

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 1 January, 2012

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest of its kind in Myanmar, put into service

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest of Myanmar, was inaugurated this morning with an address by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The bridge is a rail-cum-road one, built by Special Bridge Construction Group-3 of Public Works of the Construction Ministry.

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Electric Power No. (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Aung, North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, member of

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Photo shows the newly-opened Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) the longest bridge in Myanmar.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets local people at the opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).

MNA

National Duty

According to the historic events, Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty is the national duty not only present generations but also our posterity have to safeguard. So, our government will uphold this national duty.

(Excerpts from Speech of President U Thein Sein delivered at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011)



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 January, 2012

Independence and Development

Myanmar has freed herself from the colonial yoke since 64 years ago. The 4th January 1948 is the day when Myanmar people regained independence as a sovereign nation. On that day designated as the Independence Day, commemorative festivities have been celebrated yearly for 64 years so that all the people adore and value the independence of the nation.

Independence was not regained by a stroke of fortune like winning a lottery. All national brethren residing in the territory of Myanmar sacrificed lives, blood and sweat in independence struggles. They all together secured the Independence by fighting against the colonialists in many battles with a same vow that the entire Myanmar people must be free from enslavement.

To safeguard the Independence is the duty of all national people living in the nation. Thus, all national people are to uphold Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty for perpetuity of Independence of Myanmar.

Today is the first day to enter the New Year of 2012 after the old year was over. Hailing the New Year, development momentum must be gathered for serving the interests of the State and the entire people as part of efforts to safeguard the Independence of the nation.

At present, internal armed groups have made peace talks one after another thanks to remarkable reforms of the new government. In consequence, the whole nation will enjoy the peace and prosperity with full essence of Independence.

In the near future, it is certain that the whole country will achieve greater progress as the people can emphasize their businesses enjoying fruits of Independence.

Training courses opened in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—The Women's Vocational Training School opened the advanced tailoring course No. 2 and the basic domestic science course No. 3 in Myainggying region of Hlaingbwe Township on 19 December, with an address by Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min.

The State Chief Minister attended the stake driving ceremony for 20 rural housing estates in Myainggying region. He presented school uniforms and refreshments to students of mobile primary school and comforted patients at Myainggying hospital.

The State Chief Minister presented cash assistance to the fund of Myainggying Basic Education High School. He also visited rubber farm, soya bean and groundnut plantations in the region.

In Hpa-an, he addressed the basic domestic science course No. 28 and the advanced tailoring course No. 25.

MNA

Monsoon paddy harvested with combined harvester

AMARAPURA, 31 Dec—The monsoon paddy on 1.23 acres of model plot was harvested in Tamoksoe Village of Amarapura Township on 19 December.

Local authorities and departmental officials supervised harvesting of paddy that produced 80 baskets per acre.

World brand combined harvester is worth K 9 million, and it is sold with the assistance of Mandalay Region government.—*Myanma Alin*

New tarred roads opened in Tatkon, Pyinmana



Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt at opening of road in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—New roads were opened in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Pyinmana this morning as a gesture of hailing 64th Anniversary Independence Day. President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt, Tatkon Township Pyithu Hluttaw

Representative U Maung Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee, township administrators, departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders and locals attended the opening of Naungthinkha and Pyidaw Aye tarred roads.

Naungthinkha Street is 12 feet wide and 2961 feet long and Pyidaw Aye Street is 2926 feet long. Likewise, opening of Yuzana and Shwechi tarred streets was held this morning in Pyinmana, attended by the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee Member U Myo Aung and Pyinmana Township Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Hmat Gyi.

Yuzana and Shwechi streets are 12 feet in width and 7300 feet in length.

MNA

Gems merchants flood into Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium



Union Minister U Thein Htaik views sale of jade lots at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 continued today at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here this morning.

The hall was packed with gems merchants, at home and abroad, observing jade lots which will be sold out in competitive bidding system and wandering jewellery shops.

Patron of Emporium Central Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, accompanied by Central Committee Secretary U Thein Swe and members, viewed selling of jade lots and attended to the needs.

Today, 1433 jade lots were sold out at the emporium in which the jade lots will continue to be sold in competitive bidding system from 1 to 3 January.

MNA



Local and foreign gems merchants viewing jade lots earnestly.—MNA

DISTRICT NEWS



Talks on bird flu prevention held

BUDALIN, 31 Dec—An educative talk on prevention against bird flu was held at the office of Budalin Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department on 27 December.

Township level officials of the department disseminated knowledge about outbreaks of bird flu, control of disease and symptoms.

They sprayed the poultry farms in Myoma ward 3 insecticide.—*Township LBVD*

Kremlin hails positive development in Russia's international relations in 2011

Moscow, 31 Dec— President Dmitry Medvedev sent New Year greetings to a number of foreign leaders to stress the positive developments in their bilateral relations, the Kremlin website reported Friday.

Besides sending greetings to some 20 foreign leaders, including those of the US, Germany, France, China and Japan, Medvedev especially emphasized the dynamics in ties with Kazakhstan and Belarus, calling the relations "allied."

In a bid to strengthen regional ties, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan signed agreements this year to create a Common Economic Space and Eurasian Economic Union in addition to the existing Customs Union and Collective Security Treaty Organization.

"Start of the Common Economic Space from Jan 1, 2012, will open new opportunities for our ties. On agenda there is transition to the next stage of integration — creating Eurasian Economic Union," Medvedev said.

He also mentioned that Russia's participation in number of regional and global organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), BRICS, G20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is important to regional and global peace and stability.—Xinhua

Iranian navy chief says closing Hormuz Strait not Iran's intention

TEHRAN, 31 Dec— Iran's navy chief Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said Friday that it is not Iran's intention to close the Strait of Hormuz although it could readily close it, the local satellite Press TV reported.

"Our intention is to bring stability and security to the region and we would like to show everyone that we can provide the security for the region without resorting to powers from outside," said the Iranian commander as the country continued its ongoing navy drill on Friday.

Sayyari said the presence of foreign navies in the region causes regional insecurity and emphasized that Iran does not need the presence of non-regional powers, according to the report.

The US Department of Defence on Wednesday



Military speedboats are seen during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 30 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

warned Iran against any attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz, which is one of the world's most important oil passage.

"This is not just an important issue for security and stability in the region, but is an economic lifeline for countries in the Gulf, including Iran," Pentagon

press secretary George Little said. "Interference with the transit or passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz will not be tolerated."

Little's remarks came after Iran's top officials threatened to seal off the important oil passage. Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi

said on Tuesday that Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if the West imposes sanctions on its oil exports.

Sayyari echoed the vice president's remarks on Wednesday, saying that the country's naval forces could readily block the oil route if needed.

In a separate statement, the Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet said on Wednesday that "anyone who threatens to disrupt freedom of navigation in an international strait is clearly outside the community of nations. Any disruption will not be tolerated."

Last Saturday, the Iranian navy launched a 10-day exercise, dubbed Velayat 90, which covers a length of 2,000 km stretching from the east of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Aden.—Xinhua

15 insurgents killed, 55 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Dec— Afghan forces, backed by NATO-led Coalition troops, have killed 15 armed insurgents and detained 55 other suspects in Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, Afghan Interior Ministry said on Saturday

morning. "Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army and international Coalition Forces launched 18 joint operations in Kunar, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Takhar, Baghlan, Kandahar, Helmand, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Khost, and Herat

Provinces over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a press release. "As a result of these operations, 15 armed insurgents were killed, four wounded and 55 others were arrested by the ANP," it said.

The ANP also discovered and confiscated 12 AK-47 guns, five rocket launchers, three PKM machine guns, five anti-vehicle mines, 1,280 kg of opium, 164 kg of hashish, 4 kg of heroin, three radio handsets, five motorbikes, seven heavy bullets, two different types of weapons and a pistol, the press release added.

Afghan officials often use the word "insurgents" referring to Taliban. However, the insurgent group, who launched in May this year a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has not to make comments yet.

Separately, a Taliban fighter was killed and two injured when Afghan army soldiers repelled an attack on an army checkpoint in the eastern Kunar province late on Friday, an army spokesman in the region Shirin Agha said.

Internet



A Palestinian militant looks over the rubble of a military site belonging to the Islamic Jihad movement after an Israeli airstrike in central Gaza Strip, on 29 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Former Mexico soldier sentenced for aiding cartels

MEXICO CITY, 31 Dec— A former soldier in the Mexican Army was sentenced to 25 years in prison for aiding drug cartels, the attorney general's office said on Friday.

Reymundo Morales of the Mexican infantry was arrested two years ago and found guilty of passing information to drug cartels, the attorney general's office said in a statement. Local media said that Morales and several colleagues in uniform were passing information about security operations to the powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, led by Joaquin 'Shorty' Guzman, Mexico's most-wanted man.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon has said he is determined to root out corruption among the security forces as they take on violent drug cartels in a battle that has left more than 46,000 people dead since he took office in 2006. Few officials have been convicted for crimes to date, though early last month, fourteen soldiers were sentenced to jail for firing at a family group in 2007 in one of the more prominent cases of wrongdoing among the security services.—MNA/Reuters

15 killed in Pakistan's Quetta city blast

ISLAMABAD, 31 Dec— At least 15 people were killed and over 20 wounded after a blast hit Pakistan's Quetta city Friday, said police sources and media reports.

The toll in the blast has risen to 15, Xinhua reported Dawn News citing sources early Saturday.

Earlier, district inspector general Nazir Kurd of Quetta, capital city of Balochistan province, said 10 people were killed and about 30 injured in the blast which, as per initial information, looked as if it was a car bomb blast.

Later, Balochistan Liberation Army, a local separatist group, however, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was a suicide bomb attack instead of a car bomb attack.

The attack took place at about 7:00 pm Friday outside the house of the son of former federal minister Naseer Mengal who had served as oil minister during the tenure of former president Pervez Musharraf.

Mengal has also been Balochistan's chief minister. An estimated 40 to 50 kg



People carry a man to a hospital following a huge blast in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 30 Dec, 2011. At least 15 people were killed and over 20 others were injured when a blast hit Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta on Friday night, said local media and police sources. A local separatist group Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) later claimed the responsibility for the attack and said that it was a suicide bomb attack instead of a car bomb attack.—XINHUA

of explosives were used in the blast, said police, adding that bomb disposal squad also defused another two bombs planted near the house.

Shafiq Mengal, the leader's son, however, escaped the attack. Interior Minister Rehman Malik has ordered an inquiry into the attack.—Xinhua

Interpol chief: EU must step up security

LYON, (France), 31 Dec— The head of the international police agency Interpol urged European countries to check visitors' passports against its database of stolen documents. In an interview reported Friday in The Independent, Interpol Secretary-General Ronald Noble said only a few countries in the European Union take advantage of its database of 15 million suspicious passports.

Once travelers are admitted to an EU country, the Schengen Agreement allows them to travel freely through most of Europe. "If we all say that we are going to trust one another to screen and control people coming through our borders then we should all have the same standard," Noble said. Noble pointed out one of the people involved in the 1993 bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York had entered the United States using a stolen Iraqi passport.

"The lesson that should have been learnt ... is that people carrying stolen travel documents, if they are not stopped, can enter your country and mastermind a horrible attack," Noble said.—Internet



A wounded Afghan man chats with a security man at the scene of a bomb explosion in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 29 Dec, 2011.

XINHUA

China busts counterfeit drug racket

BEIJING, 31 Dec—Chinese authorities broke up more than 1,800 dens that made or sold counterfeit drugs in cases that involved 3.35 billion yuan (530 million U.S. dollars) in a two-year crackdown, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA).

During the campaign, 13 government departments mobilized more than one million law enforcement workers to combat the sale of fake drugs via online advertising or consignment, seizing more than 5,000 kinds of illegal products, said SFDA deputy head Bian Zhenjia Thursday at a meeting.

According to Bian, the action also targeted malpractice during the manufacturing process as well as selling non-pharmaceutical products as drugs. In the operation, authorities conducted more than 28,000 on-site inspections in medicine production factories and halted the production of 98 varieties of drugs, Bian said. However, Bian noted that problems still exist, including rampant illegal drug advertising and online sales of fake drugs.



Chinese authorities broke up more than 1,800 dens that made or sold counterfeit drugs in cases that involved 3.35 billion yuan (530 million US dollars) in a two-year crackdown, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA).—INTERNET
improper manufacturing practices and outdated laws and regulations concerning drug safety. Bian said the SFDA will continue to cooperate with other government departments and step up supervision and crackdowns on the online sale of fake drugs.—Xinhua

WHO “deeply concerned” by mutated birdflu research

LONDON, 31 Dec—The World Health Organization issued a stern warning on Friday to scientists who have engineered a highly pathogenic form of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, saying their work carries significant risks and must be tightly controlled.

The United Nations health body said it was “deeply concerned about the potential negative consequences” of work by two leading flu research teams who this month said they had



Health workers carry culled poultry for disposal at Gandhigram village, about 35 km (22 miles) west of Agartala, capital of India’s northeastern state of Tripura, on 7 March, 2011.—REUTERS

Man Suspected being infected with Bird Flu in Shenzhen

GUANGZHOU, 31 Dec—A 39-year-old bus driver is suspected of being infected with the high pathogenic H5N1 virus in the southern city of Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, local authorities said on Friday.

The man surnamed Chen was hospitalized for a fever on December 21 and tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus in Bao’an District of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, the provincial health department said.

Chen is still in critical condition and is receiving emergency treatment, it said.

The department also said that during the previous month prior to his fever, he had no direct contact with the poultry and had not traveled out of the city.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said on December 22 to suspend supplies of live poultry to Hong Kong after a dead chicken was tested positive in Hong Kong for the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus.

The AQSIQ said it would maintain close contact and work together with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to jointly step up measures in controlling the epidemic.—MNA/Xinhua

Biosecurity has asked two journals that want to publish the work to make only redacted versions of studies available, a request to which the journal editors and many leading scientists object.

In its first comment on the controversy, the WHO said: “While it is clear that conducting research to gain such knowledge must continue, it is also clear that certain research, and especially that which can generate more dangerous forms of the virus...has risks.”

Reuters



Wall Street ends flat for year despite a big volatile year



Trader Peter Frank Masiello wears “2012” glasses as he works on the main trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange during the last trading day of 2011 in New York on 30 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

NEW YORK, 31 Dec—The US stocks fell on Friday, ending an extremely volatile year with little to cheer, as concerns about uncertainties haunting the world economy still weighed on the market.

After positive jobless data on Thursday, investors cheered on the Ford sales data. Ford reported on Friday that the company’s 2011 autosales

hit 2 million units, the first time that’s happened since 2007.

However, stocks still edged down amid European concerns. Italy had a weak debt auction and its 10-year bond yields hit 7.07 percent. Investors were concerned that borrowing costs in the euro zone countries will increase in the coming year.

Meanwhile, Spain said that its budget deficit will surpass prior expectations of

6 percent of GDP, hitting around 8 percent for 2011.

Moreover, the China Purchasing Managers’ Index for Dec rose to 48.7 from 47.7 in November. However, the figure was under 50 for second consecutive month, meaning that China’s manufacturing saw contraction. Volume has been thin recently as many investors enjoyed their new year holiday.

With light volume, the CBOE VIX index, known as fear index, rose 3.31 percent to 23.40. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 69.48 points, or 0.57 percent, to 12,217.56. The Standard & Poor’s 500 was down 5.42 points, or 0.43 percent, to 1,257.60. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 8.59 points, or 0.33 percent, to 2,605.15. For the year, the Dow gained about 5.5 percent, one of the best among all major indexes in the world. The S&P 500 ended the year almost unchanged while the Nasdaq dropped nearly 2 percent.

Internet

Business

Hong Kong stocks close higher with low turnover

HONG KONG, 31 Dec — Hong Kong stocks closed higher on Friday, the last trading day of the year with the lowest turnover in the past three years. The benchmark Hang Seng index closed up 36.47 points, or 0.2 percent, to end at 18,434.39 points, after trading between a day high of 18,506.27 and a day low of 18,415.85 points. Turnover totaled 24.47 billion HK dollars (about 3.15 billion US dollars), more than 15 percent lower than the last trading day. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index gained 5.15 points, or 0.05 percent, to close at 9,949.73. Of the four sub-indices, the Finance and Utilities gained ground, up 0.4 and 0.97 percent respectively. Both the Properties and Commerce & Industry lost ground, dropping 0.38 and 0.02 percent.

Banking giant HSBC, which accounts for the largest weighting of the Hang Seng Index, moved up 1.03 percent to close at 59 HK dollars, whereas its local unit Hang Seng Bank moved down 0.22 percent to 92.15 HK dollars. Hong Kong Exchange lost 0.16 percent to 124.1 HK dollars. China Mobile gained 1.2 percent to 57 HK dollars.

As for the mainland-based financial stocks, ICBC, the world’s largest bank by market value, lost 0.43 percent to 4.61 HK dollars. China’s second largest insurer Ping An gained 0.49 percent at 51.2 HK dollars.

China Life, another important insurer in China, gained 0.42 percent to 19.2 HK dollars. Both China Construction Bank and Bank of China didn’t move during the trading day, with their shares stayed at 5.42 HK dollars and 2.86 HK dollars respectively. Shares of Hong Kong developers ended mixed during the trading day. Hang Lung Properties lost 0.45 percent to 22.1 HK dollars. Henderson Land, another major developer in Hong Kong, rose 1.05 percent to 38.6 HK dollars, and Cheung Kong Holding, a powerful HK-based developer controlled by billionaire Li Ka-shing, went down 1.62 percent to 92.4 HK dollars.—Internet

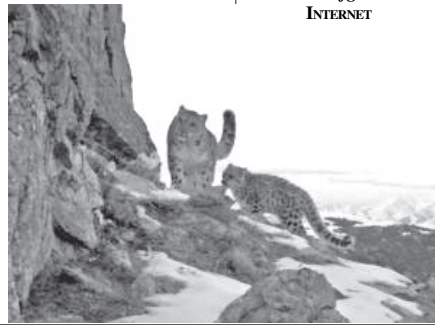


A pedestrian walks past an electronic panel showing the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, south China, on 30 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Elusive snow leopards caught on camera

KABUL, 31 Dec—A remote camera in the mountains of Afghanistan has captured a rare photograph of a snow leopard mother and her cub, a US wildlife conservation group says. Photographs of the elusive animals are hard to come by, the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York said, so a picture of both a mother and her cub is all the more special. The image of the two animals, snapped on a craggy peak in Afghanistan's Sarkund Valley, is the first such photo obtained since the WCS began work in the region, the group said in a release Friday.

The WCS has been conserving wildlife in Afghanistan since 2006 with support from the US Agency for International Development. Snow leopards are native to South and Central Asia and live in rocky mountain ranges between 9,800 and 18,000 feet.—*Internet*



Snow leopard mother and her cub in Afghanistan.
INTERNET

Exotic creatures found living at deep-sea vent in Indian Ocean

LONDON, 31 Dec — Scientists have captured remarkable images of life from one of the most inhospitable spots in the ocean — volcanic underwater vents — sometimes called black smokers.

The UK researchers, who have been surveying the area in the South West Indian Ridge in the Indian Ocean, found an array of creatures living in the super-heated waters, including yeti crabs, scaly-foot snails and sea



Camera teams have ventured deep down into the South-west Indian Ridge of the Indian Ocean to film the ecosystems surrounding 'black smokers', volcanic underwater vents.

INTERNET

cucumbers. They believe some of the species may be

new to science, the *BBC* reported.

Hydrothermal vents were first discovered in 1977. These fissures in the ocean floor spew out fiercely hot, mineral-rich water, yet somehow, diverse ecosystems are able to thrive in these hostile conditions.

The team, from the University of Southampton, was particularly interested in the vents on the South West Indian Ridge because this range is linked to the Mid Atlantic Ridge and the Central Indian Ridge, where

vent life has been well documented.

Using a remote-operated, underwater robot called Kiel 6000, from the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM Geomar), in Germany, the team was able to train their cameras on the vents. In the hottest habitat around the black smokers, they found snails and shrimp, as well as mussels, sea cucumbers and crabs. They then compared these with the animals found at vents on the neighbouring ridges.

Internet

Science

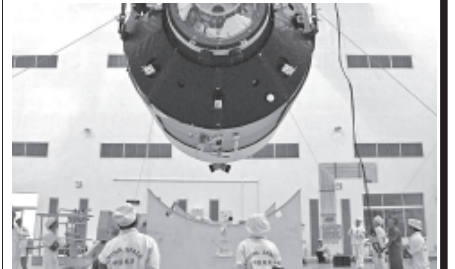
China plans more spaceships and space station

BEIJING, 31 Dec—China has released its next five-year space plan to help it on its way to its eventual goals of building a space station and putting a man on the moon.

The white paper released Thursday says that by the end of 2016, China will launch space laboratories, manned spaceships and ship freighters, and make technological preparations for the construction of space stations.

It says the country will carry on exploring the moon using probes, start gathering samples of the moon's surface, and "push forward its exploration of planets, asteroids and the sun."

China places great emphasis on the development of its space industry, which is seen as a symbol of national prestige.—*Internet*



In this undated photo shows researchers installing China's first space station module Tiangong-1 inside the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China's Gansu Province, on the edge of the Gobi Desert.—INTERNET

Twitter index: microbloggers celebrate the last Friday of 2011



Twitter index: microbloggers celebrate the last Friday of 2011.—INTERNET

People on microblogging site Twitter are celebrating the last Friday of 2011 and talking about their plans for the New Year.

"Rebecca Black don't be sad, there are many more Friday's in 2012," joke Tweeps, making fun of one of 2011's most celebrated memes.

Microbloggers are listing their favorite "crushes" in 2011 with the first place hashtag, "#mycrushof2011." Not surprisingly Twitter favorites Justin Bieber and boyband One Direction are on many peoples' lists. Twitterers are also using third place hashtag "#iWantARelationship" to let their

followers know that they would like to be in a relationship in 2012 (provided that certain conditions are met). "Yo Momma" jokes are spiraling out of control on the social network as people scramble to out-tweet each other. The most popular "Yo Momma" joke circling the blog is, "Yo momma so fat when she sat on an iPhone... it turned into an iPad." A photo of former NBA player Charles Barkley purportedly starring in the fictional sequel of the film *Precious* has gone viral on Twitter along with the term "Precious 2."

Twitterers tweet that they are "Watching [the movie] Obsessed," the American comedy "House Party," the animated TV series "Family Guy," and the American reality TV show "Mob Wives." The top 10 most talked about topics on Twitter on 30 December at 7:30 AM GMT are:

- #mycrushof2011 (new)
- #lastfridayof2011 (new)
- #iWantARelationship (new)
- We Are Blessed To Have Jonas (new)
- Precious 2 (new)
- Watching Obsessed (new)
- House Party (new)
- Yo Momma (new)
- Family Guy (new)
- Mob Wives (new)—*Internet*

Technology

China urges tighter Internet security after series of data leaks

SHANGHAI, 31 Dec—The Chinese government is working with domestic Internet search engines like Baidu Inc and Sohu.com and financial institutions to prevent phishing attacks on unsuspecting Chinese web users.

The Ministry of Public Security said on Friday it would work with 10 Chinese search engines to protect the website rankings of financial institutions to lessen the chances that Internet users will be duped by phishing websites. A phishing attack occurs when the user is persuaded to part with his or her username and password via a fake webpage that closely resembles the original.

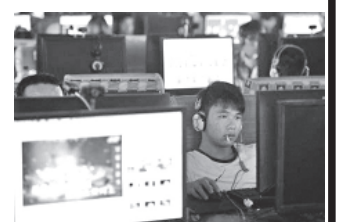
Through the collaboration, the official websites of several Chinese banks, such as Agricultural Bank of China and China Construction Bank will be ranked first in the search engine when a user searches for the related keywords, reducing the risk of such attacks, the Ministry said in an online circular on Friday.

The move comes after China urged tighter Internet security on Wednesday following a spate of personal data leaks that alarmed the online community and prompted calls for tougher scrutiny of who has access

to online information.

On Thursday, the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department confirmed a technical vulnerability on the website of the Division of Exit and Entry Administrative Department of Public Security for Guangdong had left the personal data of 4.4 million users exposed.

According to Chinese media, the loophole was first reported by a microblogger on Thursday and has been around since June this year.—*Reuters*



A man smokes as he uses a computer at an internet cafe in Hefei, Anhui province, on 15 Sept, 2011.

REUTERS

Microsoft set to announce LTE-based WP7 Nokia Ace, HTC Radiant, Samsung Mendel at CES

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—A wave of Windows Phone 7 (WP7) rumors has been circling the blogs over the last few days, the most recent of which includes details of forthcoming smartphones from Nokia, HTC and Samsung. Paul Thurrott from SuperSite for Windows reports that "[t]hree LTE-based Windows Phone handsets — the Nokia ACE, HTC Radiant, and Samsung Mendel



The Nokia Lumia 710 will arrive in the US in January.
INTERNET

— will ship on AT&T Wireless before the middle of 2012. The ACE is due 18 March, 2012."

The handsets are rumored to feature in Microsoft's final headlining keynote at the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in January, says Thurrott, although he is unsure how these LTE-based devices will fit in with Microsoft's WP7 "Tango" mobile operating system update, which is also rumored to be announced during the keynote before launching in early 2012. Tango is said to be

built for low-end smartphones, "[s]o it's unclear how that jives with LTE, which is obviously a high-end feature," notes Thurrott. The Verge suggests the LTE-based devices will run on a pre-Tango version of Windows Phone that supports the 4G wireless mobile communication technology. The Verge also mentions that the HTC and Samsung LTE devices may not arrive in time for CES and may instead be announced during Mobile World Congress in Barcelona this February.—*Internet*

Expert groups to probe Fukushima n-plant disaster again

TOKYO, 31 Dec—Four groups of independent experts will conduct another probe into the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, the NHK TV channel said.

Four commissions, fully independent from the government, will begin their investigation in January.

Along with questioning eyewitnesses and employees if the disaster-stricken plant and its operator TEPCO, the experts will also study the previous government's response to the tragedy.

Actions by then prime minister Naoto Kan and other

supreme officials will come under scrutiny.

A powerful earthquake and tsunami wrecked the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant's cooling systems 11 March, causing meltdown at three of its reactors.

Radiation leaked into the atmosphere, soil and seawater, causing the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

The first report, released Tuesday, criticised people who have been involved in nuclear disaster response and those in charge of managing and operating the nuclear power plant for "lacking the whole-picture viewpoint in nuclear disaster preparedness."—*Internet*



Guests and delegates attend a meeting to mark the establishment of the eighth Council of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) in Beijing, Capital of China, on 29 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

A girl on horseback chases a boy in a traditional activity "girls chase" in Kanas, Altay Prefecture of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 30 Dec, 2011. The 5th Kanas Ice and Snow Tourism Festival has been held here and local herdsmen performed traditional sports activities for tourists.—XINHUA



US sells 84 F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia in deal worth 30 billion dollars

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—The US has officially confirmed selling 84 Boeing F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia, which is its main ally in the Middle-East. The US will also upgrade 70 existing Saudi F-15s as per the agreement.

The US Congress approved a deal worth 60 billion dollars last year, which would be covered in next 10-15 years, and this agreement is a part of it only.

The deal was announced from Hawaii on Thursday where the President, Barack Obama was spending his vacations. Josh Earnest, White House deputy spokesman said that this deal would provide

employment opportunities to around 50,000 Americans.

The deal has come at a time when US is having a standoff with Saudi Arabia's bitter foe Iran over the proposed threat by Iran to disrupt traffic through the Strait of Hormuz if Washington imposes sanctions on Teheran's oil exports.

The Gulf states, Israel and Saudi Arabia, which are US's major allies in the

Middle East, considers Iran as a threat to the peace of the region, *BBC* reports.

In addition to this deal, the US government is also planning to supply Iraq with nearly 11 billion dollars of arms and training while Iran's western flank is already spiking up with weaponry.

Saudi Arabia is not only an ally of huge importance to the US but it is also their third highest source of its oil imports.—*Internet*

France discovers 20 cancer cases in women with PIP implants

PARIS, 31 Dec—French health agency confirmed on Friday that 20 cases of cancer were reported in women with breast implants of a French brand.

As of Tuesday, "there were three cases of lymphoma, 15 cases of breast adenocarcinoma, the most common form of breast cancer, one case of adenocarcinoma of the lung, and one case of acute myeloid leukemia," said the French Health Products Safety Agency (AFSSAPS), referring to allegedly faulty implants produced by the Poly Implant Prothese (PIP).

But "no accountability has been established to date between these cancers and the wearing of PIP implants," the agency said. The French Health Ministry last week advised 30,000 women to

have their PIP implants removed because of an increased risk of rupture to avoid the risk of cancer though no conclusive evidence was found linking to the disease.

The recommendation came after eight cases, mainly breast cancer, were reported among women with PIP implants.

Authorities in other countries also advised women to consult their doctors over the implants.

The French company PIP was once the world's third-largest producer of silicone implants which sold its products to tens of thousands of women in over 65 countries and regions, mainly in South America and Western Europe.

The company was found to replace the medical-grade silicone in its implants with

unauthorized material that caused abnormally high rupture rates of its implants. After that, its products were banned and the company went bankrupt in 2010. The US government already raised the alarm over the company in 2000.—*Xinhua*

Iran to fire various home-made missiles during naval drills

TEHERAN, 31 Dec—An Iranian commander said Friday that Iran's Navy will fire various home-made missiles during the naval drills in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the local satellite Press TV reported.

Deputy commander of Iran's Navy, Rear Admiral Seyyed Mahmoud Mousavi,

was quoted as telling reporters Friday that the country's naval units will fire different long- and short-range land-to-sea, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles during the power phase of the exercises, starting Saturday.

On Friday, the Iranian navy launched the seventh day of major naval drills in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Last Saturday, the Iranian navy launched a 10-day exercise, dubbed Velayat 90, to cover a length of 2,000 km stretching from the east of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Aden.

On Friday, Mousavi said that, during the power phase of the exercises, Iran's submarines will also hit the pre-determined targets, using domestically-manufactured torpedoes. Mousavi, also the spokesman for the drills, added that naval forces will also fire shoulder-launched missiles and hit mock targets of the enemy, said Press TV.—*Xinhua*

Damaged Russian nuclear sub to take a year for repair



A view shows Russia's nuclear-powered submarine Yekaterinburg at a Russian navy base in Murmansk Region on 16 March, 2011. Russia said it had brought a blaze aboard a nuclear submarine under control on 30 December, 2011, by partially submerging the vessel at a naval shipyard, after hours of dousing the flames with water from helicopters and tug boats.—INTERNET

Moscow, 31 Dec—Repairs of the Yekaterinburg nuclear sub, damaged by fire while in dry dock near Murmansk city, will take at least a year, said a spokesman for the Zvezdochka shipyard.

The outer hull of the Yekaterinburg, a Delta-class nuclear submarine, caught fire Thursday during repairs when when fuel and lubricants were set ablaze by welding in the system's nose section.

Fire safety violations during routine maintenance works are cited as the most likely cause.

The submarine's hydro acoustic system, defined as active sound in water (sonar) that is used to study fish, was disabled by the fire and possibly will have to be replaced before it is brought back into service.

"According to our specialists, the repair terms will be known as soon as the damage is assessed and when it becomes clear whether a new hydro acoustic complex is needed for the sub," Zvezdochka spokesman Yevgeny Gladyshev said. "According to our first assessments, repairs may take as long as one year."

It is yet unclear at what facility the sub will be repaired.

Internet



Workers set up Chinese red lanterns around the Temple of Heaven for a new year celebration in Beijing, capital of China, 30 Dec, 2011, one day ahead of the New Year Eve.—XINHUA

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

Safeguard independence inherited from forefathers at risk to own life

Myanmar freed itself from the yoke of colonialists on 4th January, 1948 and could restore the status of a sovereign nation.

Independence Day which falls on 4th January, 2012 is its 64th Anniversary. Since 3 B.C, Myanmar stood as a sovereign nation with its own monarch establishing such monarchial states as Beikthanoe, Hanlin, Thuwunabhumi, Tagaung, Waithali and Srikestra.

King of Bagan Anawrahta unified the scattered regions and established the First Myanmar Kingdom. Based in Toungoo, King Bayingtaung reunified the country as the second Myanmar Kingdom and King Alaungmintaya U Aung Zeya built the third Myanmar Kingdom.

Along the course of Myanmar's history, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and other national races have lived in harmony and unity based on Union Spirit. Through thick and thin, they have resided in Myanmar with mutual understanding and affection. They have moved heaven and earth for perpetuity of the state and territorial integrity of the nation maintaining fine tradition and noble attitude. Myanmar has stood tall as a sovereign nation with its own monarch among the global countries throughout successive periods.

Geo-politically, Myanmar holds a strategic position as it lies on the mainland Asia with long exit to ocean. In the north-west and north, it is linked with wide and vast inland areas of Asian continent. Also, it shares borders with populous nations like China and India and located closely with South-East Asian nations, and South and East Asian nations.

Blessed with vast areas of alluvial land, Myanmar has temperate climate. Valuable forests cover the half of the nation. Rice and gems are in abundance in Myanmar which is gifted with invaluable teak, crude oil and minerals. Unfortunately, its wealth and strategic position aroused the greed of colonialists.

In 19th century, British colonialists occupied India into its empire. Then, it colonized Myanmar waging three aggressive wars. Myanmar lost its sovereignty and independence due to invasion of the imperialists. To undermine national solidarity in Myanmar, British colonialists exercised divide-and-rule policy by adopting three methods mentioned under—

(1) Causing geographical disunity by ruling regions of national races dividedly

(2) Causing ethnical disunity by exercising different administrative systems on diverse national races and setting different rights for them.

(3) Causing conflicts of social class by raising sycophants to smoothen the administrative mechanism.

However, Myanmar people who are naturally imbued with spirit to sacrifice for the nation and the people, spirit of valuing their own nation, people, sovereignty, literature, culture, and tradition and who do not want national integrity to be tarnished, fought back the colonialists at the risk of life and limb. Finally, Myanmar could regain its independence and sovereignty.

Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a nation. If the sovereignty which is made of three powers namely legislative power, executive power, and judicial power, has fallen into the hands of alien peoples and alien nations directly or indirectly, the nation is under implicit colonization according to modern colonialism.

In the modern world, if a nation does not split itself, it will face the intentional attempts of dismemberment. Threatening with military power is much popular if such attempts come in vain. Integrity of a nation is almost considered as odds and ends in this modern world of jungle law.

Some nations are under the colonization of uninvited alien peoples and thus cannot build up the security and focus on nation-building works. Living at own home on own land, they are being bullied by

Padaung Than Kywe

alien peoples as they wish. Thousands of locals lost their lives meaninglessly in the reckless bombardment and firing. It is well to profit by these lessons.

In this power politics era, can a nation safeguard its independence only when it has strength of its own. Only nationalistic fervor, patriotic spirit and unity can build up the internal strength. Unity is a major drive for building a developed nation that can keep abreast of global countries.

The goal can be achieved by making best use of lessons gained from the past. This is why the government that emerged in accord with the constitution has focused on ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty with the united strength of the national people and enabling the national brethren to live forever in the Union in wee or woe.

In accordance with the motto 'Internal strength lies only within' adopted by previous governments, the present government is making plans to further consolidate the internal strength of the national people. In addition, Ayeyawady Myitsone hydropower project was halted with a view to respecting the public wishes.

Peace talks and negotiations with underground armed groups are going on so as to replace sounds of bombs and guns with peace voices. Efforts are also being made to form a strong force for national defence with the participation of all the national people.

With the attitude towards 'Discard differences and choose similarities', strenuous efforts are being made for national reconciliation and perpetual peace. As a modern, developed democratic nation can be built only when people's socio-economy improves, plans are being implemented earnestly to alleviate poverty and ensure an enduring executive pillar.

The pensions of retired service personnel who had to tighten their belt due to rising commodity prices have been increased for their convenience.

For the national people to be able to take part in building a new democratic nation and for humanitarian aids, general amnesties and pardons have been granted. And more amnesties will be granted after assessment.

Moreover, in cooperation with local and foreign organizations, private companies and INGOs, the government is taking measures for swift commodity flow, local and foreign investments, transformation of manual farming into mechanized one, establishment of modern industries, rapid improvement communication networks, development of road, water and air transport in line with international standards, thriving of private businesses, generation and use of electricity at full capacity, improvement of public health standard and enabling the youths to pursue education of international and standard and promotion of their education. Similarly, steps are being taken to promote Myanmar tourism known as smokeless industry, and as a result, more and more tourists are visiting the country.

With the foreign policy being practised in conformity with the five principles of peaceful coexistence and transparent work plans for democratization, the nation has gained many benefits such as being able to deal with all nations big or small on a friendly terms and cooperate in the mutual interests, getting more foreign investments and more economic partner countries and improving the State image.

In a nutshell, today's Myanmar is well on track for a new modern, developed democratic nation. Now is the time when the country has possessed a proper amount of sound infrastructures. Only necessary are full internal peace and participation of all the national people in shouldering national duties conscientiously. Now is the best time to endeavour for national development.

64th Anniversary Independence Day Objectives

- * All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe
- * All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for development of socio-economic life of the people, reducing of poverty rate and ensuring the firm and clean executive pillar in building up a modern, developed democratic new nation
- * All the national people to consciously cooperate in promoting genuine democratic practice and ensuring the rule of law, national reconsolidation and eternal peace.

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

POEM:

Independence of Myanmar

Independence or liberty

Sovereignty of Myanmar

Blood, sweat, lives

Sacrificed we for independence

With might and splendor

Valor we all have

Everywhere is amity

Tranquility rules our land

Keeping always in hearts

Love for our country

Strengthening heartiness

Inheritance we safeguard

Shining with national colors

Under our own protection

Thaung Ko Ko (Trs)

A new modern, developed nation cannot be built with national disunity, unrest and violence and destructive attacks. It can only be built with Union Spirit, national unity, patriotism, selfless interest, thrift, hard work, discipline and respect for law.

All the national people are therefore urged to lend a helping hand with safeguarding the nation's independence and sovereignty and building up a new modern, developed democratic nation with strong Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit.

Translation: TKK+ST

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest...

(from page 1)

Nay Pyi Taw Council U Saw Hla, departmental heads, local authorities, members of social organizations, local people and students.

Speaking at the bridge inauguration, the Vice-President said Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) construction started 15 December, 2009 and it could be opened today. So, today is a very auspicious day for the State as well as for Mandalay Region and Magway Region. It is a rail-cum-road bridge and the main bridge is 11431 feet long.

thanks to the bridge. Similarly, via railroad, commodities can easily be transported to the eastern regions such as Meiktila, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio and Taunggyi as well as to the Ayeyawady Delta such as Kyangin and Hinthada.

The Vice-President continued to say that through the bridge, there will emerge India-Myanmar-China Tripartite Highways and east-west linking highways that connect ASEAN countries via India, Myanmar and Thailand. So, local commodities

taking measures for ensuring easy and smooth transport so that agricultural products can easily be transported from one region to another. With good transportation, all regions will be able to communicate with each other, thereby developing amity and friendship among the national brethren.

Since taking office nine months ago, the government has focused on nation-building endeavours. It is also trying for ensuring community peace and tranquility and building sound economic, education, health and social foundations.

In the effort for making peace with the national race



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).—MNA



The length of motor road of the bridge is 13537 feet while that of railroad is 20597 feet. Out of the bridges across the Ayeyawady River, the bridge opened today is the longest, said the Vice-President.

With the advent of the bridge, one can travel directly from the regions on the western bank of the Ayeyawady in Chin State, Magway Region, Pakokku District and Sagaing Region to the regions on the eastern bank. In the past, local people had to take more than one hour to cross the Ayeyawady by boat. But now it will take only minutes

produced from the western part of the Ayeyawady will flow not only to the entire nation but also to the neighbours.

The government is striving for equalized development of all regions and states. Smooth transport will contribute to the implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation projects. The economic growth of each region is important for building up a modern, developed nation. Therefore, the government is giving encouragement for agricultural development and

armed groups conceived together with the nation's independence, a Union level group has been formed and negotiations are under way to achieve eternal peace. Overall, the government is placing emphasis on State peace and stability and the rule of law.

The Vice-President added that the government is carrying out the tasks for adopting work programmes for rural development and poverty alleviation to develop national economy, making reforms for the proper evolution of market economy, holding workshops so that

agriculture cannot be affected due to global climate change and the people can meet their basic needs, laying down and implementing work plans according to the resolutions passed at the workshops. Moreover, measures are being taken for amending and drafting laws for acquiring local and foreign investments, conducting reforms in facilitating business and making more cooperation with the international community. So, the local people are urged to cooperate with the government in the efforts for peace and

stability and economic development.

In conclusion, the Vice-President expressed his wishes to the local people from Pakokku District of Magway Region and Mandalay Region for more development and prosperity.

With regard to construction of the bridge, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint reported that Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is the longest facility of its kind in Myanmar. The rail-cum-road bridge was built for forthcoming India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite Highway. Thanks to the bridge, 195 miles long Pakokku-Nay Pyi Taw route, 232 miles long Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, 119 miles long Pakokku-Mingyan-Mandalay route, 225 miles long Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay route, 105 miles long Pakokku-Nyaung U-Mandalay route and 467 miles long undergoing Pakokku-Kyangin-Pathein route will link among them for smooth transport by train in a short time.

The bridge built within two years was commissioned for the ninth over-180-ft-long facility in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, he said. Ministry of Construction built 3305 under-180 feet

long bridges and 198 bridges above-180 feet long before 1988. During the period from 1988 to March 2011 in the time of the State Peace and Development Council government, the ministry built 2944 under-180 feet long and 263 above-180 feet long bridges. In the present government's time, nine bridges including Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) have been constructed. There are 6323 under-180 feet long and 470 above-180 feet long bridges across the nation now.

In Magway Region, there are 25 above-180 feet long bridges from 1988 to date compared with 20 before 1988. In Mandalay Region, the bridge is the 25th above-180 feet long bridge and another four are under construction.

Thanks to the bridge, the local people will have easy access to Mandalay and Sagaing regions, Kachin State, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan and Kayah States, Bago Region, Mon and Kayin States and Yangon Region on the east bank of Ayeyawady River and Sagaing Region, Chin State, Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State through Patheingyi Road on the west bank of the river by car in a short time.

(See page 9)



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo walks on newly-inaugurated Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).—MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest...

(from page 8)

While building the bridges, students from Pakokku Technological University, observers from National Defence College, Chauk GTC and Toungoo GTU and those of engineering society of the nation were allowed to observe the construction technology.

He thanked local authorities and local people for their contributions to construction of the bridge.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint said in his address: The State is building roads linking every corner of regions and states. 184-mile concrete road, 1619-mile tarred road, 813-mile gravel road, 376-mile hard road and 2165-mile earth road have been built in the region so far. As rivers and creeks along the roads are bridged, 39 over-180-foot-long bridges and 5853 other huge and small bridges have been constructed. Thus, every corner of the region is accessible. There are also bridges linking Mandalay and Sagaing regions, namely Ayeyawady River-spanning Sagaing and Yadanabon Bridges and Yadana Theinga Bridge under construction. Today opened Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) links the region with Magway Region. Well-established road transportation in Mandalay Region connects other regions and states, reinforcing regional development.

Mandalay Region is geographically lying next to Magway Region. Thanks to close geographical connection, social and economic affairs are inseparable. Pakokku in Magway Region is a river-side city on western bank of Ayeyawady River. It maintains passenger and commodity flow with towns in Mandalay on a daily basis.

Following emergence of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), swift and smooth road transportation and commodity flow between Mandalay and Magway Regions will help develop economic, education, health and social sectors. Plus to the two regions, other neighbouring regions and states will follow to enjoy betterment of road transportation.

What is significant is that the bridge is on Tripartite Highway of India, Myanmar and Thailand. This attaches great value on the bridge not only for the two regions but for the country. Mandalay Region overwhelmingly appreciates the opening of this bridge.

The bridge is of rail-cum-road type. It connects Pakokku with Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan, Mandalay-Bagan and Yangon-Pyay-Bagan-Pakokku railroads. As the railroad reaches Pakokku, Gangaw and Kalay, the commodity flow between eastern and western banks of Ayeyawady River will go smooth and low-cost, thus helping local people enjoy taste of improvements. As it will join southern Pakokku railroad section later, it will cover the entire railroad network in western bank of Ayeyawady River.

The linkage of western and eastern banks of Ayeyawady River, both in terms of railroad and motor road, is a dream of denizens in Mandalay Region that comes true. It is to be accepted as the New Year gift of the State.

Special thanks of Mandalay Region dwellers go to the State for allowing the bridge which is conducive to development of Mandalay and Magway Regions and hard work and conscientiousness of engineers and other staff members of Public Works are appreciated.



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils stone plaque of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).—MNA

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe said in his speech: Today opened rail-cum-road Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), linking eastern and western banks of Ayeyawady River, is the largest bridge in Myanmar, both significant and useful. Thanks to the opening of this bridge, the regions on the western bank of Ayeyawady River, which was lagged behind other regions, will be developed speedily.

The bridge will bring about harmonious development to each region on both eastern and western banks of Ayeyawady River.

In addition to 17 over-180-foot bridges, 3215-foot Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) will be emerged soon.

The State is implementing not only roads and bridges in the region but also upgrading roads linking the region with Rakhine and Chin States. Magway Region thanks the Union government for enabling it to enjoy all-round developments.

The rail-cum-road bridge will bring about higher living standards following low-cost transportation and economic boost.

As it links other regions and states on eastern and western banks of Ayeyawady River, it will build up unity among national brethren.

Special thanks go to staff members of the Ministries of Construction and of Rail Transportation and also to the local people who help complete the bridge construction.

On behalf of the locals, U Aye Ko of Magway Region and U Phone Kyaw of Mandalay Region spoke words of thanks that in the past, locals had to take long time to go to Pakokku crossing the Ayeyawady River by watercrafts. Due to the natural barrier and adverse weather, the people experienced sorrowful events, and lost lives and properties. The locals were very grateful to State leaders to build the longest bridge in Myanmar with goodwill, and vowed durability of the bridge.

The Vice-President and party cordially greeted locals. Next, to open the bridge, they took position at arch of the bridge on Pakokku bank of Magway Region side.

The Union Construction Minister, the Union Rail Transportation Minister, the Union Minister at President Office, the Union Electric Power-1 Minister, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker U Ye Myint opened the bridge on Pakokku bank. Vice-President and party had a documentary photo

taken before the arch.

Next, the Vice-President unveiled stone plaque of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) and showered scented water on it.

After that, the Vice-President and party left for Latpanchepaw bank, and then took position designated on Latpanchepaw bank of Mandalay Region side.

Then, the Union Construction Minister, the Union Rail Transportation Minister, the Union Industry Minister, the Union Transport Minister, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung opened the bridge. Afterwards, the Vice-President and party took documentary photo there.

The Vice-President also unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge on Latpanchepaw bank and then he sprinkled scented water over it and so did the Union ministers, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and officials. After greeting locals, the Vice-President and party viewed the bridge.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is located between Nyaung U of Nyaung U District of Mandalay Region on eastern side of the Ayeyawady River and Pakokku of Pakokku District of Magway Region on

western side of the river.

Measurement of the main bridge is 11,431 feet long. Motorway is 13,537 feet long and railroad is 20,597 feet long.

Foundation and sub-structure of the bridge are of RC bored pile type and body structure is steel truss type. The bridge can bear 75 tons of loads per vehicle.

Approach railroad to the bridge on Pakokku bank is 5420 feet long and on Latpanchepaw bank is 3746 feet long, 9166 feet in total. Approach motorway to the bridge on Pakokku bank is 1378 feet long and on Latpanchepaw bank is 728 feet long, totaling 2106 feet.

Water clearance area of the bridge is 262 feet (80m) in width 52 feet (16m) in height. Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation is implementing 13 railroad projects. The approach railroad of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is one of the projects.

Embarkment of the approach railroad on Pakokku side is 1.71 miles long and on Latpanchepaw side is 2.30 miles long. Total railroad including railroad on the main bridge and approach road is 7.91 miles long and total rail track is 9.28 miles long. Maximum bend is 3 degree.

Looking forward to development of the regions on western side of the Ayeyawady River, the project was implemented by connecting Taungdwingyi-Bagan-Myingyan Railroad already opened on east bank of the Ayeyawady River and Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad under construction on the western bank. Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) is 9th above-180-foot-long bridge inaugurated in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

Aerial view of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku).—MNA



Educational staff members to focus on national policies

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—The Special Refresher Course No. 78 for Basic Education Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning, with an address by member of the Union Civil Services Board U Khin Maung Aye.

Speaking on the occasion, the UCSB member stressed the need to develop human resources of the citizens for strengthening of political, economic and defence might. Teachers are to participate in respective sectors with might and main in enhancing education sectors to meet international standards for development of human resources, he said. He noted that it is necessary to

realize child-centred teaching system for uplifting proficiency of teachers and for escaping the students from parrot learning. As school textbooks are being distributed to the students free of charge in compulsory primary school system, school stationery will be provided to the students free of charge in coming academic year depending on budget of the State. As English is the most usable language apart from mother language, it is necessary to teach students to have good command English, he said.

Literacy rate hits 95.01 per cent in 2011 in Myanmar while school enrolment rate rise in 2011-2012 academic year, he said. Educational

staff members are to focus on national policies and tasks of the new government in addition to educational policies. They are to participate in respective sectors for emergence of good governance and clean government. The teachers are to exactly abide by instructions given by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on his inspection tour at Lashio BEHS No. 7 in Shan State on 13-12-2011. The teachers are to carry out basic literacy tasks in regions and states including border areas as a national duty.

Later, the UCSB member awarded outstanding trainees and cordially greeted the instructors.

MNA

Cash donated to death and injured members of MFB

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Cash was accepted for death and injured members of Myanmar Fire Brigade in blast of warehouse in Kadoseik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

From 29 to 31 December, Yuzana Plaza families donated K 2.5 million, Eleven journal K 2 million, U Shein Win-Daw Khin Cho Oo and family K 1.5 million, U Thein Tun (Thein Tun

Construction) K 1,240,000, U Tin Myint (Sun Tac Technologies) and Gold Yacht Co Ltd K 1 million each, Dr Kaung Kyaw Swe (K Future Co Ltd), SSC and Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association K 500,000 each, families of Kyaukmyaung Market K 402,000, SHE sanitary for the women and a wellwisher K 300,000 each, U Hlaing Min Tun-Daw Nanda Khaing

(Myanmar Maker Home Co) K 250,000, U Htay Win Aung (Timber) and Dr Tha Tun Oo (Today Media Group) K 200,000 each, Nay Pyi Taw Fire Brigade members and U Lin Htein Oo-Ma Dolly K 150,000 each, U Ye Myint Aung-Daw Tin Tin Win family K 130,000 and others, totaling 40.

Total cash donation amounted to K 13,830,000.

MNA

Talks on Eradication of Resistance to TB drug held

YANGON, 31 Dec—An educative talks on National TB control and eradication of Resistance to TB drug took place at the Health Department in Botahtaung Township in

Yangon Region on 27 December morning.

At the event, Yangon Western District TB control Division leader Dr Daw Swe Swe Than and Head of

Township Health Department Dr Ko Ko Maung gave educative knowledge about TB. And then, the patients with TB were allocated refreshments.—MNA

Electric Power No. 2 Ministry holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—The Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 held the work coordination meeting on 29 and 30 December.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe delivered an address. Officials of Yangon

City Electricity Supply Board, region/state engineers, project directors reported on management, financial matters, material management and engineering works.

The Union minister stressed the need to

systematically supply electricity, not to cut out power supply, declining of unity losses, earning more income, systematic use of money, avoiding bribes and dissemination on danger of electricity to the people.

MNA

H&T Ministry concludes English Language and ICT Course

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—English Language and ICT Course No. 3/2011 conducted by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism concluded at the ministry here yesterday evening, with an address by H&T Deputy Minister U Htay Aung.

The deputy minister presented cash awards to outstanding trainees, and director-general gave completion certificates.

Managing director presented gift to Head of Asia Master Training School U Khin Maung Lwin.

The four-week course was attended by 24 trainees for the first time, 34 for the second time and 24 for the third time.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung presents prize to an outstanding trainee at English Language and ICT Course No. 3/2011.—MNA

U Hla Tun Mitta Yeikmon (Cancer) Foundation holds 14th AGM

YANGON, 31 Dec—U Hla Tun Mitta Yeikmon (Cancer) Foundation held its 14th annual general meeting at Kandawgyi Karaweik Palace here this morning. Patron of the foundation Brig-Gen Abel (Retd) and Chairman Prof Dr Myo Nyunt made speeches on the occasion.

Reports on management, account and finance were discussed and development reports of the foundations based in Yangon and Mandalay were explained.

Next, Prof Dr Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Thwe Thwe Kyi donated 100 euros;

financial advisor U Wan Tin and JF Group, K 300,000; Dr U Hla Myint Aung and wife Daw Than Than Si and family, K 150,000; Assistant Administrator U Ohn Myint and wife Daw Mya Mya Win and family, K 200,000; and Daw Khin Khin Sein, K 100,000.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Basic gymnastic coaching refresher course concludes

YANGON, 31 Dec—The basic gymnastic coaching refresher course, organized by Myanmar Gymnastics Federation, concluded at the training gymnasium of the federation in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township on 30 December.

Responsible persons of the federation presented completion certificates to the trainees.

President of the federation U Thein Win gave a certificate of honour to trainer Miss Yan Yun Ying.—Kyemon



Selected Judo player honoured



YANGON, 31 Dec—A ceremony to honour victorious Judo athletes in the XXVI SEA Games was organized by Myanmar Judo Federation at Traders Hotel, here, on 28 December evening.

Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaing Htaik accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented K 8 million to gold medalist Aye Aye Aung in 78-kilo event,

Inter-basic education school golf tournament commences

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—The inter-basic education school golf tournament for 2011-2012 academic year of the Ministry of Education kicked off at Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course on 30 December.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Aung, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Soe of Education Planning and Training Department and Golf Sub-committee U Nyunt Shwe formally opened the tournament.

The players representing the respective regions and states participated in the golf tournament.

MNA

K 1.5 million to silver medalist Thanda Lin in 70-kilo event, Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin K 1.5 million to silver medalist Zin Lin Aung in 90-kilo event, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint K 1.5 million to silver medalist Yan Naing Soe in the 81-kilo event and Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein K 1.5 million to silver medalist Thura Zaw in the 73-kilo event. Officials also awarded the respective winners.

MNA

China builds new airport on Tibet Plateau

XINING, 31 Dec—China began building a new civil airport in northwestern Qinghai province Friday to link the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau closer with the country's inland areas.

Huatugou Airport, in the Mongolian-Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Haixi, is one of three new regional airports to be built in Qinghai before 2020, said Yang Yang, deputy chief of the provincial development and reform commission.

Construction of the 700-million yuan (111 million US dollars) airport will be completed by the end of

2013, and the airport will start operation in June 2014, Yang said.

Huatugou Airport will have a 3,600-meter-long runway and will handle flights to the provincial capital of Xining, the cities of Golmud and Delingha in Qinghai, the city of Dunhuang in neighbouring Gansu Province, and Korlaim Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. By 2020, the airport will handle 90,000 passenger trips annually.

The airport, at an altitude of 2,945 meters, is located in a resource-rich region at the juncture of Qinghai and

Xinjiang. It is close to a major crude oil production base.

"The new airport will provide stronger logistic support for exploiting natural resources," said Cheng Zhuzu, executive vice president of China West Airport Group. "It will help expand the air traffic network on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau."

Two more regional airports, one in Haixi's city of Delingha and the other in Dawo town of the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Golog, will be operational by 2020, Cheng said.

Xinhua



The New Year's Eve Ball is tested the day before New Year's Eve on 30 Dec, 2011 in New York City. The crystal ball, which measures 12 feet and weighs 11,875 pounds, and is adorned with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles of various sizes will descend a tall flagpole to mark the beginning of 2012.—XINHUA



A woman sits in a shop at the Grand Rue of Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, on 30 Dec, 2011.

XINHUA

Three die in blast aboard Indian ship

DUBAI, 31 Dec—Three people died due to a blast in an Indian oil tanker 'MT Prem Divya', owned by Mercator Limited, on Thursday.

Two people went missing and one was severely injured after the explosion which occurred during repair work being carried out by 105 workers and crew. The victims were not identified yet.

The National daily said the tanker was not carrying any oil or gas at the time of accident. Investigations are on to determine the cause of the accident, Capt Mousa Morad, the general manager of Fujairah port, was quoted as saying. The three crewmen who died had remained on board, and their bodies were being removed yesterday. One of the injured was sent to Fujairah hospital with severe burns and fractures. Half of the 24-man crew were now staying in hotels, and the other half would remain with the ship. The repair workers had left, said Ishtiaq Ahmed Malik, the duty official of the Blue Sea Shipping Agency, which was managing the vessel.

The Prem Divya will remain in the UAE until accident-related issues are sorted out. The tanker had arrived in Fujairah on December 27 for 10 days of "operational care".—Internet

34 die in road accidents in first day in Thailand's New Year

BANGKOK, 31 Dec—A total of 34 people were killed and 501 others were injured in road accidents on Thursday, the first day of the government's campaign "Seven Dangerous Days" of the New Year celebration, Bangkok Post online reported on Friday. The Road Accident Prevention and Reduction Centre under Ministry of Interior said on Friday that there were 427 road accidents on Thursday, leaving 34 people dead and 501 others injured.

The number of road accidents increased 8.65 percent, 41.67 percent for the death toll rose and 17.88 percent for injury.

MNA/Xinhua

171,000 Britons caught using phones while driving

LONDON, 31 Dec — Over 171,000 Britons were caught this year using mobile phones while driving, according to official figures.

Figures obtained from a Freedom of Information request said the number of such drivers has soared since 2008, when 115,900 were caught using phones behind the wheel.

More than 1.5 million younger people accessed social networking websites while driving, *the Daily Mail* said.

The figures were revealed by motoring insurer Swiftcover.com which got these from 41 police departments in England and Wales. The research revealed around seven million motorists spoke on their mobiles while driving in the past year, which means less than three percent were caught.

Nearly 350 accidents—including 26 involving fatalities—were caused by drivers while they were using a mobile phone. A report by the Transport Research Laboratory found women aged 17 to 29 were most likely to use a mobile phone while driving. For men, it was the 30 to 59 age group.

"To make sure drivers take this seriously we are increasing the fine for the offence from 60 pounds to between 80 and 100 pounds next year," said Road Safety Minister Mike Penning.

Internet



Mechanics work on the vehicles from Mc Rae team in the Dakar Village, located at the Apostadero Naval de Mar del Plata, property used by the organization of the Dakar 2012 Argentina-Chile-Peru for checks of cars participating in the Rally, in Mar del Plata City, 400 km from Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, on 29 Dec, 2011. The Dakar 2012 Argentina-Chile-Peru will begin on 1 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Firecracker injuries high in Philippines

MANILA, 31 Dec—Almost 200 people have already been injured in the Philippines during holiday celebrations, most of them by firecrackers, health officials report.

Dr. Eric Tayag, a spokesman for the health department, said 187 people have been hurt by exploding firecrackers, two by eating firecrackers and eight from being hit by stray bullets, abs-cbnNews.com reported. That is a total of 197 injuries between 21 Dec and 29 Dec, with New Year's Eve celebrations still to come.

Tayag urged families with young children to stop using firecrackers. He said avoiding large firecrackers is not a solution since most injuries are caused by the small ones known as piccolos.

Internet



Firefighters try to extinguish the fire in the Torres del Paine National Parke, in Patagonia area, Chile, on 30 Dec, 2011. Chile's President Sebastian Pinera on Friday declared Magallanes Region as the disaster area, which was affected by an uncontrolled fire in the Torres del Paine National Parke, in Chilean Patagonia, since three days ago. XINHUA

Shooting kills one in central Finland

HELSINKI, 31 Dec—A shooting incident happened in central Finland on Friday, killing at least one person, Finnish media reported.

According to police, at least one person was shot dead in the incident in Kuohu area, some 17 km outside of Jyvaskyla, and a search is under way for a possible second victim. The emergency response centre of Central Finland received a report about the shooting at about 12:30 local time (1030 GMT) on Friday. The gunman has been arrested in the afternoon. The area has been cordoned off and policemen are doing further technical investigation about the incident. More details about the shooting are expected to be revealed later.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (469)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (469) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (105)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (105) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Four Arrested in robbery of Canadian poker champion

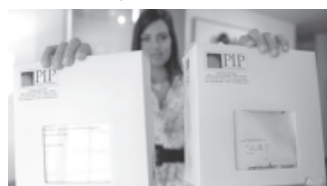
LONG GUEUIL, 31 Dec — Four people have been arrested in the beating and robbery of professional poker champion Jonathan Duhamel. Police say two men and one woman were charged Wednesday in connection with the case and a fourth person was arrested and questioned.

Duhamel's World Series of Poker championship bracelet and a high-end Rolex watch were stolen, along with cash, during a home invasion and robbery on 21 December. Duhamel was badly beaten and tied up during the attack in Longueuil, just south of Montreal. Police were able to trace the poker star's Rolex to a community south of Quebec City. The bracelet has not been found. — *Internet*

Venezuela offers free removal of faulty breast implants

CARACAS, 31 Dec — Venezuela's government has offered to pay for the removal of breast implants feared to be at risk of rupture. The authorities would cover the cost of the surgery for Venezuelan women but would not pay for replacement implants, Health Minister Eugenia Sader said. Ms Sader said many implants made by French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) had been imported illegally.

The French authorities have recommended that 30,000 French women have the



Venezuelan Vera Aulestia is among women who had PIP implants. — *INTERNET*

PIP implants removed as a precaution. The French government, which stresses that there is no evidence of a cancer link, has said it will cover the cost. The implants were banned in several countries last year after they were found to contain industrial grade silicone filler, making them more liable to split. The French authorities have opened a criminal investigation into the company which went into administration in 2010.

Ms Sader said that patients who were worried could go to hospital for a check-up and have surgery to remove the implants if they wished. The Venezuelan government would not, however, pay for new implants, the state news agency AVN quoted her as saying. The health minister said that a significant number of PIP implants had been brought into Venezuela without the proper authorization. "They were implanted illegally and now those patients are at risk," she said.

Internet

145m euro Titanic hoard to go up for auction

VIRGINIA, 31 Dec — The owner of the largest trove of artefacts salvaged from the Titanic is putting the vast collection up for auction next year — the 100th anniversary of the world's most famous shipwreck.

More than 5,500 items, including fine china, ship fittings and portions of hull that were recovered from the ocean liner, have an estimated value of 145m euro and will be sold as a single lot.

The Titanic treasures were amassed during seven trips to the wreck, which rests about two-and-a-half miles below the ocean surface in the North Atlantic.

An international team led by oceanographer Robert Ballard located the wreckage in 1985, about 400 miles off Newfoundland, Canada. The auction is scheduled for April 1 by Guernsey's, a New York City auction house, but the results of the auction will not be announced until April 15, the date the Titanic sank on its maiden voyage after striking an iceberg a century ago. — *Internet*



Recently uncovered in a military museum near Moscow, the laser tank can blind pilots and weapons systems by dazzling optical and electronic mechanisms in the battle. — *XINHUA*

Hacked Stratfor security think tank keeps site offline

NEW YORK, 31 Dec — Hacked US security firm Stratfor has told its subscribers that it may take a week or even longer to restore its website. The site went offline on 24 December. Hackers have posted credit card details, email addresses, phone numbers and encrypted passwords which they said were taken during the attack. Stratfor has said it will pay for a credit card fraud protection service for members whose payment details might have been compromised by the breach.

Tweets posted on accounts linked to the hacktivist group Anonymous said that the US Department of Defence,

the defence firm Lockheed Martin and Bank of America were among Stratfor's clients. A recent message posted by @YourAnonNews added that other parties affected by the hack included Google, American Express, Coca-Cola, Boeing, Sony, Microsoft and the mining group BHP Billiton.

An email from Stratfor to its subscribers said: "At our expense, we have taken measures to provide our members whose credit card information may have been compromised with access to CSID, a leading provider of global identity protection and fraud detection solutions and technologies. We have arranged to provide one year of CSID's coverage to such members at no cost. As part of our ongoing investigation, we have also decided to delay the launching of our website until a thorough review and adjustment by outside experts can be completed." The identity theft prevention service

Identity Finder has carried out its own analysis of details posted online about hacked clients whose names fell between A and M. It suggested that the attack netted:

- * 9,651 unexpired credit card numbers
- * 47,680 unique email addresses
- * 25,680 unique telephone numbers
- * 44,188 encrypted passwords of which roughly half could be "easily cracked"

This list is expected to grow if the hackers publish details of the N to Z list.

Internet



Participants in the hacktivist group Anonymous are using Twitter to provide more detail about the attack. — *INTERNET*



Champion of the Miss Hungary beauty competition 2011 Marianna Bertok (C), runner-up Evelin Beres (L) and second runner-up Nora Keseru (R) attend the award ceremony in Budapest, Hungary, on 29 Dec, 2011. Miss Hungary, the national beauty contest, has a history tracing back to 1929. — *XINHUA*

UK police treat Bidve murder as hate crime

LONDON, 31 Dec — The British police are yet to charge five people arrested in connection with a 23-year-old Indian student's murder in Manchester earlier this

week, but they are treating it as a hate crime. Anuj Bidve, a graduate student at Lancaster University, was shot dead while holidaying at Salford in Manchester during the Christmas break on 26 December.

"We have not established a clear motive for the senseless murder; and there is no definitive evidence pointing to it being racially motivated.

However, we are treating this as a hate crime based on growing perceptions within the community that it was motivated by hate," said Salford divisional commander chief superintendent Kevin Mulligan.

He said the police have pursued every possible line of inquiry to identify those responsible for the crime. A 20-year-old man — the fifth to be arrested in connection with the killing — is being questioned on suspicion of murder.

Internet

Orangutans 'could video chat' between zoos via iPads

LONDON, 31 Dec — Orangutans at a Milwaukee zoo could soon be video-calling their primate friends via tablet computers. The hairy tech fans have been playing with iPads since they were first introduced to them in May. Conservationist Richard Zimmerman said the next step would be to provide wi-fi access — meaning the apes could watch orangutans in other zoos. He hopes the experiment will raise awareness and funds to support the wild animals facing extinction.

Mr Zimmerman, from the US-based charity Orangutan Outreach, said he had wanted to give the device to the animals ever since it was



The zoo keepers want to build reinforced tablets so they can let the orangutans play without human help. — *INTERNET*

launched back in January 2010. "The original idea came literally when Steve Jobs gave his opening presentation introducing the iPad," he said. "Independently, one of our supporters in Milwaukee was at the zoo showing the orangutan his iPad, and they were fascinated by it.

Internet

Parents bound young kids with tape

Police in Arizona said they arrested two parents after pictures appeared online of their children bound at the wrists and ankles with duct tape.

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office said Frankie Almuina, 20, and Kayla Almuina, 19, of Ash Fork, were arrested after someone saw the pictures of their children, ages 2 and 10 months, on Facebook and reported them to a child abuse hotline. The (Flagstaff) *Arizona Daily Sun* reported Friday. Deputies said the pictures depicted the children with their wrists, ankles and mouths bound with duct tape, and one of the pictures depicted a child hung upside down from an exercise machine.

The parents were charged with Class 2 felony child abuse and taken to the Coconino County Detention Facility. The children, who were not injured, were released into the care of relatives.



Fireworks show is seen during the opening ceremony of the first Zhangbei ice and snow festival in Zhangbei County of north China's Hebei Province, on 30 Dec, 2011. The first Zhangbei ice and snow festival kicked off here on Friday. The festival is scheduled to open until on 10 March, 2012 and a series of ice and snow related games and events will be held during the festival.

Lost ring found growing around carrot

A Swedish woman says she found her wedding ring — missing since 1995 — wrapped around a carrot she pulled out of the family vegetable patch. Lena Pahlsson lost the ring she designed after leaving it on the kitchen counter of her Mora home during her annual Christmas baking session, Swedish newspaper, *The Local* reported Friday.

Lena and husband Ola searched behind appliances and beneath floor boards during a kitchen renovation to no avail, the paper said.

Lena found the ring in October growing around a small carrot she nearly threw out because of its size.

"Our daughter Anna was at home at the time and she heard an almighty scream from the garden," Ola told *The Local*.

Ola said he thinks the ring may have ended up in the family's compostable food bin, which would have been spread over the vegetable patch. Another theory involves the family's sheep, which is sometimes fed kitchen scraps.

"Maybe it had been eaten by the sheep and then ended up in the manure that we then spread over the vegetable patch," Ola said.

The Pahlssons are keeping the ring in a safe place until they can have it re-sized to fit Lena's finger, which has grown larger since 1995.

Injured man stole ambulance

Police in Florida said they arrested an injured man accused of stealing an ambulance while it was on a call to drive himself to the hospital. Tampa police said medical personnel from ambulance #41, which belongs to Transcare Ambulance Co, were in a home on a call shortly before 10:30

pm Thursday when they heard a vehicle's engine start and looked outside to see a man drive away in the ambulance, the *Tampa Bay Tribune* reported Friday.

Police tracked the vehicle via its GPS system and stopped the ambulance at North Tampa Street and East 26th Avenue. The man, Hubert

Lee Credit, 39, was arrested on charges of auto burglary and grand theft auto. "I got beat up by four guys," a police report quotes Credit as saying. "I saw the ambulance and I was going to drive myself to the hospital."

Credit was treated for a puncture wound to the head at Tampa General Hospital.



Organizers toss confetti from a window during the annual "air worthiness test" in Times Square during preparations for New Years Eve celebrations in New York on 29 Dec, 2011.

News Album

Salman, SRK vie for best actor award!

NEW DELHI, 31 Dec— Bollywood friends-turned-foes, Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan are in the race to for the best male actor trophy at the Zee Cine Awards to be held in Macau next month. Salman has been nominated for his performance in blockbuster *Bodyguard*, while Shah Rukh has got two nominations in the same category, thanks to *RA One* and *Don 2: The King Is Back*.

Other actors vying for the title include Hrithik Roshan for *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, Ajay Devgn for *Singham* and Ranbir Kapoor for *Rockstar*. Amongst the leading ladies, the battle for the best actor award is on between Vidya Balan (*The Dirty Picture*), Priyanka Chopra (*7 Khoon Maaf*), Kareena Kapoor (*Bodyguard*), Kangna Ranaut (*Tanu Weds Manu*) and Katrina Kaif (*Zindagi Na*



Salman Khan

Milegi Dobara). The contenders in the best film category are *Don 2*, *Bodyguard*, *Rockstar*, *Singham*, *The Dirty Picture* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*.

The trophy for the best director of 2011 will be chosen from among Farhan Akhtar (*Don 2*), Imtiaz Ali (*Rockstar*), Milan Luthria (*The Dirty Picture*), Rohit Shetty (*Singham*), Siddique (*Bodyguard*) and Zoya Akhtar (*Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*). The awards will be chosen by film enthusiasts from across the globe. The viewers can send in their votes for their favourite nominees, and 12 lucky winners chosen from amongst those who send in their votes will also be flown into Macau to witness the live ceremony, 21 Jan next year.

The star-studded extravaganza, to be hosted by Shah Rukh and Priyanka, will be telecast on TV on 5 Feb , 2012.—Internet



Shah Rukh Khan

Pitt named Top Money-Making Star of 2011

GROTON, 31 Dec—Hollywood actor Brad Pitt has been voted the Top Money-Making Star of 2011 in Quigley Publishing Company's 80th annual poll of Motion Picture Exhibitors. This is Pitt's sixth appearance in the poll, but his first win. Exhibitors felt Pitt was responsible for more traffic to theaters than any other Hollywood star based on his performances this year in "Moneyball," "The Tree of Life" and "Happy Feet Two." The Quigley Poll is an annual survey of motion-picture theater owners and film buyers, which asks them to vote for the 10 stars they believe generated the most box-office revenue for their theaters during the year.

George Clooney placed second this year based on his work in "The Ides of March" and "The Descendants." Johnny Depp, last year's winner, made it to No 3 this year with roles in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" and "The Rum Diary." Leonardo DiCaprio, who starred in "J Edgar," is No 4, and Matt Damon, who appeared in "Contagion," "The Adjustment Bureau," "Margaret" and "We Bought a Zoo" is No. 5. Rounding out the Top 10 are Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper, Robert Downey, Jr., Meryl Streep and Ben Stiller. Exhibitors were also asked to name the Stars of Tomorrow for 2011: one actor and one actress who they feel will be Top Money-Makers in the years to come. The 2011 winners are Rooney Mara, who played Lisbeth Salander in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," and Jonah Hill, who had a breakthrough performance in "Moneyball" and starred in "The Sitter."—Internet



Actor Brad Pitt attends a press conference at Haneda International Airport as he and his family leave Tokyo, Japan on 10 November, 2011. They were in Tokyo for the Japanese premiere of Pitt's movie "Moneyball".—INTERNET

Deschanel, Gordon-Levitt post New Year's Eve duet

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec— Zoey Deschanel and Joseph Gordon-Levitt are curious about your New Year's Eve plans. The two actors perform a duet in a video posted this week on YouTube, musically asking, "What are you doing New Year's Eve?" She plays ukulele and he plays guitar in the two-minute video of the 1947 jazz song. Deschanel calls her "(500) Days of Summer" co-star "simply the best" in a note accompanying the video.

The two actors don't reveal their New Year's Eve



Zoey Deschanel, right, and actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt arrive at the Hamilton Behind the Camera Awards in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

plans in the clip, but they will be celebrating together in 2012. Both are nominated for Golden Globe Awards: she for actress in a TV comedy for "New Girl," and he for his lead role in the film "50/50."

Internet

Singer, actress Kaye Stevens dies in Florida

THE VILLAGES, 31 Dec— Singer and actress Kaye Stevens, who performed with the Rat Pack and was a frequent guest on Johnny Carson's "The Tonight Show," has died at a central Florida hospital. She was 79.

Close friend Gerry Schweitzer confirmed that Stevens died Wednesday at the Villages Hospital north of Orlando following a battle with breast cancer and blood clots.

Stevens, a longtime South Florida resident, performed with Rat Pack members including Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and Joey Bishop. She also sang solo at venues like Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and the Plaza Hotel's

Persian Room in New York City. During the Vietnam War era, Stevens performed for American soldiers in the war zone with Bob Hope's USO tour.—Internet



In this 6 Jan, 1967 file photo, Sammy Davis Jr and Kaye Stevens perform on a TV show.

INTERNET



Pekhon gets new repaved road

PEKHON, 31 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Seintalay new tarred road was inaugurated in Nyaunggon Ward of Pekhon Township on 29 December.

The repaved road, 1610 feet long and 12 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 7,860,000 by Township Development Affairs Committee and K 1,020,000 by the local people.

Township IPRD

Ayeyawady Region emphasizes environmental conservation

NYAUNGDON, 31 Dec—Local authorities in Ayeyawady Region inspected teak and eucalyptus plantations grown on a manageable scale last year in townships of the region on 27 December.

They gave instructions on emphasis to be placed on environmental conservation.

Myanma Alin

Village plantations handed over

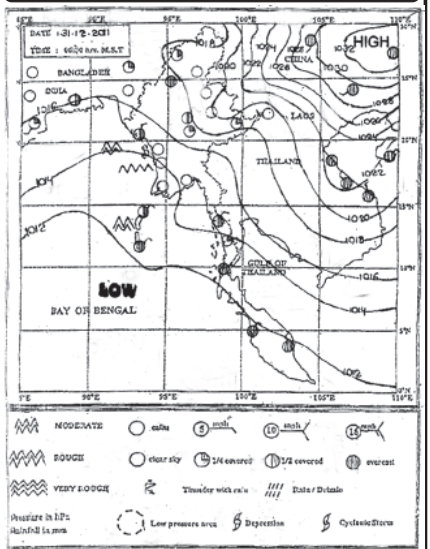
SHWEDAUNG, 31 Dec—Forest Department handed over five-acre village plantation to five villages from four village-tracts of Shwedaung Township on 15 December.

Local authorities explained establishment of rural housing plan. Later, officials handed over documents related to village plantations to the administrators of village-tracts.

Township IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 1st January, 2012

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Regions/States, Temperature (C/F) Maximum/Minimum, Forecast, and Percent. Lists weather forecasts for 20 regions across Myanmar.

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above December averages temperatures in Yangon Region, Southern Shan and Rakhine States, (3°C) to (4°C) above December averages temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Eastern Shan, Kayah and Mon States and about December averages temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (5°C), Patheingyi (6°C) each and Mogoke (7°C).

NLM-ner Joke

The work qualification test

Murphy applied for an engineering position at an Irish firm based in Dublin. An American applied for the same job and both applicants having the same qualifications were asked to take a test by the Department manager. Upon completion of the test both men only missed one of the questions. The manager went to Murphy and said.

Manager: "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the American the job"

Murphy: "And why would you be doing that? We both got nine questions correct. This being Ireland and me being Irish I should get the job!"

Manager: "We have made our decisions not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed."

Murphy: "And just how would one incorrect answer be better than the other?"

Manager: "Simple, the American put down on question #5, "I don't know.", You put down "Neither do I."

Are the pilots flying blind?

One day at a busy airport, the passengers on a commercial airliner are seated waiting for the pilot to show up so they can get under way.

The pilot and copilot finally appear in the rear of the plane and begin walking up to the cockpit through the center aisle. Both appear to be blind; the pilot is using a white cane, bumping into passengers right and left as he stumbles down the aisle. The copilot is using a guide dog. Both have their eyes covered with sunglasses.

At first, the passengers do not react thinking that it must be some sort of practical joke. After a few minutes though, the engines start revving, and the airplane begins moving down the runway.

The passengers look at each other with some uneasiness. They start whispering among themselves and look desperately to the stewardesses for reassurance.

Yet, the plane starts accelerating rapidly, and people begin panicking. Some passengers are praying, and as the plane gets closer and closer to the end of the runway, the voices are becoming more and more hysterical.

When the plane has less than twenty feet of runway left, there is a sudden change in the pitch of the shouts as everyone screams at once. At the very last moment, the plane lifts off and is airborne.

Up in the cockpit, the copilot breathes a sigh of relief and tells the pilot: "You know, one of these days the passengers aren't going to scream, and we aren't going to know when to take off!"

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

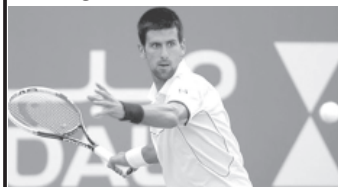
- (1-1-12 09:30 am ~ 2-1-12 09:30 am) MST Oversea Transmission
* News
* Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Industry)
* News
* Fortune of Human Correlated with Astro Science (January)
* News
* Royal Reward Resort Hotel (Pyn Oo Lwin)
* News
* Youth & Career "Video Editor, Producer, Filmmaker" (Part-1)
* News
* Dance of Alchemist
* Myanmar Traditional Identity (The Sphinx and The Monoushia of Myanmar)
* News
* A Fountain of Joy for Every visitor, Hninzingon Home for the Aged
* News
* A Fever of Korean Excitement (Part-2)
* Myanmar Movies "Touching Bonds"

MYANMAR TV

(1-1-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
7:30 am 2. Morning News
7:40 am 3. Nice and Sweet Song
8:35 am 4. International News
11:00 am 5. Martial Song
11:30 am 6. TV Drama Series
12:20 pm 7. Myanmar Movie
2:20 pm 8. (64)th Anniversary Independence News
2:55 pm 9. International News
4:15 pm 10. Dance Of National Races
7:00 pm 11. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm 12. News
13. Documentary
14. Cartoon Series
15. TV Drama Series

Djokovic downs Federer in Abu Dhabi exhibition



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Roger Federer from Switzerland.

ABU DHABI, 31 Dec—Top-ranked Novak Djokovic swept aside Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1 on Friday and will play David Ferrer in the final of the World Tennis Championship exhibition. The fifth-ranked Ferrer defeated second-ranked Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2 in the other semifinal. Nadal, who won the tournament the past two years, was nursing a sore shoulder and never seriously challenged his fellow Spaniard. Nadal said his shoulder "felt OK, not perfect" since injuring it in November, but he still planned to play at the season-opening ATP tournament in Doha next week.

Nadal announced on Thursday that after the Australian Open, he'll rest his shoulder for several weeks in February. "I

knew before coming here that I was not ready to win a match against David Ferrer, not to win a match against Djokovic or Federer," Nadal said. "But I am ready to spend hours on court without risk of injury. That is the most important thing. I need this transition, hours of practice. If I am here, I will probably have a better feeling for Doha." Djokovic showed plenty of the dominant play that helped him win three Grand Slam titles and amass a 70-6 record last season. The 24-year-old Serb twice broke No. 3 Federer in the first set and ran off nine games in a row in a one-sided affair that lasted only 44 minutes.—Internet



David Ferrer of Spain hits a return to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their Mubadala World Tennis Championship match.

Union A&I Minister inspects farms in Dagon Myothit Township (East)

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at farm of Myint Zeya Family Agro-based Company in Dagon Myothit Township (East).

MNA

YANGON, 31 Dec—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 10,000-acre model mechanized farm in Dagon Myothit in Yangon Region this morning.

He heard reports submitted by officials of IBTC Group of Companies and International Sun Moon Star Agriculture Co Ltd on sowing Filipino hybrid paddy strains on 500-acre land, collecting hybrid paddy strains, reclaiming land and recruiting skilled workers for Dagon (East) Hybrid Seed Production Projects.

Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanmar Agriculture Service submitted a report.

The Union minister said that Dagon Myothit



mechanized farming system agricultural special zone 10,000-acre farm is a pilot project of mechanized farming system and production of Palethwal hybrid paddy

strain is a technical step forward. He then urged entrepreneurs, experts and workers to work cooperatively as much invested in the project.

The Union minister inspected F1 24-acre of 50-day Palethwal hybrid paddy field and production of hybrid paddy strains and left necessary instructions.

On arrival at Special Zone (1), he inspected farms of Dagon International Company.

Dagon International, Green Asia, Hsinshweli and

Myint Zeya Family Agro-based Company are producing Palethwal paddy strains in the Dagon Myothit 10,000-acre special zone this summer.—MNA

Transfer Update

Macheda set for QPR, unlikely to join Wigan, according to agent

MANCHESTER, 31 Dec—Manchester United striker Federico Macheda is 95 per cent certain to join Queens Park Rangers on loan in January, according to his agent.

The Italian has made just six appearances in Sir Alex Ferguson's first team this season and has been linked with a move to Wigan in the January transfer window.

But Macheda's representative, Giovanni Bia, believes the current possibilities are either for a loan switch to QPR until the end of the season or to stay at United.

Bia told skysports.com: "There was nothing concrete with Wigan. The club closer to Macheda is QPR.

"I think at 95 per cent that Macheda will go to London, because he needs to play, and this is the only suggestion of a transfer to date.

"He'll go on a simple loan for six months, because Sir Alex Ferguson believes in him and wants to take him back to United at the end of the season.

"The other five per cent of chance is that Macheda stays in Manchester."

Internet

Spurs join Barca in hunt for Belgian youngster



Brescia midfielder Omar El Kaddouri attracting attention from European giants.

LONDON, 31 Dec—Tottenham have joined Barcelona in the race to sign Brescia midfielder Omar El Kaddouri.

The 21-year-old, touted as one of the hottest young prospects in Italy, has already been scouted by Barca boss Pep Guardiola. But Spurs boss Harry Redknapp is also keen to strengthen his squad in January as he looks to keep up with Manchester City and Manchester United at the top of the Premier League.

Reports from Spain suggest that Barcelona and Tottenham could fight it out for the 21-year-old's signature when the transfer window re-opens next month.

The midfielder, who was born in Belgium to Moroccan parents, is valued at £2.9m.—Internet

Blazon donates clothes to fire victims

YANGON, 31 Dec—Blazon Department Store donated over 10000 pieces of various sizes of clothes and other utensils to fire victims of Kutohseik Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon.

The wellwisher presented the donations to the cash and relief aid accepting group in Patheinyunt Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township.—MNA

Danger of fire talked

MOMEIK, 31 Dec—Momeik Timber Extraction Region of Myanmar Timber Enterprise organized the fire preventive measures and fire drill in Hawnan Ward of Momeik on 23 December.

Officials of MTE and Township Fire Services Department gave talks on danger of fire. Later, staff practised fire drill in groups.—Myanma Alin

Significant night temperature (31-12-2011)

Haka	(5°C)
Putao	(6°C)
Katha	(6°C)
Mogok	(7°C)

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

Safeguard independence inherited from forefathers at risk to own life

A new modern, developed nation cannot be built with national disunity, unrest and violence and destructive attacks. It can only be built with Union Spirit, national unity, patriotism, selfless interest, thrift, hard work, discipline and respect for law.

All the national people are therefore urged to lend a helping hand with safeguarding the nation's independence and sovereignty and building up a new modern, developed democratic nation with strong Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit.

(Padaung Than Kywe)

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POEM:

Independence of Myanmar

Independence or liberty
Sovereignty of Myanmar
Blood, sweat, lives
Sacrificed we for
independence

Thaung Ko Ko (Trs)

PAGE 7

Elusive snow leopards caught on camera

PAGE 5



Al Wasl coach Diego Maradona fined 1,900 euros for verbal abuse

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