

President U Thein Sein joins Kachin Manaw Festival



President U Thein Sein taking part in Kachin Manaw Festival.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— President U Thein Sein, high-ranking government officials and senior military officers took

part in celebration of 67th Kachin State Day and traditional Manaw Festival in Myitkyina township on Saturday.

On arrival at the Sita-pu Manaw ground, Kachin State Chief Minister U Lajon Ngan Sai and wife made a gift of Kachin tra-

ditional and ceremonial costumes to President U Thein Sein who was welcomed by members of the organizing committee,

students of Kachin ethnic literature and culture, traditional dance troupes, locals and tourists. (See page 3)

INSIDE

Only 35 villages remain to have access to electricity in Pyawbwe Township

PAGE-4

Foreign investments critical to poverty alleviation, says union minister

PAGE-4

The World deserves our gratitude

PAGE-8

DEVELOPMENT

PAGE-8

Amarapura, the second last old capital city VII

PAGE-9

Myanmar invites service providers for Yangon Stock Exchange to apply for licenses

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 10 Jan— The Securities and Exchange

Commission of Myanmar gave the green light Saturday for service providers for the Yangon Stock Ex-

change to apply for licenses. SECM will grant four kinds of service licenses: (See page 4)



Pedestrians walk past an over-100-year old historic building located at the corner of the Merchant Street and Sule pagoda Road in downtown Yangon. The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar has chosen that historic building to establish the Yangon Stock Exchange there, setting the dead line for submitting applications for getting licenses for service providers for Yangon Stock Exchange and expecting to announce the winners in mid-April.—PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar tourism boom likely to continue at impressive pace

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 10 Jan— Hitting three million visitors mark last year, Myanmar's tourism boom is expected to continue in 2015.

The country received 3.081 million tourist arrivals last year, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said on his recent tour of Chaungtha Beach. With a 51 percent rise in 2014, the country welcomed more than 1.1 million visitors arriving by air and water and more than 1.9 million by land, he added.

Myanmar's tourism industry is growing at an impressive pace, with the country ranked first in the list of "top 10 destinations for 2015" by globe-trotter search engine Skyscanner. (See page 4)



With its significant tourist arrivals since 2012, Myanmar's tourism industry is on track to achieve its goal of 7.5 million international visitors in 2020. —PHOTO CREDIT TO SKYSCANNER

Donations for offering gold foils at Uriztaw Pagoda in Ponnagyun



PONNAGYUN, 10 Jan — Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn, wife and family donated K3 million for offering gold foils to Uriztaw Pagoda and 10 encircled Zedi in Ponnagyun, Rakhine State, on 9 January.

The chief minister presented K3 million to the pagoda board of trustees and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Rakhine State IPRD

Plan to dredge sandbanks in Ayeyawady River for prevention of erosion

SAGAING, 10 Jan— Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems submitted the estimated costs on dredging sandbanks under Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and Sagaing Bridge for improvement of watercourses to Mandalay Region Government.

Water erosion causes at the bank on Sagaing and Inwa where Mei Nu Brick Monastery and other ancient cultural heritages. So, the watercourse will be improved by dredging sandbanks to have a proper watercourse, Director U Win Hlaing of the department told media.

“Arrangements are being made to dredge the sandbanks for protection of ancient heritages in Inwa. At present, the department submitted an estimated cost to the region govern-



ment. When the budget has been allotted, we will start dredging works,” he added.

The waterway measurements have been made in the second week of December in 2004. The report showed a watercourse flowed along

Ayeyawady River near the Sagaing Bank upstream of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and near the TadaU bank downstream of the bridge. This year, watercourse eroded the bank of Taungtaw Village and

the bank near Shwekyetkya Pagoda.

At present, Sagaing Bridge has 210 metres wide and 3.15 metres high clearance.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Sittway to hold carriage pulling festival

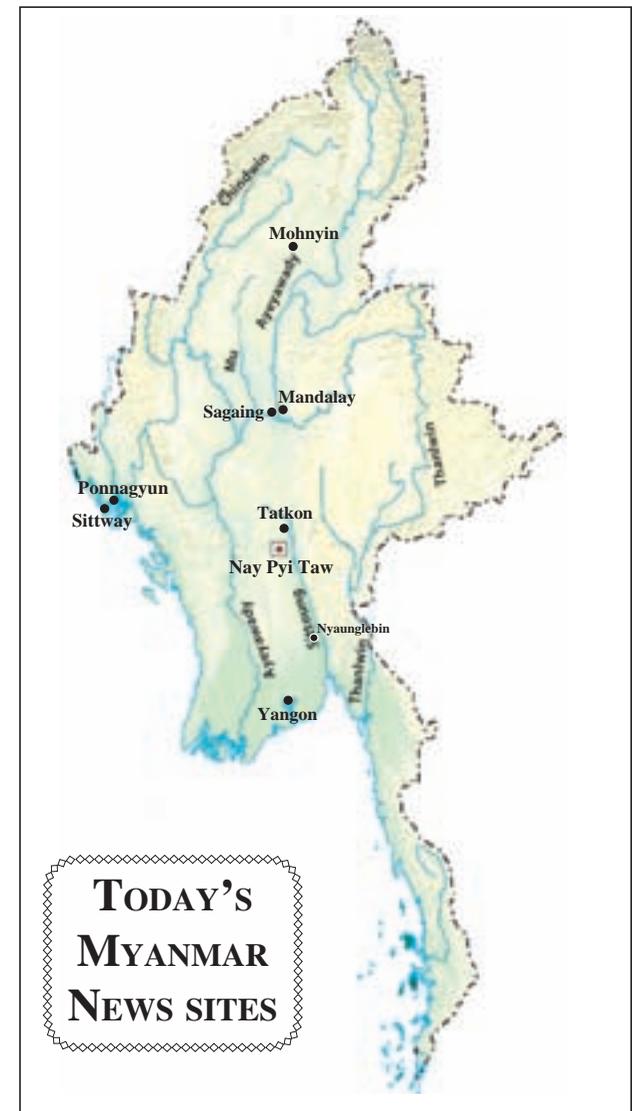


SITTWAY, 10 Jan—The carriage pulling ceremony organizing committee plans to hold the carriage pulling festival in Sittway from 1 to 3 February.

Peoples of wards and villages pull the carriage as competition by shouting chorus songs.

It is a traditional festival of Rakhine people with the aim of boosting production of crops.

Rakhine State IPRD



Wellwisher donates 10 sets of tables and chairs to BEHS Branch

NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 Jan — A ceremony to donate 10 sets of tables and chairs to Basic Education High School Branch was held at the school in Myoma Ward 1 in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on Friday.

Well-wisher Chairman of the Township Development Supportive Committee

U Thein Naing explained the purpose of donation.

The well-wisher family donated 10 sets of chairs and tables worth about K700,000 to Headmistress Daw Khin Swe Win.

JAT U Thein Lwin spoke words of thanks on the occasion.—*Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

Tatkon Township IPRD honours top book borrower, top reader awards

TATKON, 10 Jan—Staff Officer Daw Swe Swe Moe of Ottara District Information and Public Relations Department inspected office works of Tatkon Township IPRD on 8 January and gave instructions on development of village libraries.

She presented prizes to top book borrower award

in December to seventh standard student Maung Aung Kaung Myat from Bo Min Yaung Ward and top reader award to Ko Aung Zaw Min of Bo Min Yaung Ward.

Tatkon Township IPRD is making utmost for raising reading skills of the people.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)*



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein joins Kachin Manaw Festival...

(from page 1)

The state leader and party then enjoyed Manaw Festival before they were treated to Kachin traditional music and food.

The President said that after Myanmar has regained its independence on 4 January 1948, Kachin State Council Meeting was held on 10 January, and the date was set as Kachin State Day.

Many major towns in Kachin State have received electricity supply from national grid, helping to improve living standards of local people in terms of education, health, economy and social affairs.

President also sug-

gested to manufacture value-added-goods by using electricity and to develop more small and medium scaled industries, and urged the local people to join hands with all the nationals in peace-making process for stability and prosperity of the whole country.

The festival was also attended by Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers U Aung Min, U Thein Zaw, U Soe Thane, U Hla Tun, Lieutenant General Thet Naing and state government officials.

President U Thein Sein and party then visited Dhamma Rakkhit Wuntho monastery and paid respect to the head monk. In meet-

ing with Rev. Dr Kham Samsun and members of Kachin Baptist Convention, the President said that in making peace there is no intention to get an upper-hand and urged them to join hands with the government.

President and senior government officials arrived back Nay Pyi Taw by the flight of Myanmar National Airlines in the afternoon. The first Myanmar President Sao Shwe Thaik formed the first Kachin State council and government at the Sita-pu ground on 10 January, six days after the independence of Myanmar, and elected Sama Duwa Hsinwahaung as the chairman of the council.

President Sao Shwe Thaik gave Sama Duwa Hsinwahaung a copy of



President U Thein Sein seen together with Kachin brethren at Manaw Festival in Myitkyna.—MNA

constitution book and the latter took oath on that day which was marked as the Kachin State Day. Presi-

dent U Thein Sein became the first president who attended the Kachin State Day after the day was set

on 10-1-1948 and was attended by the first president of Myanmar, Sao Shwe Thaik.—MNA

Myeik has potential to attract more tourists



MYEIK, 10 Jan—Myeik, a coastal area in Taninthari Region, is a topographically distinct region. The friendliness and hospitality of local people make visitors feel home and relaxed alongside their customs and traditional festivals as well as historic places.

Economic develop-

ment deriving from growing trade with Thailand and successful businesses has given the region a facelift.

The number of Thai visitors coming through a border trade camp in Maw-taung reached over 8,600 in 2014, up from 6,300 in 2013, with other tourists totaling 2,421 in 2014.

In a bid to meet the

rising demand of incoming visitors, more and more hotels of high standard are mushrooming. The White House Hotel was opened on 25 December last year, thereby creating job opportunities for locals and facilitating tours of historic places. Myeik is worth a visit.—Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik District IPRD)

Thingangyun Township plans to install 32 transformers for electrification

YANGON, 9 Jan—Under supervision of district and township officials of Yangon Electricity Supply Board, township electrical engineer and skilled workers are carrying out installation of 32 transformers in 2014-15 fiscal year in 38 wards of Thingangyun Township, here.

Recently, six transformers on Lokthar street in Ward D, 2nd Sanpya Street, Thiri Haymar Street in Zawana Ward, Natsin Street in Ward A, Pyidawtha Street in Ward B and 5th street in Ngamoeyeik Ward supply electricity to local people.

So far, the township electrical engineer's office has installed 15 transformers. Plans are underway to install remaining transformers in the township.

Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)



Thailand's first expo, business matching scheduled for mid-January in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin



Commercial Counsellor Mr Boon Intiratana briefs the media at a press conference on holding Thailand Week 2015 in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

YANGON, 10 Jan—Thailand Week 2015, the first exhibition and business matching event in Myanmar, will take place from 15 to 18 January at Myanmar Event Park here, aiming to seek new business opportunities.

The four-day event is organized by Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion, which has invited interested businesspersons to participate in the business networking session scheduled on 15 and 16 January, with public visits on the remaining two days.

More than 200 booths from 80 leading Thai companies will showcase their prod-

ucts and services, ranging from food and beverages, to health and beauty products, household utensils, garments, textiles and fashion accessories, automotive parts, and home decoration products.

"A business seminar regarding trade and investment policies between the two countries will also be conducted to educate business operators," said Mr Boon Intiratana, Minister Counsellor of Commercial Affairs of the Royal Thai Embassy.

Thai investors have been keen on doing business in Myanmar over the past two years, he said, adding that the expo is expected to serve a good business platform for

Myanmar entrepreneurs desirous of building business links with Thai manufacturers.

According reports, the Department of International Trade Promotion is planning a border trade exhibition in Mae Sot in Thailand from 28 January to 1 February.

The minister counsellor said invitations will be extended to Myanmar businesspersons to display their lines of products at the border trade fair.

Thailand, which is Myanmar's second biggest trade partner, has reportedly chosen Mandalay, the second largest city in Myanmar, for a similar trade exhibition planned from 23 to 31 August, with the aim of promoting bilateral trade and investment.

GNLM

Only 35 villages remain to have access to electricity in Pyawbwe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan — Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attended ceremonies to mark the self-reliant electricity supply and the opening of a library, a multimedia classroom and a science laboratory at a newly-upgraded high school at two villages in Pyawbwe Township, Yamethin District on Saturday.

The ceremonies were held at Anauk Shawphyu-

kon village and Phettaw village in the township.

Speaking at the ceremonies, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker highlighted the importance of education in the society, calling for getting all children to school. He also stressed the need of producing one product by one village through effective utilization of electricity.

Only 35 villages remain to have access to

electricity in Pyawbwe Township in which there are 317 villages as self-reliant electricity lighted up 282 villages.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint visits a newly upgraded high school in Pyawbwe Township.

MNA



Foreign investments critical to poverty alleviation, says union minister



U Maung Myint, Union Minister for Industry, arrives at Suzuki Myanmar (Motor) Co. Ltd in Yangon.—MNA

YANGON, 10 Jan- Inviting foreign investments is one of the national policies designed to alleviate poverty and create more jobs with reasonable salaries, U Maung Myint, Union Minister for Industry, told officials

at Suzuki Myanmar (Motor) Co. Ltd. Here on Saturday.

The union minister admitted that locally-made automobiles are short of high technology and low in production power.

He expressed his de-

light at the arrival of the Suzuki company, which he said would be able to manufacture automobiles of international standard, and pledged necessary assistance to the company.

MNA

Myanmar invites service providers...

(from page 1)

underwriters, dealers, brokers and consultants, setting different levels of capital requirements for each, U Maung Maung Thein, deputy minister for Finance and Revenue and chairman of the SECM, said on the Yangon Security Exchange in Yangon on Saturday.

A license for underwriting requires K15 billion (around \$15 million); for dealing K10 billion; for brokerages K7 billion and for consultancy business K30 million, according to the deputy minister.

A license for underwriting, which tops the capital requirements, is

also allowed to operate in the other three businesses areas.

The criteria or requirements for the service providers of Myanmar's first stock exchange market will be announced in the Sunday issues of state-run dailies, he added.

The four kinds of service providers are also allowed to have joint ventures with foreign firms in anticipation of speeding up the development of the stock market, U Maung Maung Thein said.

The SECM has planned to start to sell the applications for the service providers on 19 January and

has asked the applicants to submit their applications to SECM by 27 February.

The licenses will not be granted to individuals.

Companies with the term securities in their names are entitled to apply for the licenses, the chairman of the SECM added.

Myanmar's first stock exchange is named Yangon Stock Exchange (YEX) in honour of Yangon, the country's commercial city, and is targeted to launch in October this year.

Japan's Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd signed an agreement with the Myanma Economic Bank to help establish and run Myanmar's first stock

Myanmar C.P. Cup tennis championship 24-29 Jan

YANGON, 10 Jan—Myanmar Tennis Federation will organize the Myanmar C.P. Cup tennis championship with the sponsorship of Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd. at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, from 24 to 29 January.

The tournament will comprise men's and women's open singles and doubles events, U-12 boys' and girls' singles events, U-14 men's and women's singles events, U-16 men's and women's singles events and inter-club event.

Tennis players may enlist at MTF, not later

than 22 January, dialing 09-254051005 and 01-381882 of the administrator.

The federation will serve tennis players from regions and states with travel allowance, accommodation and food and travel allowance for clubs.

GNLM

Daw Khin Su, wife of deceased Thakhin Soe, donates 80 books of his husband at her apartment in Yangon to Amyotha Hluttaw library on 10 January.

MNA



Unilever to continue free oral care programme

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 Jan—As part of its corporate responsibility activities, one consumer products manufacturer Unilever, plans to provide oral health care services free of charge to

people who live in the populous cities in Myanmar in March, according to its brand manager.

More than 10,000 people from both urban and rural areas received the free service last year. It is estimated the number will be higher this year, Unilever's Ma Shwe Ye Naing Win said.

To promote public awareness in oral health, an education programme will be conducted at schools in some regions and states this year.

GNLM

exchange in December, 2014.

The market will be run by Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company, with a 51 percent stake owned by the Myanma Economic Bank under Myanmar's Finance and Revenue Ministry and the remainder by the Japanese partners.

GNLM

Myanmar tourism boom likely to

(from page 1)

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council's survey 2013, travel and tourism's direct, indirect and induced contribution to the societies in Myanmar reached about K2.13 billion and it is expected to grow to more than K3 billion, the Union

minister added.

The Ministry's figures show Myanmar finished 2014 with 1,106 hotels offering 43,243 rooms across the country.

The country's Tourism Master Plan (2013-2020) targets 3.09 million visitors in 2015 and 7.5 million in 2020. — GNLM

Indonesian search team raises tail of crashed AirAsia plane

PANGKALAN BUN, (Indonesia) 10 Jan — Indonesian search and rescue teams raised on Saturday the tail of an AirAsia passenger jet that crashed nearly two weeks ago with the loss of all 162 people on board, and will soon search it for the flight recorders.

Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501 lost contact with air traffic control during bad weather on 28 December, less than half way into a two-hour flight from Indonesia to Singapore. There were no survivors.

Forty-eight bodies, including at least two strapped to their seats, have been found in the Java Sea off Borneo.

Search and rescue teams detected pings they believed were from the flight recorders on Friday and two teams of divers resumed the hunt soon after dawn on Saturday.

The tail of the Airbus A320-200 was found on Wednesday, upturned on the sea bed about 30 km (20 miles) from the plane's last

known location at a depth of about 30 metres (100 feet).

Crews brought it up from the bottom with the help of air bags.

"Yes, the tail is already on the surface," Supriyadi, operations coordinator for the National Search and Rescue Agency, told reporters in the town of Pangkalan Bun, the base for the search effort on Borneo.

"It's currently being brought close to a ship and then it will be towed. And then they want to search for the black box."

The aircraft carries the cockpit voice and flight data recorders — or black boxes — near its tail.

However, officials had said earlier it looked as if the recorders, which will be vital to the investigation into why the airliner crashed, had become separated during the disaster.

"The divers looked for the black box but they didn't find it," Supriyadi said. "But it has to be checked again. Lifted and checked again."

He said it could take up



Part of the tail of AirAsia QZ8501 floats on the surface after being lifted as Indonesian navy divers conduct search operations for the black box flight recorders and passengers and crew of the aircraft, in the Java Sea on 10 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

to 15 hours to tow the tail to land. Strong winds, currents and high waves have been hampering efforts to reach other large pieces of suspected wreckage detected by sonar on the sea floor, and to find the remaining victims.

On Friday, Supriyadi said the pings were believed

to have been detected about 1 km (half a mile) away from the tail.

If the recorders had become separated from the tail they could be covered in mud, making the search in the murky water that much more difficult, he said.

"The pings can only be

detected within a radius of 500 metres (1,640 feet) so it can be a large area to cover," he said. If and when the recorders are found and taken to the capital, Jakarta, for analysis, it could take up to two weeks to download data, investigators said, although the information could be ac-

cessed in as little as two days if the devices are not badly damaged.

While the cause of the crash is not known, the national weather bureau has said seasonal storms were likely to be a factor.

The plane was traveling at 32,000 feet (9,753 metres) and had asked to fly at 38,000 feet to avoid bad weather. When air traffic controllers granted permission for a rise to 34,000 feet a few minutes later, they received no response.

The pilots did not issue a distress signal.

The Indonesian captain, a former Air Force fighter pilot, had 6,100 flying hours and the plane last underwent maintenance in mid-November, said the airline, which is 49 percent owned by Malaysia-based budget carrier AirAsia. The AirAsia group, including affiliates in Thailand, the Philippines and India, had not suffered a crash since its Malaysian budget operations began in 2002.

Most of those on board were Indonesians.—Reuters

Eight killed, 20 injured as suicide blast hits Pakistan's Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan — At least eight people were killed and 20 others injured when a suicide bomber blew



Ambulances park near the suicide blast site in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 9 Jan, 2015. At least eight people were killed and 20 others injured when a suicide bomber blew up himself outside a religious center of Shia Muslims in Pakistan's garrison city of Rawalpindi on Friday, local media and officials said.—XINHUA

up himself outside a religious centre of Shia Muslims in Pakistan's garrison city of Rawalpindi on Friday, local media and officials said.

District Coordination Officer of Rawalpindi Sajid Zafar said that the suicide bomber reached on a motorbike and exploded his jacket near the main gate of the religious center after seeing the on-duty policemen.

An eyewitness said the bomber arrived 9.20 pm (local time) when there was dark due to power load-shedding in the area.

The bomber exploded his jacket when a volunteer security guard stopped him for frisking near the main

entrance gate of the shrine.

The explosion happened when a congregation was going on in the center located in Chittian Hattian area of Rawalpindi, a major city of the country's eastern Punjab Province.

Local TV channel ARY said that the injured people including two policemen were shifted to a nearby hospital where several of them were in critical condition.

Rescue teams rushed to the blast site, while the authorities put two major hospitals in the city on high alert. Police and security forces cordoned off the area for a search operation.

No group has claimed

responsibility for the attack yet.

The attack was carried out soon after the jail authorities in the city hanged a terrorist at 9.00 pm (local time) on Friday who was convicted in a case for the terrorist attack on former president Pervez Musharraf in 2003.

Local Shia group Azadari Council condemned the attack and announced a three-day mourning across the country.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, reiterating his resolve to eliminate terrorism from the country, condemned the blast and sought report from the concerned authorities.—Xinhua

Cold wave hits northern India, four dead

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan — Cold wave conditions continued to grip northern India, including the capital New Delhi, where at least four people have died of cold over the past two days, said officials on Saturday.

Besides Delhi, the northern states of Punjab and Haryana's day temperatures fell several notches below normal level from Friday night to Saturday morning as a thick blanket of fog threw normal life out of gear in the area.

While the minimum temperatures have been hovering just near the normal level at most places in the two states, the maximum temperatures have plummeted up to 10 notches below normal level, said meteorological officials.

A thick blanket of fog engulfed most places in both the states, affecting normal life while traffics were also thrown into chaos on some highways due to thick fog.

Schools are expected to re-open on Monday in Delhi after a week-long winter vacation.

Kyodo News

Xinhua

N Korea's nuclear envoy to meet ex-US diplomats in January

BEIJING / WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — A senior North Korean official is expected to meet with former US diplomats in mid-January in Singapore to discuss bilateral and nuclear issues, diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

The planned trip by Ri Yong Ho, North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator, comes as Pyongyang is seeking to engage more actively in diplomacy with some other countries despite a stand-off with the United States over a cyberattack on Sony

Pictures Entertainment Inc. Ri is expected to meet with former US envoys for North Korean negotiations Stephen Bosworth and Joseph DeTrani on 18-19 January, according to the sources.

The two-day meeting comes after the United States blamed North Korea for hacking the film studio in November and later it imposed additional sanctions on one of the world's most isolated countries.

Bosworth, who was US special representative for North Korean policy dur-

ing the first administration of President Barack Obama, has suggested publicly Washington should return to the negotiating table with Pyongyang.

The US government has taken the position that the meeting has nothing to do with it. For the meeting in Singapore, North Korea is expected to also send Choe

Son Hui, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's North American affairs bureau, and an official from its mission to the United Nations in dealing with

bilateral relations, according to the sources.

It is known that Ri, the chief North Korean delegate at the long-stalled six-party nuclear talks, previously met with former US government officials who were responsible for talks with Pyongyang in Mongolia last May.

The six-party talks aimed at finding ways to achieve North Korea's denuclearization, which also involve China, Japan, Russia and South Korea, have been deadlocked since December 2008.

French forces kill newspaper attack suspects, hostages die in second siege

PARIS/DAMMARTIN-EN-GOELE, (France) 10 Jan — Two brothers wanted for a bloody attack on the offices of French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* were killed on Friday when anti-terrorist police stormed their hideout, while a second siege ended with the deaths of four hostages.

The violent end to the simultaneous stand-offs northeast of Paris and at a Jewish supermarket in the capital followed a police operation of unprecedented scale as France tackled one of the worst threats to its internal security in decades. With one of the gunmen saying shortly before his death that he was fund-



A still image from video shows an explosion lighting the front of a kosher supermarket as French police special forces launch their assault, where several people were taken hostage near the Porte de Vincennes in eastern Paris on 9 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

ed by al-Qaeda, President Francois Hollande warned that the danger to France — home to the European Union's biggest communities of both Muslims and Jews — was not over yet.

“These madmen, fa-

natics, have nothing to do with the Muslim religion,” Hollande said in a televised address. “France has not seen the end of the threats it faces.” An audio recording posted on YouTube attributed to a leader of the Yemeni branch of al-Qaeda (AQAP) said the attack in France was prompted by insults to prophets but stopped short of claiming responsibility for the assault on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*. Sheikh Hareth al-Nadhari said in the recording, “Some in France have misbehaved with the prophets of God and a group of God’s faithful soldiers taught them how to behave and the limits of freedom

of speech.” “Soldiers who love God and his prophet and who are in love with martyrdom for the sake of God had come to you,” he said in the recording, the authenticity of which could not immediately be verified. A Yemeni journalist who specialises in al-Qaeda said it was clear that AQAP had provided a “spiritual inspiration” for the attack on the newspaper offices, but there was no clear sign that it was directly responsible for the assault.

Following heavy loss of life over three consecutive days, which began with the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* when 12 people were shot dead, French authori-

ties are trying to prevent a rise in vengeful anti-immigrant sentiment.

Hollande denounced the killing of the four hostages at the kosher supermarket in the Vincennes district of Paris. “This was an appalling anti-Semitic act that was committed,” he said. Officials said Cherif Kouachi and his brother Said, both in their thirties, died when security forces raided a print shop in the small town of Dammartin-en-Goele, northeast of Paris, where the chief suspects in Wednesday’s attack had been holed up. The hostage they had taken was safe, an official said.

Reuters

US, Iran foreign ministers to meet on nuclear issue on 14 January

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — The US and Iranian foreign ministers will meet in Geneva on Wednesday to discuss the Iranian nuclear programme ahead of a fresh round of talks among Tehran and major powers on the issue, a senior US official said on Friday.

The meeting will take place ahead of lower-level bilateral nuclear talks between Iran and members of six major powers expected to start on 15 January in Geneva as well as a collective discussion among the entire group scheduled to

resume on 18 January.

Speaking to reporters, the senior US State Department official said US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif planned to meet so as “to provide guidance to their negotiating teams before their next round of discussions.” In 2013, the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China, struck a preliminary agreement with Iran for Teheran to suspend sensitive nuclear work in return for easing some economic sanctions

imposed during more than 12 years of nuclear dispute.

However, the two sides failed for a second time in November to meet a self-imposed deadline for ending the stand-off and securing a comprehensive agreement, and extended the preliminary accord by seven months.

Iranian and Western officials have said differences remain over Teheran’s uranium enrichment capacity, how fast economic sanctions should be lifted and other key issues.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (L) shake hands as Omani Foreign Minister Yusef bin Alawi (2nd R) and EU envoy Catherine Ashton watch in Muscat on 9 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Ministers to discuss Ukraine crisis in Berlin on Monday

BERLIN/KIEV, 10 Jan — The foreign ministers of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine will meet in Berlin on Monday to discuss the situation in eastern Ukraine and the implementation of the Minsk peace plan, Germany said on Friday. The ministers held a telephone conference and agreed to see each other on Monday to continue their efforts at resolving the crisis, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. “On Monday, we want to make another attempt to overcome the obstacles,” Steinmeier said. “But it’s still a long and bumpy road before the Minsk agreement is fully implemented.” Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has invited the leaders of Russia, France and Germany to talks in Kazakhstan’s capital Astana on 15 January in an attempt to restore peace.

However, Germany and France have raised doubts on whether such a four-way summit can take place without further progress on the Minsk peace plan, which was agreed in September.

On Thursday, Chancellor Angela Merkel said all 12 points in the protocol had to be fully implemented before the EU could consider easing sanctions against Russia.

The talks in Berlin on Monday would prepare for “a possible meeting at the highest level”, Ukraine Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said on the fringes of a meeting of the Christian Social Union (CSU) — sister party to Merkel’s conservatives.

“What counts is a result and what we understand as a result is an effective ceasefire and the complete implementation of the Minsk agreement,” Klimkin said.

Reuters

Romney tells donors he’s considering a 2016 White House run

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — Mitt Romney, the Republican US presidential nominee in 2012, told a meeting of donors on Friday that he is considering another White House run in 2016, a source familiar with the comments said.

The former Massachusetts governor, who has sent mixed signals about the likelihood of another campaign, told a small group of donors in New York that he was thinking about running and to “tell your friends” he was considering it, the source said.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the comments, said Romney did not give a timetable for making a decision about whether to launch what would be his third presidential campaign. Romney failed to win the nomination in 2008 and lost the general election to President Barack Obama in 2012.

Romney’s statement comes as some of the party’s



Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney speaks at a campaign rally with Republican candidate for the United States Senate Scott Brown at Gilchrist Metal Fabricating in Hudson, New Hampshire on 15 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

top donors begin to line up behind former Florida Gov Jeb Bush, who said in December he would actively explore a presidential run. If Romney entered the race, he would be competing with Bush for many of the party’s most established major donors. Romney has equivocated about another presidential cam-

paign, going from absolutely ruling it out after his 2012 loss to sounding more uncertain recently. The comments in New York appear to be his most open admission that he is seriously considering it. “He’s more open to it, based on all the encouragement he’s received,” a senior Romney adviser said of a possible

run. *The Journal* said one of the attendees at the meeting asked Romney if he wanted to be president, and he said “yes, of course.” The topic of whether Romney would run for the White House came up at a dinner he had with former advisers on Wednesday night in Menlo Park, California. “The sense I got from him was that he was leaving his options open,” said a former adviser who attended the dinner. The former adviser emphasized that the dinner was a social occasion, not a strategy session, however.

As to whether Romney feels the likelihood of Bush running makes it harder for him to enter the fray, the former adviser said Romney believes the Republican field is in the “formational stages” and he would not be deterred from jumping in. Romney’s entrance in the race would dramatically reshape what promises to be a crowded and competitive field. Polls show him at or near the top of the Republican race along with Bush.—Reuters

Cuba dissidents say 38 activists freed as part of deal with US



A man walks near a sign with an image of Cuban President Raul Castro in Havana on 19 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

HAVANA, 10 Jan — Cuba has freed 38 opposition activists from prison over the past two days, including a popular hip-hop artist, as part of a deal to improve relations with the United States, dissident groups said on Friday.

The dissident Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) said 29 of its members were among those released, and that most had been warned by the communist government they would be sent back to prison if they continued their opposition activities.

“Our freed prisoners are committed to continue fighting for the democratic Cuba which we all want,” UNPACU’s leader

Jose Daniel Ferrer said in a statement.

“The UNPACU activists have left prison with more energy, force and motivation than they had when they were jailed.”

Cuba’s commitment to free 53 prisoners was a key part of the historic deal announced on 17 December under which the Cuban and US governments agreed to renew diplomatic relations after more than 50 years of hostilities.

Almost all of those freed so far appear on an informal list of more than 100 political prisoners drawn up several months ago by dissidents, but it is not known if they were all on the list of 53 that

the United States negotiated with Cuba.

Details about who will be freed have been withheld by both governments, providing ammunition for US opponents of the detente, who have complained that President Barack Obama has not pushed Cuba hard enough on human rights and that the government in Havana was not living up to its side of the bargain.

The White House hailed the “substantial and ongoing” releases. “So good to see people reunited with their families,” senior White House official Ben Rhodes said on Twitter.

Elizardo Sanchez, founder of

the dissident Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, which monitors detentions, said the releases to date were “very good news,” but that activists remained concerned about those still behind bars.

“We don’t know what the future holds for those former Cuban government officials and senior ex-military people, as well the Cuban-Americans who are still in prison,” Sanchez told *Reuters*.

Several Cuban exiles from Miami are also in Cuban prisons serving sentences of up to 30 years on terrorism-related charges after they attempted to infiltrate the island with weapons.

It is not clear if Washington argued for their release, or for the freedom of Cubans jailed for passing secrets to the United States.

Sanchez highlighted the cases of former high-ranking Cuban government official Miguel Alvarez and his wife, Mercedes Arce, a noted academic, who were jailed in 2012 for undisclosed crimes against the state. Alvarez was sentenced to 25 years, while Arce was given a 15-year term, sources close to their families said.

Most of those released this week were accused of offences such as resisting arrest and threatening police officers, and had been given shorter sentences of two to five years.

The hip-hop artist Angel Yulier Remon, known as “The Critic”, was serving the longest prison term, eight years.

Remon was arrested in 2013 after painting “Down With The Dictatorship!” on the street outside his home in the eastern city of Bayamo. He staged several hunger strikes behind bars, and said unsanitary prison conditions gave him cholera.—*Reuters*

Greek leftist Syriza party keeps lead over ruling conservatives



Alexis Tsipras, opposition leader and head of radical leftist Syriza party

ATHENS, 10 Jan — Greek leftist opposition party Syriza remains ahead of the ruling conservatives in the polls, three surveys showed on Friday, with one indicating a marginal rise in its lead and two others a slight closing of the gap ahead of a snap election.

A survey by pollsters Marc for television station Alpha showed the lead for Syriza, which opposes Greece’s international bailout programme, had widened to 3.2 points from the 3 point lead it had in a poll by the same firm last month.

The party would garner 29.6 percent of the vote compared with the centre right New Democracy party on 26.4 percent in an election that is being closely watched across Europe.

In a poll by company Rass, however, Syriza saw its lead narrow from 3.1 points to 2.7 points.

Leftist Alexis Tsipras’ Syriza would get 29.8 percent in a snap election due on 25 January, with Prime Minister Antonis Samaras’ party, which has pushed through unpopular austerity measures, on 27.1 percent.

That compares to a lead of 3.1 points in a poll published by the same firm last week, which includes undecided voters and those who said they would spoil their ballot paper.

A third survey, conducted by Metron Analysis and due to be published in the *Parapolitika* newspaper on Saturday, showed Syriza would win 34.1 percent of the vote if elections were held now, a lead of 4.1 percent.

Samaras’s New Democracy party would take 30 percent of the vote in the poll, which excludes undecided voters.

The same pollster showed a lead of 4.2 percent for Syriza in a previous survey last month. Several opinion polls by various firms in recent days have shown Syriza ahead but with a narrowing lead.—*Reuters*

Venezuela supermarket lines swell as shoppers scramble to buy basics

“This is insane, it’s like the end of the world,” he said, noting that troops had fired shots in the air as scuffles broke out in the line.

Venezuela’s 12-year-old exchange control system has for several years struggled to provide enough hard currency to ensure ad-

equate levels of imports, leading to intermittent shortages of raw materials, machine parts and consumer goods.

Maduro, who blames the situation on an opposition-led “economic war,” said in December he was planning to make changes to

that system, without offering details.

Grocery store lines in the border city of San Cristobal this week have started as early as 3 am and continued until 10 pm, while consumers in the coastal city of Punto Fijo have started sleeping in hammocks outside the main shopping mall.

“I look for everything, at whatever price I can find it. Since December I’ve been hunting for toilet paper because in my house we don’t have any,” said Giovanni Chacon, a resident of San Cristobal. “We spent Christmas and the New Year without toilet paper.”

The supermarket industry association did not immediately respond to requests for comment, although the group’s president this week said supplies should normalise by the third week of the month.—*Reuters*



People walk past shelves mostly filled with the same product at a state-run supermarket in Caracas on 9 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 10 Jan — Lines are swelling at Venezuelan supermarkets, with some shoppers showing up before dawn in search of products ranging from chicken to laundry detergent, as a holiday slowdown in deliveries sharpened the nation’s nagging product shortages.

Queues snaked around the block at grocery stores and pharmacies around the country on Friday, with consumers in some cases gathering before dawn under the gaze of National Guard troops posted to maintain order.

Business leaders have assured Venezuelans the situation will improve in the coming days as distributors return from the often extended Christmas holidays, though many consumers blamed the socialist economic policies of President Nicolas Maduro.

“The truth is I don’t know what the government is doing. It gets worse every day,” said Elizio Velez, 65, a delivery man who arrived at 5 am at a large supermarket on the east end of Caracas in search of chicken and toilet paper.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 January, 2015

The World deserves our gratitude

By Aung Khin

Most of us mechanically and subconsciously mouth the words 'Thank You' in everyday interactions. Ancient Greek fabulist story teller Aesop wrote 'Gratitude is the sign of noble souls'. Making special efforts to thank those that deserve our gratitude is a humane manner.

Both living things and many inanimate objects around us deserve our gratitude in various levels. Therefore, we should not forget to give

heartfelt thanks to those around us that specially deserve our appreciation.

We can instinctively regard those who gave us moral or material support as our benefactors. However, it is mostly impossible to acknowledge our adversaries or challenging situations.

In an optimistic view, even our enemies deserve our gratitude as their possible threats could make us mindful of our weakness. Natural disasters have pushed us to create a safer environment. Alerted by epidemic diseases, we have tried to find more hygienic lifestyles.

Contrary to humane manners, ingratitude is one of the basest qualities of a human being. We, sometimes, encounter some ungrateful people who add injury to insult by not only not appreciating kindness, but repaying it with malevolence, spite and offence. In such circumstances, we should not lose our temper.

A civilized person appreciates the good things

that occur in their life, recognizes benefactors and is grateful to them. Without the slightest hesitation, we should express our appreciation and gratitude by some return of kindness, not only to the people who have helped us, but to everyone around us. Such a humane attitude is certainly to make the world a better place for all.

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

DEVELOPMENT

U Kyi Mun

Development of man means raising man to the Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Perfection.

- Anonymous

Development means: Growth, Progress, Advancement, becoming more mature mentally and emotionally.

Development can be in the forms of:

- Individual Development
- Team Development
- Organizational Development
- National Development

And Development can be in the fields of:

- Political Development
- Economic Development
- Technological Development
- Socio-cultural Development
- Moral & Ethical Development
- Morale Development
- Science Development
- Arts Development
- Public Relations Development
- Educational Development
- Environmental & Ecological Development

Now, let us explore a little more about the characteristics of DEVELOPMENT in the following manner:

D	<i>for</i>	Daring
E	<i>for</i>	Excelling
V	<i>for</i>	Values
E	<i>for</i>	Effectiveness-cum-Efficiency
L	<i>for</i>	Learning
O	<i>for</i>	Objective
P	<i>for</i>	Proactivity
M	<i>for</i>	Managing for Growth
E	<i>for</i>	Execution
N	<i>for</i>	Networking
T	<i>for</i>	Time Management

DARING

For the purpose of development, we should:

- Dare to struggle and dare to win.
- Dare to scale the heights.
- Dare to think and dare to explore.
- Dare to go places and do things.

- Dare to make things happen and dare to get things done.
- Dare to out-think and out-perform the competitors.
- Dare to be shakers and movers!

EXCELLING

We should excel for our further development in whatever we do.

We should stand out from the crowd.

We should be head and shoulder above the average.

We must dare to rise above mediocrity.

We should be the pioneer.

We should be the guiding star.

It is said that **low aim is crime.**

VALUE

We must have, for our radical development, beliefs and values as the core of our being. We have got to stand for something. We should do much more than for our own selves. We have got to aim at the BIG PICTURE and far into the FUTURE. We must have moral values as well as moral courage like upholding the interests of the Triple Bottom Line: People, planet & Profit.

EFFECTIVENESS-CUM-EFFICIENCY

Whatever we do, we have got to be effective and efficient. To be effective, we have got to do the RIGHT things; to be efficient, we have got to do the things RIGHT. In other words, in order to achieve the set objectives and goal, we must be strategically effective; and in order to raise productivity and lower the level of wastages of resources including time and money, we have got to be tactically efficient.

LEARNING

Man matters most. Brain builds best. Heart holds highest. Learning lifts labour.

So, we have got to go all-out for learning the most in the knowledge age, individually, in teams and in groups, organizationally as well as nationally.

OBJECTIVE

Many an effective manager practices what is called Management by Objectives. Management by Objectives is viable because every vision, every mission, every purpose is bound to have some strategic objectives. Without an objective, an undertaking will be like a journey without a DESTINATION. So,

everything should be done with an objective set clearly. Every work must begin with the END in mind!

PROACTIVITY

Proactivity means being proactive which in turn means not being reactive. It means you don't react to something; you preempt, you take initiative, you aim and you take charge. Taking responsibility, taking charge and leading the struggle are being proactive. So, to be proactive means to be the master of your fate and to be the captain of your soul!

MANAGING FOR GROWTH

Managing means making things happen and getting things done in order to achieve the set goal and objectives.

Growth means:

G	for	Goal
R	for	Resources
O	for	Organizing
W	for	Working for Win-Win Outcome
T	for	Tactically Prevailing
H	for	Harmony of Minds

EXECUTION

Without an effective execution, no strategy on earth can bear fruits. A Plan of Action must be implemented in the right way and at the right time. Formerly, it used to be said: "Don't fix it, if it ain't broke," Now, it is usually said: "Fix it even if it ain't broke". The motto today, "Fix it, do it, try it."

NETWORKING

For the purpose of development, man meets man and mind manages mind. It means all kinds of development inevitably involves man and mind, i.e. people. People purport power. So, to gain power → power to achieve the desired goal, networking with important people must be strategically given emphasis and priority. After all, profit is the product of the Loyal People (i.e. Customers & Employees).

TIME MANAGEMENT

All sorts of development can only happen in time, on time and with time. Time is always ticking away. Respect time and make the most of it. Time is a most precious commodity. Be mindful of the importance of TIME and take care in using time.

CONCLUSION

Don't grow old; grow up!

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

ARTICLE

Amarapura, the second last old capital city VII

Pilgrimage, preservation and renovation of ancient monuments and urbanization of Dagon by King Thayawaddy

During the 27-day long riverine march from his capital city Amarapura to Dagon, King Thayawaddy so-journeyed at the following stations to visit historic pagodas to carry out religious works and to receive homage and tribute from his subordinate kinglets:

- (1) On 7th waning moon of *Tawthalin*, he stopped for the night at the *Yang Aung Myin Jetty, Inwa*.
- (2) On 8th and 9th waning moon, Their Majesties were carried on the *Kat Kyaw Barge* and spent one night at each of the two stations – *Laung Tha at Nga Zun village and Myingyan in Taloke Myo township*.
- (3) On the 10th waning moon, the king continued the journey by “*Pyi Kyi Mun*” royal barge and spent two nights at *Nyaung U village*. The king and the chief queen accompanied by the entourage were carried in the spired coach to *Bagan Shwe Zigon and Ananda Pagodas* which they worshipped and donated offertories.
- (4) On the nights of the 13th, 14th and 15th waning moon, the royalty spent their time at *Pakhan Nge town, Saar Taw village and Kyi Pin Tet* respectively.
- (5) On the first waxing moon of *Thadingyut*, royal entourage reached the station at *Kyakhat village in Pa-hta-nago township*. The king conferred the title “*Maha Min Hla Kyaw Swa*” on *Pakhan Min Kyaw Swa Nat* spirit. The king ordered him to join the royal entourage. One night was spent at this station.
- (6) On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th waxing moon of *Thadingyut*, the king spent one night at each of the three stations — *Tha-wuhti village in Myey-de township, Thayet Myo, and Mya Ywa* at the *Na-win stream in Pyay township* respectively.
- (7) The king stayed two days at the royal residence at *Mya Ywa* during which he visited *Shwe Bontha pagoda* built by King *Thado Dhamma Yaza*, younger brother of King *Bayint Naung* and *Pyay Shwe San-daw pagoda*.
- (8) The king made an over-night stop at each of the two stations — the royal residence at *Kyi-the Hintha Jetty in Shwetaung township* and the royal residence at *Thanbaya Kan in Mingala Thayawaddy township* on the 6th and 7th waxing moon respectively.
- (9) On the 8th waxing moon, the king reached *Mingyi Ywa* where he stayed four days during which he gave the governor of *Mingala Thayawaddy town* construction materials and money to build a pagoda on the site of his previous residence. On the 10th waxing moon at the auspicious hour of 4 p.m. the ground breaking ceremony was held at the site. Minister *Thado Atula Mingyi Maha Bandu Kyaw*, the *Myosa of Sale Pakhan Nge*, and the governor of *Mingala Thayawaddy* were assigned to its supervision.
- (10) After one night at royal residence at *Thanbaya Kan*, the king continued his journey via *Zeymaw stream* and reached *Maha Paung Shwe Laung stream*.
- (11) The king spent one night at each of the four stations – *Shwe Laung stream, San Ywe village, Pho Khaung village, and Ywa Thit Kyi village in Hlaing township*.
- (12) On the 2nd waning moon of *Thadingyut*, he journeyed to the royal residence at the pier, a distance of 400 *tar* away from the palace at *Okkalapa (Dagon)*.
- (13) On the 3rd waning moon at past 3 hour the king arrived at the royal residence and spent one night there.
- (14) On the morning of the 4th waning moon, Their

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Majesties were borne on the *Ratana Palanquin* to the *Okkalapa* palace, followed by the royal entourage. They ceremonially took occupancy in the palace. Entertainments by performing artists were held in their honour.

- (15) On that day His Majesty riding the royal tusker “*Pophadanta*”, accompanied by his retinue went to pay homage to *Shwe Dagon Pagoda*.
- (16) On the 5th waning moon, a variety of entertainments – wrestling, somersault, dramatic performance, puppet show, dancing, singing and music were held at the palace.
- (17) On the 8th waning moon, the king visited *Dagon Sundaw Shin and Thanhlyin Kyaik Khaik Pagodas*. There was a grand parade of troops and display of flotillas to mark the occasion.

King *Thayawaddy* came to *Dagon (Yangon)* with 15000 troops and over ten thousand men were stationed at and around *Dagon* for security. But the British Intelligence alarmingly reported to the British Governor General of India that King *Thayawaddy* brought with him a hundred thousand strength.

The King stayed in *Dagon* till March 1842. He carried out religious works, built new fortresses and a new town. In the month of *Tazaungmon* (November) he inspected *Shin Saw Pu town, Than Hlyin town, Dala town, Pegu town, Thilawa Kin (Patrol town), Thayet Tabin Kyun U and Kyi Myint Taing towns*. He visited *Shwe Dagon, Shwe Hmaw Taw, Kyaik Khaik, Kusunayone Pagodas* and many other sacred places where he repaired and renovated old religious monuments and built new ones. On the 4th waxing moon of *Nattaw* (December) the king sent Buddha images of gold, silver, and alloy to *Mingala Thayawaddy town* to be enshrined in the pagoda, being built in the compound of *Yey Kin Mingyi* (the High Official in charge of the riverine patrol.)

In the month of *Pyatho* (January) the king again visited *Shwe Dagon Pagoda* and donated little bells of alchemic iron, gold and silver to be hung on the *Hti* (crown umbrella on the pagoda). The king discovered the *Bodhi* tree planted by *Mon King Dhammazedi* who received its sapling as a religious gift from a Singalee king. It had grown into a big tree on the *Bodhi Kone* hillock on the north-west of *Shwe Dagon Pagoda*. He repaired and renovated religious buildings there and built a *sima* (ordination hall) named “*Maha Wizaya*” near the said *Bodhi Tree*.

Desiring to donate “sound” to *Shwe Dagon Pagoda*, the king gave assignment to *Wundauk Mingyi Maha Sithu and Mingyi Maha Min Kyaw Thinkhaya* the minister in charge of armoury and copper smithy to cast a copper bell of 25944, (49) viss, measuring over 9 cubits in height, 5 cubits in diameter, over 13 cubits in circumference, with a big hook decorated with figure of *Narathiha lions*. Fifty craftsmen were employed in the casting. The bell was officially named “*Maha Tithada Ganda*” meaning Big Bell which produces a pleasant sound. On the body of the bell were inscribed in 100 lines of his achievements and the full account of his riverine journey to *Dagon*. This bell is still hung in a spired pavilion at the north-east corner of *Shwe Dagon pagoda platform*.

The king was a prince serving as a second commander under General *Maha Bandula* at the outbreak of the First Anglo-Myanmar war of 1824-26. He had experiences of his active services. He found the vulnerability of *Alaungpaya's Yangon* to naval attack as it was situated too close to the sea. So when he became king he intended to build a new town at a place not easily accessible from the sea.

Yangon at that time was known to have 99 hillocks of which *Shwe Dagon pagoda hill* was one. Taking advantage of these natural barriers and their topography, King *Thayawaddy* planned to construct on some of them forti-

fications to protect his new town. With *Shwe Dagon hill* as the main eastern front fortress, the site for a new town was chosen at where present *Dagon Township* is. His palace building stood on the mairdar grounds (မိတ္ထီလွင်), facing *Myo Ma High School*. Keeping the palace in the centre and facing east, a new town was built.

On the auspicious hour 1p.m. on Saturday the 9th waxing moon of *Tazaungmon*, the construction of the town was begun. Myanmar chronicle *Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Taw Gyi Vol.3* says that “the wall, the moat, the canal, the battlements, turrets, the town gates, and the bridges, were completed with the combined labour of the military and the public. The king named his new town “*Aung Myey Yan Hnin*” (The Land of Victory driving out all enemies) and his palace “*Myat Nan Aung Char*” (auspicious, victorious and central palace).

The new town was square in shape and the town wall was 16 feet high and 8 feet thick. On the north and the east were fortifications built on the hillocks. About a quarter of a mile lay between the eastern gate and *Shwe Dagon pagoda hill*. The town has 13 gates, namely (1) *Myey Ni Gate* on the north accessible to *Myey Ni Gone* area (2) *Lake-Khin Gate* accessible to *Shwe Dagon pagoda* (3) *Hsin Su Gate* (4) *Kandaw Galay Gate* on the east (5) *Babe-dan Gate* or *Kya-ku Gate* (6) *South Gate* (7) *Nyaung Bin Gate* (8) *Thit Nyo Gate* on the south (9) *Wet Su Gate* (10) *Shin Saw Pu Gate* (11) *Ma Tha Gate* and two other gates on the west.

On the north west was the residence of his son Prince *Bagan*. On its site Prince *Bagan* later built a pagoda titled “*Maha Dhamma Yanthi*” (Great Light of *Buddha Dhamma*). But it is commonly called “*Ein-day Yar Pagoda* (the pagoda built on the site of Prince's house). He also built another pagoda on the site of his house in *Mandalay* named *Maha Loka Yanthi pagoda* (The Great Ligh of the World). It is also commonly called *Ein-daw Yar pagoda*.

On the north were stationed 500 swordsmen and 500 gunners, and on the east were stationed garrisons. Many monasteries, rest houses, ordination halls, water tanks, and wells were built and dug around the new town. Around the palace were dug 30 wells to supply fresh water for the palace.

After the construction of the new town was completed, all governmental offices, Mayor's office, customs house, immigration, revenue department, land survey, etc., and officers' quarters were moved to the new town. Prominent Myanmar families also moved to *Aung Myey Yan Hnin*. But foreign merchants, their residences, shops, stores and go-downs were allowed to remain at the old town. They came to the new town only on business.

There emerged two towns of *Yangon* – one built by King *Alaungpaya* came to be known as old *Yangon* which continued to remain as commercial town, and the other built by King *Thayawaddy* came to be known as new *Yangon* which became the seat of Myanmar government in lower Myanmar. King *Thayawaddy's* visit to *Dagon* and his sojourn there for over five months had graced *Yangon*. Foreign trade increased and the old town grew into a seaport. *Yangon* became more known to the world.

Till today, the main road leading to *Shwe Dagon pagoda* on the south is called *Lan Ma Daw* (လမ်းမတော်) (Great royal road) which King *Thayawaddy* used when he visited *Shwe Dagon pagoda*. The arch way which he built at the entrance stairway still stands behind the modern archway. His bell at the north-east corner is the largest bell on the platform with 100 lines of inscription telling the history of his time. His fortresses and fortifications, moats and canals are still found around *Yangon*. Mr. B.R. Pearn, Professor of History at *Yangon University* in pre-war time wrote a big volume *History of Rangoon* in which he detailed data on *Yangon* – the tale of three *Yangons* — *Alaungpaya Yangon, Thayawaddy Yangon* and *British Yangon*.

Turkish leftist group retracts claim of responsibility for bomb attack

ISTANBUL, 10 Jan — A far-left Turkish group on Friday retracted its claim of responsibility for a suicide bombing of a police station in central Istanbul this week.

A woman entered the police station in the historic Sultanahmet District on Tuesday, saying in English she had lost her purse, before throwing explosives and blowing herself up, killing a police officer and wounding another.

Hours after the attack a statement on the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) website said its fighters carried out the bombing.

But on Friday, the group withdrew its statement, saying it had made a mistake because it was actively planning its own attack which "coincided with the Sultanahmet incident".

It did not give details about its planned attack.

"The action targeting the Istanbul Tourism Police in Sultanahmet on 6 January was not carried out by our organization," the group said on its website. "That is why we are withdrawing our claim of responsibility."

Turkish newspapers reported this week the bomber was a pregnant Russian woman, and that the police intelligence services were investigating potential links to al-Qaeda.

Interior Minister Ekan Ala said the police had identified the suicide bomber but said it would be inappropriate to give further details.

The DHKP-C traces its roots to Communist movements active in Turkey in the 1970s. It has carried out several attacks on the secu-



Police officers stand guard at the scene of a bomb blast in Istanbul on 6 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

rity forces, most recently on 1 January when a man threw a homemade bomb at police officers.

A series of arrests

across Turkey and Europe over the last decade have significantly weakened the DHKP-C, but experts say it still poses a serious threat.

The United States, European Union and Turkey list the group as a terrorist organization.

Reuters

Gunfire, heavy artillery heard near Nigeria's Damaturu — Reuters witness

DAMATURU, 10 Jan — Shooting and heavy artillery fire were heard on the outskirts of Damaturu in northeastern Nigeria on Friday, a Reuters witness said.

No further details were immediately available.

Suspected Boko Haram militants raided Damaturu - the capital of Yobe state and 130 km (80 miles) from Maiduguri, the capital of the Islamist fighters' Borno state stronghold - in early December. The military used ground and air forces to repel them.

Reuters

US man accused of trying to join Islamic State overseas — Justice Department

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — A federal grand jury indicted a 19-year-old American for trying to travel overseas to join Islamic State militants operating in Syria and Iraq,

the Justice Department said on Friday.

Mohammed Hamzah Khan of Bolingbrook, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, was charged with trying to

provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in a single-count indictment returned late Thursday, the department said in a statement.

He was arrested in October in 2014 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport as he tried to board a plane to Vienna en route to Istanbul with his 17-year-old sister

and 16-year-old brother.

A date for Khan's arraignment in US District Court in Chicago has not been determined, the department said. Attempting to

provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 (164,917 pounds) fine.—Reuters

Rights monitor says 2,100 people died in Syrian prisons last year



Inmates are seen behind bars in Aleppo's main prison on 22 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 10 Jan — At least 2,100 people died in Syrian prisons last year and the bodies of many showed signs of torture, a monitoring group said on Friday, quoting the families of deceased detainees.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it believed the true figure to be much higher but had only reported cases where families had received a corpse or a death

certificate from a prison.

"The prisons tell the families that the prisoners died of natural causes, such as a heart attack," Observatory head Rami Abdulrahman told Reuters.

Syrian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

UN investigators said in March there were suspected war criminals in Syrian military units and security agencies as well

as in the insurgent groups fighting them in the country's civil war.

They said they were investigating evidence of torture, killing and starvation in Syrian prisons and that the heads of intelligence branches and detention facilities were on a list of potential suspects.

More than 76,000 people were killed in the war in 2014, the Observatory said, and the UN says 200,000 have died since the conflict started.

In January 2014, former war crimes prosecutors commissioned by Qatar said they had "clear evidence" showing the systematic torture and killing of 11,000 detainees in Syrian jails from a trove of photos supplied by a Syrian military police photographer.

The Syrian conflict began in March 2011 with popular protests against President Bashar al-Assad and spiraled into civil war after a crackdown by security forces.—Reuters

Bahraini protesters clash with police over opposition leader's detention

MANAMA, 10 Jan — Dozens of Bahraini protesters on Friday clashed with security forces who fired bird shot and tear gas to disperse them during an anti-government rally over the detention of an opposition leader, a Reuters witness said.

Western-allied Bahrain has seen outbreaks of sectarian tension since security forces quelled 'Arab Spring' protests in 2011. Bahrain's majority Shi'ite Muslims have demanded reforms and a bigger share in government in the Sunni-ruled kingdom, where the US Fifth Fleet is based.

The discontent has worsened since the arrest on 28 December of Sheikh Ali Salman, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric who heads the al-Wefaq Islamic Society, after he led a protest against last November's election, boycotted by the opposition.

The witness said protest marches by about two hundred men and women in the mainly Shi'ite vil-

lage of Sitra, south of the capital Manama, turned violent, with dozens of young men throwing petrol bombs at security forces who fired bird shot and tear gas back.

Al-Wefaq said at least five protesters were injured. It sent to journalists photos of one person with bird shot injuries to his back and another with blood-stains on his head.

The Interior Ministry said it was checking the

reports. The public prosecutor accuses Sheikh Salman of several offences, including inciting people to overthrow the government. Sheikh Salman was remanded in custody on Sunday for 15 days pending further investigation.

The US State Department has criticised Salman's detention, saying it could further stoke tension in Bahrain.

Reuters



A Molotov cocktail which was thrown by protesters explodes on a riot police armoured personnel carrier at a highway in the village of Sitra, south of Manama, on 9 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Dollar, stocks fall on revived growth worries

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — The dollar eased on Friday after a US labour market report suggested a go-slow approach to raising interest rates, while global equity markets fell on more weak data from Europe, adding to worries about tepid growth around the world.

Crude oil slipped under \$50 a barrel as Brent, the global benchmark, posted a seventh straight weekly loss. Gold rose and notched its first weekly gain in four weeks as political uncertainty in Greece boosted demand for safe-haven assets.

Also weighing on investors was a Reuters report that raised concerns that prospective European Central Bank bond-buying may fall short of the unlimited money-printing programme investors have expected.

“The news out of the ECB this morning, this leaking out about what the programme may look like, people are disappointed because they don’t think it is big enough, so that is causing some pullback,” said Ken Polcari, director of the NYSE floor division

at O’Neil Securities in New York.

Investors are still concerned about the impact of lower oil prices and how that might expose certain trades in the financial markets, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago.

“Somebody’s going to cry ‘uncle,’ we just don’t know who it is yet,” he said.

Data from Germany highlighted weakness in the euro zone, which is still struggling to emerge from the region’s long-simmering economic crisis. German exports fell sharply in November and industrial output also declined.

US job growth increased briskly in December and the jobless rate dropped to a 6-1/2-year low. But wages slipped from November, buttressing the case for the Federal Reserve not to rush to raise interest rates.

The 5-cent drop in average hourly earnings, which nearly erased gains seen in November, took some shine off an otherwise mostly upbeat labour report, economists said.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 7 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

Markets are caught between stock and bond investors over-reacting to economic data and global events, pushing US equities to new highs and bond yields to record lows, said David Kelly, chief global strategist for JPMorgan Funds in New York.

“The only thing that is more bizarre than a lack of wage growth right now is the fact that, in an economy that is growing as rapidly as this one, is that you can have a 2 percent Treasury. That makes no sense at

all,” Kelly said.

The dollar traded at 118.56 yen, a loss of 0.91 percent on the EBS trading platform. The euro rose 0.43 percent to \$1.1843.

MSCI’s all-country world stock index, a measure of equity markets in 45 countries, fell 0.47 percent. The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index of leading regional companies closed down 1.45 percent at 1,348.58. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 170.5 points, or 0.95 percent, at

17,737.37. The S&P 500 fell 17.33 points, or 0.84 percent, to 2,044.81, and the Nasdaq Composite lost 32.12 points, or 0.68 percent, to 4,704.07.

For the week, both the Dow and Nasdaq fell 0.5 percent, while the S&P slipped 0.6 percent.

Brent settled down 85 cents at \$50.11 a barrel, after earlier falling as low as \$48.90.

US crude settled down 43 cents at \$48.36 a barrel.

US Treasury debt prices rose on the view that

rates are on hold. Perceived odds on the Fed raising rates by September fell to 52 percent, according to CME Fed watch, which tracks futures contracts. That was down from 60 percent before the jobs data. The benchmark 10-year note traded up 16/32 in price to yield 1.9605 percent, according to Reuters data.

Government bond yields in the euro zone were just above record lows. About a quarter of the euro zone bond market now yields less than 10 basis points, while German bonds with maturities of up to five years are yielding zero or less.

Yields on 10-year Bunds, which set the standard for the bloc’s borrowing costs, fell to 0.488 percent. US gold futures for February delivery rose 0.6 percent to settle at \$1,216.10 an ounce.

Copper prices slipped to 4-1/2-year lows on concerns about oversupply after inventories climbed and worries about global growth, especially in top metals consumer China.

Reuters

Car sales seen slower after tax breaks end - industry body



A man walks among parked vehicles at a car yard in Jammu on 10 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan — Sales of passenger vehicles in India will grow just 1 percent in the year to March 2015, at the low end of expectations set and already revised by the country’s industry body, officials said, blaming a government decision to scrap tax breaks.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) had said it expected sales of cars and utility vehicle to grow below 4

percent in the current fiscal year, but it said on Friday higher taxes from January would dent sales, especially of small, cheaper cars.

“We were anticipating that the excise concession will continue. Now that it has been withdrawn, it will bring down growth further, but we hope it will not go in the negative territory,” Sugato Sen, deputy director-general of SIAM, told reporters on Friday.

A tax break was first

granted in February to revive sluggish car sales and later extended until the end of 2014. Automakers had been hoping the concession, amounting to 3-6 percent of the car’s factory gate price, would continue into 2015.

Instead, the government ended the concessions in December.

“We just have to take the increase and take whatever further volume drop happens,” Pawan Goenka, president of Mahindra & Mahindra’s automotive and farm equipment sectors, told Reuters after the government ended the sops.

He warned that lower volumes could mean plant shutdowns and layoffs, though a widely expected drop in interest rates this year could offset that.

Total passenger vehicle sales in India rose 12.4 percent to 209,025 vehicles in December from a year earlier, according to SIAM.

Reuters

Sierra Leone in better position today, new UN Ebola mission chief says

FREETOWN, 10 Jan — Sierra Leone is in a better position today than it was in the fight against Ebola virus, the new head of the United Nations’ Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UN-MEER) said on Friday.

In his maiden Press conference since he assumed office, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said “we are now looking at one future response package at the second phase of the disease control and coordination.”

“I am left with the optimism that Sierra Leone can make it but it will need a lot of effort from all of us,” he said.

He reminded Sierra Leoneans not to be complacent as the situation is still bad because of the number of cases but believed that people now have a better understanding of the data.

Sierra Leone, one of the three West African countries worst affected by Ebola, reported nearly 250 new confirmed cases in the past week but the spread of the virus there may be slowing, the World Health Organization

said on Wednesday.

“There are signs that case incidence may have leveled off in Sierra Leone, although with 248 new confirmed cases reported in the week to 4 January, 2015, it remains by far the worst-affected country at present,” the WHO said.

The new UN mission chief said “we will only be satisfied when we begin to register zero cases.”

WHO special envoy, David Nabarro, said the UN has been able to mobilize enough funds to fight and eradicate the disease.

Nabarro disclosed that originally the UN appealed for more than a billion dollars in September which was revised to 1.4 billion

dollars in October, of which about 1.1 billion dollars have been received, a gesture he described as “a good response”.

He said they expected the rate of infection to drop considerably in a few weeks.

On Wednesday, the UN team had discussions with Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma on the progress of the Ebola fight.

UNMEER, the first-ever UN emergency health mission, is leading international efforts in the battle against Ebola. The epidemic has taken 8,235 lives out of 20,747 known cases worldwide over the past year, the WHO said in its update released on Wednesday.

Xinhua



In winter freeze, Turkey clears capital of Syrian shanty towns

ANKARA, 10 Jan — Turkey rounded up more than 300 Syrian refugees in Ankara on Friday, tearing down makeshift shelters, eyewitnesses said, in what authorities described as an operation to send vulnerable families to camps as winter temperatures plunge.

Turkey has removed 3,000 refugees nationwide and sent them to a specially built camp in Gaziantep in the south east, Dogan Eskinat, spokesman for Turkey's disaster management agency AFAD told Reuters, without giving a time frame. He said the aim was to ensure that only those able to sustain themselves remain outside of camps.

AFAD says Turkey hosts 1.7 million Syrian refugees, of whom 230,000 are in camps, with access to facilities such as schools, supermarkets and even cinemas.

At dawn, a day after the affected families were informed, riot police cleared tents and shacks in Haci Bayram, one of the poorest parts of the capital, and sent 308 of their inhabitants, more than half of whom were children, to a camp, locals said.

One Syrian man laden with battered suitcases said police had let him stay to load his car but he now had no idea where his wife and children were. "I don't know the name of the camp we're being sent to," said the man, who gave his name as Abdullah.

A young child and people searching for firewood picked through wood and tarpaulin littered with abandoned personal belongings, the remains of the refugees' shanty housing.

Many locals said they were happy to see the Syrians leave although there was discomfort about how



People take pictures of each other in the snow following a snowstorm at a park in Jerusalem on 9 Jan, 2015. A storm buffeted the Middle East with blizzards, rain and strong winds, keeping people at home across much of the region and raising concerns for Syrian refugees facing freezing temperatures in flimsy shelters. The storm is forecast to last several days, threatening further disruption in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which have all been affected.—REUTERS

it had been handled.

"I want the Syrians to

go home, but this sort of evacuation isn't good. It

was like a terrorist operation," 60-year old Suley-

man said.

Storms and blizzards in the Middle East this week have raised concerns for Syrian refugees, although Eskinat said extra precautions have been taken to protect those in Turkish camps.

"The idea is that people living outside of camps are able to sustain themselves," Eskinat said, adding that evacuations to camps were "a necessity if people are freezing in the street" and the policy will continue for "as long as there is a need". Since December, Syrians must be registered in order to get access to free health-care and schooling outside of camps.

AFAD said the rationale of the registration process, which includes recording biometric data, is to help it coordinate humanitarian relief and direct people to facilities.

Reuters



A Palestinian rescue worker (L) paddles a raft on a flooded street to evacuate residents in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, on 9 Jan, 2015. Rescuers have been sent to evacuate dozens of people from their flooded houses as a heavy rainfall and storm hit the region.—XINHUA

Widespread flu kills at least 26 kids in US

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — A "nasty" flu virus is now widespread in the United States, killing at least 26 children, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Friday.

The CDC said in a weekly update that high levels of flu activity were reported in 46 US states for the week ending 3 January, up from 43 states during the previous week.

"It appears that we're right in the middle of flu season this year," CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a teleconference. "But it's too soon to say

whether we've peaked."

According to the CDC, a US flu season lasts about 13 weeks on average and the country is now about seven weeks in.

The predominant circulating strain this season is H3N2, which Frieden called "a nastier flu virus" than other flu viruses.

Hospitalization rates among people 65 years and older "are rising sharply," going from 52 per 100,000 the previous week to 92 per 100,000, he said.

The last H3N2 season was in 2012-13 and the

cumulative hospitalization rate for older people by the end of that season reached 183 per 100,000.

"We wouldn't be surprised to see something similar happening this year," the CDC chief said.

Five children died from the flu during the last full week, bringing the total flu deaths to 26 this season, he said, noting the actual number of deaths may be "even higher" based on past investigations.

Even worse, about two-thirds of H3N2 viruses analyzed this season are different from the

H3N2 virus that's included in this year's flu vaccine, he said.

That means protection with vaccination against this season's H3N2 viruses will probably be reduced.

Despite that possibility, Frieden continued to urge people to get vaccinated, especially children younger than two years and adults aged 65 years and older.

"Vaccinations may still offer some protection and there are other strains of flu out there as well," he explained.

Xinhua

Syrian opposition figure declines Moscow parley later this month

AMMAN, 10 Jan — Prominent Syrian opposition figure Mouaz Al Khatib said on Friday he had turned down an invitation to a Moscow meeting with Syrian government officials, in a further blow to Russian efforts to find a solution to the Syrian conflict.

"We decided to decline ... this is because the conditions we think are necessary to ensure the

success of the meeting are not available," the moderate Islamist said in an online post.

When he headed the Western-backed Syrian political opposition in 2012, Khatib called for negotiations with President Bashar al-Assad to pave the way for a handover of power.

Russia, one of Assad's top allies, had extended invitations to senior opposition figures within Syria

and outside to meet Syrian government representatives in late January.

The main Turkish-based National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces has already shunned the meeting and said any of its members who attended would be expelled.

The role of Assad in Syria's future is a major stumbling block to any settlement in a war that has

killed around 200,000 people and displaced millions since 2011.

The rise of hardline jihadist groups like Islamic State, at the expense of Western-backed rebel fighters, has complicated matters further.

Most of Syria's opposition considers Russia and Iran enemies without whose help Assad would not have survived the insurgency.—Reuters



A child views Chinese contestants making a snow sculpture during the 20th Harbin International Snow Sculpture Competition in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 10 Jan, 2015. A total of 28 teams from twelve countries took part in the competition, which kicked off here on Saturday.—XINHUA

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INVITATION TO OPEN PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDING

The Irrigation Department (ID), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, announces the PREQUALIFICATION of International Competitive Bidding for "Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID" under the Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region based on the Loan Agreement (Loan No.: MY-P7) signed on 5th September, 2014 between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry.

The procurement works shall consist of equipment supply, site assembling, test-run, training and commissioning for the construction machineries, Please note that Joint Ventures are acceptable.

Sr.No.	Bidding No.	Description	Qty;	Remarks
1.	ITP-ID-01	Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID	1 lot	

A complete set of prequalification documents is available in Myanmar kyat (50,000/-) from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 in the working days from 13th to 19th, January, 2015 at Procurement Director Office of Irrigation Department, Building No. (43), Nay Pyi Taw and closing date will be 27th, January, 2015 during office hours. Submission of the Documents later than closing date will not be considered.

Contact: Director, Procurement branch.
Telephone: +95-67-410019

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th January, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Chin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

London auction houses target buyers worldwide with Monet, surrealists

End of the road for racy models at Chinese autoshow?



An employee at Christie's poses with Joan Miro's "Painting (Women, Moon, Birds)" in London on 8 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 Jan — The London auction scene is gearing up for another big season, with the two biggest auction houses targeting buyers around the world for evening sales in February expected to generate several hundred million pounds.

Sotheby's is offering a view of Venice by French impressionist Monet for an estimated 20-30 million pounds as part of February evening sales it says could bring in as much as 202 million pounds overall.

Rival Christie's ex-

pects its main surrealist, modernist and impressionist lots to fetch up to 134 million pounds in the same month.

Sotheby's is banking on broad global interest for its offering of Monet's "Le Grand Canal" of 1908, which was on loan to The National Gallery in London from 2006-14.

"The market for works by Claude Monet has now reached an all-time point of strength, with bidders coming from four times as many countries as a decade ago," Helena Newman,

Sotheby's co-head of impressionist and modern art worldwide, said in a statement.

London's high-end art scene has attracted a growing number of buyers from Asia, Russia and Latin America in recent years, reflecting the growing number of multi-millionaire art enthusiasts in emerging markets.

Sotheby's is displaying a number of paintings in Hong Kong to generate interest ahead of the sale, including Monet's "L'Embarcadere" (1871),

estimated at 7.5-10 million pounds, and works by Matisse, Toulouse-Lautrec and Magritte.

Christie's, which had previously announced it would be selling Cezanne's Mediterranean landscape "Vue sur L'Estaque et Le Chateau d'If" in February, with a pre-sale estimate of 8-12 million pounds, said on Thursday it will also be auctioning a large range of surrealist art.

The 36 surrealist lots include Joan Miro's "L'oiseau au plumage deploye vole vers l'arbre argente" from 1953, estimated at 7-9 million pounds, alongside works by Magritte, Chagall, Pica-bia, Arp, Ernst, Tanguy and Dominguez, Christie's said.

Olivier Camu, deputy chairman of impressionist and modern art for Christie's, said the surrealist sale was the "strongest and most valuable" grouping of such works the house had ever offered and was attracting strong interest among buyers.

"They realise, together with the modern classical collectors, that surrealism is still not that expensive," he said in a telephone interview.

Reuters

SHANGHAI, 10 Jan — Female models in tight dresses and miniskirts may be banned from one of Asia's premier car exhibitions in Shanghai this year.

The Chinese government is concerned about what it sees as increasing vulgarity in society. A crackdown on pornography and freedom of expression more generally has intensified since President Xi Jinping assumed office in 2013. Victor Yang, spokesman of Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd, told Reuters on Friday that the company has received verbal notice from the Shanghai autoshow organizer that no models can be used at the week-long event, from 20 April. An official at the Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shanghai, one of the main organisers of the show, said such a restriction was "under discussion" and a decision would be published soon. He did not elaborate.

Auto promoters in China, as in many other places, often employ models to jazz up their stands. The models often seem to get more attention than the cars, especially from shutterbugs in the crowd.

Government censors faced a backlash from Chinese Internet users this month when a television drama about a Chinese empress was scrubbed of all footage showing actresses' cleavage. Major web portals have also been under pressure to rein in what the government considers "harmful" content. While the news, circulated on microblogs, triggered some criticism, Yang said it would be a positive move for car makers. "An autoshow is an industry event to showcase cars, not beautiful models," he said.—Reuters



A model sits in a Haval E concept car from China's Great Wall Auto at Auto China 2012 in Beijing on 23 April, 2012.—REUTERS

'The Grand Budapest Hotel' leads BAFTA awards' shortlist with 11 nominations

LONDON, 10 Jan — "The Grand Budapest Hotel", an offbeat comedy starring Ralph Fiennes as the concierge of a luxury hotel in a bygone Europe, topped the shortlist for Britain's BAFTA awards, with 11 nominations, including for best film.

Following is how the main films stack up for the awards. Nominations were announced on Friday and the winners will be unveiled by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts on 8 February.

— "The Grand Budapest Hotel" was nominated

for best film, best director for American Wes Anderson and original screenplay; original music, cinematography, editing, production design, costume design, make-up and hair and sound. Fiennes was nominated for leading actor.

— "Birdman", a satire of show business by Mexican director Alejandro Inarritu, was nominated for best film, best director, original screenplay, original music, cinematography, editing and sound. Star Michael Keaton is nominated for leading actor while co-star Edward Norton is up for

best supporting actor and Emma Stone is nominated for supporting actress.

— "The Theory of Everything", a biopic of scientist Stephen Hawking by British director James Marsh, received nominations for best film, outstanding British film, director, adapted screenplay, original music, editing, costume design and make-up and hair. English actor Eddie Redmayne was nominated for leading actor, while Felicity Jones received a nomination for leading actress.

— "The Imitation Game", about World War

Two code-breaker Alan Turing directed by Norway's Morten Tyldum, was nominated for best film, outstanding British film, adapted screenplay, editing, production design, costume design and sound. Benedict Cumberbatch was nominated for leading actor and Keira Knightley was nominated for supporting actress.

— American director Richard Linklater's coming-of-age film "Boyhood", filmed over a 12-year period using the same cast, received five nominations, as did American director



Cast member Ralph Fiennes and director Wes Anderson (L) arrive for the premiere of "The Grand Budapest Hotel" in New York on 26 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

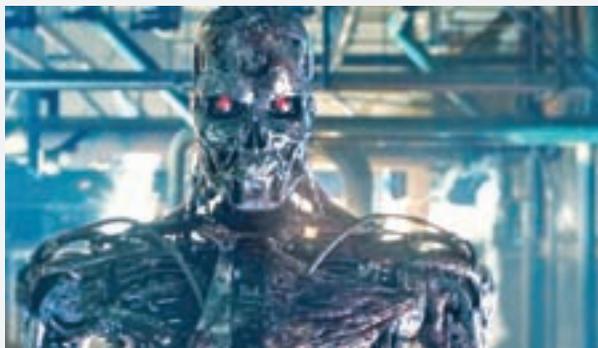
Damien Chazelle's "Whiplash", which portrays a music instructor who pushes students beyond their limits.

— There were four nominations each for "Mr Turner", British director Mike Leigh's portrayal of

landscape painter JMW Turner, British director Christopher Nolan's space epic "Interstellar" and US film "Nightcrawler", about a video cameraman who films gruesome accidents.

Reuters

New photo from 'Terminator Genisys' revealed



The photo from Arnold Schwarzenegger-starring action adventure movie shows the robot still sporting glowing red eyes.—PTI

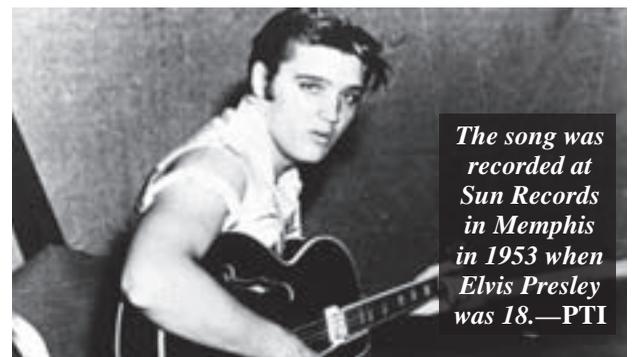
LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — A new photo of T-800 from "Terminator Genisys" has landed online.

The photo from Arnold Schwarzenegger-starring action adventure movie shows the robot still sporting glowing red eyes. Its sleek skeleton and teeth make it look scary, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

Directed by Alan Taylor, the movie will see the former governor of California reprising the titular role. Emilia Clarke stars as Sarah Connor, Jason Clarke as John Connor, and Jai Courtney as Kyle Reese.

The movie will see Kyle being sent to 1984 to save Sarah from a robot programmed to kill her. However, he does not expect what he sees when he arrives in the past. The film is due to arrive in theatres starting 1 July in the United States.—PTI

Elvis Presley's first record up for auction on 80th birthday



The song was recorded at Sun Records in Memphis in 1953 when Elvis Presley was 18.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley's first record "My Happiness" is one of the items which is up for auction at Graceland on his 80th birthday anniversary.

The song was recorded at Sun Records in Memphis in 1953 when he was 18. The 78 RPM acetate was made as gift for his mother Gladys, reported *Ace Showbiz*. Elvis left it at a friend's house when he stopped by to listen to the track because the Presley family did not have a record player. It has since been kept safe by the friend's family.

"I'm hoping that somebody who loves Elvis

Presley and is a huge Elvis fan and who can appreciate the record ... ends up with it," said Loris Hilburn said. She inherited it from her late uncle Ed Leek, the singer's friend.

Ed Leek tried to sell the record in the 1980s, but it never changed hands. It is in original condition and is still playable. It also has been authenticated. Elvis paid the studio USD 4 to cut the track years ago, and now it's being auctioned with the starting bid set at USD 50,000.

Other items being sold at the auction include a gold and diamond necklace the late King of Rock N' Roll gifted to his staff at Graceland, a copy of "That's All Right" he autographed for his friend Ed, and customised watch that has a Star of David and Christian cross which symbolised brotherhood in his entourage.

Also being sold this month are Elvis Presley's two private planes. One is a refurbished Convair 880 jet named after his only daughter Lisa Marie Presley, and the other is a Lockheed JetStar named The Hound Dog II, a less opulent plane purchased by the singer to take him on his trips while the Lisa Marie was being revamped.

PTI

Binoche Greenland drama to open Berlin Film Festival

BERLIN, 10 Jan — A world premiere starring Juliette Binoche called "Nobody Wants the Night" was picked on Friday to open the 65th annual Berlinale, one of the most prestigious film festivals which features some 400 screenings.

Directed by Spain's Isabel Coixet, "Nobody Wants the Night" is an historical drama set in icy Greenland in 1908 about courageous women and ambitious men. It will be one of some 23 films competing for the

Golden Bear, and also stars Japan's Rinko Kikuchi and Ireland's Gabriel Byrne.

"I'm delighted to open the 2015 Berlinale with 'Nobody Wants the Night'," said Berlin International Film Festival director Dieter Kosslick. "Coixet has put together an impressive and perceptive portrait of two women facing extreme circumstances."

It will be the seventh film by Coixet, who was on the Berlinale jury in 2009, to be included in the festival,

and the third film in competition for the Golden and Silver Bear awards after "Elegy" (2008) and "My Life Without Me" (2003).

Binoche has also been a regular at the Berlinale with "Chocolat" (2001) and "Les Amants du Pont-Neuf" (1992) among others. She won the 1997 best actress Silver Bear for "The English Patient", going on to win an Oscar for her performance.

Berlin is one of the world's oldest film showcases, with a proud tradition of

screening movies with political agendas. However, it has faced growing criticism for shifting towards Hollywood and red carpet glamor.

The Berlinale, which runs 5-15 February and kicks off the 2015 festival season, has only announced some of its competition films, such as "45 years" from Britain's Andrew Haigh, "As We Were Dreaming" from Germany's Andreas Dresen, and "Knight of Cups" from US director Terrence Malick.

Reuters

Ken Jeong, Jennifer Coolidge to star in 'Glee'

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — Actors Ken Jeong and Jennifer Coolidge have signed up for roles in musical series 'Glee'.

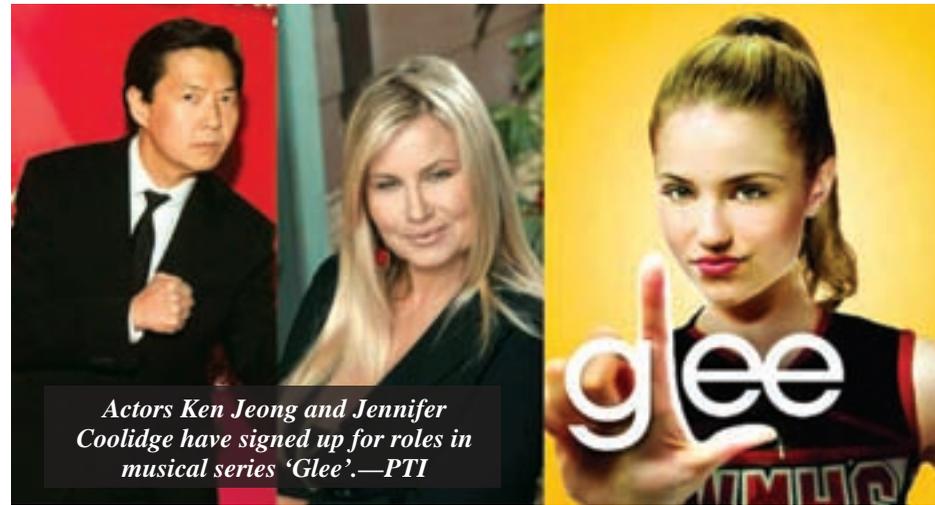
'American Pie' star Coolidge and 'The Hangover' actor Jeong will play Brittany's (Heather Morris) parents in the final season of the Fox comedy, reported Variety.

Jeong posted a photo of himself with Coolidge, Morris and producer Michael Hitchcock earlier this week.

The pair join fellow

new cast member Gina Gershon, who will play the mother of Blaine (Darren Criss), named Pam Anderson. 'Glee' will bring back multiple fan-favourite characters for its final season, in addition to introducing five new students.

New episodes will see Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) and Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) facing opposition from Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) when they return to McKinley High to re-launch the New Directions.—PTI



Actors Ken Jeong and Jennifer Coolidge have signed up for roles in musical series 'Glee'.—PTI

GENERAL

Messi, Serena Williams promote new campaign to educate children

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — Lionel Messi and tennis star Serena Williams are promoting a new campaign to help some of the 58 million children who are out of school get an education.

The “1 in 11” campaign is organized by the UN children’s agency UNICEF, the FC Barcelona Foundation and the Qatar Foundation’s Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) organization.

The campaign, named

for the one in 11 primary school-age children who are not in school, initially aims to help over 500,000 marginalized youngsters in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal, with a goal of expanding to more countries.

A campaign film featuring Messi and Williams will be shown during Sunday’s Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid match.

The organizers said the campaign hopes to raise

between \$12 million and \$15 million to kick start the project at an art auction at Sotheby’s in London next month. Messi said in a statement that he is supporting the campaign “because I believe every child has the right to fulfill their potential realize their dreams”.

Williams’ statement expressed her wish of getting the number of youngsters not going to school “down to zero.” —Xinhua

Boston Mayor promises no overspending on 2024 Olympics

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — One day after United States Olympic Committee selected Boston to bid for the 2024 summer Olympic Games, mayor of the city Martin Walsh promised on Friday that Boston will try to avoid overspending.

“I promise this will be the most open, transparent

and inclusive process in Olympic history. I also promise that I will never leave Boston with a large price tag of an unpaid debt,” Walsh said in a Press conference in Boston.

“We are not going to be using tax payers’ money to be building venues,” he added.

The United States’ last two attempts to bid for the Games both failed, with New York for 2012 and Chicago for 2016 Games. The last time for US to stage the summer Olympics was in 1996 in Atlanta and Salt Lake City hosted the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Xinhua

Rio stadium to reopen after two years of repairs

SAO PAULO, 10 Jan — The Rio de Janeiro stadium that is to host athletics at the 2016 Olympics will reopen next month after almost two years of repair work, according to the president of the Botafogo soccer club that play there.

The 45,000-capacity Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium (Engenhao), completed in 2007 for the Pan American Games, was closed in March 2013 after officials discovered the roof was in danger of collapse.

On Friday, Botafogo president Carlos Eduardo Pereira said his club would play Boavista there in the Rio de Janeiro state championship next month.

“We have just left a meeting with Mayor Eduardo Paes and can confirm Botafogo will open their campaign on 1 February at the Engenhao,” Pereira told the Arena Sportv television show.

The lower tier, which seats 20,000, will be opened next month and the rest will follow at a later date.

Pereira also said the club had officially asked to change the name of the venue to the Nilton Santos Olympic Stadium, in tribute to the Botafogo full back who won a World Cup winner’s medal in 1958 and 1962. The ground, owned by the city and leased to Botafogo, is called the

Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium after the former president of world soccer’s ruling body FIFA.

Havelange was also a member of the International Olympic Committee until he resigned from the IOC in 2011 after being accused of taking bribes. Some fans now want his name stripped from the stadium title.

However, Brazilian Olympic officials have said they are proud of Havelange and will not remove his name. The stadium’s closure cast a grey cloud over the normally bright blue skies of Brazil’s most iconic city and its preparations to become South America’s first Olympic host.

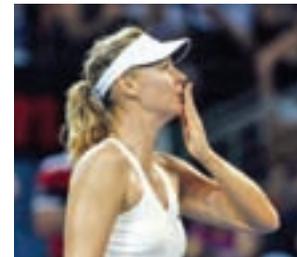


A view of the Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium, undergoing renovation to stage athletic competitions during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, during the 2nd world press briefing for the games in Rio de Janeiro on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Sharapova and Ivanovic reach Brisbane final

BRISBANE, 10 Jan — Russia’s Maria Sharapova and Ana Ivanovic of Serbia won their semi-finals at the Brisbane International on Friday to set up a highly-anticipated showdown in the lead-up to this month’s Australian Open.

Sharapova beat the talented Ukrainian Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-3 to reach the final without dropping a set while Ivanovic battled her way to a 7-6(2), 6-4 victory over American Varvara Lepchenko.



Maria Sharapova of Russia blows a kiss to fans after defeating Elina Svitolina of Ukraine in their women’s singles semi final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, on 9 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

Sharapova beat Ivanovic in the 2008 Australian Open final and both women are in devastating form heading towards the first grand slam of the season, starting in Melbourne on 19 January.

Sharapova has dropped just nine games in her three matches to get to the final and showed no mercy against Svitolina, a rising star who won the 2010 junior French Open, as she reached her 56th WTA final.

“I expected her to play well. I think I did a lot of things good to try to take away her game,” Sharapova said. “In the end, it became a little bit more difficult. She became more free, went for her shots a little bit, a few unforced errors from my end, but overall I’m happy I stuck with it and finished the last point.”

Ivanovic, who came from a set down to win her previous match, once again had to dig deep before seeing off Lepchenko after

nearly two hours on the Pat Rafter Arena.

Lepchenko twice served for the opening set but Ivanovic broke back both times then won the tiebreaker.

In the second set, Ivanovic charged to a 5-1 lead before she got the wobbles, allowing Lepchenko to reel off the next three games before she finally sealed the win on her seventh match point. “Definitely, (my) heart was racing a little bit, especially that it was really becoming a battle,” Ivanovic said.

“Even though I was 5-1 up, still felt like a battle all the way through.”

Ivanovic will be chasing her 16th WTA career title and her fifth in 12 months after she began her latest resurgence up the world rankings.

Currently ranked seventh, the 27-year-old is looming as one of the favourites for the Australian Open. A former world number one who won her only grand slam title at the 2008 French Open, Ivanovic credits her return to form to finally learning how to cope with fame.—Reuters

MRTV
Entertainment Channel

(11-1-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

- Travelogue Programme

6:30 am

- Honour Song of Alinka Wutyi

6:50 am

- Myanmar Video

8:15 am

- Sing & Enjoy

9:20 am

- Myanmar Movies

MITV
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-1-15 07:00 am~
12-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Today Myanmar
- * “Innovative Solution for Farmers in Dry Zone”
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * Local News
- * Myanmar’s Secret Beautifier
- * World News
- * Snake Dancer
- * Local News
- * Enchanting Rakhine Land
- * World News
- * Contemporary Art
- * Local News
- * Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing

- * World News
- * In The Studio: Shin Min Eain
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon “The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images”
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Shwe Myanmar (I)
- * World News
- * Shwe Myanmar (II)
- * Local News
- * ID Show “Traffic”
- * World News
- * Tea
- * Local News
- * Young Entrepreneur Award
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Gold Leaf



South Korea's goalkeeper Kim Jin-hyeon (L) punches the ball clear during their Asian Cup Group A soccer match against Oman at the Canberra stadium in Canberra on 10 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Cho goal gives South Korea winning start

CANBERRA, 10 Jan — South Korea opened their bid for an elusive third Asian Cup title with a 1-0 win over Oman in their opening match in Canberra on Saturday.

Cho Young Cheol fired South Korea in front in first-half stoppage time and that proved to be enough to give the 2011 semifinalists victory and move them alongside hosts Australia on three points in Group A.

South Korea, seeking their first continental title in 55 years, created a raft of chances in the

first half, and Oman goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi had to get down low to turn away a shot from Koo Ja Cheol.

Oman failed to manage a single shot on target in the first half, but had a strong shout for a penalty waved away when Qasim Saeed appeared to be brought down in the box.

Al Habsi prevented a potential own goal with another stop from Abdul Salam Amer's misguided header before the South Koreans broke the deadlock in the first minute of time added on.

Al Habsi could only parry a stinging shot from Koo and Cho reacted quickest to slide home from close range.

South Korea continued to dictate the pace and Al Habsi produced another acrobatic stop to keep out Koo's header.

But the Koreans had to endure a tense finish as Raed Ibrahim had a shot deflected just wide and substitute Amad Al Hosni saw his header tipped onto the cross bar by Kim Jin-hyeon in the dying seconds.

Kyodo News



United injury crisis is finally over, says Van Gaal

LONDON, 10 Jan — With just one player left on Manchester United's injury list and a new goalkeeper signed, manager Louis van Gaal is starting to enjoy life at Old Trafford as he tries to assemble the "best team in the world".

Third-placed United, unbeaten in their last 11 matches in all competitions, host fourth-placed Southampton at Old Trafford on Sunday with just a point separating the sides after 20 matches.

United were plagued by injuries at the start of the season but the treatment room has an emptier feel now as a number of first-team players close in on returns.

Luke Shaw, who signed from the Saints during the close season, is fit to face his former club after recovering from an ankle injury and midfielder Daley Blind has shaken off a knee problem he sustained in November. Argentine defender Marcos Rojo will return to training on Saturday, leaving Ashley Young, who has a hamstring problem, as United's only injury concern.

"We have only one player injured. Can you believe it? Only one," Van Gaal told a news conference on Friday.

"Another point is, of course, match rhythm, but everybody is healthy and can play except Ashley Young who is out for four to six weeks.

"I have to select for the first team in my career at Manchester United the 11 and the 18 players.

"But I have to watch the qualities of Southampton, how I can reduce that quality by my line-up but also by our game-plan."

United signed former Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes on a free transfer on Thursday and the Spaniard will compete with compatriot David De Gea for the number one spot at Old Trafford.

"We were the first to buy a player. We were very quick to buy Victor Valdes. You notice? Manchester — we deal quickly. When we can, we deal quickly," Van Gaal said.

"My ambition is that I have the best players who can cooperate with each other to form the best team in the world.

"I had the chance to see him and his behaviour in rehabilitation but also if his quality was still the same. He has confirmed both and that is very important for me."

United beat Southampton 2-1 at St Mary's last month, Robin van Persie scoring both goals to secure a somewhat fortuitous victory against the run of play.

Reuters

Chelsea assistant rules out Messi swoop

LONDON, 10 Jan — A Chelsea deal for Barcelona forward Lionel Messi would be impossible under financial fair play rules, assistant coach Steve Holland said on Friday. The Argentine's future at Barca has come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks amid media reports of a bust up with coach Luis Enrique and talk of a potential move away from the Nou Camp.

The four times world player of the year would almost certainly command a world record transfer fee while his wages would ensure any deal would be viable only for the most financially powerful clubs. Holland, standing in at the club's weekly news conference for Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, said it was unlikely the London club could bring the 27-year-old to Stamford Bridge without breaching UEFA's stringent spending controls.

He added that it was unlikely that any player would join Chelsea

in the January transfer window.

"Jose has made it quite clear that in this window his expectation is that nobody comes and nobody goes," Holland said.

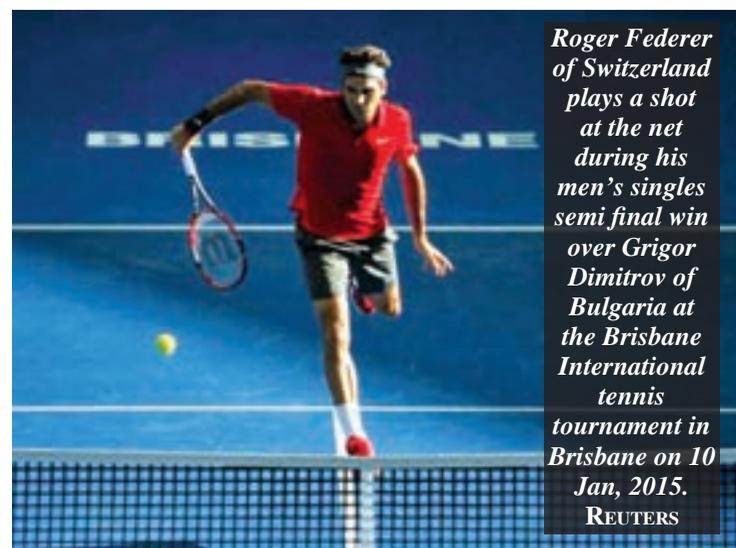
"I recall him this time last year saying a similar thing, but a couple of things happened that made us reactive. Manchester United made a huge bid for Juan Mata. Sometimes you have to react.

"But the hope and expectation is that nobody leaves and nobody comes. We're happy with what we have.

"This club conforms with financial fair play. We've brought one or two players in over the last 12 months but it's quite clear that players have been sold to balance the books.

"When you look at the numbers being mentioned around the Messi deal, I think it's almost an impossible deal for any club working within the restraints of financial fair play."—Reuters

Federer beats Dimitrov to reach Brisbane final



Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a shot at the net during his men's singles semi final win over Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane on 10 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

BRISBANE, 10 Jan — Roger Federer moved to within one win of his 1,000 career victory when he crushed Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov on Saturday to reach the final of the Brisbane International.

The Swiss maestro produced a masterclass display to brush aside his young challenger, dubbed "Baby Fed", 6-2, 6-2 in just 53 minutes.

Federer will now play Milos Raonic in Sunday's final after the big-serving Canadian blasted 34 aces past Kei Nishikori to win the first semi-final 6-7(4), 7-6(4), 7-6(4).

If Federer wins his 83rd career title on Sunday he will join Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl as just the third man to chalk up 1,000 ATP match wins.

The 33-year-old holds a 7-1 win record over Raonic, one of

the new young guns starting to make their mark on the game.

Dimitrov is also regarded as one of the most promising emerging talents after reaching the semi-finals at Wimbledon last year but was unable to mount a serious challenge against Federer.

The world number two broke Dimitrov in the opening game then three more times to complete a straight-sets win at the Pat Rafter Arena.

Despite not having won a grand slam title since 2012, Federer is steadily improving his form leading into the Australian Open, starting 19 January.

He struggled in his opening match against little-known John Millman but took just 39 minutes to win his next match with Australian qualifier James Duckworth.—Reuters

Asian Cup Australia 2015

UAE

13:30 MST (11.1.2015)

Qatar

Iran

15:30 MST (11.1.2015)

Bahrain

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Korea Republic	1 - 0	Oman
Uzbekistan	1 - 0	DPR Korea
Saudi Arabia	0 - 1	China PR