 3,000 km (1,860 miles), posing a threat to South Korea and Japan, and possibly the US territory of Guam.

South Korea's defence ministry declined to comment on whether North Korea would test launch an ICBM soon.

According to a senior US intelligence official, President-elect Donald Trump's first and at that

time only request for a special classified intelligence briefing was for one on North Korea and its nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea and its nuclear programme has also been of interest to retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, Trump's choice for national security advisor and a former director of the Defence Intelligence Agency.

An Chan-il, a former North Korean military officer who defected to the South and runs a think tank in Seoul, said Kim will gauge Trump's comments about

his country for potential interest in dialogue and determine whether to try and conduct an ICBM test launch.

"If Trump comes in and the North does not get a good signal in terms of how the relationship between the two countries is going to go, that'll give them another reason to do it," An said.

Kim also said that the North would continue to develop its pre-emptive nuclear strike capability if the United States and South Korea continue to conduct annual joint military exercises.

There are 28,500 US troops based in South Korea, and North Korean state media often describes annual joint exercises as preparation for an attack.

In February, North Korea launched a satellite into space, which was widely seen as a test of long-range ballistic missile technology.

A senior US military official said last month that North Korea appears able to mount a miniaturised nuclear warhead on a missile but is still struggling with missile re-entry technology necessary for longer range strikes.

Although it fired a variety of missile types last year, North Korea is not known to have test-launched a ballistic missile since October.—Reuters

Antigovernment protest marks New Year's Day in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — More than 1,000 people took to the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday to protest against the government's plan to disqualify, through court, pro-democracy lawmakers who have been accused of not pledging true allegiance to China.

"No to Basic Law interpretation! Withdraw judicial reviews! We want true universal suffrage!" the crowd chanted in the New Year's Day march, while also calling for democracy in the territory.

China's parliament gave an "interpretation" in November to Hong Kong's Basic Law, the mini-constitution in effect since the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule in 1997, aimed at stopping anti-China advocates from taking public office in the territory.

Hong Kong courts are bound by the interpretation, which was the fifth since the handover and which was criticized for infringing upon the rule of law.

Lecturer Lau Siu-lai, surveyor Edward Yiu, student group leader Nathan Law and veteran radical Leung Kwok-hung stand accused of "declining or neglecting" to take the oath of office during the legislature's swearing-in ceremony on 12 October. The government has requested the High Court revoke their lawmaker status. Court hearings are scheduled for next month.

"The people are angry that the government uses the interpretation to rip us off our seats," Law said before joining the march.

"We should resort to different means to oppose abuse of the judicial system," Leung added.

The lawsuit comes on the heels of an earlier court ruling that disqualified Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching, of localist group Youngspiration, which promotes self-determination for Hong Kong.

"How can the government use the judicial system to disqualify our elected lawmakers? Can we do the same and disqualify the officials?" a laundry shop worker identified by surname Chan, 67, said. "This is political persecution."

Dubbed "long hair" for his signature hairstyle, Leung Kwok-hung, held a yellow umbrella and tore up a prop of a Chinese document while chanting for democracy and self-determination for Hong Kong after taking his oath.

Yiu, who failed in his first attempt at the oath by adding a phrase about safeguarding justice in Hong Kong and fighting for democracy, had to take the oath a second time.

Law used varied tones while taking the oath, while Lau read her oath in a chopped up manner.—Kyodo News

Smog in northern China shuts highways, causes cancelled flights

BEIJING — Heavy smog in northern China on Sunday caused hundreds of flights to be cancelled and highways to shut, disrupting the first day of the new year holiday.

Large parts of the north were hit by hazardous smog in mid-December, leading authorities to order hundreds of factories to close

and to restrict motorists to cut emissions. The latest bout of air pollution began on Friday and is expected to persist until Thursday, although it will ease slightly on Monday, the last day of the new year holiday.

In Beijing, 24 flights were cancelled at the city's main airport and all buses from there to

neighbouring cities suspended, the airport said in a statement on its official microblog.

Average concentrations of small breathable particles known as PM2.5 were higher than 500 micrograms per cubic metre in Beijing — 50 times higher than World Health Organization recommendations. In Tianjin, Bei-

jing's next door metropolis, the smog was not as serious but visibility much worse, with more than 200 flights cancelled at Tianjin airport and conditions not expected to improve in the near term, the city government said. Some bus routes and highways in Tianjin were also closed due to the smog, the government added.—Reuters

More than 20 killed, dozens injured after fire on Indonesian tourist boat

JAKARTA — Twenty three people were killed and dozens injured on Sunday after a fire ripped through a boat carrying nearly 250 people to islands north of the Indonesian capital Jakarta, the city's search and rescue agency said.

The Zahro Express caught fire shortly after leaving Muara Angke port in North Jakarta. The cause of the fire was thought to be a short circuit on a power generator, said police.

"Thick smoke suddenly emerged, blanketing the cabin," said survivor Ardi who was being treated in a Jakarta hospital.

"All passengers panicked and ran up to the deck to throw floats into the water.

In a split second, the fire becomes bigger coming from where fuel is stored," said Ardi, who was on the boat with his son.

The boat was towed back to port where a Reuters witness

saw victims in body bags being removed from the badly charred ship. According to the head of Jakarta's search and rescue agency, Hendra Sudirman, 248

people were on board, more than double the previous estimate of 100, and out of more than 200 people rescued, 32 were being treated at hospitals in Jakarta.

Sea accidents are frequent in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago, with vessels often overloaded and having too few life jackets on board.—Reuters



Police and rescue workers search a boat for victims at Muara Angke port in Jakarta, Indonesia on 1 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

France's Hollande warns against nationalism in New Year address

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande on Saturday warned against the risks of rising nationalism in his last New Year address ahead of the election of his successor next spring.

Hollande, who said this month he would not seek a second term in 2017, defended his legacy as president and addressed the policies of the anti-immigration and anti-euro National Front, whose leader Marine Le Pen is set to make it to the second round of the election, if recent polls are correct.

"There are periods in history when everything may change dramatically. We're in one of them," Hollande said in an address that was broadcast on French television.

"How can we imagine our country being curled up behind walls, reduced to its internal market, going back to its national currency and, on top of that, discriminating between its own

children according to their origins?" he said.

Hollande, who did not directly name the FN, mentioned British voters' decision in June to leave the European Union, and the US presidential election won by Donald Trump in November, as events that demonstrated that democracy, freedom and peace were "vulnerable and reversible".

He also warned against the calling into question of the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change.

"France will not let anybody or any state, be it the biggest one, call into question this major achievement of the international community," Hollande said.

US President-elect Trump has called global warming a hoax and has promised to quit the Paris Agreement, which was strongly supported by outgoing Democratic President Barack Obama.

Hollande's comments on Brexit in particular echoed those made earlier on Saturday by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel, seeking a fourth term as chancellor in 2017, described 2016 as a year that gave many the impression that the world had "turned upside down".

In her address, she compared Brexit to a "deep incision" and said that even though the EU was "slow and arduous", its member states should focus on common interests that transcend national benefits.

In a statement following Hollande's address, Le Pen brushed off his criticism.

"Talking of isolation for a project that, on the contrary, takes part in the flow of history, after Brexit and Donald Trump's election ... is a clear misunderstanding of the world's evolution and peoples' deep aspirations," Le Pen said. —Reuters



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (L) greets US Senator John McCain during a meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, on 30 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Senator McCain says US stands with Ukraine against Russia

KIEV — Republican US Senator John McCain promised on Saturday continued support for Kiev in the face of aggression from Moscow, as he spent New Year's Eve on the front line in Ukraine's eastern conflict zone.

McCain was one of a bipartisan group of 27 US senators who sent a letter to President-elect Donald Trump in December, urging him to take a tough line against Russia over what they termed its "military land grab" in Ukraine.

"I send the message from the American people - we are with you, your fight is our fight and we will win together," McCain

was quoted as saying by Ukrainian President Poroshenko's press service.

"In 2017 we will defeat the invaders and send them back where they came from. To Vladimir Putin - you will never defeat the Ukrainian people and deprive them of their independence and freedom," McCain said after a visit to a military base in the southeastern town of Shyrokyne.

Trump signaled during his campaign that he might take a softer line in dealings with Moscow, repeatedly praising Russian President Putin's leadership.

Trump's election caused jitters in Ukraine but officials in Kiev hope that the incoming president's policies, influenced by Republican hawks and a Republican-voting Ukrainian diaspora, will be friendlier towards Ukraine than his campaign rhetoric might have suggested.

Ukraine has relied on Western support and economic aid since street protests in 2014 which toppled a Kremlin-backed president and were followed by a war with pro-Russian separatists and Russia's annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Erdogan says Turkey will fight to end against terror attacks

ISTANBUL — President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkey would fight to the end against all forms of attack by terror groups and their backers after a gunman killed 39 people in a shooting spree at an Istanbul nightclub.

"As a nation, we will fight to the end against not just the armed attacks of terror groups and the forces behind them, but also against their economic, political and social attacks," Erdogan said in a written statement.

"They are trying to create chaos, demoralize our people, and destabilize our country with abominable attacks which target civilians ... We will retain our cool-headedness as a nation, standing more closely together, and we will never give ground to such dirty games," he said. —Reuters

German police screen hundreds of North Africans at Cologne station

COLOGNE — German police said they screened hundreds of North Africans on New Year's Eve at the main railway station in the western city of Cologne, where hundreds of women were sexually assaulted and robbed during celebrations a year ago.

Last year's attacks in Cologne, where police said the suspects were mainly of North African and Arab appearance, fueled criticism of Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to allow over a million asylum seekers into Germany in 2015 and 2016.

"Hundreds of Nafri screened at main railway station," Cologne police tweeted using a colloquial expression for North Africans. With the tweet, the police showed a picture of a large group of men waiting behind barriers.

Police installed new video surveillance cameras to monitor the station square in Cologne this New Year's Eve. —Reuters

France's Hollande says to visit Iraq Monday

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande on Saturday said he would visit Iraq on Monday to salute troops which are taking part in a US-led military coalition against the Islamic State.

"We're not done with the plight of terrorism. We have to keep on fighting it," Hollande said in a New Year address to the nation that was broadcast on French television.

"This is the reason for our military operations abroad, in Mali, in Syria, in Iraq -- Iraq where I'll be going the day after tomorrow to salute our troops." —Reuters

80-year-old tuna trader at Tsukiji market shelves retirement

TOKYO — Yutaka Kadono, an 80-year-old tuna trader at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market, meant to retire at the end of October after developing glaucoma in his left eye, which began to affect his ability to examine the freshness of fish at the early morning auctions.

But after the Tokyo metropolitan government decided to postpone the relocation of the market to the nearby Toyosu area, which had been scheduled for November, Kadono bowed to requests from a number of sushi restaurants and other clients to continue buying tuna for them.

"I feel grateful to the clients for supporting my business for a long time," said Kadono, who has been working at the market for 62 years. He has decided to postpone retirement and continue working at least until the market's relocation is resolved. —Kyodo News

Obama offers US assistance to Turkey after Istanbul attack

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama expressed condolences on Saturday for the attack at a night club in Istanbul and directed his team to offer US help to Turkish authorities, the White House said.

"This afternoon the president was briefed by his national security team on the attack in Istanbul," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said in a statement.

"The president expressed condolences for the innocent lives lost, directed his team to offer appropriate assistance to the Turkish authorities, as necessary, and keep him updated as warranted."

Obama is on vacation in Hawaii. —Reuters

Opinion

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Respect the code of conduct

Editorial from
the Mirror Daily
(Kyemon) dated
1st January
2017

Translated by
Kyaw Myaing

THE Media booklet which outlines the code of conduct and standards for media people which should be followed by all media people who live in Myanmar has been distributed on 3 May 2014. This booklet is based on paragraph 19, of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights which relates to a fundamental freedom such as "freedom of expression". Thus it may be said that media people can have adequate rights.

This right is not only for "freedom of expression" but also relates to the rights and responsibilities of those who receive these rights. News media includes printed media and electronic media. Since the word "news media" covers a large territory and is deeply connected with the State and all aspects of society, it has even been designated as the Fourth Estate. Therefore media people will have adequate rights as well as the need accept re-

sponsibility and behave responsibly. During this time when democracy flourishes, media people have the duty to be precise, balanced, fair and respect for others. They need to preserve and abide by the highest level of professional ethics, standards and code of conduct.

We may say that in practice, there have been weaknesses in conducting in accordance with professional ethics, standards and code of conduct. That is why we have seen that there have been law suits, criminal cases and throwing blame and condemnations at each other.

If we look at how much the media people have observed professional ethics, standards and code of conduct, we have seen that there have been daily acts of non-observance of the said standards and code of conduct, in the area of social media which forms part of electronic media, rather than in the area of printed media.

Online news media which has

been called social media, is a social network which covers a larger territory than printed media. We can see that there is a total disregard for observation of codes of conduct, professional ethics or standards in this area. Although there are media agencies who take responsibility with regard to their work, we have also seen that there are those who share news on Face Book. We may or may not know who these people are. Because of news and pictures shared by people who may euphemistically be called "Citizens Journalists", there have been good results, we have seen that there have been instances where we have observed bad results in cases where the dignity and reputation of individuals have been hurt and damaged. In the world of news media where there is freedom but also teeming with lot of complications, those who use these social networks should make sure that they are aware of the easy and simple rules

which should be observed in this domain.

These relate to cases where the dignity and reputation of individuals are hurt and damaged. The "citizen journalist" who are citizens of the country, should either black out or smudge the face of the "suspect" or the person whose reputation and dignity has been hurt or damaged. Any person against whom action is being taken as a suspect should be considered to be innocent until this person has been convicted. The victim of the crime who has been killed or injured has suffered a tragic loss. It should be understood that this type of event can cause a deep trauma for the family and all those around such a person. Special care should be taken in cases where the story involves young children.

We therefore urge that stories should be shared with good intention and with due respect and observance of professional ethics, codes of conduct and standards.

Independence Day Posterity should Never Ever Forget

Maung Thaung Win
(Ex-diplomat)

ON July 13, 1947, Bogyoke Aung San, the Architect of our Independence, gave the people a verbal warning speech at the mass meeting held at the City Hall in Yangon, "So long as the country is void of unity both among the nationals and the people, the country will still be the **blankety-blank** country under any ruling party or government, though independent. I want to say like this."

Bogyoke's speech is not euphemistic to ears, but it is concise and meaningful. He stressed the important fact every citizen must always keep in their minds. It is still right until now. The essence of the speech will always be right until the end of the world. He warned how much important national solidarity was in building up the nation, as the forethought about the future of the country.

Independence Lost

Long ago, in the reign of ancient Myanmar kings, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stood tall in the midst of world countries. Yet, after 3 invasions of colonialists in later part of Konbaung Dynasty, the country fell completely into the hand of the colonialists on 1st January, 1886. At that time, edifices of all citizens' hope were lost.

The national people fought against the colonialists with their weapons, such as it was. Due to the great difference of the volumes of firearms between the two sides and lack of systematic and organized fighting tactics, Myanmar faced

defeats only. They, however, did not abandon their spirits of wanting to fight against colonialists and to achieve independence. Depending upon chances that occurred to them, they did fight against them.

Patriotism Increased

Starting from 1920s, spirit of patriotism strengthened among youths. They launched activities by forming YMBA, GCBA and DAA (Dobama Asiayone—We Burmans Association). From there, national movements—Workers' Revolution, Peasants' Association & 1300 BE Revolution were born. There remarkably appeared a patriotic youth of iron spirit conceived in his mind, with an unswerving resolution to achieve Independence. He was none other than Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar Independence, who existed and will exist for ever in the hearts of all Myanmar people.

Independence Gained

Burma Independence Army to drive colonialists from Myanmar's Land was initially formed on 26 December in 1941, in Bangkok by 30 comrades led by Bogyoke Aung San. From then on, a glimmer of hope for the independence was vaguely seen. On account of wholehearted support of the people, concerted efforts of the Tatmataw and the arduous devotion to independence, Myanmar gained its Independence on 4 January in 1948, reaching 69th anniversary of Independence on 4 January 2017.

The Independence Day is a day of nobility for Myanmar People. On that day, in villages and towns across the nation, stone monuments with written declaration which reads—on 9 Waning of

Pyatho, 1309 ME, Myanmar, our country became the independent and sovereign State, "the Republic of the Union of Myanmar"

Evil Legacy Left

Though able to achieve independence by driving away colonialists from Myanmar land, the country was left with evil legacies. That is, disintegration among brethren led to increasing doubts and armed conflicts. Some nationals are still taking arms. As a result, peace covering the whole country could not be implemented to the full. Noises of fighting are being heard in some areas sorrowfully.

It is going into 70 years that we gained independence. Demands through armed conflicts are not beneficial deeds. Only round-table talks can lead us—brethren who live on the same land and share woes and benefits, to win-win solution.

To Make Independence Survive For Ever

National solidarity plays a vital role for sustainable survival of the independence of a country. With the deterioration of solidarity, the country will bring about negative results. For example, we should take lessons from Syria and Libya in the Middle East. People in those countries are suffering a lot of troubles and children are losing their future.

In addition, if solidarity is dissolved, its country can be broken into pieces, like Soviet Union. Whatever it is, national solidarity is a driving force for the development of a country. So it is necessary to get rid of doubts among brethren and to build up eternal peace.

Successive governments sculpted various shapes of the country's Peace. The incumbent government is also implementing the task. In October, 2015, Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed, with Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong held successfully in August 2016. And, it has been being arranged to hold 2nd Union Peace Conference in February 2017.

Build Up Strengthened Solidarity

Only then watertight solidarity can be built among our brethren, will the strength of the country be great. Any countries dare not invade and make aggressions against a country of great strength. That is to say, that country can safeguard its independence & sovereignty eternally through the power of solidarity.

Every citizen living in Myanmar is responsible to maintain the independence and sovereignty of the country for ever. So as to perform our responsibilities dutifully and become good citizens of great value, we should try our best. Especially, armed ethnic groups which did not cease fires yet should find solutions through dialogues with the government. Local populace living in areas which did not achieve peace yet, are feeling hatred for aimless wars and battles.

Respect For Bogyoke's Words

In term of independence, Bogyoke Aung San gave a noteworthy word on 13 July in 1947, "If you want to achieve independence, you need to live in accord with disciplines which are access to independence, concurrently to maintain unity and to rehabilitate. After performing these, if you want to

enjoy the taste of independence, it is necessary for you all, to work hard, to be disciplined and to correct yourselves of your evil and old habits." These are Bogyoke's speech with a good intention (Cetana speech). Value of independence is well convinced just at the time when we are not free, that is, we live under the influence of others. National people sacrificed their lives in fighting for independence. It is the responsibility of new generations to maintain it. Presently, people have had freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of belief, right to access of getting education, right to invest and other rights. Had we have no solidarity and lived in negligence, those rights and freedom will be lost in a moment.

Responsibility of every individual

To sum up, it is incumbent upon all citizens in the country to keep independence in perpetuity. The independence can be maintained through the solidarity built among people only. Our forefathers gave their lives for regaining the independence which was lost easily. It is reasonable to love and value the independence that claimed many lives. Present young generation does not have bitter experiences of living under the conditions of lack of freedom, thus they are likely to forget the essence of independence. Therefore, in honor of 69th Independence Day, I described in the present contribution that our posterity need to love and value the Independence Day that is vital for the country and the people.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

39 killed in Istanbul nightclub gun attack, manhunt under way Dozens dead in Turkish nightclub attack

ISTANBUL — A lone gunman opened fire on New Year revelers at a packed nightclub on the shores of Istanbul's Bosphorus waterway on Sunday killing at least 39 people, including many foreigners, then fled the scene.

Some people jumped into the Bosphorus waters to save themselves after the attacker opened fire at random in the Reina nightclub just an hour into the new year.

Officials spoke of a single attacker but some reports, including on social media, suggested there may have been more, at least one of them wearing a Santa Claus costume which he ditched in order to escape.

The attack shook NATO member Turkey as it tries to recover from a failed July coup and a series of deadly bombings in cities including Istanbul and the capital Ankara, some blamed on Islamic State and others claimed by Kurdish militants.

Security services had been on alert across Europe for new year celebrations following an attack on a Christmas market in Berlin that killed 12 people. Only days ago, an online message from a pro-Islamic State group called for attacks by "lone wolves" on "celebrations,

gatherings and clubs".

The Hurriyet newspaper cited witnesses as saying the attackers shouted in Arabic as they opened fire at Reina.

"We were having fun. All of a sudden people started to run. My husband said don't be afraid, and he jumped on me. People ran over me. My husband was hit in three places," one club-goer, Sinem Uyanik, told the newspaper.

"I managed to push through and get out, it was terrible," she said, describing seeing people soaked in blood.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said 15 or 16 of those killed were foreigners but that only 21 of the bodies had so far been identified. He said 69 people were in hospital, four of them in a critical condition.

"A manhunt for the terrorist is underway. Police have launched operations. We hope the attacker will be captured soon," he told reporters.

Turkey is part of the US-led coalition against Islamic State and launched an incursion into Syria in August to drive the radical Sunni militants from its borders. It also helped broker a fragile ceasefire in Syria with Russia.



Ambulances line up on a road leading to a nightclub where a gun attack took place during a New Year party in Istanbul, Turkey, on 1 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Reina club is one of Istanbul's most well known and is popular with locals and foreigners alike. It overlooks the Bosphorus Strait separating Europe and Asia in the city's cosmopolitan Ortakoy district.

As many as 600 people were

thought to have been inside when the gunman shot dead a policeman at the door, forced his way in and then opened fire.

Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin said the attacker had used a "long-range weapon" to "brutally and savagely" fire on people, ap-

parently referring to some form of assault rifle.

US President Barack Obama, on vacation in Hawaii, expressed condolences and directed his team to offer help to the Turkish authorities, the White House said. —Reuters

UN Security Council welcomes Syria truce, rebels warn they could abandon it

BEIRUT — The United Nations Security Council on Saturday welcomed a ceasefire in the Syrian civil war, but rebel groups threatened to abandon the two-day-old truce if violations persisted.

A resolution welcoming the ceasefire, the third truce this year seeking to end nearly six years of war, was adopted unanimously by the 15-member Council, meeting in New York.

The deal, brokered by Russia

and Turkey, which back opposing sides, reduced violence, but firefights, air strikes and shelling went on in some areas.

A twin suicide bombing killed at least two people in the Syrian coastal city of Tartous in an area under government control and in President Bashar al-Assad's coastal heartland shortly after midnight on Sunday, state media and monitors reported.

The attack killed at least two

security officers and wounded several other people when two suicide bombers blew themselves up after being stopped, Syrian state media reported, in the first targeting of the area for several months. Factions belonging to the Free Syrian Army (FSA) — a loose alliance of militias excluding more radical Islamist groups — said government forces and Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah fighters had been trying

to push rebels back in the Wadi Barada valley, northwest of Damascus. "Continued violations by the regime and bombardment and attempts to attack areas under the control of the revolutionary factions will make the agreement null and void," said a statement from the rebel groups.

The rebels and political opposition said the government side was massing forces to launch a ground attack in the area. There has been no new announcement by the military since it launched operations in the area last week.

FSA factions said in a separate statement that they would abandon the truce deal if Russia, whose air power has helped President Bashar al-Assad to turn the tide of the war, did not use its influence to halt the Wadi Barada attacks by 8 pm (1800 GMT).

Later, two rebel officials said air raids around Wadi Barada had stopped just before 8 pm and that the ceasefire therefore still held, although clashes in the area were continuing.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group confirmed that there had been fighting in the area, source of most of the capital's water, and said there had also been government shelling in the southern provinces of Quneitra and Deraa. —Reuters



Rebel fighters walk near damaged buildings in al-Rai town, northern Aleppo countryside, Syria, on 30 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Burundi minister shot dead in capital: police

NAIROBI — A gunman killed Burundi's environment minister early on Sunday, police said, the first murder of a senior government figure in nearly two years of political violence.

Emmanuel Niyonkuru, 54, was attacked as he travelled home in the central African nation's capital Bujumbura, police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said in a tweet.

Violent protests erupted early in 2015 after President Pierre Nkurunziza said he would seek a third term - a move opponents said violated the constitution and a peace deal that ended an ethnically charged civil war.

At least 450 people have died in clashes between protesters and security forces, tit-for-tat killings and a failed coup, stoking fears of wider unrest in a region still haunted by the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda. "The minister of water and environment was shot ... as he was getting home," police spokesman Nkurikiye said. A woman with the minister had been arrested for questioning, he added.

President Nkurunziza said on Twitter the minister had been assassinated and offered condolences "to the family and all Burundians".

Nkurunziza went on to win re-election in July 2015 in a poll largely boycotted by the opposition. —Reuters

Growth in China's factories, services slows in December — official PMI

BEIJING — China's manufacturing sector expanded for a fifth month in December, but growth slowed a touch more than expected in a sign that government measures to rein in soaring asset prices are starting to have a knock-on effect on the broader economy.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 51.4 in December compared with 51.7 in November. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion on a monthly basis while one below 50 suggests a contraction.

December's reading was slightly below the forecast in a Reuters poll for 51.5.

A housing boom in the second half of 2016 and a government spending spree on infrastructure have helped boost prices for commodities from cement to steel, giving the manufacturing sector a much-needed lift.

But the government is cracking down on speculative property buying, and signals from policymakers that more will be done to contain asset bubbles and rising debt — even at the expense of slower growth — means extra stimulus measures could be limited.



A worker sprinkles water onto a road at a construction site in Beijing, China, on 31 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ited.

"Today's PMI figures suggest that the change of policy tone has taken its toll, as the authorities are seriously concerned about the asset bubbles," said Zhou Hao, senior economist at

Commerzbank.

Factory output slowed in December, with the sub-index hitting 53.3 compared with 53.9 the previous month.

Total new orders were flat at 53.2, logging the same as in No-

vember, while new export orders fell to 50.1 from 50.3.

Jobs were again lost, with the employment sub-index sitting at 48.9, compared to 49.2 in November, as the country pledged to cut excess capacity over a range

of industries.

A sub-index for smaller firms fell, and performance for larger companies also worsened.

The Markit/Caixin PMI, a private gauge of manufacturing activity which focuses more on small- and mid-sized firms, is due on 3 January.

Analysts in a Reuters poll expect it to fall to 50.7 from the previous month's reading of 50.9.

A separate reading on the services sector showed the pace of growth slowed in December, Sunday's data showed.

The official non-manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 54.5 in December, down from 54.7 in November, but well above the 50-point mark.

China is counting on growth in services — which account for more than half of gross domestic product — to offset persistent softness in exports that is dragging on the economy. Private investment has also remained stubbornly weak.

But GDP still looks set to hit Beijing's 2016 growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent, after expanding 6.7 percent for each of the first three quarters.—Reuters

Code associated with Russia hacking found on Vermont utility computer

RUTLAND COUNTY, (Vermont) — A code associated with a broad Russian hacking campaign dubbed Grizzly Steppe by the Obama administration has been detected on a laptop associated with a Vermont electric utility but not connected to the grid, the utility said on Friday.

"We took immediate action to isolate the laptop and alerted federal officials of this finding," the Burlington Electric Department said in a statement.

"Our team is working with federal officials to trace this malware and prevent any other attempts to infiltrate utility systems. We have briefed state officials and will support the investigation fully." The Department of Homeland Security alerted utilities on Thursday night about a malware code used in Grizzly Steppe, the Burlington Electric Department said.

"We acted quickly to scan all computers in our system for the malware signature. We detected the malware in a single Burlington Electric Department laptop not connected to our organization's grid systems," it said.

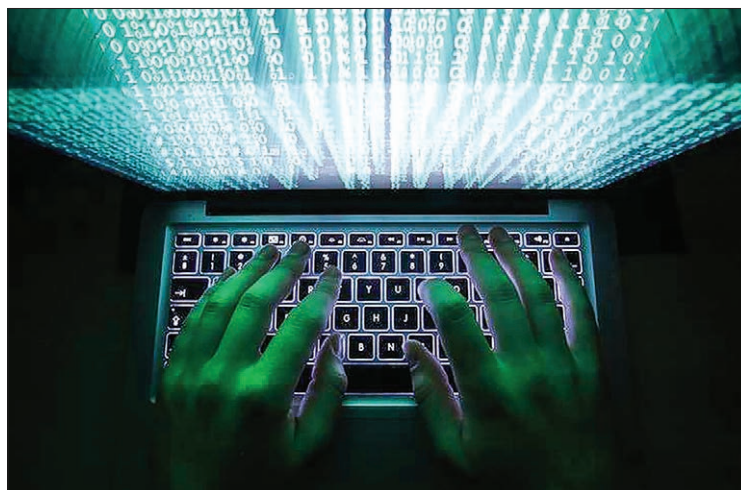
The matched malware code on the laptop may have resulted from a relatively benign episode, such as visiting a questionable website, a source familiar with the matter said, suggesting Russian hackers may not have been directly involved. It was not clear when the incident occurred.

On Thursday, President Barack Obama ordered the expulsion of 35 Russian suspected spies and imposed sanctions on two Russian

intelligence agencies over their involvement in hacking US political groups in the 2016 presidential election. The statement came after a Washington Post report that Russian hackers penetrated a Vermont utility. Government and utility industry officials regularly monitor the nation's electrical grid because it is highly computerized and any disruptions can have disastrous implications for the functioning of medical and emergency services, the Post said. A senior Obama administration official said the administration had sought in its sanctions announcement on Thursday to alert "all network defenders" in the United States so they could "defend against Russian malicious cyber activity." The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "This intrusion by itself was a minor incident that caused

no damage," a US intelligence official familiar with the incident and critical of Russian actions said on Friday night. "However, we are taking it seriously because it has been tracked to familiar entities involved in a much broader and government-directed campaign in cyberspace and because the electric grid is a vulnerable and interconnected part of the nation's critical infrastructure," the official said.

Russia is widely considered responsible by US officials and private-sector security experts for a December 2015 hack of Ukraine's power grid that knocked out the lights for about 250,000 people. That hack prompted National Security Agency chief Mike Rogers to say at a conference in March that it was a "matter of when, not if" a cyber adversary carried out a similar attack against the United States.—Reuters



A man types on a computer keyboard in Warsaw in this 28 February, 2013 illustration file picture. PHOTO: REUTERS

Swiss watch sector set for smartwatch boom — LVMH executive

BERN — Switzerland's luxury watch sector can profit from a smartwatch boom as more consumers seek high-end versions of the technology, an industry veteran was quoted as saying.

Swiss watchmakers, who once dismissed smartwatches as a fashion accessory, are racing to grab a share of a fast-growing market via technology partnerships and stepping up investments.

"If it is true that Apple has sold around 20 million Apple Watches and has a market share of around 50 percent, then the potential is enormous," said Jean-Claude Biver, head of LVMH watch brands including TAG Heuer, Hublot and Zenith.

"A luxury market arises as soon as people want to differentiate themselves from the mass-

es. That is the case here as well. With our know-how, Swiss quality and prestige we have the best preconditions to master this segment too," he told Swiss paper SonntagsBlick.

TAG Heuer, for instance, partnered with US technology firms Google and Intel for its TAG Heuer Connected watch, whose first units offered at just under 1,400 Swiss francs (\$1,375) apiece sold out quickly last year.

The Swiss watch industry, which includes Swatch and Richemont, may overall be selling fewer timepieces as exports decline 15 months in a row but it is not facing an existential crisis as in the 1970s, Biver said.

He said the industry was instead consolidating as top brands boost market share.—Reuters

Apple to cut iPhone production in first quarter of 2017: report

LOS ANGELES — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) will trim production of iPhones by about 10 percent in the January-March quarter of 2017, the Nikkei financial daily reported on Thursday, citing calculations based on data from suppliers.

The company had slashed

output by 30 percent in January-March this year due to accumulated inventory, the paper said.

Apple's shares were down 0.84 percent in midday trading, in line with the Nasdaq stock index.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on the report.—Reuters

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	1,5,6,7
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	15:45	19:15	2,4,6,7
UB-017	17:45	19:15	1,3,5
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:20	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	07:00	11:30	7
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3K-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-001	7:30	11:45	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-2351	10:10	11:00	1,5,6,7
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6,7

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	12:30	15:45	7
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:40	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3K-581	09:10	10:40	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:00	20:15	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:35	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,4,6

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:40	15:35	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	14:00	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,5

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	3,5,6

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT to BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International

BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines

MH = Malaysia Airlines

MU = China Eastern Airlines

NH = All Nippon Airways

SQ = Singapore Airways

PG = Bangkok Airways

UB = Myanmar National Airlines

VN = Vietnam Airline

3K = Jet Star

AI = Air India

CI = China Airlines

DD = Nok Airline

KA = Dragonair

MI = Silk Air

TG = Thai Airways

AK = Air Asia

CA = Air China

CZ = China Southern

FD = Air Asia

KE = Korea Airlines

QR = Qatar Airways

TR = Tiger Airline

DAY

1 = Monday

2 = Tuesday

3 = Wednesday

4 = Thursday

5 = Friday

6 = Saturday

7 = Sunday

China confirms another human bird flu case

BEIJING — Health authorities in the southern China province of Jiangxi have confirmed a new case of a person infected by the H7N9 strain of avian influenza, state news agency Xinhua said late on Saturday.

The 53-year-old man is being treated in hospital in provincial capital Nanchang and is in a critical condition, Xinhua said in a brief report.

A total of 17 people have been infected with bird flu in China so far this winter, at least two of whom have died.

The last major bird flu outbreak in mainland China — from late 2013 to early 2014 — killed 36 people and led to more than \$6 billion in losses for the agricultural sector.

China has culled more than 170,000 birds in four provinces

since October and closed some live poultry markets after people and birds were infected by strains of the avian flu.

China's Ministry of Agriculture said on Friday the recent outbreaks of bird flu have been handled in a "timely and effective" manner without spreading and have not affected chicken products or prices. —Reuters

Violence spreads like a contagious infection among friends

COLUMBUS — Adolescents who engaged in violent activities were more likely to have friends — and friends of friends — who had been violent, a new study shows.

"Violent acts tend to cluster through social networks, and they spread like a contagious disease spreads from one person to another," the study's senior author Brad Bushman said in a phone interview.

A psychology and communications professor at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Bushman analyzed interviews from the 1990s with nearly 6,000 American students in grades seven through twelve.

Compared to students whose friends had never hurt anyone, kids with a friend who had badly hurt someone were themselves 183 per cent more likely to report having badly hurt someone, too,

the report in the American Journal of Public Health shows.

If a friend had pulled a weapon on someone, the youth were 140 per cent more likely to have pulled a weapon, and if a friend had been involved in a serious fight, the youth were 48 per cent more likely to have been in a serious fight.

Interviewers asked the students to name up to five boys and five girls they considered friends at their schools.

In male students alone, the likelihood of seriously hurting someone rose 82 per cent for each additional friend who had seriously hurt someone.

The association extended beyond immediate friends and friends of friends with four degrees of separation for serious fights and three degrees of separation for threatening someone with

a weapon. "It's the first study we know of to see how far it spreads — up to four degrees, which is pretty amazing," Bushman said.

Dr Gary Slutkin, an epidemiologist and infectious-disease control specialist, fully expected the results.

"You're doing what your friend is doing, who's doing what his friend is doing," he told Reuters Health. "You're not thinking about consequences. You're thinking about what your friends do."

"This is one of now hundreds of studies that, if you add them all up, there's no way of seeing it other than violence being a contagious epidemic health problem," said Slutkin, founder of Cure Violence at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama participates in his last news conference of the year at the White House before leaving for his annual Hawaiian Christmas holiday in Washington, US on 16 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Obama to meet lawmakers in attempt to protect health law

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama plans to meet Democratic lawmakers in Congress next week to discuss how to protect his signature healthcare law from Republican efforts to dismantle it, a White House official said on Friday.

Obama, who is leaving office on 20 January, will attend a meeting with Democrats from the House of Representatives and the Senate on Wednesday, the official said.

During the session, Obama will warn Democrats that allowing Republican lawmakers to scrap the Affordable Care Act before pro-

posing a replacement would create "chaos" in the US healthcare system, according to the official.

Republicans, who control both chambers of Congress, have said they will quickly repeal Obamacare, but will delay the implementation of the repeal for two to three years as they develop a new plan.

Republican President-elect Donald Trump campaigned on a pledge to get rid of the 2010 healthcare law. He promised to replace the law with a plan to give states more control over Medicaid and allow insurers to sell plans nationally.—Reuters

Trump leaves open possible Taiwan meet, questions Russia hacking

PALM BEACH, (Fla.) — US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday left open the possibility of meeting with Taiwan's president if she visits the United States after he is sworn in on 20 January and also expressed continued scepticism over whether Russia was responsible for computer hacks of Democratic Party officials.

In remarks to reporters upon entering a New Year's Eve celebration at his Mar-a-Lago estate, Trump said, "We'll see," when pressed on whether he would meet Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's president if she were to be in the United States at any point after he becomes president.

Taiwan's president will be in transit in Houston on 7 January and again will be in transit in San Francisco on 13 January.

Trump, citing protocol, said he would not meet with any foreign leaders while President Barack Obama is still in office.

Beijing bristled when Trump, shortly after his 8 November victory, accepted a congratulatory telephone call from the Taiwan leader and has warned against steps that would upset the "one-China" policy China and the United States have maintained for decades.

Talk of a stop-over in the United States by the Tai-



US President-elect Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

wan president has further rattled Washington-Beijing relations.

On another foreign policy matter, Trump warned against being quick to pin

the blame on Russia for the hacking of US emails. The Washington Post also reported on Friday that Moscow could be behind intrusion into a laptop owned by

a Vermont electric utility.

US intelligence officials have said that they are confident Russia was behind the hacks of political figures, which could have played a role in Trump's defeat over Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

"I think it's unfair if we don't know. It could be somebody else. I also know things that other people don't know so we cannot be sure," Trump said.

Asked what that information included, the Republican President-elect said, "You will find out on Tuesday or Wednesday."

He did not elaborate.

But he said that any

computer is subject to hacks.

"It's very important. If you have something really important write it out and have it delivered by courier the old fashioned way," Trump said, adding, "No computer is safe, I don't care what they say."

Trump tried to end the year on a positive note, however, despite questions about the future of US-Russia relations because of escalating tensions between Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as Trump's promise to crack down on China's trade practices, which he says unfairly target American workers.—

Reuters

UK minister sees threat of Islamic State chemical attack in Britain

LONDON — Islamic State militants have aspirations to launch mass-casualty chemical attacks on targets in Britain and elsewhere in Europe, the British security minister said in a newspaper interview published on Sunday.

Ben Wallace also said British authorities feared that as the militant group was driven out of strongholds in the Middle East such as the Iraqi city of Mosul, Britons fighting for the group would return home and pose a growing domestic threat.

"The ambition of IS or Daesh is definitely mass-casualty attacks," Wallace told the Sunday Times newspaper.

"They have no moral objection to using chemical weapons against populations and if they could, they would in this country. The casualty figures that could be involved would be everybody's worst fear."

The report said no specific chemical plot had been identified but security services had been carrying out exercises to prepare for the possibility.

Islamic State used sulphur mustard gas in an attack on the Syrian town of Marea in August 2015, according to global

watchdog the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Wallace pointed to the dismantlement of an Islamic State cell in Morocco in February as evidence of the group's ambition to carry out chemical attacks elsewhere.

"Moroccan authorities dismantled a cell involving chemical weapons. They recovered toxic chemical and biological substances and a large stock of fertiliser. The substances found could have been used to produce home-made explosives and could have been transformed into a deadly toxin," he said.

About 800 Britons are thought to have travelled to Syria, many to join Islamic State, since the outbreak of the civil war in that country. Around 100 have been killed.

"The big concern is if Mosul collapses and all the other bases of Isis (Islamic State) collapse. We know there are a significant number of [Britons] fighting for IS in Syria. They will probably want to come home," said Wallace.

In a separate report, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper quoted the head of Britain's regulator of charities as saying that reports of links between charities and extremism had trebled over the past three years to reach a record high.

The Charity Commission made 630 referrals to police in 2015/16 over "allegations made ... about abuse of charities for terrorist or extremist purposes, including concerns about charities operating in Syria and other higher risk areas", the report said.—

Reuters



Ben Wallace. PHOTO: REUTERS

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.

Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.

Plan View: 21'6" width, 7'2" depth, 7'2" depth, 7'2" depth.

TRW logo: Ideas coming true. Tel: 09.25.981.36.36

No. (31), Room (5), 7 Miles, Pyay Road, Yangon
T: 09.259.81.36.36
: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

အမှတ်(၃၁)၊ အခန်း (၅)၊ ၇မိုင်၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (17 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-075(16-17)	Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) for Gas Coalescing Filter (22,680)	US\$ KG
(2)	IFB-076(16-17)	Spares for Mack Truck (17) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-077(16-17)	Spares for Mitsubishi 8DC8 1A Engine Ex Mitsubishi Fuso Bowser (26) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-078(16-17)	Spares for CAT D 379 Engine (45) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 19-1-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 30TH December, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th JANUARY 2017 (Independence Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Bank Holiday

All banks will be closed on 4th January (Wednesday) 2017 "Independence Day" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar



ကြည်လင်သောအမြင်အာရုံကို မျှဝေခြင်း Sharing a Brighter Vision #SharingAlinn

မျက်စိအမြင်အာရုံဆိုင်ရာ အခက်အခဲများကို အစီအစဉ်တင်ဆက်ပါ။ မိမိမျက်စိအမြင်ကို ကာကွယ်နိုင်ဖို့ တတ်နိုင်သမျှ လုပ်ဆောင်ပါ။

အသက်ကြီးသူများမှာ
အတွင်းတိမ်ဖြစ်ပွားမှုများသည်



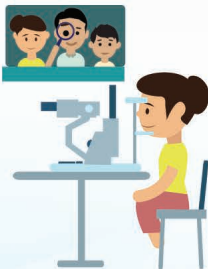
အသီးနှင့် ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်ပါသော
ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် ညီညွတ်သည့်
အစားအစာများကို ရွေးချယ်စားသုံးပါ



အန္တရာယ်ရှိသော အလုပ်များလုပ်လျှင်
မျက်စိကာကွယ်သည့် မျက်မှန်တပ်ပါ
(ဥပမာ-ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးနှင့် ဂဟေဆော်သည့် လုပ်ငန်းများ)



မိမိမျိုးရိုးထဲတွင် မျက်စိဝေဒနာ
ခံစားရသူရှိမရှိ စစ်ဆေးပြီးကိုယ်တိုင်တွင်လည်း
မျက်စိရောဂါရှိမရှိ စစ်ဆေးပါ



အတွင်းတိမ်ကဲ့သို့မျက်စိရောဂါအကြောင်းများကို
သိရှိထားရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

သင့်မျက်စိပါဝါ
တိကျမှန်ကန်မှုရှိပါစေ



မျက်စိအမြင် တခုခုပြောင်းလဲမှုရှိသည်နှင့်
ဆရာဝန်ထံသွားရောက်ပြသပါ။
မနှောင့်နှေးပါနှင့်



နေပူထဲထွက်လျှင်
နေကာမျက်မှန်တပ်ပါ



မျက်စိစောင့်ရှောက်မှုဆိုင်ရာ သံတမန်အဖြစ် မိမိကိုယ်ကိုယ်ယူပြီး
အသိပညာများကို သင့်မိသားစုနှင့် သူငယ်ချင်းများကို မျှဝေလိုက်ပါ။

အတွင်းတိမ်ဆိုင်ရာ မျက်စိအတွင်းမှန်တွင်
မကြည်မလင်ဖြစ်ပြီး
မျက်စိအမြင်ကို မှန်ဝါးစေခြင်းဖြစ်သည်



အတွင်းတိမ်ကုသနည်း လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များမှာ
ပြန့်ပွားနိုင်ခြင်းမရှိဘဲ အချိန်တိုအတွင်း
ပြန့်လည်ကောင်းမွန်နိုင်သည်



ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများမှာ အမြင်မှန်ဝါးခြင်း၊
အလင်းကို မကြည့်နိုင်ခြင်း၊
အရောင်မှန်ဝါးခြင်းနှင့်
အမြင်ပုံရိပ်များ မသံကွဲခြင်းတို့ ပါဝင်သည်



၂၀၁၅ နှင့် ၂၀၁၆ တွင် "ကြည်လင်သော အမြင်အာရုံကို မျှဝေခြင်း"
အစီအစဉ်မှ မွန်ပြည်နယ်ရှိ မျက်စိအတွင်းတိမ်လူနာ အယောက် ၄၀၀ ကို ခွဲစိတ်ကုသပေးနိုင်ခဲ့ပါသည်။
ဤအစီအစဉ်သည် SCG ရန်ကုန်မှူးရုံးကျင်ကူညီထောက်ပံ့ရေး ကတိကဝတ်၏ တစ်စိတ်တစ်ပိုင်းဖြစ်သည်။

Benedict Cumberbatch and Sherlock Holmes is match made in history

CALIFORNIA — Why does actor Benedict Cumberbatch cut such a dash as British literary detective Sherlock Holmes?

That's elementary, according to genealogy website Ancestry.com. Cumberbatch is distantly related to author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who created the brilliant but quirky sleuth some 130 years ago, the website said on Sunday.

Cumberbatch, 40, star of the Emmy award-winning BBC TV series, "Sherlock," is a 16th cousin, twice removed of Doyle.

The two are related through 14th century English nobleman John of Gaunt, who, according to records, was Cumberbatch's 17th great-grandfather and Conan Doyle's 15th great-grandfather, Ancestry researchers said.

John of Gaunt, born about 1340, was a son of England's

King Edward III, meaning that Cumberbatch and Conan Doyle also have a distant royal connection.

"How rare that an actor in a major series has the chance to play a character created by a relative, especially one as iconic as Sherlock Holmes," said Jennifer Utey, a family historian at Ancestry. "Sherlock," a modern twist on the life and investigations of the 19th century London detective, first aired in 2010 and returns for its fourth series on Sunday on both US and British television.

The show, in which Cumberbatch plays Holmes as a haughty, socially inept detective to Martin Freeman's calm, practical Dr John Watson, is the most popular TV drama in Britain, according to ratings data, and has been sold to 180 other countries.



Actor Benedict Cumberbatch arrives at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Conan Doyle published the first of about 60 Sherlock Holmes stories in 1887. The eccentric, violin-playing character has since become one of the best-known

fictional detectives in the world and the inspiration for hundreds of movies, stage plays, books and TV shows. Ancestry said its researchers looked at everything

from church records, censuses, land deeds, newspaper announcements and tombstones to establish the link between Cumberbatch and Conan Doyle.—Reuters

Debbie Reynolds and daughter Carrie Fisher to be buried side by side

LOS ANGELES — A joint memorial service and side-by-side burial are being planned for mother-and-daughter Hollywood stars Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher, who died a day apart earlier this week in Los Angeles, the family said on Friday.

Todd Fisher, son of Reynolds and younger brother to Carrie, said a glimpse he caught of hummingbirds at a cemetery site at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills convinced him it was the ideal spot for their final resting place.

"That's the way it was meant to be," Todd Fisher, 58, told Reuters, recalling that his mother, the Oscar-nominated singer and actress, had a special fondness for hummingbirds, which were regular visitors to the grounds of her Beverly Hills home.

Fisher said he and other relatives were gathering this weekend to firm up funeral arrangements, including dates.

He said the family was planning two private events - a joint memorial celebration and a burial of his mother and sister next to one another at Forest Lawn - to be followed by some form of public commemoration of the two women.

Reynolds, who sang and danced her way into the hearts of moviegoers in such Hollywood musicals as "Singin' in the Rain," suffered a stroke and died on Wednesday at the age of 84.

Her daughter, Carrie Fish-



Actress Debbie Reynolds poses with her daughter actress Carrie Fisher. PHOTO: REUTERS

er, best known as Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" films, died a day earlier on Tuesday, four days after suffering a heart attack on a flight from England, where she had been shooting the third season of a British television comedy. She was 60.

Carrie and Todd Fisher were both born to Reynolds and the late singer Eddie Fisher, whose marriage ended in scandal in 1959 after the crooner began an affair with actress Elizabeth Taylor.

In an interview to be broadcast Friday on the ABC News program "20/20," Todd Fisher elaborated on his mother's final

hours, insisting "she didn't die of a broken heart" but rather "just left to be with Carrie."

"It wasn't that [Reynolds] was sitting around inconsolable, not at all," her son recounted in excerpts from the interview published by ABC. "She simply said that she didn't get to see Carrie come back from London. She expressed how much she loved my sister."

"She then said she really wanted to be with Carrie," he added. "In those precise words, and within 15 minutes from that conversation she faded out, and within 30 minutes, she technically was gone."—Reuters

SMAP breaks up after nearly 30 years as Japanese pop idols

TOKYO — SMAP, one of Japan's most beloved bands, put an end Saturday to their nearly 30-year career as pop idols, as a last-ditch attempt by fans to avert the breakup failed.

The previous day, thousands of fans had taken the unprecedented action of placing an eight-page advertisement in The Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese newspaper, to plead with the five-man band to not break up.

The ad, which included messages such as "We love SMAP forever" and the names of the fans, was paid for by an online crowdfunding campaign that collected nearly 40 million yen (\$342,000) from about 13,000 fans in about a week.

On Monday, SMAP made a final appearance as a group on their signature TV variety show but offered no explanation as to why they were disbanding.

The group formed in 1988 as six members in their teens. Over the years, the core group comprised of Masahiro Nakai, 44, Takuya Kimura, 44, Goro Inagaki, 43, Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, 42, and Shingo Katori, 39, remained among the most popular performers in Japan's entertainment world.

SMAP defied stereotypes of Japanese male idol groups known for separating after a short time, and remained popular for three decades at home and abroad, especially in Asia.—Kyodo News



Photo shows part of an eight-page ad placed by thousands of fans of SMAP, one of Japan's most popular and longest-lived pop groups, in the morning edition of major Japanese daily the Asahi Shimbun on 30 December, 2016, a day before SMAP's breakup. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

New York's Times Square erupts with cheer as a new year dawns

NEW YORK — Hundreds of thousands of merry-makers witnessed the descent of the kaleidoscopic New Year's Eve ball in Times Square at midnight on Sunday, celebrating a century-old New York tradition under an unprecedented umbrella of security.

As many as 2 million people, surrounded by a ring of 40-ton sand trucks and some 7,000 police, gathered in the "Crossroads of the World" to watch the glittering sphere complete its minute-long drop, marking the beginning of 2017.

With the throng counting down the seconds, the crystal-paned ball slid with smooth precision down its pole, mounted on a tower at the head of the plaza. At the stroke of midnight, it touched home, illuminating a giant "2017" sign and sending a shower of fireworks into the sky.

The sights and sounds were experienced by a veritable sea of humanity, sectioned off in block after block of temporary corrals set up to better control the crowd. Millions of others around the world watched the spectacle on television and the internet.

Despite the heavy police presence, or perhaps because of it, thousands of people, many from overseas, arrived early to be dazzled by the flashing signage and entertained by live musical

performances by Mariah Carey, Thomas Rhett and Gloria Estefan.

"It's a very special place, to be in the centre of everything tonight," said Marta Loygorra, 20, who came to Times Square from Madrid, Spain, with her father, Jose Loygorra, 54.

"I've always wanted to be here for this and it's great to be here with my Dad," she said, cuddling up to him for warmth.

Jess Smith, 22, of Perth, Australia said that when she booked her New York hotel, she didn't realize it was just a few blocks north of Times Square.

"It's crazy. It's crazy good luck," she said with a grin. In the days before the celebration, city and federal officials said they were not aware of any credible threats, and in the event, the party went off without

a hitch. But authorities also said they were taking no chances. A protective perimeter of 65 hulking sanitation trucks filled with sand, as well as about 100 other smaller vehicles, encircled the Times Square area.

Placed in strategic positions, the "blockers" are intended to prevent a repetition of the truck attacks in Berlin and Nice earlier this year, officials said. It is not the first time that New York has set up a perimeter of heavy trucks at large gatherings. The same strategy helped protect crowds at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in November, after Islamic State militants encouraged followers to target the event, which drew about 3.5 million people.

At times since Donald Trump's election in November, blocker trucks have been positioned near Trump

Tower, his Fifth Avenue headquarters and residence, a short distance from Times Square. The president-elect is spending the holidays in Florida.

For New Year's Eve, New York also deployed heavily armed police teams, snipers, bomb-sniffing dogs and helicopters. Coast Guard and police vessels patrolled waterways around Manhattan. John O'Leary, 57, his wife, Claire, 51, and their two children were passing through Times Square on Saturday afternoon during a visit from their native England.

"It's just amazing," O'Leary said. "I just can't believe how they can manage all this, in terms of security." US defence and security agencies said they believed the threat of militant attacks inside the United States was low during the New Year's holiday, though the possibility of an attack, no matter how remote, was always present, they said.

Likewise, New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill said at a briefing this week that there were "no direct concerns" related to this year's festivities in Times Square.

Even so, he said, "we are going to have one of the most-policed, best-protected events and one of the safest venues in the entire world given all the assets we deploy here."—Reuters



The New Year's Eve Ball on top of One Times Square is tested in Manhattan, New York City, US on 30 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Britain's Queen Elizabeth. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain's Queen Elizabeth misses church again due to heavy cold

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth will miss a New Year's Day church service on Sunday due to a heavy cold, Buckingham Palace said, a week after the 90-year-old monarch missed a Christmas Day service for the first time in decades.

Elizabeth, the world's longest-reigning monarch, became unwell before Christmas and has been staying indoors at her Sandringham country estate in Norfolk, eastern England.

"Her Majesty The Queen will not attend Sunday worship at Sandringham today," the palace said in a statement. "The Queen does not yet feel ready to attend church as she is still recuperating from a heavy cold." Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip, 95, were both suffering from heavy colds in the week leading up to Christmas and

delayed their journey from London to Sandringham by a day, travelling there by helicopter on 22 December. Philip was driven to the traditional Christmas service at the parish church of St Mary Magdalene in Sandringham, but the queen, who is the symbolic head of the Church of England, did not attend.

Elizabeth had previously attended the Christmas service at the church every year since the royal family started celebrating Christmas there in 1988.

After more than six decades on the throne, the queen has cut back on international tours but still regularly performs official duties around Britain.

The palace announced on 20 December she would step down as patron of several charities and other organisations to reduce her workload.—Reuters

Russians brave icy lake for Christmas swim

MOSCOW — A group of hardy Siberian residents stripped down to their bathing suits and Santa hats for a run and swim in Russia's icy Lake Baikal to promote healthy living.

Passing cars beeped

their horns at the dozen or so runners, who jogged alongside the lake for approximately 1 km (0.6 miles) in fake white beards, tinsel scarves and red gloves.

The runners then

crossed a snowy, icy path to brave the below-freezing water for a quick dip near the Mongolian border, where temperatures dropped to minus 13 Celsius (8 F) on Wednesday 28 December.

"I just enjoy it (winter exercise). I feel that I get filled with strength when I plunge into the water of the Baikal," said Andrei Tesakov, one of the participants.—Reuters

Japanese welcome the New Year with a variety of annual traditions

TOKYO — People across Japan welcomed the first day of 2017 Sunday in traditional ways such as viewing the first sunrise and going bargain-hunting.

Residents of areas hit by the March 2011 quake and tsunami in the Tohoku region of northeastern Japan prayed for reconstruction on the sixth New Year since the disaster.

In Natori, Miyagi Prefecture, some 50 people climbed a mountain to watch the sunrise. Among them was Yuko Goto, a 37-year-old singer from Sendai who has been engaged in support activities at temporary houses near disaster-affected areas.

"I think most of the people are embracing New Year with problems (from the past year). I want to make my new year a con-

tributive one that can help lift up people's hearts."

Elsewhere, roughly 180 passengers watched the first sunrise of the year and Mt. Fuji from aboard an All Nippon Airways chartered flight from Tokyo's Haneda Airport. "I watched last year's first sunrise at home while this year I viewed it above clouds; that made me feel special," said Moe-ta Suzuki, 15, from Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo.

Overnight, masses of people joined a countdown to the New Year at the famous scramble crossing outside Shibuya Station in Tokyo, with the police making the area vehicle-free for the event.

Hundreds of riot police officers were deployed to control the crowd and take cautions against possible terrorism.—Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(2-1-2017 07:00am ~ 3-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
07:55	Am	Goldsmith
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	The two brilliant Mountaineers Mt. Everest
08:53	Am	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Up Against The Tide
09:44	Am	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Prehistory

10:51 Am Kayah Style

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-8)(Part-1)
07:53	Pm	Dengue Fever
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes - Bwe
08:54	Pm	Porcelain and Glass

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

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



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum celebrate after the match between Liverpool v Manchester City at Anfield on 31 December, 2016 .
PHOTO: REUTERS

Wijnaldum header gives Liverpool win over Man City

LONDON — A thundering header from Dutchman Georginio Wijnaldum gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over Premier League title rivals Manchester City on Saturday.

The result moved second-placed Liverpool four points ahead of Pep Guardiola's team and kept them six points behind leaders Chelsea who beat Stoke City 4-2 earlier on Saturday.

The home side dominated the opening half after Wijnaldum leapt above City defender Aleksandar Kolarov to meet a pinpoint Adam Lallana cross and give Liverpool the advantage in the eight min-

ute. It was a goal of simplicity but quality and it highlighted the growing confidence of Lallana who was a creative threat down the left flank for much of the game.

Buoyed by the goal, Liverpool were first to the loose balls and looked sharper in their movement and crisper in their passing than a City team which was too often disjointed and lacking a clear purpose.

The return of Argentine Sergio Aguero to the City attack after a four-match suspension should have given the side a greater threat in attack but the striker was starved of service.

Belgian Kevin de Bruyne, who has been the influential figure in City's best moments of late, was quiet and seemed a little uncertain of his role. Raheem

Sterling, booed on his return to his former club, got little joy out of Liverpool left-back James Milner.

Although Roberto Firmino, Lallana and Emre Can, were active and positive, the Reds were unable to turn their dominance into more than a couple of half-chances with Firmino failing to collect a fine through ball from Milner and Can seeing a long-range effort fly just wide.

City came out stronger after the break but created few real chances and never found the fluency or rhythm that has characterised their better performances under Guardiola this season.

The nearest they came to drawing level was a David Silva attempt from the edge of the area which curled past the post.—Reuters

'Listen to me, not your agent,' Mourinho tells sparkling Martial

MANCHESTER — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho urged Anthony Martial to resist the temptation to move away from Old Trafford after the Frenchman produced his best performance under the Portuguese coach in Saturday's stirring 2-1 win over Middlesbrough.

Martial was United's top scorer last season with 17 goals but has been limited to eight Premier League starts in his second campaign, leading to reports sparked by his agent that he was seeking a move away from Old Trafford, with Spanish side Sevilla touted as potential suitors.

The France forward was United's standout performer against Aitor Karanka's side, however, hammering the post from range in the first half and providing the cross for Zlatan Ibrahimovic to convert an effort that was disallowed.

Martial was a constant thorn in Boro's left side and seized the moment in the 85th minute by thumping Ibrahimovic's pass beyond Victor Valdes. He also played a part in Paul Pogba's winner moments later before receiving

praise from Mourinho as well as pointed advice.

"He played, he scored, he fought. I know he's a top talent, but he needs to listen to me, not his agent," the Portuguese coach told reporters.

Martial's recent absence from the team has been likened to Henrik Mkhitaryan's spell on the sidelines earlier in the campaign and Mourinho said Martial could learn from the

Armenian international, who has developed into one of United's most influential players with three goals in December. "I knew Mkhitaryan was a top talent and I was not playing him. Anthony has to listen to me in training every day. Every feedback I give to players, I give to improve them," added Mourinho.

"Almost every day, I was having Mkhitaryan's agent calling me and saying 'Mkhitaryan with you, will be a better player. Keep going'. 'And with Martial, every day I read the newspaper, saying Martial is going to Sevilla, Martial is going on loan, he's not happy. Martial needs to listen to me. He's a player with amazing conditions to be a top player.'—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea extend lead at the top, United leave it late



Chelsea's Diego Costa and Chelsea manager Antonio Conte celebrate after the win at Stamford Bridge Chelsea v Stoke City - Premier League - 31/12/16 after the game Action Images via Reuters / Tony O'Brien Liverpool

LONDON — Chelsea were given a stiff examination by Stoke City at Stamford Bridge on Saturday before extending their lead at the top of the Premier League to nine points ahead of the late game between Liverpool and Manchester City.

Willian scored twice as a spirited Stoke were beaten 4-2 despite twice coming back to equalise.

That made 13 successive victories for Antonio Conte's side, equalling the record by any club for a single season in the top division of English football.

They were pushed hard, however. After defender Gary Cahill headed in a corner, Dutch international Bruno Martins Indi brought Stoke level. Willian then scored twice in eight minutes in the second half, on either side of Peter Crouch tapping in for his first Stoke goal since May 2015.

Chelsea could not feel secure until Diego Costa, back after suspension, scored his 14th of the season.

Sixth-placed Manchester United fell behind at home to Middlesbrough before goals from Anthony Martial and Paul Pogba

in the last five minutes brought about a 2-1 win.

Aitor Karanka had proved a match for his mentor Jose Mourinho, under whom he once worked at Real Madrid, and Grant Leadbitter scored for the visitors midway through the second half after Alvaro Negredo nodded down a cross for him.

It was Middlesbrough's first attempt on target. Zlatan Ibrahimovic, with 11 goals in his previous 10 games, was annoyed to have a 12th ruled out in the first half, for a high foot.—Reuters