Prime Minister receives Member of House of Councillors of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a Japanese delegation led by Member of the House of Councillors Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Government Office here yesterday afternoon. Also present at the call together with the Prime Minister were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, and departmental heads. The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.

Ma Mya Dam benefits 10,000 acres of farmlands

Byline & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Photo shows Ma Mya Dam.

(See page 7)
PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 December, 2009

For sustainable exploitation of marine resources

Myanmar is blessed with aquatic and territorial resources in abundance. With the 2832 kilometers long coast, and four large rivers: Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin and Sittoung, Myanmar is a land where marine resources are inexhaustible.

Due to the growing population, the consumption of fish and prawn is on the increase, and water resources such as fish and prawn are in demand.

In its bid to achieve the objective of all-round development in producing meat and fish at home, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has been taking a variety of measures such as breeding fish and prawn extensively, and boosting fishing in the sea, rivers and creeks in line with the rules and regulations. It exports fish and prawn surpluses to earn foreign exchange.

Now, the ministry not only fulfils the domestic demand of fish, prawn and marine resources, but also exports the surpluses to help the nation earn more foreign exchange. It will be able to distribute marine resources on a broader scale at home and abroad, if it has more access to advanced fishing methods.

The Fisheries Department is now very careful to ensure sustainable exploitation of marine resources for adequate local supply and export. In order to achieve the goal, the department releases fingerlings and shrimps into natural lakes, rivers, creeks, dams and the sea, prohibit fishermen from fishing in the in which female fish and prawns go upstream to lay eggs and designating prohibited areas and periods, and giving talks on prevention of catching, collecting and transporting fish.

The people are therefore to conserve the water resources in collaboration with the government for ensuring sustainable harness of fish and prawn.

Ayeyawady Myitsone Dam Project launched

Minister Col Zaw Min addresses the launching of Myitsone Dam Project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Chairman of Kanchin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Soe Win, together with Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thim Zaw, and President Mr Lu Quzhous of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) and members visited Ayeyawady Myitsone Dam Project site, downstream of the confluence of the Maykha and Malikha rivers near Tanphe Village in Myitkyina on 21 December. The director and officials of No (5) Construction Group under the Hydropower Project reported on the project, ongoing pre-engineering work, follow-up programmes, and arrangements for the launch of the project. The commander and Minister Col Zaw Min fulfilled the requirements.

The commander, the minister and the president of CPI attended the ceremony to launch Myitsone Dam Project. Also present on the occasion were departmental heads at state level, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province of the People’s Republic of China Mr Zong Hua, and CPI Vice President Mns. Zhang Xiaodu. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Win, Minister Col Zaw Min and the president of CPI delivered speeches. The commander, the minister, the CPI president and officials formally launched the project, and inspected construction tasks, and the site chosen for the main dam.

On 22 December, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Win, Minister Col Zaw Min, Minister Brig-Gen Thim Zaw, Mr Lu Quzhous and members inspected Power of Chabwenge Dam Project in Chabwe. In response to the reports by officials concerned, Minister Col Zaw Min attended to the needs.

At the site chosen for Panwah Border Trade Camp in Panwah, the official of the Directorate of Border Trade reported on work progress, and plan to accommodate staff members. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

70 companies take part in Electronics & Lifestyle 2009 Exhibition

YANGON, 24 Dec—Electronics and Lifestyle 2009 was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road this morning.

Managing Director U Thein Lwin Shwe of IEMS Co Ltd, Managing Director Dr Aung Thein of Niban Electric & Electronics, and responsible persons cut a ribbon to open the exhibition and looked round the booths.

Pakistan to try five Americans over terrorism charges

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec — Pakistani will try five American men over terrorism charges who were believed to have gone missing from the Washington, DC area last month, and arrested earlier this month in the South Asian country, a senior official said on Thursday.

District Police Officer Dr Usman told a news conference in the northeastern Pakistani city of Sargodha that interrogation of the suspects has been completed and they would be tried over terrorism charges. The men, between 18 and 20, were taken into custody earlier this month in a raid on a house in Sarghoda, 190 kms southeast of the Pakistani capital Islamabad, in the eastern Punjab province.

Usman said that all men will be produced in an anti-terrorism court Friday and the court will be requested to hand over the accused to police for further questioning. Usman said that links of the arrested men with Pakistani banned groups have been proved during investigation and terrorism charges have been registered against them. — Xinhua

Iraq attacks kill scores on eve of Christmas, Ashura

HILLA, 25 Dec — Twenty-seven people were killed and more than 100 wounded in a string of attacks across Iraq on Thursday ahead of Christmas and the Shiite commemoration ceremonies of Ashura. In the worst attack, 15 people including a provincial councillor were killed and 70 wounded when twin bombs struck outside a busy bus station in Hilla, south of Baghdad, Iraqi officials said. — Internet

Afghanistan suicide bomber kills eight in Kandahar

KABUL, 25 Dec — A suicide bomber in a horse-drawn cart has killed eight people in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, police said. Police officers apparently tried to stop the bomber but he was able to detonate his explosives near a hotel and local government office. Five of the dead were in a nearby car, with three pedestrians also killed.

The car was destroyed, save for the driver's side. A US soldier said it failed to do so. A gun battle then broke out with his bodyguards, they said. The checkpoint had been set up as part of a planned ambush of Taleban fighters following a clash on Tuesday. — Internet

Afghan senator killed by police

KABUL, 25 Dec — An Afghan senator was shot dead by police when his car failed to stop at a checkpoint, the Interior Ministry says. Senator Mohammad Younus was driving home when he was shot in Pol-e Khomri, capital of northern Baghlan Province. Police say they ordered Mr Younus’s car to stop and opened fire when it failed to do so. A gun battle then broke out with his bodyguards, they say. The checkpoint had been set up as part of a planned ambush of Taleban fighters following a clash on Tuesday. — Internet

Taleban video claims to be of captured US soldier

KABUL, 25 Dec — The Taleban released on Friday a video purporting to show a US soldier who was captured more than five months ago in eastern Afghanistan.

The media arm of the Afghan Taleban announced last week on an affiliated Web site that a new videotape of Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl was forthcoming. They did not name the American captive, but the only one known is airborne infantryman who was captured by the Afghan Taleban in Paktika Province on 30 June.

It could not be confirmed immediately that it was Bergdahl in the new video, which was released to The Associated Press and other news organizations.

A man is shown seated, facing the camera, wearing sunglasses and what appears to be a US military helmet and uniform. A caption below the image says “War prisoner: Bowe Robert Bergdahl.”

On one side of the image it says: “An American soldier imprisoned by the Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.”

The man identifies himself as Bergdahl, born in Sun Valley, Idaho, and gives his rank, birth date, blood type, his unit and mother’s maiden name before beginning a lengthy verbal attack on the US conduct of the war in Afghanistan and its relations with Muslims. He appears healthy, and doesn’t appear to have been abused. — Internet

Afghans check buildings destroyed in a suicide bombing attack the previous night in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 25 Dec, 2009. — Internet

Bomb blast wounds three civilians in Taleban birthplace

KABUL, 25 Dec — Three civilians were injured as a bomb went off in Kandahar, the birthplace of Taleban in south Afghanistan on Thursday, a police officer said.

“In the incident which occurred at 01:30 pm local time three civilian passersby were injured,” Mohammad Anwar told Xinhua.

He blamed Taleban militants for carrying out the blast, saying militants by organizing subversive activities want to sabotage peace in the province. Taleban outfit has yet to make comment. — Xinhua
Russia launches website for 2010 World Expo pavilion

MOSCOW, 25 Dec — An official website of the Russian Pavilion for the 2010 World Expo was launched on Thursday, providing info support for Russia’s participation in the global grand gatherings. The website www.expoinfo.ru set in Russian, English and Chinese languages, contains the blueprint of the Russian Pavilion.

China to enhance supports to small, medium enterprises in 2010

BEIJING, 25 Dec — China would enhance supports to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) next year with preferential tax policy and easier channels to raise fund, a senior official said on Thursday.

Li Yizhong, Minister of Industry and Information Technology, told members of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee that the government has set up a special fund under the central budget to promote the development of SMEs and increased input into the fund each year.

China to enhance supports to small, medium enterprises in 2010

The government earmarked 10.89 billion yuan (1.59 billion US dollars) from the central budget to support SMEs development this year, more than doubled from 4.99 billion yuan in 2008, Li said.

At the end of September, China has 10.3 million registered enterprises, of which the SMEs accounted for more than 99 percent, he said.

Japan’s jobless rate rises for first time in four months

Tokyo, 25 Dec — Japan’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in November from 5.1 percent in October, official figures showed on Friday. November marks the first rise in unemployment rate in four months, according to the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry.

The ratio of job offers to job seekers was at a three-month high, standing at a seasonally adjusted 0.45, up from 0.44 in October.

A total of 3.31 million people remain out of work in Japan, a rise of 750,000 people from a year earlier, according to a preliminary report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

PetroVietnam to earn over $14b this year

HANOI, 25 Dec — The Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group, PetroVietnam, is expected to earn a total revenue of 265 trillion Vietnamese dong (14.34 billion US dollars) this year, exceeding the yearly target by 25 percent, the group said in an emailed statement on Thursday.

Of its revenue, the group is estimated to pocket 7.82 billion US dollars from crude oil export turnover, worsening for the first time in four months, the government said on Friday.

Jobless claims, goods orders signal modest rebound

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec — A fitful economic recovery is drawing strength from a stabilizing job market and signs that manufacturing will contribute to the rebound. The evidence signals a better-than-expected end to the year, though doubts remain about growth in 2010.

The latest signs of improvement came in two reports on Thursday. The Labour Department said the number of newly laid-off workers filing claims for unemployment aid fell more than expected last week. The four-week average for claims, which smooths out fluctuations, fell for the 16th straight week, to its lowest point since September 2008, when the financial crisis hit with full force.

Further evidence of a gradually healing economy was a Commerce Department report that orders to US factories for big-ticket durable goods rose in November. The overall increase was less than expected. But excluding the volatile transportation category, the gains were twice what economists had forecast.
23 killed in traffic accident in N Nigeria state

LAGOS, 25 Dec—Twenty-three persons aboard a trailer loaded with cattle were confirmed dead after a crash in northern Nigeria’s Zamfara State, local media reported on Friday.

Twenty passengers were killed on the spot in the accident on Wednesday night at the Gidan Kano village along the Sokoto Gusau road. Another three died in a hospital. An witnesses said the trailer’s driver lost control when he approached a very sharp bend at high speed at Gidan Kano and could not control it. The articulated vehicle then skidded off the road and somersaulted, witnesses said.

The witnesses said the trailer, which was conveying cattle to Lagos, was also overloaded with passengers who were poor travelers mostly hanging along the edges of the truck’s body.— Xinhua

85 illegal weapons seized in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Dec—The Afghan authorities have recovered 85 rifles and ammunition from the Taleban and other militants groups over the past several months.

The country’s interior ministry on Wednesday handed over the seized arms to the de-fence ministry.

Maj Abdul Waheed, an official with the defence ministry, told Xinhua at the hand-over ceremony that security forces and police personnel captured the illegal weapons during operations conducted in various parts of the nation. Some of the weapons were abandoned by the militants after hostile engagement with the law enforcement teams, said the officer. The seized weapons and ammunition are normally handed in to the interior ministry, which is in charge of the security and police forces.— Xinhua

Ecuadorian police raid drug lab

QUITO, 25 Dec—The Ecuadoran Anti-Drug Police said on Thursday that it had discovered an illegal laboratory used to process cocaine hydrochlorate in Guayas province, west of the country. There were no detainees during the operation.

However, the police found chemical precursors, scales, microwaves and 1.5 kg of cocaine hydro-chlorate, used to produce drugs. According to local police, the lab, covering 100 hectares of land, was modified to process al-kaloid, but it did not say when it was found.

The police currently is investigating if this lab was related to the largest Colombian rebel group — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The Ecuadoran police so far has seized a total of 67.9 tons of drugs this year, a record amount in the country, and discovered five drug labs including this one.—Xinhua

Texas refinery catches fire, no injuries reported

HOUSTON, 25 Dec—A crude unit at US refiner Valero Energy Corp’s plant at Texas City was shut down after two small fires on Thursday morning, a spokesman for the company said. The initial fire was extinguished quickly, and a second small fire in a gas line was also out by about 10:30 am local time, company spokesman Fred Newhouse said.

There were no injuries and no environmental impact to the community caused by the fires, the company said. It said it’s assuring the impact of the fires on its production.

The production capacity of the shut unit, one of the three crude units at the Texas City refinery, is 90,000 bpd, and the company has not set a timeline for the unit’s reopening, according to Newhouse.—Xinhua

Eating “Made in China” up with “Created in China”

BEIJING, 25 Dec—Beating Ericsson to a telecommunications bid in Sweden is like beating Toyota to an auto-making bid in Japan.

Yet an up-and-coming Chinese firm did beat Ericsson on its home turf, for what is still the Swedish company’s forte.

And guess what, China’s Huawei Technologies Co Ltd landed with a 4G phone. The offerer of the bid, Telenor, offerer of the bid, broadband Internet access to mobile phone users. Telenor, offerer of the bid, chose Huawei for its unfailing technology and service rather than its competitive pricing.—Xinhua

Over 2,000 French nationals detained in foreign countries

PARIS, 25 Dec—French State Secretary of Cooperation Alain Joyandy said on Thursday that there were 2,230 nationals detained in foreign countries and the government was trying to pull them back.

French authorities, including President Nicolas Sarkozy and Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, have committed themselves to “try all means to bring back those French nationals detained abroad.” Joyandy said at a news conference.

He specially mentioned Clotilde Reiss, a French woman lecturer charged of espionage and trafficking in 2008 were arrested in 1999. Also on Thursday, two French women charged of drug trafficking in 2008 were released from the Caribbean island nation Dominica.

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Commonwealth Games rugby stadium on fire

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec—The rugby stadium under construction for next year’s Commonwealth Games was on fire late Thursday in the Indian capital, according to local media.

Fire fighters took about two hours to extinguish the fire, which started in the venue seats and no casualties were reported, local media reported on Friday.

The Commonwealth Games take place during 3-14 Oct next year.—Xinhua
Russia test-launches RS-20V intercontinental missile

MOSCOW, 25 Dec—Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) successfully test-launched an RS-20V heavy intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday, said a Defence Ministry spokesman. The missile was launched at 09:30 Moscow Time (0630 GMT) from a site in the southern Urals region of Orenburg. It accurately hit the target on the Kamchatka Peninsula of the Far East region, said the spokesman Vadim Koval.

Twelve militants killed in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Dec — At least 12 militants were killed on Friday during military operations in north-west Pakistan, local TV channel reported. Gunship helicopters and warplanes bombarded the hideouts of the militants in Ferozkhel Mela region of Orakzai tribal agency, as a result eight militants were killed and 10 others injured, the private channel ARY News reported.

In the airstrikes, four hideouts and three vehicles were also destroyed. Meanwhile, sources said that the exodus of population continued from Orakzai regions, and the number of the displaced persons has reached to 2,70,000. Besides, at least four militants were killed in clash with security forces in Swat valley, North West Frontier Province. —Xinhua

New Zealand glider pilots break world distance record

Two New Zealanders have smashed a world distance gliding record, beating temperatures as low as minus 35 deg C to fly 2,500 km over nearly 15 hours.

Christchurch pilot Terry Delore and John Kokshoorn, originally from Christchurch but now living in Australia, touched down in Omarama in Central Otago Sunday night, having glided 2,501 km. They smashed the previous record by Klaus Ohlmann by about 80 km, the Timaru Herald reported on Monday.

They took off from Omarama, flew to Ward in Marlborough, back to Clyde, near Alexandra, and then back up and level with Taihape in the North Island, before turning around and landing in Omarama. During the trip, the pair hit speeds of up to 200 km/h, but a rough patch over the Canterbury plains slowed the glider to about 80 km/h.

Flying at 28,000 feet, or 8.5 km high, for most of the way, the pair’s water bags froze solid during the record-breaking flight.

They relied on “electric socks, hand warmers, three hats, polypropy, three shirts, gloves and all that sort of thing”, Delore said. Delore bought the Ash 25 glider from Steve Fossett, a millionaire adventurer who died in a light plane crash in the Nevada desert two years ago.

Twin murder phones police for an interview

After allegedly stabbing to death his ex-wife and her mother in Ordos, the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, the suspect phoned the cops, saying he wanted to interview them.

The accused is now in police custody. The suspect went to his ex-wife’s house in the early hours of last Saturday and following a quarrel stabbed her and her mother.

Neighbours phoned the police, who rushed to the scene and found the two bodies bathed in blood.

The police launched a manhunt for the suspect, who, a day later, phoned them, asking for an appointment for an interview. He was arrested when he arrived at the police station. —Internet

Jackson death date popular in Spain’s Christmas lottery

Spaniards hope ticket number 25609, the day pop star Michael Jackson died, is a winner in their annual Christmas lottery “The Fat One” which is billed as the world’s richest, a website said.

The ticket, corresponding to 25 June, on the festive draw.

The combination 66666 “charged and prize amounts.

According to national statistics, 80 percent of Spaniards play “El Gordo”, using half their annual lottery spending on the festive draw.

The Spanish lottery gave out over two billion euros (2.9 billion dollars) in prize money last year, nearly twice the amount distributed in 1995.

Although other draws around the world have bigger individual top prizes, lottery experts rank “El Gordo” as the world’s richest lottery for the total sum paid out.

Ecuador to accuse Spanish Air Comet of alleged fraud

QUITO, 25 Dec — The Ecuadorian government will file an appeal against Spain’s Air Comet for alleged fraud, the Migration Ministry said on Thursday. Ecuador is to accuse Air Comet and its legal representa- rive in Ecuador, Germanico Maya, of alleged fraud, Acting Migration Minister Alexis Rivas said at a press conference.

Clearly there were dishonesty and irresponsibility in Air Comet’s operations, which caused damages, and in this case, to passengers who had bought its tickets, Rivas said, adding that his government demanded a preventive imprisonment of Maya. According to Rivas, Ecuador had evidence that Air Comet had a series of irregular operations, and the company continued of- fering services despite its liquidity and financial prob- lems lately. —Xinhua

Sherlock Holmes unveiled at London premiere

London’s Leicester Square stepped back in time. Old fashioned street lamps and even fog could be seen at the premiere of Guy Ritchie’s new movie Sherlock Holmes. HYPERLINK “http://uk.news.yahoo.com/4/20091215/toddley-sherlock-holmes-unveiled-at-london-p-cc3a409.html” /l “toddley-sherlock-holmes-unveiled-at-london-p-cc3a409.html”

While this is a move away from the gangster films that Madonna’s ex-husband is famous for, it is not a complete diversion.
Minister for Information 
Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan 
met the staff members of 
the divisions at the 
Central Printing Press 
under Printing and 
Publishing Enterprise on 
Theinbyu Road here this 
afternoon. 
He spoke words of 
encouragement and 
presented cash awards to 
them. 
The minister 
inspected maintenance 
work and performances 
of the printing presses. 
Officials concerned 
conducted the minister 
round the Central 
Printing Press. 
On arrival at the 
photolitho printing press 
on Ngahatkkyi Pagoda 
Road in Bahan Township, the minister 
spoke words of encouragement and 
presented cash awards to 
the staff members. 
He inspected the 
printing of exercise 
books, weekly and 
monthly journals, and 
magazines, maintenance 
of the printing presses, 
and storage of raw 
materials in the stores, 
and gave instructions, 
calling for regular 
maintenance of the 
machines of the printing 
presses, regularly 
supervising tasks ranging 
from the beginning to the 
finishing touch for 
quality control and 
cooperation and 
coordination, minimizing 
loss and wastage, 
improving staff welfare, 
preventive measures 
against fire, and keeping 
the press clean.—MNA

Ma Mya Dam benefits 10,000 acres of farmlands

Byline & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

For the people to enjoy development in all aspects, the government is undertaking regional development tasks. In that regard, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is implementing large, medium and small dam projects for economic development of the country and regional development as well as for extended growing of paddy, sugarcane, cotton and beans and pulses.

Ma Mya Dam was built in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division by embanking Ma Mya Creek. The embankment is 11,800 feet long and 150 feet high and it is of earthen type. The dam can store 70,000 acre feet of water. It was built in order to prevent farms in both sides of Mamya creek from flood and to irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland in Myanaung and Ingapu Townships.

Our news team left Kunchaung Dam along Pathein-Monywa Road. About one and a half miles north of the road was Ma Mya Dam. Two entrance roads to Ma Mya Dam were built. They are 24 feet wide and five miles long gravel roads and serviceable all the year round. On arrival at the hall of Ma Mya Dam, we were welcomed by staff officer U Khin Maung Than (Civil), deputy staff officer U Myo Myint (Quality Control) and party. They explained us about supply of water.

The dam was built by Construction Group-9 of the Irrigation Department. We were pleased to see roads, gardens, bank, control tower and water surface. They explained to us, “Pre-engineering works such as road construction and land survey was completed in February 2002. Geological survey was finished in May 2002, buildings in 2001-2002 financial year, earthen embankment on 21 April, laying stones and construction of Cofferdam on 31 May 2007, outlet conduit in 2004-2005. There are 11 Micro Hydropower Stations in one drop on the right main canal. It was able to supply electric power to two villages in the past and now can supply electric power to 1,085 households in nine villages. Supply of water from right canal for summer paddy is 731.21 acres in 2006-2007, 1999.39 acres in 2007-2008, 65.00 acres in 2008-2009 (due to major repair to the embankment) and 4450 acres in 2009-2010.

The left main canal has completed by 50 percent. So, it can supply water to 50 acres. It is 16 miles long. Now, a total of 4,500 acres of summer paddy be grown with the supply of water from the two canals. Although the region has an average annual rainfall of 50 inches, it is dry in summer. Ma Mya Creek is a good source of water for the dam. The government has spent million of kyats on the Dam. Now, the state, the people and the farmers are enjoying the fruits of the dam. Local people, on their part, are to preserve the long existence of the dam and the canals.

Translation: MT

Kyemon (24-12-2009)
Second liver transplant surgery performed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addressed the preliminary meeting with surgeons and assistant surgeons, who would engage in the second liver transplant surgery in Myanmar, at New Yangon General Hospital on 23 December morning.

In his address, the minister said that the second liver transplant surgery will be a landmark in the medical history of Myanmar; that in the first surgery, the liver was obtained from a late person, but this time, a piece of liver will be obtained from a donor; and that the medical experts are urged to work hard for successful completion of the operation.

The minister attended to the submissions on requirements presented by Professor Dr Norman Hla and Professor Dr Tun Oo and members, surgeons and medical superintendents.

The second liver transplant surgery was performed at the hospital at 10.30 am yesterday. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe and officials observed it.

Nine surgical specialists led by Myanmar surgical specialists: Professor Dr Norman Hla, Professor Dr Tun Oo and Associate Professor Dr Daw Tin Tin Mar performed the surgery on patient U Aung Myint Naing, 49.

Before the operation, eight anaesthetists led by anaesthetic specialists: Professor Dr Tin Myint and Associate Professor Dr Kyi Lin and Surgical Specialists performed an operation at 9 am to cut half the liver of the donor U Lin Htet Hlaing, 32, who is brother-in-law of the patient. The operation was over at 7.46 pm.

The piece of the liver was kept by the liver keeping team to avoid any damage to it.

The anaesthetists gave the patient anaesthetic at 9.20 am, and the liver transplant surgery began at 10.45 am.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint watched the operation on CCTV. They met the surgeons and anaesthetists and fulfilled the requirements.

The operation was reinforced by 12 nurses led by Matron Daw Saw Yu May, In-charge of the operation theatre.

Cardiovascular Surgery Specialist Professor Dr Khin Maung Aye, Professor Dr Khin Maung Win, and Associate Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw; the team of physicians led by Professor Dr Nyunt Thein and Associate Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun, and the liver treatment team led by Professor Dr U Than Sit, Associate Professor Dr Win Naing, and Associate Professor Dr Mya Mya Yee; Professor Dr Lin Lin Tun of the X-ray Department, Professor Dr Daw Aye Aye Myint of Pathological Department, and pathologists, Pathologist Dr Daw Thida Aung of the National Blood Department, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Kym, Acting Medical Superintendent Professor Dr Thein Lwin of Yangon General Hospital, and Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Than Mon contributed to the surgery.

At 9.30 am today, the minister, the deputy minister and party inspected the condition of the patient and the donor, and health care to them and comforted them, and fulfilled the requirements.

The second liver transplant surgery was carried out with the funds of the State. The minister, the deputy minister and officials concerned are attending to the needs of the patients. The patient and the donor are receiving treatment from specialists in-charge and 14 nurses in the Intensive Care Unit. Now, they are getting better.

Pathological Department, and pathologists, Pathologist Dr Daw Thida Aung of the National Blood Department, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Kym, Acting Medical Superintendent Professor Dr Thein Lwin of Yangon General Hospital, and Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Than Mon contributed to the surgery. 

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New Year Special Sales of Gamon Pwint launched

YANGON, 25 Dec—Gamon Pwint Department Store has launched special sales in which customers can enjoy up to 50% discount for men, women and children’s wear all of its branches including Gamon Pwint Shopping Mall on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The branded men’s wear like Vanson, Luigi batai, Valention Rudy, Venheusen, Pierre Cardin, Monza and Port Land are also on sale with up to 50% discount with buy one get one programme and 2010 calendar present for every customer who purchase over K 10,000.

Various kinds of foodstuff and household utensils are on sale at the car park of the shopping mall with over 30 stalls where shoppers can also enjoy food of Myanmar, Shan and Thailand. Moreover, on 25, 26, 27, 31 December of 2009 and 2, 3, 4 January of 2010, model show, product show, entertainments of comedians and vocalists can be enjoyed in addition to interesting games for children.

Myanmar Police Force Chief’s Shield Myanmar martial arts, Karatedo and Taekwondo competitions conclude

YANGON, 25 Dec—The opening and concluding ceremony of the 20th Myanmar Police Force Chief’s Shield Myanmar martial arts, Karatedo and Taekwondo competitions in conjunction with prize presentation were held at Aung San Gymnasium yesterday, with an address by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi. Managers and players of battalions and units of states and divisions, and training school participated in the events.

The chief of MPF, and officers presented awards to Myanmar martial arts champion Battalions Control Command team, Taekwondo and Karatedo champion Yangon Division Police Force team and individual prize winners in the events.

Machanbaw, little hilly township in Kachin State

Byline: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: U Hta Man Yon (Putao)

It gets extra incomes from farms 55 acres of persimmon, 147 acres of lemon, 35 acres of orange, and 20 acres of pear along with livestock farms. According to Township Engineer U Tin Win Hlaing, Machanbaw Township has got hundreds of miles of new laterite, gravel and tarred roads.

In the township are a basic education high school, two basic education middle schools, 33 basic education primary schools, a 25-bed township hospital, a 16-bed station hospital, two rural health centres, and eight health centres (branches). A health centre each is appointed with a doctor, four nurses, two health assistants, one female health assistant, and five midwives.

From 1988 to date, the government has spent 38.84 million kyats on the health sector; 25 million kyats, on the education sector; 136.68 million kyats on road projects; 9.2 million kyats, on bridge projects; 370,000 kyats, on rural bridge projects; and 5.8 million kyats on rural bridge projects. Much of the plain area in the township is occupied by motorways. Houses are built on slopes of mountain ranges.

It grows summer paddy on a large scale along the bank of the Malikha River. Local people of Machanbaw and Putao townships will be able to enjoy a higher socio-economic life if they extend growing crops, reclaiming the vacant lands.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 22-12-2009
There is a pagoda of some antiquity on a beautiful island in the Ayeyawady River in Shwebo District, Upper Myanmar. It is well known as “Anyaw Thihadaw Phaya”. “Anyaw” is a prefix to denote Upper Myanmar. Thihadaw is the name of the pagoda. The original name of the pagoda was “Thihanikaw” but because the pagoda is situated at Thihadaw Village, it came to acquire the village’s name. Of the three Yeylei pagodas [pagodas in the mid of water] in Upper Myanmar—Shwe Myitru Pagoda on the island in Indawgyi Lake, Kachin State, Phaungdaw Pagoda on the island in Inlay Lake, southern Shan State and Anyaw Thihadaw Pagoda on the island in the Ayeyawady River in Shwebo District, the last mentioned is by far the oldest and most venerated pagoda.

The island on which Anyaw Thihadaw Pagoda stands is in the centre of the third defile of the Ayeyawady River, and it is only three miles south of Thabeikkyin, a thriving junction town on the Mandalay-Mogok motor highway that zigzags 99 u bends in one framework of timbers, but even with this precaution it still required the presence of a strong boatman. The crew was determined to leave the island at all costs. They were determined to adopt any course to get away from that impressionable, congenial island, and I was determined to find the way to get out of it. If I could get away from this island, I should have the most perfect information I could obtain of the Thihadaw Pagoda.

Anyaw Thihadaw Yeylei Pagoda

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Every year in March, Thihadaw Pagoda Festival is held. It is a big fair drawing pilgrims, visitors and petty traders far and near, to worship the pagoda, to strike the seven-tone bells, to feed, and gild sacred fish around the island. They were objects of much wonder and fascination to the people of the island, and those who have it in their custody of the successive Pagoda Trustees.

The island was a famous place of pilgrimage for kings of Konbaung dynasty not only because of the sacredness and antiquity of the pagoda Image enshrined in it, but also because of the pleasant environment of the island it occupies. King Sinpu (1776-1782 AD) the third successor to king Alaungpaya was devout worshipper and renovator of Thihadaw Pagoda. Himself a poet and nature lover he spent most of his time out of his place on pilgrimage to distant pagodas. King Bodawpaya (1781-1819 AD) and King Mindon (1853-1878 AD) did not fail to repair and renovate the pagoda, though they could not visit and worship it personally. During the reign of King Mindon, the sacred Tharetkhan Image is found in the royal shrine of Mandalay Palace. With other Buddha images of the Mandalay Palace, the Tharetkhan Image was moved to Shwe Kyee Myu temple outside the palace premises, and economic prospectors arrived in Mandalay. With royal permission, they toured distant places around the island, they were objects of much wonder and fascination to the people of the island, and those who have it in their custody of the successive Pagoda Trustees.

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Wuhan-Guangzhou high speed railway to open

BEIJING, 25 Dec — The Wuhan-Guangzhou high speed railway will go into operation on Saturday with 28 passenger trains carrying an estimated 1,300 people.

Travel time between Wuhan, the capital of central China’s Hubei Province, and Guangzhou, the capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, will be cut to only three hours.

The high speed rail link is nearly nine-hundred and 80 kilometres in length and is built to the highest technical standards. The stations along the line have distinct designs representing local styles and are built to be environmentally-friendly with easy access for disabled people. On Thursday, the first batch of five hundred passengers got to take a test ride. — Xinhua

Search of car turns up gift-wrapped marijuana

JOPLIN, 25 Dec — Some people won’t be getting the Christmas presents they were expecting. Missouri troopers seized about 20 pounds of marijuana from a car this week — some of it in luggage, and some in boxes wrapped as Christmas gifts.

The Highway Patrol says troopers found the marijuana in the car they stopped for speeding on Interstate 44 near Joplin. Two California women in the car gave troopers permission to search the vehicle. Both were charged on Tuesday with one marijuana-related offense and released on $1,000 bond. — Internet

Dozens killed in Yemen air strike on al-Qaeda suspects

SANAA, 25 Dec — At least 30 suspected al-Qaeda militants have been killed by an air strike in a remote mountainous area of Yemen, security officials say. An unnamed official told reporters the strike took place on Friday.

Two senior al-Qaeda commanders in the Arabian Peninsula could be among the dead, he said. Al-Qaeda has carried out frequent attacks in Yemen in recent months. The Saudi government has recently expressed its concern about the resurgence of the movement in the region. — Internet

Internet

A/H1N1 flu continues decline in US state of Illinois

CHICAGO, 25 Dec — H1N1 flu in the US state of Illinois declined with only two new deaths from the virus in the last week, according to an official report issued on Thursday.

Thursday’s weekly update by the Illinois Department of Public Health also includes 41 new hospitalizations related to H1N1 flu. Last week, in comparison, state officials were reporting two new deaths and 99 new hospitalizations.

However, the department warned though H1N1 flu activity is decreasing in the state, residents still should get vaccinated.

Official sources said that the state director of public health, Dr. Damon Arnold was vaccinated on Wednesday for swine flu. Arnold says swine flu is still circulating and holiday parties and family get-togethers are a good opportunity for the flu to spread. — Xinhua

Cambodia reports 544 cases of A/H1N1 flu with 6 deaths

PHNOM PENH, 25 Dec — The Cambodian government said on Friday that the number of A/H1N1 flu cases in the country has risen to 544 with six deaths.

Ly Sovann, deputy director of the communicable disease control department of Ministry of Health said, as of Friday, six Cambodians died of A/H1N1 flu and the total cases reached 544.

Earlier this month, the government announced that five people died of the disease and 480 cases were confirmed. The infected cases were reported from 13 out of the country’s 24 provinces and cities across the country.

The Cambodian Ministry of Health and WHO have continued their efforts in advising people around the country to protect themselves and the families, by saying each individual should cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue in a bin: wash hands regularly with soap and hot water; do not spit in public; and avoid close contact with sick people. — Xinhua

A/H1N1 pandemic death toll rise in South Korea

SEOUL, 25 Dec — The death toll from A/H1N1 influenza in South Korea has increased for the second consecutive week while cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) have declined, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Family Affairs said on Thursday.

The ministry said in a Press release that an additional 22 deaths from the A/H1N1 virus were reported last week, increasing the total number of fatalities to 170 as of 19 Dec, and that 50 patients are currently being treated for severe flu complications at intensive care units.

However, the Ministry also said cases of ILI per 1,000 out-plications at intensive care units.

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The capital of Aceh Province and close to the epicentre of the earthquake that unleashed one of the worst natural disasters in history. “I’m trying to be strong,” said Pipit, who like many Indonesians uses one name. The 26 December, 2004, quake registered at least 9.1 on the Richter Scale and unleashed terrifying waves thatlevelled communities from Indonesia to Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. About 230,000 people died, more than half of them in Aceh on the island of Sumatra. More than $13 billion in donations poured in from around the world, nearly half for Aceh. In some Indonesian communities, only the mosque was left standing. They have been rebuilt.

Internet

Peru bus crash kills 42 passengers

LIMA, 25 Dec — A bus carrying mostly Quechua farmers and merchants home for Christmas plunged 250 feet (80 metres) into a ravine in Peru’s southern Andes on Thursday, killing 42 people and injuring at least eight, authorities said. The accident took place near dawn on a stretch of mountain highway 380 miles (610 kms) southeast of Lima that was so remote the nearest village didn’t have a doctor. “The bus is completely destroyed at the bottom of the ravine, and the worst of it is that we are isolated here like many towns in Peru, without the communication” that could have saved lives, said Cornelio Coaquira, mayor of Velille, who along with dozens of villagers tried to rescue survivors.

Victims were transported by truck to Espinar, where a doctor urged the governor to send gasoline for the town’s one ambulance. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, said Alberto Palomino of the Cusco Highway Police, who raised the death toll to 42 late Thursday. Most of the passengers on the bus were farmers and merchants returning to their homes for Christmas and a tradition Incan celebration called “Takanakuy” held between 24-26 Dec.

One year jail term for paedophile Briton in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 25 Dec—A Cambodian court on Friday sentenced a British man to one year in prison for sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl. Judge Ke Sakhan of Phnom Penh Municipal Court convicted 51-year-old Gareth Ashley Corbett, arrested in the popular seaside town of Sihanoukville in July, of committing indecent acts. He handed Corbett the one-year jail term and ordered him to pay a 1,000-dollar fine. Corbett was arrested after the underage girl, who was also allegedly abused by a US man, told authorities that the Briton had sex with her. A trial date for the US man, Scott Alan Hecker, 44, has not yet been set, court officials said.

Internet

Food safety a priority as Shanghai officials get ready for Expo

BEIJING, 25 Dec — The city of Shanghai is stepping up its efforts on food safety control as it looks forward to next year’s World Expo.

“A better control of overall food safety and proper preparation for next year’s World Expo are our current top tasks,” said Xie Minqiang, deputy director of Shanghai Food and Drug Administration at a news conference on Thursday.

“We will start trial operations in April and all the food supervision procedures including drills will be tested repeatedly before the World Expo officially kicks off,” said Gu Zhenhua, director of Shanghai FDA’s food supervision department. “The six-month event puts a lot of pressure on local food safety issues, as the event runs from May to October, the hottest and wettest weather, has such a big number of visitors and offers different styles of food, which may have hidden risks.”

Internet

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Arenas investigated after storing weapons in locker

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec—Washington Wizards star playmaker Gilbert Arenas was investigated after he admitted put unloaded guns in his locker, the NBA club said on Thursday.

“Arenas and the club are cooperating fully with law enforcement during its review of this matter and will have no further comment at this time,” the club said in a statement.

The club said no ammunition was in his locked container. NBA labor relations rules prohibit players from owning firearms but ban them from having weapons at league facilities or while travelling on NBA-related matters.

All-Star guard Arenas told the Washington Times that he wanted his guns out of his house after his daughter Hamiley was born earlier this month, so he brought them to the locker. Arenas said he handed the guns to team security about a week after he took them there.

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Internet
Breast cancer not a single disease, scientists find

LONDON, 25 Dec — Breast cancer is not a single disease but a collection of at least five separate conditions that differ in prognosis and response to treatment, a genetic study has revealed. A comparison of the genomes of 24 breast tumours found several distinct patterns of DNA damage, each of which appeared to be characteristic of a subtype of cancer.

The findings, from a British team that unveiled last week the first comprehensive genetic maps of two tumours, offer insights into the biology of breast cancer. Scientists expect to be able to classify tumours according to their DNA signatures and thus establish how aggressive the tumour will be, and which therapy is most likely to work.

Mike Stratton, of the Cancer Genome Project at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, said: “Our work supports the view that breast cancer is not one but several diseases. If this diversity is associated with a different prognosis, or sensitivity to drugs, it will become very useful on a clinical level.” Oncologists already recognize that there are three to four broad groups of breast cancers, which differ in their responses to particular drugs.

Two Siberian tigers among dead circus cats

Moscow, 25 Dec — Siberian tigers were among a group of big cats in a Russian travelling circus that died during a 20-hour truck journey this week, a circus administrator said on Thursday. Veterinarians suspect the animals were suffocated by exhaust fumes in the enclosed truck, which was heated to counter outside temperatures below minus-30 degrees Fahrenheit (Celsius). Circus officials and police initially said that eight Bengal tigers had died.

But Mechta circus administrator Yevgeny Kudashkin said there were seven tigers and two were Siberian tigers, which some conservationists fear may be approaching extinction. The loss of the endangered tigers — also known as Ussuri, Amur or Manchurian tigers — was certain to increase the outrage over the animals’ deaths.

Donkeys escape from live nativity scene in Colo

VAIL, 25 Dec — A living nativity scene in near the Colorado ski resort of Vail almost had to go without two crucial actors when two donkeys escaped.

The nativity scene is an annual tradition for Eagle River Presbyterian Church in the Vail Valley. Pastor Rob Wilson says two borrowed donkeys were being held in a fenced-in pen for the event on Wednesday night, but the animals pushed their way through it.

Rescuers hunt for missing in Philippine ferry sinking

MANILA, 25 Dec — Rescuers combed waters off the Philippine capital on Christmas Day for at least 23 people missing after a ferry smashed into a trawler in an accident that called the crew’s competence into question.

The Coast Guard said it planned to spend 10 days searching for survivors and would also look into the fitness and discipline of the crew involved in the crash, which topped off a year of deadly disasters for the struggling nation.

The 79-tonne Catalyn B, a flimsy, wooden vessel taking holidaymakers to their home village on a small island off the mouth of Manila Bay, smashed into 369-tonne Anthalia, a metal-hulled fishing boat, killing at least four people. Officials are hoping that at least some of the other passengers and crew may have survived and are out in tropical waters, in what is usually the calmest period of the year.

Holiday blizzards wreak havoc in central United States

WASHINGTON, 25 Dec — A “humongous” winter storm is rolling across the central US, bringing chaos to road and air transport from Texas to Minnesota. icy roads were blamed for the deaths of 14 people, mostly in Nebraska and Kansas. Some 100 flights leaving Minneapolis were cancelled.

The US weather service said the storm was spanning two-thirds of the country. It advised against non-essential travel and scores of churches cancelled Christmas services. Up to 2 ft (60 cm) of snow was possible in some areas by Christmas Day (Friday), forecasters said.

Scott Blair, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Topeka, Kansas, said the wind was becoming a serious issue in the central part of that state, with gusts reaching 40mph (64km/h). “We’re going to see blowing snow,” he said. “The big concern comes later when we see snowfall with the wind, causing reduced visibility.” The US East Coast is still recovering from record snowfall last weekend, which brought much of the capital Washington DC to a standstill.

The new storm is expected to glaze highways in the east with ice over Christmas, the Associated Press reported.

Last round of China’s Spring Festival Gala held

BEIJING, 25 Dec — In Beijing, organizers and performers are gearing up for the 2010 CCTV Spring Festival Gala. Some of the nation’s most ambitious acts are taking part in the latest round of auditions, although the moment of truth is still more than a month away.

Round three of the Spring Festival Gala audition was held on Tuesday night.

Being scrutinized are six acts. They include breathtaking acrobatics, sidesplitting comic sketches and crosstalk performances. Among the hopefuls are star entertainers Jiang Kun and Dai Zhicheng. Apart from a stream of jokes and gags, they brought to the show much-needed new blood, a promising young comedian.

Jiang Kun, comedian, said, “This time, we have brought a new entertainer to the show. He’s not very young to be sure, but he’s new to the national audience. He’s Zhao Jinsheng from Tianjin. If our act can pass the test, viewers across the country will be able to meet him on the small screen.”

Another favourite act is unexpected crosstalk, by four of China’s top vocalists. Titled “The Choir”, it features an episode preparing for the National Day celebration. As with most of the acts staged on Tuesday night, it has seen substantially improved from earlier auditions.

The CCTV Spring Festival Gala has been the most influential variety show in China for more than two decades.

It brings together some of the most illustrious entertainers in the Chinese-speaking world to give the audience a night of joy and amusement on Chinese New Year’s Eve.

Vail, 25 Dec — A living nativity scene in near the Colorado ski resort of Vail almost had to go without two crucial actors when two donkeys escaped.

The nativity scene is an annual tradition for Eagle River Presbyterian Church in the Vail Valley. Pastor Rob Wilson says two borrowed donkeys were being held in a fenced-in pen for the event on Wednesday night, but the animals pushed their way through it.

The storm is expected to cause widespread disruption. — Internet
Benitez admits talks with Liverpool stars over slump

LIVERPOOL, 25 Dec — Rafael Benitez admits he has held talks with Liverpool’s stars in a bid to end his team’s dismal run. The Reds, already knocked out of the Champions League, have won just four of their last 17 games and face an uphill battle to ensure a top four finish in the Premier League.

They are currently eight points behind fourth placed Aston Villa and Benitez has come under fire for failing to build a squad capable of challenging for the title, while Spain striker Fernando Torres has conceded Liverpool will continue to struggle unless they sign several top players in January.

In response to the Liverpool’s Spanish manager Rafael Benitez, slump, Benitez has spoken with several key players to assess the team’s morale and discuss exactly how they can get back on track. “I have spoken with several players, not just Gerrard and Torres. Internet

Hodgson dazzled by Bobby’s form

LONDON, 25 Dec — Fulham manager Roy Hodgson believes Bobby Zamora’s dazzling goal-scoring form has been instrumental in the Cottagers’ push into the top half of the English Premier League as well as into Europe.

The 28-year-old striker scored his 10th goal of the season in Saturday’s 3-0 shock win over Manchester United, justifying his decision to turn down a move to Hull in the summer.

His form has also left Hodgson unconcerned about his failed nine-million-pound bid to buy England striker Peter Crouch from Portsmouth before the season got underway.—Internet

Wenger takes pride from Arsenal’s barren years

LONDON, 25 Dec — Arsene Wenger has claimed that Arsenal’s last four trophy-less seasons have given him more satisfaction than any other spell in his long career with the Premier League team.

Wenger’s side have failed to win major silverware since lifting the FA Cup in 2005, but the Gunners boss, who arrived in north London 1996, believes the progress made by the club on and off the pitch makes it the most rewarding era.

The Frenchman has overseen Arsenal’s move to the Emirates Stadium, the construction of a new training ground and the development of a hugely successful youth academy.

“For me the best period at the club is the last four years but unfortunately it is also the period where we have not won trophies,” Wenger said. Internet

Ancelotti doesn’t fear Chelsea axe

LONDON, 25 Dec — Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti insists he doesn’t fear being sacked by Blues owner Roman Abramovich despite his team’s recent struggles.

Ancelotti sidestepped any talk of the top over the Christmas programme on the back of a disappointing run of just one win in their last six matches.

Exiting the League Cup at the quarter-final stage against Blackburn was never likely to be taken too seriously, but backlunstre displays against the likes of Everton, Apol Nicosia and West Ham were more worrying for Ancelotti. Internet

City stars back me, insists Mancini

MANCHESTER, 25 Dec — Roberto Mancini insists there has been no dressing room rebellion at Manchester City in response to his arrival as replacement for sacked boss Mark Hughes. Mancini, who arrived at Eastlands on Monday following Hughes’s dismissal last weekend and reports in England claimed a number of senior players including Craig Bellamy and Shay Given had protested about the decision to City chief executive Garry Cook.—Internet

Hull boss Brown furious at FA charge

HULL, 25 Dec — Hull manager Phil Brown has hit out at the English Football Association after his club were charged with misconduct following last weekend’s FA Cup bow at Arsenal. Brown’s team and Arsenal were both hit with the FA Charge of failing to control their players after a mass confrontation involving 21 of the 22 players on the field at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

The row started after Arsenal’s Samir Nasri appeared to tread on the ankle of Hull midfielder Richard Garcia late in the first half. But Brown, whose side lost 3-0, has defended the reaction of his players and made it clear the club will be contesting the charge.

“There was an incident for some reason, and I can’t answer the accusations against Nasri. He decided to light the touchpaper,” Brown said. Internet

“It was there for everybody to see. It needed to be dealt with more seriously and hasn’t been. “Why are we up for a charge I don’t know. I defend the players to the hilt. As far as I am concerned that lad has gone in there with the intent to start a fight, to start a ruck.”

“Maybe it was because Arsenal were hitting a brick wall in terms of the way they were playing. I don’t know. “We were doing our job to the best of our ability and maybe that’s why they’ve decided to light the touchpaper, I’ve no idea.”

For us to come under criticism yet again is absolutely scandalous, and we’ll be defending it.”—Internet
Sea-crossing bridge links China’s island city with mainland

HANGZHOU, 25 Dec — A sea-crossing bridge linking Zhoushan City, China’s only city of more than 1,000 islands in eastern Zhejiang Province, with the country’s mainland went into trial operation Friday.

Costing 13.1 billion yuan (1.9 billion U.S. dollars), the 46.5 km-long Zhoushan Sea-crossing Bridge, so far the longest of its kind in the world, completed after 10 years of construction.

The bridge starts at the Zhoushan island, passing the island of Lidiao, Puchi, Cezi and Jintang and traversing several watercourses, and connects with the national expressway network at Zhuhai District in Ningbo, an economically strong city of Zhejiang Province.

The opening of the bridge will improve the life of Zhoushan residents and facilitate the development of the deep-water harbors off Zhoushan and Ningbo, said Lu Zushan, governor of Zhejiang.

Rich in marine resources, Zhoushan is one of China’s major fishing grounds. The Zhoushan Port is a natural communications hub for ships sailing from south to north. It handled more than 10 million twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) last year.

China’s only city of mainland

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Riots beget riots, not democracy
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- We favour development
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Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Machanbaw, little hilly township in Kachin State

On our recent trip to Machanbaw Township, about 14 miles from Putao Township in Kachin State, we were briefed on the region by Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khaung Lan Dee. He said, “Our township stands at an altitude of 1400 feet. It is bounded by India and Nagmon Township in the north; Khaunglangpha Township, in the east; Sumprabum Township, in the south; and India and Putao Township, in the west. It has an area of 1104.22 square miles.”

Machanbaw Township is constituted with four wards and 103 villages of 26 village-tracts. Local people are by nature honest and live on agricultural farming. In 2008-2009, the region put 7,381 acres under monsoon paddy, and harvested more than 360,108 baskets of paddy and its rice sufficiency percentage touched 107.39. In the township, farms of corn, beans and pulses, vegetables, fruit, and sugarcane were found thriving.

In order to help achieve Putao District’s target of becoming a tea land, Machanbaw Township has a plan to set up 12,500 acres of tea. (See page 9)