

President U Thein Sein calls for accelerating efforts for stronger cooperation among BIMSTEC members

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—President U Thein Sein called on BIMSTEC member countries to step up efforts for a stronger cooperation to be able to sustain the momentum of BIMSTEC.

In his address at the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 4th March, the president has urged the member countries to combine their strengths and resources under the banner of BIMSTEC to engage with other international bodies in addressing the new threats of non-traditional and transnational challenges of climate

change, natural disasters, energy and food security.

He also called for accelerating economic growth and social progress in the sub-region through the collective endeavours and in a spirit of equality and partnership.

The seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is working together in 14 sectors namely trade and investment, technology, energy, transport and communication, tourism, fisheries, agriculture, cultural cooperation, environment and

disaster management, public health, people-to-people contact, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, and climate change.

In his address, the president also expressed his thanks to Thailand for its constant support through Bangkok BIMSTEC Working Group.

The BIMSTEC has given priority to alleviation of poverty in the region and improvement of the quality of life and well-being of peoples in the region among the 14 sectors.

NLM



President U Thein Sein speaking at 3rd BIMSTEC Summit.

PHOTO BY: AMS

BIMSTEC express concern for threats posed by climate change



Sheikh Hasina.

PHOTO BY: AMS

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—The leaders from the seven-member BIMSTEC group have recognized the threats posed by climate change on the lives and livelihoods of peoples across member states.

In her address at the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit, Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, called for a legal framework to ensure social, cultural, and economic rehabilitation of climate migrants at the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit.

BIMSTEC member countries have also voiced their support to the proposal of Bangladesh as they may face the similar situation.

“A rise in one de-

gree Celsius due to global warming would submerge a fifth of Bangladesh forcing 30 million people to become “climate” migrants, Sheikh Hasina said in his address at the summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 4th Feb.

Global assessments indicate that natural disaster in the Bay of Bengal region would increase in frequency and intensity.

During the summit, the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) inked two memorandum of associations MoAs and one memorandum of understanding including establishing the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate in Noida, near New Delhi, India.

“Our economic dependence on weather and vulnerability to natural disasters in this region underscore the importance of cooperation in these areas,” said Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India in his speech at the opening of the summit.

(See page 8)

3rd BIMSTEC Summit

4 March 2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Third BIMSTEC Summit Declaration

We, the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand met in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 4 March 2014 for the Third BIMSTEC Summit Meeting;

Reaffirming the aims and purposes of BIMSTEC as contained in the 1997 Bangkok Declaration,

Recalling the First BIMSTEC Summit Declaration (Bangkok, 31 July 2004) and the Second Summit Declaration (New Delhi, 13 November 2008),

Recognizing the close relationship and deepening engagements among the BIMSTEC Member States given the geographical proximity as well as the rich historical linkages and cultural heritage,

Convinced that the BIMSTEC Member States, endowed with abundant natural and human resources, have considerable potential for economic and social development through mutually beneficial cooperation in identified priority areas,

Recognizing that globalization and regional cooperation continue to generate increased linkages and inter-dependence within the economies and societies in the BIMSTEC Member States and provide greater opportunity to further leverage regional cooperation and respond to new and emerging challenges,

Recognizing the threats posed by climate change on the lives and livelihoods of peoples across the Member States,

Reiterating firm commitment to alleviate poverty in the BIMSTEC region to ensure dignity, improve the quality of life and well-being of the peoples,

Recognizing the threat that terrorism poses to peace, stability and economic progress in the region,

and emphasizing the need for closer cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism and transnational crimes,

Further recognizing the special challenges faced by the Least-Developed Member States in the region and the need to support them within their development process,

Convinced also that harmony, prosperity and well-being among the BIMSTEC Member States can be enhanced through deeper economic and social cooperation, enhanced connectivity, sustainable development and harnessing of common natural resource base and cultural and people-to-people linkages.

Reiterating commitment to BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation group,

Do hereby:

Resolve to commit increased efforts in accomplishing the founding aims and purposes of BIMSTEC.

Decide to move forward towards finalization of the draft Agreement on Trade in Goods with agreed General Rules of Origin and Product Specific Rules, and also to signing of the Agreement on Dispute Settlement Procedures, and the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters under the framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

Direct the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to expedite its work for the conclusion of the Agreement on Trade in Goods by the end of 2014, and to continue its efforts for early finalization of the Agreement on Services and Investments.

Agree to enhance cooperation in expanding skill and technology base of Member States through collaborations and partnerships targeted towards micro, small and medium scale enterprises and decide to accelerate efforts for the early finalization of the Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.

(See page 9)

Families boost income through weaving industry

MEIKTILA, 4 March —“Htanaungkan village lies in Kantha Tract 10 miles from Meiktila. With 245 households and home to 1200 villagers, most of them are engaging in weaving industry. Whenever there occurs power outage they have to rush to Meiktila industrial zone to run their business. But now the village has enjoyed electricity supply and weaving machines are mushrooming in the village with 35 machines and 70 spinning wheel plus over 20 sewing

machines.” Said a villager who runs the business.

The villagers buy raw materials from Mandalay and distribute their products in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon in addition to selling at brokerages in Meiktila industrial.

As all of them engaging in the business have been earning a handsome income it is one of the tools to reach the goal to poverty alleviation and rural development.

*Thein Myint Kyaw
(Meiktila)*



Knowledge on Consumer Protection given

MANDALAY, 4 March—Organized by Ministry of Commerce and Mandalay Region Computer Entrepreneurs' Association, talks on consumer protection were given on 2 March at Yadanabon Market in Mandalay.

On the occasion, the Adviser to the Minis-

ter of Commerce clarified matters on opening border trade centres, assignment of economic attaches in EU countries, trade promotion and easing regulations in export and import business.

Officials also explained about procedures of Consumers Affairs Department; dos and don'ts to be followed by sellers and

buyers in production, distribution, selling, buying, and consuming; purpose of enacting Consumer Protection Law; the importance of cooperation among government departments, NGOs, entrepreneurs and the people to enforce consumer protection regulations.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Second longest bridge on Myanmar-India friendship road under construction

KALAY, 4 March—With the permission of the State to spend 500 million Kyat on building of a heavy bridge on Kalewa-Kyikon-Tamu Road, Bridge Construction Special Group (11) under the Public Works is now engaging in building the bridge starting on 1 October 2013.

With the length of 190 feet and 29 feet in width, the bridge will have 24 feet wide motorway. The construction tasks will be completed at the end of this month said an official.

Junine



Rural Development

Nat Garden Dam rebuilt

KALAY, 4 March—Damming water from Nattaga Creek near Minhla village, PyindawU village-tract in Kalay Township, Nat Garden Dam

10,000 acres of land in the region. But the dam was damaged due to flood during the last rain. Under the supervision of Sagaing Region Government, the dam was repaired. With 9

million Kyat contributed by locals reconstruction works are now underway. After completion, the dam will benefit over 129,000 people in the region.

Junine



Tourists observe photos on Sri Kitstra Ancient City in Pyay

PYAY, 4 March—Sri Kitstra Heritage Conservation Group and photographers in Pyay organized Photo Shows at Shweponepoint Pagoda. The show started on 1 March up to 31 displayed 42 works of 12 photographers. Sri Kitstra Culture Heritage Area is located 5 miles to the south of Pyay, 180 miles from Yangon. Ancient Pyu cities flourished during 4 to 9 A.D. The old city with nearly 9 miles in length and 5 miles

in width is neither in circle- or oval- shaped. Arrangements are underway to put

Sri Kitstra City into a World Heritage List.

NLM-017



Be Quick To Repair: Photo taken on 2 March 2014 shows damaging of the fence of a transformer installed at the top of ShweUdaung street in Insein Township. Urgent measure is needed to be taken otherwise it is much exposed to danger.—KHIN MAUNG AYE (INSEIN)

WORLD



United Kingdom Minister of State responsible for European issues and NATO David Lidington (L) speaks with Luxembourg Foreign Affairs minister Jean Asselborn prior to an EU foreign ministers meeting on the Ukraine crisis at EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 3 March, 2014. —XINHUA

Thailand may extend state of emergency despite scaled-back protest

BANGKOK, 4 March — A state of emergency in Bangkok could be extended until anti-government protests end completely, Thailand's foreign minister said on Tuesday, adding that he feared more violence even though the protests had subsided.

Protests aimed at overthrowing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra are in their fifth month but at the weekend the remaining protesters closed down several big protest sites and moved to a central Bangkok park.

"If Suthep continues with his protest and there are more violent incidents, including grenades thrown, shootings and acts of violence by provocateurs, the

emergency law will have to stay until the situation improves," Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul told reporters.

The protests are led by Suthep Thaugsuban, a former deputy prime minister in a government led by the Democrat Party, now the main opposition party.

"We will wait for security forces, the army and the cabinet to decide before the emergency expires on 22 March," Surapong said.

The government imposed the 60-day emergency in Bangkok on 21 January to prevent an escalation of the protests ahead of a general election on 2 February, which nevertheless was disrupted. The demonstrations are the lat-

Britain urges "clear message" by EU to support Ukraine

LONDON, 4 March — Britain wanted the EU to send a "very clear message of support" through technical and economic assistance to Ukraine, British Minister of State for Europe David Lidington said ahead of an EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting on Monday.

"I hope that we will be able to send a very clear message that the

way forward is for there to be direct contact between the governments of Russia and Ukraine," Lidington said in a statement on arrival at the EU body in Brussels.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague on Monday labeled the current situation in Ukraine as the "biggest crisis" in Europe in this century during his visit to Kiev for

talks with the new Ukrainian government.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told US President Barack Obama over the phone on Saturday that Russia reserves the right to protect its interests and Russian speakers living in Ukraine if violence spreads in eastern Ukrainian regions and Crimea.

Xinhua

Japan, Russia cannot make rapid progress on territorial row

TOKYO, 4 March — Diplomatic negotiations on a long-standing territorial dispute between Japan and Russia are unlikely to move forward swiftly, despite Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to resolve it, Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso said on Tuesday.

"I don't think we are in a situation where we can make rapid progress on the territorial issue," Aso said at a press conference, noting that the state of ties is such that the two countries have not been able to conclude a peace treaty since World War II.

Abe has expressed strong eagerness to settle the dispute over the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

Japan has joined other Group of Seven countries in condemning Russian military intervention in Ukraine.

Tokyo's reaction to Moscow's actions may make it more difficult for Japan to pursue negotiations over the territorial row, some experts say.

Kyodo News



A group of anti-government protesters and some farmers sit on the main road outside the headquarters of the Royal Thai Police in central Bangkok on 4 March, 2014. —REUTERS

est chapter in a conflict that has gripped Thailand for eight years and broadly pits Bangkok's middle class, southern Thais and the royalist establishment against mostly rural supporters of

Yingluck and her brother, ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The protests began in November with attempts to occupy government buildings and spread in Janu-

ary when major roads in the capital were blocked. Those roads reopened on Monday after the protesters withdrew and regrouped in Lumpini Park.

Reuters

UNESCO listing sought for ex-Japanese POWs records

KYOTO, 4 March — A city on the Sea of Japan coast said on Tuesday it will recommend mementos and records it kept of the return home of Japanese prisoners of war detained in the Soviet Union after World War II for entry on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

The city of Maizuru in Kyoto Prefecture was one of a number of ports through which Japanese, both POWs and civilians, were repatriated after the war. It says it aims to have 570 items, including memoirs and drawings composed by the former inmates of Siberian labour camps and the lists of those repatriated aboard Japan-bound ships for Maizuru, recognized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2015.

The exhibits at the

Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum chronicle the arrival of the former POWs and other Japanese repatriates from overseas between 1945 and 1956.

According to the museum, about 660,000 Japanese nationals, including 455,000 ex-POWs from Siberia, were repatriated via Maizuru port between 1945 and 1958. Others came from such areas as China, the Korean Peninsula and islands in the southern Pacific. The Japanese government estimates about 600,000 Japanese soldiers were detained in labour camps in Siberia and Mongolia in the wake of the country's defeat in August 1945. Of them, about 55,000 died due to forced labor, severe living conditions and malnutrition.

Aside from Maizuru, the Japanese central gov-

ernment and the city of Minamikyushu in Kagoshima Prefecture have also made recommendations for listings on the UNESCO register. The government has sought recognition for old documents kept at Toji, a Kyoto Buddhist temple, while Minamikyushu has put forward letters written by World War II kamikaze pilots heading for suicide attacks kept at Chiran Peace Museum.

The Memory of the World programme aims to preserve historical archives and other precious items around the world. Among items already on its roster are the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen issued during the French Revolution and the diaries of Anne Frank from World War II, submitted by the Netherlands.

Kyodo News

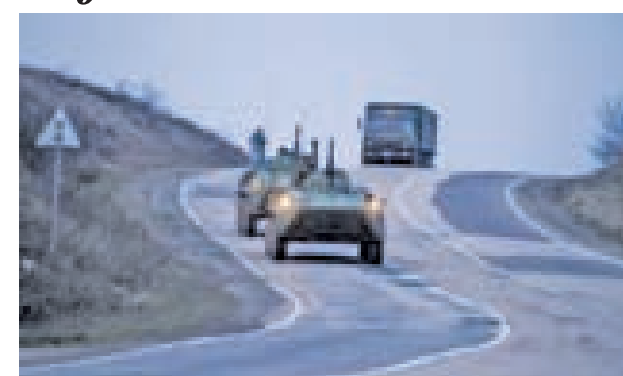
No need to use military force in Ukraine for now: Putin

MOSCOW/KERCH, (Ukraine), 4 March — President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia saw no need to use military force in the Crimea region of Ukraine for now, in remarks apparently intended to ease East-West tension over fears of war in the former Soviet republic.

The use of force by Russia in Ukraine would be a choice of last resort, Putin said, and sanctions being considered against Moscow by the West would be counter-productive.

Putin told a news conference at his state residence outside Moscow there had been an "unconstitutional coup" in Ukraine and ousted leader Viktor Yanukovich, an ally of Russia, was still the legitimate leader of the country despite giving up all power.

Earlier on Tuesday,



Russian military armoured personnel carriers (APC) drive on the road from Sevastopol to Simferopol on 4 March, 2014. —REUTERS

Putin ordered troops involved in a military exercise in western Russia, close to the border with Ukraine, back to their bases.

Russian financial markets rebounded after sharp falls on Monday, and the euro and dollar rose in Japan, though Moscow's forces remained in control of Ukraine's Crimea re-

gion, seized bloodlessly after Yanukovich was ousted last month.

Russia paid a heavy financial price on Monday for its military intervention in Ukraine, with stocks, bonds and the ruble plunging as Putin's forces tightened their grip in Crimea, whose population is mainly ethnic Russian.

Reuters

Report says India 3rd most dangerous place in world in terms of bomb blasts

NEW DELHI, 4 March—India is the third most dangerous place in the world when it comes to bomb blasts, local media reported on Tuesday, citing latest data.

According to the data compiled by the National Bomb Data Centre, India is only behind Iraq and Pakistan in terms of bomb blasts — in fact, these three countries account for almost 75 per cent of explosions in the world.

India witnessed 212 bomb blasts in 2013 —more than double of what Afghanistan (with 108 blasts) suffered, *The Times of India* reported.

While the number of blasts in India decreased from 241 in 2012 to 212 in 2013, casualties went up with 130 deaths and 466 injuries last year as compared to 113 deaths and 419 injuries in 2012, the newspaper said, citing the data.

Between 2004 and 2013, “there have been an average of 298 blasts and 1,337 casualties in India,” it added. —Xinhua



The governors of six prefectures in the northeastern Japan region of Tohoku and other officials concerned gather in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, for a symposium designed to promote regional tourism.—KYODO NEWS

N Korea fires seven projectiles from east coast

SEOUL, 4 March — North Korea fired seven projectiles into waters off its eastern coast on Tuesday, *Yonhap News Agency* reported, citing South Korea’s Defence Ministry.

The North fired three short-range projectiles using a 240-millimetre multiple rocket launcher at around 6 am from Wonsan on its southeastern coast. They flew about 55 kilometres in the northeast direction.

Later in the day beginning at 4:17 pm it launched four more from the same

region that flew 155 km, according to *Yonhap*.

Last Thursday, North Korea fired four projectiles believed to be short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan, according to South Korea’s Defence Ministry.

North Korea began firing long-range projectiles and short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan three days after the United States and South Korea launched their annual military exercise on 24 February.

A spokesman for the South Korean Defence Ministry on Monday con-

demned North Korea’s missile firings as “an abnormal military activity threatening international aviation and also the safety of civilians.”

“The North’s short-range missile firings were made abruptly without giving a prior notice for the safe transportation in the sky and the sea,” he said.

Japan has also lodged a protest with North Korea for launching short-range missiles, saying the missile launches posed a danger to aircraft and shipping in the Sea of Japan.

Kyodo News

Dance tradition keeps disaster memory alive for tsunami-hit district

TOKYO, 4 March—Three years ago, Masayuki Sasayama’s house was swept away by a tsunami. He was temporarily separated from his family and forced to stay in an evacuation shelter, but the tragedy did not stop him from helping preserve his hometown’s traditional performing art.

Sasayama — who was eventually reunited with his family, but who still lives in temporary housing — is a member of a group that performs a Shinto dance and plays music that date back to 1699 and which is a vital part of an annual festival in Iwate Prefecture’s Kamai-

shi city, one of the coastal communities in northeastern Japan hardest-hit by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

Seven months after the disaster, the group began performing the dance again on a regular basis, even if it meant borrowing materials such as drums. Their passion to keep the tradition alive resonated with the private sector and government, both of which have been shifting from post-disaster emergency aid to a long-term rebuilding process that focuses on addressing the psychological care of the affected communities.—Kyodo News



Photo taken 20 Dec, 2013, shows a group from a disaster-hit community in Iwate Prefecture performing in Tokyo. Photo courtesy of organizers.—KYODO NEWS

High tide inundates Marshall Islands capital, hundreds displaced



Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak speaks during an exclusive interview with *Kyodo News* in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, in February 2014.—KYODO NEWS

MAJURO, 4 March — A high tide hit the Marshall Islands on Monday, inundating many parts of the Pacific island nation’s capital Majuro and displacing hundreds of people.

President Christopher Loeak told *Kyodo News* that about 800 people have been displaced already, while his officials said the number is likely to rise as high tides are expected to recur on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening.

The so-called “king tides” are an annual occurrence in the Marshall Is-

lands, but Tony de Brum, minister in assistance to the president, said the phenomenon has in recent years been “much more severe than it used to be.”

He said that aside from the immediate effects of flooding, king tides also aggravate the islands’ problem of shore erosion and threaten to contaminate ground water sources, which could affect crop cultivation.

“Today’s king tide is the worst I’ve seen in years since the 1979 storm surge,” de Brum said.

“This is yet another in-

dication that things are not normal anymore (due to climate change), that king tides can be destructive and be more intensive more often than before,” he added.

Loeak said he met Monday morning with Rose Gottemoeller, the US State Department’s acting under secretary for arms control and international security, on Kili Island, southwest of Majuro, which was also inundated. “So I told her that, ‘See, what we’ve been saying (about climate change effect in the Marshall Islands) is real’,” he said.

Kyodo News

Egypt bans Hamas activities in Egypt

CAIRO, 4 March — An Egyptian court on Tuesday banned all activities of Hamas in Egypt, a judge said, in another sign that security forces plan to squeeze the Palestinian militant group that runs the neighboring Gaza Strip.

Hamas is an offshoot of Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, which has been declared a terrorist group by Egypt’s army-backed government and has faced a security crackdown since the military ousted one of its leaders, Mohamed Mursi, from the presidency last July.

“The court has ordered the banning of Hamas work and activities in Egypt,” the judge, who asked to

remain anonymous, told *Reuters*. Egyptian authorities see Hamas a major security threat, accusing the group of supporting al Qaeda-inspired Islamist insurgents in the Sinai peninsula, allegations it denies.

The court also ordered the closure of Hamas offices in Egypt, one of the judges overseeing the case told *Reuters*.

Hamas condemned the ruling, saying it targeted the Palestinian cause.

The case was filed by a group of Egyptian lawyers last year asking for Hamas to be banned and be designated as a terrorist organization.—*Reuters*

Russia sees suspension of G8 summit in Sochi over Ukraine groundless

MOSCOW, 4 March — Decision by the Group of Eight (G8) to suspend preparations for the summit due in Russia this summer is groundless, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

“This decision is not only deficient politically, it also contradicts the principals of constructive cooperation in that format in the interests of development, global stability, fighting trans-border challenges and threats,” ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said in a statement. Lukashevich said that decision has harmed not only the eight members of the group, but the entire international community.

Moscow has repeatedly explained its positions over the situation in Ukraine, he said, recommending Russia’s partners in the G8 to “study them thoroughly” and said Russia was ready to continue its joint efforts in the frames of the G8.

Earlier in the day, seven members of the G8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States), as well as the European Council and the European Commission issued a joint statement, condemning Russia’s position on Ukraine and declaring suspension of their preparations for the Sochi summit due in June. Also on Monday, Mikhail Margelov, head of Russia’s Federation Council’s International Committee, said the West did not want to discuss situation in Ukraine with Russia.

“Statements about putting preparations to the G8 summit on hold demonstrate (the group’s) unwillingness to jointly discuss the situation in Ukraine,” Margelov told reporters.—Xinhua

WORLD

Japan-EU FTA top priority for Denmark: Thorning-Schmidt

TOKYO, 4 March — Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt called on Tuesday for prompt conclusion of a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union at a meeting in Tokyo with Japanese policymakers.

“Trade and cooperation have thrived for many years but it still holds tremendous potential. I believe that one of the best ways to fulfill this potential is to finalize the free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union,” Thorning-Schmidt said at the meeting to commemorate re-launching of the Japan-Denmark Parliamentary Friendship League.

The league includes some 40 members of the

Japanese parliament, including former Prime Minister Naoto Kan and New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi. LDP lower house member Taro Kono chairs the group.

“This league is a testimony of the excellent relations between our two nations,” Thorning-Schmidt said, expressing her expectations that the group will support the deepening of economic, political and people-to-people ties.

Thorning-Schmidt is slated to meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the afternoon and announce a new strategic partnership aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two sides in such areas as energy, agriculture and life science.—Kyodo News



The presidium of the second session of China's 12th National People's Congress (NPC) hold their first meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 4 March, 2014. The second session of the 12th NPC, the national legislature, is scheduled to open in Beijing on 5 March.—XINHUA

Bin Laden son-in-law goes on trial in US on terrorism charges

NEW YORK, 4 March — Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden, went on trial in New York on Monday, becoming one of the highest-profile defendants to face terrorism charges in the United States.

Prosecutors have accused the Kuwaiti-born Abu Ghaith, 48, of recording videos in Afghanistan on behalf of al-Qaeda immediately following the attacks of 11 Sept, 2001, on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, threatening further violence against Americans.

Defence lawyers argue that the government cannot prove that Abu Ghaith

had any involvement in or knowledge of plots to kill US citizens.

Jury selection began on Monday and should be completed by Wednesday, with opening statements from both sides expected to take place later that day or soon after. The trial is expected to last around a month.

The bearded Abu Ghaith, who could receive life in prison if convicted, sat quietly during the morning, wearing a beige suit and listening to an interpreter translate the proceedings into Arabic.

Nearly 50 prospective jurors gathered in a Manhattan courtroom, where

the newly constructed One World Trade Centre was visible through one of the windows.

As in several other terrorism trials in the United States, the jury will remain anonymous.

During questioning from US District Judge Lewis Kaplan, potential jurors were asked to refrain from revealing any identifying information, such as their names or employers.

Kaplan asked a series of questions about al-Qaeda, potential witnesses and other issues, seeking to determine whether any of them had biases that would affect their ability to remain impartial.

British gov't welcomes “power devolution” recommendations from Wales

LONDON, 4 March — British government on Monday welcomed the publication of a report aimed at giving more autonomous powers to Britain's western region of Wales, according to the British Prime Minister's Office.

The 219-page report, penned by the Commission on Devolution in Wales, examined the powers of the National Assembly for Wales and made 61 recommendations to devolve more legislative powers from Westminster to the local government in Wales.

The recommended changes in the report cover a wide array of areas ranging from intergovern-

mental relations, economy, transport, natural resources, broadcasting, policing and justice to health and social security. “I am proud of (British) Government's record in delivering for Wales and bringing further devolution,” British Prime Minister David Cameron said, adding that the recommendations “propose a new course for the future.”

“The tax and borrowing powers we are devolving will give the Welsh Assembly and Welsh Government additional means to help generate economic growth,” Cameron added, promising to “give careful thought” to each of the recommendations.—Xinhua

Reuters

Iran stresses “peaceful” nature of nuclear activities

TEHERAN, 4 March — Iran stressed the peaceful nature of the country's nuclear activities ahead of another round of talks with world powers to pave way for a comprehensive agreement on its controversial nuclear drive.

Iran's nuclear program is undoubtedly peaceful and the West knows about it, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was quoted as saying by Iran Daily on Monday.

“The International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) conducted thousands of hours of inspections in Iran's nuclear program and found no indication of diversion to weapons-grade activities,” Rouhani said.

“All of them (Western powers) have no doubt that the nuclear science in this country follows a peaceful course,” Rouhani said ahead of an expert-level meeting on the country's nuclear program.

On Monday, it was announced here that expert-level nuclear talks

to discuss the details of a possible comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear issue will start in the Austrian capital Vienna on Wednesday.

The talks, which follow a senior-level meeting in February, will last for three days until Friday, said Hamid Baeidnejad, the director general for political and international affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, who also heads Iran's expert-level nuclear negotiating team.

Xinhua



People wear masks on the streets of Beijing, China, due to severe air pollution on 3 March, 2014. KYODO NEWS

Critical mass not needed for supernova explosions: ANU study

CANBERRA, 4 March — Astronomers searching for clues about dark energy, the mysterious force that is speeding up the expansion of the Universe, have uncovered new evidence about the nature of supernovae, finding many are lighter than scientists had expected, the Australian National University (ANU) reported on Tuesday. The findings, from an international team from the Nearby Supernova Factory project, overturn previous understanding of white dwarf stars and raise new questions about how these stars explode.

“White dwarfs are dead stars, the corpses of stars that were once like our Sun. They won’t explode on their own — they need another star to help blow them up,” said ANU astronomer Dr Richard Scalzo, who led the latest research. “We now know

it’s much easier to blow them up than we used to think.” A supernova is a star that explodes and shines much more brilliantly as it reaches the end of its life.

By studying “nearby” Type Ia (1a) supernovae, within a billion light years from earth, astronomers can then compare them with older and fainter supernovae even further out in space, allowing them to measure distances in the universe.

Scalzo said most of the supernovae his team studied had blown up well before dinosaurs walked on Earth. He said astronomers had previously believed white dwarfs needed to be around 1.4 times the mass of the Sun before they could explode. Using the University of Hawaii’s 2.2-metre telescope, his team studied 19 Type Ia supernovae. By carefully

watching how quickly the supernovae faded away after their brightest point, and comparing to calculations made by computer, the team could then “weigh” each explosion to figure out the white dwarf’s mass.

They were surprised to find that as many as half were well below the previously-assumed tipping point for an explosion. That meant the life the dying stars led and the cause of their violent deaths, also had to be totally different from what scientists once thought. Scalzo said the ultimate aim of the research was to better understand dark energy, for which the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to ANU professor Brian Schmidt, Adam Riess from Johns Hopkins University, and Saul Perlmutter from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

“Brian Schmidt used



type Ia supernovae to discover that dark energy exists,” he said. “We’re now trying to understand what it is. This new information about how white dwarfs explode is a huge step forward towards that goal.” Cosmologist Greg Aldering, who leads the international Nearby Supernova Factory in Berkeley,

said “This is a significant advance in furthering Type Ia supernovae as cosmological probes for the study of dark energy.”

Scalzo was previously based in the Nearby Supernova Factory headquarters at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, and is a member of the Centre of Excellence for

All-sky Astrophysics. The ARC Centre of Excellence for All-sky Astrophysics (CAASTRO) is a collaboration between The Australian National University and a number of Australian universities. The latest findings are published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. —Xinhua

Cybercrime hits financial firms hardest



An employee works near screens in the virus lab at the headquarters of Russian cyber security company Kaspersky Labs in Moscow on 29 July, 2013.
REUTERS

LONDON, 4 March — Cybercrime is the second most common type of fraud reported by financial firms, more than double the level across other industries, as criminals turn increasingly to technology as their main weapon against banks, a survey showed.

Some 39 percent of financial services companies that suffered from economic crime last year said

they had been hit by cybercrime, compared to 17 percent in other industries, according to the survey by consultancy PwC. Banks in Europe and the United States are being told by regulators to toughen their defenses against cyber attacks, which have grown more frequent and severe as criminals and “hacktivists” become more sophisticated. Banks are often tar-

geted for financial gain, but sometimes it is to disrupt business.

Hundreds of bankers took part in simulated “cyber attacks” last year in New York and London to test their resilience to such threats. PwC said its survey even appeared to underestimate the scale of attacks, saying its experience showed a clear majority of financial firms had suf-

fered cybercrime last year. “Cybercrime is growing and the methods are constantly evolving. We see no abatement in attacks on banks’ infrastructure,” said Andrew Clark, a partner in PwC’s forensics practice.

Some 45 percent of financial firms were victims of fraud last year, PwC’s 2014 global economic crime survey showed. The survey, based on responses from 1,330 companies in 79 countries, showed theft was responsible for the highest share of economic crime, followed by cybercrime, money laundering, accounting fraud and bribery and corruption. External fraudsters are behind most of the economic crime. The survey said most internal frauds were committed by junior staff or middle managers. The profile of the typical internal fraudster is a male aged 31-50, with a university education. —Reuters

Government spying tools will worsen Internet security

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 March — Electronic spying tools used by the US government could end up in the hands of organized criminals and hackers, further eroding Internet security, warned industry leaders who called for new restrictions and oversight of government activity. “It is a big worry” that the methods will spread, said Andrew France, former deputy director of the UK’s NSA equivalent, GCHQ, and now chief executive of security startup Darktrace.

The government habit of purchasing information about undisclosed holes in software is also “really troublesome,” said former White House cyber security advisor Howard Schmidt. “There’s collateral damage.”

Both France and Schmidt spoke to Reuters

at the annual RSA Conference, the world’s largest cyber security gathering, in San Francisco last week. RSA is the security division of electronic storage maker of EMC Corp.

Security researchers say that secret state tools tend to fall into the hands of mobsters and eventually lone hackers.

That trend could worsen after former spy contractor Edward Snowden disclosed US National Security Agency capabilities for breaking into Cisco Systems Inc routers, Dell Inc computer servers and all kinds of personal computers and smartphones, industry leaders and experts warned at the RSA conference and two smaller gatherings in San Francisco convened partly to discuss RSA’s government deals.

Reuters

Australia’s mean temperature warms almost 1C since 1910

CANBERRA, 4 March — Temperatures across Australia were, on average, almost 1C warmer than they were a century ago, a latest report of Australia’s climate change showed on Tuesday. The latest State of the Climate 2014 by Australian national science agency CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology is a snapshot of how Australia’s climate has changed over the last two years. It is the third report in a series and follows earlier reports in 2010 and 2012. According to its findings, Australia’s mean temperature has warmed by 0.9C since 1910. And seven of the 10 warmest years on record in Australia have occurred since 1998.

When scientists compared the past 15 years to the period 1951 to 1980, they found that the frequency of very warm months has increased five-fold and

the frequency of very cool months has decreased by around a third. “The duration, frequency and intensity of heatwaves have increased across large parts of Australia since 1950,” Bureau Chief Executive Dr. Rob Vertessy said in a statement. “Extreme fire weather risk has increased, and the fire season has lengthened across large parts of Australia since the 1970s,” Rob added.

And CSIRO Chief Executive Dr. Megan Clark also confirmed Australia has warmed in every state and territory and in every season. “Australia has one of the most variable climates in the world. Against this backdrop, across the decades, we’re continuing to see increasing temperatures, warmer oceans, changes to when and where rain falls and higher sea levels,” Dr Clark said on Tuesday. —Xinhua



A National Security Agency (NSA) data gathering facility is seen in Bluffdale, about 25 miles (40 km) south of Salt Lake City, Utah, on 16 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

NATIONAL

Leaders from BIMSTEC member countries meet at MICC

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—The leaders from BIMSTEC member countries who attended the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit met separately after the meeting at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC), here, today.

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa

at 1 p.m. and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the afternoon. Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa also met with Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala at 3:30 p.m. and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 4.30 p.m. The Nepalese Prime Minister held talks with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister at 5 p.m.—MNA

U Htay Aung presents his Credentials to Singaporean President

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—U Htay Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, on 27 February 2014, in Singapore.

MNA

Press conference on holding Myanmar Golf Tour 2014

YANGON, 4 March—A press conference on holding Myanmar Golf Tour 2014 that will be jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Professional Golfers Association (MPGA) and sponsored by Ayeyawady Bank, United Amara Bank, Myawady Bank, Asia Green Development Bank and Innwa Bank, took place at Centre Hotel (Jade Hall) on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon on Tuesday.

Vice-President of MGF U Aung Kyi made a speech and Vice-President of MPGA U Chan Han explained matters related to the tour.

The vice-presidents of MGF and MPGA made clarifications on the queries raised by the media men.

Myanmar Golf Tour 2014 will be held at Royal Myanmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw from 13 to 16 March, at Yangon Golf Course in Yangon from 6

to 9 May, at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin from 19 to 22 June, at Shwemantaung Golf Club in Mandalay from 7 to 10 August, at Bagan Golf Course in Bagan from 16 to 19 October and at Royal Myanmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw from 27 to 30 November.

It is learnt that transportation for the participants has been arranged in order to take part in the golf events conveniently.

NLM

Discussion on development of responsible investments held



Discussion on development of responsible investments in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 4 March—The discussion on local and foreign reviews relating to development of responsible investments was held at Traders Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday morning.

At the discussion, reviews on Myanmar Investment Policy of the Or-

ganization for Economic Co-operation and Development-OECD, rules and regulation and preliminary task for the development of responsible investments practices, experience on international responsible investments, implementation of OECD for international

investments and prospects for future cooperation were discussed. The officials of Investment and Company Administration, OECD members, Foreign Embassies to Myanmar, UMFCFI and local and foreign investment partners attended the discussion.—MNA

Globetrotter Bus arrives Mandalay through Asian Highways

MANDALAY, 4 March—Globetrotter Bus passed Muse through Chinese border gate along Asian Road and arrived in Mandalay on 1 March. After visiting around downtown of Mandalay, they left for Monywa on 3 March.

The globetrotter bus led by Mr Farias, Juan from Italy and members arrived in Myanmar on 26 February. The

tourists will visit Muse, Hsipaw, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Monywa, Bagan, Kalaw, Inlay, Bago, Yangon, Kyaiktho, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Myawady and will leave for Thailand on 16 March.

“On arrival at Mandalay, they will visit Myansankyaw Golden Palace, Mandalay Hill, Kuthodaw, Shwekyaunggyi, Phayagyi, handicrafts shops and they

viewed sun set on U Bein Bridge”, said U Than Zaw, tour guide who was accompanied them.

As Mandalay is a focal point of Asian Highways, one can travel from Chian to Mandalay, Mandalay to India, from Maesot of Thailand to Mandalay passing through Myawady Border Gate and then to India and China.—002



Foreigners taking
a rest beside
Mandalay Moat.
KYEMON (002)

A slight earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—A slight earthquake of magnitude 2.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 155 miles south of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 07 hrs 46 min 40 sec MST today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Nissan passes Honda in Feb US sales, winter weather hits Toyota

INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS

NEW YORK, 4 March—Amid harsh winter weather, Japan's biggest automaker in the United States posted a second month of decreasing sales while Nissan Motor Co surpassed Honda Motor Co to become the fifth largest manufacturer in the US in February, figures released on Monday by Autodata Corp showed. Overall sales in the US remained relatively flat and continued to be hampered by severe snowstorms with the extreme cold keeping customers away from showrooms in major East Coast and Midwest markets.

Dealers sold 1,193,872 passenger cars and light trucks in the month, 293 less than a year earlier. The total translates into annualized sales of 15.34 million units, staying above the 15 million threshold for the



16th month in a row. Among Japanese automakers, Toyota Motor Corp. sold 159,284 vehicles, down 4.3 percent, making it the third biggest player in the US. The company said weather-related production and delivery disruptions and a 20 percent reduction in fleet sales dragged down sales.

“The unusually harsh winter continues to have an effect on some of the economic activity in general and it certainly had an impact on auto sales in February,” Toyota group vice president Bill Fay said on Monday during a monthly sales call.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 5 March, 2014

Partnership for prosperity

World nations collectively set up organizations involving groups of countries that have similar national and regional interests depending on their geographical situations. ASEAN has emerged as the regional grouping of Southeast Asian countries. The Greater Mekong Sub-Region representing the six countries that share the Mekong River was established. Likewise, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an association of countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal. Nonetheless, all the said organizations have been formed with the aims of protecting the interests of

the people in the regions and bringing them greater prosperity on the notion of interdependency.

Thailand and India are perceived as the key drivers of the establishment of the international organization, BIMSTEC. The emergence of BIMSTEC is the result of an integration Thailand's Look West Policy that is aiming at economic expansion to its neighbouring countries located in the west and Look East Policy of South Asian countries that are willing to come closer to the Southeast Asian countries in terms of economic cooperation. The sub-regional grouping of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand was formed on 6 June, 1997. Myanmar joined the organization as a full member in that December. In 2014, full membership was granted to Bhutan and Nepal.

Its first Summit was held in Bangkok on 31 July, 2004 and second Summit in New Delhi on 11-13 November, 2008. Myanmar hosted the third Summit in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 March.

It is expected that this Summit with the presence of the leaders of the seven-nation bloc will be of great benefit to Myanmar people, especially in technology, investment and trade sectors. BIMSTEC is working on its fourteen priority sectors and Myanmar is taking a lead in agriculture and energy sectors.

It is a significant moment for Myanmar hosting this Summit. It is because BIMSTEC Summit in Myanmar coincided with Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. That's why, it can be said that there will be plenty of opportunity for Myanmar in the year 2014. Myanmar's geographical location serving as a bridge between the two organizations—BIMSTEC and ASEAN—will be the advantage of Myanmar to bring substantial benefits for her. Myanmar needs to grasp this golden opportunity paving the fast way for prosperity for shaping the nation into a developed one.

President U Thein Sein receives Sri Lankan counterpart, Nepalese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—President U Thein Sein received Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 2 pm on Tuesday.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa.—MNA

BIMSTEC ...

(from page 1)

Since 2007, India's National Tsunami Early Warning Centre is providing early warnings to Indian Ocean Rim countries on a regular basis. Meanwhile, the BIMSTEC would establish its Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and start functions in May.

Sheikh Hasina also expressed her confidence that the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat would generate the momentum necessary for the implementation of all decisions of BIMSTEC and would receive all support from all member countries.

BIMSTEC includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

NLM

Climate change is very urgent for everyone: Mr Salman Khurshid

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 March—Media persons of the News and Periodicals EnterPrise yesterday interviewed Indian External Affairs Minister Mr Salman Khurshid on BIMSTEC. The following is the questions and answer of the interview. Ed

Q: How the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate which will be established in India can contribute to the region and Myanmar?

A: There have been set up (the BIMSTEC Centre

of bilateral cooperation in BIMSTEC, further cementing relations between the two peoples, launching of flights between the two countries and cooperation in agriculture.

for Weather and Climate. This is the collective project. The climate change is very urgent for everyone, for agriculture, for climate, for disaster management. This is very important and critical project we have been working together.

Q: How much the annual expenditure of the permanent secretariat?

A: I don't know what the budget. We (India) 've agreed to provide the 32% of the budget.

NLM



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala and party.—MNA

They also exchanged experience on resolving conflicts. Diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka were established in 1949. Sri Lankan President Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa has visited Myanmar two times in 2004 and in 2009. Now is the third time.

Likewise, President U Thein Sein held talks with

Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Sushil Koirala and party at the same venue at 4 pm on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on greening and development of Lumbini Garden, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, tourism industry development and promotion of relations between the two peoples.

They, as well, concen-

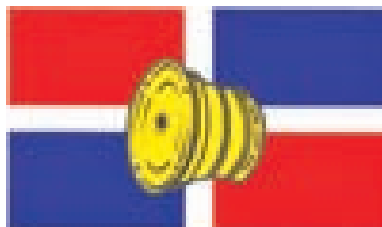
trated on potentials to create direct flights between the two countries. Besides, they exchanged experience on hydropower generation and peace-building process. Myanmar and Nepal have established their diplomatic relations since 1960.

The Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to Myanmar is the first time.—MNA

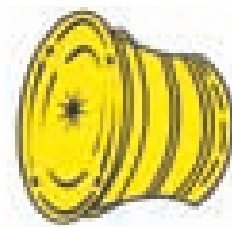
Public announcement for remonstrations

1. Kayin People's Party headquartered at No 632 (d/16) on Arzarni Street at No. 4 Junction in Ward 5 in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region, registered by Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law, submitted its applications to change its flag and seal with the flag and seal described hereunder on 5-3-2014.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who want to remonstrate about the flag and seal, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of the announcement.

Flag of Kayin People's Party



Seal of Kayin People's Party



Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, Media Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill and Media Bill at its session on Tuesday.

Joint Bill Committee submitted its report on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Development Fund Bill that was sent back by the President with comments to the parliament. The report recommended the Bill to be approved in accord with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the Bill focusing on the interests of the country and its people is in conformity with the Constitution.

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved bill will be sent back to the President.

Regarding the Bills amending the Income Tax Law and Commercial Tax Law and 2014 Union Taxation Bill, members of the Joint Bill Committee presented the committee's findings to the parliament.

Approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the two bills—the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill and Media Bill—that raised disputes between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw was sought in the parliament.

Inspection and registration procedures for the vessels with engines that are not more than the capacity of 20 HP have already been announced and rules and regulations for

them will be set after the enactment of Inland Vessel Law which is underway, said Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw at the today's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

The report submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw Government's guarantees, pledges and undertakings vetting committee suggested that damage happens to some development facilities such as roads and bridges and dams before their durability periods are over due to violation of prescribed rules and regulations by some locals. The report called on media to play a constructive role in informing the people of the development projects in a

transparent way.

At the today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung responded to the question on construction of a pulp factory near Namtsuam creek in Lashio that instructions had already been given to the factory owner to stop construction works. According to Shan State Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department that paid an inspection tour on 13 February, 2014, construction had been suspended and only a guard was found at the abandoned site.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung submitted Bills to

amend the Civil Aviation Law and the International Interested Law and the Hluttaw approved to discuss the two Bills.

Before Amyotha Hluttaw National Planning and Development Project Affairs Committee's report on work progress in the third quarter of FY 2013-2014 was approved at the today's session, Daw Khin Wine Kyi discussed the report, highlighting the importance of strict adherence to rules and regulations of extractive industries and the need for acquisition of capital and technological assistance from the government.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met the chiefs of armed forces and delegations from Brunei, Cambodia, the Philippines and Singapore who will attend 11th ASEAN Chief of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) in Myanmar at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday evening separately.

Both sides discussed matters on promoting friendship and relations between the two armed forces and strengthening cooperation in ASEAN.

The chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries held separate talks at the same venue in the evening.

A ceremony to host

dinner to the delegations from ASEAN countries who will attend 11th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and 4th ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) took place Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 March.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Chief of Armed Forces of Singapore Lt-Gen Ng Chee Meng.—MNA



3rd BIMSTEC Summit...

(from page 1)

Underline the need for enhancing regional cooperation in the energy sector, welcome the holding of the Third BIMSTEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in Nepal in 2014 and also the Fourth BIMSTEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in Bhutan in 2015, and recognize the role of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, India, in this context.

Express satisfaction at the continuing work on developing physical connectivity in BIMSTEC region and the progress made in updating the BTILS supported by the Asian Development Bank for enhancement of inter-regional connectivity, transport infrastructure and logistics, and welcome efforts to identify concrete projects for implementation.

Express satisfaction at the progress made in implementing tourism cooperation programmes and in following up the Plan of Action on Tourism; and encourage the Member States realize the enormous tourism potential of the region by enhancing cooperation in this field, particularly through facilitating engagements among the private sector in the Member States.

Resolve to continue cooperation in the area of fisheries, including inland fisheries, and conservation and management and sustainable use of marine resources in the Bay of Bengal region.

Reiterate our commitment to continue and enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture, including crops, livestock and horticulture; and decide to intensify cooperative efforts by materializing short and long term joint research programmes towards increased productivity and yields of agricultural produce in the region.

Resolve to enhance cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development and promote capacity building in the area of disaster management.

Recognize that deepening of cultural cooperation among the Member States can also contribute towards the promotion of socio-economic development of the region driven by cultural industries.

Agree to enhance cooperation in the health sector, including on traditional medicine, and to intensify our efforts to promote activities of the BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in traditional medicine.

Reiterate our commitment to expand efforts to further promote people-to-people exchanges and linkages, at various levels among the BIMSTEC Member States, including facilitating travels through the BIMSTEC Business Visa Scheme and the BIMSTEC Visa Exemption Scheme.

Welcome the setting up of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks and agree to cooperate and coordinate for organizing short-term activities such as workshops, seminars, and exchange programmes, including audio visual programmes, on building public awareness on BIMSTEC.

Agree to implement the BIMSTEC Poverty Plan of Action adopted at the second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation held in January 2012 in Nepal, and welcome the offer by Sri Lanka to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation during the first half of 2014.

Express satisfaction at the close cooperation between law enforcement agencies of Member States in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, call for expediting the ratification for entry into force of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking and also for the early signing of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Agree to explore collaborative initiatives amongst the Member States towards addressing the adverse impacts of climate change in the BIMSTEC region.

Agree to intensify efforts to deepen cooperation in all areas of activities within the framework of BIMSTEC, including strengthening institutional mechanisms.

Welcome the signing of the following BIMSTEC Instruments:

- Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat.
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO)
- Memorandum of Association Among BIMSTEC Member Countries Concerning Establishment of a BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate.

Convey appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for providing the premises for the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and also express satisfaction at the progress made towards the operationalization of the Secretariat.

Welcome the appointment of Mr. Sumith Nakanada of Sri Lanka as the first Secretary General of BIMSTEC.

Convey deep appreciation to Myanmar for the able stewardship of BIMSTEC from 2009, and welcome Nepal as the new Chair of BIMSTEC.

We, the leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Thailand, express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangement made for the Summit.

4 March 2014

Nay Pyi Taw.



Shwegondine overpass handing over ceremony today

YANGON, 4 March— Of the high overpasses in Yangon, Shwegondine overpass was constructed with turns using Steel Box Girder system including voice control systems in order to reduce environmental noise, said an official from the company Capital Development Limited (CDL).

The construction task was undertaken by engineers from CDL under the supervision of Yangon City Development Committee.

With 45.59 feet wide and 2059.55 feet long the

overpass 4-lane reinforced concrete type. The overpass can withstand 6-ton load and with 60 km in speed.

The handover ceremony to Yangon City Development Committee will be held on 5 March.

Myo Min Thein
(Mayangon)

Knowledge on census taking process shared in Bago Region

TOUNGGOO, 4 March— Knowledge on taking census process was shared together with entertainments of celebrities at Yayni, Swa, Toungoo, Ottwin, Pyu townships in Toungoo

District in Bago Region on 2 March.

Thi Lay Thi comedienne and singer Eaint Chit entertained the locals sharing knowledge on taking census process.

Besides, Daw Swe Zin Htike explained 41 questions related to census taking process and distributed hats and T-shirts to the public.

Pyay



Engineers from rural region development seen on tour of inspection in placing asphalt on 1.5 mile long Pharchaung-Maekanel road undertaken by Min Pyae Sone Co. Ltd under the supervision of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries in Myawady Township in Myawady District.
Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)

INTERVIEW

Interview with Director-General U Tun Lwin Oo of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems



Director-General U Tun Lwin Oo of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

“Arrangements are being made for acquisition of capital and technology needed for formulation of main project for waterway improvement in Ayeyawady River from the World Bank.”

The following is the translation of an interview with Director-General U Tun Lwin Oo of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport which is carrying out conservation works for sustainability of water resources.

Q: Let me know the number of branches in states

and regions.

A: A total of 10 branches are being kept open in states and regions. These branches are dealing with riverbank erosion in coordination with the region/state governments. Bank erosion protection is being carried by with the assistance of financial support from the region/state funds technical support from the department. Budget allocation for the department is being used for the improvement of Ayeyawady and Chindwin waterways that play a vital role in inland water transport.

Q: Why is the conservation of Ayeyawady and Chindwin waterways important?

A: It is because the two rivers serve as the important waterways for the people. Works for improvement of river systems are in progress in Ayeyawady delta region where the department is cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

on preventive measures against flood. Likewise, the department is taking part in dredging of sandbanks as part of efforts for the development of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Rakhine State.

Works are underway to tackle waterway disruptions in Ayeyawady River near Mandalay and Magway in summer depending on budget allocation. The government provided 19 dredgers for work progress.

Q: Is there further plan for waterway conservation apart from ongoing works?

A: Real-time efforts are being made in conducting detailed feasibility studies along the Ayeyawady River for its waterway improvement and sandbank dredging works are in progress as a short-term solution. Arrangements are being made for acquisition of capital and technology needed for formulation of main project for waterway improvement in

Ayeyawady River from the World Bank.

Q: How about ongoing Chindwin waterway improvement plan?

A: So far dredging of sandbank along the 507-mile river has been completed by 75 percent.

Q: How about sandbank dredging measures being undertaken along Ayeyawady River?

A: We dredged sandbanks near Bagan harbour in order to let more water into the second waterway for smooth transport. It can thereby contribute towards more supply of water for agriculture purpose in summer through Lawka Nanda river water pumping project.

Q: May I know about riverbank erosion?

A: Erosion happens to riverbank on partly sandy soil. Moreover, erosion occurs at river bends. Although the department is mainly responsible for the improvement of river systems, it takes care of riverbank erosion repair works financed by the region/state governments.

**Interview: Thura Zaw (Insein)
Photos: Naing Win (MNA)**

nanced by the region/state governments.

Q: Please explain waterway conservation works in Yangon River?

A: The department is conducting feasibility study on Twantay Canal for the upgrade of it in cooperation with foreign experts. The main aim is to carry out feasibility studies not only for improvement of water transport along the canal but also for establishment of a small-scale hydropower plant.

Q: Is there anything to inform the people?

A: The department is mainly responsible for waterway improvement in the main rivers of the country for smooth and speedy water transport. Implementation of the tasks has been carried out with the use of the budget allocation and contributions of the people. The department is making great strides in successful realization of the state's priorities as well as better public convenience of water transport.

Thank you.
Trs:YM



Sandbank dredging works are working on all cylinders.

REGIONAL

Nepal tells Mt Everest climbers to bring down 8 kg of waste each

KATHMANDU, 4 March — Nepal has launched a new campaign to clear Mt Everest's image as the "world's highest garbage dump," requiring all climbers to take at least 8 kilograms of garbage on their descent.

"From this spring, every individual who goes above Mt Everest Base Camp must bring down 8

kilograms or more of garbage," Madhu Sudan Burlakoti, head of the Tourism Industry Division of the Tourism Ministry, told *Kyodo News*.

Upon descent, climbers and support staff are required to hand over the garbage to a pollution control unit at the Base Camp, which will destroy biodegradable waste there and

transport non-biodegradable waste to Kathmandu for disposal.

Hundreds of climbers climb the 8,848-meter peak every year and leave behind cooking gas cylinders, plastic wrappers, empty food cans, ropes, ladders, ice pitons, tent poles, and other climbing paraphernalia.

In the six decades

since Edmund Hillary of New Zealand became the first person to climb the world's tallest mountain, it is believed about 50 tons of garbage have been left on the mountain. Around 4,000 people have tried to scale the peak.

"Although climbers were asked to bring down garbage from the mountain in the past, a compulsory

minimum had not been set and monitoring was poor," said Ang Tshering Sherpa, honorary member of International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation.

"The new rule will ensure the mountain is kept clean," he added.

According to government estimates, climbers moving above the Base

Camp produce an average of 7 to 8 kg of garbage each.

With the new rule in place, the government expects 7.2 tons of garbage to be brought down to the Base Camp this year alone.

This is based on an estimate that 900 people will climb above the Base Camp this year.

Kyodo News

Singaporean naval ship visits Vietnam

HANOI, 4 March — Singaporean Endurance class amphibious transport dock ship *RSS Resolution* docked at Tien Sa port in Vietnam's central Da Nang city on Tuesday.

During the four-day visit, the crew with 250 members is scheduled to join Vietnamese navy in an exercise on search and rescue at sea among other activities.

This is the ninth visit to Vietnam by a Singaporean naval ship, reported Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA.

Xinhua



All Nippon Airways Co. pilot Michihiko Tanaka sits in the cockpit of a Boeing 747 at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 18 Dec, 2013. The Japanese airline plans to withdraw the jumbo jets from its domestic service at the end of March 2014 in Tokyo.—KYODO NEWS

Philippine gov't urges Filipino workers in Ukraine to avoid going to public places

MANILA, 4 March — The Philippine Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) advised Monday overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Ukraine to stay calm and stay home, and not to make any unnecessary visit or detours to public places where marches or protests are being held.

DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz made the advice while the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has not recommended yet any voluntary or mandatory repatriation of OFWs from the said country. She said her office is "in close contact" with the DFA in monitoring the situation in Ukraine.

Baldoz said data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) show that only 115 OFWs were deployed to Ukraine in 2013 and 57 in 2012, or a total of 175. Most of the OFWs deployed were administrative and managerial workers while the rest were service workers.

The DFA has strongly advised all Filipinos in Ukraine to communicate with the Philippine Embassy in Moscow and inform the embassy of their whereabouts and their current condition. The Philippines has no embassy in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, but has an honorary consul there.

Xinhua

S.Korea to offer talks with DPRK for regular family reunion

SEOUL, 4 March — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday instructed officials to begin talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to hold family reunions regularly, heralding Seoul's offer for such dialogue in the near future.

Park said during a cabinet meeting that the Unification Ministry and the Red Cross should start consulting with their DPRK counterparts to realize regular reunions, exchange of

letters, video reunions and confirmation of life and death between families separated by the Korean War. The president said that time is running out for the separated families due to old age, noting that at least 6,000 people should be allowed to meet their relatives per year to let the war-divided families meet their relatives at least once before they die.

Millions of Koreans have been separated since the three-year Korean

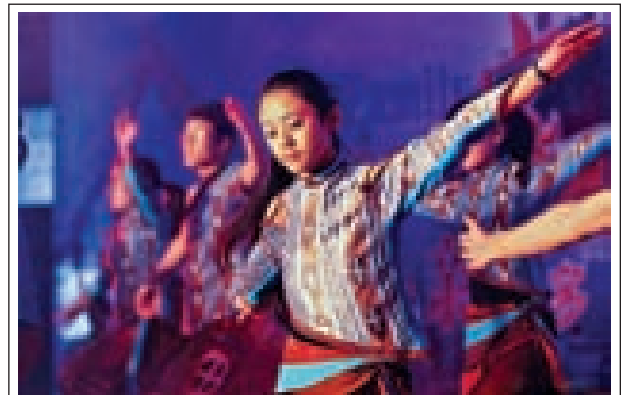
War ended in armistice, not peace treaty, in 1953. Around 22,000 Koreans met their long-lost relatives at 19 rounds of family reunions from 1985 to 2014.

The 19th round of the six-day family reunion ended on 25 Feb in the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kumgang. Hundreds of Koreans met their long-lost relatives for the first time in six decades as they have been banned from exchanging letters and phone calls since 1953.

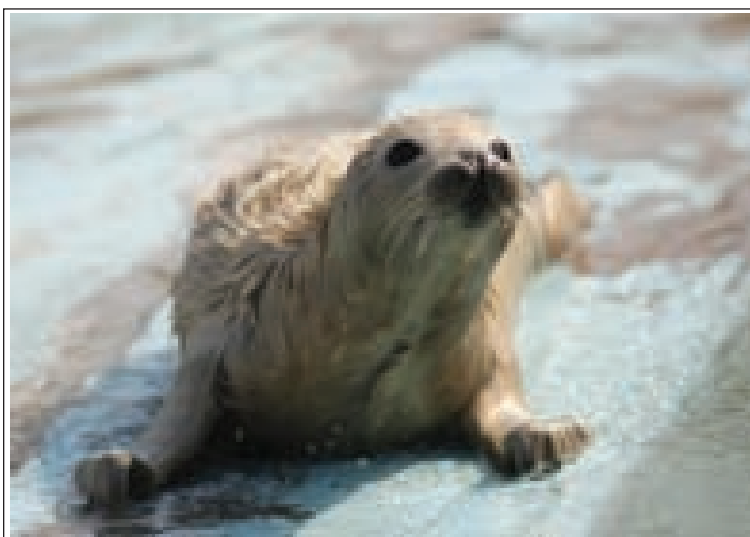
According to the government data, more than 70,000 South Koreans have been on the waiting list for the family reunion since 1988, with all the applicants expected to pass away within 20 years from now due to old age.

Park proposed last Saturday to the DPRK regularizing face-to-face reunion at a ceremony marking the 1919 nationwide uprising against the 1910-45 Japanese colonial rule.

Xinhua



Students of Nantong Tibetan Ethnic Middle School perform Tibetan folk dance in Nantong City, east China's Jiangsu Province, 2 March, 2014. Youth of Tibetan ethnic group in Nantong celebrated the Tibetan New Year on Sunday. The Tibetan New Year, which falls on Sunday this year according to the Tibetan calendar, is the most important festival for Tibetans.—XINHUA



A newborn spotted seal cub is seen at the Dongpaotai Scenic Area in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, on 2 March, 2014. Two spotted seal cubs were born here on 21 and 25 Feb respectively. XINHUA

Indonesian volunteers help displaced persons in Syria

JAKARTA, 4 March — In an effort to provide relief for those displaced by the long and weary war in the Middle East country of Syria, Indonesia has offered food and necessities to Syrian people in refugee camps.

The effort has been made by volunteers of Indonesian humanitarian organization of Rapid Response Action (ACT) op-

erating in Babussalamah refugee camp in A'zaz near Syria's border with Turkey.

An ACT volunteer Yusrirsyah Sirin who has been in the camp in the past month said that the camp was packed with at least 8,000 children. The ACT has sent large amount of donation and five batches of volunteers to Syria including doctors and nurses, Yusrirsyah told *Xinhua* on

Monday. He said that the donation was used to buy food, blankets and jackets for the refugees as temperature has dropped to four degrees Celsius at present.

The ACT, which has been focusing on helping orphan children in refugee camps, planned to set up a bread factory for immediate supply of food for the refugees, Yusrirsyah said.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) 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 KULNATEE CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (062)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (062) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2014 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2014 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (229)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (229) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (371)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (371) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2014 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VASI SHIPPING 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 Extinguisher (ABCE)	KS

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

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Celanese International Corporation, of 1401 West LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75234, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

ECOVAE

Reg. No. 5876/2011

in respect of "vinyl acetate/ethylene (VAE) emulsions for use in formulation of paints and coatings".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Ma Tin
M.A. HGP, DBL
for Celanese International Corporation
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 5 March 2014.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BANGLA RKAKOLI VOY NO (108B)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGLA RKAKOLI VOY NO (108B) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) 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 BAY LINE**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

*Algerian President
Abdelaziz Bouteflika
is seen in car when
heading for candidacy
registration at the
Constitutional Council
in Algiers, Algeria,
on 3 March, 2014.
Abdelaziz Bouteflika
on Monday submitted
to the Constitutional
Council his application
for contesting presidency
in the 17 April elections,
seeking a fourth term
in office.
XINHUA*



Fijian military's new commander confirmed: state media

SUVA, 4 March — Fiji's current Land Force Commander Col Mosese Tikoitoga will replace Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama as the new commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), the government-owned Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) reported on Tuesday.

Bainimarama has revealed to FBC that Tikoitoga's appointment has been endorsed by Fijian President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.

Tikoitoga is expected to take on the new role from Wednesday when Bainimarama makes the official hand-over.

Bainimarama, a naval officer who came to power

after the 2006 coup, told FBC that the handover ceremony is not to farewell him, but to welcome the new commander. The Fijian government has pledged to hold a general election by the end of September this year, and Bainimarama has said that he will form a political party to run for the upcoming election.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT & ADVERTISEMET

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, Bayintnaung Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

KHK Company Limited

Ph- 01-681553 / 01-681570

Ellen's Oscar 'selfie' crashes Twitter, breaks record



Host Ellen DeGeneres takes a group picture at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Is this the year the “selfie” stole the Oscars? A self-portrait of host Ellen DeGeneres and stars including Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper taken during Hollywood’s annual Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday quickly became the most shared photo ever on Twitter.

“We got an email from Twitter and we crashed and broke Twitter. We have made history,” DeGeneres

said shortly after access to the social media site was disrupted due to sharing of her star-studded picture.

Kevin Spacey, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and new Oscar winner Lupita Nyong’o, also crowded into the picture, which was snapped by Cooper with DeGeneres mingled with stars seated in the audience.

“I’ve never tweeted before!” Streep, a three-time Oscar winner, gushed after Cooper snapped the

photo with a mobile device. DeGeneres shared the selfie via her Twitter feed here

It was shared, or retweeted, more than 2 million times in some two hours during the broadcast of the 86th annual Academy Awards.

The photo surpassed the record set by US President Barack Obama’s “Four More Years” re-election victory shot.

The picture of Obama hugging first lady Michelle

Oscar telecast scores highest audience in a decade

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Sunday’s Oscar telecast drew 43 million viewers in the United States, delivering the biggest audience for the Academy Awards in a decade, but divided critics, who mostly liked host Ellen DeGeneres but thought the show ran too long.

Nielsen ratings data on Monday showed the audience that watched slavery drama “12 Years a Slave” capture the best picture honor grew 6.4 percent from last year.

That is a positive sign for broadcaster ABC, which has signed on to host



Lupita Nyong’o, best supporting actress winner for her role in “12 Years a Slave”, speaks on stage at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Hollywood’s biggest night through 2020.

The Oscars attract the biggest non-sports TV audience in the United States each year, and the show drew its largest viewership since 2004, when 43.6 million tuned in. Producers’ middle-of-the-road ap-

proach to the show with DeGeneres hosting gave the Walt Disney Co-owned network similar results among younger viewers compared with last year, when they gambled with edgier comedian Seth MacFarlane as host.

Reuters

Sony to release new DVD/CD of legendary Bob Dylan tribute concert

NEW YORK, 4 March —In the fall of 1992, a group of music industry legends converged on New York City to pay tribute to Bob Dylan by performing his songs at a concert that has come to be seen as one of the most exciting in rock history. This week, Sony Music Entertainment will release “Bob Dylan — The 30th Anniversary Concert Celebration,” a new, high-definition DVD/CD edition of the concert at Madison Square Garden. The show marked Dylan’s 30-year recording career with Columbia Records, now a division of Sony. PBS will begin airing the new version beginning on 4 March.

The lineup that night included Beatle George Harrison, Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood, Eric Clapton, Neil Young, Johnny Cash, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers and members of The Band and Pearl Jam. Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Lou Reed, Richie Havens, John Mellencamp, Tracy Chapman, The Clancy Brothers, Booker T and the MGs, and G E Smith also performed. “It was incredible,” Smith, a former Saturday Night



US musician Bob Dylan (R) performs on the second day of the Hop Farm Music Festival in Paddock Wood, Kent on 30 June, 2012.

REUTERS

Live bandleader, recalled last week. “I’ve done a lot of things but never anything like that, with so many great people in the same place. Because it was for Bob Dylan, it felt like it really meant something to everyone there.” Smith said the artists’ competitive spirits and reverential respect for Dylan produced some of the most remarkable performances he had ever seen. “It was surreal,” he recalled. “Every two minutes something magical happened.” —Reuters

Oscars 2014: It's not easy being front runner, says Cate Blanchett

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Winning acting honours at other major awards shows didn’t make the Oscars ceremony any easier for Cate Blanchett.

The night figured to be a coronation for the actress, who’d won best actress honours at the Screen Actors Guild, Golden Globe Awards and other shows for her role in Blue Jasmine. Instead, the prospect of waiting until nearly the end of the ceremony proved stressful for the two-time Oscar winner.

“It was an intense, unbearable pressure which I’m so glad is over,” Cate said after her win. “It has been every year.” Cate, who has been nominated for acting Oscars five times, took a hiatus from films in recent years to focus on theatre work. She won a best supporting actress Oscar in 2005 for The Aviator. “Every year I watch this thing remotely and every year there are five, six, 10, 12 or 20 performances by women that I’m gob smacked by and inspired by,” she said. “And it gets whittled down to five. To be in conversation with those women by proxy, that’s the privilege and the rest is just chocolate.” —PTI



Agassi would like to solve Isner riddle, but in no rush to become a coach

LONDON, 4 March — As a player Andre Agassi relied as much on a razor-sharp tennis brain as brute force to collect eight major titles and join a select band of players to complete a career grand slam. Here was nothing he relished more, it seemed, than out-witting the heavy hitters with his lightning fast reflexes, early-struck returns and superior strategies. Times he appeared to be playing a high-speed game of chess on a tennis court, constantly one or two moves ahead of the man on the other side of the net.

No wonder then that the 43-year-old's eyes lit up at the prospect of following the likes of Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker into coaching. With American men's tennis experiencing lean

times compared to the days of Agassi, Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and before that Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, the Las Vegas's brainpower would be sought after in the locker room and practice courts. He even named his perfect sce-

nario on Monday — identifying current American No 1 John Isner as the kind of riddle he would enjoy trying to solve — albeit at a later date.

"Coaching is a heavy responsibility," Agassi told Reuters as he geared up to

take on old rival Sampras in an exhibition match for World Tennis Day in London. "Somebody gets one chance at their career and they trust you with that. I love the problem solving side of the game, it's the part that's most unique and most motivating to me.

"But at the end of the day I'm years away from even considering that based on my schedule and my responsibilities at this time with my family."

Agassi, who is married to Steffi Graf and has two young children, is not discounting moving into coaching in the future once he has an "empty nest" at home. "At a different stage I could see myself enjoying it," said Agassi, who won the last of his grand slam titles at the 2003 Australian Open.—Reuters



Former professional tennis player Andre Agassi attends the men's singles quarterfinal match between Rafael Nadal of Spain and Roger Federer of Switzerland at the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 14 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Brazil in a sweat as 100-day World Cup countdown begins

SAO PAULO, 4 March — With 100 days to go before the World Cup starts, Brazil is in the home straight of the countdown and huffing and puffing to complete stadiums, airports, IT networks and public transportation systems. Four of the 12 venues are still not ready and at least two will not be completed until at least April, two months before Brazil meet Croatia in the opening match on 12 June.

Authorities are also racing against the clock to finish airport terminals and transport systems and to clean up areas around the grounds. Officials at soccer's ruling body FIFA have expressed concern but can do little more than cross their fingers and hope everything

is alright on the night. "I am not a World Cup specialist but I will say this has not been easy for sure," FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke told reporters in Zurich at the weekend.

"I think things will work well but it is also true that whenever you receive something late it becomes a challenge to make it ready in time," Valcke, the man charged with organizing the tournament, prompted a diplomatic uproar in 2012 when he said Brazil needed "a kick up the backside". President Dilma Rousseff replied by

vowing this would be "the World Cup to end all World Cups", a slogan repeated by FIFA boss Sepp Blatter, but others say there are reasons for skepticism. Two of the completed arenas have already shown signs of wear and tear, with part of the roof at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte falling off at the weekend. No one was hurt in the incident.

Reuters



Photo shows Japanese ski jumper Sara Takanashi after posting her 12th World Cup win of the season in Rasnov, Romania, on 2 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Takanashi wins 4th straight World Cup

RASNOV, (Romania), 4 March — Ski jumping queen Sara Takanashi came from behind in windy conditions on Sunday to win her fourth consecutive World Cup title at a meet in Rasnov, Romania, giving her the 12th win of this season. The 17-year-old Takanashi, who clinched the overall World Cup title for the second year in a row with a victory at the same course on Saturday, made a mediocre leap of 85 metres that placed her in second on her first run.

But she had a mammoth effort of 93.5 metres on her second attempt to go atop the standings with a total 230.4 points. It was Takanashi's 21st career win and the third time this season she has won four straight titles.

Kyodo News

MIAMI, (Florida), 4 March — Miami's LeBron James, wearing a protective mask to shield his broken nose, plundered a career-high 61 points in the Heat's 124-107 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday. James, who sustained the injury late last month, drained 22 of his 33 shots. The four-time MVP scored 24 points at halftime and poured in another 25 in the third quarter alone, while making his first eight three-pointers.

The outburst surpassed is previous career high of 56 points set back in 2005 when he played for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

It also fell one point short of Carmelo Anthony's NBA season-high of 62. The Miami crowd at American Airlines Arena showered James with cheers as he strengthened his case for another MVP in a two-man race between himself and Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant.

Reuters

Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) makes a shot as Charlotte Bobcats center Al Jefferson (25) and shooting guard Gary Neal (12) look on in the second half at American Airlines Arena. The Heat won 124-107.—REUTERS



Chelsea's goalkeeper Petr Cech

Goalkeeper Cech wins Czech Footballer of the Year award

PRAGUE, 4 March — Chelsea's goalkeeper Petr Cech won the Czech Footballer of the Year award for the seventh time in his career, while midfielders Tomas Rosicky and Vladimir Darida took the second and third places, organisers of the poll announced at the awarding ceremony on Monday night.

The awards were given based on votes by the members of the Czech Football Academy, including captains and coaches of Czech top league's teams, experienced members of the national side, winners of previous polls and representatives of the Czech Football Association.

This is the sixth time

for Cech, 31, to win this award in a row. Cech has been playing the Premier League with Chelsea since 2004 for more than 100 matches.

Rosicky, 33, the captain and playmaker of the Czech national team, also plays the English Premier League. He has been a member of Arsenal since 2006. Darida, 22, is a young promising player and he plays for Bundesliga's Freiburg now. Czech national team coach Pavel Vrba was named the Czech Coach of the Year for the fourth time. The Personality of Czech Football League title went to midfielder Pavel Horvath, who is Plzen's captain.—Xinhua

Koseki matches record with 13th consecutive title

TOKYO, 4 March — Japan's Momo Koseki successfully defended her WBC atomweight crown for the 13th time Monday, beating Thai challenger Angor Onesongchaigym to match Yoko Gushiken's Japanese men's record for consecutive title defenses.

Koseki stopped 10th-ranked Angor at 1 minute, 43 seconds, in the ninth round at Tokyo's Korakuen Hall. "Men's and women's records are valued differ-

ently, so it's impossible to really compare," said Koseki. "But getting my 13th title defense, I feel proud that I could get my body in 100 percent condition to win."

In other title bouts, Japan's Naoko Shibata won a unanimous decision over 11th-ranked Guadalupe Martinez of Mexico in her first successful defense of the IBF women's light flyweight crown.

Kyodo News

Donor of Pagoda, Monk, Religious Hall and Monastery
U Khin Nyo
(Myanmar Agriculture, Gyogone-Retired)
(EiThaByu-LayHmyatHnar)
Age -76 years

Grand-son of U Kywin, Circle Headman, Hinthada District, son of (Thakhin Than Maung-Daw Hmyin), son in law of (U Htan- Daw Aye Kywe), lovely husband of Daw Tin Hlaing, (Heldan Kamayut Township) of 15 (B), Compound of Technological University, Insein Township, East Gyogone, Yangon Region, Younger Brother of (U Shwe Aye-Daw Mya Lwin), (Warrant officer Saw Lwin-Daw Htwe Yee), Elder Brother of U Myint Aung (Myanma Timber Enterprise), U Hla Shein- Daw Myint Myint Soe, (Daw Khin May Win), Daw Khin May Thin, father of Daw Cho Cho Thin Kyi (Vice Professor, University of Civil Technology), Captain Hla Myo (Navy-Retired) (Theda Shipping Co., Ltd) - Captain Than Than Htwe (Retired), Yeni Paper Factory, U Tint Swe (Construction Manager Shinryo Singapore Pte. Ltd) - Captain Nan Marlar (Retired) temporary Singapore, Grand father of Nan Hlaing Myat Thwe (Pei Tong Primary School Singapore), Nan Hlaing Myat Chae (Lianhau Primary School Singapore) passed away at 10:00 pm on 2.3.2014 (Sunday) in at once. Funeral service will be held at Yayway Cemetery at 2:00 pm of 6.3.2014 (Thursday) for inform to all friend and acquaintances.

Bereved Family

UNICEF
appoints soccer
star Lewandowski
as Goodwill
Ambassador

WARSAW, 4 March— Robert Lewandowski, who played for the Polish national team and for Borussia Dortmund, on Monday joined the elite group of UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) Goodwill Ambassadors. Lewandowski will support UNICEF in its fight for good health and a safe future for children all over the world.

"Being appointed as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador is a huge honour for me," Lewandowski said upon accepting the title. "Working with UNICEF will be my personal pledge to actively help children in need and remind everyone at every opportunity that every child has the right to have a healthy, safe and happy childhood."

At the start of his work for UNICEF, Lewandowski will take part in a European campaign highlighting the situation of children who are the victims of conflicts, crises and natural disasters, Marek Krupinski, director general of UNICEF Polska, said at a press conference on Monday.

Lewandowski will also support activities promoting sports and games as effective tools aiding children's development.

UNICEF has been inviting celebrities to support its campaigns as Goodwill Ambassadors since the 1950s.

Xinhua

Bjoerndalen delays
retirement for 2016 worlds
bid

OSLO, 4 March — Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, who won a record 13th Winter Olympics medal in Sochi last month just weeks after his 40th birthday, has delayed plans to retire and will compete for another two years, he told tabloid VG on Tuesday.

Bjoerndalen, who won two golds in Russia, including the individual 10 kilometer sprint, said it would be a mistake to quit when he was in top form and wanted a shot at another world title on home snow when the 2016 event takes place in Oslo.

"It feels right to continue, I cannot stop now," Bjoerndalen told VG. "I have more to give and I really want this."

Bjoerndalen had not won an individual race for two years when he arrived in Sochi but his ruthless training regime, which included living in a secluded trailer next to his training grounds, paid off.

Bjoerndalen, who owns a record-equaling eight Winter Olympic golds, also has 19 world titles.

Reuters



Bulgarian soldiers present bouquets to Martyr's Memorial on the National Day in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, on 3 March, 2014.

XINHUA

China calls for political resolution of
Ukrainian crisis

UNITED NATIONS, 4 March — China on Monday urged Russia and Ukraine to strive for a political resolution of their differences through dialogue and negotiation.

During an urgent meeting of the Security Council on Ukraine, China's ambassador to UN, Liu Jieyi, said his nation condemned violence there.

"China has been urging the relevant parties in Ukraine to resolve their internal disputes peacefully ... so as to safeguard the lawful rights and interests of all ethnic communities in Ukraine and restore normal social order at an early date," said the envoy.

He reminded that "China consistently stands for the principle of non-interference in any country's internal affairs and respects the independence, sover-

eignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

"There are reasons for why the situation in Ukraine is what it is today," he said, but did not give any of them, appearing strictly neutral.

He called on Russia and Ukraine to strive for "a political resolution of their differences through dialogue and negotiation based on respect for international law and norms governing international relations in order to uphold regional peace and stability."

Also at the meeting, Russian ambassador to UN Vitaly Churkin showed council members what he said was a photo copy of a letter written in Russian from ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, in which he called on Russian President

Vladimir Putin to "use the armed forces of Russia" to reinstall him so as to restore law and order in Ukraine.

He said Russia's "deep concern" for its citizens living in Crimea and Russian-speaking residents of Crimea prompted its troop movements.

While sounding at one point like Moscow might be receptive to mediation by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and others, Churkin deferred commitment, saying that it was not up to him to make such a decision.

He repeated Moscow's assertions that radical extremists were responsible for threats against Russians and Russian speakers, institutions of the Russian Orthodox Church, attacks on government buildings.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(5-3-2014, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**
 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:15 am
 2. Physical Exercise
7:00 am
 3. News/Weather Report
8:25 am
 4. India Drama Series
9:25 am
 5. Documentary
10:00 am
 6. News
11:45 am
 7. Musical Programme
12:00 am
 8. News/International News/Weather Report
2:00 pm
 9. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
3:00 pm
 10. News
3:15 pm
 11. TV Drama Series
4:15 pm
 12. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Physics)
4:40 pm
 13. Teleplay
5:00 pm
 14. News
6:00 pm
 15. News/Weather Report
6:20 pm
 16. Shwe Yin Chone Than
7:00 pm
 17. News
7:25 pm
 18. TV Drama Series
8:45 pm
 19. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm
 20. News
 21. Documentary
 22. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
 23. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR
INTRNATIONAL

(5-3-14 07:00am~
 6-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Memorable Trip
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-2) Ko Myat Oo - Chairman of Baby Vita
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * Writer
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * 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"



File photo taken on 30 Oct, 2013 shows Palestinian construction workers on a building site in the Jewish settlement of Ramat Shlomo, near the Arab neighbourhood of Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem. Israel started building 2,534 housing units in the settlements throughout 2013, a 123 percent rise from 2012, the Central Bureau of Statistics published on 3 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Myanmar takes a leading role in energy and agricultural sectors in BIMSTEC: President



Press conference on 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in progress at Myanmar International Convention Center.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Press conference on 3rd BIMSTEC Summit took place at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The Third BIMSTEC Summit concluded in Nay Pyi Taw today, signing two MoAs and one MoU.

The leaders from the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) inked the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Establishment of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate in Noida, the Republic of India, and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO) in Thimpu, the Kingdom of Bhutan.

During the summit, the leaders of the BIMSTEC member states pledged to deepen the cooperation of

member nations on fourteen priority areas such as trade and investment, technology, energy, transportation and communication, tourism, agriculture, cultural cooperation, environment and disaster management, public health, people-to-people contact, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, and climate change.

The BIMSTEC leaders also directed the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to expedite its work for the conclusion of the Agreement on Trade in Goods by the end of 2014, and to continue the seven-member group's efforts for early finalization of the Agreement on Services and Investment.

Besides, the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking has been signed by the member states.

Pyi Taw on Tuesday afternoon.

In his clarifications,

President U Thein Sein said that he wanted to announce 3rd BIMSTEC

Summit and related meetings have been successfully held in Myanmar. The year 2014 is an auspicious year for Myanmar as Myanmar is to take the rotating chair of BIMSTEC Summit and ASEAN Summit. Historic progress such as signing of agreements that is beneficial to each other among member countries and establishment of organization has been achieved during the summit, the President said. Three important agreements for making cooperation among member countries were signed at the summit, he added.

He continued that member countries of BIMSTEC faced limitations in coordinating among them in the past. Now, as BIMSTEC Secretariat was set up in Dhaka of Bangladesh, its functions will

be more effective than ever and it is expected to come into operation on 1 May 2014, he added. Appointment to Mr. Sumith Nakandala of Sri Lanka as first-ever Secretary-General of BIMSTEC was approved.

The heads of State/government of BIMSTEC expressed their wishes to promote sector-wise cooperation in the 14 prioritized sectors.

The President highlighted that Myanmar takes a leading role in energy and agricultural sectors and first phase of a study on BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Service was conducted. Existing cooperation among member countries of BIMSTEC was agreed to be extended at the summit, he added.

MNA

3rd BIMSTEC Summit concludes



Signing ceremony of 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in progress.—MNA

They also agreed to sign the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Assis-

tance in Criminal Matters.

The summit also elected Mr. Sumith Nakandala

from Sri Lanka as the First Secretary-General to lead the first ever Permanent

Secretariat which will be set up in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

NLM

Leaders from BIMSTEC member countries meet at MICC

News on Page 7

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Development Fund Bill, Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, Media Bill

News on Page 9

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries

News on Page 9

25 days to nationwide census taking process