Aye Min Soe, Zaw Gyi (Panita)

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

The fire was extinguished by 7:15 am.

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

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

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

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

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

The fourth floor, which was destroyed by the fire, had cosmetic and medicine stores while the third floor housed textiles and clothing. There were 48 food stalls on the 5th floor.

"When the Fire Services Department gives us a green light we will open traffic," said Police Lt Col Aung Ko Oo of the Yangon Region Traffic Force.

The building was hit by fire in May, 2010. It took 2 days for the firemen to control the fire.

Aye Min Soe, Zaw Gyi (Panita)
More than 90 houses handed over to people in flood-hit areas in Rakhine State

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

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

CB Bank funded the construction of houses at the cost of more than K121 million.

Rakhine State is one of the worst-hit states, bearing the brunt of the country’s worst flood in 100 years.

More than 50 people died in the disaster.

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

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

Fifty percent of the affordable housing projects comprising about 400 houses in Haka, Chin State, have completed, and the people have moved to 200 houses.

Mrauk U District Information and Public Relations Department

Raw opium leads to arrests

AN anti-drug squad in Waingmaw discovered 14.4 kilos of raw opium on a motorbike heading from Sadon to Waingmaw on Monday.

Charges have been filed against Too Jar, the driver of the motorbike.

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

Local police further seized 206 yabba pills and 13 grams of heroin on a motorbike being driven by one Zayyar Tun in Moe Myat town.

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

Crime News

One woman dies and 32 passengers injured by brake failure

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

A trailer heading from Haho to Shwe Nyaung being driven by one Maung Ohoo alias Maung Owne, turned over when his brakes failed. 32 passengers were injured while Ma Phyu died on the spot. The driver is being charged for careless driving by the police.—Police IPRD

Woman dies in car crash in Yangon

A WOMAN was killed on the spot in an accident on Wednesday on the Yangon-Mawlamyine road. According to the police investigation, Daw Win, 75, was hit by a car being driven by one Okkha, 23, who hit her as she was crossing the road. The driver is being charged with careless driving by local police.—Tin Huu (Mawlamyine)

Woman dies in train-motorcycle accident

A WOMAN was killed on the spot by a train accident that occurred on Monday at milepost 250/17-18 between the Nyaung Toe and Pin Chaung train stations. According to the police investigation a motorbike being driven by U Maung Maung Htway and his passenger Ma Yee Yee Thein were crossing the rail road when the passenger fell from the motorbike. She was immediately killed by an oncoming train. The police have filed charges against the driver.—Police IPRD

Swiss Balloonists take to the air over upper Myanmar

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

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

The group has stopped in Monywa as part of their Loikaw- Inlay-Mandalay-Monywa-Pakokku and Bagan trip. The group has been visiting Myanmar since 1999. December and January are apparently the most popular months for good ballooning weather.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)
Maintain the stability already achieved: President

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

To the esteemed nationals and brethren residing in Kachin State,

It is my honour to send you this message on the occasion of the 68th anniversary Kachin State Day on 10 January, today. After gaining independence the Kachin State Government was formed at a Kachin State Council meeting held for the first time on 10th January 1948. As a gesture of hailing the forming of the Kachin State government, 10th January has been designated as “Kachin State Day” and marked yearly. This year marks the 68th anniversary.

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

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

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

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

Signed,

Thein Sein
President

Ceasefire monitoring mechanism needs $21 million for three years

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

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

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

JMC is the committee formed under the terms of the agreement of Kachin State hand in hand with the Union and state governments.

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

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

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

KOICA has supported the project by participating in KOICA’s university partnership project, a part of the Public Private Relationship program.

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

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

Cargo train derails on Myitkyina-Mandalay Route causing delays

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

There were no injuries or deaths in the accident.

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

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

Agate handicrafts begin selling online

Agate stones are seen at a factory in Monywa. Photo: Pho Chan

Agate stones are seen at a factory in Monywa. Photo: Pho Chan

Agate stones are seen at a factory in Monywa. Photo: Pho Chan

Agate stones are seen at a factory in Monywa. Photo: Pho Chan

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

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

At their gallery KSM Monywa Jewellery display necklaces, lockets, various toys, decoration materials, bracelets and chains which are made from Jasper. Agate, Quartzit and palm stone. — Pho Chan (Monywa)

Joint-committee on monitoring ceasefire in Shan State formed

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

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

Cabo train derails on Myitkyina-Mandalay Route causing delays

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

There were no injuries or deaths in the accident.

Engineers and workers from Nabar and Indaw stations together with local police and service personnel of a local battalion are carrying out efforts to remove the cars and repair the road. - Maung Chit Lin (Indaw)
North Korea says South’s propaganda broadcasts push situation to ‘brink of war’

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

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

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

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

Kim Ki Nam’s comments, which are in line with routine propaganda rhetoric, were the North’s first official response to the South’s broadcasts, which it considers insulting. The broadcasts, in rolling bursts from walls of loudspeakers at 11 locations along the heavily militarised border, blared rhetoric critical of the Pyongyang regime, as well as “K-pop” music. North Korea later responded with its own broadcasts. A South Korean military official said Seoul and Washington had discussed the deployment of US strategic weapons on the Korean peninsula after the test, but declined to give details. Media said these could include B-2 and B-52 bombers, and a nuclear-powered submarine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I think the comfort women pact and the North Korean test could spur military cooperation,” a senior Japanese navy officer told Reuters, speaking on condition he was not identified. “The test has worsened the security situation in the region.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In a bid to resolve the impasse, Washington agreed last year to act as a go-between to allow Seoul and Tokyo to swap intelligence.

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

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

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

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

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

The advertisement, for a skin-whitening pill called “Snowz”, made by Thai brand Seoul Secret, and posted on video website YouTube, features one actress whose skin gets darker next to a rival with light skin. “You just need to be white to win,” runs the tagline.

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

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

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

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

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

The video was removed from YouTube later on Friday.

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

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

Philippines urges ASEAN to pressure China for rules on disputed sea

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

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

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

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

Aquino said the Philippines had done everything it could to push forward discussions on the code — a set of rules setting out how claimant states should behave, and imposing sanctions on countries that violate it, aimed at preventing provocative action, raising tension and conflict.

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

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

Analysts say it might be waiting for the completion of its work on artificial islands it is building in the South China Sea before sitting down with ASEAN.

China landed two test flights on one of the islands on Wednesday, four days after its first landing on the 3,000 metre (10,000 feet) runway on a reef in the Spratly Islands.

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

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

Pakistan pledges to cooperate with Indian attack investigation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China makes five more arrests over deadly Shenzhen landslide

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

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

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

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

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

Calls to Shenzhen Yixianlong Investment Development were unanswered.

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

Damaged vehicles and containers are seen at an industrial estate hit by a landslide in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on 23 December 2015. Photo: Reuters
Gunman ambushed Philadelphia policeman ‘in the name of Islam’

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

Edward Archer of Philadelphia — appeared outside his home in the Frankford neighborhood, according to the Associated Press, and then questioned police officers and later confessed to the attack, police officials told reporters.

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

Philadelphia Police Captain James Clark added, “He said he pledges his allegiance to Islamic State, he follows Allah and that was the reason he was called on to do this.”

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

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

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

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

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

“In no way shape or form does anyone in this room believe that what was done represents Islam,” Kenney said. “This was done by a criminal with a stolen gun.”

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

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

“When it’s time to pray, you get to wherever is closest.” Ar-Rashad said, adding, “There’s no conflict between us and anyone in the world.”

A woman who lived on the same block as Archer’s residence said police had responded to the house on occasion but described the suspect as “pleasant.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other strikes in Iraq hit near Al Qaim, Sinjar, Haditha, Irbil, Kisik, Qayyarah and Sulfan Abdullah, it said.— Reuters

US House eyes passing North Korea sanction bill next week

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

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

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

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

“What we most want to see, though, is increased international pressure applied on North Korea. And that is best pursued through the UN,” Kirby said.— Kyodo News
CAIRO — Two armed assailants attacked a hotel in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Hurghada on Friday, wounding three foreign tourists, Egyptian officials said. The Security Information Centre of Egypt’s Ministry of Interior said in a statement that two Austrians and a Swede had been injured while the attackers were trying to escape.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 31 October, a Russian passenger plane crashed in Sinai, killing all 224 people on board, most of them tourists returning home from the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh.

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

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

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

But Iraq’s military later denied that the militant group had attacked or clashed with the Turkish forces “recently”.

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

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

“The operation was ended without a single rocket being launched at the camp,” he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The warring sides held the latest round of peace talks in December but failed to find a political solution that would end the conflict, which has killed nearly 6,000 people. Negotiations are set to resume on January 14.

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

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

The United Nations said UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed was in Riyadh and would be travelling to Sanaa “soon”.

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

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

Former Yemen president say no dialogue with government

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

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

The warring sides held the latest round of peace talks in December but failed to find a political solution that would end the conflict, which has killed nearly 6,000 people. Negotiations are set to resume on January 14.

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

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

The United Nations said UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed was in Riyadh and would be travelling to Sanaa “soon”.

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

A growing diplomatic dispute between Riyadh and Tehran, triggered by Saudi Arabia’s execution of a prominent Shia cleric, has damaged the outlook for any resolution to the conflict in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula nation.—Reuters
Enjoy your rights but be accountable

Khin Maung Aye

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

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

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

People are, by nature, not always strictly adhering to ethics, which has no legal binding. Recognising this, the United Nations has formulated international treaties which have legal binding. As known to all, when a nation has signed and ratified an international treaty, it has to incorporate the international rules and regulations into its national laws. Then only will the citizens of that nation, which has become a signatory to an international convention, be able to rely on its national laws. This is the reason why governments always take time to sign and ratify until they are convinced that that particular convention is beneficial to their nations, regions and the world.

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

Write for us

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

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

Hello! I’m still alive! Part II

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja

Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

My two days with Captain Khin Maung Nyunt’s English girlfriend Pamela in London reminded me of the hit film I had seen thrice. It is Roman Holiday in which the hero is a handsome commoner and heroine is a royal princess who escaped herself from the palace, incognito and posed herself as a rural girl. The landlady and our meetings did not go beyond the limit of brotherhood. I thought to myself that Pamela deserved another day”. But we two kept our moral precepts of the Buddha. You be kind to her. Navy Khin Maung Nyunt heartily shook hands with me and hugged me. I told him in Burmese teasingly but meaningfully: “I always observe five moral precepts of the Buddha. You believe me”.

“Of course, I do. I do.”

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

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

“Of course, I’m. Why you ask so?”

Both the landlady and the physician retorted together: “No, no, no Mr Nyunt, you are sick. We know you’ve another mistaken identity. I told them there were two Khin Maung Nynuts at the L.S.E. “If you don’t believe me, you ring up St. Georges hospital to check if there was another Khin Maung Nyunt in the ward No. G.”

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

Mrs. Coleman kissed me many times with “Sorry” repeat-ed endlessly. Physician gave me his apology but he could not understand two Myanmar scholars at L.S.E with identical names. Dear readers, please keep track with me because my story of mistaken identity did not end in London. It continued in Myanmar when both of us came back after we got Ph.D. degrees from the L.S.E. In June 1960 I rejoined my University of Yangon. A new department International Relations [IR] was already opened and I became lecturer there. A year later in 1961, on May 7th my wedding ceremony was held at the grand hall of Yangon Municipal Town Hall. My bride was Hla Hla Khin, whom I met in London. She was now the principal of Ady Nursery School, the British Embassy. The other Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt came to my wedding and greeted us. He jokingly asked us to find a pretty girl for him as he could not find one by himself. A few weeks later, a close friend of mine in Manda- lay rang me up if I liked his slick knitting of my marriage. As wedding present, I replied I did not get any from him. He said he sent the gift to the Economics Department! When I went to Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt’s home to claim my present, he produced nearly 20 wedding presents for me, miss-delivered to his house. He apologized for not informing me about it. When I phoned my Mandalay friend that I got his present from my name sake, as it was mis-delivered he made a very apt naughty and joyous remark:

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

In addition to this, D. Khin Maung Nyunt I had cases of mistaken identity with other Khin Maung Nynuts in Yangon. Medical doctor Khin Maung Nyunt, and famous singer Hpo Soe Gyin Khin Maung Nyunt. See page 9 >
Hello! I’m still alive! Part II

>> from page 8

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

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

“You’re mistaken. I’m not that kind of a doctor Mr....”

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

“Oh! I see, I see, you are Taleiksan Saywa Wun, [longoingyo]”. Instead of Vet doctor [Taleiksan Saywa Wun [dγi:j.jow]加紧]. he shortened it Animal doctor [dγi:j.jow,]. So I became animal.

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

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

“We admired you very much before we saw you. We are the fans of hit songs of Hpo Soe Gyi N Khin Maung Nyunt.”

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

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

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

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

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

The worst two cases occurred – one at the Mandalay University and the other in Yangon. I was transferred to Mandalay University as Professor of History when Dr. Than Tun retired. A year later a new department International Relations was opened and I concurrently was the professor of that department. My family was left in Yangon. I resided alone with some students who could not get room at the hostels. One afternoon in late February, two nicely dressed, and bedecked with diamond jewels early mid-aged ladies came to me in a very grand car. The brought many presents. Introducing themselves as jewelers with a shop in E building of Zey Gyo Daw, Mandalay, said softly:

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

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

“What degree your niece had?”

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

Now, light dawned on this extreme case of mistaken identity. I explained at length that I was a married man with 5 children. I left my family in Yangon. I showed them my family photo and the other Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt was the Rector of Economics Institute, a bachelor residing in Yangon. Crestfallen and ashamed of their mistakes they two ladies paid me homage and left. I told them to take back their presents, they refused. They said that I deserved them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Concluded)
Apple registers automobile domain names, including ‘apple.car’

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

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

MacRumors had first reported the news on Friday, but said the domain names could be related to Apple’s CarPlay, which lets drivers access contacts on their iPhones, make calls or listen to voicemails without taking their hands off the steering wheel.

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

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

Crash rates for self-driving cars less than conventional car

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An official survey last week showed China’s manufacturing sector contracted for a fifth straight month in December and factories continued to shed jobs, damping hopes that the economy will enter 2016 on steadier footing. China Beige Book International (CBB) said in its latest private survey that growth in input prices and sales prices for Chinese firms slipped to record lows in the fourth quarter.

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

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

Deflationary cycles encourage consumers to hold off from buying and businesses to hold off from investing indefinitely, on expectations that prices will continue falling. Such cycles can prove extremely difficult to escape, and Chinese policy makers have kept a worried eye on the example of Japan, where a strong currency, distorted banking sector and muddled monetary policy combined to suppress growth for decades.

Given how stubborn deflationary pressure has proven in China, regulators appear to be bringing the exchange rate to bear on the problem. After spending most of 2014 holding the yuan steady while other currencies dropped against the dollar, Beijing since August last year let its currency fall more than 6 per cent against the dollar, to its weakest level since 2011.

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

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

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

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

A vendor arranges vegetables at her stall at a market in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, in December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS
Exercise prescriptions important for type 2 diabetes

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

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

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

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

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

The researchers reviewed published recommendations or guidelines for exercise prescriptions for people with type 2 diabetes issued by international scientific organisations in the field of diabetology, endocrinology, cardiology, public health and sports medicine. They included 11 publications from institutions like the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, American Diabetes Association, Francophone Diabetes Society and Swedish National Institute of Health.

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

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

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

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

Exercise has indisputable life-saving benefits, but there is limited research on the benefits of exercise among people with diabetes, said Huseyn Naci, a health policy researcher at the London School of Economics who was not part of the new review.

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

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

Advising patients to increase their exercise levels is not enough, he said. Prescriptions should include specific information on the type, mode, duration, intensity and weekly frequency, and the exercise strategies must be adapted for each individual, based on other health conditions, contraindications and realistic personal goals.

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

—Reuters

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

The Falcon 9 rocket, carrying a NASA ocean-monitoring satellite, is slated to blast off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on 17 January.

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

SpaceX has tried ocean landings twice without success, but officials are optimistic after the company last month safely returned the Falcon 9 booster to a landing pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

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

The firm, owned and operated by Musk, wants to refurnish and refly its rockets, potentially slashing launch costs.

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

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

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

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

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

The rocket slated to launch NASA’s Jason-5 satellite is an older version of the rocket that flew last month and does not have the power to attempt a touchdown on land, SpaceX said.

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

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

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

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

Yellow fever outbreak kills three in Ghana

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Mission accomplished: We have him,” Pena Nieto said on his Twitter account. “I want to inform all Mexicans that Joaquin Guzman Loera has been arrest-ed.” For Pena Nieto, the capture of a trafficker who twice slipped out of Mexican prisons is a sorely-needed victory after his presiden-cy was tarnished by graft and human rights scandals and the shame of the kingpin’s July flight.

It also provides a major boost for US-Mexico relations, strained by the apparent ease with which Guzman gave Mexican authorities the slip after the United States requested his extradition.

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

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

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

One photograph widely circu lated on social media, but that could not be independently verified by Reuters, appeared to show Guzman sitting handcuffed on a hotel bed, in a room that resembled those shown on the Hotel Doux website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bus fare protest in Brazil’s biggest city turns violent

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

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

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

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

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

Police also clashed with protesters in the city of Rio de Janeiro later on Friday. Television images showed masked pro testers spray painting buses and smashing their windows.

The scenes evoked protests that swept Brazil in 2013, sparked by anger over bus fare increases, that brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets. The demonstrations come as left-leaning President Dilma Rousseff, whose popularity has been crushed by the recession and a sweeping anti-corruption investigation that has ensnared her ruling coalition, faces impeachment proceedings in Congress. Some political analysts say the mood on the streets towards her government could play an important role in determining the outcome of the impeachment process. —Reuters

Greeks protest against pension reform as government seeks support

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

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has said the pension system is on the verge of collapse; but reforming it will challenge his resolve to implement measures demanded by Greece’s interna tional creditors, who must sign off on the plan.

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

Hundreds more public sector workers and pensioners, worn down by several rounds of wage and pension cuts Greece has imposed over the years in return for rescue funds marched in the city centre.

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

The government tricked the workers and the farmers into think ing that it will create a better society with more justice and less unemployment,” 74-year-old pensioner Babis Kattis said from the rally.

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

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

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

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

According to the proposals Greece sent its lenders on Mon day, all six main pension funds will be merged into one and fu ture main pensions could be cut by up to 30 per cent. It sets a lower limit at 384 euros per month and sets a ceiling of 2,300 euros on the maximum monthly pension outlaw. The average monthly pension currently stands at about 850 euros. —Reuters
US considers ending programme that lures Cuban doctors to defect

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

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

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

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

“It’s an unusual policy, and I think as we look at the whole totality of the relationship, this is something that we felt was worth being in the list of things that we consider,” Rhodes told Reuters.

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

Cuba has been openly scornful of the programme, calling it a “reprehensible practice” that is designed to “deprive Cuba and many other countries of vital human resources.” Cuban foreign ministry officials were unavailable Friday on comment on Washington’s review of the programme, which has not been previously reported.

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

The programme dates to a period of lingering Cold War animosity, but many other countries have since reached agreements with the US to accept Cuban professionals to fill their needs.

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

---

Swiss missionary kidnapped a second time in Mali’s Timbuktu

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

Photo: Reuters

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

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is active in desert areas north of the city and has a history of seizing foreigners and demanding ransom.

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

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

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

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

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

Two missionaries attacked a luxury hotel in the capital Bamako on 20 November, killing 20 people, many of whom were foreigners.

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

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

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

---

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (124N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (124N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: MS Yang Ming Line

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO ( )

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

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: MS Maersk Line

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1062)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1062) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: MS Regional Container Lines

Phone No: 2301185

ADVERTISE WITH US!

- We are Myanmar’s highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: adv.gnlm@gmail.com,

Phone: 09 250107962, 09 251022355
It is Brie Larson’s year: Jennifer Lawrence

LONDON — Actress Jennifer Lawrence says she is expecting to lose to fellow contender Brie Larson at the Golden Globe Awards. The 25-year-old actress is up for the best actress award for her role in “Joy” but can’t see herself picking up the prize as her rival gave a strong performance in “Room”, reported Female First.

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

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

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

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

“This is a new dynamic for Bradley and I that we haven’t done before — allies in commerce and adversaries in commerce.” — PTI

‘Carol’, ‘Bridge of Spies’ lead nominations for BAFTA awards

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

“Carol”, starring Cate Blanchett as a married woman who falls for a shop assistant (Rooney Mara) in 1950s New York has nine nominations each.

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

“Bridge of Spies”, which stars Tom Hanks as a lawyer negotiating the release of a US pilot held captive by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, won a nomination for director Steven Spielberg as well as for best film. Mark Rylance was nominated for supporting actor and the drama is also in the running for original screenplay, sound, cinematography, original music, editing and production design.

“Carol”, in which a bear attack sparks a quest for revenge, earned eight nominations, including best film, leading actor for Leonardo DiCaprio and best director for Alejandro G. Inarritu, last year’s Academy Award winner for “Birdman”.

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

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

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

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

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

Last year’s BAFTA leading actor winner Eddie Redmayne is in the running for his role in transgender movie “The Danish Girl”, which was nominated for outstanding British film. Co-star Alicia Vikander will compete in the leading actress category.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winners will be announced at the BAFTA awards ceremony in London on 14 February. — Reuters
SYDNEY — British aviator Tracey Curtis-Taylor flew her open-cockpit biplane across Sydney Harbour and landed at the city’s international airport yesterday, completing a three-month journey from England to retrace a pioneering feat of early aviation.

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

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

“Seeing all the most iconic landscapes, geology, vegetation, just the best view in the world,” she said. “Very few people get to fly it like I just did.”

Braving sea spray and fog in her “Spirit of Artemis,” a reconditioned piston-engine plane, Curtis-Taylor crossed 14,000 miles (22,000 kilometres) and 23 countries using 8,000 litres (2,100 gallons) of fuel. She had struggled to secure supplies of “avgas”, or aviation gasoline, not readily available at many modern airports, and relied on a support plane that followed behind.

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

“we have done something like 54 stops and that is what takes the time.” Her challenges included scavenging for fuel with the help of Aboriginals after an impromptu landing in the Australian outback, and spending a day scraping salt off her propeller after flying over the Tiwi Sea.

In the post-9/11 world of aviation security she also encountered wary airport officials, especially after the Paris attacks in November and the downing of a Russian airliner in Egypt the month before that.

“Everything is in high alert,” Curtis-Taylor said.

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

Legendary steam locomotive ‘Flying Scotsman’ set to return

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

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

It emerged dramatically from huge clouds of steam at Bury station in northern England to the delight of dozens of rail enthusiasts who had gathered to mark the occasion. Restoration work for the National Railway Museum that has cost some 4 million pounds ($6 million) has now almost finished, although the engine will not be repainted in its traditional green livery until next month.

“Flying Scotsman is arguably the most famous locomotive in the world,” the museum said on its website. “Once restoration is complete, it will be back hauling mainline railtours, steaming proudly into the 21st century.”

Built in 1923, the engine hauled the first ever non-stop service between London and Edinburgh in 1928, taking eight hours. It set the record-breaking 100 mph mark in 1934. After it was retired in 1963 as the age of steam in Britain drew to a close, the Scotsman was sold to a businessman who took it on a tour of the United States where it was fitted with a bell, headlamp and cow-catcher.

In 1988-9 under new ownership, it toured Australia, where at one point it recorded the longest ever non-stop run by a steam locomotive, travelling 422 miles.

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

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

Aviator completes epic flight in vintage biplane with Sydney Harbour flyover

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

![The Flying Scotsman steam engine leaves East Lancashire Railway in Bury, Britain, on 8 January.][1]

![Photo: Reuters][2]
**Lowly Exeter hold second-string Liverpool in FA Cup**

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

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

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

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

Liverpool, who have never lost in the FA Cup to a side from the fourth rung of English football, were level three minutes later when teenage striker Jerome Sinclair took advantage of hesitant defending to fire the ball home.

The hosts went back in front on the stroke of halftime when Lee Holmes caught out Liverpool keeper Adam Bogdan direct from a corner, his swirling delivery creeping under the crossbar, but left back Smith’s equaliser on 73 minutes earned a replay at Anfield.

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

“I can’t believe we have to play another game now,” the German told the BBC.

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

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

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

---

**Champion Federer sets up Raonic final in Brisbane**

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

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

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

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

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

“I really thought I hit the ball very well,” the evergreen 34-year-old, lathered in sweat from the muggy Brisbane heat, said in a courtside interview.

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

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

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

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

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

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