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

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

MNA
**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 Myainggyingu region of Hlaingthein 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 Myainggyingu region. He presented school uniforms and refreshments to students of mobile primary school and comforted patients at Myainggyingu hospital.

The State Chief Minister presented cash assistance to the fund of Myainggyingu 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.

**Monsoon paddy harvested with combined harvester**

AMARAPURA, 31 Dec—The monsoon paddy on 1.23 acres of model plot was harvested in Tamukoe 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.—*Myanmar Alin*

**New tarred roads opened in Tatkon, Pyinmana**

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

NAI 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.

**Gems merchants flood into Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium**

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

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

NAI 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.

**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 Myanmar 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 a 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

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

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 crowd in 2007 in one of the more prominent cases of wrongdoing among the security services. —MNA/Reuters

Irish 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 added that Iran does not need the presence of non-regional powers, according to the report.

The US Department of Defense on Wednesday warned Iran against any attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz, which is one of the world’s most important oil passages.

“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, 166 kg of hashish, 4 kg of heroin, three radio handsets, five motorcycles, seven heavy bullets, two different types of weapons and a pistol, the press release added.

A local official often uses the word “insurgents” referring to Taleban. However, the insurgent group, which launched this May in the country a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has not to make comments yet.

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

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

A=A=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 called Liberation Army (ILA) later claimed the responsibility for the attack and said it was a suicide bomb attack instead of a car bomb attack.—XINHUA

Shafigh 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 throughout 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, in Afghanistan on 29 Dec. 2011. XINHUA

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

Military speedboats are seen during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 30 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 US dollars) in a two-year crackdown, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA).

During the campaign, 11 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, 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 found ways to make H5N1 into a easily transmissible form capable of causing lethal human pandemics.

The work by the teams, one in The Netherlands and one in the United States, has already prompted an unprecedented censorship call from US security advisers who fear that publishing details of the research could give potential attackers the know-how to make a bacterium weapon.

The US National Science Advisory Board for 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

New York, 31 Dec—The US stocks fell on Friday, ending an extremely volatile year with little to cheer, as concerns about an uncertain global economy still weighed on the market.

A volatile news day on Thursday, investors cheered on the Ford sales data. Ford reported on Friday that the company’s 2011 auto sales hit 8.8 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 December rose to 47.7 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 the fear index, rose 3.31 percent to 23.40. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 69.46 points, or 0.57 percent, to end at 12,217.56. The Standard & Poor’s 500 was down 5.42 points, or 0.43 percent, to 1,217.56. The S&P 500 industrial average lost 69.46 points, or 0.57 percent, to 12,217.56. The Standard & Poor’s 500 was down 5.42 points, or 0.43 percent, to 1,217.56. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 8.59 points, or 0.33 percent, to 2,605.15. For the year, the Dow gained 5.5 percent, one of the best among all major indices in the world. The S&P 500 ended the year almost unchanged while the NASDAQ dropped nearly 2 percent.

Hong Kong stocks close higher with low turnover

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 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 0.03 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 0.41 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. —Reuters

Business

Man suspected being infected with Bird Flu in Shenzhen

SHENZHEN, 31 Dec—A 39-year-old bus driver is suspected of being infected with the highly 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 flu 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. —Xinhua

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 8,000 and 18,000 feet.—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 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

Twitter index: microbloggers celebrate the last Friday of 2011

Twitter index: microbloggers celebrate the last Friday of 2011—Reuters

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’ sin 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, #mycrush2011. Not surprisingly, Twitter favorites Justin Bieber and boyband One Direction are on many peoples’ lists. Tweeters are also using third place hashtag #WantARelationship 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 in 2011, and boyband One Direction are on many Twitter favorites.

Microsoft set to announce LTE-based WP7 Nokia Ace, HTC radiant, Samsung Mендel at CES

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—A wave of Windows Phone 7 (WP7) rumors has been cicaing 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]he three LTE-based Windows Phone handset — the Nokia Ace, HTC Radiant, and Samsung Mendet — 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

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

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 users will be duped by phishing websites. A phishing attack occurs when the user is persuaded to part with his or her ‘home 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

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

Science

Technology

Internet

Science

Technology

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 Daichi 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 of 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 on 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.”

French 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.

Iran to fire various homemade missiles during naval drills

TEHERAN, 31 Dec—An Iranian commander said Friday that Iran’s Navy will fire various homemade 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 about 2,000 km stretching from the east of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Aden.

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.

World’s 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.”

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.

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.

The deal was announced from Hawaii on Tuesday by 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’ 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 high importance to the US but it is also its third highest source of its oil imports.
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, Thwunnabhum, Tagau, Waithali and Srikestra.

King of Bagan Anawrahta unified the scattered regions and established the First Myanmar Kingdom. Based in Toungoo, King Bayingtnaung reunified the country as the Second Myanmar Kingdom and King Aungmyintaya 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 countries.

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, it’s 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 sycephants 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. 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. Integritiy of a nation is considered as oddds 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 self-esteem and focus on nation-building works. Living at own home on own land, they are being bullied by 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, a nation safeguards 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 all 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 we or we.

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, Ayeawaddy Myitson 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. More and more opportunities 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 socio-economic life of the people, reducing of poverty rate and ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

All the national people to harmoniously cooperate in promoting genuine democratic practice and ensuring the rule of law, national reconsolidation and eternal peace.

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

With might and splendor
Valor we all have
Everywhere is amity
Transquility rules our land
Keeping always in hearts
Love for our country

Shining with national colors
Strengthening heartiness
Inheritance we safeguard
Sovereignty of Myanmar

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
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.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo walks on newly-inaugurated 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 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 Himbada.

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 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.

All 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 Pakkokku 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 bridge of its kind in Myanmar. The 13431 feet long 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-Myingyan-Mandalay route, 225 miles long Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay route, 105 miles long Pakokku-NyangU-Mandalay route and 467 miles long undergoing Pakkokku-Kyangin-Pathin 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 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 28th 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 Pathin-Monywa Road on the west bank of the river by car in a short time.

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

(See page 9)
Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest...

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 rail-road 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 road 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 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 also 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 President Office, the Union Electric Power-1 Minister, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Speaker U Ye Myint opened the bridge on Pakokku bank.

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 on it.

Approach road 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 2.016 feet.

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

The embankment of the approach railroad on Pakokku side is 1.71 miles long and on Latpanchepaw side is 2.80 miles long. Total railroad including railroad on the main bridge and approach road is 7.91 miles long and total rail tracks 28.28 miles long. Maximum bend is 3 degree.

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

MNA
Educational staff members to focus on national policies

Nav Pyi Taw, 31 Dec—The Special Refresher Course No. 78 for Basic Education Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phayangyi) 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 Munk Kham on his inspection tour at Lashio BEHS No. 7 in Shan State on 13-12-2011. The teachers are to carrying out basic literacy tasks in regions and states including border areas as a national duty.

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.

Electrical Power No. 2 Ministry holds work coord meeting

Nav 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.

Cash donated to death and injured members of MFB

Nav Pyi Taw, 31 Dec—Cash was accepted for death and injured members of Myanmar Fire Brigade in blast of warehouse in Kadosik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

From 29th to 31 December, Yuzana Plaza families donated K 2.5 million, Eleven journal K 2 million, U Hlaing Aung and family K 1.5 million, U Thein Tun (Thein Tun Construction) K 1,240,000, U Hla Tun Aung (Sun Tat 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 for the women and a wellwisher K 300,000 each, U Hlaing Min Tan-Daw Nanda Khing (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 Win family K 130,000 and others, totaling 40.

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

Talks on Eradication of Resistance to TB drug held

Yangon, 31 Dec—An educative talks on National TB-control challenges 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 about TB. And then, the patients with TB were allocated refreshments.—MNA

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 Thaung Htaik accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented K 8 million to gold medallist Aye Aung in 78-kg event.

Inter-basic education school golf tournament commences

Nav 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.
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.

Huantugou Airport, in the Mongolian-Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Haizi, 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.

Huantugou 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 Dushu in neighbouring Gansu Province, and Korlain Xingjian 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 Xingjiang. It is close to a major crude oil production base.

“The new airport will provide stronger logistic support for exploiting natural resources,” said Cheng Zhaou, 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 Haizi’s city of Delingha and the other in Dawo town of the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Golog, will be operational by 2020, Cheng said.

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 motorising insurer Swiicover.com which got these from 31 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.

“Too 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.

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.

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 Moussa 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 Ibitiaq 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”.

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 Kusshu area, some 17 km outside of Jyvyskyla, 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 (10:00 GMT) on Friday. The gunman is still on the loose in the area.

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.
12 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 1 January, 2012

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 be 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 MYANAPA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 259608738367/7979

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 be 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 MYANAPA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 259608738367/7979

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

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 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.”

Recently uncovered in a military museum near Moscow, the laser can blind pilots and weapons systems by dazzling optical and electronic mechanisms in the 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 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 Defense, 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 * 21,660 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.

Hacked Stratfor security think tank keeps site offline

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. Aang Bidve, a 20-year-old student at Lancaster University, was shot dead while holidaying in 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.

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 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 France in 2010. Ms Sader said 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.

The bracelet has not been found.— 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.

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Recently uncovered in a military museum near Moscow, the laser can blind pilots and weapons systems by dazzling optical and electronic mechanisms in the
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 Cochise County Sheriff’s Office said Frankke Almuna, 20, and Kayla Almuna, 19, of AltoFork, were arrested after someone saw the pictures of the children’s ages 2 and 10, 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 heads bound with duct tape, and one of the pictures depicted a child being dragged upside down from an exercise machine.

The parents were charged with Class 2 felony child abuse and taken to the Cochise County Detention Facility. The children, who were uninjured, were released into the care of relatives.

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 two nominations in the same category, thanks to RA.One and Don 2.

The trophy for the best director of 2011 will be chosen from among Farhan Akhtar (Don2), Imtiaz Ali (Rockstar), Milan Luthria (The Dirty Picture), Rohit Shetty (Singham), Siddiquie (Bodyguard) and Zoya Akhtar (Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara).

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

Los Angeles, 31 Dec—Zooey 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?” One of the performers will be wearing a 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 plans in the clip, but they will be celebrating together in 2012. Both are nominated for Golden Globe Awards for their roles in a TV comedy for “New Girl,” and for his lead role in the film “500 Days of Summer.”

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 a central Florida hospital. Stevens was 79.

Singer, actress Kaye Stevens performed on a TV show.

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 the day 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 said 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.
Al Wasl coach Diego Maradona fined €90,000 for verbal abuse

**Al Wasl coach Diego Maradona.**

LONDON, 31 Dec — Al Wasl coach Diego Maradona has been fined €90,000 by the United Arab Emirates Football Association for verbally abusing Al Ain’s Cosmin Olaroiu. A disciplinary committee within the organization ruled against the Argentine after he expressed his contempt at the manner of Al Ain’s celebrations following their 1-0 victory over his team in November. Maradona called his opposite number "rude," before adding "he should learn some manners." Olaroiu responded to the criticism with a number of jibes, using Maradona’s much-publicized use of illegible substances against him while also poking fun at his dress sense. "Maradona doesn’t always have a clear mind because of his life. I don’t take drugs. My life is clear. I don’t do anything ... Who is Maradona as a coach?" the Romanian trainer said, according to The Guardian. “He should respect his work and should never come to matches wearing short pants.” In his time in the UAE, Maradona has criticized referees for being biased against Al Wasl, as well as kicking a supporter who benefited on a photo opportunity. 

Beckham’s departure could pull Galaxy to Las Vegas

**Arsenal close to securing Henry return**

LONDON, 31 Dec — Arsenal legend Thierry Henry will move back to the Emirates on a two-month loan provided the Gunners can agree an insurance deal with his current club, New York Red Bulls. The French striker is Arsenal’s all-time top goalscorer and his 174 Premier League goals put him third on the all-time list. Gunners boss Arsene Wenger said the deal would suit the 34-year-old, who will gain match fitness ahead of the resumption of the Major League Soccer season in the USA. In March, and he said it would provide cover with Marouane Chamakh and Gervinho set to participate in the Africa Cup of Nations in January.

"It was my idea. He was happy about it, but it was my "idea," said Wenger. "We are doing it because Gervinho and Chamakh go to the African Nations Cup and to cover for two months is ideal." He is still clued in and has quality. He still has pace. It can only be positive, because he has exceptional talent. "He is experienced, he is quality, and can help the players on and off the pitch." Wenger confirmed the club was currently in negotiations to cover the insurance requirements of Major League Soccer and said the deal could not be officially confirmed until an agreement was reached.

**Arsenal soccer star Lionel Messi**

LONDON, 31 Dec — Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi of Barcelona was named ‘Astronaut of the Year’ on Friday as part of the annual World Football Awards. The Barcelona forward was honored for his contributions to the sport and for his humanitarian work. Messi was presented with the award by former Barcelona legend Rivaldo during a ceremony in Argentina.

"It is a great pride to receive this distinction," Messi said in his acceptance speech, thanking the organizers and the football community for their support. "This acknowledgement is for all of those who love football and those who play the game. It is for all of us who enjoy the beautiful game of football. It is for all of you who make this sport possible. Thank you."
Pekhon gets new repaved road

PEKKON, 31 Dec.—As a gesture of hailong 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

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

Ayeyawady Region emphasizes environmental conservation

NYAUNGON, 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.

Myanmar Alin

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 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 aileron 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 began 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 is a practical joke. After a few minutes though, the engines start revving, and the airplane must be some sort of practical joke. After a few minutes the plane begins moving down the runway.

The passengers look at each other with some uneasiness. They start whispering among themselves and look desperately to the stewards for reassurance. Yet, the plane starts accelerating rapidly, and people begin panicking. Some passengers are praying, and as everyone screams at once. At the very last moment, there is a sudden change in the pitch of the shouts. The passengers aren’t going to scream, and we aren’t going to know when to take off!”

Djokovic downs Federer in Abu Dhabi exhibition

know 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

PEKHON, 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

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

The Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas shows the current weather conditions and forecasts for the coming days. The map includes information on temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

Focus Myanmar TV Programme is a program that showcases various news segments and features. The schedule includes news updates, weather forecasts, and entertainment highlights.

Weather forecast for 1st January, 2012

The Weather forecast for 1st January, 2012 provides detailed information on temperature, precipitation, and wind conditions for different regions in Myanmar and its neighboring areas.

National weather joke

Are the pilots flying blind?

Are the pilots flying blind?

Are the pilots flying blind?
Union A&I Minister inspects farms in Dagon Myothit Township (East)

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 Myanma 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 worker-stowork cooperatively as much invested in the project.

The Union minister inspected Fl 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

Blazon donates clothes to fire victims

YANGON, 31 Dec—Blazon Department Store donated over 10,000 pieces of various sizes of clothes and other utensils to fire victims of Kothotseik Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon. The wellwisher presented the donations to the cash and relief aid accepting group in Pathein Nyunt Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township. —MNA

Danger of fire talked

MOEIK, 31 Dec—Momeik Timber Extraction Region of Myanma 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)

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<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
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Elusive snow leopards caught on camera

PAGE 14

Al Wasi coach Diego

Maradona fined 1,900 euros for verbal abuse

PAGE 15

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

PAGE 1

Safeguard independence inherited from forefathers at risk to own life

A new modern, developed nation cannot be built with national sinistry, unrest and violence and destructive attacks. It can only be built with Union Spirit, national unity, patriotism, selfless interest, thrill, 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)