Government has been implementing for providing best protection and rights to the entire workforce and workers are to demand the rights in accord with existing law

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thuddama U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion of May Day, 2013. The translation of the message is as follows:-

To all our admirable fellow workers,

Today is an international workers day honoured with special emphasis on the workers all over the world. I wish all the workers throughout the country peace in body and mind in this auspicious day.

It is over 2 years that our country is in the process of transformation to multiparty democratic system. And during this period, all necessary reforms are being made in momentum. The workers’ strong effort which is a major strength of the Nation plays a vital role in this re-form process. This effort will make the increasing of the nation’s productivity as well as of the workers’ income situation. On the other hand, it will lead to the high living standard of workers in supporting the poverty reduction of the citizens.

The Government has been implementing to ensure fully enjoy the rights of workers, providing social benefits and protection for the workers under international instruments by amending the existing laws, orders and directives which are not in line with the current socio economic situation and by drawing the appropriate new ones.

At present, the Labour Organization law and rules have been enacted aiming at having good industrial relation cooperating between employers and workers and increasing the productivity. A total number of 523 worker and employer organizations have been formed freely and independently under the Labour Organization Law up to now. It includes Township Labour organizations and some federations formed according to trade.

As the elimination of forced labour is one of the key components of having decent work for workers, the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law which ensures not to use forced labour has been enacted in accord with ILO Forced Labour Convention No.29. Moreover, a series of awareness raising activities are being carried out all over the country to be effective implementation of the Law and elimination of forced labour practically.

Moreover, the Government has been implementing the plan of action for the elimination of forced labour in Myanmar by 2015 in collaboration with International Labour Organization, and it is believed that the elimination of forced labour will eliminate in 2015 or in earlier than the targeted period.

As child labour is one of the other forms of forced labour, the ratification of ILO Worst Form of Child Labour Convention No.182 is being implemented by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

To all our admirable fellow workers,
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted the Minimum Wages Law and the Social Security Law in order to have more protection of the rights of workers, and the rules of these laws are being drafted for practical implementation.

The Government has been striving to enjoy the equal right and justice for our workers and employers without effect on mutual interest. There will have more competitiveness in the labour market for our Myanmar workers regionally and internationally as well according to the Free Flow of Skilled Labour Programme in ASEAN Region. In implementing the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint not very soon. Recently Foreign Investment Law has been enacted, and all our workers must be well-rounded ones in their respective fields so that they can seize firmly the employment opportunities which will emerge depending upon the foreign direct investment here.

The Government has been cooperating with the partners in private sector to enhance the skill development of workforce. On the other hand, the Employment and Skill Development Law will be approved soon. As a result, the skill development of our workforce can be performed more effectively than before.

The Government has been carrying out to create more employment opportunities not only in local but also abroad in collaboration with international organizations. In 27th November 2012, Myanmar became the 147th member country of International Organization for Migration, and the Myanmar migrant workers can be protected more effectively in cooperating with it.

As half of the total population of the Nation is our workforce, it can be said that a country is a developed one only if the workers of it have high living standard. The Government has been implementing for providing the best protection and rights to the entire workforce. Likewise, I would like to request all our workers to demand the rights in accord with the existing law.

To all our admirable fellow workers,
The entire people especially the whole workforce have to perform the duties for the best to accomplish the nation building tasks as today is in our transitional period as well as being the time of building new democratic country. In doing so, I would like to urge deeply the workers and employers to join hand in hand with the Government in a tripartite system in carrying out the respective tasks to fully enjoy the essence of democratic system.

President U Thein Sein receives President of Australian Senate and party

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received an Australian delegation led by Senator Hon. John Joseph Hogg, President of the Australian Senate, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Also present together with the President at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Maung and officials. The Australian delegation was accompanied by Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Bronte Nadine Moules.

They held discussions on diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Australia established 60 years ago and bilateral relation and cooperation during the 60-year period, Australia’s aid to Myanmar on humanitar-ian ground for education and health sectors, in spite of having different political systems between the two nations over past 20 years. Myanmar Speaker’s visits to Australia to study democratic practices there, sharing democratic experiences to other countries by Australia, importance of amity and friendship in bilateral relations, Australia’s interest to provide more effective assistance to Myanmar and to share its experiences to Myanmar with two-year-old democracy, political and economic reform processes in Myanmar in accord with the public will, ongoing peace making process with ethnic armed groups for ensuring peace and tranquility, arrangements for holding political dialogue with ethnic armed groups for ensuring eternal peace, rehabilitation works for internally displaced persons being carried out by the government in coop-eration with organizations concerned, seeking donor countries to fund the works with the establishment of Myanmar Peace Centre, benefits gained under the leadership of the Australian ambassador and Aus Aid in Myanmar’s economic reform.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Senator Hon. John Joseph Hogg, President of the Australian Senate.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Situation</td>
<td>A. While the Rakhine IDPs are adequately resettled, there have been difficulties in resettling the Bengali IDPs. The Rakhine have called for resettlement of Bengali IDPs only after verification of their citizenship. However, it is becoming extremely urgent to provide the Bengali IDPs with access to safe and secure temporary shelters prior to the monsoon season.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</td>
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<td>Resettlement</td>
<td>B. There is a pressing need to address overcrowding in camps, provide access to clean water and sanitation, and take necessary precautions against other risks – such as outbreaks of disease – that can arise during the monsoon season at the Bengali IDP camps.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reopening of Schools</td>
<td>C. Schools should be reopened and access to education provided for students living in Bengali IDP camps.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Food Security and Malnutrition</td>
<td>D. A concerted effort is needed to plan and prepare for longer-term food security, meet immediate food shortages, and address malnutrition.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations</td>
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<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>E. The Government should bear the responsibility to meet the basic needs of the IDP populations until their livelihoods are restored. It is vital, therefore, to consider all possible means to revitalize the livelihoods of the IDP populations.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>Permanent Settlement</td>
<td>F. The Government should plan and prepare strategies to settle the IDPs permanently when law and order is restored in the state.</td>
<td>Ministry of Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government, International Organizations</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Social Kaman Ethnic Group Issue</td>
<td>A. Currently, there is a disconnect in the communication channels between the Rakhine and Bengali populations. Certain Rakhine leaders – relying on the inflated tensions and a renewed sense of prejudice – have urged, and even taken steps to prevent, the Rakhine public from conducting social and economic interactions with the Bengali population. As a result of this “social and economic blockade”, members of the Kaman ethnic group, who have traditionally worked in the education and communication sectors of the civil service, are also trapped in the IDP camps. The Government should take immediate action to meet the Kaman ethnic group’s demand to restore their freedom of movement.</td>
<td>Rakhine State Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</td>
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<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>B. One factor that has fuelled tensions between the Rakhine public and Bengali populations relates to the sense of insecurity among many Rakhines stemming from the rapid population growth of the Bengali population, which they view as a serious threat. If, as proposed, family-planning education is provided to the Bengali population, the Government should refrain from implementing non-voluntary measures which may be seen as discriminatory or that would be inconsistent with human rights standards.</td>
<td>Ministry of Immigration and Population, Rakhine State Government, Na Sa Ka (Border Immigration Headquarters)</td>
<td>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>Social Integration</td>
<td>C. When reviewing the cases of Bengalis who are eligible to become citizens, the Government should screen for their ability to fully integrate into society by testing their knowledge of the country, local customs, and language. At the same time, the Government should make available educational resources that will provide information about the country’s culture, traditional dress and practices, and social norms to those wanting to become citizens.</td>
<td>Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Home Affairs, Rakhine State Government</td>
<td>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
<td>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
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<td>Formation of Truth-Finding Committee</td>
<td>D. On a broader level, the Government should form a Truth-Finding Committee to determine the root causes of sectarian violence between the Buddhist and Islamic communities. One of the Committee’s priorities should be to find ways to prevent as well as overcome future conflict, and if necessary, delegations from this Committee should be sent to interested countries to discuss their findings.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>A. The Government should immediately address the citizenship claims of the Bengalis. They will be able to live and coexist with the other citizens only when they themselves become citizens. Likewise, they will take more interest in the recent developments in the country and live as responsible citizens only when they become citizens and can enjoy the rights and responsibilities of other citizens.</td>
<td>Ministry of Immigration and Population</td>
<td>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
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<td>B. The Government should address the citizenship claims of the Bengalis in a transparent and accountable manner. In dealing with stateless individuals, the Government should do so in accordance with existing laws and international norms. The government should arrange citizenship ceremonies to commemorate those who become new citizens.</td>
<td>Ministry of Immigration and Population</td>
<td>The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>A. The majority of the people living in Rakhine State rely on resource-based economic activity such as agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods, primarily due to their lack of economic opportunities and low individual productivity. There are ways to improve their earning power and benefit the state, for example with regards to agricultural development in northern Rakhine State, there is a need to distribute and grow high-grade paddy as well as high-yield paddy.</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>B. The Government will have to meet the basic needs of non-citizens if they are denied livelihoods. If there is no improvement in their situation, poverty and discontent will lead to further unrest. The responsible administrative authorities and civil society groups should work together to: rebuild homes and revitalize communities; provide access to water and electricity; improve communication; promote economic activity and cooperation between diverse groups; and encourage good economic practices. In the strategic port area of Kyaukpyu, there is a danger of fostering local resentment or misunderstanding against the Government if the township is unable to utilize at least a portion of the natural gas from Kyaukpyu offshore development to supply electricity to the Kyaukpyu area.</td>
<td>Ministry of Energy</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>C. Hotel and tourism industry development should be promoted in Rakhine State, because it is steeped in colourful history and is well-endowed with fine beaches and natural beauty. Other areas of economic development may include: boat building shipyards; energy sector; fisheries and cold storage facilities; Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) activities; shrimp farming; hotel and tourism; and recreational parks.</td>
<td>Related Ministries</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>D. The Government should also consider ways to provide access to low-interest loans that could have a big impact on local social and economic activity.</td>
<td>Related Ministries</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>A. There is an urgent need for access to clean water and sanitation in the IDP camps.</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Temporary Resettlement and Reconstruction in the State</td>
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<td>B. While those living in Rakhine State are unlikely to suffer from hunger and starvation, inadequate nutritional resources may lead to cases of malnutrition among young children.</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations</td>
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<td>C. The government must make a priority of providing screening and treatment for post-traumatic stress and other mental health conditions experienced by the IDPs.</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>A. While the majority of the schools closed amid sectarian violence last year have been reopened for the Rakhine IDPs, the schools for the children living in Bengali IDP camps remained closed for the 2012-2013 school year. The government should plan to reopen these schools prior to the 2013-2014 school year.</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>The Social and Economic Development Working Committee</td>
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B. The schools with a mixed population of Rakhine and Bengali students have seen a sharp fall in attendance due to security concerns. It is critical to establish and maintain security at these schools.

C. The teachers who are assigned to schools in the Bengali villages and the areas where the Rakhine and Bengali populations are in close proximity to each other are fearful to return to these schools. Therefore, it is critical to staff these schools with local teachers.

D. The Government should immediately review the curricula of all religious schools and remove any inflammatory texts and teachings to better promote a sense of national pride and mutual understanding between communities. It is of critical importance to teach citizenship and provide civic education to all children throughout Rakhine State.

E. The Government should promote literacy programs (i.e. 3R programs) for the Bengali population to learn how to read, write and speak the Myanmar language.

F. The Government should develop strategies and guarantees to establish and maintain security at schools with a mixed population of Rakhine and Bengali students as well as address the security concerns of teachers at schools in isolated areas.

G. In order for communities to coexist peacefully, it is important to transcend past racial prejudices and hatred through special education programs aimed at changing the mindset and promoting mutual understanding. The Government should develop plans to establish an FM Radio Station to broadcast these educational programs in the local languages as well as consider the future establishment of a TV Channel with similar aims.

7 Religion

A. Moderate Muslim leaders from Yangon and Mandalay should be encouraged to lead the reform efforts in the Islamic religious schools in Rakhine State, especially in place of more extremist elements.

B. The Government should facilitate and organize interfaith dialogue meetings between representatives of all religions to promote mutual understanding and foster respect between Buddhist and Muslim communities.

C. The Government should engage with and regulate religious schools that teach extremism and incite violence. To better promote mutual understanding, the Government should form a governing body comprised of religious educators, including the Mullahs, or religious leaders, to develop and teach a tolerant curricula at these religious schools.

D. The Government should conduct a review and inspection of all religious institutions within the Rakhine State, including Buddhist monasteries, Islamic mosques, Christian churches, Hindu temples, and individuals whose livelihoods depend on advocating religious beliefs. The Ministry of Religious Affairs should issue necessary permits only after determining that these institutions and individuals are operating within the legal framework to carry out their intended purpose.

8 INGO and NGO Interaction

A. The Government, before cooperating with any international institutions or organizations on the Rakhine issue, should first ascertain the appropriateness of the proposed interaction in the local and national contexts, as well as take into consideration the attitudes, viewpoints and opinions of the general public.

B. The Government, the donor organizations, and the local experts and leaders should discuss and work together to revitalize the communities affected by the conflict. It is important for all parties involved to share the necessary information to ensure that the revitalization and humanitarian assistance programs are carried out in a transparent and accountable manner.
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>A. To diffuse future crises before they occur, the Government should establish an Early Warning System to obtain timely and accurate information, monitor the situation on the ground, and carry out necessary precautionary measures. Since there is still a risk of continuing conflict in the Rakhine State, the Government should maintain the current levels of security personnel. There is also a need to strengthen cooperation among various entities within the security apparatus. In addition, the Government should establish a Special Intelligence Team composed of both the military and civilian law enforcement personnel to safeguard against potential extremist action.</td>
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<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>B. The Government should learn from other conflicts and establish a Conflict Management Center that has the authority to gather accurate data on the root causes of the conflict, develop appropriate courses of action to tackle the conflict, and prepare strategies to revitalize the conflict areas.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>C. The Government should facilitate and organize community dialogues that bring together leaders and representatives from Rakhine and Bengali populations to determine the conditions under which the two communities can coexist peacefully. The Government’s role in this should be limited to supportive and facilitative functions. The Government should also establish a Task Force composed of moderate leaders from both communities for this initiative.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>D. The Government and local civil society organizations should take the lead in organizing the community dialogues. International organizations wanting to facilitate these meetings must appear impartial and be acceptable to both communities or else they risk antagonizing one or both communities.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>E. The current conditions in Rakhine State call for a temporary separation of Rakhine and Bengali communities. While keeping the two communities apart is not a long-term solution, it must be enforced at least until the overt emotions subside. Those who break the law during this period must be prosecuted in accordance with the law.</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>F. Rakhine State shares a land and maritime border with Bangladesh, which is densely populated. Its possesses a coastline that stretches along the Bay of Bengal and serves as a gateway to the Indian Ocean, making its geographic location important both for trade and national security. The Government should strengthen its navy and establish a Maritime Police Force to safeguard its coastline and protect its territorial waters. The combined security forces should be placed under the supervision of a commander. The Government should also formulate a national security strategy on the basis of holistic and preventative approaches and paradigms.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>G. As Bangladesh will hold elections this December, it is advisable to monitor the developments in that country as well as the conditions near the Myanmar border. In December 2012, soldiers from the army corps of engineers were ambushed and killed by militant elements operating out of Bangladesh while constructing a fence along the border. The Government should take necessary precautionary measures by strengthening emergency security plans and increasing the security personnel along the border.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Security and Administration</td>
<td>H. Under the current conditions, the Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) should continue to perform administrative duties along the border areas. However, the Border Security Force should focus its energies on restoring law and order in these areas and refrain from infringing on the rights of the general public under existing laws. Even when interacting with those who break the law, the Border Security Force personnel should follow due process and act within the legal framework. The Border Security Force personnel must avoid unlawful acts and act in their professional capacity. If any Border Security Force personnel act extra-judicially they should also be prosecuted in accordance with the law.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>I.</td>
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<td>The Government should establish a professional riot control force to restore law and order in times of conflict. The riot control force should be well prepared, equipped, and trained in physical, psychological, and technical aspects of conflict resolution. It should be given authority to act as soon as a conflict occurs. The complex and sensitive nature of the conflict in Rakhine State necessitates conflict sensitivity training for the security personnel tasked with restoring law and order. It is equally important to provide conflict sensitivity training to military, or Tatmadaw, units that may be deployed in conflict areas.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>J.</td>
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<td>The Government should double the strength of the Tatmadaw, the police force, intelligence personnel, and Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) personnel assigned to Rakhine State to control and prevent further violence in Rakhine State. The security and emergency response personnel must carry out their duties lawfully and those who break the law must be held accountable under existing laws.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>K.</td>
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<td>According to Sittway residents, there has been very little presence and participation on the part of the Union Level Ministries in responding to the conflict in Rakhine State. Specifically, there is a need for the ministries of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Home Affairs, and Border Affairs to play expanded roles in responding to the crisis. The need for the union-level involvement is even more pronounced when taking into consideration the limitations of the Rakhine State Government to act effectively.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>L.</td>
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<td>The Government may face accusations of prejudice and unfairness if the administrative and security personnel tasked with management and rule of law implementation are mainly of Rakhine ethnic origin. The government should strive towards a diverse staff in the administrative and security sectors in the Rakhine State.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>M.</td>
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<td>A major factor contributing to the difficulty in establishing rule of law and restoring order in Rakhine State is the chronic understaffing at the departments of general administration, immigration, corrections, and the judiciary, making them ineffective as a result. Specifically, the difficulties in restoring law and order in Maungtaw, a flashpoint for inter-communal tensions, can be attributed to the instigators outnumbering the security personnel. In particular, the departments of immigration, general administration, and religious affairs must be restructured and strengthened so that they can carry out their duties effectively at the grass-root level.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>The natural geography and relatively poor infrastructure of Rakhine State makes quick responses a challenge. The Government should make transportation infrastructure a priority and construct roads and bridges to provide easy access to remote areas.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
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<td>O.</td>
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<td>The officials who are responsible for preventing violence and restoring law and order should be entrusted also with the authority to take legal and security measures that they deem necessary. The government should also provide such officials with all the assistance and support they need.</td>
<td>Union Government</td>
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<td>The Border Security Force (Na-Sa-Ka) is made up of four different governmental agencies and is placed under the command of the Tatmadaw. The government should review and reform the structure and function of the Border Security Force to create an environment in which all participating agencies can work well together. Although some people in local areas noted that the performance of the Border Security Force has improved to some extent in the wake of violence, the coordination and cooperation among the participating agencies remains weak. Given the emergency situation in Rakhine State, all security forces except the armed forces should answer to the Chief Minister of the state. In order to restore law and order effectively, all security forces must work closely with the officials responsible for civil administration. Up to now, it has been found that security forces take orders only from the relevant line ministries of the union-level government and do not follow the instructions and requests from the state government until they receive authorization from their ministerial superiors. There is a need for a mechanism that will require all security forces to work closely with the State government in undertaking needed action.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>Q.</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Citizens and non-citizens who reside in Rakhine State have little awareness and knowledge of the Constitution, existing laws, administrative rules and regulations, and ordinances. It is vital for all inhabitants to be informed of the laws so that they can enjoy protection under these laws. It is also important to organize regular legal capacity building seminars and initiatives – possibly during each summer break - with the help and cooperation of the Rakhine State governmental agencies, students from Sittway University, the Myanmar Bar Council, and law students from Yangon University.</td>
<td>President Office Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>The Government should make it illegal for any political organization or individual to exploit the sectarian divide in Rakhine State for their own benefit or to inflame tensions.</td>
<td>Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>B.</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>In line with rule of law promotion efforts, when prosecuting those who break the law, the Courts should guarantee their due process rights; not distinguish them based on their race, religion or ethnicity; and treat them equally before the law. In addition, laws and regulations related to public safety and restoration of order should be circulated widely to the general public in Rakhine State.</td>
<td>Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>The Government must take firm action against any group or individual inciting or instigating conflict or violence on the basis of race, religion, language, or culture. The existing criminal laws must be applied and enforced effectively to not only punish those who break these laws, but to serve their deterrent purpose. Also, new legislation concerning such issues should also be promulgated from time to time as the need arises.</td>
<td>Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>D.</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>While the citizenship status of some of the Bengalis living in the Rakhine State remains unclear, regardless, the Government and civil society organizations must protect their human rights and ensure that their security and basic needs are met. Government entities should also acknowledge the basic human rights of undocumented and illegal immigrants and deal with them in a transparent manner under existing laws.</td>
<td>Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee The Immigration and Citizenship Review Committee The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Peaceful Coexistence</td>
<td>The Government must enable Bengalis who have become Myanmar citizens the opportunity to enjoy all rights associated with citizenship. The Government has the authority to infringe on the rights of all citizens in times of emergency and for national security, but it must do so lawfully. If the Government can fully safeguard the rights of individuals even in times of crisis, it would avoid many unwanted criticisms.</td>
<td>Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<td>B.</td>
<td>Peaceful Coexistence</td>
<td>The Government must safeguard the security and human rights of all people when responding to sectarian violence in Rakhine State. The Government under law may restrict the rights of certain individuals or groups when their actions affect national security concerns. However, the Government must first ascertain that the threat to national security exists, and must recognize that it bears the burden to demonstrate that these unlawful actions amount to national security threats.</td>
<td>President Office Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Security and Law Enforcement Working Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Peaceful Coexistence</td>
<td>It is critical to strengthen existing judicial and other dispute-resolution mechanisms within Rakhine State so they can serve their intended purpose of solving problems within the law. The Rakhine and Bengali populations will turn to these institutions to solve their disputes only when such institutions are properly functioning.</td>
<td>President Office Union Government Rakha State Government</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Restoration of Stability, Peace and Rule of Law The Working Committee for Drawing Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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Limit exposure to direct sunlight during hottest time

When daily temperature is considered to be reaching its peak in the hottest April it is time to make public extensively the health hazards of UV radiation stemming from ozone depletion and to take sun protection measures which require urgent attention for general public both in urban and rural areas. With the changing of weather patterns the majority of the people have to go through an unexpected ordeal of natural disaster that is still difficult to head off.

Most of Myanmar people have little knowledge or no knowledge about the risk of UV rays and its adverse effect on their health one way or another. The prolonged exposure to UV rays has resulted in a high risk of developing skin cancer and permanent blindness as well as sudden degeneration of immune system which plays an important role in protecting a spate of infection.

As sun’s UV rays are the strongest during a period from 11 am to 2 pm, shade, clothing and umbrella or hats are the best modes of protection when you are outside at that time.

If you are going to be out in the sun for one reason or another or if you are really the outdoor type, you need to protect yourself from too much exposure to the UV rays and to adopt the following sun safety practices—limit exposure to direct sunlight during these hours, search for shade under the scorching heat, wear tight woven, loose fitting clothing and sunglasses and take cover under an umbrella or hat that offer better sun protection. Just as the prospect of high temperature is looming large, all citizens are required to go into overdrive in preventing themselves from the danger of UV rays and strictly follow the above-mentioned safety practices. And only this, will they be spared from the trials and tribulations of the hottest days and be able to keep themselves out of the undesirable consequences of the natural disaster.

7 Days in Myanmar: A Multimedia Showcase covers many features of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met local people at the hall of Cocogyun township yesterday evening. In meeting with them, the Senior General said that access to Cocogyun region was difficult and plans were being made to run vessels from Five Stars Line in cooperation with Yangon Region Government in accord with the report of Township Hluttaw Representative U Aye Pe. Tatmadaw aircrafts and vessels would be sent there in rainy season in coordination with region government, if weather permits. Priority was given to extend Cocogyun airport for the convenience of Cocogyun dwellers, he said.

The Senior General called on friendship between Myanmar and Brazil to accommodate the economic and political aspects of the nation—cultural, social, economic, religious and natural life involving Myanmar’s rare historical photos owned by John Falconer, a historian.

The program is mainly sponsored by Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake, Total, Myanmar Brewery, City Road, here, on 27 April. Thirty world leading photographers will tour around the country for one week, capturing unforgettable images of the people, landscapes, industries and traditions of Myanmar.

Yangon, 30 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung met Mr. Ricardo Cateb Curry, Myanmar Honorable Consul to Brazil, at the building of the federation, here, on 28 April. They held talks on significant progress in bilateral trade, arrival of tourists to Myanmar from Brazil, establishment of Brazilian-Myanmar entrepreneurs association and Myanmar-Brazil entrepreneurs association, visit of Brazilian businessmen to Myanmar in June and July this year, holding a business meet with Myanmar counterparts and cooperation in agriculture and other sectors.

Ten more private dailies get green light

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—The meeting (4/2013) of the Central Supervisory Committee for Registration and Distribution of Printers and Publishers was held at the Ministry of Information, here, this morning. The committee chairman and members scrutinized applications for private dailies at the meeting.

Since 1 February, the Ministry of Information had invited applications for publishing private dailies as of 1 April. The ministry has allowed a total of 16 applicants—eight on 28 February, 2013 and eight on 25 March, 2013. After scrutinizing 11 applications, the committee has granted 10 following private dailies on temporary basis. Those dailies granted are—

(a) National Time Daily
(b) Daily Eleven News
(c) Myanmar Freedom Daily
(d) The Nagani Daily
(e) Dana Business Daily
(f) Warazein Daily
(g) Newswatch Daily
(h) The Pyi Myanmar Daily
(i) Myanmar Post Daily
(j) International Herald Tribune (reprint)
(k) Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM

At present, 24 dailies in Myanmar version and two in English version, totaling 26 dailies had been granted. The committee will scrutinize and grant other applications at the next meeting (5/2013).—MNA
One issue that has undermined peaceful coexistence between Rakhine and other groups in Rakhine State is the concern expressed by many members of the Rakhine public about recent rapid growth of the Bengali population. This has fuelled insecurity among some Rakhines. On top of the widely-held belief that all Bengalis are illegal immigrants, such sentiments have driven the feeling among Rakhine groups that they must act to prevent the Bengali population taking over Rakhine State. According to many Rakhines, the implementation of family planning programs amongst Bengali communities would go some way to mitigating such concerns and would support the goal of peaceful coexistence. While family planning education should be provided to the Bengali population, the Government and other civil society organizations should refrain from implementing mandatory measures which could seem unfair and abusive. In addition, any mandatory measures could be used by some elements of the Bengali population to stir up instability within the Rakhine State. Moreover, past efforts to outlaw the practice of polygamy among Bengali men have had little impact. Until the current Government came to power in early 2011, Bengali residents did not have the right to marry without local administrative approval. Not only did this requirement provide a loophole for corruption, it had little practical impact. The majority of the Bengali population marry in secret without the necessary administrative approval and children born under these circumstances remain unregistered. Currently, the number of unregistered children is estimated at 60,000 and this number can have significant consequences in determining population growth and density. The Government should take lessons from Pakistan and other Islamic countries that have implemented educational and legal measures in this regard.

### Table: Implementation Plan

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<th>Sr.</th>
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<th>Task</th>
<th>Implementation Department</th>
<th>Responsible Committee</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>A.</td>
<td>The communal violence in Rakhine State has drawn both national and international media attention. Government authorities must be vigilant and avoid exacerbating the situation either by words or action when briefing the media or interacting with international organizations. For example, Government authorities should not readily discount the presence of illegal immigrants in Rakhine State, since such statements could provoke further insecurity among the Rakhine population. Instead, the Government should make clear its intention to take decisive action against all illegal immigrants and corrupt civil servants under existing laws.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>B.</td>
<td>It is impossible to ban or censor material related to communal conflict in Rakhine State on the internet. Therefore, the Government should regularly release factual and timely information concerning events in Rakhine State. Inability to do so will allow instigators on both sides to spread rumors, thereby worsening the situation. Recent events indicate that the delay in releasing an official account of the situation created an opportunity for instigators on both sides to propagate rumors that fuelled further violence.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>The communal violence in Rakhine State is monitored both locally and by the international community. Some countries, such as those in ASEAN, are attempting to internationalize the issue. It is insufficient for the Myanmar Government to claim this is a domestic problem; the Government needs to demonstrate it is capable of resolving the problem internally, and publicize its actions through regular news updates. Even the diplomatic community in Yangon wrongly blames the Government based on information obtained from the internet and other social media outlets. In situations such as this, attempts to control such media outlets will only worsen the situation. Instead, the Government should release accurate, factual accounts as well as ensure greater openness and transparency, except when doing so affects national security. Briefing the media and issuing news bulletins on a regular basis would help greatly in combating misinformation and rumors.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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<td>D.</td>
<td>One of the main reasons why the conflict escalated in June, August and September is because the Government did not have sufficient information on Taing-Yin-Tha nationalist associations and their activities in order to take precautionary measures. Consequently, the Government needs to put in place mechanisms for obtaining timely and accurate information on politically active groups so that preventive measures can be implemented.</td>
<td>President Office</td>
<td>The Working Committee for Long-Term Strategic Plans</td>
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President’s Excellence Award Presentation ceremony....

(from page 16) and called for mindset change in private sector and systematic measures to be taken for development of private sector.

He pointed out the lack of market development and transaction costs as a root cause of weakening livestock breeding and production sector in regions and sates. He called for establishment of areas and zones with economic potentials.

Although it had been two years that Myanmar opened up to the outside world in both economic and international relations contexts, the private sector of the country was still to rise above, he said.

The fast-changing global and local environment encouraged the country to review readiness and capacity of private sector, he added. He said it was time to interact with international economies.

He called on national entrepreneurs to get ready for ASEAN Free Trade Area, boosting production and marketing.

Simultaneously with political, economic and administrative reforms, the government set private sector development reform as the fourth phase of reform process.

The President urged government departments to draft plans to empower private sector.

He stressed the need of the participation of the people in people-centred development efforts. The reason why the government is laying down people-centric policies is that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-religion country, he said.

He called on the entire people to cooperate with the government to bring down mob violence and instigation that hampered the stability.

He concluded his speech saying, “Let’s build the nation through the people’s strength.”

The President conferred certificates of honour to Dr Bhaddanta Nannisara, Dr Bhaddanta Cekinda and Bhaddanta Nayaka on behalf of PhaungdawU affiliated monastic high school.

MCS and respective award committees briefed on performances of the award winners.

The President then awarded outstanding farmers, breeders, social workers, business personalities, sports personalities, industrialists for their excellent performance.

U Kyaw Win, who was honoured for his manufacturing record of value-added products, said, “I take the President’s Excellence Award Presentation Ceremony as an event inspiring businessmen from various fields to catalyse economic growth.”

“We paid more than six billion in Kyat as tax in 2011-2012. The amount that affords me the honour represents tax paid from our banking arm alone,” U Aung Ko Win, top taxpayer award winner, said. He had paid more than 17 billion in Kyat as tax in advance for 2013-2014 fiscal year. He has donated more than Ky 24 billion since late April, 2011.

Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Maauk Kham and U Nyan Tun also presented awards to winners.

An award winner spoke words of thanks. The President, the Vice-Presidents and award winners posed for documentary photo.

“I was awarded for my efforts to earn foreign exchange as a mango farmer,” Daw Than Than Swe, the top small-scale entrepreneur, said.

U Aye Win, the top middle-scale entrepreneur, said, “To develop our industries, we need to learn from our industries. We have low-quality tools. Combination with foreign technologies would guarantee better quality.”

The President hosted a dinner to the award winners at Banquet Hall where the troupe of the Culture Ministry performed dances and songs.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Deputy Speaker meets
Australian Senate President

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Commission U Aung Tun and members, Chairman of International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Dr Aye Maung, commission and committee members, officials of Hluttaw Office and of National Plan Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and of Financial and Legal Affairs Commission U Aung Tun and members, Chairman of International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Dr Aye Maung, commission and committee members, officials of Hluttaw Office and of National Plan Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings.

MNA

Myanmar targets 3 million tourists in 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Myanmar targeted 3 million tourist entry in 2015, a near triple of the 2011-2012 figure, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hlay Aung said in meeting Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard at the ministry here this morning.

The Union minister elaborated on progress in drafting Tourism Master Plan with the help from the Norwegian government and Asia Development Bank. The master plan would be presented at World Economic Forum (East Asia) scheduled to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in coming June.

He also discussed plans to develop infrastructures and environmental conservation at Inlay Lake.

MNA

Religious building attacked by mob in Okkan

YANGON, 30 April—A religious building and shops in Okkan of Taikkyi Township in Yangon were destroyed by a mob this morning and afternoon. The security forces fired warning shots into the air to disperse the mob.

In the morning, a woman by the name of Ma Win Win Sein bumped into a young man in South Phayagyi Street near Okkan market. In the incident, the woman was not serious. In the evening, 25 shops near Okkan market and the wall of the religious building were destroyed by the mob. In the incident, ten people were injured and eight police officers were injured. The government to bring down mob violence and instigation that hampered the stability.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Bill Committee and of National Plan Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and of Financial and Legal Affairs Commission U Aung Tun and members, Chairman of International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Dr Aye Maung, commission and committee members, officials of Hluttaw Office and of National Plan Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings.

MNA
Cambodian top diplomat says Cambodia-China tie reaches high level after 55-year development

Phnom Penh, 30 April—The relations and cooperation between Cambodia and China have reached a high level after the leaders of both sides have forged and fostered them for 55 years, Cambodian top diplomat said on Monday. Speaking at a meeting with outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Pan Guangxue, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said the year 2013 marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia and the “China-Cambodia Friendship Year.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would cooperate with the Chinese Embassy to Cambodia to organize various activities to mark the anniversary, he said, adding that there would be as many activities as possible to fit with the theme of cooperation and cooperation between the two countries. He said Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen had already visited China early this month to strengthen the bilateral ties with new Chinese leaders, and the country hoped that Chinese senior leaders would make official visits to Cambodia this year in order to further enhance the relations.

The relationship between Cambodia and China reached top level in December 2010 when the leaders of the two countries established the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation, and during Hun Sen’s visit to China early this month, the two sides established an inter-governmental coordination committee to jointly implement the Action Plan on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation.

The committee, co-chaired by Hor Namhong and former Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, will be convened for the first time in the near future.

Nepal officials vow to ensure security on Everest after fight

Kathmandu, 30 April—Nepali officials vowed on Monday to ensure the safety of climbers seeking to scale Mount Everest after three European climbers were involved in a fight with sheria guides on their way to the peak of the world’s highest mountain.

Three experienced climbers from Britain, Italy and Switzerland were on route to camp three at 7,000 metres (22,965 feet) on the 8,850 metres (22,965 feet) high summit when a brawl broke out on Saturday with sherpas fixing their ropes.

Witnesses said the sherpas pelted the Europeans’ tents with stones and punches were thrown. Swiss climber Ueli Steck descended to the base camp after the attack and said he would abandon the climb and return to Kathmandu if proper security was not ensured.

Nepali officials were quick to respond after the unusual brawl on Mount Everest, which is a key source of income for impoverished Nepal as foreign climbers pay royalties to scale the world’s highest peak.

Tourism Ministry official Dipendra Paudel said the government would ensure the safety and security of the climbers. “There was a slight misunderstanding and communication gap between them,” Paudel said in Kathmandu after contacting the base camp. “This has been sorted out and the climbers are at the base camp.” He said the European climbers would resume their bid to climb Everest. Officials said hundreds of climbers from 32 expeditions and their sherpas were on Mount Everest in the current climbing season which continues through May.

Sherpas are locals from the Everest region and are noted for their climbing skills.

They are responsible for fixing ropes and accompany most of the foreign climbers to the summit.—Reuters

Eleven more terrorist suspects captured after Xinjiang deadly attack

Kashgar (Xinjiang), 30 April—Eleven runaway suspected terrorists linked to a deadly attack on 25 April in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were also unearthed at the site. The New Stone Age, or Neolithic Era, was the last period of the Stone Age. Marked by careful polished stone artifacts, ancient China’s neolithic age started about 10,000 years ago.—Xinhua

New Stone Age garbage sites unearthed

Shiaiazhuang, 30 April—Archaeologists have unearthed more than 30 pits believed to be New Stone Age garbage sites used by humans 5,000 to 6,000 years ago in north China’s Hebei Province.

The pits, various in size, shape and depth, were unearthed nearby an ancient village relics site within the Jialu village territory in Hebei’s Zhaoxian County, according to Han Jinqiu, director with the Prehistory Archaeological Research Department of Hebei Provincial Cultural Relics Institute. Archaeologists found that the pits were not located at the center of the New Stone Age ancient village but nearby, said Han.

A well, a shallow gutter and large quantities of pottery or stone artifact fragments with distinct New Stone Age features were also unearthed at the site. The New Stone Age, or Neolithic Era, was the last period of the Stone Age. Marked by careful polished stone artifacts, ancient China’s neolithic age started about 10,000 years ago.—Xinhua

Three in four Singapore bosses view overtime work as important

Singapore, 30 April—Three out of four employers in Singapore say it is important for their employees to work overtime or on weekends, according to the results of a latest survey released on Monday.

The survey by online jobs portal Jobs Central Group also showed that an employee’s relationship with his or her boss can significantly affect work happiness, especially in areas of advancement opportunities and work autonomy. About 46 percent of the employers also say they would contact their employees who are on leave. 58 percent maintain it is important their employees remain contactable, regardless of whether they are on vacation. 70 percent would email their employees who work beyond normal work hours has become the norm, possibly from cultural issues like expecting employees to work beyond normal work hours has become the norm, possibly from cultural issues like expecting employees to work overtime or on weekends, according to the results of a latest survey released on Monday.

“Expecting employees to work overtime or on weekends, according to the results of a latest survey released on Monday. …””—Lim added. Lim also said that it could boil down to the degree of invasiveness of the employee’s personal time partly due to the ease of communication. There are also other bad habits of the bosses. 23 percent of them would stretch meetings beyond office hours, 20.3 percent would email their employees at wee hours of the morning, while 16.8 percent frequently shorten project deadlines.—Xinhua

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Wednesday, 1 May, 2013

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KUMANO VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUMANO VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NYK LINE
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (206)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (206) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2013 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

CLAIBMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANG KHON THI VOY NO (168)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KHON THI VOY NO (168) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2013 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Istanbul: 30 April—A Turkish newspaper has published the names of more than 100,000 people whose Judaism is questioned (or that they are not interested in that many secular options of civil marriage or interfaith marriage, it further said.

A staff member shows a high-heeled plastic shoe, which is printed by a 3D printer, at the 6th Nanjing Conference on International Exchange and Cooperation for Overseas Chinese Professionals in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 25 April, 2013.

Photo taken on 25 April, 2013 shows the scenery of Sanhe Ancient Town in Feixi County, east China’s Anhui Province. The Sanhe Ancient Town, which has a history of more than 2,500 years, is a typical “ancient town full of rivers and lakes, together with small bridges, flowing water and local dwellings.”—XINHUA

Israelis call for civil marriage in the country
JERUSALEM, 30 April—Israelis has marked on Sunday the holiday of Lag Baomer, which commemorates the victory of an ancient Jewish war lord against the Roman Empire, and also traditionally kicks off the weddings season in Israel. But in Israel the issue of marriages seems quiet complex. In a report issued by a non-governmental organization called Hiddush, advocating religious freedom in Israel, it was discovered that Israel is at the bottom of nearly 200 countries in the world as far as freedom to marry is concerned.

In Israel, the orthodox religious establishment has monopoly over the registration and performing of marriages, which are made in accordance with the halacha, the Jewish ancient law book. Contending that Israel is a Jewish state, about 300,000 people whose Judaism is questioned (or that they are not interested in having a religious wedding and members of other faiths in Judaism, like the reform faction.

The report stated that Israel has “severe restrictions” relating to the restrictions piled up by the Orthodox rabbinic establishment on those who wish to marry. “Only recognized religious marriage ceremonies are allowed in Israel,” the report stated. “For Jews, only weddings that are held up to Orthodox standards are accepted, without any option of civil marriage or interfaith marriage,” it further said.

Ankara, 30 April—Turkey and Kuwait signed eight agreements on Monday including deals on education and defense to improve bilateral relations during a meeting between Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara.

The eight agreements include deals covering civil aviation, education, arts and culture, defense, livestock and travel, which were signed between relevant ministers of the two countries. Kuwaiti Emir and Turkish President discussed about boosting bilateral trade volume and taking the necessary precautions to increase the amount of reciprocal investments. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues, including Syria and Cyprus, according to Turkish sources.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikha Sabah Khalid al-Hamad al-Sabah also had talks in Ankara, in which both foreign ministers confirmed that Turkish business people and contractors should take part in more projects in Kuwait in the future.—XINHUA

Austrian National Library puts 100,000 books on the Internet
VIENNA, 30 April—The Austrian National Library (ANL) has so far uploaded 100,000 of its books to the Internet as part of its Austrian Books Online project, the Library said on Monday. The ANL has been conducting the project in conjunction with Google since 2010, with an ultimate goal of putting 600,000 books totalling 200 million pages into digital, copyright-free form.

General Director of the library Johanna Raichinger said the project was thus far was cause for celebration, and referred to it as “a milestone in the democratization of knowledge and the history of the Austrian National Library.”

More than 20 experts have been exclusively assigned to the project with a further 50 experts assisting. The books online so far can be searched for through the online catalogue of the library and can be read and downloaded in full free of charge.

The ANL is situated at the Hofburg Palace in the centre of Vienna and has a rich history dating back to 1575. It was previously known as the Imperial Library (“Hofbibliothek”) founded by the Hapsburg Royal Family, and renamed as the ANL in 1920.

XINHUA

12 New Light of Myanmar
ADVERTISMENT & GENERAL
Bol Bachchan, Barbie keep Shazahn Padamsee busy

MUMBAI, 30 April—Busy time for Shazahn Padamsee. The actress will feature in Telugu remake of hit Hindi movie Bol Bachchan and as well as in a music video for new collection of Barbie dolls.

“I am doing the Telugu remake of Bol Bachchan. I am shooting in Bangalore. I am in between my shooting schedule,” the 25-year-old said at the launch of Monster High, a new collection of Barbie dolls.

She has also finished shooting for Disco Valley, a film based on rave parties that also stars Rajat Barmecha.

“I am over the moon that I have been selected to represent the Indian version,” she said. Shazahn told reporters.

Meanwhile, Shazahn has also shot for a music video made for the new collection of Barbie dolls.

“We will release soon,” Shazahn told reporters.

“Music video... Again you’ll see a completely new me, I cannot tell you what it’ll be like. It’s really crazy, it’s a crazy film that we will release soon,” Shazahn told reporters.

Shazahn was last seen in Housefull 2: The Dirty Dozen. She has also finished shooting for Disco Valley, a film based on rave parties that also stars Rajat Barmecha.

Rod Stewart confesses to running away from past romances

LOS ANGELES, 30 April—Rod Stewart is “ashamed” of running away from past relationships.

The music icon has been married three times — to Alana Hamilton, Rachel Hunter and currently Penny Lancaster — and has opened up about his womanizing ways in the past, now admitting he had a tendency to run away from failing romances. He said: “The one thing I am desperately ashamed of is the way I would finish relationships. I can have confrontation with a bloke but never with a woman. I just have to run away from it. It’s sad, it’s shallow and I’m embarrassed about it.”

However, the 68-year-old rocker added he is a changed man and claimed he was constantly “looking for that perfect woman” when he was younger. He revealed to the Daily Telegraph newspaper: “It was a long time ago. I was loyal to Rachel for seven years, and I’ve been with Penny for 13.

“I think I was always looking for that perfect woman, who obviously doesn’t exist. I wanted to be married. I wanted more kids. I’m a family man, at heart.”

Still, Rod did admit he doesn’t think many men would have behaved differently, given similar “opportunities”. He said: “I was shagging my way round the world, like most blokes do. I don’t think many men would have behaved differently, given similar opportunities.”—PTI

Rolling Stones to play ‘surprise’ LA gig ahead of US tour

LOS ANGELES, 30 April —The Rolling Stones will play a “surprise” gig for fans in Los Angeles on Saturday, a week ahead of kicking off a US tour to mark 50 years in the music business.

Hundreds of fans, alerted on the band’s Twitter account, lined up from as early as 5 am on Saturday to get hold of the $20 dollar tickets for the concert at the 320 person capacity Echoplex club in Los Angeles.

Tickets were distributed by a lottery system and, according to the band’s Twitter account, sold out swiftly. The veteran British rockers will officially launch a 17-date North American “50 and Counting” tour on 3 May in Los Angeles, after playing a handful of dates in London, Paris and New York at the end of 2012.

Tickets for the Los Angeles opening concert at the Staples Center arena went on general sale on April 15 and were still available on Saturday at prices up to $600 each.

Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez seal reconciliation with a kiss

NEW DELHI, 30 April—Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez shared a passionate kiss in Norway. The pop stars were spotted secretly snogging backstage during Justin’s 18 April concert in Oslo, Norway, confirming reports they had reconciled their romance after originally splitting just before New Year’s Eve (31.12.12).

A source told UsMagazine.com: “Justin pursued Selena and she gave in. They have a crazy connection.”

However, the Baby hitmaker and the Disney starlet are taking things slow and have no plans to make things official yet.

The insider added: “They aren’t back together.” The couple fell out after an explosive row on holiday in Puerto Vallarta and have had little contact since. Selena shocked fans by flying out to Oslo last week, but has apparently been secretly missing Justin since her promotional whirlwind for her new movie ‘Spring Breakers’ came to an end.

Another source joked: “Who knows with them? They’re always back and forth!”

Speculation the pair had got back together was fuelled when Justin accidentally posted a photo of the his Instagram account over the weekend, before quickly removing it.

Selena’s pals are said to be furious she is thinking of reconciling with Justin, who they believe is a bad influence on her.

An insider recently said: “They’ve been spending a lot of time together, secretly, over the last couple weeks. But nothing is official between them. “Being with Selena is good for him, but her friends are adamant that he’s bad for her.”—PTI
Benteke treble leads Villa rout of Sunderland

**London, 30 April—** Aston Villa striker Christian Benteke scored a hat-trick to lead his side to a crushing 6-1 win over Sunderland on Monday that gave them a massive lift in their battle for Premier League survival.

Belgian Benteke, 22, enhanced his burgeoning reputation and took his season’s tally to 18 league goals as Villa climbed to 16th place in the table on 37 points with three matches left, five ahead of third-bottom Wigan Athletic who have a game in hand.

Jose Mourinho wants more aggressive Real Madrid

**Madrid, 30 April—** Jose Mourinho has called on his side to be more ruthless when they face Borussia Dortmund in the semi-final of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Mourinho believes his side have an effect on his future at the club.

"The team was naive. The game was barely begun. It was like we had just started," Mourinho said. "We have to perform with the type of aggression they did in the 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

"We played against a player that scored four goals and wasn’t fouled in the whole game. We have 90 minutes to play and we are 4-1 down. What I am concerned with is analysing what happened in Dortmund and what we have to do tomorrow.

"The game in Dortmund was so bad that I am not concerned about them. I am concerned about what we have to do better. No player is hiding, we all in the same boat and all of them want to play, which gives me confidence and hope for the game. In football everything is possible."

Mourinho confirmed that Ronaldo trained on Monday morning and will play despite continuing to feel the aftereffects of a thigh injury picked up in the first-leg last Wednesday.

Wenger convinced Arsenal will secure top-four finish

**London, 30 April—** Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger believes that if his team win their last three Premier League games they will qualify for the Champions League, but both Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur could yet scupper his hopes.

If Chelsea take at least nine points from their last four games, they will finish on 74 points. If Tottenham win their four remaining games, they would also finish on 74 points.

However, even if Arsenal won their remaining games against relegates Queens Park Rangers, Wigan Athletic and Newcastle United, they would finish on 73 points and could mass out on a place in the Champions League for the first time in 16 years.

The key game is on May 8 when former Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas takes his Spurs team to Stamford Bridge to face his old club.

"In the past few years I have played as a centre-back, it gives me more control of the game. Due to the circumstances I had to play at full-back and it wasn’t a problem.

"My future won’t depend on that. At practically all clubs, not just Madrid, the success is thanks to the players and the failure is that of the manager."

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Mourinho confirmed that Ronaldo trained on Monday morning and will play despite continuing to feel the aftereffects of a thigh injury picked up in the first-leg last Wednesday.

"But you know there is no room for dropping points. We know that."

Sharapova shows off “Shugarpova” candy in Moscow

**Moscow, 30 April—** Fresh from claiming her 20th WTA singles title, Maria Sharapova made a one-day stop in Moscow to present her ‘Shugarpova’ candy brand to the Russian market on Monday.

The Florida-based Russian insisted that despite her multiple businesses, tennis remains her main focus.

"Right now tennis is the most important for me," the world number two told reporters at an upscale Moscow store, where a small pack of ‘Shugarpova’ sweets is sold for 175 roubles ($5.66).

Sharapova, who turned 26 this month, said she still planned to compete at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

“(The London Olympics) was a good experience for me. I got a chance to carry the Russian flag at the opening ceremony and winning a silver medal," she said.

"But I hope to get the gold in 2016."

Sharapova retained her Stuttgart title by beating China’s Li Na in Sunday’s final on clay as she continued her preparations for next month’s French Open where she will defend her title.

**Reuters**

**Russia's top seed and holder Sharapova celebrates after she won a Porsche 911 4S in the final of the Stuttgart tennis Grand Prix against China's Li Na, on 29 April, 2013. Reuters**

"I hope to get the gold in 2016."
Barca will try every trick on Bayern, Beckenbauer warns

BERLIN, 30 April—Barcelona will try every trick in the book to overturn a 4-0 first-leg deficit against Bayern Munich in their Champions League semi-final return leg on Wednesday, honorary president of Germany’s most successful club, warned that Barcelona were not ready to surrender.

“Barca will try everything to throw Bayern off balance,” he told Bild newspaper. “They will deploy all methods, anything that’s allowed and anything that’s forbidden. They will defend themselves because their pride has been hurt.”

Bayern, leading 1-0 at halftime, played a flawless second half against the former European champions, widely considered the best team in the past five years — last week in Munich to notch up another three goals and take a huge advantage into the second leg in Spain.

“Barca will try to take Bayern’s eyes off their game plan with one-on-one duels. The Bayern players should not be drawn into personal battles,” said the 67-year-old Beckenbauer who won three consecutive European Cups with Bayern in the 1970s. “They will not surrender, they will provoke, they will try all the tricks in the book.”

Bayern, who have already won the Bundesliga and are in the German Cup final, are bidding for an unprecedented treble of titles for a German club. The Bavarians are also aiming for their third Champions League final in four seasons after losing the 2010 and 2012 finals.—REUTERS

Franz Beckenbauer speaks during the Munich bid city presentation to International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegates in Durban, on 6 July, 2011.—REUTERS

One killed, three others injured in accident

SULTANPUR, 30 April—One person was killed today while three others injured when the tempo was hit by a truck in Lambhua area here. Pradeep Pathak (45) and three others on the tempo were injured in the mishap and were rushed to a hospital, where Pathak died during treatment, police said. The truck has been seized.—PTI

A model poses for photos with a sedan at Fuzhou Auto Fair in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 29 April, 2013.—Xinhua

Kiev Int’l marathon entries set record

KIEV, 30 April —The 4th Kiev International Marathon attracted a record 2,000 participants from Ukraine and abroad Sunday, becoming one of the biggest events of its kind in Eastern Europe, event spokesperson Lesya Semchishin told Xinhua on Monday.

“The marathon gathered amateur runners and athletes from 40 countries, including Ukraine, Russia, the United States, Germany, Poland and other countries,” Semchishin said. Before the race, runners observed a minute of silence to remember and honor the victims of the April 15 Boston Marathon bombings, Semchishin said. He added that the phrase “I run for Boston” was the slogan of this year’s marathon.—Xinhua

Cargo plane crashes in Bagram, Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 April—A cargo plane crashed in Bagram, 50 km north of Afghan capital Kabul, on Monday, casualties feared, an official who declined to be identified told Xinhua.

He added authorized officials would brief the media about the crash. Bagram is the main US military base in Afghanistan.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-5-13 09:30 am – 2-5-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-4)
* News
* Music
* News
* Be a Lover to Nature
* The Market of Cheap Clothes
* News
* Melamu Ceti with Various Statues
* Reflecting Life of Buddha
* Yangon Lifestyle
* Furniture Fair
* News
* Kid’s Talent
* Pre Opening Ceremony of U Thant’s Home Museum
* News
* Be a Lover to Nature
* The Market of Cheap Clothes
* The Pindaya Natural Cave
* News
* Fabulous Coiffure Hairstyle
* Myanmar Movies “The Director”

MYANMAR TV

(4-5-2013, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gwin Sayadaw
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
3. Documentary
4. Dance & Song of National Races
5. News
6:20 am
17. India Drama Series
17. India Drama Series
17. India Drama Series
3:25 pm
18. Dance & Song of National Races
4:00 pm
19. News
4:15 pm
20. India Drama Series
5:30 pm
21. Fashion Show
5:45 pm
22. Documentary
5:50 pm
23. Documentary (SEA Games)
6:00 pm
24. News
6:25 pm
25. Show Yin Kyone Than
7:00 pm
26. News
7:20 pm
27. Kyae Pwint Myay
8:00 pm
9:00 pm
29. News
11:00 pm
30. My Mind Game My
1:20 pm
SEAGames

Rooney tops English Premier League wealth list

LONDON, 30 April—Manchester United and England striker Wayne Rooney is the richest player in the Premier League with a fortune estimated at 51 million pounds ($79.01 million), according to the Sunday Times newspaper’s sporting rich list. Twenty-four Premier League players are among the top 100 richest sportsmen in Britain and Ireland.

Rooney’s fortune has risen by six million pounds from 2012 and his combined wealth with wife Coleen is estimated at 64 million pounds.

United team mate Rio Ferdinand is ranked second on 42 million pounds while Stoke City striker Michael Owen is third on 38 million.

Values are based on identifiable wealth including land, property, assets including art and race horses, and shares in publicly quoted companies.

Former England captain David Beckham, now playing for Paris St Germain, is ranked 11th in the Sunday Times world sporting rich list with a worth of 165 million pounds. World number one golfer Tiger Woods is top of that chart on $570 million pounds.

Premier League top 10:
1. Wayne Rooney (Manchester United) 51 million pounds
2. Rio Ferdinand (Manchester United) 42 million pounds
3. Michael Owen (Stoke City) 38 million pounds
4. Ryan Giggs (Manchester United) 34 million pounds
4. Frank Lampard (Chelsea) 34 million pounds
6. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) 33 million pounds
7. Fernando Torres (Chelsea) 26 million pounds
8. John Terry (Chelsea) 24 million pounds
9. Joe Cole (West Ham United) 21 million pounds
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President’s Excellence Award Presentation ceremony held
Formulating people-centered policy calls for mass participation

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Aimed at turning out qualified organizations and human resources while implementing the tasks for development of national economy and socio-economic development of the people, the President’s Excellence Award Presentation ceremony was successfully held at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this evening.

The award winners in respective sectors were chosen under serious scrutiny. In his address, President U Thein Sein said that the lifeblood of democratic system was the Rule of Law. Only when the Rule of Law, will peace and stability be realized. Only peace and stability could bring the betterment of socio-economic status.

In his greetings, the President said that today’s ceremony was to present excellence awards to those who contributed their excellent performance in their respective sectors for the development of the country and socioeconomic status of its people. The ceremony was intended to turn out good and able citizens in economic and social sectors and to encourage the development of private sector in accord with market economy.

He continued that excellence awards would be presented to entrepreneurs in livestock breeding, agriculture and export sectors, entrepreneurs who dutifully paid taxes, those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the public and outstanding athletes.

As a special program, monks who made great strides in religious and social matters including Interfaith Group that strives for peaceful co-existence, monks, individuals and organizations who are lending a helping hand to the poor and disabled persons would be given certificates presented by the State, he added.

As the government initiated a political reform process in cooperation with the people, Myanmar achieved international recognition, standing tall among world nations.

Economic reform process was underway at the same time, formulating short- and long-term plans. In implementing the process, it is required to make effective measures in respective sectors.

Relaxations would be needed for national race entrepreneurs while making necessary policy and drawing plans, laws, bylaws and rules and regulations for economic development. It is also necessary to strive for acquisition of capitals and technology, cultivation of highly qualified human resources and ensuring market competitiveness.

In GNP ratios, private sectors shares 91.7 per cent while cooperative society, 1.2 per cent and state owned enterprises, 7.1 per cent.

He said that today’s prize presentation ceremony aimed at turning out of highly qualified human resources for private sector and building the nation through people’s strength. Ensuring better economic environment and improvement in macro economy required proper flow of commodity market and capital market. So, effective measures should be taken for market development.

The President warned of improper practices in trading and commodities that are dangerous for public health.

(See page 10)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw
Speaker receives Australian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Senator Hon. John Joseph Hogg, President of the Senate of Australia, at the meeting hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call together with Speaker U Khin Aung Myint were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairpersons U Zaw Myint Pe, Dr Aye Maung, Col Maung Maung Htoo, U Hsai Paung Nap and Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Committee members, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and officials of Hluttaw Office. The President of Australian Senate and party were accompanied by the Australian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials of the embassy.

They discussed strengthening friendly relations between the two governments and the peoples, cooperation between the two Hluttaws, Australia’s aid to improve professional capacity of the staff of Hluttaw and Hluttaw library, flourishing of democracy in Myanmar and promoting further bilateral relations between the two countries.

(See page 10)