TABLIGUE CENTRE, SHIKDAPARA, MDW.
THE CENTRAL MOSQUE AND ISLAMIC PREACHING CENTRE AT SHIKDAPARA, MAUNGDAW, ARAKAN STATE WAS CLOSED AND CONVERTED INTO FIRE BRIGADE BY THE BURMESE MILITARY REGIME.
**Editorial: Burma Update**

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said Washington is “Very Serious” concerning the transfer of nuclear technology from North Korea to Burma. It would destabilize the region and it would pose a direct threat to Burma’s neighbours, she further stated. Major industrialized nations known as G8 have issued a call for Burma to free all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The statement said Burma’s junta failed to take the opportunity of Ban Ki-Moon’s visit to Burma. Burmese leaders denied Mr. Ban’s request to meet with Suu kyi during his visit to Burma. The country’s UN envoy said that his government is planning to amnesty prisoners to enable them to take part in national elections next year, after the request of Mr. Ban. But addressing the UN Security Council, ambassador Than Swe did not say whether they would include Aung San Suu Kyi. It freed 19 out of 3,000 political detainees in February after the visit of an UN representative. Critics say next year’s elections, will be a sham designed to legitimate to the current ruling junta. If there was an “unjust outcome” in Suu Kyi’s trial,” the international will need to follow the Secretary Generals lead and respond robustly,” said British envoy Philip Parhan. Chinese envoy Liu Zhenmin said China, which has blocked security Council action on Burma in the past through it’s Veto remained opposed to any sanction,’ International Community should treat Burma with less arrogance and prejudice’, Mr Liu said. U Aung Din, the executive director of the US Campaign for Burma, said it is time for Mr. Ban to ask the Security Council to pass a global arms embargo against the regime. The SPDC is buying arms from North Korea and building nuclear plant near Maymyo with the help of China, Russia and North Korea .Strong and meaningful arms embargo must be against the SPDC. The SPDC must be tried at ICJ for it crimes against humanity and War Crimes. The amnesty of Burma should include Suu Kyi, Min Ko Naing and Rohingya MP Kyaw Min and family.

‘Just as appalling in terms of human rights has been occurring in Burma, epidemic levels of forced labour, the recruitment of tens of thousands of child soldiers, wide spread sexual violence, extra judicial killings and torture, and
more than a million displaced people. One statistic may stand out above others, however: the destruction, displacement, or damage of over 3,000 ethnic national villages many burned to the ground.

That is comparable to the number of villages estimated to have destroyed in Darfur. Yet, for too many years, the world has done little to address these human rights abuses. The world cannot wait while the military regime continues its atrocities against the people of Burma. The day may come for a referral of the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court or the establishment of special tribunal to deal with Burma.” (Crimes in Burma by International Human Rights Clinic Harvard law School). The Noble Peace Prize winner humanitarian aid organization, Medicines Sans Frontiers(MSF), during its long time operation at the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh and later visited Arakan commented about Rohingya as “one of the ten world populations in danger of existence and survival”. In Arakan massive human rights violations is going on very rapidly including denial of citizenship, restriction on movement and marriage, rape, slave labor, forced relocation, forcible seizure of their lands and property, arrest, torture, killing, settlement of Rakhine and Burmese in the name of model villages to reduce Rohingyas into minority in the northern Arakan state where the Rohingyas are in majority, compelling Rohingyas to become stateless or refugee, restriction on freedom of religion, no renovation of the places of Muslim’s worship and religious schools, extortion, taxation and denial of all basic rights. The deteriorating situation threatening the very existence of Rohingyas and daunting challenges upon them by the world cruelest and longest lasting brutal military dictatorships. So the Rohingyas are fleeing from their hearths and homes in search of better tomorrow.

Richard Boucher, the assistance Secretary of State of USA, rightly said that. “Despite having a presence in the area extending back to the seventh century, the Rohingyas are not considered by the junta to be Burmese citizens and suffer legal, economic and social discrimination. They faced severe restrictions in traveling, engage in economic activity, register births, deaths and marriages in the community, and obtain an education”.

Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni strongly refuting Burmese stand on the origin of the Rohingyas asserts that Rohingyas were one of the many races that make up Myanmar’s total population. “She reminded that the Rohingyas have been in Myanmar for centuries and many of them have even hold high posts in the Burmese government. Just by excluding from any list will not make them anything other than an ethnic entity of Myanmar,” said by the FM. She said Rohingyas who are predominantly Muslim residing in northern Arakan State in western Burma, had national radio programmes in their language in Burma.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi consistently maintained that “Even those who do not believe in human rights must certainly agree that the rule of law is most important. Without the rule of law there can be no peace, not in a nation, a region, throughout the world. In Burma at the moment there is no rule of law, which means there can be no peace in the country.” The Burmese army seems to think that they are entitled to impose their torturous behavior on Burmese people, especially on Rohingyas.

ROHINGYA PARTICIPATES IN 45TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF UNHCR

Dr. Kamal Hussein, representative of Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia (BRCA), presented a statement (drafted) on behalf of NGOs across the world at the 45th Standing Committee meeting of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on June 23 in Geneva, Switzerland, U Kyaw Maung, and the President of BRCA from Australia said.

The grand opening speech of June 23 meeting was chaired by the Ambassador of Costa Rica who visited Malaysia and Thailand to visit refugees quite recently and gave a speech on the Burmese refugee situation in Asia and then in other countries, according to Dr. Kamal from Geneva. “It is a great honor for me, for BRCA, the Rohingya community and also for the Australian team as I have been given the chance to present a statement (drafted) on behalf of NGOs across the world,”
Dr. Kamal said Dr. Kamal.

After attending the meeting, Dr. Kamal told Kaladan News, “We need at least three steps of lobbying for Rohingyas or for any oppressed group in the world, such as meetings and explaining to the policy makers, politicians, NGOs and UN agencies, about what is happening in the community such as oppression, human rights violation etc; we need to go through media and researches to write about what is happening to the community and need to participate for taking action, practical decision and policy drafting: and pursue Governments and United Nations.

“We sent our representative Dr. Kamal Hussein to participate in UNHCR’s Geneva meetings to raise awareness about the plight of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees across Asia,” according to U Kyaw Maung, the President of BRCA in Australia. “BRCA works tirelessly with the cooperation of Refugee Council of Australia and the Centre for Refugee Research UNSW and Amnesty international of Australia to provide stronger support from national and international levels for the Rohingya refugees,” U Kyaw Maung more said.

“I would like to thank Caritas Australia for helping us,” he added.

“We, at the BRCA worked hard with the concerned authorities from Australia for resettling Rohingyas from Bangladesh in 2008-2009 and are hoping more Rohingyas refugees will be settled in future,” he more added.

“I hope the participation and presentation will help Rohingyas and Burma not only in the NGO forum but also in the government forum. Now here in the UN, the practical action of the Rohingyas’ plight is about to be decided for the next year and also for the next five years,” said Dr. Kamal. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is currently made up of 70 member States. The Executive Committee (ExCom) meets in Geneva annually to review and approve UNHCR’s programs and the budget, offer advice on international protection, and discuss a wide range of other issues with UNHCR and its intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

NGOs are present at these meetings and offer statements on each of the agenda items. RCUSA members are actively involved in the drafting of these statements. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), founded in 1962, is a global network.
that brings together human rights, humanitarian, and development NGOs as an advocacy alliance for humanitarian action. Focusing on humanitarian and refugee policy issues, ICVA draws upon the work of its members at the field level and brings their experiences to international decision-making forums.

**ARMY COMMANDER RAPES GIRL IN MAUNGDAW**

News - Kaladan Press FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2009

Maungdaw, Arakan State: An Army battalion Commander Lt. Col Kyaw Thura (42) raped a young Rohingya girl on June 10, in Maungdaw Township. The Commander came to Maungdaw Township from Buthidaung Township to supervise erecting of fences on the Burma-Bangladesh border, said a close relative of the victim.

The commander with 110 soldiers have been living at Kyauk Hlaikhar government primary school which is very close to the victim’s house since they were transferred to Maungdaw township. The Commander observed the situation of the victim’s house and also collected information about the victim through the local collaborator, said a local villager on condition of anonymity.

On that day, at about 1 am, the Commander, accompanied by a local collaborator went to the victim’s house and asked the victim’s mother through the collaborator to open the door as Nasaka (Burma’s border security force) had come for checking the family list. Hearing the voice of the local collaborator, the victim’s mother opened the door. The army Commander entered the house with a pistol and raped Noor Khatun after threatening other family members. The collaborator stood guard outside the house. At the meantime, it was raining very heavily and the screams of the victim’s family members could not be heard. So, no one came to the rescue, according to a close relative of the victim.

The following day morning, the victim accompanied by her old mother complained to the local people and the Village Peace and Development Council (VPDC) members to take it up with authorities and take action against the culprit. But, no one dared to report the rape to the authorities as they feared retaliation by the army.

The widow, mother of the victim, did not get any help from any quarter to complain to higher authorities. If there is no action against the rapist, rape cases will increase in northern Arakan, said a village elder on condition of anonymity. One of the VPDC members said, “If we inform of the incident to the concerned authorities, the army will take action directly or indirectly against us. At that time, no one will come to save us.”

The Burmese Army which came to Maungdaw Township on April 2009 from Buthidaung Township to supervise the erection of fences on the Burma-Bangladesh border, cheated local villagers of wages. Villagers are involved in forced labor, have to pay donation, face arbitrary harassment, are being looted of their vegetables and fish from the shrimp projects, and Rohingya girls are being raped, said a college student.

**BURMA: END ABUSES AGAINST ROHINGYA**

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Southeast Asian Countries Should Pressure Burma and Protect Those Who Flee (New York, May 26, 2009) – Burma’s neighbors should press the Burmese military government to end systematic abuses of Rohingya Muslims and protect those who flee to their shores, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Human Rights Watch said that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has failed to address the Rohingya’s plight adequately.

The 12-page report, “Perilous Plight: Burma’s Rohingya Take to the Seas,” examines the causes of the exodus of Rohingya people from Burma and Bangladesh, and their treatment once in flight to Southeast Asian countries. Persecution and human rights violations against the Rohingya inside Burma, especially in Arakan state, have persisted for over 20 years, with insufficient international attention. Such abuses include extrajudicial killings, forced labor, religious persecution, and restrictions on movement, all exacerbated by a draconian citizenship law that leaves the Rohingya stateless.
“The treatment of the Rohingya in Burma is deplorable – the Burmese government doesn’t just deny Rohingya their basic rights, it denies they are even Burmese citizens,” said Elaine Pearson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “Instead of sidestepping the issue, ASEAN should be pressing Burma’s military rulers to end their brutal practices.”

The Burmese military government’s violent and discriminatory treatment, exacerbated by chronic poverty, has pushed many Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, where living standards in refugee camps remain primitive and options for resettlement slim. From Bangladesh, every year thousands of Rohingya men and boys pay to be smuggled to Malaysia via other Southeast Asian countries. Some are fleeing for their lives; others are economic migrants seeking to feed their families. Because they lack official papers, almost everywhere they go, they live in fear of arrest and possible repatriation to Burma.

In January 2009, cameras captured boatloads of starving Rohingya arriving in Southern Thailand and Indonesia. The photos, which show Thai navy ships towing boats of Rohingya back into the open seas to deter further arrivals, gave brief international prominence to the issue. Thousands of other journeys each year go unnoticed. In late 2008 and early 2009, the number of Rohingya departing from Bangladesh and Burma was estimated at 6,000, double the number from the previous year.

Scores are feared to have died as a result of Thailand’s “push-back” policy. Some of the survivors who reached Indonesia or the Indian Andaman Islands described how Burmese naval personnel who had intercepted their boat on the open seas tortured and beat them.

ASEAN leaders have admitted that a regional solution is necessary to address the annual exodus of Rohingya. Yet ASEAN did not place the Rohingya on the formal agenda of its February summit meeting, and Burmese officials simply denied the Rohingya were from Burma, but said they would accept any “Bengali” who could prove Burmese citizenship. A meeting in April of the Australia and Indonesia-led multilateral grouping, the Bali Process for People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crime, also could not reach a consensus on a regional mechanism for dealing with the Rohingya.

“ASEAN’s collective inertia on the Rohingya’s plight is a stain on its reputation,” said Pearson. “ASEAN’s inaction also sends a clear message to Burma’s generals that their horrendous persecution can continue.”

In “Perilous Plight,” Human Rights Watch calls on Burma’s military government to recognize Rohingya as citizens, ensure their freedom of movement, and give human rights and humanitarian organizations access to Arakan state. Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia should press Burma’s military government to end abuses, the report says. They should also stop forcibly returning Rohingya to Burma where they face persecution, and they should alter their laws and procedures to ensure that an appropriate determination of the refugee status can take place for non-citizens who reach their shores.

“Persecution of the Rohingya is nothing new, so it’s time for Burma’s neighbors to act to stop them from being further abused,” said Pearson. “Rather than sending them back to Burma or into the open sea, countries receiving Rohingya should determine if they are refugees or asylum seekers and give them protection.”

BURMA’S SUU KYI TRUNS 64
By Aman Ullah

In 1988, Nelson Mandela reached his 70th birthday. He was languishing in prison, having already spent 26 years locked up by the apartheid regime in South Africa. In Wembley Stadium some of the world’s greatest entertainers - Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton, Sting, Annie Lennox and George Michael performed for a political prisoner whose face the world hadn’t seen for a quarter of a century.

On the other side of the planet, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi turned 64 on June 19; 2009 and spent her birthday locked in prison. She has been detained for over 13 years by the Burmese regime and for campaigning for human rights and democracy in Burma.

On May 18th she was put on trial, charged with breaching the terms of her house arrest after an American man, John Yettaw, swam to her house and refused to leave. The Military Junta is using the visit as an opportunity to extend her detention, which was expected to expire this month. Her trial is ongoing and she could face a further five years in detention.
Like the South African leader Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi has become an international symbol of heroic and peaceful resistance in the face of oppression. Desmond Tutu of South African termed Daw Suu as the Burma’s Mandela.

She was born on June 19th, 1945 to Burma’s independence hero, Aung San, who was assassinated when she was only two years old. In 1960 she went to India with her mother Daw Khin Kyi, who had been appointed Burma’s ambassador to Delhi. Four years later she went to Oxford University in the UK, where she studied philosophy, politics and economics. There she met her future husband. After stints of living and working in Japan and Bhutan, she settled down to be an English don’s housewife and raise their two children, Alexander and Kim. But Burma was never far away from her thoughts.

For Aung San Suu Kyi the turning point in this process occurred in the spring of 1988.

Aung San Suu Kyi had arrived in Rangoon at the beginning of April 1988. She had no weapons, troops or band of followers, but she saw at first hand the brutality of the military and she knew the countless demonstrators on the streets. Within a few weeks of city, General Ne Win’s long dictatorial rule he announced plans to allow the country to decide its fate in a referendum. Standing in front of half a million protestors on 26 August, speaking under a poster of her father by the Shwedagon Pagoda, Aung San Suu Kyi told the crowd: ‘I could not, as my father’s daughter, remain indifferent to all that was going on.’ Within weeks, Aung San Suu Kyi and colleagues had established the National League for Democracy, and she became its general secretary. When her mother, Daw Khin Kyi, died in December of that year, the funeral procession turned into a peaceful protest, and Aung San Suu Kyi’s life changed irrevocably as she embarked on an exhaustive tour of the country, demanding democracy and human rights.

Inspired by the non-violent campaigns of US civil rights leader Martin Luther King and India’s Mahatma Gandhi, she organised rallies and travelled around the country, calling for peaceful democratic reform and free elections. The military regime responded to the uprising with brute force, killing up to 5,000 demonstrators. Unable to maintain its grip on power, the regime was forced to call a general election in 1990.

As Aung San Suu Kyi began to campaign for the NLD, she and many others were detained by the regime. Despite being held under house arrest, the NLD went on to win a staggering 82% of the seats in parliament. The regime never recognized the results of the election. She has been in and out of detention ever since and has spent more than 13 of the past 19 years in some form of detention under Burma’s military regime.

For dedicating her life for human rights and democracy she has received not only the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 but also a dozens of International prestigious awards. Millions of the people cele-
brated her birthday around the world. An impressive collection of luminaries, Hollywood stars like Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, celebrities Madonna and David Beckham, Nobel laureates and world leaders joined voices to call for the military government to release Suu Kyi. To commemorate Aung San Suu Kyi’s 64th birthday on 19 June (her 14th in detention), local and Burmese citizens will be holding protests and events in over 20 cities across the world, calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the 2,156 political prisoners currently held in Burma. The protesters will also be calling on the UNSC to step up the pressure on the military regime by establishing a global arms embargo on Burma. Celebrities from around the world, including George Clooney, Yoko Ono, David Beckham, Julia Roberts, Daniel Craig, and Richard Branson. Stephen Fry, Eddie Izzard, Kevin Spacey and Sarah Brown, have been “tweeting” about a new campaign launched on Wednesday 27 May allowing visitors to leave a message of support for Burma’s imprisoned democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi in the run up to her 64th birthday. Many posted online messages on social networking sites and videos on YouTube in what human rights groups called an unprecedented and enormously powerful tool to harness support for Suu Kyi and highlight her struggle. Thousands of supporters left birthday messages of 64 words or less for the Nobel Peace Prize laureate on a Web site created for the occasion. British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown’s “64”: “I add my voice to the growing chorus of those demanding your release. For too long the world has failed to act in the face of this intolerable injustice. That is now changing. The clamour for your release is growing across Europe, Asia, and the entire world. We must do all we can to make this Birthday the last you spend without your freedom.” George Clooney, Sec. Madeleine Albright, Wes Anderson, Drew Barrymore, David Beckham, Bono and so many wrote 64 words: “Nineteen years ago, the Burmese people chose Aung San Suu Kyi as their next leader. For most of those 19 years she has been kept under house arrest by the military junta that runs the country. We must not stand by as she is silenced again. Now is the time for the international community to speak with one voice: Free Aung San Suu Kyi.” Kim Dae-Jung, Nobel Peace Winner and former President of Korea (1997-2003) wrote 64 words: We Koreans, who have already experienced the brutal oppression of a military dictatorship share deep compassion with, and send our sincere encouragement to, the people of Burma. Looking back on our experience, I believe democracy will eventually be restored in Burma, as long as the Burmese people continue their struggle against the military regime, and as long as the international community supports their efforts. Women Nobel Peace Laureates, Mairead Maguire (1976), Betty Williams (1976), Rigoberta Manechu Tun (1992), Jody Williams (2003), Shirin Ebadi (2003), and Wangari Maathai (2004) wrote 64 words: We, your sister Nobel Peace Laureates, stand with you and call on the governments of the world to demand your immediate release. Detained against Burma’s own laws, your imprisonment and trial are a stark illustration of the brutality and lawlessness of the Burmese military regime, which holds over 2000 democracy activists in prison. We look forward to a day when you are finally free. This message, posted late Thursday, was signed by a woman in the United Kingdom: “This message isn’t going to be remarkable. 64 words are not enough for this injustice, not that 64 million would be; but I hope you find them heartening. I am just one of many wishing the world fairer, and you are one of so few self-sacrificing for just that outcome. You are an inspiration, a fighting soul and an aspiration; a hero. Stay strong.” While celebrations of the 64th birthday of Burma’s pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were freely held around the world on Friday, her supporters in Burma celebrated her birthday under the junta’s tight repression. National League for Democracy (NLD) sources said supporters held a religious ceremony to mark her birthday early Friday morning at party headquarters. However, authorities harassed one monastery not to send monks to perform the ceremony. Aung San Suu Kyi, herself planned to mark the day by sharing food with her prison guards. “She will celebrate her birthday by treating the people around her to rice and chocolate cake,” said lawyer Nyan Win, who left several gifts at the prison including a choco-
late cake, an apple cake, three bouquets of orchids and 50 lunch boxes of Indian-style biryani rice. “She really appreciates the efforts and said she was sorry she wasn't able to thank everyone individually,” he said, noting that lawyers have informed her of the worldwide campaign but did not personally see her Friday.

The global birthday effort is modeled after the 1988 “Mandela at 70” campaign to free Nelson Mandela from imprisonment in then apartheid-era South Africa. But the clamor on the Nobel laureate’s 64th birthday this month to demand to release her made little impact in Rangoon, which has ignored calls by head of state, ministers, other Nobel prize owners and human rights activists across the world that she be released.

WE CONDEMN NASAKA’S ACT OF PIRACY
GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE A FIRM STAND WITH YANGON
The Daily Star

RECENT incidents of Nasaka, the Myanmar border security force, opening fire on Bangladeshi fishermen in what are clearly Bangladesh’s territorial waters leave us gravely concerned about the situation. As reports indicate, quoting a number of our fishermen in such areas as St. Martin’s island, the Myanmar men left at least eleven Bangladeshi fishermen injured, with one of them in critical condition owing to bullet wound in the head. We condemn such unacceptable and morally untenable action on the part of the Myanmar authorities. It is not just high-handedness or a demonstration of an aggressive posture on the part of Nasaka but in effect a wanton act of piracy.

It is at this point pertinent to raise the question of how our own coast guards respond to such manifestly gross behaviour. We have been informed that the coast guards could do little because of the firing from the Myanmar forces. If that is indeed the condition in which such a vital force as the coast guards operates, one can only ask the authorities whether they can bring themselves to a position where they can deter such aggressive incidents from recurring in future. Indeed, in light of the latest incident with the Myanmar security forces, what immediate steps are the Bangladesh government planning to take, both within itself and with the Yangon authorities? It is clear that by its latest action, which certainly cannot be considered an isolated incident, Myanmar has sought to trample underfoot the norms on which states conduct relations with one another. By opening fire at fishermen working within Bangladesh’s territorial waters, Nasaka stands guilty of violating the territorial sovereignty of this country. It is, therefore, only proper that our Foreign Office dispatch a strong protest note to its counterpart in Yangon, if it has not done so already.

The state of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Bangladesh has generally been characterized by tension over the past few years. The incident of Rohingya refugees fleeing their homes in Myanmar and finding sanctuary in Bangladesh is but a pointed instance of such fraught relations. And of late there have been reports of more Rohingyas trickling into Bangladesh in order to escape persecution in their country. Now, with Bangladesh’s right to its territorial waters being infringed upon by Myanmar forces, the pressure increases on our government to raise the issue, in firm man-
News and Analysis of the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation, Arakan (Burma)

In a memorandum to the government of the Union of Burma, dated 18th June 1948, Mr. Sultan Ahmed (MP) in the capacity of the President of Jamait-e-Ulema, North Arakan, lodged strong protest against a conspiracy to deny the Rohingyas of their right of franchise immediately after the independence. The excerpt of the memorandum follows:

1. That it is disheartening to note the decision and attitude of the government at this late stage towards the Muslims of Arakan who have always identified themselves as Burman with whom they have merged themselves in good faith that they will be treated on the same lines as Burman and will be given equal rights. Those Arakanese Buddhists, historically known as Mugs have been taken as one of the pure indigenous races of Burma merely because of their religion. On following the line of artificial classification, it will be quite clear that if the Muslims of Arakan adopt the religion of Lord Buddha they would be included in the indigenous races of Burma or Arakan. If this religious distinction is eliminated the Muslim of Arakan will come under the same racial category as the Arakanese Buddhists.

2. That according to history, Islam reached Arakan before 788 AD and it attracted the local people to come to the fold of Islam en masse all over Burma. Since then Islam had played an important part towards the advancement of civilisation in Arakan where Muslims and Buddhists lived side by side for centuries with amity and concord as one family and ruled the country together. Coins and medallions were issued bearing “Kalima” (the profession of faith in Islam) in Persian script. Persian was the court language of Arakan and it was common for the kings to adopt Muslim names.

3. That the British played divide and rule in Arakan with the result that many of the Arakanese Buddhist brethren bear hatred against the Muslims and threat them as “Kalas” foreigners. This hatred should no longer be bred in the Union of Burma as it had been brought up in the nursery of British imperialism.

4. Like other indigenous races of Burma, the Muslims of North Arakan inhabit in a sufficient contiguous territory in sufficient numbers in defined geographical area having all necessary characteristics of an indigenous race which can never be denied by any right thinking person uninfluenced by feelings of racial and religious hatred.

5. That different races have different names, but the Muslims specially the orthodox type throughout the world to what ever nationality they may belong keep, on their birth, the Islamic names in Arabic language. Some prefer national names, some Islamic name, some both national and Islamic names and this is the
custom with the Muslims everywhere in the world. Thus with Islamic names, one should not be misled that the children of the soil should be foreigners. It is the most lamentable and unfortunate tragedy that the officials of the government are fully ignorant in this respect. As soon as they find any person with Islamic names they take him as “Kalas” though he may be pure extract of indigenous races and strike out his name from the voters list. Immediate change of heart and practice of this nature is called for.

6. That the Muslims of Arakan who have their proud history, culture and tradition as other indigenous races of Burma, and there is no justification to take them as foreign race for the simple reason that they profess Islam and keep Islamic names. If the Kachin, Chins, Shan Karen and Burman are brought together, one can easily distinguish from their features who are Kachins, Karens, Shan and so on.. They are also different from one another in their language, customs and culture. Similar is the case with the Muslims of North Arakan who have been together as a race in a group from time immemorial in a territory included within the Union of Burma. If the Kachin, Chins, Shans, Karen etc. are defined as indigenous races, there can not be any question why the Muslims of North Arakan who have merged themselves with the Burmans will be ignored and will not be treated as such. Any different treatment will be unjust, illegal and unconstitutional.

7. That many of the high officials of the state, who do not even care to turn out the pages of the history and old records and to trace the development of the Muslims of Arakan which according to them, a Kala race - this misconceived notion has always been mooted and challenged in press and platform A protest was immediately made against this decision on the ground of their being one of the indigenous races of Burma and the government withheld the first decision and allowed the Muslims to vote or stand for elections held in March 1947, and Mr. Sultan Ahmed and Mr. Abdul Gaffar returned on the votes of this Muslims as members of the constituent Assembly and these members are still continuing in office, representing the Akyab district North constituency and took the oath of allegiance to the Union of Burma on the 4th January 1948 as members of the new parliament of the Union of Burma. This decision and action of the government conclusively proved that these Muslims as a whole or in groups are accepted as one of the indigenous races of Burma. And in this connection, it may be pointed out that the Akyab district North constituency is non-communal rural constituency and these Muslims of Arakan belong to this constituency. It is not understood how they can be treated under clause (IV) section II of the Constitution. By so doing about 95% of the population residing in this constituency, at a stroke of the pen, become foreigners, which action they strongly felt as unjust and uncalled for.

8. Just before the last election, the Muslims of Akyab district North constituency were recognised as children of the soil and first taken as eligible to vote or to stand for election on the ground of their being one of the indigenous races of Burma, but when the Aung San - Atlee Agreement was out, the government misunderstood the position and it was notified that unless they declared themselves as Burma nationals, they would not be eligible to vote or to stand for election to the constituent Assembly.
term “Indigenous” as used in the constitution, but it was withdrawn on the understanding and assurance of the President of the constituent Assembly, at present His Excellency the President of the Union of Burma, who when approached for clarification with this question, said, “Muslims of Arakan certainly belong to one of the indigenous races of Burma which you represent. In fact there is no pure indigenous race in Burma, and that if you do not belong to indigenous races of Burma, we also can not be taken an indigenous races of Burma.” Being satisfied with his kind explanation, the objection put in was withdrawn.

10. When Hon’ble Bo Let Ya the Deputy Prime Minister, was pleased to visit Maungdaw recently, he was kind enough to expound the principles laid down in the constitution of the Union of Burma, but it appeared on the “New Times of Burma” that he addressed the inhabitants of Maungdaw as “Chittagonians” which term, although it might not be his intention, was objectionable, and contradictory in relation to the Muslims of North Arakan forming parts and parcel of Indigenous races of Burma. The Prime Minister U Nu expressed regrets for the use of wrong terms “Chittagonians” and directed that it should be either “Arakanese Muslims” or “Burmese Muslims”.

11. The term Burmese Muslims published in the form of Press communiqué dated 9th August 1941 was embodied in a notification dated 27th September 1941 issued by His Excellency Sir Domon Smith, the Governor of Burma. This notification still holds good under the constitutional rights given in the constitution of the Union of Burma.

12. That the Muslims of North Arakan owe their allegiance to the Union of Burma and their loyalty to the present government is unquestionable. But the action (Telegram) of the Election Commission has created a strong resentment and unpleasant atmosphere among the public. Could this telegram be issued and things were allowed to drift like this if our beloved Bogyoke (Gen. Aung San) were alive today?

13. That in the last war, during the North Arakan campaign the Muslims of Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Kyauktaw sacrificed their lives and properties and fought against the enemy and gave it a crushing blow, for the attainment of freedom of Burma, and their brilliant and heroic records will, certainly go down to history like other races of Burma. They have had to put up with British withdrawals yet they had come back with government forces and died with and for them. I wonder if any other people in like circumstances can tell the same story of loyalty and patience as can these Muslims.

14. By practical deed throughout Burma campaign and after the war till this day, the Muslims of North Arakan have proved that the responsibilities for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the country and for preserving in the independence of the Union of Burma, with the best hope of getting equal treatment in all spheres of life, as developed on the all races and citizens of the Union of Burma, are being discharged in the letter and spirit.

15. That it is the birth right of each and every Muslim of Arakan as a whole to be one of the indigenous races of Burma, and nothing short of this, will satisfy this race, and justice should be done to them in their legal and constitutional demand.

Under the circumstances stated above I, in the best interest of the government and the people, fervently pray and confidently hope that the birth right of the Muslims of North Arakan taken as a whole as other indigenous races of Burma, be safeguarded and they be taken as qualified voters as Karenis, Karen, Chins, Rakhine etc, and the contents of the Telegram referred to above be withdrawn immediately and that necessary orders be issued without delay to avoid further dissatisfaction and confusion.

POINT OF EXIT-ENTRY (POE) NO-1. MAUNG DAW

By SU Ahamed

The point of exit-entry (1) of Maungdaw is a jetty where passengers to go out and come in by using the waterway of Naf river. The Naf River facilitates the journey to go to the northern part of Maungdaw district and cross border journey to Bangladesh. Everyday, hundreds of passengers use the jetty point to go up to Taungbro of northern Maungdaw (30 miles journey) and to Teknaf of Bangladesh. The passengers are almost Rohingya Muslims and small motorized boats are used. As the common border between Burma and Bangladesh is controlled by Nasaka forces, Maungdaw jetty is also controlled.
The survival of Rohingyas in Arakan State is at stake as Burma’s border security force (Nasaka), police; Sarapa (Military Intelligence) and army have stepped up persecution against the community, said a Rohingya leader from Maungdaw town on condition of anonymity.

The authorities extort money from Rohingya villagers by arbitrary arrests and torture, confiscate farmlands from Rohingya farmers and thus push them into joblessness. Besides, Rohingyas are not allowed to move freely to earn their livelihood. Rohingyas live in a big jail like a caged bird. Arakan has 17 townships,
but Rohingyas are not allowed to go from one town to another. Sometimes, Rohingyas are allowed to go to another town but have to get many recommendations (documents) from the authorities. For getting these documents, Rohingyas have to spend money and time.

For instance, Major Kyi Hlaing, the commander of Nasaka area No. 6 along with Sarapa officer Myint Swe, the second officer of the camp has been extorting money from Rohingya villagers on false and concocted cases. The two officers are notorious. Major Kyi Hlaing had collected a lot of money from Rohingya villagers while he was the Commander of Maungdaw south and Nasaka area No. 9 of Buthidaung Township, said a schoolteacher from Maungdaw Town.

Though the Nasaka area No. 6 is very close to Nasaka Headquarters, Major Kyi Hlaing, has been committing many crimes against the community without caring a hoot for the headquarters. Major Kyi Hlaing robbed kyat 1.6 million from a Rohingya villager Hussain Ahmed (50), son of Salamat, from Naribil (Kyaukpyinseik) village of Maungdaw township on June 16. He has an account in the Kambawza Bank, which is owned by the military government. The money was sent to him by his relative to the bank from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). But, Major Kyi Hlaing robbed the money from him by saying that the money was not legal, said a close relative of the victim.

Moreover, on June 1, Kyat 400,000 was taken away from Hussain Ahmed (25), son of Md. Hashim, from Sorfodin Bill (Hlapoe khuang) village of Maungdaw township. The Nasaka officer of the camp alleged that he had a Bangladeshi mobile set and was involved in smuggling to Bangladesh. However, he was released after he paid kyat 150,000, said a friend of La Gu who declined to be named.

“This way, Nasaka extorts money from Rohingyas villagers illegally. How will they survive in their motherland,” asked a village elder.

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2009**

Date: 19/06/2009

In 2000 the United Nations General Assembly decided that as from 2001, 20 June will be celebrated as World Refugee Day to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Organization of African Unity had agreed for it to coincide with their Africa Refugee Day. Each year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) selects a theme and coordinates events across the globe. The 2003 celebration focused on children. This year’s World Refugee Day theme is “Real People, Real Needs”. For the 42 million uprooted people around the world, a shortage or lack of the essentials of life - clean water, food, sanitation, shelter, health care and protection from violence and abuse - means that every day can be a struggle just to survive. Of the millions of people forcibly displaced by conflict, persecution and natural disasters, every one has a story to tell; they are real people, and they have real needs. Many of these basic needs are far from being met.

The Rohingya people, an ethnic and religious minority from Western Burma, have been fleeing persecution by Burma’s military junta by seeking refuge in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand for decades. The Rohingya, denied Burmese nationality by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), are a stateless people with no means of claiming rights or protection. Therein, they face a daily tyranny against their ability to move freely around the country, as well as discrimination from the authorities on account of their South Asian

**INBOX**

In 2000 the United Nations General Assembly decided that as from 2001, 20 June will be

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2009**

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ethnicity and Muslim religion. As a consequent of this long standing oppression from the Burmese Junta, many of the Rohingya have fled as refugees into neighboring countries. Whilst a small number have gone to Thailand and Malaysia, the vast majority have sought refuge in Bangladesh. The UNHCR claims that the Rohingyas in Bangladesh number 27,000, the remaining population from the last mass influx of 250,000 in 1992 who are living in two government-administered camps (Phiri, Pia Prytz, 2008). In reality this figure obscures the fact that the Rohingya population in Bangladesh also includes at least 100,000 individuals who are not officially recognised as refugees. These undocumented Rohingyas are forced to make a living for themselves within local communities or in makeshift camps. In this state of affairs, we recommended that: (1) SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC may develop a durable solution for this ethnic group. (2) UNHCR, International community and different civil society can find equitable regional solution to meet the Rohingya people, those forced to leave Burma. (3) Pressurize the Burmese government to find an acceptable solution to the on going Human Rights violation occurring within the country including the 1982 citizenship law, which renders the Rohingya stateless.

Sender

Safiqul Islam
Admin. Coordinator
ROHINGYA CEMETERY SEIZED BY TOC IN MAUNGDAW

Maugdaw, Arakan State: The Tactical Operation Commander (TOC) of the Burmese Army in Buthidaung Town seized a Rohingya cemetery in Aley Than Kyaw, Maungdaw Township on June 19, villagers from Aley Than Kyaw said.

On June 19, morning, the TOC officer along with other army officers went to Aley Than Kyaw village in a convoy of army cars and surveyed the graveyard in Aley Than Kyaw. They ordered nearby villagers not to bury their dead in the cemetery. The officer also said that if any one does not comply with the order, he would be punished according to the law, said a village elder on condition of anonymity.

The TOC Commander himself created a boundary around the cemetery with red flags. Villagers were surprised because they were not given advance information. The TOC officer came suddenly and made a boundary in the Rohingyas’ old cemetery.

In northern Arakan, there are many available places to set up army camps or other establishments. Why do the authorities want to seize a Muslim cemetery attacking their religion? asked an angry local elder.

A Rohingya elder said, “The SPDC authorities plan to change the demography of northern Arakan and want to show foreigners that the Rohingyas settled in Arakan not too long ago. So they want to erase traces of an old cemetery belonging to Muslims.”

Earlier, in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships, the army, Nasaka, police and Sarapa also set up camps and built houses for other purposes after demolishing mosques, Arabic schools and cemeteries though places were available for construction of buildings for their use, according to a student.