

President U Thein Sein receives Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, India



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—President U Thein Sein received Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday afternoon.

Both sides discussed matters on strengthening amity and friendship between the two countries, development of bilateral trade and investment, promotion of transportation between the two countries,

peace and tranquility in border area, anti-terrorism and prevention of transnational crimes and stability and development in Rakhine State.

The diplomatic tie between Myanmar and Bang-



President U Thein Sein holds discussions with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.—MNA

ladesh has turned 42 years.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister visited Myanmar in 2011 for the first time.

The President also met with Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and party at the same venue.

They discussed matters related to further providing technical assistance for development of information technology, education, agriculture and industrial sectors, cooperation in energy sector and banking industry, defense security cooperation and development of SMEs and agricultural

sector.

The President clarified progress of political and economic reforms in Myanmar and peace making process. The Indian Prime Minister disclosed that he fully supports Myanmar's democratization and efforts for national reconsolidation and pledges that India will cooperate with Myanmar.

Present at the calls were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Myint Hlaing, U Khin Maung Soe, U Khin Yi, U

Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Win Myint, Deputy Minister U Ye Htut, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Aung Khin Soe and officials. The Bangladeshi and Indian Prime Ministers were accompanied by the Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh and the External Affairs Minister of India, senior officers and the ambassadors of Bangladesh and India to Myanmar.

The Indian Prime Minister paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar in May 2012.

MNA

National race peace groups and political parties ready to cooperate in census taking process

**News on
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14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—The 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

At the meeting Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin delivered an address. The senior officials from BIMSTEC countries exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in 14 sectors of BIMSTEC, approved the

proposal on the 16th Senior Officials Meeting. They discussed final decision to be made in the 3rd Summit.

Mr Sumith Nakadala, Ambassador from Sri Lanka was appointed as the first ever secretary-general of BIMSTEC.

The main idea approved by the Foreign Ministers from BIMSTEC Countries is to cooperate in the 14 sectors.

The fields they are going to make cooperation are

trade and investment, transportation, tourism industry, fishery, energy, technology, poverty alleviation, agriculture, culture, fighting against terrorism and transnational crimes, environmental conservation, public health care, people to people connectivity and climate change.

In the evening, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met Minister for (See page 8)



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin poses for documentary photo with attendees at 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting.

MNA

Historic ancient pagoda of Meiktila



MEIKTILA, 3 March—Buddha Puja of Kyeywa Pagoda has been holding in the last days of Wagaung (July-August) on a grand scale every year since yore.

The 108-foot high Pagoda is located near Nyankan-Shouttaw Village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District. The Monywa Sayadaw accepted an image from the

son of King Bodaw on 1st Waning of Nayone in 1146 (Myanmar Era). King's architects, King's workers and local villagers involved in the construction of the Pagoda.

The pagoda was built in Kyeywa Village so the local people called Kyeywa Pagoda. It is an ancient pagoda in Myanmar and it was enshrined holy relics of Buddha and Arahats.

King Bodaw built 230 images and ordered his servicemen to make contribution to building of Pagodas in which the son of King Bodaw donated one to the Monywa Sayadaw.

The 200 viss bronze bell of the Pagoda was donated by Monywa Sayadaw. Now, the Monastery of Nyankan Village is maintaining the bell.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Basic Buddhist Culture Course, Basic English Speaking Course opened in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Dhamayon board of trustees organized the 1st Basic Buddhist Culture

Course and Basic English Speaking Course free of charge in Wunnatheikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Town-

ship in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

U Tun Tun Oo gave lectures on Basic Buddhist Culture and U Maung Maung on Basic English and English Speaking. A total of 100 trainees attended the one-month courses.

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)



BE RESOLUTE ENOUGH TO REPAIR DAMAGE: A dangerous crack seen on Bago River Crossing Bridge in Bago on 2nd March 2014. The crack can lead to accidents as the bridge is located on a busy traffic. — THANT ZIN

THIBAW, 3 March—Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery initiated a plan to build a 1200 feet long tarred road in Namtlan, Thibaw Township in northern Shan State on 1 March. The road linking Kongnyaung Ward and Kaungling Sasana Yeiktha is 15 feet wide.

It was built at a cost of 10 million Kyat contributed by Abbot Monk Bhaddanta Nyanika and well-wishers. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of members of Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Local authorities, religious associations, teachers and students and locals.

Thibaw Ko Latt

Farmers in Pwintphyu Township earn ample income

PWINTPHYU, 3 March—Farmers living in villages across Pwintphyu Township, Magway Region, reaped a great profit by storing paddy harvested in the monsoon period. Paddy brokers rushed to those villages and offered a good price for the products.

Farmers living on the east bank of Mone Creek which flows into the mighty River Ayeyawady put approximately 5000 acres under paddy, beans and pulses, sesame, garlic and onion. Climate change is to be blamed for the decrease in crop output last year. But storage system of

the farmers helped them increase their income. "Last year the paddy yield stood at 75 to 90 baskets per acre but the price fell but though the paddy output dropped by 60 to 70 basket per acre this year we eared over K 800000 per 100 baskets. We can say it's a handsome profit." Said a villager. He recounted his experience that he stored the paddy waited for a good price for two kinds of paddy - the special one gets 820000 Kyat per 100 baskets to 830000 Kyat and the ordinary one gets 750000 Kyat per 100 baskets.—Zwe Htet Shin



FOREIGNERS' GENEROSITY: Tourists on board MV Explorer docking at International Terminal Thilawa port in Thanlyin of Yangon Region made a study tour of Thanlyin Minkyaung Patambyan Monastery recently. An American named Mrs Meria led the 20-member tourist group. They were conducted round the monastery by Monk Bhaddanta Kumara, retired police officer U Kyaw Moe Kyi and Teacher Daw San Myint who explained the guests about the monastery and history of Lord Buddha. The tourists expressed their thanks to the hosts and made cash donations.

TIN MAUNG NGWE (THANLYIN)

Self-reliant tarred road opened in Namtlan in northern Shan State



WORLD

Japan, N Korea hold Red Cross meeting in China

SHENYANG, (China), 3 March — The Red Cross societies of Japan and North Korea held a meeting on Monday in Shenyang, northeastern China, with government officials from the two countries participating.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials plan to hold informal talks with their North Korean counterparts on the sidelines in the hope that the contact will lead to resuming bilateral negotiations suspended since November 2012, a month before Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe returned to power.

In the Red Cross meeting, the two organizations were to discuss the possibility of retrieving the remains of Japanese who died around the end of World War II in what is now North Korea.

The meeting brings together Osamu Tasaka, director general of the International Department at the Japanese Red Cross Society, Keiichi Ono, director of the Northeast Asia Division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Ri Ho Rim, secretary general of the North Korean Red Cross

Society, and Ryu Song Il, chief of the Japanese affairs section at the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

The North Korean Red Cross Society requested the meeting. Since the North's Foreign Ministry has decided to send officials to the meeting, Japan was prompted to do the same. Speaking to reporters Sunday, Tasaka said he does not believe the abduction issue will come up at the Red Cross meeting. There is speculation, however, that it may be taken up if Ono and Ryu meet on the sidelines.—Kyodo News



The Red Cross societies of Japan and North Korea hold a meeting in Shenyang, northeastern China, on 3 March, 2013, with government officials from the two countries participating. Osamu Tasaka (2nd from R), director general of the International Department at the Japanese Red Cross Society, and Ri Ho Rim (2nd from L), secretary general of the North Korean Red Cross Society, attended the meeting. —KYODO NEWS

At least 11 killed in brazen attack on Pakistani court

ISLAMABAD, 3 March — Gunmen burst into a court in a busy shopping area in the center of the Pakistani capital on Monday, killing at least 11 people in a brazen attack likely to shatter any prospect of meaningful peace negotiations with Taliban insurgents.

A loud explosion reverberated across central Islamabad just after 9 am, followed by bursts of gunfire. Police said at least 30 were wounded. A judge was among those killed.

"There was a blast, then there was a lot of gunfire. Gunmen were spraying bullets at everyone," said Faisal Ali, a businessman who witnessed the attack.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but the attack is likely to show that the central Taliban

leadership, which declared a month-long ceasefire over the weekend, is not fully in control of its operations.

Taliban fighters stage frequent attacks around the country, but such assaults are rare in Islamabad, the leafy and hilly seat of Pakistan's government.

Broken glass and charred human remains littered the site of the blast at the F8 market area as residents and police rushed around in bloodstained clothes. A severed leg lay atop the rubble.

Pools of blood and severed body parts were scattered on the floor of several offices. Police said gunmen fired at random targets in the area after the initial court explosion.

Police blocked entry and exit points to the area, a maze of narrow, dusty



A policeman cordons off the site of a bomb attack at the district court in Islamabad on 3 March, 2014.

REUTERS

streets lined with one-room shops and offices.

Camouflaged commandos knocked on doors and secured street corners as they combed through the area for more militants.

"There is one policeman among the dead," local police station head constable Mohammad Yousaf told Reuters.

"We also have unconfirmed reports that two lawyers have died. There is a lot of chaos on the scene

right now and things will become clearer soon."

The Taliban, a fragmented group consisting of dozens of smaller bands of militants, said this weekend they would observe a one-month ceasefire to try to revive peace talks and called on all groups to observe it.

Talks broke down last month after a series of attacks and counterattacks by the army and the insurgents.—Reuters

Ceremony held for 384 staff joining Nuclear Regulation Authority

TOKYO, 3 March — The Nuclear Regulation Authority on Monday held an initiation ceremony for 384 staff joining from the now-defunct Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization to support the NRA with their technical expertise.

The JNES was abolished Saturday and absorbed into the NRA, which is a new organization created in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster in 2011.

With the intake, staff at the regulatory body doubled to around 1,000.

NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka said during the ceremony that he has "high expectations" for the engineers, especially after the nuclear crisis taught the country the importance of expertise among regulators to strictly monitor nuclear safety.

"We have learned through the Fukushima Daiichi accident that regulators' lack of expertise led them to be captured" by the nuclear industry, Tanaka said, referring to a phrase used in a report on the nuclear accident.

Masashi Hirano, a 62-year-old former JNES official, told reporters after the ceremony that he will work hard to improve the NRA's technical capabilities.

The NRA is led by five commissioners and has a secretariat under it. —Kyodo News



Military personnel, believed to be Russian servicemen, walk outside the territory of a Ukrainian military unit in the village of Perevalnoye outside Simferopol on 3 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Putin builds up armour near Crimea, Russian assets plummet

KIEV (Ukraine), 3 March — Ukraine said Russia was building up armoured vehicles on its side of a narrow stretch of water near the Ukrainian region of Crimea after President Vladimir Putin said he had the right to invade his neighbor, prompting a sell-off in Russian assets.

Ukraine mobilized for war on Sunday and Washington threatened to isolate Russia economically after Putin's declaration, provoking Moscow's biggest confrontation with the West since the Cold War.

The Russian central bank raised its key lending rate 1.5 percentage points after the rouble fell 2.5 percent to an all-time against the dollar at the opening of exchange trading on Monday, while the MICEX index of Moscow stocks tumbled 10 percent to 1,294 points. Russian gas monopoly Gazprom, which supplies Europe through Ukraine, was down more than 13 percent.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, head of a pro-Western government that took power

when former president Viktor Yanukovich, a Russian ally, fled on February 21 after three months of street protests against his rule, said Putin had effectively declared war on his country. A Ukrainian border guard spokesman said on Monday that Russian ships had been moving in and around the Crimean port city of Sevastopol, where the Russian Black Sea Fleet has a base, and that Russian forces had blocked mobile telephone services in some parts of Crimea.—Reuters

Japan hopes for peaceful outcome to Russia-Ukraine confrontation

Tokyo, 3 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed hope on Monday for a peaceful resolution to the escalating confrontation between Russia and Ukraine.

“Japan strongly hopes that the situation in Ukraine will be settled in a peaceful manner,” Abe told a meeting of the government and ruling parties. He added Tokyo “strongly urges all the parties concerned to behave with self-restraint and responsibility, to observe the relevant international laws, and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.”

His comments came after the Group of Seven nations on Sunday condemned Russia’s intervention in Ukraine and decided to call off preparations for

the Group of Eight summit slated to be held in Sochi later this year.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference earlier in the day that “under the current situation, we cannot hold any meaningful discussion even if we get together” at the scheduled summit.

The G-7 leaders said in a statement that they had agreed not to return to the G-8 process “until the environment comes back where the G-8 is able to have meaningful discussion.” The statement was released as a US senior government official said Russia, a G-8 member since 1997, has already effectively taken control of Ukraine’s Crimea region.

Kyodo News



“Samurai” warrior dolls for Boys’ Day in May are put on display at Yokohama Sogo Department Store in Yokohama west of Tokyo on 25 Feb, 2014, one month earlier than usual, to stimulate last-minute demand before an increase in the national sales tax from 5% to 8% in April. —KYODO NEWS

Incumbent re-elected in Ishigaki mayoral race



Yoshitaka Nakayama (C), the incumbent mayor of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture, celebrates after securing his re-election in the mayoral race in the city on 2 March, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

NAHA, (Japan), 3 March — The incumbent mayor of Ishigaki, Okinawa Prefecture, was re-elected Sunday, defeating a former mayor. Independent Yoshitaka Nakayama, 46, who was endorsed by the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Komeito party, won 15,903 votes against 11,881 garnered by Nagateru Ohama, 66, also an independent, according to the municipal election board. The LDP, headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, strongly supported Nakayama, keen to see his re-election after an LDP-

backed candidate lost the mayoral race in Nago, also Okinawa, in January.

The main issue in the Ishigaki mayoral race was how to deal with security for Japan’s remote southwestern islands. Nakayama indicated after winning the race that he is ready to discuss possible deployment of the Self-Defence Forces in Ishigaki. Ohama, meanwhile, argued during the campaign that a local referendum should be held before accepting the deployment, saying, “Our island is incompatible with the SDF.” —Kyodo News

Japan’s Holocaust museum to honour Anne Frank’s memory

HIROSHIMA, 3 March — A memorial museum in western Japan will host an exhibit memorializing the 85th anniversary of Anne Frank’s birth.

The Holocaust Education Centre in Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, will host the exhibition from 15 March to 3 May 3, according to the museum. The exhibition comes against the backdrop of the mysterious vandalism of over 300 copies of Frank’s diary and related books in libraries across Tokyo. Makoto Otsuka, the museum’s director, said that staff had planned the exhibit before the incidents were reported.

“It’s important to never forget the past and recognize the truth,” he said.

Last month, after the destruction of the books first came to light, Frank’s cousin, Buddy Elias, 88, sent Otsuka an e-mail from Switzerland, saying that he was shocked by the news.

When Otsuka phoned him to “apologize on behalf of the Japanese people,” Elias said that he wanted to create an opportunity for people to learn more about Frank. —Kyodo News

Village leader kidnapped by PKK militants in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 3 March — A village leader was kidnapped by suspected members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in southeastern Turkey on Sunday, the military said.

The three suspects were believed to have kidnapped the leader of the Cigli village in the southeastern Province of Hakkari, prompting authorities to launch an operation for his release, the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of sympathizers of the PKK clashed with riot police early on Sunday after throwing Molotov cocktails at a bank and smashing the windows of several stores in the Fatih district of Turkey’s largest city, Istanbul, Turkey’s Daily News reported. A group of PKK supporters torched a bank, setting several other stores on fire, said the report, adding that the group blocked roads with barricades.

Riot police then fired water cannons and tear gas to disperse them.

The Turkish authorities started peace negotiations with the PKK in October 2012, which led to a ceasefire in March 2013, and in May 2013 PKK fighters started to return to their strongholds in northern Iraq.

Xinhua

M6.6 quake jolts southwestern Japan

TOKYO, 3 March — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 jolted southwestern parts of Japan early Monday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami warning was issued after the 5:11 am quake, originating around 120 kilometers underground off the coast of the main island of Okinawa.

The quake registered intensity 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in several parts of Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures, including the town of China on Okinoerabu Island in Kagoshima and the city of Uruma on Okinawa, according to the agency. —Kyodo News



Steller’s sea eagles gather on drift ice off the Shiretoko Peninsula in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 2 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Venezuela opposition musters thousands for march despite Carnival holiday

CARACAS, 3 March — While many Venezuelans went to the beach to enjoy the Carnival holiday, thousands of anti-government demonstrators marched in the capital on Sunday, trying to keep up the momentum from weeks of protests demanding President Nicolas Maduro resign.

There are no signs that Maduro, who says the protests are part of a US-backed coup plot, could be ousted in a Ukraine-style overthrow despite widespread discontent with soaring inflation and chronic product shortages.

Government leaders have urged Venezuelans to skip the protests and make their traditional trips to the beach during the Carnival holiday. State television was filled with images of packed beaches and smiling holidaymakers.

Opposition marchers that ranged from students to middle-aged professionals and senior citizens filled a square in the east of Caracas to protest problems including 56 percent annual inflation and one of the world's highest murder rates.

"We have nothing to celebrate at the beach," said Carlos Torres, 34, an engineer. "Going on vacation would give credence to the government's version that there's nothing going on." The unrest evolved from sporadic regional protests into nationwide movement after three people were shot dead following a February 12 march. At least 17 people have been killed in the South American nation's most violent unrest in a decade.

Maduro sought to take the steam out of the protests by extending the usual four-day Carnival holiday by two days.—Reuters



Anti-government protesters use makeshift shields as protection during clashes with the National Guard at a rally against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro government in Caracas March 2, 2014. —REUTERS

ade.

Maduro sought to take the steam out of the protests by extending the usual four-day Carnival holiday by two days.—Reuters

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Cameron, Obama agree on "urgent need" for de-escalation: spokesperson

LONDON, 3 March — British Prime Minister David Cameron and American President Barack Obama on Sunday "agreed on the urgent need for de-escalation and for Russia to engage in a dialogue directly with Ukraine" in a phone call, a Downing Street spokesperson said in a statement.

"They agreed that Russia's actions were completely unacceptable," the spokesperson said, adding that the two leaders spoke over phone at 9:00 pm Sunday. "They agreed there must be 'significant costs' to Russia if it did not change course on Ukraine," the spokesperson continued.

Xinhua

G-7 condemns Russia's actions in Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 3 March — The Group of Seven nations on Sunday condemned Russia's intervention in Ukraine and decided to call off preparations for the Group of Eight summit slated to be held in Sochi later this year.

In a statement the G-7 leaders condemned "the Russian Federation's clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," adding "Russia's actions in Ukraine also contravene the principles and values on which the G-7 and the G-8 operate."

"As such, we have decided for the time being to suspend our participation in activities associated with the preparation of the scheduled G-8 Summit in Sochi in June, until the environment comes back where the G-8 is able to have meaningful discussions."

The statement was released as a US senior government official said Russia, a G-8 member since 1997, has already effectively taken control of Ukraine's Crimea region.

The G-7 finance chiefs also released a statement on Sunday saying, "We are united in our commitment to provide strong financial backing to Ukraine," which is believed to be teetering on the brink of financial collapse in the wake of its political instability.

Kyodo News

Suspected Islamists kill 85 in northeast Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, 3 March — Suspected Islamist militants have killed at least 85 people in northeastern Nigeria, witnesses and officials said on Sunday, in a further setback to President Goodluck Jonathan's military campaign.

Twin bomb blasts in the city of Maiduguri killed at least 46 people on Saturday evening while, around 50 km (30 miles) away, dozens of gunmen were razing a farming village, shooting dead another 39.

The attacks will heap pressure on Jonathan, whose intensified military push to end the Islamist sect Boko Haram's four-and-a-half-year-old insurgency has been running for almost a year.

While the bloodshed has not diminished, the army had at least had some success in confining it to remote rural areas in recent months, so that the attack



Two boys stand near the charred chassis of a vehicle after a bomb attack near a busy market area in Ajilari-Gomari near the city's airport, in Maiduguri on 2 March, 2014. —REUTERS

on a densely populated market area in Maiduguri will be seen as a setback.

Jonathan is expected to run for re-election next year in what is expected to be a close contest.

Boko Haram, which

has killed thousands in its fight for an Islamic state in northern Nigeria and become the biggest threat to security in Africa's top oil producer, is increasingly targeting the civilian population. The attack on the

village of Mainok on Saturday evening is typical of recent raids by Boko Haram as its fighters continue to target anyone they view as supporting the government's effort to end its insurgency.—Reuters

TEPCO walks tightrope over toxic water buildup 3 yrs after crisis



A tank (upper C) storing contaminated water at Tokyo Electric Power Co's crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is pictured on 26 Feb, 2014, in the town of Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan. Radioactive water leakage from the tank was found in February 2014. —KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 3 March — Japan will mark the third anniversary of the start of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex crisis on 11 March, struggling to tackle the buildup of highly radioactive water that is proving to be a major challenge in the decommissioning process.

Just weeks before the anniversary, senior officials of plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. were again apologizing for a series of troubles, including the leak of 100 tons of highly toxic water from one of the huge tanks set up at the site.

The direct cause of the incident was wrong valve operation, which caused contaminated water to

flow into a tank that was nearly full. But what was more disturbing was how workers had overlooked signs that something was wrong. The incident triggered renewed concerns over TEPCO's ability to oversee the ongoing clean-up.

"If we had acted more watchfully after hearing an alarm warning of a rise in the tank's water level, we would have been able to minimize the consequences," TEPCO spokesman Masayuki Ono told a press conference after the company announced the leak on 20 February, referring to the alarm that went off more than nine hours before workers found water spilling from the tank's

lid.

Because the water-level readings showed irregular movements following the alarm and because people on patrol were not able to find any trace of a leak near the tank in the two hours or so after the warning sounded, the utility judged that the water-level gauge had malfunctioned.

But Ono admitted that workers could have noticed the leak sooner had they gone up to the 10-meter-high tank to check how much water it contained or if workers in a control room had paid attention to data showing that the water level in tanks designated to receive the water was not rising.—Kyodo News

Iran hopes to mend trade ties with Japan



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is pictured during an interview with Japanese media in Teheran on 1 March, 2014, ahead of his planned visit to Japan.

KYODO NEWS

TEHRAN, 3 March — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

hopes to use his upcoming visit to Japan to rebuild bilateral trade relations that have been affected by US and European sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme.

“Japan has been an important trading partner to Iran, but unfortunately because of sanctions, there has been a sharp drop in our trade relations,” Zarif said in an interview with Japanese media in Teheran on Saturday.

“It is important for us to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the result of development in the international scene,” he said, referring to a deal between Iran and six countries struck in November to curb Teheran’s uranium enrichment in exchange for the easing of tough international sanctions.

Kyodo News

Generic drugmakers ramp up campaign against FDA label proposal



WASHINGTON, 3 March — A new federal programme aims to standardize inspection procedures for pet food and farm animal feed produced in the United States, making them safer, the US Food and Drug Administration said on Friday. The Animal Feed Regulatory Programme Standards comprise a series of new voluntary standards for inspections by state and other regulatory programs that oversee the production of pet food and feed for farm animals such as cattle, chickens and pigs.

Concern over the safety of pet food and farm animal feed has mounted in recent years, as discoveries of salmonella-contaminated dog food and livestock feed contaminated with a corn-based toxin led to waves of product recalls and worries about the safety of the US food production system. Pet food is a more than a

billion-dollar grain-based business in the United States, while livestock feed accounts for the primary use of the two biggest row crops in the country.

But routine inspection and enforcement practices can differ among the various state agencies responsible for conducting inspections of the companies that make these products,

and problems can often fall through the gaps, critics say. The new standards aim to help unify this process, with guidelines that range from on-site inspection protocols at feed plants to how to respond to feed-related illnesses or deaths.

While the program is not mandatory, “the FDA is encouraging state programmes to implement

the feed standards because this will build uniformity and consistency among state feed regulatory programmes,” the agency said in an email. The new program follows the 2011 federal Food Safety Modernization Act, which shifted the focus of federal regulators away from responding to food contamination to preventing it.—Reuters

Two Microsoft executives to leave company

NEW YORK, 3 March — Two Microsoft Corp executives, Tony Bates and Tami Reller, are preparing to leave the company as Satya Nadella takes over as chief executive, according to a media report. Bates, the former Skype CEO in charge of Microsoft’s business development, will leave immediately, technology news site Re/code reported on Sunday citing unnamed sources.

Bates, who has also worked at Cisco Systems Inc, was considered one of the potential CEO candidates to succeed Steve Ballmer, who announced in August that he would retire. Eric Rudder, head of advanced strategy, will temporarily take up Bates’ duties and marketing executive Chris Capossela will replace Reller, the report said.

Reller, one of the top



Skype CEO Tony Bates speaks during a news conference at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, California on 6 July, 2011.—REUTERS

female executives at the company and co-head of Microsoft’s Windows unit, will remain with Microsoft for some time to help with the transition. The report said Nadella, who was appointed CEO

on 4 February, told staff of the changes on Friday and the company plans to announce them publicly on Tuesday. Microsoft declined to comment on the report.

Reuters

Japan Oct-Dec business investment up for 3rd straight qtr

TOKYO, 3 March — Capital spending by Japanese companies rose for the third straight quarter during the October-December period, as growth in corporate profits on the back of the yen’s slide prompted the corporate sector to bolster investment, the government said on Monday. Business investment by all nonfinancial sectors for purposes such as building plants and introducing new equipment gained 4.0 percent from a year earlier to 9.44 trillion yen (\$93.19 billion) in the three months through December, following a 1.5 percent climb in the previous quarter, the Finance Ministry said.

“Capital spending has been picking up” with the nation’s economy moderately recovering, a ministry official said, but he added some firms are skeptical whether the world’s third-biggest economy will continue to recuperate given a planned

sales tax hike in April. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, capital spending, excluding investment in software, fell a seasonally adjusted 0.3 percent from the July-September period, down for the second consecutive quarter, the ministry said. The data will affect revisions to Japan’s economic growth figures, with the Cabinet Office set to release revised gross domestic product data for the same period on 10 March.

Real GDP is expected to be downgraded to an annualized real 0.8 percent growth from a 1.0 percent expansion, with capital spending downwardly revised to a 0.7 percent rise from a 1.3 percent increase, said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at the Norinchukin Research Institute. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government decided to implement a 5.5 trillion yen stimulus package to cushion the negative impact of the 3-percentage-point

tax hike to 8 percent. The tax measure, however, could still hurt consumer spending and stifle the nascent economic recovery, making the corporate sector reluctant to beef up business investment, which Abe views as a pillar of growth, analysts said.

“Concerns are likely to intensify that Japan’s economy may not be able to gain momentum and completely overcome deflation,” a major focus of the premier’s policies dubbed “Abenomics,” Minami said. A preliminary GDP report was released on 17 February. Capital spending accounts for around 15 percent of Japan’s GDP. Monday’s reading showed business investment by manufacturers increased for the first time in five quarters, up 0.7 percent from a year earlier to 3.08 trillion yen, and nonmanufacturers logged a 5.7 percent rise to 6.36 trillion yen, up for the third straight quarter.

Kyodo News

China Eastern Airlines orders 70 Airbus planes

BEIJING, 3 March — China Eastern Airlines, a major Chinese airliner, has signed an agreement with global aircraft maker Airbus for the purchase of 70 Airbus A320NEO

planes for 6.37 billion US dollars.

The planes will be delivered starting from 2018 till 2020. The airliner will pay in installments, according to a company statement

released on Saturday by the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The company said that it will finance the deal through income from business operations, bank loans, and other financing



tools. It said the purchase will not have a major impact on liquidity and its

business operations.

It said that the new planes aim to cater to the

rising demand for medium and short-distance trips.

Xinhua

NATIONAL



President U Thein Sein and wife pose for documentary photo with Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the Royal Thai Government Mr Sihasak Phuangkitkeow and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.—MNA

Myanmar hosts 11th AMIIM, 4th AMOIM

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win hosted a breakfast for participants to 11th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and 4th ASEAN Military Operation Informal Meeting (AMOIM) from ASEAN countries at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

Myanmar hosted 4th ASEAN Military Operation Informal Meeting (AMOIM) at Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Chief of Staff (Army) Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo chaired the meeting and delivered an opening address.



Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win greets participants to 11th AMIIM and 4th AMOIM.—MNA

Next, the Chief of Staff (Army) handed over a commemorative gift to Brig-Gen Dato Haji Sanusi Bin Haji Samion of Malaysia who will chair the 5th AMOIM in 2015.

Next, the Chief of Staff (Army) held separate talks with Brunei, Indonesian and Cambodian delegations who attended the 4th AMOIM at Amara Hotel.

Likewise, bilateral meetings of delegations from ASEAN countries were held.

Myanmar hosted 11th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) at Thingaha Hotel on Monday, attended by Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and senior military officers and delegations from ASEAN countries.

The Chief of Military Affairs Security and senior military officers from ASEAN delegations read out respective papers and held discussions on draft joint statement of the 11th ASEAN Chief of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Lt-Gen Datuk Abdul Hadi Bin Hj Hussin of Malaysia that will host 12th AMIIM greeted delegation leaders. Then, the Chief of Military Affairs Security held bilateral meetings with delegations from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam separately at Thingaha Hotel in the evening.

Likewise, Brunei, Cambodian, Indonesian and Vietnamese delegations held bilateral meetings with other ASEAN delegations.

Myawady

Interview with Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow

Q: Which ways do you find to enhance connectivity, transport, trade, tourism with Myanmar?

A: Thailand and Myanmar are immediate neighbours, so trade, tourism, transport and connectivity development between the two countries are of great importance. Thailand attached much importance to the relations with Myanmar because Myanmar is our immediate neighbour and we share a long border and we support to the process of the political reforms in Myanmar.

Connectivity is a key to more trade, more investment and more integration. So we have been trying utmost for strengthening economic connectivity in terms of physical connectivity and in terms of harmonizing rules and regulations so that we have cross border flow of good, people and goods. For example, we are opening more border check points along the border between the two countries.

Thailand is helping with construction of roads along the border such as the road from Maesok to Myawaddy, later on to-Mawlamyine.

Development of border trade, Thai will open more check border checkpoints for the border trade development can create job opportunities. Moreover, seaport is important to Thai and Myanmar as well as the region.

We are constructing the Maesok-Myawaddy-Kawkaik al-

most road. This also creates job opportunities and prosperity along the border.

The important project is Dawei deep sea port project and this is special potential southern economic corridor. This project is great importance to Myanmar, to Thailand and also to the region. Even countries likes Japan are very interested in it and in becoming a partner. They need some more time. There would be industrial estate, petrol chemical and manufacturing industries projects. All these projects are related to enhancing connectivity.

Q: To which extent, this summit can contribute to public health of Myanmar?

A: For this summit, we believe that BIMSTEC should be more than just economic cooperation. Economic cooperation is very important but how do we bring the benefits in the BIMSTEC cooperation to the people about the region.

There are many issues including poverty eradication, education and health. Health is the very important issue. When we open up the border, we have both opportunities and problem crossing the border. One challenge is pandemic. So we need to cooperate more closely on health. In the case of Thailand, universal health coverage system and everyone has health access to affordable medical care and treatment. So, we want to share our experiences with other BIMSTEC countries especially with Myanmar. We also want to see more cooperation in all areas concerned helpful for people. This is the priority issue of Thailand. Because we'd like to make BIMSTEC more people

centered.

Q: Can this meeting pave the way for fighting transnational crimes by bilateral cooperation?

A: We open up the border and we become more connective and we benefit and promote trade and investment. We also have to deal with the negative sides of being more connective. One of the negative sides is transnational organized crime. We have to cooperate more and transnational organized crime is the one of the important issue in this upcoming summit. We have a convention on counter terrorism and convention against the transnational organized crime and all of us have already signed the convention. Thailand have signed and every one want to proceed the ratification We can have to work more closely within BIMSTEC on counter terrorism and transnational organized crime. At the bilateral cooperation, we have to work closely with Myanmar to deal with transnational organized crime is related to drug, human trafficking. Because this is very important issue for Thailand and bilaterally and regionally important issue for BIMSTEC and we need to work more closely.—Thadin Lulin



Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow.

PHOTO BY: AMS

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 4 March, 2014

Three R's

Every day, we throw away packaging materials, food and drink cans, glass bottles, and plastic metal. The three R's - reduce, reuse and recycle - all help to cut down on the amount of waste we throw away. Reducing the amount of waste you produce is the best way to help the

environment. We should buy products that don't have a lot of packaging. We can reduce waste by using a computer, save energy by turning off lights that you are not using, save water by turning off the faucet. Some ways to reduce the environmental damage caused by cars include walking, taking the bus, or riding your bike instead of driving. Instead of throwing things away, we need try to find ways to use them again. It makes economic and environmental sense to reuse products. Many of the things we use every day, like paper bags, soda cans, and milk cartons, are made out

of materials that can be recycled. Recycled items are put through a process that makes it possible to create new products out of the materials from the old ones. Plastic containers and reusable lunch bags are great ways to take your lunch to school and office without creating waste. The schools need to create recycling awareness clubs in order to give young students an insight on recycling and encourage students to not only recycle at school, but at home as well. Everyone can help save natural resources, energy, and money by following the three R's.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives representatives of Special Regions and SSPP, meets Bangladeshi PM



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo with representatives of Special Regions and SSPP.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received U Pauk Yu Yi and party of “Wa” Special Region (2), U Sam Lu and party of

Mongla Special Region (4) and U Sao Khun Hsai and party of Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) at the hall of the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

In the afternoon,

the Speaker met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and party at the same venue.

Present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and

Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Thein Zaw, U Hla Myint Oo, U Nyi Tun, Daw Aye Aye Mu, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Myo Myint Than and officials of the



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.—MNA

Hluttaw Office. The visiting delegation was accompanied by the Bangladeshi ambassador to Myanmar. At the meeting, the Speaker said that both countries need to strengthen comprehensive cooperation and he honoured Bangladesh's cooperation with neighbouring and world countries. He disclosed that he wishes to

cooperate between the two governments, parliaments and peoples.

The Bangladeshi PM expressed her hope that both Bangladesh and Myanmar will reach as developed countries if the two countries promote bilateral relations and cooperate in the area of development and trade.

MNA

Appointees to Anti-Bribery Commission...

(from page 16)

Stamp Act and Bill amending Office Tax Act were approved and the report on findings of Planning and Financial Development Joint Committee on the report on national planning work progress in the first six months

for 2013-2014 FY was under discussion.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung made clarifications on the report of Joint Public Accounts Committee, saying that budget surplus occurred in 2012-2013 FY as state-

owned economic enterprises' capital expenditures on purchase of raw materials was not included in the budget. More emphasis will be placed on the proposed budgets of the ministries concerned, he added.

Regarding the suggestion on the possible impacts of monetary policy changes in world nations against Myanmar, the deputy minister replied that Central Bank of Myanmar will be responsible for monetary policy while the Ministry of Finance will take care of fiscal policy.

According to the Public Financial Management PFM Reform Strategy, Fiscal Policy and Strategy Division will be formed as of 2014-2015 FY for effective formulation of fiscal policies.—MNA



Foreign leaders arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Leaders from foreign countries arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air to attend the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit on Monday.

Union Minister U Aye Myint and officials welcomed Prime Minister of

Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and President of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa.—MNA

14th BIMSTEC Ministerial...

(from page 1)

Foreign Affairs of Nepal Honourable Mr Mahendra B. Pandey and Minister of External Affairs of India Mr Salman Khursheed and exchanged views on amities and bilateral cooperation between the countries.

The Union Minister also met the External Af-

fairs Minister of India and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal at 1 pm, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Special Representative to the Thai Prime Minister Permanent Secretary Mr Sihasak Phuanketkeow at 3 pm and Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala in the evening separately.

MNA

Myanmar youth golfers leave for Bangladesh

YANGON, 3 March—Myanmar youth golf team (Women) on 3 March left here for Bangladesh to participate in the 29th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship 2014 to be held at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 5-8 March, 2014. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from Myanmar Golf Federation and their relatives.

The golf team comprising Yin May Myo and May Oo Khaing was led by U Myint Oo (executive officer of Myanmar Golf Federation).—NLM

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4, SSPP, trainees of MDevs & CAES



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint poses for documentary photo with Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4, SSPP, trainees of MDevs & CAES.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met with U Kyauk Kyone Tan and party of Wa Special Region-2, U Sam Lu and party of Mongla Special Region-4 and U Sao Khun Hsai and party of Shan State Progress Party-SSPP at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

In the afternoon, the Speaker met with the train-

ees from Master of Development Studies-MDevs conducted by the Yangon Institute of Economics-YIE and Certificate in ASEAN Economic Studies-CAES jointly conducted by YIE and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development at assembly hall of Amyotha Hluttaw building. At the meeting, the Speaker made clarifications on legislative matters raised by the trainees.

MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with representatives of ASEAN countries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing received the representatives of ASEAN countries, who attended the 11th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and the 4th ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM), at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

At the call, the Senior General called them for

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Maj-Gen Sovann Han of Cambodia, Maj-Gen Tisna Komara W.S.E of Indonesia, Lt-Col Thongphanh Xingvongxay of Laos, Lt-Gen Datuk Abdul Hadi Bin Hj Hussin of Malaysia, Maj-Gen Virgilio A Henandez of the Philippines, Brig-Gen Mervyn Tan of Singapore, Lt-Gen Seehanart Wong-saroj of Thailand, Lt-Gen Luu Duc Huy of Vietnam, Col Haji Zainal Ariffin Bin

National race peace groups and political parties ready to cooperate in census taking process



Union Minister U Khin Yi answers queries raised those present at the meeting on nation-wide census taking process.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Working Committee and Union Minister for Immigration

and Population U Khin Yi held a meeting with the delegates from national race peace groups and political parties for nation-wide census taking process at the

Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the national people's cooperation is important to

achieve success in the process for census taking and they need to tell the truth when ask questions by the officials to exactly confirm the numbers of population of Myanmar.

The delegates shall disseminate knowledge on census taking process and its usage to the local people in their regions and parties, he urged.

After that, Vice-Chairman U Thein Zaw clarified the purpose of census taking process.

Next, the Union Minister and officials replied the queries raised by the attendees.

The delegates from national race peace groups and political parties are ready to cooperate the census taking process and welcome this process for development of the nation.—MNA

uniting ASEAN member countries despite difference of their participation in the ASEAN's activities.

Besides, he stressed the needs for implementing beneficial results of the meetings.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers from the Office of the Com-

Dato Paduka Haji Ahmad of Brunei, Brig-Gen Hang Chenda of Cambodia, Maj-Gen Ridwan of Indonesia, Lt-Gen Somphone Mittaphone of Laos, Brig-Gen Dato Haji Sanusi Bin Haji Samion of Malaysia, Brig-Gen Andre P Tanyag of Philippines, Brig-Gen Chai Choon Hoong of Singapore, Lt-Gen Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan of Thailand and Maj-Gen Huynh Ngoc Ha of Vietnam.

MNA

Police impersonators arrested

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Two men and one woman who are accused of impersonating police and robbing sum of money and gold items from a 26-year-old Htantabin woman have been brought to North District Court recently. Yangon Region police force said a 45-year-old wife of one of suspects was also taken into police custody and investigation is ongoing in order to arrest two other suspects who still

at large.

Police said a 26-year-old woman had fallen victim to police impersonators in Htantabin Township in Yangon Region on 24 December, 2013. Three unknown men and one woman impersonating police from No (2) Hlinethaya Police Station entered the victim's house and robbed a sum of money and six different kinds of gold items worth K 7,340,000.

Police Information

Maw Tin Zun Pagoda Festival on 1-15 March



AYEYAWADY, 3 March—The Maw Tin Zun Pagoda Festival is being held at the pagoda from 1 to 15 March on a grand scale in Ngapudaw Township, Patheingyi District of the Ayeyawady Region.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister Thiripyanchi U Thein Aung and

family and other wellwishers hoisted umbrella, diamond orb, pennant-shaped vanes and sixteenth encircled zedis atop the pagoda on 28 February.

People from all over the country come to the festival. The festival is prominent and popular in Ayeyawady Region.

Those usually visit Hingyi, Thameehlagyun, Kyaukkalat, Ngwetaung (Mwaytaung) riverside bathing place, Ngwehsung and Chaungtha beaches via the pagoda.

Thein Zaw (ShweliU); Photo: Min Zaw Oo (Yekyi)

Israel's Cooperation in Myanmar in archaeological research and conservation

YANGON, 3 March—As part of the cooperation between the two countries, this time in the archaeological field, a special cooperation program was launched between the Department of Archaeology at Haifa University, Israel, the Pyay Field school of Archaeology and the Ministry of Culture in

Myanmar, Prof Sarel Shalev, Chair of the Department of Archaeology of the Haifa University, visited Myanmar between 6th to 20th of February 2014.

During his visit, Professor Shalev visited numerous pagodas in Yangon, Pyay and Mandalay, and helped conducting a

survey of the bells, together with scholars, staff and students from Pyay Field school of Archaeology and Ministry of Culture.

The aim of this research is to provide the necessary analysis and typological documentation of the bells. Furthermore, by analyzing of the chemical composition of the metal that was used for casting them, the results will provide an important data base in the study of the traditional techniques, that were used for the bells production and casting during the years.

The entire project is an initiative of Israeli entrepreneur Amnon Nahamias, active for many years in Myanmar.

NLM

Shan State Chief Minister attends Taungyoe national cultural festival

TAUNGGYI, 3 March—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat attended opening of 5th Taungyoe national cultural festival at Bawnin Village in Kalaw Township on 2 March.

The chief minister and Chairman of Taungyoe Literature and Culture Association U Thaung Shwe formally opened the festival. Taungyoe, Danu and PaO national cultural troupes performed en-

tertainments. The chief minister and wife Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, State Minister for Finance U Khun Thein Maung and the State Hluttaw representative and chairman of Taungyoe Literature and Culture Association presented K 1 million each to officials. Then, they posed for a documentary photo.

Next, they donated offertories to the monastery in the village.

State IPRD



Tachilek to build circular road

TACHILEK, 3 March—Due to various reasons such as increasing population and vehicles, the need of building border circular road as in Maesai, the next door of Tachilek, which has built such a road and emergence of a route on which a trade flow of ASEAN Free Trade Area goes well, initial meeting on building a circular road in Tachilek took place on 28 February. Locals inspired to build the road and reducing traffic ac-

cident also led local authorities to organize the meeting participated by government officials, locals and media.

Engineer U Marku clarified axis of the road and sought the advice of locals. After a thorough discussion, an agreement which pays great attentions on not to have serious impact on religious buildings, residential areas and work places has been reached unanimously to build the road.—*Maung Yin Kye*

Hovercraft shuttle service halves travel time

MYEIK, 3 March—For the comfort and convenience of local people, Kyantaing Aung hovercraft shuttle service was launched in Kyunsu Township as of 27 February. Now, local people are able to take the shuttle from Kyunsu to Myeik within 50 minutes. The roundtrip hovercraft

shuttle services is being operated two times a day, departing Myeik at every 8 am and leaving for Myeik at every 9 am and departing Kyunsu at every 3.30 pm after heading back Kyunsu at every 2.30 pm daily. The one-way hovercraft ride ticket is priced K 1000 per head. The one-

way motorized boat trip to Kyunsu from Myeik once took about two hours. No change in ticket price, but travel time was halved.

The remote town surrounded by waters can only be reached by water and it is 16 miles far from Myeik. — *Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)*

Union Commerce Minister holds discussion with Chinese governmental heads in Muse



MUSE, 3 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held a meeting with the entrepreneurs from Muse District at the hall of Muse Trader's Association in Muse, Shan State (North) on 2 March.

First, the Union minister made an opening speech. The chairmen and members of Muse-Namkham Trade Association reported on prospects for

exportation of beans and pulses, corn and sesame, difficulties facing in exporting commodities, tax matters and further promoting bilateral trade. The secretary of Kunlong, Hopang and Chinshwehaw Trade Association reported on scrutinizing durability of Kunlong Bridge and the departmental officials

made clarifications.

In the afternoon, Myanmar delegation led by the Union minister, State Planning and Economic Minister U Aung Kyaw Nyunt and Chinese governmental heads discussed matters on ensuring bilateral trade and arrangements to be opened border trade gates.

L Soe (IPRD)

Holding 700th anniversary of Founding Sagaing discussed

SAGAING, 3 March—First meeting on setting up committee for holding 700th anniversary of founding Sagaing in 2015 took place at Thudhama Rest House in Sagaing on 2 March.

The committees and sub-committees were formed to be able to hold 700th anniversary of Founding Sagaing in 2015.

The purpose of holding 700th anniversary of found-

ing Sagaing is to excavate historic ancient heritages and records, said a local writer.

The 700th anniversary of founding Sagaing will be held on a grand scale including plan to publish 700th anniversary magazine and calendar, hold paper reading session, show Sagaing historical documentary and entertainment programmes.

Myanma Alinn (137)

REGIONAL

Nepal to host int'l trade fair

KATHAMANDU, 3 March — Nepal's apex business body is all set to organize Nepal International Trade Fair 2014 in Kathmandu in a bid to promote Nepali products in the international arena, organizer said on Sunday.

Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), the host of the event, said that the upcoming edition of the five-day annual fair, which will be staged on Thursday, will be inaugurated by Nepal's President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

The trade fair will feature a total of 350 stalls among which 200 stalls will showcase Nepali products. Of the rest, 82 stalls which present Bangladeshi products, 16 Pakistani, 5 Indian and two stalls for Bhutanese and Thai products each.

"The Nepal International Trade Fair has already been established as a brand in the international level," Bhaskar Raj Rajkarnikar, senior vice-president of FNCCI told *Xinhua*.

"We want to promote local products at regional level, regional products at national level and national products at international level through the trade fair," he said.

Xinhua



Kabuki actor Hashinosuke Nakamura speaks at a meeting on 27 Feb, 2014, to inaugurate an association formed by lawmakers from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to promote the traditional Japanese theatrical art. Nakamura is flanked by former culture minister Hirofumi Nakasone (L) and Junichi Sakamoto, president of Shockiku Co., operator of the Kabuki-za theater. — KYODO NEWS

After vacating Bangkok's streets, Thai protesters look to courts

BANGKOK, 3 March — Anti-government protesters in Thailand have retreated to a central Bangkok park, freeing up traffic after blocking big intersections for more than a month, but Thailand's four-month political crisis looks no closer to a solution.

The protesters, who moved to Lumpini Park over the weekend after orders from protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, are now banking on judicial intervention from courts hostile to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to bring down her government.

"Bangkokians are able to go to work more easily but the state of play in Thailand has not changed since protesters scaled back," said Siripan Nogsuan Sawasdee, a political analyst at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

"He (Suthep) realizes that the fate of the government won't be determined by his group but lies in the hands of independent organizations — the anti-corruption body and the courts."

Demonstrators seeking to overthrow Yingluck took to the streets in November and have since blocked government offices and, in January, set up camp at

major traffic intersections in Bangkok.

They want Yingluck to resign to make way for an appointed "people's council" to overhaul a political system they say has been taken hostage by her billionaire brother and former premier, Thaksin Shinawatra. Yingluck faces several legal challenges, the most significant being negligence charges for mishandling a disastrous rice subsidy scheme.

The scheme paid farmers above the market price and has run out of funds, prompting farmers — normally the prime minister's biggest supporters — to

Abe aims to push N Korea on abduction issue at bilateral talks

TOKYO, 3 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday Japan will press North Korea to work toward a possible solution to the issue of abductions and other bilateral concerns, as diplomats from the two countries are expected to hold talks in China.

"We will make thorough efforts to elicit a positive response from North Korea," Abe told a meeting of the government and ruling parties, referring to North Korea's abductions of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s.

The comment came as the Red Cross societies of Japan and North Korea held a meeting in Shenyang, northeastern China, with government officials from the two countries participating.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials plan to hold informal talks with their North Korean counterparts on the sidelines in the hope that the contact will lead to a resumption of bilateral negotiations suspended since November 2012, a month before Abe returned to power.

Kyodo News



Farmers take part in a rally demanding the Yingluck administration resolve delays in payment, at the office of the auditor general in Bangkok on 3 March, 2014.

REUTERS

demonstrate in Bangkok. Hundreds of farmers joined anti-government protesters led by Buddhist monk Luang Pu Buddha Issara in a rally at the Finance Ministry on Monday, demanding faster payments.

Yingluck has been given until March 14 by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) to defend herself. It will then decide whether there is a case to pursue.

Reuters

Cambodia's Prince Ranariddh to return to politics

PHNOM PENH, 3 March — Cambodian Prince Norodom Ranariddh, a son of the late King Norodom Sihanouk, has decided to return to politics and plans to form his new party within the next two weeks, his aide said on Monday.

Norarith Anandayat told *Kyodo News* that the prince, who hopes to mobilize royalists and Sihanoukists to "save" the country, will announce his intentions in a meeting with old supporters on 16 March, at which they will also formulate plans for the new party. Since last July's general election, the two parties that won seats in the National Assembly — the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party of Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha — have remained at loggerheads, with the opposition party boycotting all sessions of the assembly and continuing to protest the official election results.

Anandayat said that the new party will be named "The Community of Royalist People's Party" and that he is now preparing to submit paperwork to the Interior ministry around middle of this month to register it as a political party. Ranariddh, who once headed the royalist FUNCINPEC party, announced his resignation from politics in August 2012.

The 70-year-old prince has since been acting as supreme privy councilor to King Norodom Sihamoni, his half-brother.

Kyodo News



Volunteers wait to donate blood at a mobile blood collection station in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 2 March, 2014. Twenty-nine people died and more than 130 were injured in the Kunming Railway Station terrorist attack as of 8 am on Sunday. As more and more citizens volunteered to donate blood for the injured people of terrorist attack, the local blood centre set up 12 collection stations and prolonged opening hours. — XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOP ISLAND VOY NO (1401)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOP ISLAND VOY NO (1401) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (371)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (371) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(5/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-193(13-14)	70 Ton (4x4) Rough Terrain Mobile Crane	US\$
(2)	IFB-194(13-14)	Blow Out Preventers	US\$
(3)	IFB-195(13-14)	Spares for Annular Blow Out Preventer	US\$
(4)	IFB-196(13-14)	Spares for Stand Line Manifold	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-065(13-14)	8Kg & 2Kg Dry Chemical Powder Fire KS Extinguisher (ABCE)	

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2014, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Taleban militants killed in Afghan cleanup operations

KABUL, 3 March — Two dozens of Taliban militants were killed during cleanup operations in deferent Afghan provinces since early Sunday, the country's Interior Ministry said on Monday.

"Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) carried several cleanup operations in Kabul, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kandahar, Paktika and Helmand Provinces. As a result 24 armed Taleban members were killed, three wounded and 11 others were arrested by the ANSF," the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.

The ANSF also found and seized weapons and ammunition during the above raids, according to the statement.

The Taleban has not made comments so far.

The Afghan National Police has found and defused six improvised explosive devices and roadside bombs over the same period of time, the statement added.—Xinhua



An Ecuadorian girl dances during the parade of the Festival of Fruit and Flowers held in Ambato, Ecuador, on 2 March, 2014. The annual carnival of Ambato, which abounds with flowers and fruits, is a major tourist attraction in Ecuador.

XINHUA

KHK Company Limited
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

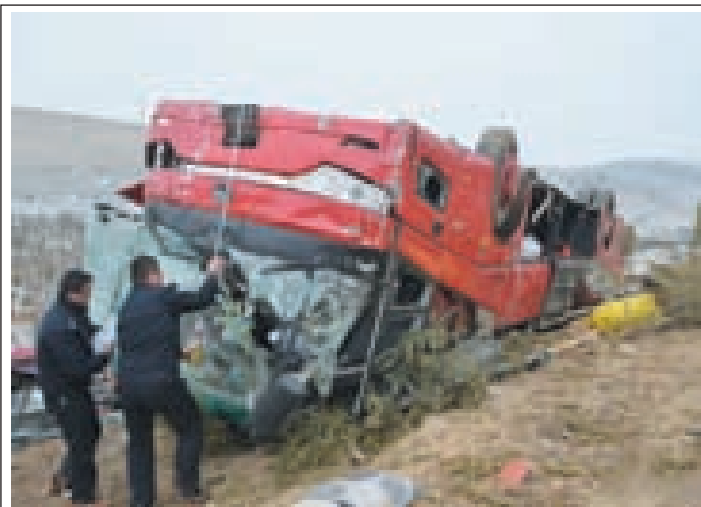
- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective construction works:-

Sr No	Tender No	Descriptions
1	KHK-CP-001	Construction of R.C foundation work for Processing Plant and Husk and Bran storage.
2	KHK-CP-002	Construction of Steel Structure and erection work for Processing Plant and Husk and Bran storage.

- Tender documents shall be available during office hours on (03-07) of March 2014, at KHK Company Limited, Okkyin Jute Mill, Naythong Road, Hsing Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

KHK Company Limited

Ph: 01-681553 / 01-681570



The police investigate the site of a traffic accident on an expressway in northwest China's Gansu Province, on 3 March, 2014. At least 10 people have been confirmed dead after a bus overturned on an expressway in Gansu early Monday morning.

XINHUA

Australia condemns brutal attack in southwest China

CANBERRA, 3 March—The Australian government condemned the mass stabbing at a train station in southwest China's Kunming city that left 29 civilians dead, said a statement by Australian Ambassador to China Frances Adamson, which was made available here on Monday.

"Australians have been shocked by the violent and indiscriminate attack by a knife wielding mob at Kunming railway station resulting in multiple deaths and horrific injuries," the

statement said.

"The Australian government condemns this brutal attack on innocent people and extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the victims and their families."

Xinhua

Iditarod mushers begin dog-sled trip across Alaskan tundra

NEW YORK, 3 March — Nearly 70 competitors from around the world set off from a frozen lake on Sunday to challenge reigning Iditarod champion Mitch Seavey at the true start of Alaska's famed and grueling sled-dog race.

The nearly 1,000-mile (1,600-km) Iditarod Trail

Sled Dog Race kicked off a day earlier when 69 mushers and their canine teams made a ceremonial jaunt through Anchorage.

The business end of the race began in Willow, a small community about 50 miles north of Anchorage, where the teams embarked in a journey across

the Alaskan tundra that the fastest will compete in a little over nine days.

After Willow, the next checkpoint was 42 miles away at the tiny settlement of Yentna Station, with Danny Kaduce reaching it the quickest time and then setting off for the next checkpoint.—Reuters

Taleban inmates freed on forged letter from jail in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 March — A dozen of Taliban detainees have been released from Kandahar prison on faked letter, a local newspaper reported on Monday. "Twelve high profile Taleban inmates have mistakenly been freed from the central jail in Kandahar with falsified documents," citing police, the English paper *Daily Outlook* writes in its Monday edition.

Quoting deputy police chief of Kandahar, Rahmatullah Atrafi, the newspaper added that a letter from the Attorney's office had ordered the release of 16 prisoners who had their jail terms served but later it appeared that the letter bore fake signature of the Attorney. A local official in Kandahar on the condition of anonymity confirmed the release of the inmates and told *Xinhua* that the wardens of the jail, after receiving a fake letter claiming to be from the national intelligence agency, set free 12 detainees on Saturday.

It is not the first time that Taleban detainees made their escape from Kandahar prison. Previously in 2008 and 2011 more than 1,500 Taleban detainees had made their good escapes from Kandahar central jail respectively.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

OSCAR 2014

Alfonso Cuaron wins best director Oscar for 'Gravity'

Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron won the Oscar for best director on Sunday for the space thriller, "Gravity," in which an astronaut fights for her survival after being cut loose from her space shuttle.

It was the first Academy Award for Cuaron, 52, and the first best director Oscar for a Mexican. His 3-D film starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney mixes dazzling special effects, suspense and human drama.

Accepting the Oscar, Cuaron paid special tribute to Bullock: "Sandy, you are 'Gravity', you are the soul and heart of the film."

You are an amazing collaborator and one of the best people I have ever met."Cuaron had been hotly tipped to win the best director category, having swept the prize in other awards ceremonies before Sunday's Oscars, including from the Directors Guild of America.

Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron, best director nominee for his film "Gravity," and his partner Sheherazade Goldsmith arrive at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014.



Director and producer Steve McQueen (R) celebrates after accepting the Oscar for best picture with Lupita Nyong'o (L) at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014.

'12 Years a Slave' wins best picture Oscar

The slavery drama "12 Years a Slave" won the best picture Oscar on Sunday, becoming the first film from a black director to win the film industry's top honour in the 86 years of the Academy Awards.

The film from British director Steve McQueen is based on the memoirs of a free black man, Solomon Northup, who is tricked and sold into bondage in Louisiana in an unflinching account of pre-Civil War slavery in America.

Italy's 'The Great Beauty' wins best foreign language Oscar

Visually stunning Italian drama "The Great Beauty" won the Oscar for best foreign language film on Sunday, capping its successful awards season run in the United States and Europe.

Director Paolo Sorrentino's film about an aging writer's reflections on life and his search for meaning among Rome's idle rich also won top foreign film honors at the Golden Globes and Britain's BAFTAs. It was the first Oscar for Sorrentino and the 11th win for an Italian film since foreign language film became a competitive category in 1956, the most of any country. Italian films earned three additional Academy Awards before that time.



Director Alfonso Cuaron (R) greets director Paolo Sorrentino, whose Italian film "The Great Beauty" is nominated in the Foreign Language Film category, at the 86th Academy Awards Foreign Language Nominee Reception at Ray's and Stark Bar on the LACMA Campus in Los Angeles, on 28 Feb, 2014.

McConaughey wins best actor Oscar for 'Dallas Buyers Club'

Matthew McConaughey won the Oscar for best actor on Sunday for his role in "Dallas Buyers Club" as a homophobic, rodeo-loving Texan who contracts AIDS and becomes an unlikely savior for gay patients and drug addicts desperate for treatment. McConaughey lost some 50 pounds (23 kg) for the role, looking gaunt as real-life crusader Ron Woodroof, a cowboy who fought the US government during the early AIDS epidemic of the 1980s to provide patients with medicines he imported from foreign countries.

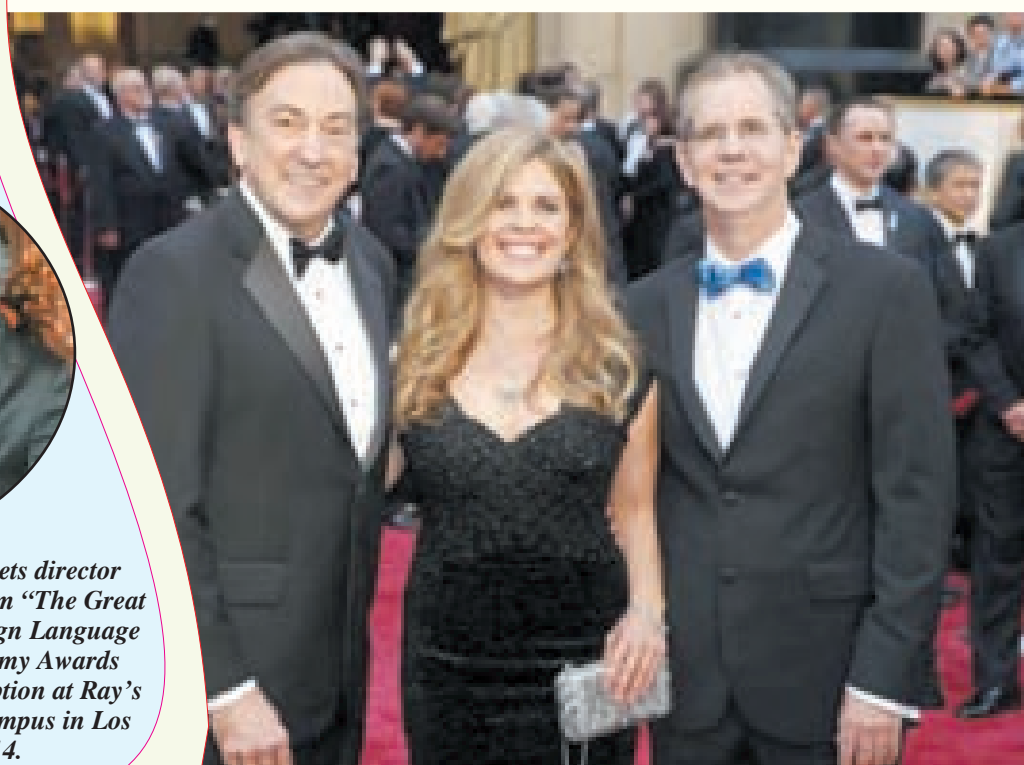


Presenters Matthew McConaughey and Kim Novak present at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014.

Disney's 'Frozen' wins animated feature Oscar

The blockbuster movie "Frozen," a Walt Disney Animation Studios musical fairy tale about the bond between two royal sisters in an icy Scandinavian kingdom, won the Academy Award on Sunday for best animated feature film.

The win is the first in the category for Walt Disney Animation Studios, the animation house founded by the man who pioneered the genre. The animated feature category was created in 2002 and has been dominated by Disney-owned Pixar, which has won it seven times but was shut out of the nominations this year for the second time in three years. "Frozen" cemented a resurgence for Disney Animation Studios, becoming a global phenomenon with over \$1 billion in movie theater ticket sales, according to Rentrak.



Magic moments help City sink Sunderland in League Cup final

LONDON, 3 March — Two moments of magic inside two second-half minutes helped Manchester City avoid a second successive Wembley meltdown on Sunday as they landed the season’s first silverware with a 3-1 victory over Sunderland in the English League Cup final. Memories of last season’s FA Cup final defeat by relegation-bound Wigan Athletic were re-surfacing as Manuel Pellegrini’s side trailed to Fabio Borini’s clinical 10th-minute strike.

This time, however, City’s slickers showed their pedigree with Yaya Toure’s spectacular curling shot and Samir Nasri’s piledriver turning the final on its head. Relegation-threatened Sunderland continued to dream of a first piece of silverware since their epic 1973 FA Cup final defeat of Leeds



Manchester City’s Yaya Toure (L) scores a goal against Sunderland during their English League Cup final soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 2 March, 2014. — REUTERS

United with an impressive response before Jesus Navas finished them off in the 90th minute. It was City’s first League Cup

title since 1976 and keeps alive their hopes of an unprecedented domestic treble in Pellegrini’s first season — but it was never

straightforward.

“Maybe what happened last year at Wembley was in their minds in the first half,” Chilean

Pellegrini, who picked up his first major trophy as a European coach after a lengthy but fruitless spell in Spain, told reporters. “But the important thing was to calm the players and let them trust in what they can do.”

With City in the last eight of the FA Cup and six points off the top of the Premier league with two games in hand, Pellegrini said capturing the League Cup could prove pivotal.

“This gives us a lot of confidence to go forward,” he said. “If you have a chance to win a title and don’t, it affects you. We are the only club to have the chance to win all the trophies and for a big club, one trophy is never enough.” Sunderland manager Gus Poyet shrugged off the defeat, saying there was little his team could have done.

Reuters

Hokkaido residents make new sport out of shoveling snow

SAPPORO, 3 March — The president of a consulting firm in Otaru, Hokkaido, has established a nationwide association to promote snow shoveling, with the aim of turning the work of shoveling snow into a seasonal sport. The first international competition took place in the city in January and attracted 80 participants from 10 countries, including exchange students at local universities.

“Aging communities in snow-heavy regions lack the human resources to shovel snow, and face the risk of sliding accidents and of transportation being cut off,” said Hiroyuki Matsushiro, 51. “But I expect snow shoveling to become a tourist attraction some day.” He got the idea from a Tokyo-based organization that stages a regular competition for collecting trash rather than considering it volunteer work.

Kyodo News

Henley wins Honda Classic in four-way playoff

CARY, (NC), 3 March — American Russell Henley emerged as the last man standing to win his second PGA Tour title in a four-way playoff for the Honda Classic at Palm Beach Gardens in Florida on Sunday. Henley, 24, birdied the first extra hole, the par-five 18th, from two feet in fading light to edge out Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, American Ryan Palmer and Scotland’s Russell Knox on a dramatic afternoon at PGA National.

McIlroy surrendered a big lead with an error-strewn 74 in the final round, though he made a birdie at the 72nd hole to qualify for the playoff after hitting a superb second shot to 11 feet, only to miss the eagle putt. Henley (72), Palmer (69) and Knox (71) also made mistakes over

the closing stretch to finish level with McIlroy at eight-under-par 272. Henley sounded as if was still in shock as he spoke of his victory. “I hope I can have a bunch more Sundays just like that in my career,” he told Golf Channel. “It was a rush to be out there playing with Rory and the crowd.”

“I’ve never been part of a crowd so big cheering for me. It was an amazing feeling. It was so much fun.” Henley appeared to have thrown away a chance of winning when he dunked his six-iron into the water at the par-three 15th for a double-bogey. But he steadied his apparently sinking ship with pars on the final three holes, which was enough to make the playoff.

Reuters



Russell Henley holds the trophy after winning The Honda Classic golf tournament at PGA National GC Champion Course won by.—REUTERS

Premier league Table																									
POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pos				
1	Chelsea	28	19	6	3	52	22	62	2	9	9	29	9	7	4	3	23	13	39	42					
2	Liverpool	28	16	6	6	47	26	52	1	1	1	40	12	6	4	4	31	23	38	16	16				
3	Arsenal	28	16	6	6	42	26	50	10	3	1	28	7	8	3	4	26	21	34	18	18				
4	Manchester City	28	16	3	9	48	27	51	12	6	1	43	9	6	1	4	26	16	43	17	17				
5	Tottenham Hotspur	28	16	6	7	37	23	52	7	3	4	16	16	9	3	3	21	16	4	33	19				
6	Everton	27	13	9	5	28	27	48	8	3	1	24	16	4	6	4	14	17	31	48	20				
7	Manchester United	27	13	6	8	43	31	45	8	3	4	16	12	7	8	4	25	19	32	46	21				
8	Newcastle United	28	13	4	11	37	26	43	6	3	6	16	16	7	1	6	19	26	27	43	22				
9	Southampton	28	16	6	6	36	26	50	6	6	4	21	16	6	4	6	17	16	3	39	23				
10	West Ham United	28	8	7	13	24	26	31	8	3	6	26	26	3	4	7	11	16	4	34	24				
11	Aston Villa	28	8	7	13	34	26	31	4	2	8	16	22	4	6	6	16	16	7	31	25				
12	Hull City	28	8	6	14	26	26	30	8	4	6	17	14	3	8	9	13	21	6	36	26				
13	Stoke City	28	7	9	12	26	42	30	6	6	3	16	14	1	3	16	16	26	14	36	27				
14	Swansea City	28	7	6	15	37	41	27	4	6	6	26	21	3	3	6	13	26	4	36	28				
15	Sheff Wed	28	7	7	14	21	43	28	6	6	4	12	16	3	8	16	9	32	23	36	29				
16	Crystal Palace	27	8	3	16	16	37	29	6	2	6	13	17	3	1	16	6	26	16	27	30				
17	West Bromwich Albion	27	4	13	10	31	38	23	3	7	4	16	16	1	6	6	16	23	6	26	31				
18	Cardiff	28	6	6	16	26	42	30	1	2	6	11	21	6	4	6	13	21	16	24	32				
19	QPR	28	1	7	16	16	46	14	4	4	6	12	26	1	3	16	7	27	16	22	33				
20	Fulham	28	6	3	19	26	52	27	1	1	16	12	31	6	2	6	11	31	14	21	34				

Nadal to team-up with Sampras for Mumbai in new league

MUMBAI, 3 March — World number one Rafa Nadal will team up with 14-times major champion Pete Sampras for Mumbai in the inaugural International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) later this year, tournament organizers said on Sunday. Serena Williams, the top-ranked women’s player, will headline the Singapore team alongside Tomas Berdych and Andre Agassi in the off-sea-

son tournament from November 28 to December 14, which is styled on cricket’s franchise-based Indian Premier League.

Four teams — Bangkok and Dubai being the others — will compete in men’s and women’s singles, men’s and mixed doubles and a men’s legends singles with one set per match, and no advantage scoring. Serb Novak Djokovic and former women’s number one Caro-

line Wozniacki will lead Dubai while Britain’s Andy Murray, Frenchman Jo Wilfried Tsonga and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus were picked by Bangkok when the teams were drafted on Sunday in Dubai. The 2014 season will feature 24 matches across the four host cities with all four teams competing in a round-robin format in each of the four cities, organizers said.

Reuters



Spanish tennis player Rafa Nadal poses with playing cards depicting some of his 11 Grand Slam victories after an interview with Reuters in Madrid, on 18 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

GENERAL

Karzai says Afghan war not fought in his country's interest

WASHINGTON, 3 March — Expressing “extreme anger” toward the US government, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said in an interview with the Washington Post that the war in Afghanistan was not fought with his country's interests in mind.

“Afghans died in a war that's not ours,” Karzai said in the interview published on Sunday, just a month before an election to pick his successor.

He was quoted as saying he was certain the 12-year-old war, America's longest and launched after the attacks of 11 September, 2001, was “for the US security and for the Western interest.”

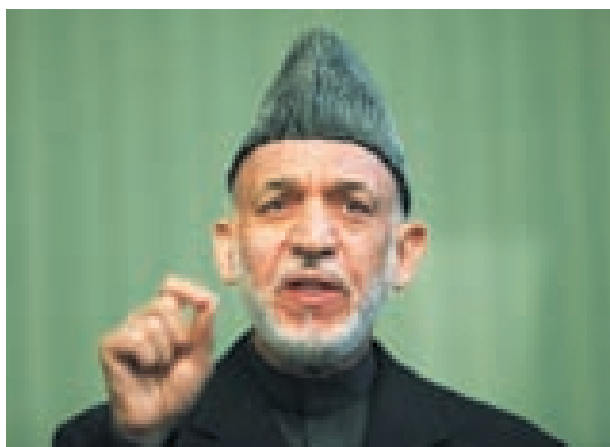
Karzai's refusal to sign a security deal with Washington that would permit foreign troops to

stay in Afghanistan beyond this year has frustrated the White House, and President Barack Obama has told the Pentagon to prepare for the possibility that no US troops will be left in Afghanistan after 2014.

Obama told Karzai in a phone call on Tuesday he had given the order to the Pentagon. The phone call was the first substantive discussion between the two leaders since June.

But staking out a new position, the White House said in a statement it would leave open the possibility of concluding the bilateral security agreement later this year.

“It's good for them to sign it with my successor,” Karzai told the Post. He has insisted the United States must jump-start peace talks with Taliban insurgents



Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 25 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

and end raids and strikes on Afghan homes before he signs the deal.

The NATO-led force in Afghanistan has a current strength of more than 52,000 soldiers, including 33,600 US troops. More than 3,400 coalition forces have been killed in the fight against the Taliban,

including more than 2,300 US troops.

While Afghanistan's police and army are seen as having made big strides in their ability to fight militants, doubts remain about whether they can keep a still-potent Taliban at bay, especially in remote areas.

Reuters

Draw in Madrid derby allows Barca to close gap at top of La Liga

MADRID, 3 March — Atletico and Real Madrid produced 90 minutes of high-adrenaline tension in their vital BBVA Primera Liga clash which was the standout game of the weekend in Spain. In a game littered with foul, dives and bad-tempered moments which saw Atletico assistant coach Mono Burgos sent off and then need to be physically restrained by other members of the Atletico bench, Real Madrid took the lead after 2 minutes.

Recent history indicted that they would then probably go on to a com-

fortable win, but Atletico reacted magnificently and by halftime they were ahead thanks to goals from Koke and Gabi Fernandez, whose shot from virtually his own backyard fizzed past Diego Lopez in the Real Madrid goal. Both sides had penalty appeals turned down in a difficult match for referee Delgado Ferreira, and Atletico paid for Diego Costa's failure to convert a chance when clean through on goal when Cristiano Ronaldo equalized with eight minutes remaining.

The result means Real Madrid remain three points

clear of Atletico, but gave Barcelona the chance to close the gap on the top of the table to just one point with a win at home to Almeria. Barca started brightly and quickly took a 2-0 lead thanks to a Messi free kick and a goal from Alexis Sanchez, but Almeria pulled a goal back as Angel Trujillo took advantage of Barca's habitual inability to defend corner kicks.

The second half saw Barca once again look far from convincing, but Carles Puyol made the points safe from close range after Messi had headed against the

crossbar following a corner eight minutes from time and a fine curling shot from Xavi Hernandez assured a 4-1 win that was not as convincing as the score suggests.

Athletic Club Bilbao strengthened their grip of fourth place with a 4-0 victory over Granada on Friday night thanks partly to a magnificent hat-trick from striker, Aritz Aduriz and a late strike from Carlos Gurpegui. Athletic were then able to enjoy as their two closest rivals, Villarreal and Real Sociedad dropped points.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(4-3-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:20 am

2. Physical Exercise

7:00 am

3. News/Weather Report

8:20 am

4. Opening Ceremony 3rd BIMSTEC Summit (MICC) (Live)

9:45 am

5. Business News

10:00 am

6. News

11:35 am

7. Tamyethnar Takwetsar

12:00 am

8. News/International News/Weather Report

2:25 pm

9. Traditional Boxing

3:00 pm

10. News

3:15 pm

11. TV Drama Series

4:35 pm

12. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Years (Geography)

4:45 pm

13. Songs Programme

5:00 pm

14. News

6:00 pm

15. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm

16. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

17. News

7:25 pm

18. TV Drama Series

8:35 pm

19. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:00 pm

20. News

21. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

22. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-3-14 07:00am~
5-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village)
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Htan San Cave & Mwetaw Kakku)
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Local News
- * In The Studio : Win Le Thu
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin”
- * Local News
- * Tapestry: A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
- * World News
- * Kyaukhteyyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food (Ep-13) (Suzuki Restaurant)
- * World News
- * Dhamma School
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-5)
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass



Ireland puppet artist Thomas Baker performs with young spectators at the 12th Ishara International Puppet Festival in India Habitat Center in New Delhi, capital of India, on 2 March, 2014. The festival, including performances given by puppet artists from many countries such as the UK, Israel, Ireland, attracted many children as well as adults in the city. The festival will last till 4 March. —XINHUA

Pakistan suspends airstrikes after Taliban ceasefire

ISLAMABAD, 3 March — Pakistani government announced Sunday it is suspending airstrikes against the Taliban militants a day after they announced a unilateral one-month ceasefire. Airstrikes on the Taliban positions were launched last month in Waziristan and Khyber tribal regions following Taliban attacks and a deadlock in the peace process. Military officials had said the airstrikes had killed dozens of militants.

“The government has decided to suspend airstrikes after the Taliban's unconditional ceasefire,” Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said.

The Taliban spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, while announcing the ceasefire on Saturday had also called upon the government to give a positive response. “We consider the Taliban decision to stop violent actions as a positive progress,” the Interior Minister said in a statement.

He however said the government and the army will have the right to respond to any incident of violence. “The security forces had launched targeted strikes only in response to attacks,” Khan said, adding the government has not conducted any military operation after it has taken

over in June last year.

Official sources said the decision was taken after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif discussed the issues with all stakeholders and party leaders.

The prime minister had started consultations about a response to the Taliban's ceasefire late Saturday and the process continued on Sunday. He also presided over a high level meeting in Lahore on Sunday to evolve consensus on the issue. The prime minister was happy at the Taliban decision and was thinking of declaring a ceasefire on part of the government too, the sources said.—Xinhua

President hosts dinner to BIMSTEC leaders

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to leaders from BIMSTEC member countries at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sushil Koirala, President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the Royal Thai Government Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Union ministers and



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win pose for documentary photo with leaders from BIMSTEC member countries at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC).—MNA

officials attended the dinner.

In his speech, the President said that Myanmar is very proud to host the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit. He expressed his delight

to see leaders all here in Nay Pyi Taw. The participation of leaders demonstrates the very fact that BIMSTEC is receiving full political impetus from the leadership. He firmly

believes that this Summit would further enhance friendship and cooperation among BIMSTEC member states. He is confident that meeting and working together in Nay Pyi Taw

will come up with excellence results and concrete progress.

During the dinner, artists from Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the at-

tendees with Myanmar traditional dance and songs.

Later, the President and wife had a documentary photo taken with leaders.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives representatives of Special Regions and SSPP, meets Bangladeshi PM

News on Page 8

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4, SSPP, trainees of MDevs & CAES

News on Page 9

Appointees to Anti-Bribery Commission take oaths in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — The appointees to the Anti-Bribery Commission took affirmation collectively before the Speaker in the 19th day session of Py-

idaungsu Hluttaw on Monday.

After presenting the President's message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on matters to be addressed as

soon as possible in order to relieve the suffering of farmers as a result of confiscation of farmland and others, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the

message was documented.

In his message, the President stressed the need to address farmland grabbing cases in a transparent and speedy way, not later

than the end of this June for lands of monsoon crops and the start of this September for lands of winter crops.

He called for collaboration and cooperation of representatives in the tasks of the respective township land utilization management

committees that are making field trips under the supervision of the central committee led by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

At the today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, Bill amending Myanmar (See page 8)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls for unity among ASEAN countries

News on Page 9

Myanmar, Norway sign MoU on provision of technical assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—A ceremony to sign an MoU between the Ministry of Electric Power and Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) on provision of technical assistance took place at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

At the ceremony, Un-

ion Minister U Khin Maung Soe said that the government has been carrying out works for distribution of power to fill increased electricity demand by adopting short-and long-term plans, adding National Electricity Plan is being drawn in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation

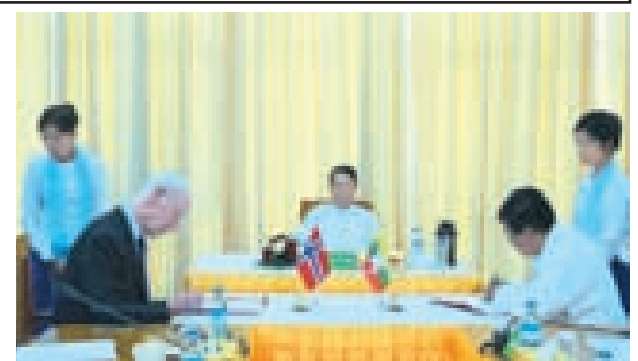
Agency (JICA) to generate power. He continued that Norway is one of most developed countries in hydropower technology and NVE's hydropower sector achievements are good example for the ministry.

Norwegian Ambassador Mrs. Ann Ollestad and Director-General of

NVE Mr. Per Sanderud explained matters on cooperation for provision of technical assistance.

Then, Director-General U Thaung Han of Hydropower Implementation Department and the NVE Director-General signed the MoU.

MNA



MoU between the Ministry of Electric Power and Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) in progress.—MNA