

President takes part in Union Government Cup Golf Tourney in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with state dignitaries at the opening of the third Union Government Cup Golf Tournament in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan —President U Thein Sein took part in the third Union Government Cup Golf Tournament held in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday. Over

200 golfers from 34 teams took part in the tourneys which was held in Myodaw and Yaybya Golf Courses. The opening ceremony was held at 6

am in the morning. Vice President U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaunsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe win hit the flash balls to open the ceremony.

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Artists expect good prospects for watercolour paintings



A watercolour created by a local artist is on display for sale at River Ayeyawady Gallery in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 Jan— The existence of people with a great affection for watercolours is a constant source of encouragement to artists, with a promising market for their works instead of low prices, Artist Hla Tun Aung told the Global New Light of Myanmar at an art exhibition here on Saturday.

Their regular clients are from the United States, Japan, China and South Korea, with a growing

number of local collectors starting to take interest in such paintings, he said.

Moe Win, a watercolourist in Taunggyi of Shan State, described the art of watercolour as his favourite, adding a majority of artists prefer high quality England-made painting accessories, which are available only in big cities.

Regarding younger generation painters, U Tin Aung Htike, a veteran (See page 3)

WTO members encourage Myanmar to continue on path of reintegrating into global economy

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 Jan — Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) praised Myanmar for key reforms undertaken for boosting its economic re-orientation to continue on the path of reintegrating into the global economy.

The WTO members expressed their encour-

agement to Myanmar at a follow-up workshop on Myanmar's first trade policy review in Yangon on Friday.

They applauded Myanmar for enabling foreign companies to get telecommunications licenses, promoting public-private partnerships in the transport sector, allowing (100%) foreign equity participa-

tion in hotels and related businesses, and the central bank's efforts to develop a master plan for the financial sector.

Despite opening up a number of its service sectors, further opening up of its foreign investment regime and improvement of the regulatory environment and business climate are needed to boost compet-

itiveness in this area, the WTO members said.

"We recognized that Myanmar still needs additional efforts covering the range of policy domains such as customs procedures, customs valuation, trade facilitation, foreign investment, business environment, import and export licensing, taxes and (See page 3)



Photo of Bo Aung Kyaw Terminal, one of the major port terminals handling cargo ships and goods in Yangon. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Myanmar Fisheries Show and Contest attracts Mandalarian enthusiasts



MANDALAY, 24 Jan — Organized by Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Myanmar Fisheries Show and Contest (Mandalay) was launched at Natayagan fishery camp in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, on 23 January.

It will be held up to 25 January.

The show comprises over 20 booths of entrepreneurs. The booths showcase 40 feet long skeletons of whale, soft crab breeding, information about fish breeding, Myanmar traditional fishing equipment, conservation of fish resources, pet fish, marine product and so on.

“The show and con-

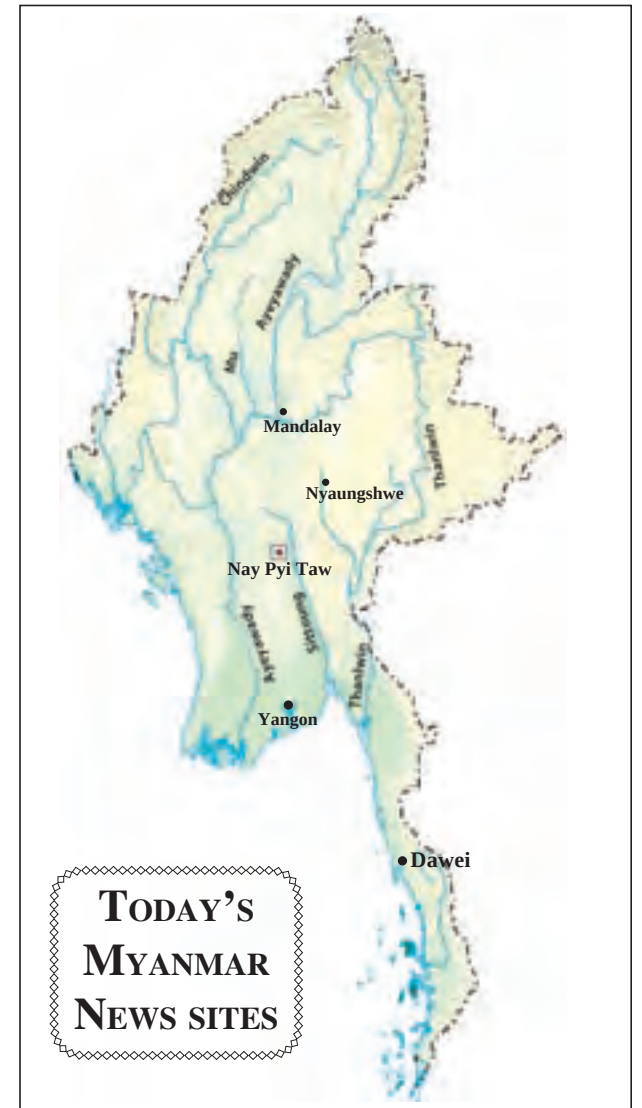
test was aimed at enabling the people to adore fish resources like rare fish species of Irrawady dolphin,” said an official of Fisheries Department.

This year’s show is the second of its kind in the nation although fish and meat shows have been held in regions and states.

The first show and contest was held in

Yangon. The third show will be organized in Ayeyawady Region.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Local farmers get knowledge about environmental conservation



U.S. universities elaborate academic systems

MANDALAY, 24 Jan— Under the Myanmar-U.S. education cooperation programme, a ceremony to clarify matters related to universities in the United States was held at the Information Centre of the US Embassy in Chanayethazan Township on 22 January.

Teachers of the US Embassy explained aca-

demic systems of 22 universities in the U.S., conferring of degrees and job opportunities to students of Mandalay and upper Myanmar region.

The culture diplomat and teacher of the US universities clarified scholarship courses of the US universities and qualifications for candidates.

It was attended by faculty members of universities and colleges in Mandalay, teachers, students, principals of private school and enthusiasts.

Those wishing to attend the universities in the US may contact the US Embassy.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



NYAUNGSHWE, 24 Jan — A meeting on development of agricultural produce and environmental conservation took place at Mongpyo monastery in Mongpyo Village-tract, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, on 22 January.

Shan State Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi

Win and Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaw Hla gave speeches. Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun explained distribution of quality strains of crops, good agricultural patterns for cultivation of crops, boosting production, pest prevention techniques, and

use of natural fertilizers for conservation of environment at Inlay Lake.

Staff Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Irrigation Department discussed efficient use of irrigated water, and plans to dredge drains and replied to queries raised by local farmers.

Nay Myo Thurein

Traffic police officer shares knowledge to university students

DAWEI, 24 Jan—An educative talk on traffic safety was given at the hall of Dawei University of Computer Studies on 23 January.

On behalf of the principal of the university, Head of English Department Lecturer Daw Soe Thanda made a speech. Commander of No 8 Traffic Police Branch Police Major Soe Win of Taninthayi Re-

gion gave talks on traffic rules, traffic safety measures and accidents.

U Ba Lay of Taninthayi Region Directorate of Road Administration explained registration of vehicles and motorcycles, and application for driver licence.

It was attended by faculty members and students, totalling about 150.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

NATIONAL

President takes part in Union Government Cup...

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Together with the President, Vice President U Nyan Tun, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker, the C-in-C, UEC chairman, Chief Justice of the Union, the deputy commander-in-chief, the union ministers, senior military officers from the office of the commander-in-chief and deputy ministers took part in the tournament.

At Yaybya Golf Course also, Chairman of the Leading Committee of the Holding the Tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister U Zaw Win hit the smoke balls to open

the ceremony.

In today's handicap events, Ministry of Defence team stood first with 246 strokes; Ministry of Home Affairs second with 255 strokes, Ministry of Communication third with 257 strokes. In the scratch events, MoD stood first, MoH second and MoC third. The tourney will be held up to 25 January.

MNA

President U Thein Sein greets golfers who will be taking part in the third Union Government Cup Golf Tournament.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham back from India



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon seen together with Governor of Maharashtra State Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao and wife.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan —Myanmar delegation led by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, who were in Mumbai, India, for a goodwill visit, attended a dinner hosted

by Governor of Maharashtra State Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao and wife on Friday. After the dinner,

they left Mumbai for Thailand. They were welcomed at Suvarnabhumi airport by the Myanmar ambassador to Thailand, Myanmar military attaché and embassy staff. They arrived back in Yangon on 24 January. At the airport, they were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, Indian embassy and responsible personnel. Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, Dr Win Myint, Daw Sandar Khin, Chin State Communication Minister U Ngun Hsan Aung, Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein and officials, who were the delegation members, also arrived back on the same flight. —MNA

Five win Dr Tin Shwe Literary Awards

YANGON, 24 Jan- The Dr Tin Shwe Literary Awards were announced at a ceremony held at the Sedona Hotel here on Saturday morning, with five prizes given to outstanding writers.

U Ye Htut, Union Minister for Information, presented the lifelong literary award to Maung Su San, whose wife accepted it on his behalf. The award for feature was won by Ma Aye Phyu, and the award for episodic short novels by Yuya

(MI-1).

Two other awards for feature went to Tun Aung Chain for "Flowing waters: Dipping into Myanmar History" and Dr Nilar Thein (Linyangthit).

Daw Aye Thant, wife of Dr Tin Shwe, presented honorary gifts to the members of the judging board and financial assistance to the Myanmar Writers Association. The Dr Tin Shwe Literary Awards ceremony has entered its 13th year this year.—MNA



Historian U Saw Tun Aung Chain accepts certificate of honour for his works "Flowing waters: Dipping into Myanmar History" from Deputy Minister U Thaug Tin.—MNA

promote the role of paintings in watercolours, an exhibition entitled "Transparent Watercolour Art Exhibition" and organized by the Transparent Watercolour Movement Society (Myanmar), a local art body, is being held at River Ayeyawady Gallery in Yangon from 24 to 28 January.

More than 200 paintings created by 57 artists are on display at the gallery, with prices ranging from K50,000 in minimum to K1.5 million in maximum.

The art body is said to have planned five watercolour art exhibitions a year in a bid to attract public attention.—GNLM

STX Marine Services awards scholarship to MMU students

YANGON, 24 Jan — STX Marine Services Co., Ltd awarded scholarship for Nautical Science and Marine Engineering to outstanding students of Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport on 23 Janu-

ary.

The company signed Memorandum of Agreement with MMU on 22 February 2008 for scholarship programme. Since then, it awarded scholarship to 46 students who specialized in Nautical

Science and 40 Maritime Engineering students.

Yesterday's scholarships went to seven Third Year NS students, seven Fourth Year students, three Fourth Year ME student and seven Fifth Year students.

WTO members encourage...

(from page 1)

tariffs", U Win Min, deputy director-general of the Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce, said in his concluding remarks.

Further enforcement of intellectual property rights, revision of the foreign direct investment law and investment-related legislation and transparency of the tax regime,

the lack of a bankruptcy law, competition policy and consumer protection and protection of property rights were among the concerns expressed by the members through the presentations of findings of Myanmar's first trade policy review by WTO officials at the event.

Myanmar accepted a preparatory process for its first WTO trade review

with a request by the WTO secretariat to respond to a questionnaire in mid-2012. Fact-finding missions took place throughout 2013, and the WTO's Trade Policy Review Policy Body (TPRB) produced its first trade policy review of Myanmar at its meeting in March 2014.

Myanmar has been a WTO member since 1 January of 1995.

GNLM

Artists expect...

(from page 1)

artist, said that the new blood can come up with innovative ideas but still need a lot of practice to draw well.

"It takes great passion, perseverance and genius to live an artist," Female artist Ma Hmway said, adding that the number of women artists is on the increase but most are digital artists and designers. In an attempt to



Rescuers salvage a life raft of a fishing boat that sank in the East China Sea, on 23 Jan, 2015. Three people were saved from a fishing boat that sank in the East China Sea after colliding with another vessel on Thursday night, leaving another ten people on board unaccounted for.—XINHUA

China urges resumption of Korean peninsula denuclearization talks

BEIJING, 24 Jan — China on Friday responded to an upcoming meeting between senior officials of the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, saying it hopes dialogue and contact can help promote an early resumption of the six-party talks.

The US State Department said on Thursday that Sung Kim, US special representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) policy, will have a trilateral meeting next Wednesday in Tokyo with his Japanese and ROK counterparts.

From Tokyo, Kim will head to Beijing and is scheduled to meet with senior Chinese government officials, including

special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs Wu Dawei, said the department.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said it is in the common interests and responsibilities of concerned parties to forge ahead on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and safeguard the peace and stability of the peninsula.

"Under the current situation, parties concerned should work together to return to the track of dialogue and consultation to create conditions for the resumption of the six-party talks," Hua told a daily press briefing.

When asked to confirm the visit to China by Kim, Hua said China has been maintaining close

contacts with relevant parties of the six-party talks.

"We will release further information in due course," she said.

The US State Department on Wednesday rejected the latest DPRK proposal for an unconditional resumption of the six-party talks, which also involve Russia, reiterating a call for Pyongyang to abide by its past commitments.

Ri Yong Ho, the DPRK's six-party talks representative, met with Kim's predecessor, Stephen Bosworth, in Singapore early this week for two-day unofficial talks.

The six-party talks were initiated in Beijing in August 2003 but have been halted since December 2008.

Xinhua

India to open coal to commercial mining firms soon, minister says

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 24 Jan — India expects to hold auctions for private firms to mine and sell coal in the near future, the country's coal and power minister Piyush Goyal said but first wants to deal with mines that are directly linked to plants that use the fuel.

To boost output and cut imports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi passed an executive decree in December to open up India's nationalized coal industry. Bids have been invited from firms that use coal for their own power, steel or cement plants.

"Once my actual user requirements are broadly met, I'm hoping to start opening up to private miners," Goyal told Reuters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"I've not applied my mind entirely to it, but I don't know whether the entire process for all the actual users could be done within this year. But somewhere in the near future I do see that happening."

Indian conglomerates



A worker unloads coal from a goods train at a railway yard in Chandigarh on 8 July, 2014. —REUTERS

such as the Adani Group (ADEL.NS), controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani, and GVK are likely to bid for commercial coal blocks to cash in on fast-rising demand from the power industry.

Goyal also said the decks were clear for a 10 percent sale of the government's stake in Coal India Ltd (COAL.NS), which could help raise about \$4 billion towards meeting the asset sale target of \$10 billion for the fiscal year to March-end.

"If the timing is right and it is in the interests of the government and the people of India that it

should be this year, we'll do it," Goyal said at the "Make in India" lounge set up to attract investment to Asia's third largest economy.

"But I'm not privy to timing exactly as we speak."

In a major victory for Modi, Coal India workers unions earlier this month called off a five-day strike on its second day.

The five powerful unions of the world's largest coal company opposed Modi's move to sell a stake and open up the industry, but cancelled the strike after Goyal assured them a committee would be formed to address their concerns.

Reuters

Abu Sayyaf tagged behind bombing attack in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 24 Jan — Police and military authorities on Saturday tagged the Abu Sayyaf group as behind the deadly bombing attack on Friday that killed two people and injured 54 others in southern Philippine city of Zamboanga.

The city mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar revealed the result of the investigation and assessment provided by the police and military on the blast.

She said the police disclosed that the attack was related with the botched attempt of the Abu Sayyaf group to spring

out 57 of their detained comrades in a local prison facility here last Monday where the group was supposed to stage bombings to divert the authorities' attention.

Police said the terrorists used incendiary type of explosive to draw civilians and the primary bomb to create mass casualties. Most of the people killed and injured were the ones who came to see the burning car that exploded later.

Salazar believed the aim of the terrorists was to divert and destabilize the government for the group to stage the rescue.

Xinhua

Firebomb attacks kill two in worsening Bangladesh unrest over vote

DHAKA, 24 Jan — Two people died in bomb attacks in Bangladesh on Friday, raising the death toll to at least 34 in increasing political unrest as a standoff between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the main opposition leader over last year's election has deepened.

Begum Khaleda Zia, whose opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) boycotted the election on 5 January last year, has demanded that Hasina

and her government step down for a new vote held under a caretaker administration.

Hasina has refused, instead tightening her grip by arresting key opposition leaders and clamping down on critical media as anti-government protests spread. The violence has worsened markedly since the first anniversary on 5 January of the vote.

In addition to the two deaths, at least 40 people were injured, some critical-

ly, after opposition activists firebombed a number of vehicles late on Friday in the capital Dhaka and surrounding districts, police and witnesses said.

The Dhaka government has banned pillion riding on motorcycles in an effort to prevent arson attacks and also announced a bounty of 100,000 taka (\$1,280) for information leading to the arrest of those involved in violence.

Khaleda called an indefinite transport blockade

after she was prevented from holding a mass rally in Dhaka on 5 January, the first anniversary of the disputed election. Hasina and Khaleda have alternated as prime minister for most of the past two decades in a fierce rivalry marked by periods of widespread political violence.

The United States, European Union and Britain have voiced concern and urged all Bangladeshi parties to engage in dialogue.—Reuters

Two killed in wall collapse in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan — Two labourers were killed when a basement wall collapsed in a building under construction in the Indian capital on Friday, said police.

The incident took place in south Delhi's Saket District when the victims were working in the building. Fire fighters rescued a number of other people buried under the debris, but two labourers were declared

dead when brought to hospital. Building collapse takes place from time to time in Indian cities due to lack of enough safety measures in construction or running down conditions of buildings.

Ten people were killed last June when a four-story building in north Delhi came crashing down because of digging in the adjacent plot.—Xinhua

Potential 2016 Republican presidential candidates gather in Iowa

DES MOINES, 24 Jan — For Republicans, the long road to the 2016 presidential election begins in earnest on Saturday in Iowa when a group of potential candidates compete for support among conservatives in the state that will hold the country's first nominating contest.

As many as eight possible candidates are to take part in the Iowa Freedom Summit, a marathon day of back-to-back speeches organized by Iowa's conservative Republican Steve King, a member of the US House of Representatives.

"There are a half a dozen candidates, plus or minus a little bit, that I would put their names in a hat and draw one out and be really happy as a replacement to the president

we have today," King told ABC News.

The key names to watch are a pair of governors, Chris Christie of New Jersey and Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

Christie is viewed skeptically by many conservatives, and how he crafts his message here could be critical. Many Republicans see Walker as a person to watch in spite of the early attention on the potential candidacies of Mitt Romney, the 2012 nominee, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

There are a variety of other people who will be at the event and who could emerge as major 2016 players, such as former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who ran for the nomination and lost in 2012, and former

US Representatives Steve King (R-IA) (C) talks on the phone as Michele Bachmann (R-MN) (R) speaks to reporters about King's proposed budget legislation amendment at the US Capitol on 11 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS



Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who won Iowa in 2008 but lost the nomination.

Texas Senator Ted Cruz will also speak along with former Hewlett-Packard Co Chief Executive Officer Carly Fiorina, phy-

sician Ben Carson and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum.

Steering clear of this event are Bush, Romney, Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Kentucky Senator Rand Paul.

Iowa holds the first

nominating contest of 2016 when Republicans and Democrats gather early next year for caucuses. Republicans here have not picked the eventual nominee since they went for George W Bush in 2004. But the caucuses do serve a

valuable role in winnowing the field.

"This will serve as sort of the unofficial kickoff to the Iowa caucus season for 2016," said Tim Albrecht, an Iowa Republican strategist. "It's a great first look at how potential candidates stack up against each other."

The event, he added, will help Iowa Republicans get a feel for who has "a vision for America's role in the world, versus those who followed the TV cameras here."

On Sunday, Cruz will join Rubio and Paul in Palm Springs, California, where about 450 individuals are attending a winter "seminar" organized by a network of groups founded by brothers Charles and David Koch.—Reuters

UN envoy concludes missions in Cambodia, confident of future

PHNOM PENH, 24 Jan — The United Nations' special envoy for human rights in Cambodia concluded his final mission in the Southeast Asian country on Friday, expressing confidence over its future.

"Cambodia is a forward-looking country," UN Special Rapporteur Surya Subedi, whose mandate began in 2009, told a Press conference on the final day of his last working visit to the country that began 17 January.

"Starting from the

(1991) Paris Peace Conference, the country has made huge strides, including economic development underpinned by political stability. As the country began to accelerate its economic growth, this has brought its own challenges of inequitable development and a widening gap between the rich and the poor," he said.

The envoy added that the progress that has been recently made seems to have instilled hope and confidence in the people, especially the youth in

the country, for the future of democracy and human rights.

While he praised some of the progress made, Subedi also touched on a series of negative issues and problems that Cambodia is facing, including its legislative body, election, judiciary, land disputes, corruption and human rights.

On the issue of election, he said he was pleased and relieved to see two major political parties in conflict — the Cambodian People's Party of Prime

Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodia National Rescue Party of Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha — reach a political deal in July last year after the political crisis dragged on for a year.

However, he encouraged the two parties to work together to resolve their outstanding differences so that the next election will not be marred by similar disputes that plagued the July 2013 elections.

On the judiciary, he said Cambodia has so far not delivered justice in

the way demanded by the Cambodian people, noting that there are numerous human rights violations taking place and that there is still a general perception that the rich and powerful avoid punishment.

"The culture of impunity in this country has been a troubling issue for me, which I have repeatedly raised to the government," Subedi said.

While offering both positive and negative remarks toward the Cambodian government and

other stakeholders, Subedi said the major difference between then and now is apparent in the Cambodian people.

"They are no longer afraid to speak out. People know their rights and are ready to claim them. Nothing speaks better to Cambodia's maturing democracy than this," he added.

"I conclude my final mission with full confidence that Cambodia will get there — its vibrant people will ensure it."

Kyodo News

Putin blames Ukraine's 'criminal orders' for new fighting



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a forum dedicated to the civil society in Moscow, on 15 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

Moscow, 24 Jan — Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed "criminal orders" by Ukrainian leaders on Friday for a surge in fighting in east Ukraine, and Russian-backed separatists struck a bellicose tone in ruling out seeking more peace talks.

Putin's remarks, and the comments by the sep-

aratists' main leader, signalled a hardening of positions in a conflict which the UN human rights office said had killed more than 5,000 people, including 262 in the last nine days.

Despite international calls for a ceasefire, rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko said his forces would push on with

a new offensive and Putin radiated defiance over the crisis, which a Russian official said could be a "bleeding wound for decades".

"The Kiev authorities have given an official order to start large-scale military operations practically throughout the whole line of contact. The result is tens of killed and wounded, not only among the military on both sides but... among civilians," Putin told senior state officials in televised comments. "Those who give these criminal orders are responsible." Putin also chided Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko for not responding to his proposal to withdraw heavy weapons from the demarcation line between government forces and the separatists as a step towards implementing a ceasefire. Poroshenko said this week Russia had

9,000 troops inside Ukraine and called on Moscow to withdraw them, blaming it for an armed aggression. Moscow denies sending forces and weapons to east Ukraine, despite what the West says is irrefutable proof.

Poroshenko said his troops were holding the line against the separatists after withdrawing this week from the main terminal at the airport in Donetsk, the biggest city in the east, suffering a symbolic and morale-sapping setback.

The UN human rights office said the conflict, which began in east Ukraine more than nine months ago, was now in its "most deadly period" since a ceasefire was agreed last September.

Zakharchenko, head of the rebels' self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Repub-

lic, made clear the separatists were in no mood for compromise as they were now advancing.

"There will be no attempts to speak about a ceasefire on our part," *Interfax* news agency quoted him as saying in Donetsk.

Russia's RIA news agency quoted Zakharchenko as saying the separatists would no longer take part in talks in the format of the so-called Contact Group, which brings together Russia, the rebels, Ukraine and the OSCE international security group.

"If Poroshenko comes here, we will talk. We are advancing now — (so), what talks?" he said.

A Ukrainian military spokesman dismissed the remarks as "just another declaration — let them talk."

Reuters

NATO chief says ready to meet Russia's Lavrov in February

PRISTINA, 24 Jan — NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Friday he was ready to meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov next month in Munich, with fighting escalating in eastern Ukraine.

In an interview with *Reuters* in Kosovo, Stoltenberg also said the Western alliance was considering a request from Iraq to help "enhance their defence capacity" and ability to fight the Islamic State. On Ukraine, he described a "substantial increase in Russian heavy equipment" in the east of the country. "We speak about tanks, armed vehicles, artillery, advanced air defence systems," he said. — Reuters

Obama to cut short India visit, fly to Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan — US President Barack Obama will cut short his visit to India on Tuesday to fly to Saudi Arabia following the death of King Abdullah, sources in the Indian capital familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The White House could not immediately be reached for comment. Obama was due to arrive in New Delhi on Sunday for a three-day trip, and will attend the Republic Day parade at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

King Abdullah died on Friday after a short illness and has been succeeded by his elderly brother Salman,



An employee ties threads on a kite, with portraits of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) and US President Barack Obama, ahead of Obama's visit, in Mumbai on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

raising concerns about political stability in Saudi Arabia, a longstanding US ally and the world's lead-

ing oil exporter.

The White House said on Friday that Obama would speak with Salman

in the next few days, but has not said that he would meet the new king.

Obama's early departure from India would cause him to skip a planned excursion to the Taj Mahal, a 17th century mausoleum that is one of the world's architectural wonders, but not affect the substance of his second visit to India.

He is due to hold summit talks on Sunday, attend Monday's military parade and give a speech on Tuesday morning before his early departure, said the sources who requested anonymity pending a statement from the White House.

Reuters

Greek leftists Syriza keep poll lead as Sunday election looms



Opposition leader and head of radical leftist Syriza party Alexis Tsipras waves to supporters during a campaign rally in Heraklion, on the island of Crete, on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 24 Jan — Greece's anti-bailout leftists Syriza held their lead over the ruling Conservatives in two of the final opinion polls to be published before Sunday's snap election, although one survey showed the gap widening as another showed it narrowing slightly.

Syriza, which wants to renegotiate a chunk of Greece's debt and cancel austerity measures, would garner 32.9 percent of the vote ahead of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' New Democracy party on 26.3 percent according to an Alco poll, a gap of 6.6 points.

A previous survey by the same pollster on Wednesday showed the party of leftwing leader Alexis Tsipras on 33.8 percent with Samaras' party on 28.6 percent, a difference of 5.2 points.

A second survey by Kapa research put the difference between the parties at 2.9 points, with Syriza on 31.8 percent and New Democracy in second place with 28.9 percent.

The gap has slightly closed compared to the last survey by the same firm which put Syriza on 31.2 percent, 3.1 points ahead of Samaras' party on 28.1 percent.—*Reuters*

Mali Tuareg rebels threaten to pull out of peace talks, suspend UN coordination

RABAT, 24 Jan — Tuareg separatist rebels on Friday threatened to pull out of peace talks and suspended coordination with the United Nations mission in northern Mali after seven of its fighters were killed in an attack by UN forces.

Dutch helicopters

carried out air strikes on MNLA forces on Tuesday in the town of Tabankort, the first such engagement by Dutch forces serving in the UN peacekeeping mission.

The Tuareg MNLA movement is besieging Tabankort, as desert town

located about 100 km (60 miles) north of Kidal, in an effort to capture it from a pro-government militia. A contingent of UN peacekeepers protecting civilians is also stationed there.

The MNLA is involved in peace talks with the Malian government taking place in Algeria, with the next round planned for 8 February.

"Before the 8th, we require the government army and their militia fighters to withdraw from the positions they seized -including Tabankort- after the cease-fire signed on 23 May" MNLA spokesman Mossa Ag Attaher told reporters in the Moroccan capital.

"We want formal apologies...compensation for

families and a firm commitment from MINUSMA to remain neutral as a condition of resuming our coordination with them," he added.

About 450 Special Forces troops, intelligence agents and four Apache helicopter gunships from the Netherlands have been deployed in northern Mali as part of a force of up to 12,000 men.

MINUSMA said it was responding to heavy weapons fire directed at its peacekeepers. It said the helicopters only destroyed a rebel vehicle after firing warning shots that were ignored.

MNLA said they were attacked first and denied warning shots had been fired.—*Reuters*



UN peacekeepers patrol in the northern town of Kidal, in this file photo taken on 17 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Senior US diplomat ruffles Cuba by meeting dissidents

HAVANA, 24 Jan — A senior US diplomat in Cuba for negotiations on restoring long-frozen diplomatic relations met a group of dissidents on Friday, seeking to underline Washington's concern over human rights but irritating the island's communist government.

US Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson, the highest-ranking US government official to visit the island in nearly 40 years, held a breakfast meeting with the dissidents a day after talks with Cuban government officials. The State Department said it was an opportunity for Jacobson to exchange views and hear their per-

spectives.

But Havana has stressed that efforts to normalize ties should not be accompanied by what it sees as meddling in its internal affairs. Cuban officials expressed concern beforehand over the planned meeting, a US official told *Reuters*.

The head of the Cuban delegation to the talks, Josefina Vidal, was dismissive of the meeting later.

"This is exactly one of the differences we have with the US government because for us, this is not just genuine, legitimate Cuban civil society," Vidal, who is Jacobson's counterpart at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, told the MSNBC television show "Andrea Mitchell Re-



US Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson speaks during a conference in Havana on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

ports," referring to the dissidents.

"This small group of people don't represent Cuban society, don't represent the interests of the Cuban people. So that's a big difference with the United States

government," she added.

The Cuban government rarely comments on dissidents, and when it does, it often charges them with being unrepresentative of the population and puppets of the United States.

Thursday's talks about re-establishing diplomatic ties, severed by Washington in 1961, were the first since US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced on 17 December they would seek to reverse decades of hostility. Obama has loosened a series of restrictions on travel and business with Cuba and wants Congress to lift a decades-old trade embargo on the island.

But the issue of political freedoms was bound to be a point of friction.

Castro has said that restoring ties with its old Cold War foe does not mean Cuba intends to give up its socialist principles. In a statement on Thursday on the talks, the

Cuban government said relations between the countries should be based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs. Nonetheless, Jacobson told reporters after her meeting with the dissidents that human rights and free speech were a priority for the United States.

"There is no doubt that human rights remains the centre of our policy and it is crucial that we continue to both speak out about human rights publicly and directly with the Cuban government," she said, adding that Washington has "profound disagreement" with Havana over democracy and human rights.—*Reuters*

First US troops head to Middle East to train Syrian opposition

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel has ordered the first group of about 100 US troops to head to the Middle East in the next few days to establish training sites for Syrian opposition fighters battling Islamic State militants, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said the troops, mostly special operations forces, were authorized last week and would begin arriving in countries outside Syria in the coming days, with a subsequent wave of several hundred military trainers following in the weeks thereafter.

The US focus in the campaign against Islamic State has been mainly on Iraq, with the exception of a large number of air strikes to support Kurdish fighters trying to prevent the takeover of the Syrian town of Kobani near the Turkish border.

Kirby said on Friday that Kurdish forces now control about 70 percent of Kobani, which was seen a few months ago as being near collapse, with much of it in the hands of Islamic State.

He said the advanced element of US forces headed to establish training sites amounted to fewer than 100 troops.



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel waves at the end of a news conference at the Pentagon in Washington, on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

“They’re going to ... take a look at what’s there and prepare for further de-

ployments,” Kirby said.

Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have offered to

host sites where US forces could train members of the Syrian opposition to fight Islamic State and provide security in their home communities. Kirby did not say where exactly the first training sites were located.

The US military has said it is planning to send more than 400 troops for the training mission and several hundred support forces for a total of about 1,000 or more.

Kirby said last week that several hundred foreign military troops were also expected to act as trainers, including forces from the host countries.

He said on Friday that active recruitment of Syrian

trainees had not started, although US military officials have been discussing the matter with Syrian groups.

Kirby said Major General Michael Nagata, the special forces chief tapped to handle the training mission, has had “very productive” meetings with Syrian opposition leaders. “But it didn’t lead to specific people signing up yet,” Kirby added.

US officials have said if the current momentum continues, training could begin in the spring, with the first trainees returning to Syria at year’s end. Officials plan to train 5,000 Syrian fighters a year for three years.

Reuters

Tunisia premier-designate forms new government without Islamists

TUNIS, 24 Jan — Tunisian Prime Minister-designate Habib Essid said on Friday he had formed a government without any cabinet posts for moderate Islamists after negotiations among secular party Nidaa Tounes and other smaller partners in parliament.

The full assembly must now vote to ratify the new cabinet. Nidaa Tounes won the most seats in the October election, one of the last steps in Tunisia’s path to full democracy after its 2011 popular uprising.

Essid named Farhat Hacheni as defence minister and handed the finance portfolio to Lassaad Zarrouk, an independent economist and director of an insurance company. Taieb Baccouche, a leading member of Nidaa Tounes, will be foreign minister.

“They will work on



Tunisia’s nominated prime minister Habib Essid (L) gives the list of the new government to President Beji Caïd Essebsi in Tunis on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

the programme of Nidaa Tounes with the help of the other parties. It is a government for all Tunisians to apply democracy,” Essid said.

The Islamist party Ennahda, with the second largest number of seats in the assembly, had sought a unity government with Nidaa Tounes to improve stability with the new gov-

ernment set to crack down on Islamist militants and tackle economic reforms.

Nidaa Tounes leaders had not openly opposed a unity administration. But Nidaa Tounes hardliners were against any alliance with Ennahda, who they blame for turmoil during the first Islamist-led government after the 2011 uprising.

Ennahda party leaders were consulting on Friday on whether to accept the new government.

Since the fall of autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisian politics has often been dominated by compromises between secular and Islamist leaders to help keep democratisation on track.

No party has an outright majority in the new parliament, meaning political bargains and deal-making are needed to form coalitions and decide on government posts.

One of the most secular countries in the Arab world, Tunisia has been held up as example of peaceful democratic evolution in an otherwise violence-ridden region, with free elections and a new constitution four years after Ben Ali’s overthrow.

Reuters

Kurdish forces fire into Islamic State-controlled Mosul

ARBIL, (Iraq), 24 Jan — Kurdish forces have fired rockets into Mosul for the first time since Islamic State militants overran the northern Iraqi city last summer, Kurdish military sources said on Saturday.

A Kurdish officer said 20 Grad missiles had been launched into Mosul on Friday after receiving information that Islamic State militants were gathering to meet near the city’s Zuhour

US-led airstrikes regularly target areas outside of Mosul, but rarely strike inside the city due to concerns about civilian casualties.

A statement attributed to an unnamed senior Kurdish military source and posted on the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party’s official website said the shelling had “struck great fear into the hearts of the terrorists”.

Peshmerga forces this week launched a ground



Kurdish Peshmerga fighters keep watch during the battle with Islamic State militants on the outskirts of Mosul on 21 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

neighbourhood.

“We hit their positions,” said Captain Shivan Ahmed, who belongs to the unit that fired the rockets from around 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Mosul.

Kurdish officials said the strikes had hit their intended target, but two residents of Mosul contacted by Reuters said three civilians were killed in the attack.

It was not possible to independently verify the accounts.

Following the attack, Islamic State militants published images of a girl lying in a hospital bed, whom they said had been wounded by fire from the Kurdish peshmerga fighters.

offensive northwest of Mosul backed by coalition airstrikes, reclaiming nearly 500 square kilometres of territory and cutting the extremist group’s main supply line from the city to the west. Twenty-one senior Islamic State militants were killed during the operation, the Kurdistan Region’s Security Council said in a statement on Friday.

It said the slain Islamic State leaders included the head of Nineveh province’s administrative institutions and a close commander of its special forces, the statement said.

There was no way to independently verify the claims.—Reuters

US-led coalition hits Islamic State with 25 air strikes

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — The United States and its coalition partners have launched another round of

air strikes against Islamic State, conducting 25 strikes since early Thursday.

In a statement on

Friday from the Combined Joint Task Force leading the military operation, officials said 13 air strikes hit in Iraq, including eight near Mosul that struck four Islamic state fighter units and destroyed a variety of militant-owned equipment and infrastructure.

Several Islamic State buildings in Mosul were destroyed as well as one of its bunkers, a heavy weapons system and seven vehicles, among other targets, according to the coalition statement.

Efforts are under way to recapture Mosul, the largest city in a self-de-

clared Islamic State caliphate straddling the border between northern Iraq and eastern Syria. *The Wall Street Journal* on Thursday reported the United States and Iraq are preparing for an offensive to recapture it by summer.

Islamic State militants took over Mosul in June.

In Syria, the US-led coalition conducted 12 strikes, including 10 near the besieged border town of Kobani that struck seven units of militant fighters, the statement said. An air strike near Al Hasaka destroyed a mobile oil drilling rig.—Reuters



Smoke rises from a recent US air strike on Islamic State (IS) militant positions in Khazir, on the edge of Mosul in this file photo taken on 16 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 January, 2015

Help to those living with physical deformities

By Aung Khin

World Leprosy Day is held on the last Sunday in January each year. The particular day is to commemorate the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on January 30. The day was initiated in 1954 by French philanthropist and writer, Raoul Follereau, as a mean to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that leprosy is preventable and curable.

The Indian freedom fighter, during his lifetime, worked tirelessly towards the betterment of people affected with leprosy, one of the oldest diseases known to humankind. Gandhi once said, "Eliminating leprosy is the only work I

have not been able to complete in my lifetime."

Leprosy is a chronic disease affecting the nerves and the skin. If not properly treated, sufferers can become blind, lose the sensations in their hands and feet; and become prone to a disability through the threat of injury. People with leprosy are often bullied and rejected by the people around them. They might not be allowed to go to school or to work or even marry; they become outcasts even in their families.

According to the official statistics of World Health Organization collected from 115 countries, the global registered prevalence of leprosy at the end of 2012 was 189, 018 cases. The number of new cases reported globally in 2012 was 232, 857 compared with 226, 626 in 2011.

The global statistics show that 220, 810 (95 percent) of new leprosy cases were reported from 16 countries and only 5 percent of new cases are from the rest of the world. WHO has distributed Multidrug therapy (MDT) treatments free of charge to all leprosy-affected people worldwide since 1995, initially through the drug fund provided by the Nippon Foundation since 2000, through the MDT donation provid-

ed by Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development.

MDT consists of 3 drugs: dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine and this drug combination kills the pathogen and effectively cured close to 16 million leprosy patients the patient over 20 years. Empowerment of people affected by the disease, together with their greater involvement in services and community, will bring us closer to a world without leprosy. Meanwhile, sustained and committed efforts from national and international partners play a key role to a decline in the global burden of leprosy.

Write for us

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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.

GOODWILL

Kyi Mun

Goodwill means: Kindly feeling, heartiness, established custom or business, (Oxford Dictionary). It also means: (1) Kind feelings towards or between people and a willingness to be helpful; (2) the success of a company, and its good relationship with its customers, calculated as part of its value when it is sold. **We paid £5,000 for goodwill.** (Longman Dictionary).

G for Go All-out for People, Planet and Peace
O for Overcome Selfishness
O for Offer Help & Assistance to the Needy
D for Develop the Spirit of Altruism
W for Wish well for All People to Live Well
I for Intentionally Develop Education & Culture
L for Learn to Give Love
L for Live with Strength, Serenity & Satisfaction
GOING ALL-OUT FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE

A person of goodwill will never hesitate to **do the most good for the most people**. Since he or she has good wishes in his or her heart for other people, it would be a pleasure for them to be of help or service to others. A person of goodwill should also go all-out to save or safeguard the planet which has been afflicted with so many sickness and diseases, environmentally, ecologically and stratospherically. People of goodwill are the vital need of the present age. The world is full of conflicts, violence, hatred and warfare. The world needs PEACE; Peace is now the most precious product for the whole world.

OVERCOME SELFISHNESS

Selfishness means caring only about yourself and not about other people. It can also mean deficiency in consideration for others. It can also mean chiefly thinking of and interested in one's own needs and welfare; without care for others.

Human mind can be cultivated by training and education to be less selfish.

OFFER HELP & ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY

Many psychologists have expressed that life is unfair. People of Goodwill can help reduce the unfairness of life. Life can be confronted with afflictions of body and mind. There are many haves-not and haves-less in the whole wide world. People of goodwill can offer help and assistance in the forms of cash and kind, education, caring and sharing, charity, philanthropic liberality and generosity.

DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF ALTRUISM

Man is by nature imbued with many defilements of mind such as greed, anger, delusion, conceit and jealousy, stinginess, sloth and torpor etc. People can be trained to be less self-centered by exposing them to the various forms of suffering endured by the less fortunate people. There are many victims of misfortune such as, war, famine, disease, natural disasters and calamities such as earthquake, floods, fire-outbreaks. In all the midst of such sufferings, the SPIRIT of ALTRUISM should be nurtured, cultivated, encouraged and appreciated.

WISH WELL FOR ALL PEOPLE TO LIVE WELL

All people want to live in comfort zone, if not in luxury. Most people are somewhat crazy to live in pomp and glory. But, nothing is permanent in this world. Everything is transient. Nothing can be grasped and held fast. Nothing lasts long. Pleasure is just a prelude to pain. Decay and death always reign supreme. So, it is wise to lead a life of

simple living and high thinking, diligence and frugality, plain living and hard struggle, while helping others to live decent lives.

INTENTIONALLY DEVELOP EDUCATION AND CULTURE

It is the PRIDE that is at the centre of Tanha, Mana & Dhitthi (Craving, Pride & Wrong View) which impel man (human being) to suffer, to be afflicted. Again, I is at the Centre of Pride. Man is too I-centered or I-centric that man is thick inside with arrogance, greed, hatred, ignorance and stupidity. Hence the need for intentionally designed education and culture for the unfortunate people.

LEARN TO GIVE LOVE

The one thing that all creatures crave is LOVE. And the one thing that people in all categories of age want is LOVE. The Poet Elizabeth Lassie Said: "To live is to fight, to suffer and to love". Emerson also said: "Give all to love; obey thy heart." The best mental nourishment is LOVE. I only want to repeat the **saccagraha** of: "Love All, Serve All; Hurt Never, Help Ever."

LIVE WITH STRENGTH, SERENITY AND SATISFACTION

It is important for the people of goodwill to live with strength, serenity and satisfaction. The world needs people of goodwill with strength, serenity and satisfaction, who will be always at the vanguard of the great fight against ARROGANCE, GREED, HATRED, CONCEIT, MYOPIA AND IGNORANCE OR DELUSION.

CONCLUSION

Long live the people of goodwill!

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

and students. Librarian has to select the books especially concerning to the subject matter and also for the reference purpose.

No college, university or institution can develop or produce information resources without a strong library at its centre.

Leadership is one of the important roles of the library. Librarian can furnish the library with electronic machines such as computer, scanner, CD writer, and microfilm. Libraries of today are equipped with electronic devices to distribute knowledge and information instantly. The motto is "The right book for the right reader at the right time" is very suitable for the reference services. So as to enable to give information services and information products, the librarian must have a strong understanding of leadership and management principles.

(See page 9)

The application of Leadership and Management Principles and Strategies to a library

Nyan Htun (ILBC, Mandalay)

The application of leadership and management is important for the prosperity and welfare of the library society. A library is a social institution and should help the life-long self-education of one and all. It should furnish up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to all walks of life.

Information service, information product or knowledge service in which the librarian involved is essentials not only for the library but for the readers. Thus S.R. Ran-

ganathan formulated the **Five laws of Library Science** in 1928.

Here are the five laws of library science.

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader his book
3. Every book its reader
4. Save the time of the reader
5. Library is a growing organism.

Librarians, who are in-charge of their libraries, have to carry out both the library technical services and then academic services according to the laws of S.R. Ranganathan. Books in our library are for use to the faculty staff

Basic Diplomatic Skills course wraps up



YANGON, 24 Jan—The graduation ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (34/2014) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the hall of the ministry on Friday,

with a speech by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin.

The 12-week course comprised contemporary international affairs, holding and attending of international conference, nego-

tiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills, among other, and it was attended by 168 trainees.

The simulation of formal banquet was held at the Chatrium Hotel on Friday evening as part of the curriculum of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills.

MNA

Wanna buy flats in Yangon?

By Khin Yadana,
photo by Tin Soe

YANGON, 24 Jan — These days there is a growing concern among construction entrepreneurs over down in the price of apartments as there have been mushrooming of flats but the number of buyers is very low.

According to an official from property service association, there arose disputes of land ownership and apartment in 2014. As buildings constructed illegally were not allowed to grant permit for residents and orders were issued to demolish building under construction illegally, the property business was freeze.

Apartment culture has



spread in Yangon since 1990 from downtown area to the suburban area. One of the residents residing near Sanpya market in Thingangyun township,

suburban area of Yangon, said that there left only three houses in the whole street and the remaining are new apartment buildings, but most of them were

vacant. Nobody wants to buy the flats but just to hire them. If business goes in this way the property price will be down, said an estate agent.

The application of Leadership and Management Principles ...

(from page 8)

Unless the librarian has a good leadership and management skills, his library will face a bad situation. No users come to consult or get information resources for the poor services of the library.

In every library, every reader has his own book and then, every book also has its own reader. So we, the library staff, must perform efficiently the library technical works and supervision. Every book in the library must be placed at the right call number, at the right shelves. Library has two essential tasks. One is leadership and management and the other is technical services and then public services.

The more leadership and management principles,

the better the library to produce information and knowledge for the readers.

A strong library should have a good policy and management activities. To save the time of the reader, the librarian should have to train the staff to be qualified personnel to give library services.

As everyone knows “**Library is a growing organism**” and also “**A dynamic institution**”, we need a live collection, a growing equipment and also matured staff to serve the users. To give better information services and produce qualified staff, we need some more intensive training courses in every library. The environment of any library must have fruitful of information knowledge for one and all. It is the duty of every librarian to give knowledge and information products.

Thus, the application of leadership and management principles are essential to the librarians. The strate-

India plans to issue arrival visa at Myanmar border

MANDALAY 24 Jan— India is preparing to be able to issue arrival visa at Moreh in northeastern state Manipur that borders with Chin state of Myanmar.

The statement of Indian Consulate General in Mandalay said that India government has requested Myanmar to make similar action at Tamu border crossing under the plan to operate passenger buses between Mandalay and Inphal.

Consul General Dr N.Nandakumarat at CGI said that issuance of arrival visa is important for the passengers who will pass the border with passenger buses, and India is now setting up a visa office in their side, adding that they have urged Myanmar government for this plan.

Railway Transport Union Minister U Than Htay said Road Transport Administration Department has already launched its office to facilitate bilat-

eral trade between the two countries at Tamu border gate.

The minister also said office processes will be upgraded by using modern equipment.

An official of Manipur state government recently said arrival visa will be issued when foreign affairs ministry of central government has approved it, as they have made ready for office facilities.

People from both countries would be able to apply for single entry visa with 28-day validity after they passed the border by passenger buses with valid travel document.

Visitors who use the border pass can now visit India in 16 kilometre from the border in the daytime after paying crossing fee, while passport and visa services are available at the airports of the two countries.

CL Htan Nga (GNLM-005)

Potable water for villages in Kyaunggon Tsp

KYAUNGKON, 24 Jan — Waing Htaik company won the tender of rural development tasks with K 53.2 million for supply potable water to villages in Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawaddy Region. It is now engaging in sinking artesian well in seven villages and upon completion this project will benefit 3,756 households. Township administrator U Kyaw Aung San, Parliamentarian U Thein Tun and officials, on 23 January, visited the villages and made coor-

dination with responsible persons for rural development.

The township administrator and the parliamentarian on 22 January opened the refresher course for youth in a village in the township. The course was opened under the arrangement of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Rural Development. The same course are slated to open in another 68 village-tracts.

David-Kyaunggon

gies to a library is also important for the librarians to give information services, to make information products and then to distribute knowledge for one and all.

Myanmar, our country, is now upgrading the standard of libraries of universities and colleges installing with Electronic Devices making into e-library system and Public Libraries also.

Therefore, to print out the Five Basic Fundamentals are as follows:-

1. A good leadership can get good results.
2. A good management principles can guide the staff ease and comfortable to complete their functions.
3. A good strategy fulfils the needs of all users.
4. Information services can flowery benefit the readers.
5. Information products can fruit knowledge and information to one and all walks of life.

Just five Ebola cases left in Liberia, government says

MONROVIA, 24 Jan — Liberia, once the epicenter of West Africa's deadly Ebola epidemic, has just five remaining confirmed cases of the disease, a senior health official said on Friday, highlighting the country's success in halting new infections.

The worst Ebola outbreak on record has killed more than 8,600 people in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Earlier this year at the height of the outbreak in Liberia, hospitals without beds for new patients were forced to turn away victims and bodies were left in the streets.

But a massive international response — including the deployment of hundreds of US troops to build treatment centres — plus a public awareness campaign, contributed to a steep decline in infection rates.

"We have five con-



Health workers take the temperature of a boy who came in contact with a woman who died of Ebola virus in the Paynesville neighbourhood of Monrovia, Liberia on 21 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

firmed Ebola cases in Liberia as of today," said Deputy Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah, who heads Liberia's Ebola taskforce.

"It means that we are going down to zero, if

everything goes well, if other people don't get sick in other places."

Three of the remaining cases were in the capital Monrovia and the other two in Bomi and Grand

Cape Mount Counties, he added.

Nyenswah said last week that Liberia could be free of the virus by the end of next month.

Reuters

Doctors group urges measles shots as Disneyland outbreak spreads

LOS ANGELES, 24 Jan — The leading US pediatrician group on Friday urged parents, schools and communities to vaccinate children against measles in the face of an outbreak that began at Disneyland in California in December and has spread to more than 80 people in seven states and Mexico.

The American Academy of Pediatrics said all children should get the vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella between 12 and 15 months of age and again between 4 and 6 years old.

"A family vacation to an amusement park — or a trip to the grocery store, a football game or school — should not result in children becoming sickened by an almost 100 percent preventable disease," Errol Alden, the group's executive director, said in a statement.

The California Department of Public Health

has reported 68 confirmed measles cases among state residents since December, most linked to an initial exposure at Disneyland or its adjacent Disney California Adventure Park. Fourteen more cases linked to Disney parks have been reported out of state — five in Arizona, three in Utah, two in Washington state and one each in Oregon, Colorado, Nevada and Mexico. The outbreak is believed to have begun when an infected person, likely from out of the country, visited the resort in Anaheim between 15 December and 20 December. The health department said others with measles are known to have visited Disney parks in January while infectious but did not elaborate. Among those infected are at least five Disney employees and a student from a local high school that has ordered its unvaccinated students to stay home until

29 January. The outbreak has renewed debate over the so-called anti-vaccination movement in which fears about potential side effects of vaccines, fueled by now-debunked theories suggesting a link to autism, have led a small minority of parents to refuse to allow their children to be inoculated. *The Los Angeles Times* blasted the anti-vaccination movement in an editorial last week for what it called an "ignorant and self-absorbed rejection of science." Asked if the anti-vaccination movement contributed to the latest outbreak in California, a spokesman for the state health department Carlos Villatoro, said in an email: "We think that unvaccinated individuals have been the principal factor." Barbara Loe Fisher, president of the National Vaccine Information Centre, a group calling for "informed consent" for

parents regarding vaccinations, said the Disneyland outbreak had touched off a "media frenzy." "There's a lot of name-calling going on rather than talking about substantive policy issues," she said. Homegrown measles, whose symptoms include rash and fever, was declared eliminated from the United States in 2000. But health officials say cases imported by travellers from overseas continue to infect unvaccinated US residents. The sometimes deadly virus, which is airborne, can spread swiftly among unvaccinated children. There is no specific treatment for measles and most people recover within a few weeks. But in poor and malnourished children and people with reduced immunity, measles can cause serious complications including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhea, ear infection and pneumonia.—Reuters

Kyoto to launch car-sharing service using fuel-cell vehicles

KYOTO, 24 Jan — The Kyoto city government is set to launch a car-sharing service using fuel-cell vehicles by the end of the year so that residents and tourists can experience the environmentally friendly, hydrogen-powered cars. Japan's ancient capital will be the first local authority in the country to start such a service, city government officials said.

The western Japan city is scheduled to buy three Mirai cars, which Toyota Motor Corp launched in December as the world's first hydrogen-powered cars on the mass market, according to the officials.

Users will be able to rent the cars by the hour after making reservations online.

As part of efforts to promote the service, the city government is considering using the cars during festivals and disaster drills, as well as calling for the establishment of hydrogen fuel stations in the city.

Yukio Furui, the senior city official in charge of energy policy, said he wants to make efforts to create "a hydrogen energy society."

Fuel-cell vehicles run on electricity generated through a chemical reaction between hydrogen fuel and oxygen in the air.

Kyodo News

Honda to use air bags from Takata competitor in new Accord

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Honda Motor Co will use air bags from a competitor of embattled Japanese auto parts supplier Takata Corp. for the newest version of its best-selling Accord sedan set to go on sale in August 2017, Reuters news service reported on Friday.

Rival part supplier Toyoda Gosei Co will supply Honda with driver's-side air bags and also

for the sedan, Reuters said, citing two people with knowledge of the decision. Honda said it cannot comment on product information about future models including suppliers at this

moment.

Honda's decision to choose a rival air bag maker could be an attempt to distance itself from Takata's highly publicized air bag issues. The world's second-largest air bag maker has been mired in massive recalls affecting more than 20 million vehicles worldwide, of which 13 million are from Honda.

A defect in the Japanese parts supplier's air bag inflators could cause them to explode, hurling metal fragments and has been linked to several deaths in the United States and Malaysia.

Kyodo News

Two more H7N9 cases in Guangdong

GUANGZHOU, 24 Jan — South China's Guangdong Province reported another two human cases of H7N9 avian flu, local health authorities said on Saturday.

At least 15 human cases have been reported in the province this month.

The two patients, a 46-year-old man from Meizhou City and a 77-year-old man from Chaozhou City, were confirmed infected on Friday and are in a critical condition, the provincial health and family planning commission said in a statement.

People are most at risk from bird flu during winter and spring.

In addition to Guangdong, Shanghai, Fujian and Zhejiang along the eastern Chinese coast have all reported human cases of H7N9 this winter.

Xinhua

Hyundai, Kia target 8 percent rise in 2015 China sales

SEOUL, 24 Jan — Hyundai Motor (005380.KS) and sister company Kia Motors (000270.KS) aim to boost their China sales by 8 percent to 1.99 million vehicles this year, the South Korean duo said on Saturday.

Last year the pair lifted their China sales by 10 percent, to 1.84 million vehicles.—Reuters

An employee talks on the phone at a Hyundai dealership in Seoul on 22 Jan, 2015. South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co on Thursday reported a fourth straight quarterly profit decline, pulled down by a plunge in the Russian rouble and increased buying incentives in the United States.

REUTERS



The upper hand: study points to early tool use by human ancestors

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Human ancestors may have been capable of using tools much earlier than previously thought.

Scientists said on Thursday an analysis of fossil hand bones of the species *Australopithecus africanus* that lived in southern Africa about 3 million to 2 million years ago indicated this human forerunner could use its hands in ways very much like modern people.

This species, known for its mix of ape-like and human-like characteristics, possessed the uniquely human ability to have a power-squeeze grip as needed to wield a hammer and a forceful precision grip as used to turn a key, the study showed.

“Forceful precision grips have been linked specifically to stone tool use and tool making, and so it is possible that *Australopithecus africanus* was using stone tools as well,” said Tracy Kivell of Britain’s University of Kent, who helped lead the study published in the journal *Science* with fellow University of Kent paleo-anthropologist Matthew Skinner.

This species appeared roughly a half million years before the first evidence of stone tools.

The traditional view of scientists is that a species called *Homo habilis* that appeared about 2.4 million years ago was the pioneer in stone tool use in the hu-



Belgian animal sculptor Emmanuel JanssensCasteels works on a replica of an *Australopithecus* in his workshop in Prayssas on 3 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

man lineage.

The scientists examined trabecular bone — the internal spongy structure of bones — in chimpanzees and other apes, modern people, and extinct species in the human lineage including Neanderthals as well as *Australopithecus*.

Trabecular bone changes throughout an individual’s lifetime in response to how the bone is being used.

Because of this, trabecular bone reflects how an individual actually employed their joints and hands.

The scientists found a distinctive asymmetric pattern in the distribution

of trabecular bone in the modern human hand that reflects people’s ability to forcefully oppose the thumb to the pads of the fingers for forceful precision grip.

The same human-like pattern appeared not only in Neanderthals, known as proficient tool users, and early members of our own species, which first appeared some 200,000 years ago, but also in the much older *Australopithecus africanus*.

This pattern was absent in chimpanzees, our closest genetic cousin whose last common ancestor with humans lived roughly 7 million years

ago, and other apes.

“This evidence suggests that species of *Australopithecus* were more human-like in their behaviour than we previously thought and that we should concentrate our efforts on finding evidence for tools that they might have been using, whether made out of stone, wood or bone,” Skinner said.—Reuters

Tablet disables classroom dishonesty created in Finland

HELSINKI, 24 Jan — A Finnish company has developed an educational tablet that can block the Internet when needed and thus makes dishonesty in tests difficult, Finnish media reported on Friday.

The tablet, created by Mobie, an education technology company in Kuopio, east central Finland, has two operating systems, the Ubuntu based on Linux and the Microsoft Windows.

For the classroom conditions, the teacher can use Ubuntu and set up a local network which is outside the Internet. This will give protection against hacking, for example, but will make the use of Internet sources impossible as well.

For accessing the Internet, the pupils will use Windows.

The company has ordered an initial production series from a Chinese manufacturer, and the first 230 tablets will reach users in Finland this winter.

Kari Vatanen, CEO of Mobie, told Finnish national broadcaster Yle that the Chinese manufacturer will also start producing the

Mobie designed product as their own merchandise shortly. It will be the first Ubuntu Linux tablet on the Chinese market, Vatanen said.

Vatanen believed the Finnish-designed learning environment provided by the tablet is a selling point. Vatanen noted that the Finnish product based on Linux also meets the administrative criteria in China. Currently, the unit for teacher use would cost 1,200 euros (about 1,344 US dollars) and the pupil’s version between 500 euros and 700 euros.

Headmaster of the Kuopio Classical School Jukka Sormunen said the use of the tablets will save money through adoption of digital books. The cost of a printed book and its accompanying material is around 30 and 40 euros in Finland, whereas a digital book has the pricetag of 12 euros.

Future versions of the tablet could be able to incorporate the books. The cost of the tablet is offset with the purchase of some tens of books, he noted.

Xinhua

Sony to delay official submission of third quarter results after hacking



Pedestrians are reflected in a logo of Sony Corp outside its showroom in Tokyo on 16 July, 2014. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Sony Corp said it was delaying the official submission of its third-quarter results due to the massive cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, which debilitated network systems at the Hollywood studio.

Sony said it will still hold a news conference on 4 February, the originally scheduled date of its results announcement, to give updated financial forecasts for the quarter.

But the company said most financial and ac-

counting applications at Sony Pictures will not be working until early February, and that it has asked financial regulators to extend the filing of its report to 31 March from 16 February.

Reuters

County block Hungary on Facebook after flood of posts

LONDON, 24 Jan — League One (third tier) team Notts County have blocked Hungary from their Facebook page after it was swamped by a flood of comments about new striker Balint Bajner.

The club signed the 24-year-old Hungarian on Tuesday from second tier side Ipswich Town whose own page was inundated with “No Bajner, no party!” posts when he was dropped in August.

County’s page received more than 1,700 new likes in two days after the under-19 international joined the world’s oldest professional football club

on a free transfer.

The Magpies said all the messages posted by Bajner’s Hungarian fans were in good fun but the club had to take action to control them on behalf of other users of the page.

“Anything we posted got a good number of Balint Bajner posts within a few minutes and it just grew and grew,” the club’s head of media Jamie Dixon was quoted as saying by the BBC.

“It was all taken in good fun but then we did have to appreciate that it was blurring the waters for everyone else on the page.”

County’s communica-

tions team tried controlling the posts by blocking specific words but that approach met with little success so all messages from Hungary have now been blocked.

“We had to take the rather drastic step of blocking Hungary,” said Dixon. “Hopefully, (it’s) just a temporary measure.”

“We have set up a Hungarian Magpies page which is proving quite popular so hopefully that’ll take some of the traffic away.”

Bajner made his debut as a substitute against Doncaster Rovers on Tuesday.

Reuters

Five Lebanese soldiers killed in clashes with militants near Syria

BEIRUT, 24 Jan — Lebanese troops repelled an attack by militants on an army outpost near the Syrian border on Friday but five soldiers were killed, the army said.

The fighting, near the village of Ras Balalbek in an area that has seen regular incursions from Islamist militants fighting in Syria's war, lasted all day.

An army statement said five soldiers were killed. A Lebanese security official, who asked to remain anonymous, said nine militants had died.

It was not immediately clear which group the attackers belonged to but Syrian-based Islamist groups

such as al-Qaeda's Nusra Front and the hardline Islamic State have attacked Lebanon in recent months.

Ras Baalbek is near the town of Aarsal, which Sunni Islamist militants attacked last August and seized a group of Lebanese soldiers. The militants have since killed some of the soldiers and about two dozen remain captive. The militants are demanding the release of Islamists held by the authorities in exchange for them.

Lebanon's security has been repeatedly jolted by the Syria conflict, which has also helped paralyze its government. The country has been without a head of state since May.—Reuters



Residents take part in a protest against the increase of the fares of public transportation, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 23 Jan, 2015. Activists of the movement "Passe Livre" (free fare) and residents, rallied on Friday against the increase on the fares of buses, trains and subway which came into effect on January, according to local press.—XINHUA

UN Security Council stresses need for further cooperation in Central Asia

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Jan — The UN Security Council on Friday stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between governments in Central Asia and regional organizations to strengthen peace, stability and sustainable development in the region.

In a statement to the press, the 15-member body underlined the need for governments to collaborate with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and acknowledged the role of the UN

regional office in assisting those countries to respond to domestic and transnational threats to peace.

The UNRCCA was established in 2007 in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. It assists and supports the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in finding solutions to emerging problems and eliminating potential threats.

The statement followed a briefing on Wednesday by the secretary-general's special representative and head

of UNRCCA, Miroslav Jenca, on the work of the center over the past seven months.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the importance of conflict prevention tools in contributing effectively to the maintenance of international peace and security, including through early-warning mechanisms and engaging in preventive diplomacy, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations," the statement said.

UNRCCA's recent ef-

forts aimed at engaging the media in the fight against terrorism, raising awareness, capacity building and promoting information sharing were also commended.

Recognizing the threat posed by illicit drug production, trade and trafficking to international peace and stability in the region, the council also emphasized the importance of close coordination between Afghanistan and its neighbours, in particular the Central Asian states, in combating drug trafficking.—Xinhua

Turkish worker dies in construction site accident

BELGRADE, 24 Jan — Turkish citizen Ekrem Kaplan (40) has been killed in an accident on the Corridor 11 construction site in the village of Sarani near Gornji Milanovac on Friday, the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Veteran and Social Affairs said in a release.

Kaplan stayed in the Takovo camp and worked as a carpenter for the Belgrade

office of AGT (Turkish MDF furniture manufacturer), the Ministry said.

The accident happened at 11:30 am when the formwork around a concrete column fell on the worker, according to the release.

Labor inspectors arrived on the scene immediately, and adequate legal measures will be undertaken based on the established facts.—Tanjung



Blast against police van wounds one in E Afghanistan

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 24 Jan — One personnel of Border Police Force sustained injuries on Saturday in a blast targeted police van in Jalalabad city, capital of the eastern Nangarhar Province 120 km east of Kabul, provincial police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said. "It was a sticky bomb which attached on a vehicle of Border Police Force and went off at around 11:00 am local time today in 5th police district of Jalalabad city injuring one police," Mashriqiwal told reporters. He blamed the ene-

mies of peace, a reference to the Taliban militants, for organizing the blast, saying the enemies by organizing subversive activities attempt to terrorize the people.

Meantime, an official on the condition of anonymity said that the blast claimed the lives of two personnel of the border police force and injured another.

Taliban militants who are largely relying on suicide attack, roadside and sticky bombings have yet to claim responsibility for the bombing.—Xinhua

Vietnam, US boost ties on combating trans-national crime

HANOI, 24 Jan — Vietnam wishes to further promote ties with the United States in the fight against money laundering offenses, high-tech crimes and to establish an information sharing mechanism to combat crimes, said a Vietnamese official on Friday.

Le Quy Vuong, deputy

minister of Public Security, made the remarks while meeting with Matthew H King, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security here on Friday during the latter's visit to Vietnam.

Vuong said at the meeting the two countries have strengthened ties on combat-

ing international, transnational crime, human trafficking and drug trafficking among others.

The visiting US official, for his part, highlighted cooperation achievements between law enforcement agencies of both sides.

King expressed his desire that the US-Vietnam co-

operation will yield greater results in the coming time, especially in combating crime, justice, personnel training among others, for the benefits of the two peoples as well as for peace of the region and the world, the website of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security reported on Friday.—Xinhua

of the reform process, the Serbian government Office for cooperation with the media released. This is the decisive period for Serbia which has to initiate urgent restructuring of public enterprises, complete the launched privatization process and liquidate the companies that are draining money from Serbia's budget while being practically inexistent for years now, Goldstein said.

Vucic accepted all WB

key propositions and said that Serbia will bravely pursue its reform path regardless of the political price because the most important task and result of the government has to lie in a safe future for Serbia.

During the meeting, Vucic and Goldstein concluded that Serbia will be an economic leader in the region if it conducts all envisaged reform measures successfully.—Tanjung

**Vucic:
Serbia will
bravely
pursue
its reform
path**

BELGRADE, 24 Jan — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic accepted all key propositions of the World Bank (WB) during the talks with WB Regional Director for South-East Europe Ellen Goldstein, and said that Serbia will bravely continue its reform path regardless of the political price. Goldstein underscored that Serbia is facing a milestone and a definite decision that will determine the future

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1504) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2015 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

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

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th January, 2015: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th January, 2015: Generally fair weather.

Businesses plan to reopen as Hawaii lava flow stalls

KAILUA-KONA, (Hawaii), 24 Jan — The leading edge of a lava flow from a volcano that threatened a commercial centre on Hawaii's Big Island appeared on Friday to have stalled again, prompting several businesses to make plans to reopen their doors.

The front of the flow, one of three fingers of lava approaching Pahoa Village from the Kilauea Volcano's 27 June eruption, is less than half a mile (.8 km) from the main highway that connects more than 10,000 residents with the rest of Hawaii Island.

Hawaii County Civil Defence Administrator Darryl Oliveira said on Friday the flow edge remains active and continues to widen above the tip, but

it has shown very little activity at the forefront since Wednesday.

Authorities last month said the lava was likely to reach the intersection of Pahoa Village Road, where the shops are situated, and the highway within days. An earlier branch of the lava flow stalled just feet from a recycling transfer station.

While the threat remains, several businesses in the Malama Marketplace shopping centre are making plans to reopen.

Ace Hardware representatives said they plan to reopen on 1 February, and a Longs Drugs Store in a nearby complex could open as soon as Monday. Several smaller restaurants, markets and boutiques are



Lava flow from the Kilauea volcano is pictured having breached a fence but stopped feet away from a transfer station outside the village of Pahoa on Hawaii's Big Island on 8 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

also preparing to resume operations but have not

set a date.

"We are trying to re-

open for the residents, but we have no definitive date

yet," said Vinia Rosa, a manager at a Longs Drugs Store in the nearby city of Hilo, about the Pahoa Village location.

The store, which employs about 50 people, has been closed since 20 December.

The mood in town has eased from recent months when the flow menaced the old plantation town, prompting officials and residents to prepare for the worst.

"The mood in town is very upbeat. It's busy with people and you can just feel the positive energy," said Mark Hinshaw, president of the Pahoa Main Street business association. "It's all moving full steam ahead."

Reuters

Beijing to start building four subway lines in 2015

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Beijing plans to start construction on four subway lines in 2015 as the city authorities continue to resort to the metro system to ease traffic jams. Beijing mayor Wang Anshun revealed the plan in the government work report he delivered to the annual meeting of the municipal legislature on Friday.

Officials with the Beijing Infrastructure Investment Co, Ltd said the public-private-partnership (PPP) funding model might be

used for the construction in a bid to reduce government debts. Meanwhile, sections of two existing metro lines will be opened for riders this year, said Wang.

On 28 December, Beijing opened four new subway lines, increasing the total subway length in the Chinese capital by 62 kilometres to 527 kilometres.

Also on 28 December, the city authorities hiked the subway fares. While passengers used to be charged a flat fee of 2 yuan, they are now charged a minimum of 3 yuan for up to six kilometres and the price increases depending on travel distances.

The city's subway system carries approximately 10 million passengers daily on workdays. By 2020, the total subway length is expected to increase to 1,000 kilometres. —Xinhua

UNHCR concerned over recent looting of foreign-owned shops in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Jan — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Friday voiced concern over the recent spate of violence and looting in South Africa that mainly affected foreigners, including refugees and asylum seekers.

"It is very concerning that people have lost their lives in the violence and many refugees and asylum-seekers have lost their livelihoods," UNHCR's Officer-in-Charge for

Southern Africa, Veronica Modey-Ebi said. According to information provided by the South African Police Services (SAPS), two people have lost their lives in the violence, including a 14-year-old South African boy who was allegedly shot by a shop owner and a 19-year-old youth who was allegedly shot by police.

Over 120 people have been arrested on various charges and many shops have been looted.

Earlier on Friday,

South African police vowed to take strong action against those people involved in widespread looting in Soweto, southwest of Johannesburg.

"We have strengthened police deployments throughout Soweto and other affected areas," police commissioner Lesetja Mothiba said at a press briefing in Soweto.

"We are pleased to report that after the flare-up yesterday afternoon, the situation was relatively

calm overnight," he said.

The UNHCR commended the response made by the South African authorities and the police to try to contain the violence and looting and encouraged them to continue with their efforts to restore peace in the affected areas. "While we appreciate the efforts made so far, UNHCR is calling on the government to continue to do all it can to prevent any future incidents," Modey-Ebi said in a statement. —Xinhua

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China's online population reaches 648 mln

BEIJING, 24 Jan — China's netizen population, the world's largest, reached 648 million at the end of 2014, 16 million more than in June, according to an industry expert.

Jin Jian, deputy director of the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC), said that online economy accounts for seven percent of GDP, up from 3.3 percent the previous year.

More than 70 percent of Internet users are worried by Internet security problems, such as leaking of private information, Jin told the *Beijing Daily*.

Chinese consumers are eager to spend online. Internet retail sales totalled 331 billion yuan in the first ten months in 2014, up a stunning 55.6 percent over 2013. —Xinhua



Emma Watson urges men to join gender equality battle

LONDON, 24 Jan — British actress Emma Watson urged young men to speak out when women are degraded, husbands to support wives to pursue their ambitions and businessmen who mentor women to share their experiences, as part of a drive to get more men to champion women's rights.

The star, also a goodwill ambassador for UN Women, was speaking on Friday at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where she helped to launch the next phase of a campaign to encourage men and boys to join the struggle for equal rights.

Watson said since the HeforShe campaign began in September, it had received an outpouring of support from high-profile figures such as Hillary Clinton, Prince Harry and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

IMPACT 10X10X10, the initiative launched on Friday, is a one-year pilot project seeking concrete commitments from governments, companies and universities on women's empowerment and gender equality.

A girl born this year will be 80 before she lives in a world of gender equality, unless business leaders shatter the glass ceiling, heads of state do more to protect women and young men stand up for equal rights, the head of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said.

"Women alone cannot fight the deeply entrenched

stereotypes in our society. But together men and women can turn the tide of inequality," Mlambo-Ngcuka said in Davos.

"The fight to end gender-based injustices has to be timebound. It cannot be an open-ended struggle," she added.

Watson, who rose to fame in the "Harry Potter" films, said she had been encouraged by the response to the campaign so far.

Not only has the HeforShe conference video been viewed over 11 million times, but it has also sparked 1.2 billion social media conversations and spurred all kinds of action, she said.

"I've had my breath taken away when a fan told me that since watching my speech, she has stopped herself being beaten up by her father," Watson said.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said during a visit to India last week he had recruited Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi and legendary cricket player Sachin Tendulkar to join the HeforShe campaign.

"Our world will not change until men think differently about their roles and what it means to be a man. We can do that most successfully when we enlist men to speak to other men," Ban said.—Reuters

Bradley Cooper to take Broadway's 'Elephant Man' to London

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Best actor Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper and the cast of "The Elephant Man" will be taking the hit Broadway play about a severely deformed man in Victorian England to the London stage this summer. Cooper, 40, has won rave reviews for his portrayal of John Merrick, a sideshow attraction because of his grotesque appearance, in the revival of the Bernard Pomerance play that opened on Broadway late last year for a limited run. The play will transfer to London's Theatre Royal Haymarket on 9 May and run through 8 August. "Never did we think we would have the privilege to perform this show on Broadway, let alone in London," Cooper said in a statement. Co-stars Alessandro Nivola, who plays the surgeon who rescues and befriends Merrick, and Patricia Clarkson, the English actress who introduces him to upper-class society, will join Cooper in London. Cooper, nominated for a best actor Academy Award for his role as Navy SEAL sharpshooter Chris Kyle in "American Sniper," does not use prosthetics. He contorts his face and body to convey the physical deformities of Merrick in a dazzling performance that Variety described as "stunning, deeply felt and very moving." The Broadway production will close on 21 February.—Reuters

Actor Alec Baldwin to write memoir 'Nevertheless'



Actor Alec Baldwin (L) and his wife Hilaria Baldwin arrive at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 12th Annual "An Enduring Vision" benefit gala at Cipriani in New York on 15 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Emmy-winning actor and reputed hothead Alec Baldwin is putting his actions into words. A memoir about his life, the ups and downs of his career and his struggles with addiction is due out next year, publisher HarperCollins said on Friday. The book, entitled "Nevertheless," is scheduled for launch in the autumn of 2016.

"Alec Baldwin is a larger-than-life talent with an astonishing range. And his life up to now has been far from dull," Jonathan Burnham, senior vice president and publisher of Harper, said in a statement.

The star of the TV show "30 Rock" will pen the book himself and include stories about his childhood in New York, his

early career as a soap opera star, his marriage and acrimonious divorce from actress Kim Basinger, and his second marriage to yoga instructor Hilaria Thomas in 2012.

Last year Baldwin, 56, said he had considered leaving New York, partly because of how he has been depicted in the press.

After a series of headline-grabbing incidents the actor had been portrayed as a hotheaded homophobe and bigot. His short-lived cable TV talk show "Up Late with Alec Baldwin" was cancelled in 2013 after he made what a gay rights group called a homophobic comment to a New York photographer. Baldwin issued an apology, but the network MSNBC dropped his show.—Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 24 Jan — If ordinary Americans voted for the Academy Awards, "American Sniper," Clint Eastwood's portrait of a sharpshooter in the Iraq war, would be the best picture winner, according to the annual Reuters/Ipsos Oscars poll.

The film starring Bradley Cooper as the late Navy SEAL Chris Kyle was cited by 22 percent of respondents as the movie that should win the top Oscar among the eight nominees, according to an online survey of Americans conducted 16-23 January. The Martin Luther King Jr biopic "Selma" was the second most popular choice with 8 percent.

"Boyhood," the coming-of-age story filmed over 12 years with the same actors and a favourite to win best picture, was third in the survey with 4 percent.

Nearly half, or 48 percent, said they were unsure which film should win best picture.

Both "American Sniper" and "Selma" have been the subject of controversy in recent weeks.

The Eastwood-directed film, currently No 1 at the North American box office, has become a flashpoint of debate between liberals and conservatives over the morality of war and the role of snipers.

"Selma" drew criticism from some historians for what they said was a misleading portrayal of President Lyndon B. John-

And the winner is... 'American Sniper'



Actress Sienna Miller (L), director Clint Eastwood and actor Bradley Cooper (R) arrive for the premiere of the film "American Sniper" in New York on 15 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

son's role in the fight for voting rights for blacks.

"Selma" was also at the centre of the upheaval over the lack of diversity in the Oscar nominations announced last week, which excluded the film's African-American female director and lead actor.

The survey revealed, however, that many people have not seen the year's top films and Oscar contenders.

The film seen most by those surveyed was "Gone Girl," the film adaptation of the best-selling thriller that did not receive a best picture nomination. Twelve percent have seen that film.

"American Sniper" and musical "Into the Woods," were the second most seen at 9 percent

each.

The two films that lead all Academy Awards nominees with nine nods a piece, the whimsical caper "The Grand Budapest Hotel" and the dark satire "Birdman," have been seen by 8 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

A full 65 percent of respondents had not seen any of the 15 films cited in the survey. The Oscars, to be presented at a ceremony on 22 February, will be voted on by the 6,100 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll surveyed 2,385 Americans online and has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.

Reuters

GENERAL

Australia not counting their chickens in Asian Cup semis

SYDNEY, 24 Jan — Australia are determined not to get carried away with their chances of lifting the Asian Cup on home soil despite reigning champions Japan crashing out of the tournament in the quarter-finals.

The Socceroos had been expecting to play the Samurai Blue in a rematch of the 2011 final in the last four on Tuesday but will instead face United Arab Emirates after the Gulf nation upset Japan in a shootout on Friday.

Australia's media rejoiced at what they saw as an easier path to next weekend's final opening up in front of Ange Postecoglou's side but striker Robbie Kruse said the squad were taking nothing for granted.

"We can be the first team to win major silver-

ware here in Australia, and to do it on our home soil is something special," Kruse told reporters in Newcastle.

"So it has always been the focus to come here and get the job done — and the job is to win the tournament.

"In saying that, we take each game as it comes. Some people may say we're already in the final but we're not looking at it like that. It's going to be tough." Kruse's form in the tournament has been a big factor in Australia's progression to within one match of a final against South Korea or Iraq.

The Bayer Leverkusen forward missed the World Cup last year after being forced to undergo



Australia's Robbie Kruse (L) celebrates his goal with team mate Mathew Leckie during their Asian Cup Group A soccer match against Oman at the Stadium Australia in Sydney on 13 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

knee surgery and thinks he is only now approaching his best form.

"Maybe not quite there fully but I'm getting pretty close," he added.

"Obviously the game time is going to help me get

better and better and I feel like I'm doing fairly well in the tournament and so are we collectively as a group.

"That is what it's about. We don't focus too much on the individual."

Reuters

Veteran Heskey set for emotional Liverpool return



England's Emile Heskey (L) fails to score against the US during the 2010 World Cup Group C soccer match at Royal Bafokeng stadium in Rustenburg on 12 June, 2010. — REUTERS

LONDON, 24 Jan — The FA Cup holds fond memories for Emile Heskey, but a chance to play against former team Liverpool, when a few months ago he was clubless and working for their TV channel, will be among the sweetest for the former England striker.

Heskey's career appeared to be done and dusted when he returned from a spell

in the Australian A-League, generally perceived to be a final destination for players who once flourished in big European Cups.

A move to second tier Bolton Wanderers, however, has offered him a last hurrah, while a fortunate FA Cup fourth round draw has handed him the chance to run out on Saturday against Liverpool, with

whom he won the competition in 2001.

"It's a wonderful thing to go back," Heskey said.

"I'm 37, I'm not a young lad; to go back and play at Anfield is a great thing. It wasn't long ago, a few months ago, when I was doing LFCTV so to actually be going back there and putting my boots on and playing against Liverpool is won-

derful. "I've thought about it. The fans were wonderful to me while I was there. I'll hopefully get a good reception and play my heart out."

A bulldozer of a centre forward at his peak, Heskey scored 60 goals in 223 appearances for Liverpool in a four-year spell from 2000.

He won the UEFA Cup and League Cup in the superb treble winning season of 2001 and added a second League Cup to his trophy cabinet in 2003.

The FA Cup, however, retains a special place in his heart. Having scored one of the goals that helped beat Wycombe Wanderers to reach the final in 2001, he started Liverpool's 2-1 victory over Arsenal at the Millennium Stadium.

"The FA Cup still means everything," added Heskey, who won 62 caps for England.

"When you're growing up it's the one everyone wants to win and I have been lucky enough to do that."—Reuters

UAE set to host 2019 Asian Cup

SYDNEY, 24 Jan — The next Asian Cup in 2019 will be held in the United Arab Emirates, several sources have told *Kyodo News*.

The United Arab Emirates would host Asia's flagship competition for a second time, the first since 1996. An official announcement by the Asian Football Confederation is set for this spring.

The tournament will be expanded from 16 teams to 24 in 2019. The United Arab Emirates on Friday reached their third semifinal by shocking defending champions Japan 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in 120 minutes. The Emirates have never won the continental championship.

While Iran are also in the bidding to host the next Asian Cup, the sources said the United Arab Emirates will get the nod virtually by default because of the massive investment they have made in football in recent years.— *Kyodo News*



Andreu (L) gives the helmet to Jana during a training session of human tower building in Barcelona, Spain, on 6 Sept, 2014. Jana is a 8-year-old child from China. She was adopted when she was one and a half years old by a Spanish couple, Andreu and Thais, and moved to Barcelona. One year ago, Jana decided to join the local human tower team Castellers de Sants. Currently, Jana is the star of the team. She is the one who mounts the top of the human tower.

XINHUA

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* Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win
* World News
* Moving Meditation: Aikido

MRTV
News Channel

(25-1-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am

• Physical Exercise

7:00 am

• News/ Weather Report

7:35 am

• Business News

8:30 am

• Head Line News

9:35 am

• Documentary (ASEAN)

10:35 am

• People Talks

12:00 noon

News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm

• Myanmar Movies (Part-1)

2:35 pm

• Myanmar Movies (Part-2)

3:00 pm

• News / International News

4:35 pm

• Amazing World

5:35 pm

• University of Distance Educations (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Zoology)

6:35 pm

• Weekly Entertainment

7:00 pm

• News

7:30 pm

• Head Line News

8:00 pm

• News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News
• Tasty Trip

MRTV
Entertainment Channel

(25-1-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Travelogue Programme

6:30 am

• Honour Song of Alinka Wutyi

6:50 am

• Fashion Show

7:05 am

• Musical Programme

7:25 am

• Myanmar Video

8:55 am

• Sing & Enjoy

9:40 am

• Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon

• Close Down

Manchester United held to embarrassing draw at Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, 24 Jan — Manchester United were embarrassingly held to a 0-0 draw at fourth tier Cambridge United in the FA Cup fourth round on Friday after another harsh lesson against lower league opposition.

Cambridge, promoted from the minor leagues into the professional pyramid last season, had studied hard and gave the visitors a lesson in terms of desire and defensive organization.

The home side even had the best opportunity in the first half when Josh Coulson headed over from close range as the Old Trafford side, dumped out of the League Cup 4-0 by third-tier Milton Keynes Dons in August, were reduced to half chances.

United started with a back four, as manager Louis van Gaal continues to tinker with his formation, and Cambridge's physical-

ity and height caused problems but the illustrious visitors dealt reasonably well with the high balls in the wind.

The 8,000-strong crowd in the tight Abbey Stadium loudly cheered every Cambridge attack, especially as the hosts consistently flooded forward confidently on the break.

United, with captain Wayne Rooney rested, improved in the second half with Radamel Falcao forcing Chris Dunn into a smart save and substitute Robin van Persie firing over when he should have scored.

Dunn was the hero again in stoppage time when he superbly blocked British record signing Angel Di Maria's shot as the paupers made a mockery of the princes, who did not have the same trouble winning at lower league Yeovil Town in round three.

"I'm obviously ex-



Manchester United's Angel Di Maria (L) is challenged by Cambridge United's Tom Champion during their English FA Cup 4th round soccer match at The Abbey Stadium in Cambridge, eastern England on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

tremely proud of each and every one of them," Cambridge boss Richard Monney, who won a European Cup winner's medal with Liverpool in 1981, told the

BBC.

"I thought we carried a threat and moved the ball quite nicely. We tried to make sure it didn't faze them in the tunnel. We'll

take the replay of course."

United, fourth in the Premier League amid another fitful season, have won the FA Cup a joint-record 11 times but they have

not lifted the famous old trophy since 2004.

The Cup is their only realistic chance of silverware this term and although a home replay will not clog their fixture list given their lack of European competition, they will still be shocked at failing to beat a team ranked 76 places beneath them.

Stand-in skipper Michael Carrick reacted like they had just played a difficult Premier League game rather than faced a team from a place much more famous for its university.

"First half was very scrappy, it was tough. Second half we were a lot better," the England midfielder said. "We are still there, we've got the replay."

The rest of the fourth round games take place over the next three days with holders Arsenal visiting second-tier Brighton and Hove Albion on Sunday.—Reuters

Williams sisters turn back clock in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan — Top seed Serena Williams and her older sister Venus sent a chilling warning to the rest of the women's draw at the Australian Open on Saturday by both advancing to the fourth round at Melbourne Park for the first time in five years.

Both took a little while to figure out their opponents on Saturday but once they got into the groove of the match were able to advance relatively comfortably.

World number one Serena beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, while 18th seed Venus also needed a set to get going before she beat Italy's Camila Giorgi 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-1.

Men's champion Stan Wawrinka avoided a repeat of the stunning upset of compatriot Roger Federer on Friday, with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, while

eight seed Milos Raonic cruised past Germany's Benjamin Becker 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

"I'm really happy with my game so far, I was aggressive, took control of the match and I think my game is there," Wawrinka said in a courtside interview. "I'm happy to get through again."

"I've been here 10 days before the tournament and this is a new challenge for the next two weeks and that is what I'm focussed on."

Women's sixth seed Agnieszka Radwanska also continued her largely untroubled, yet under the radar, progress through the draw with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Varvara Lepchenko and will meet Venus on Monday.

"I think playing her is always great challenge," Radwanska said. "I think she is still playing great

tennis even she's a bit older. She's still really fit and playing a high level."

"I think it's going to be another good match."

The last time the Williams sisters reached the last 16 at Melbourne Park, Serena went on to win her fifth title. It was also the last time the 18-times grand slam winner lifted the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup.

Chances of her adding a sixth looked bleak early on in her clash with the 20-year-old Svitolina, who showed why she is considered one of the more prom-

ising players in women's tennis when she got off to a flying start at the Rod Laver Arena.

The American took the loss of her first set at Melbourne Park this year to heart and roared through the rest of the match in just over an hour to end Svitolina's hopes of becoming the first Ukrainian woman to reach the fourth round at the Australian Open since Alona Bondarenko in 2010.

"She played really well," Serena said of Svitolina. "She is one to watch. She has come a really long way. It was a good match

and she really made me work really hard."

Serena will now play the enigmatic Garbine Muguruza in the next round after the Spaniard beat Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky in three sets.

The hard-hitting Muguruza beat Serena last year in the second round at Roland Garros and the tall right hander said that victory, while a 'perfect game', was not a factor on the Melbourne hard courts.

"I think I don't have nothing to lose," the 21-year-old said. "Just another match, same game, same concentration. Nothing new. ... I don't think I have pressure."

While Serena was recovering on Rod Laver Arena, older sister Venus was wrapping up her win over the tricky Giorgi to move into a grand slam fourth round for the first time since Wimbledon in 2011.

"That feels fantastic especially when things happen in your life that are not in your control," said the 34-year old, who struggles with Sjogren's syndrome, an auto-immune disease that can cause joint pain and fatigue.

"But I don't want to stop now, I want to keep it going."

"This little cat has a few tricks up her sleeve."

Reuters

Nishikori advances to 4th round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan — World No 5 Kei Nishikori of Japan advanced to the fourth round of the Australian Open with a four-set victory over American Steve Johnson on Saturday. Nishikori, whose stated goal for this year is to go at least as far as the semifinals in each of this year's Grand Slam events, will face ninth seed David Ferrer of Spain after defeating the 38th-ranked Johnson 6-7(7), 6-1, 6-2, 6-3. Ferrer advanced with a 6-2, 7-5, 5-7, 7-6(4) victory over French 18th seed Gilles Simon.

"I've got tough opponents coming up, but I'm playing good tennis," Nishikori said in his on-court interview as the large number of Japanese fans in the stands voiced their approval. "It's very exciting for me to play on this court."

Nishikori and Johnson slugged it out in a 55-minute first set, with Nishikori missing a number of easy winners and Johnson dishing out some punishment with precise forehands. Yet, with the second set, Nishikori began dictating the rhythm by driving Johnson back with his returns and playing a more varied game.

Kyodo News



Venus Williams of the US stretches to hit a return to Camila Giorgi of Italy during their women's singles third round match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 24 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS



Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball during her women's singles third round match against Elina Svitolina of Ukraine at 2015 Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia on 23 Jan, 2015. Williams won 2-1.—XINHUA