LET’S BUILD THE NATION THROUGH PEOPLE’S STRENGTH

Whatever our prospects for a bright future may be, we are still at a sensitive stage in the reform process where there is little room for error.

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—President U Thein Sein delivered a remark on the Report of the Rakhine Investigation Commission today. The full text of the remark is as follows:

The recent reforms carried out by the Government centres on three parallel processes: a peace process that strives to end all ethnic conflicts ongoing since independence and achieve lasting peace; the transformation from military rule to democratic administration; and the replacement of a centralized economic system with a market-oriented economy.

If the entire country works together to successfully implement these reforms, I am convinced—even in the face of many challenges and difficulties—that we will be able to create an open society where all citizens can enjoy equal opportunities to pursue their dreams. Whatever our prospects for a bright future may be, we are still at a sensitive stage in the reform process where there is little room for error; as such, senseless, irrational, reactionary and extremist behavior and action by some of our citizens may lead to the failure of the reform process itself. I would like to seriously caution you that we, as citizens, must refrain from doing anything that will jeopardize our transition to a peaceful, democratic nation.

The Rakhine Investigation Commission was established in mid-2012 with the intention to systematically uncover the root causes of communal violence in Rakhine State. The Commission released its report to the public on April 29, 2013. The Commission’s report has analyzed the issues surrounding communal violence in Rakhine State from various perspectives. The report is comprehensive, pragmatic and forward-looking. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the dedication and contribution of the Commission members in this effort.

My administration remains determined to resolve the on-going problems in Rakhine State in a systematic and pragmatic manner. It will also under take all necessary measures to create a harmonious society where all communities can live together peacefully.

In doing so, we must heed lessons from our own history, liberate ourselves from the shackles of past memories and historical mistrust, and look ahead to finding lasting solutions.

Because of our previous inability to institute proper democratic practices and establish an open society, our country has witnessed many armed conflicts, hardships, distrust between various ethnic groups, economic backwardness and underdevelopment.

We are undertaking democratic reforms to remedy these problems. In this democratization process, we must ensure that all citizens are able to enjoy freedom of religion and freedom of speech. In order for religious freedom to prevail, there must be tolerance and mutual respect among the members of different faiths. Only when there is tolerance and mutual respect, will it be possible to coexist peacefully. The government, for its part, will respect and protect the right of all citizens to worship any religion freely. We are all citizens of our beloved Myanmar. As citizens we should take pride in the fact that we are a multiethnic, multicultural society. Diversity can be strength. As President I am determined to represent every citizen of my country, no matter their ethnicity, religion or social status. I ask all of you, my fellow countrymen, to stand up against hatred and to reach out to those of different belief and backgrounds than yourself. Find the similarities and values you share and build on them. A strong modern Myanmar depends on you and your willingness to let diversity be your strength.

Not our weakness.

I also want to comment on the right to free speech, which is the essence of democracy. However, some people abuse this right with speech intended to provoke, cause fear and spread hatred, thereby exacerbating the conflict between different religious communities.

We must be mindful that the abuse of certain rights could jeopardize the enjoyment of many other rights.

In our country, Buddhist temples and pagodas, Christian churches, Islamic mosques and Hindu temples exist side by side with each other. Throughout history Myanmar has enjoyed social harmony between members of different ethnic groups.

The failure to pay sufficient attention to the real and perceived root causes of the conflict—ranging from the explosive birth rate, the long shared border between Myanmar (See page 8)

Microfinance works to be promoted for poverty reduction

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and the Korean delegation led by Administrative Officer Kwon Yeong-seok of Public Administration and Security Ministry of the Republic of Korea held talks on rural development project named as new village movement and cooperation in microfinance services, at the ministry here this morning.

Their discussions also focused on extension of new village movement project to other regions and states apart from ongoing ones in East Phaunggyi Village in Hlegu Township and Thanetpin Village in Thanlyin Township, and equipment of such additional facilities as library, first aid and clinic in Saemaul Multi-Complex Center under construction in East Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township.

The Union Minister also held discussions with Financial Sector Economist Mr Thatha Hlla from Asian Development Bank in the noon, focusing on microfinance works being undertaken by the Cooperatives Ministry for poverty reduction, promotion of cooperative associations, potential for cooperation in production of the graduates specialized in cooperative economy from Cooperatives universities, colleges and training schools.

MNA

Deedok waterfall, Yeyar spring attract visitors

Byline: Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheinjyi)

Kyauchau Village of Patheinjyi Township, Mandalay Region, are packed with pilgrims.

The natural cave, waterfall and spring were found by geological students on their excursion tour three years ago.

The water is blue and there are three waterfalls; and the stalagmites and stalactites can be found in the natural cave, said an older local person.

Especially, the natural beauty area is thronged with merry-makers, picnickers and visitors on Sunday and fullmoon days.

The visitors have easy access to Deedok waterfall, spring and Deedok cave. They may go to the natural beauty area along the concrete road built by Yeywa Hydropower Project by motorbike the whole year round.

The visitors may take a bath in the lake of the spring, enjoy scenic beauty and fresh air from the hill.

Myanma Alinn: 5-5-2013

Tt: TTA

Deedok waterfall and spring and Deedok cave which are located beside the road leading to Yeywa Hydropower Project site, about 25 miles south from

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MNA
Colonial era silver coins unearthed in Chauk

CHAUK, 6 May—Silver coins were unearthed while digging holes for the construction of new buildings in the compound of Aung Zaytawun monastery in Kyaukkye Village of Chauk Township in Magway Region on 26 April.

A total of 206 silver coins were discovered in a small earthen pot while digging holes at a place, 50 feet from the monastery building. Silver coins that depict a peacock are thought to be from Yadanabon era. Fifteen silver coins depicting Victoria struck in 1840, 26 depicting King Victoria II, struck from 1903 to 1908, and 10 depicting King George struck from 1903 to 1912, 153 depicting Queen Victoria struck from 1862 to 1900 were also found in the pot. One more pot was unearthed on 3 May in which there are 82 silver coins depicting King Victoria and Queen Victoria.

One silver coin depicting a peacock from Yadanabon era was donated to the Archaeological Department in Sale. Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Sobana said that the remaining silver coins will be used in the drive for promotion and propagation of the Sasana and preservation of religious edifices.

Kyemon

Drinking water supplied to victims at relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 6 May—Meiktila District Red Cross Society is daily distributing over 30,000 liters of drinking water to victim families at relief camps in Meiktila. The drinking water is supplied by the waterworks at Thandwe at Kyinchaung, Hla station hospital. Driver Than Bo, 35, of Yanbye was charged with car accident.

Kyemon

Wind gusts topple down trees, destroy houses and buildings in Pakokku, Wundwin, Nawnhkio Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Heavy downpours with high speed winds pounded at Pakokku of Magway Region at about 6 pm on 3 May. Due to intense rainfall and strong winds, branches of trees along M yaing street topped down trees and branches, causing blackouts in the township. Electricity supply resumed on 3 May evening.

Wind gusts and hailstones destroy houses in some villages of Wundwin Township in the wards under the supervision of the North Command Commander of the Sasana and preservation of religious edifices. Safe water supply for Lashio dwellers

LASHIO, 6 May—Water from Humon Dam is being distributed to Ward 12, Kaaukwe Dam to Ward 1, Nantkyun Dam to Wards 2, 3, 4, 5 and Myowun spring to Wards 1 and 10 by using water pumps through rotation system.

In 2010-2011 financial year, thirteen four inches tubewells and one six inches tubewell have been sunk in the wards under the supervision of the North-East Command Commander of ward-11 in the township were brought down and roofs blown off. At the residence of U Htay M yint in ward-14, a coconut palm was struck by lightning and palm leaves were ablaze. A through downpours eased the fire, fire engines rushed there and put it out.

Wind gusts cut power lines and landlines and with the contribution of wellwishers. At present, water from those tubewells is being distributed 27000 gallons per hour daily. The Township Development Affairs Committee is also distributing water to needy people.

Kyemon

Overturned car kills one, hurts six after crashing into iron railings of bridge

TAUNGTHU, 6 May—A fatal car accident happened to a truck driving from Y anbye to Thandwe at Kyinchaung bridge near Kyaukonung Village, 28-mile and five-furlong from Taungup, at about 5.45 am on 26 April, leaving one dead and six injured.

The truck carrying eight men and nine women driven by Than Bo, 31, of Yanbye was charged with car accident.

Kyemon

Upgrading of road in progress in Myeik

MYEIK, 6 May—An earth road in Myeiktaung village-tract in Myeik District is being upgraded to a tarred one. With the cash contributions of ward dwellers and wellwishers, Aung M Ingala road will be upgraded to the tarred one which is 3000 feet long and 12 feet wide. Provision of tar for upgrading work will be carried out by Myeik Township Development Affairs Department. Upon completion, local wellwishers will have easy access to Myeik and surrounding areas.

Kyemon

Seizures of heroin, raw opium and stimulant tablets in M yitkyina, Tachileik

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—According to a tip-off, police members led by Police Sub-inspector Khin Zaw of Myitkyina special anti-narcotic squad carried out a search of a hire car on W aingmawu-M yitkyina motorway on 30 April.

They seized 10 grams of heroin worth K 800,000 nine grams of raw opium worth K 1,260,000 and 15 WY stimulant tablets from Daw Myint Khaing, one of the passengers.

Likewise, a combined force comprising police members of Tachileik special anti-narcotic squad seized stimulant tablets while conducting a search of the motorbike driven by Aik Tun from Wan Ton Village to Tachileik at Whai Lay Lan checkpoint in Tachileik if Shan State (East) on 29 April. They discovered 145 WY stimulant tablets worth K 290,000 from him.

Kyemon

Local News

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Kyemon
New Light of Myanmar

WORLD

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May—M alaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak’s ruling party won the country’s hard fought general election on Sunday, with the opposition coalition vowing to contest the results.

The ruling 13-party National Front coalition secured 133 of Malaysia’s 222 parliamentary seats, extending its 56-year rule for another five years.

In the 65-member state Senate, the opposition won 89 seats in parliament, up from 82 in the 2008 election. State-level election results showed that the National Front won back the northern Kedah and Perlak states, which it had lost to the opposition in the 2008 election.

The ruling coalition now controls 10 of Malaysia’s 13 states. The states of Penang, Kelantan and Selangor remain under the control of the opposition. While Prime Minister Najib Razak called on all parties to accept the outcome of the election, opposition leaders refused to concede defeat, claiming massive vote rigging.

“It is unfair to expect us to form a decision based primarily on the results of an election that is considered fraudulent. We are not accepting it,” Anwar said at a Press conference early on Monday morning.

Prime Minister Razak praised, however, the electoral process as true, fair and transparent, saying, “It’s been a long and hard-fought election.”

Now it’s time to move toward national reconiliation and agreement to accept the poll outcome and “show the world we are a mature democracy,” Sunday’s election results was, however, the worst in the history of the National Front, with the prime minister blaming it on the so-called “Chinese tsunami,” the abandonment by the Chinese community.

The minority ethnic Chinese, disgruntled with the government’s pro-Malay policies and rampant corruption, remained solidly with the opposition. Ethnic Chinese make up nearly one third of Malaysia’s 29 million people.

Prime Minister Razak and opposition leader Anwar conducted an acrimonious campaign marked by dozens of acts of violence across the country. There were reports of operation centres being petrol-bombed, scuffles between supporters and various acts of vandalism in the run-up to the election.

A voter casts her ballot in Kuala Lumpur on 5 May, 2013, in Malaysia’s general elections. (Reuters)

Hundreds of relatives gathered at the site of the disaster on Sunday, holding candles and photographs of family members. A teenager broke down in tears when she recognized the body of her mother by her dress after she was brought from the ruins.

In all, 53 bodies were recovered on Sunday and rescue workers said they could see more trapped in the rubble. The smell of decomposing bodies hung in the air. Authorities have found it increasingly difficult to identify bodies and are using ID cards found on them or even their mobile phones to do so.

Paran, 6 May—A French MS15 ballistic missile self-destructed off the coast of Brittany during a test on Sunday, according to media reports.

The missile “self-destructed during its first propulsion phase... for an unknown reason,” Lieutenant Commander Lionel Delort, a spokesman for the Atlantic Naval Prefecture, was quoted by AFP as saying. “It was a failure, the reasons will be determined by an investigation,” said the spokesman.

The test-fire was carried out from the Vigilant strategic nuclear submarine in the Bay of Audiere at 0730 GMT. The missile was not carrying a nuclear warhead and landed in the ocean after its destruction. The MS15 was put into operation in 2010 after five successful test launches and has a range of 8,000-10,000 km.

PARIS, 6 May—A French MS15 ballistic missile self-destructed off the coast of Brittany during a test on Sunday, according to media reports.

Anchorage, (Alaska), 6 May—A remote but long-resident Alaska volcano rumbled to life on Saturday with three explosions and started emitting a continuous plume of ash, steam and gas in an area important to air traffic, scientists said.

The low-level explosions at Cleveland Volcano, which lies near the northern end of the traffic route between North America and Asia, were not severe enough to cause a significant threat to planes, said experts.

But the incident did prompt federal aviation authorities to divert some traffic off nearby routes. As a precaution, Rick Wessels, a US Geological Survey geophysicist at the Alaska Volcano Observatory, “Based on the signals we can see, we think it’s continuously in an eruption right now,” Wessels said of the volcano, located 940 miles southwest of Anchorage. Cleveland Volcano, which has been restless since mid-2011, is on an uninhabited island in one of the most sparsely populated regions of the world, although major eruptions could cause potential aviation problems.

Federal Aviation Administration officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The 5,676-foot volcano began emitting lava in the summer of 2011, causing lava domes to form at the crater and allowing a path to build inside the peak.

There have been since 20 to 25 explosions at sporadic intervals, he said. But Saturday’s trio of explosions was a new turn of events, he said. “We haven’t seen a phase like this where we’ve had multiple explosions,” he said.

So far, the cloud streaming from Cleveland’s crater has reached only about 15,000 feet into the atmosphere — too low to cause damage to higher-flying jet airliners. “Once it gets to about 20,000 feet, it will become hazardous,” Wessels said. If the eruption becomes stronger, the National Weather Service will advise mariners to avoid the area, he said. Still, scientists have been put on around-the-clock duty to try to track Cleveland’s activities, he said. “It’s got us all paying attention. We’re not sure if it will escalate or do what Cleveland does, which is to settle down after small explosions,” he said.

Kyodo News

French MS15 missile self-destructs shortly after launch

Bangladesh building owner faces murder complaint over collapse

DHAKA, 6 May—The wife of a Bangladeshi garment worker who was killed when a building collapsed filed a murder complaint against the building’s owner on Sunday as the death toll from the country’s worst industrial disaster climbed to 622.

Munirul Quddus was a new turn in a crisis that started emitting a continuous plume of ash, steam and gas in an area important to air traffic, scientists said.

The underuards were also filed against the owner of one of the garment factories inside the building and a municipal engineer in the suburb of the capital, Dhaka, where the factory was located.

The owner of the Rana Plaza building, Mohammed Sohel Rana, was arrested after a four-day hunt as he appeared to be trying to flee across the border to India. He is one of nine people being held in connection with the 24 April disaster, which the government has blamed on the building’s faulty, illegal construction. Rana and the others in police custody could face the death penalty if found guilty of murder or mass manslaughter.

A voter casts her ballot in Kuala Lumpur on 5 May, 2013, in Malaysia’s general elections. (Reuters)

Kyodo News

ADB pledges to maintain lending level to support Asia’s growth

The ADB tripled its capital base from $55 billion to $165 billion in 2009, giving it much-needed resources to respond to the global financial crisis triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in September 2008. Asked about the possibility of a capital resource increase down the road, Nakao suggested that there would not be an imminent capital increase, saying that many shareholders face severe financial difficulties.

Nakao, who took the helm of the institution on 28 April as the ADB’s ninth president, also reiterated that negative spillover effects stemming from aggressive credit easing by developed countries would be limited, and such monetary policies would be positive for the global economy. “I don’t think QE5 (quantitative easing) is really problematic,” Nakao said.

Kyodo News

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Kyodo News

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Sharp considers chairman’s retirement, to scrap posts

Tokyo, 6 May — Japan’s Sharp Corp is considering having its chairman, Mikio Katayama, retire and also scrapping advisory posts as part of efforts to speed up a business revival under its president, Takashi Okuda, Kyodo news agency reported on Sunday.

Sharp, Japan’s leading maker of liquid crystal displays, is expected to reveal a medium-term business management plan on 14 May. It wants a new management structure for a business rebuilding with authority concentrated with Okuda, the news agency said.

The company’s main creditor banks, Mizuho Corporate Bank and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, have been seeking Katayama’s retirement because his presence caused uncertainty in the decision-making process and his retirement was considered unavoidable, Kyodo said.

Company spokesmen were not available for comment. The Yomiuri newspaper said Katayama has already notified creditors of his intention to step down.

Kyodo also said a company adviser, Katsuhiko Machida, and a special adviser, Haruo Tsuji, were expected to retire and the company would probably abolish those posts.

This month, two sources with knowledge of Sharp’s earnings told Reuters that it posted a worse than forecast 500 billion yen ($5.1 billion) net loss in the year that ended on 31 March as panel plants asset write-offs crimped its bottom line.

The company will announce its business results on 14 May. — Kyodo News

Apps convert smartphones into home monitoring system

TORONTO, 6 May — Worried about what your dog is chewing on when you’re at work, or whether your home is secure while on vacation? New apps can transform old smartphones into remote security cameras as home monitoring systems.

Presence, which was launched late last month, converts a spare Internet-connected iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch into a free video camera with real-time video and audio streaming, and motion detection and notifications. “Essentially we give you an inexpensive way to make use of the old new ones and a monitoring system. Amazon’s app store must compete with hundreds of local rivals offering paid and free apps, some of them pirated, and users often worry about malware when downloading from these sites. Amazon is the first Western technology company to offer a platform for paid Android apps in China and Huang said the company was working with software developers to increase the number of apps on offer. Amazon China cornered less than three percent of China’s booming mobile phone app market in 2010, and 76 billion ($76 billion) business-to-consumer e-commerce market in the fourth quarter last year.

Amazon launches Android app store in China

SHANGHAI, 6 May — Amazon Inc launched an Android application store that offers paid apps in China, beating Google Inc, as the online retailer seeks to increase the amount of digital content it offers in the world’s largest mobile phone market. Amazon, which opened its Kindle e-book store in China in December, launched its Android app store over the weekend and said it will download both free and paid apps, Amazon China spokesman Billy Huang said on Monday.

Google’s official app store only offers free apps in China. Google China declined to comment for this story. Huang said the company plans to offer a platform for paid and free apps to offer new apps.

The launch of the app store and the e-book store in China paves the way for Amazon to offer a range of devices including the standard Kindle e-reader and the Kindle Fire.

Huang declined to comment on the Kindle’s release date in China. ($1 = 6.1536 Chinese yuan)

Samsung Galaxy Core smartphone with dual-SIM option officially announced

ANKPAM SAKENA, 6 May — Samsung has officially taken wraps of its new mid-range Android smartphone, Galaxy Core. The phone, which was leaked online, last week, sports a 4.3-inch screen with a 480x800 pixels resolution. Powered by a 1.2GHz dual-core processor, the smartphone has 1GB of RAM and runs Android 4.1 Jelly Bean and features Samsung’s TouchWiz interface layer on top.

The phone sports a 5-megapixel rear camera and a VGA front-facing camera. It offers 8GB of internal storage which can be expanded through a microSD card. It also offers Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 3.0 and GPS connectivity options. The phone comes with an 1800 mAh battery.

Samsung has announced that the Galaxy Core will be available in two different versions - a single-SIM version that would be available from July and a dual-SIM version that would start selling from May, depending on the market. There’s no specific information about availability and pricing in India.

The phone will offer some new smart features borrows from some of its high-end sibling including Smart Sticker that recognizes when a user is looking at the phone, and saves battery life when a user looks away by dimming the screen and powering down using facial recognition, Smart Alert that alerts the user to missed calls and messages when the device is picked up, Motion UI that activates common functions such as refresh or mute with simple motion commands and S Voice, Samsung’s own voice assistant.

Unlike Samsung’s flagship Galaxy S4, the phone will come with FM Radio functionality.
Dollar firmer, stock rally pauses after US data

LONDON, 6 May—The dollar edged up against the yen on Monday and stocks held near last week’s multi-year highs as the global economic outlook brightened by strong US jobs data, buoyed sentiment.

Brent crude oil futures hit their highest level in nearly a month after Israeli air strikes on a Syrian military facility over the weekend stoked worries about the risk of disruption to Middle East supplies.

However, with Japan and British markets closed for public holidays, trading volumes were thin across all major asset classes.

The main moves were in the dollar against the yen where Friday’s US jobs report eased fears of a slower down in the world’s largest economy, setting the stage for the greenback to re-test the 100 level for a crack at 100 now and I wouldn’t be surprised in the coming sessions that we do see that happen.

US employment rose more than expected in April, with 165,000 jobs created, and hiring was much stronger than previously thought in the previous two months. This eased concerns raised by other data which had pointed to the economy losing steam.

The dollar was up 0.4 percent at 99.39 yen, extending Friday’s 1 percent gain. The yen has fallen steadily since the Bank of Japan announced its new plan last month to boost the economy.

April jobless figures make grim reading for Spain’s unemployed

MADRID, 6 May—Almost 5 million Spaniards were registered as unemployed in April, data showed, as their prospects of finding work in the country’s biggest job sector but also in the service sector continue to diminish. The government lowered its forecast of a 2.5 percent growth this year to 2 percent, it said.

The number of registered jobless fell by 0.91 percent, or 46,050 people. But those gains were mainly down to restaurants and hotels gearing up for the holiday season, and in seasonally adjusted terms the number rose by 17,663 from March, according to government data.

Office workers are reflected on a screen displaying share prices as they walk past the Australian Securities Exchange building in central Sydney on 23 Sept, 2011. The Australian economy is reviving in the world’s No 2 economy.

The HSBC services Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) fell to 51.1 in April from 54.3 in March, the lowest since November 2011.

The HSBC services PMI1 follows a similar survey by China’s National Bureau of Statistics, which found non-manufacturing activity eased to 54.3 from 55.4 at least 119 patients are still under treatment for suspected poisoning in the country’s two largest governorates, Ismailia and Suez.

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China services growth slows sharply

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The HSBC services Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) fell to 51.1 in April from 54.3 in March, the lowest since November 2011.
No early warning for US on Israeli strikes in Syria

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The United States was not given any early warning before air strikes in Syria against what Western and Israeli officials say were weapons headquarters of Hezbollah militants, a US intelligence official said on Sunday. Without confirming that Israel was behind the attacks, the intelligence official said that the United States was essentially told of the air raids “after the fact” and was notified as the bombs went off.

Israelis jets bombed Syria on Sunday for the second time in 48 hours. Israel does not confirm such missions explicitly — a policy it says is intended to avoid provoking reprisals. But an Israeli official acknowledged that the strikes were carried out by its forces.

It would not be unusual for them to take aggressive steps when there was some chance that some sophisticated weapons system would fall into the hands of people like Hezbollah,” the US intelligence official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

While the air raids raised fear that America’s main ally in the Middle East could be sucked into the Syrian conflict, Israel typically does not feel it has to ask for a green light from Washington for such attacks.

Officials have indicated in the past that Israel sees a need only to inform the United States once such a mission is under way. US President Barack Obama said on Saturday that Israel has the right to guard against the transfer of advanced weapons to Hezbollah, an ally of both Syria and Iran.

Six Nepali brothers attempt to set unique Mt Everest record

KATHMANDU, 6 May — Six Nepali brothers, all of them experienced Sherpa guides, are attempting to climb Mt Everest together this month to set a world record for joint conquest of the world’s highest mountain by all male siblings of a family, one of the brothers said on Sunday. Mingma Sherpa, 35, who has climbed all 14 8,000-metre peaks in the world, said he and his five brothers will launch their final assault on the 8,848-metre peak on 21 or 22 May, depending on the weather.

“My four brothers are already acclimatizing at Camp 2 located at 6,600 metres. Two of us will join them next week,” Mingma told Kyodo News in Kathmandu. Two of the siblings have already clinched climbing achievements in the past. Mingma has been officially recognized by the Nepali government as the youngest man to have climbed all 14 so-called “8,000ers” in the world. Mingma achieved the feat at the age of 33, according to Dipendra Poudel, an official at the government’s M outaining Division.

“But last week, his younger brother Changdawa achieved the same at the age of 31, and we are awaiting documents from him to transfer the recognition to him,” Poudel said. Of the 14 mountains taller than 8,000 metres, eight are in Nepal. Mingma and his brothers were born in the mountainous Sankhuwasabha district in eastern Nepal. Three of the siblings have climbed Mt Everest 11 times between them. But the remaining three have not climbed an 8,000er so far. Nepal’s Sherpas are famous for being highly skilled climbers, an attribute they are believed to possess because of being born and raised in tough mountainous areas. The Sherpas are also famous for their climbing achievements, ranging from the most number of climbs of Mt Everest and fastest climb of the mountain to repeat climbs of the mountain in the same season. Nepal’s Apa Sherpa holds the record for the most climbs of Mt Everest. He scaled the mountain for the 21st time in 2011.

Six Nepali brothers attempt to set unique Mt Everest record

M T Everest in Nepal

Rocket interceptors deployed in northern Israel

JERUSALEM, 6 May — The Israeli military deployed two batteries of the Iron Dome anti-rocket defence system to northern Israel following an escalation in tensions with Syria, local media reported on Sunday.

One battery was positioned on Saturday night near Haifa, and another in the outskirts of Safed, Israel’s Channel 2 Television said on its website.

“Two Iron Dome batteries were positioned in the north, as part of routine operational deployment and in line with operational assessments,” a military spokesman told Xinhua.

Poor transmission facilities block new energy use

BEIJING, 6 May — The largest construction of power transmission lines has constrained the use of electricity generated from new energy resources in China, an expert said. Twenty billion kilowatt-hours of wind-generated electricity were wasted last year, mainly due to under-developed transmission facilities, said Zhang Guobao, director of the Expert Advisory Committee under the National Energy Administration.

China has abundant wind resources in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and other northern areas. It had the greatest installed wind power capacity of any country in the world as of last year. The infrastructure problem is likely to lead to the waste of some 20 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity generated at the Luoxiandi and Xiangxiaba hydropower stations on the Jinshiangjiang River this year, Zhang estimated.

China has been striving to boost its share of new energy resources used in primary energy consumption in a bid to reduce emissions amid rising public complaints regarding environmental issues. Non-fossil fuels contributed to 21.4 percent of the country’s total power generation last year, with hydropower taking up 17.4 percent and wind power taking up 2 percent, according to Zhang. The government should prioritize and hasten approvals for construction projects on ultra-high-voltage lines to facilitate electricity transmission to major power-consuming regions, Zhang suggested. — Xinhua

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Myanmar education delegates visit UK

YANGON, 6 May—A Myanmar higher education delegation visited universities in the United Kingdom in May to observe educational institutions there. The delegation, which consists of Deputy Education Minister Dr Myo Myint, MPs and a director-general of Science and Technology Ministry, left Myanmar on 1 May for the United Kingdom in May to observe universities in the United Kingdom. They will attend a Myanmar-UK policy dialogue “Myanmar—a new future through higher education?” jointly organized by University of London and British Council on 9 May. The trip is aimed at fostering cooperation between Myanmar and British educational institutions in reforming Myanmar’s higher education sector and enabling British education experts consult in Myanmar’s educational reforms. It would also be helpful to give a new life to once-prestigious Yangon University—Myanma Alinn.

Road Transport Directorate discusses JV with 13 companies

YANGON, 6 May—Ministry of Rail Transportation’s investment assessment committee members and Road Transport Directorate officials met 13 companies which had proposed road transportation joint ventures on 23 and 25 April. They include eight local companies and five foreign firms. Ten companies have proposed joint ventures with the Road Transport Directorate while two others had their bids for BOT operations. The possible joint ventures will cover passenger transportation, repair workshops and advanced driving trainings. The meetings also focused on employment issues. Myanma Alinn.

Summer vocational courses conclude

The new routine courses started 2 May and weekend courses on 4 May. Myanma Alinn.

The principal of the school presents certificate of completion to a trainee.

New Ever Light to supply electricity to Singu, Madaya, Thabeikkyin Tsp

SINGU, 6 May—New Ever Light Co Ltd introduced its electricity supply services to local residents in Singu town hall on 1 May as the government is privatizing state-owned electricity supply services.

Township administrator U Aung Kyaw Than, Township electrical engineer U Nay Myo Aung, departmental officials, company’s director U Kyaw Zan and consumers attended the launch.

U Kyaw Zan gave a speech and the company’s consultant U Hla Shwe elaborated on the electricity supply plans. The company will supply electricity to Madaya, Singu and Thabeikkyin Townships with charges unchanged. The company will sign contracts with Myanmar Electricity Supply Enterprise soon.

Myanma Alinn.

One house, nine tents burnt down in Shwepyitha fire

YANGON, 6 May—One house and nine tents were reduced to ashes in a fire outbreak in Zeegon village of Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region on 3 May.

Acting on a tip-off, 43 firefighters and local residents put out the fire with three fire engines 40 minutes after fire outbreak. It was started by the candle fire. The loss is said to amount to K 320,000. The township administration, officials and social welfare groups visited the scene and provided necessary assistance. Myanma Alinn.

Two cows die in electric shock

NATMAUK, 6 May—Two cows died in an electric shock in Theebin Village in Myothit Township in Magway Region as they hit electric cable just about two feet off the ground on their way to pasture on 3 May.

They are owned by farmer Maung Nan Win of the village. Authorities who investigated the case attributed the electric shock to the dilapidated lamp posts. The lamp posts were repaired about half an hour after the accident. Myanma Alinn.

One house and nine tents burnt to the ground in a fire outbreak in Shwepyitha Township on 3 May.

Road Transport Directorate opens basic driving course in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 6 May—Logistics division under Road Transport Directorate of the Ministry of Rail Transportation will conduct a basic driving course each month.

The first batch of the training course which lasts 18 days will start on 11 May. Instructors, veteran drivers and engineers from Yangon and Mandalay will provide the training with the use of necessary equipment. The course will also cover maintenance essentials and traffic rules.

Upon completion, the division will help graduating trainees search driving jobs and applying for driving licence.

The courses of which fee is K 62,000 are being conducted in such major cities as Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Pakokku, Taunggyi, Lashio, Mawlamyine, Pyay, Loikaw and Hinthada. Myanma Alinn.

Two female workers died on the spot in a landslide in Shwenyaungmyay gold mine in Kawlin Township in Sagaing Region on 29 April. The incident took place while the block owned by U Aung was operating gold exploration works. Kawlin Police Station is investigating into the deaths. Myanma Alinn.

Unidentified body found in Myinnu

MYINNU, 6 May—An unidentified man’s body was found in a farm owned by farmer Maung Oh in Htaungyativillage in Myinnu Township on 4 May.

Acting on a tip-off by village administrator U Myint, Myinnu police station opened a case and conducted the forensic study. Myanma Alinn.

Kawlin police seize drugs

KAWLIN, 6 May—Kawlin policemen searched a house in a Lahak Village in the township and seized powder suspected to be opium before witnesses. The police has charged villager Maung Tint, 39, with drug related charges. The seized drugs is worth about K 60,000. Myanma Alinn.

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What our prospects ...

(from page 1) and Bangladesh, negative colonial legacy, the economic backwardness in both the Rakhine and Muslim communities— and mis- portrayal of the conflict in Rakhine State as religious violence between Rakhine and Muslims, and it more difficult to resolve the problems we are facing. Concomitantly, we can also see the negative effect of the mis-portrayal of communal violence as religious conflict the outbreak of violence in places like Meiktila and Oakkan.

If we look at the main recommendations put forward by the Rakhine Investigation Commission, the actions that should be taken immediately are the restoration of law and order and the enforcement of rule of law, as the president of the country, will do everything in my power to make sure that all security apparatus will cooperate and coordinate each other to effectively perform the law enforcement duty entrusted to them. I have instructed all security forces to perform the duties entrusted to them without any bias and in accordance with law and public servant code of conduct. Anyone who breaks the law and carries out violence will be prosecuted in accordance with the law in a transparent and accountable manner.

We are also undertaking relief activities to help people who lost their homes and other property during the violence. We will also do everything in our power to provide secure temporary shelters for the internally displaced before the rainy season, to remedy malnutrition among children, to help those traumatized by violence, to prevent epidemics, and to create job opportunities for the people of Rakhine State. We will also swiftly undertake economic development programs in the state. In so doing, we will also be seeking assistance from our international partners.

The government will provide the international aid agencies and international organizations that are engaging in relief activities with the necessary assistance. I want to note that some of the activities undertaken by international relief agencies may have worsened the situation in the conflict-affected areas in Rakhine State.

I therefore would like to urge all relief agencies to take into account local sensitivities when planning activities and to try and win the trust and support of both communities. Furthermore, in line with the recommendations of the Rakhine Investigation Commission, the government will take all necessary security measures to deter illegal immigration. In addition, the government will deal with the citizenship-related issues by adopting short-, medium- and long-term strategies. The government will also adopt and implement short-, medium- and long-term plans to create a harmonious society and achieve economic development in Rakhine State. In so doing, the government will adopt the recommendations of the Rakhine Investigation Commission as the basis for these plans.

However, the government will also continue to welcome suggestions from civil society and other community groups.

This is a situation that requires time and careful handling. We have to ensure that activities that inadvertently create additional difficulties when we address it. We ask everyone to recognize that this is a complex and sensitive issue that requires wise, careful as well as decisive action.

In order to end conflict and implement reconstruction activities swiftly, the government has established a Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State (CCISD) on March 23, 2013. In order to implement the policies adopted by the CCISD, the government will take all necessary security measures to deter illegal immigration. In addition, the government will deal with the citizenship-related issues by adopting short-, medium- and long-term strategies. The government will also adopt and implement short-, medium- and long-term plans to create a harmonious society and achieve economic development in Rakhine State. In so doing, the government will adopt the recommendations of the Rakhine Investigation Commission and other necessary actions, the government has also established seven sub-committees on rule of law, security and law enforcement, immigration and review of citizenship, temporary resettlement and reconstruction, social and economic development and strategic planning on March 29, 2013. I also want to inform you the government will provide genuine and decisive leadership in resolving the conflict in Rakhine State in ways that will ensure a resilient security, promote rule of law and protect human rights.

One of the lessons we can take from the Rakhine Investigation Commission is that the defective policies adopted by previous governments have led to long-term consequences within our society. Therefore, in resolving all the problems we are facing now, it is time for us to stop casting blame on each other and adopt pragmatic approaches that will help us create a peaceful and harmonious society in Rakhine State.

I would like to conclude by saying that the government will take all necessary actions to ensure the basic human rights of Muslims in the Rakhine State and to accommodate the needs and expectations of the Rakhine people.

Trademark law under draft to protect business trademarks

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Jointly organized by Ministry of Science and Technology and WIPO, a coordination meeting on trademark draft law (tenth edition) took place at the ministry this morning with an address by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung.

Legal experts from WIPO, personnel from Japan Patent Office, law firms, attorneys and experts from Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee and Business and Trade Development Committee and Aung Myo Htut Hluttaw Bill Committee are taking part in the meeting which ends on 8 May.

Since Myanmar joined the WIPO in 2001, the Science and Technology has acted as a focal ministry for matters related to intellectual properties, having taken a leading role in drafting patent laws seeking advice from related ministries including the Union Attorney-General’s Office, local and international INGOs and experts. The intellectual properties patent laws assistance for legal affairs of the two countries.

The Union attorney-general met the Singaporean chief justice and justices, the solicitor-general, the deputy solicitor-general from the office of Attorney-General and legal officers, law professors and lecturers at the Supreme Court on 30 April. The Union attorney-general clarified the Myanmar Legal System and the Rule of Law and discussed undertakings for legal affairs. The Myanmar delegation met Chief Justice Mr. Sundaresan Menon of Singapore and held talks on legal affairs. They also met officials from Singapore Academy of Law and the Law Society of Singapore and discussed practical undertakings of economic laws in market economy system.

They paid a call on Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr. K Shanmugam, SC on 2 May. They exchanged views on cooperation in legal affairs of the two countries. — MNA

NATIONAL

Union Attorney-General discusses legal affairs in Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—At the invitation of Singaporean counterpart, A Myanmar delegation led by Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin visited the island State from 29 April to 3 May. On 29 April, the Union Attorney-General met his counterpart Mr. Steven Chong, SC, Solicitor-General Mr. K Koh and Deputy Solicitor-General Mr. Jeffrey Chan at Teck, SC and discussed matters related to accepting the ministry is drafting are invention patent law, industrial design patent law, trademark law and copyright law.

The trademark law can effectively protect the trademarks of local and foreign businessmen, involving more foreign investments, creating more jobs, thereby contributing to economic development of the country, it is learnt.— MNA
**Free medical treatment for locals in Myeik**

**Myeik, 6 May** — A specialist team led by Sayadaw Maha Saddhana Jotika daja Bhaddhanta Thuzata of Thanthayar Aye Monastic Education School in Myeik and Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo provided free medical treatment to local people in Chanmyae Thayi of Kyewku Village in Myeik yesterday morning.

The team comprising senior surgeon, general practitioner, eye specialist, dentist and child specialist provided medical checkup and free medical treatment to 181 patients from Kyewku Village and its nearby villages.

Kyewku Village is about nine miles from Myeik.

**Plan underway to expand platform of Shwehsandaw Pagoda**

**Pyay, 6 May** — A coordination meeting on expansion of the platform of Pyay Shwehsandaw Pagoda and repairing of Kyarbyan Makauk Dhammayan was held at the Dhammayan on the platform of the pagoda in Pyay yesterday morning.

At first, the Deputy Commissioner of Pyay District General Administration Department made a speech. On behalf of the pagoda board of trustees, member U Mya Win explained expansion of the platform of Shwehsandaw Pagoda and repairing of Kyarbyan Makauk Dhammayan.

Those present took part in the discussions. Deputy Commissioner U A Ma W attended to the needs.

The meeting was also attended by district and township level departmental officials, townelders and media persons.— Kyemon

**New self-reliant library being constructed in Kyewku Village of Myeik**

**Myeik, 6 May** — Stake driven for construction of self-reliant library was held on 29 March in Kyewku Village in Myeik of Taninthayi Region with a view to broadening horizons of people and ensuring durability of the library.

The townelders and wellwishers are donating sand, cement and cash to construction of the new library.

**Two villages of Twantay hit by heavy rains, strong winds**

**Twantay, 6 May** — Houses were damaged and one died due to heavy rains, strong winds and lightning in Kayin Chaung and Khaunheung Tabin Village-Tracts in Twantay Township yesterday.

While Kayin Chaung village Ko Thein Tun aged 32, son of U Chan Aye, was harvesting in the field at 1 pm yesterday, he was struck by lightning during the strong winds. Therefore, he was dead on the spot.

Besides, the heavy rains and strong winds flattened six houses in Kayin Chaung Village-Tract, and one house collapsed and five damaged in Khaunheung Tabin Village-Tract.

The houseless victims are receiving a helping hand from Township Administrator U Than Zaw Htan and Village-Tract Administrators U Than Zaw Han and Aye Naing.— Kyemon

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**Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Ahlon Township**

**Yangon, 6 May** — Officials from Immigration and National Registration Department of Ahlon Township, according to Moe Pwint [5] plan, this morning served the public making renewal of their lost citizenship scrutiny cards and issuing citizenship scrutiny cards for those who have turned 10 and 18 years in Kayichin Ward of the township.

**Buddhist cultural, English proficiency courses in Hpa-an**

**Hpa-an, 6 May** — Buddhist cultural course and English proficiency course have been opened at Gyiang Basic Education High School (branch) in Gyiang-Yomaha-Khaye Village in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, since 24 April, with an aim of turning out the youths with good characters.

The 15-day courses’ instructors are U Nanda, U Myintzu.

**Free medical treatment given to patients with eye complaint in Ponnagyun**

**Ponnagyun, 6 May** — Under the supervision of Tipitakadharma Dhamma-bhanda-giri A Shin Indapala (Rakhine Sayadaw), eye specialists gave medical treatment to eye patients at People’s Hospital in Ponnagyun Township in Kayin Chaung State from 1 to 4 May.

Eye specialists were Dr Aye Tun, Professors Dr U Thein Aung, Dr Daw M M yint, Dr Hla M aung Din, Dr Tin Tin Linn, Dr Daw Saw Thein, Dr U Moe Kyaw, Dr Daw Ohnma Zin, Dr Daw Moe Aye Latt, Dermatologist Dr Daw Hin Mya Lwin, Dr Daw Phyu Phyu Hlaing, Dr Daw Shwe Win M yint and Dr M yintzu.

U Maung Maung and Daw Shu Kyi (Gamonpwint Store) of Mayangon Township, Yangon on 2 May donated Defibrillator GE Health Care costly K 6,512,000 to North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital.

**67th Anniversary of Fire Brigade Day marked**

**Yesagyo, 6 May** — A ceremony to hail the 67th Anniversary of Fire Brigade Day was held at Fire Station in Yesagyo, at 8 am yesterday with an address by Township Administrator U Khin Aung Tun.

The township administrator, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tint Swe and Head of Township Fire Services Department U Nyi Nyi Aung gave certificates of honour to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade members who performed their duty efficiently.

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**McDonald’s to be opened in Yangon**

**Rakhein, 6 May** — McDonald’s to be opened near Sule Pagoda in Yangon.
British PM to attend Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 6 May — British Prime Minister David Cameron and Foreign Secretary William Hague will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka in November, the Sri Lankan External Affairs Ministry announced on Sunday.

The announcement came even as Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he may boycott the event over human rights concerns in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has been accused of committing human rights abuses during the final stages of the war against the Tamil Tiger rebels before the rebels were defeated in May 2009. Sri Lanka’s High Commissioner to Britain Chris Nixon however said that Sri Lanka enjoys strong support amongst the Commonwealth countries, represented by the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

He also recalled the unwavering support of all except one country, at recent meetings, which he said necessitates a depth and breadth of understanding that Commonwealth countries are at different stages of development, with a commonality of values and aspirations, as well as challenges and constraints. The Commonwealth biennial meeting in Sri Lanka in November this year will be preceded by the Commonwealth People’s Forum, the Commonwealth Youth Forum, and the Commonwealth Business Forum, and usually attracts several thousand delegates, and global media coverage.

It will provide the opportunity for the 54 heads to meet to discuss matters of global and Commonwealth concern, and agree collective policies and initiatives, the Sri Lankan External Affairs Ministry said.

Nixon said in the statement that although there had been intensive lobbying in the past year by anti-Sri Lanka activist groups with “collateral agendas, in particular in London, which is home to the Commonwealth Secretariat, they had not succeeded in their attempts to pressurize Commonwealth nations to shift the venue.

Ethiopian peacekeeper killed, two wounded in Sudanese clash

Khartoum, 6 May—One Ethiopian peacekeeper was killed and two others wounded when a UN convoy was caught up in a tribal clash in the Abyei border region claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan.

Sudan and South Sudan, which borders a number of countries in the Horn of Africa, have been locked in a dispute over the ownership of Abyei, a remote region that straddles the border between the two nations.

The United Nations said on Sunday the Abyei area has been a flashpoint for ethnic violence for years, with the Misseriya tribe, a predominantly nomadic community from Sudan, and the Dinka and Mursi ethnic groups from South Sudan.

The UN mission in Sudan, known as UNMISS, has been working to end the conflict in Abyei, which has been underway since 2008.

India ready to negotiate on Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline extension

TEHERAN, 6 May — Indian Foreign Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid, announced on Friday in Teheran that New Delhi is ready to participate in the project.

Khurshid made the announcement in a meeting with Ali-Akbar Velayati, the senior adviser to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Indian Foreign Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid

On 11 March, Iran’s President Mahmoud Ah-

madinedjad and his Pakistani counterpart A S Ali Zardari inaugurated a gas pipeline project in Iran’s southeastern Chabahar city, which is projected to link Iran’s gas pipeline to that of Pakistan. When the 1,600-km pipeline is completed by mid-2014, as scheduled, Iran is expected to export more than 21.5 million cubic meters of natural gas to Pakistan on a daily basis.

Khurshid also expressed his country’s readiness to invest in the development of the Iranian port of Chabahar, according to the Iranian media.

S Africa denies reports of 12 deminers kidnapped in Senegal

CAPE TOWN, 6 May — The South African government on Sunday denied media reports that 12 nationals working as deminers were kidnapped in Senegal.

“Not true. No South African has been kidnapped in Senegal,” said Clayson Monyela, spokesperson of the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

According to media reports, 12 employees of a South African demining company Mechanics were kidnapped in Senegal’s restive Casamance region, where the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (M DFC) has been fighting for independence since 1982.

Workers of Mechanics were kidnapped on Friday and local authorities have been working for their release, reports from Senegal said.

Fred Weyers, the local director of Pretoria-based Mechanics, was quoted by the Senegal News Agency as saying the 12 deminers were kidnapped on Friday and were believed to have been taken by rebels belonging to the M DFC.

German soldier killed in Afghan attack

BERLIN, 6 May — A German soldier was killed and another wounded in an attack by insurgents in northern Afghanistan, the German army said.

German special forces had been supporting an Afghan operation near the northern city of Baghlan when insurgents opened fire on the Afghan and NATO International Security Assistance Force troops, according to an army statement posted on its Internet site on Friday.

“In the subsequent battle damage assessment the Afghan and ISAF forces again came under fire,” the statement said.

Indian Foreign Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid

Press TV. Teheran and New Delhi are expected to ink an agreement to turn Chabahar into a hub for the transit of Indian goods to Afghanistan.

Khurshid arrived in Teheran on Friday to attend the 17th meeting of Iran-India Joint Economic Commission, scheduled to be held in the Iranian capital on 3-5 May.

Three new coronavirus cases found in Saudi Arabia

The official said that the ministry has ordered all hospitals with suspicious cases to take the required tests, adding that 50 test samples have been sent to the ministry on Saturday.

The first case of coronavirus was reported in Saudi Arabia last year. The total number announced in the country has increased to 20. Since last year, tens of cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have been confirmed. The patients mainly came from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Britain.

The transmissibility and pathogenesis of the novel coronavirus remains poorly understood.

People gather to watch performance during the 4 May Youth Day Music Festival in Hong Kong, south China, on 4 May, 2013. — Xinhua

Bahrain arrests 12 people over human rights abuses

Manama, 6 May—The Bahraini interior ministry has arrested 12 people over human rights abuses and storming of residential areas.

The ministry said the people were wanted for storming or breaking into private homes and attempting to enter government buildings.

Also on Sunday, the ministry also arrested four people over charges of inciting against the state.

Akin Abayomi, the WHO regional director for the eastern Mediterranean region

An international group of experts said on Saturday that while the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 continues to be highly transmissible, there is evidence that transmission may be decreasing in some settings.

The group of experts was appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to review the current state of knowledge on how the virus spreads.

Akin Abayomi, the WHO regional director for the eastern Mediterranean region, said the group had reviewed published data and scientific literature on the epidemiology of the novel coronavirus.

Akin Abayomi said that while the virus was highly transmissible, the evidence suggested that transmission may be decreasing in some settings.

“The group has not reached a consensus on the change in transmissibility or any other specific transmission characteristics,” Abayomi said.

He added that the group had reviewed published data and scientific literature on the epidemiology of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

The group reviewed data from a number of countries, including China, where the virus was first identified, and from other regions including Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

The experts also discussed the role of factors such as herd immunity and vaccination, and the potential impact of interventions such as mask wearing and social distancing.

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China, ASEAN fully capable of safeguarding regional peace

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 6 May—China and ASEAN members have reached consensus that the two sides are fully capable of maintaining peace and stability in the region, including on the South China Sea, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday before wrapping up a five-day visit.

In a joint interview with Chinese media outlets, Wang said the shared idea was the most important consensus achieved during his four-nation tour which took him to Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei.

During the four-nation tour, China and the four countries have defined the directions of future bilateral cooperation, in view of each other’s development strategy, Wang said. China and the four ASEAN members have also agreed that the overriding theme of their relationship is neighbourly friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, Wang said.

A agreement has also been reached on solving differences between nations via an adherence to friendly negotiation and mutually beneficial cooperation, the Chinese foreign minister said. Wang described his visit as a tour of communication and cooperation, saying it has sent a signal that China, with a new leadership, attaches great importance to its ties with neighbouring countries and places ASEAN at a prioritized position in its relations with surrounding neighbours.

From a strategic perspective of promoting multi-polarization in the world and common progress in developing nations, China offers staunch support for ASEAN and its integration endeavor, Wang said.

China is willing to enhance its strategic partnership with ASEAN, vigorously push forward key projects of connectivity and maritime cooperation, and jointly contribute to regional peace and prosperity, he added—Xinhua

Japa to promote new framework for pursuing greenhouse gas cuts

TOKYO, 6 May—The Japanese government has decided to promote a new framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, under which Japan will claim reductions related to emerging economies in Asia and Africa as a result of technical assistance provided by Japan, sources close to the issue said on Sunday.

The move comes as Japan faces difficulties in reducing greenhouse gas emissions domestically due to a major expansion in thermal power generation.

Japanese government officials are seeking to ensure the peace and orderliness of the upcoming mid-term election on 13 May, said APT deputy chief of staff for operations Brigadier General Aurelio Baladad Saturday.

“Right now, we have troops ready to secure the elections, and we believe that such and area is one of concern, if its prone to violence, they can put in place a preponderance of forces,” Baladad said in a phone interview.

“At the level of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the National Police (PNP), we have troops ready to secure the elections, of course in coordination with the PNP (Philippine National Police),” Baladad added, saying that coordinating centres have been created with the police.

He said the coordinating centres are established so that military and police units can “integrate” their strengths. “Plus, we can cover a lot more areas and more candidates.”

Baladad added they expect that the coming elections will be more peaceful compared to the last elections in 2010.

Without giving any number, he said the number of election-related violent incidents so far reported was lesser compared to the same period in the last elections.

“The panel will consist of officials of the environment, foreign and industry ministries, and from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Japan International Cooperation Agency. Under the new system, it will be easier to promote the transfer of greenhouse gas emission rights than under the existing multilateral framework, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,” Kyodo News

Japan will provide environmental technologies in various fields, such as coal-fired power generation and energy-saving houses, and emerging countries will be able to obtain new technologies to deal with growing energy demand and knowhow to address global warming, the source said.

Japan plans to start promoting the new system during the current fiscal year by accelerating talks for that purpose with emerging countries in Asia and Africa, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Kenya and Ethiopia, according to the sources.

Two IEDs recovered in Assam

Assam Police said on May 5 that two powerful improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were recovered from an abandoned house at Bhetagong village in Chirang district, police said on Sunday.

The IEDs were recovered from the house located in a forest area by a joint police and CRPF team late last night.

The explosives were defused in a jungle area this afternoon by a bomb disposal squad of the Army, police said. Further investigations are on, they added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Three leftist rebels nabbed in N Philippines

A third branch in Alberta and the rest of Canada was also expected to boost the military’s elite 1st Special Forces Battalion. The group New People’s Army (NPA) was captured at their lair in Northern Philippine Province on Sunday afternoon, military said earlier that day.

Colonel Arnulfo Mar- ceo Burgos, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said that troops from the military’s elite 1st Special Forces Battalion swooped down at a house in Layang-Palsabangon village, Pagbilao, a town in the Quezon Province, around 2:30 pm, seizing three NPA members there.

Burgos said the raid was conducted by the soldiers in response to the information from concerned civilians who reported that the house was being occupied by at least eight rebels led by Alexander Sarmento, alias Daniel.

Burgos said that the identities of the captured re- bels were not immediately known, and it was not clear if the three include Sarmento. The raid also result- ed in the seizure of seven high-powered firearms, he added—Reuters

China Radio International launches new radio service branches

BEIJING, 5 May—China Radio International (CRI) on Sunday launched three new radio service branches in Georgia, Jordan and Al- bania.

CRI said its radio service branch in Georgia’s capital of Tbilisi will broadcast around the clock in English and Georgian, fo- cusing on news and music. The broadcasts will reach more than 2 million people. The branch in Jordan’s capital of Amman will provide daily news and music around the clock as well. A third branch in Alba- nia’s capital of Tirana will broadcast for ten hours daily in Albanian. CRI has 90 overseas radio service branches and broadcasts in 64 languages.

A woman wearing sun-protective clothing is seen riding in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 5 May 2013—Xinhua

Holidaymakers’ homeward rush set to run through Monday

TOKYO, 6 May—Returning holidaymakers packed bullet trains, air- ports and highways bound for Tokyo and other popula- tion centres on Sunday, the second-last day of the Golden Week holiday pe- riod. Traffic jams were expected on expressways from the evening, the Japan Road Traffic Information Centre said.

Shinkansen bullet trains bound for Tokyo were almost fully reserved from the afternoon, according to Japan Railway companies.

Domestic flights to Tokyo’s Haneda airport were over 80 percent reserved, said both Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co.

At JR Sendai Station, company employee Ryo Abe, 36, his wife Naomi, 37, and their two children, who visited Abe’s parents in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, a city severely af- fected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami dis- aster, were among scores of families on their way back to the Tokyo area.

“This is our first visit since the New Year, but the town’s mood has bright- ened somewhat. I hope that the reconstruction (from the 2011 disaster) will make progress when we return in the summer,” Naomi Abe said—Kyodo News.

Manila, 6 May—The Armed Forces of the Philip- pines (AFP) is re-align- ing its forces to ensure the peace and orderliness of the upcoming mid-term election on 13 May, said AFP deputy chief of staff for operations Brigadier General Aurelio Baladad on Sunday.

“At the ground level, if they (commanders) think that such an area is one of concern, if its prone to violence, they can put in place a preponderance of forces,” Baladad said in a phone interview.

“At the level of the Armed Forces of the Philip- pines, we have troops ready to secure the elections, of course in coordination with the PNP (Philippine National Police),” Baladad added, saying that coordinating centres have been created with the police.

He said the coordinating centres are established so that military and police units can “integrate” their strengths. “Plus, we can cover a lot more areas and more candidates.”

Baladad added they expect that the coming elections will be more peaceful compared to the last elections in 2010.

Without giving any number, he said the number of election-related violent incidents so far reported was lesser compared to the same period in the last elections.

“Based on the initial trends, we believe that the incoming election is a lot safer and a lot peaceful compared to the last elections,” he said.

Baladad also disclosed that the re-alignment in- cludes the deployment of one Marine battalion in Southern Philippine Province of Misamis Oriental about two weeks ago in the aftermath of the 20 April ambush on Ruth Guingona, mayor of the province’s Gingoog City.

Guingona was waylaid by New People’s Army (NPA) rebels after attend- ing a local fiesta, leaving two of her bodyguards dead.

Guingona was injured in the attack, along with an- other security escort.

Xinhua

A woman wearing sun-protective clothing is seen riding in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 5 May 2013—Xinhua

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A woman wearing sun-protective clothing is seen riding in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 5 May 2013—Xinhua
ANNOUNCEMENT OF MYANMAR LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BANK REGARDING CHANGE OF ITS NAME TO TREASURE BANK OF MYANMAR LTD

1. The Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank will henceforth be known as Treasure Bank of Myanmar Ltd in accord with the decision of the Board of Directors at its plenary session on 5th May 2013 at (13:00) hrs.

2. In this connection Press Meeting with the media (will be held on Sunday 12th May, 2013 at (10:00) hrs at Ball Room of Yuzana Hotel at 130, Shwegondine Road, Yangon.

3. Brief profile of Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development before its new name of Treasure Bank of Myanmar Ltd is given below -

(A) The Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank was formed on (152-1996) as per licence No M aBaB a/P-15(2)96 of Central Bank of Myanmar under Financial Institutions of Myanmar Law.

(B) The Bank, which was initially a public bank Ltd. under control of the Ministry of Trade was later transferred to the control and management of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on (1-1-1999) in accordance with the Government's directive dated (6-9-1998) to be more compatible with its functions and activities.

(C) The authorized capital of the Bank in February 1996 was K (2000) million divided into (4000) shares of K 500,000/- each and K (1000) million which was borrowed from welfare fund of Central Bank of Myanmar was fully repaid, both principle and interest, in April, 2004 and the Bank is ongoing as a truly public bank.

(D) Shares at K 500,000/- per share are being sold to the public and the total amount of shares fully subscribed and paid up as at May, 2012 was K (35000) million.

(E) Plans are underway to increase the total amount of authorized capital from K (35,000) million to K (70,000) million and arrangements are also being made to pay a dividend of K 25% for the current year.

(F) Number of branches including Head Office at the time of its establishment on (15-2-1996) was 3 and the number has risen to 60 on 5th May, 2013 and plans are underway to increase the number of branches yearly.

(G) Total deposit in (1990-2000) amounted to K (2361) million and the number has increased to K (367538) million in financial year (2012-2013).

4. Logo of Treasure Bank of Myanmar is as shown below -

5. The announcement is made hereby for public information.

Date: 5- 5-2013
Place: Yangon

Board of Directors
The two bombs that exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15 were the worst attack on US soil since the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a shootout with police four days later. The ethnic Chechen’s younger brother, Djohar Tsaraev, who was wounded in the April 19 shootout, is being held in a nearby prison facility.

“跳跃“Jack Flash.”

Bernie, the owner of the IPL team, Kolkata Knight Riders.

“我 first played LA in 1965. Thank you for coming to see us. We really appreciate it,”" frontman Mick Jagger said last Friday during the show at Staples Centre. The 69-year-old strutted and gyrated in his trademark style through a string of classic Stones hits including “Gimme Shelter,” “Paint It Black” and “Jumpin’ Jack Flash.”

Celebrities like Jack Nicholson and Melanie Griffith attended the show, which also featured guest performances by singer Gwen Stefani on “Wild Horses” and Keith Urban on “Respectable.”

Days before the show, hundreds of seats were still available and secondary sellers scrambled to unload tickets by slashing prices from the original $250 to $600 price range which had irked many of the most die-hard Stones fans.

The band also released additional seats at a modest $85 on its official website this week, the only price point that quickly sold out for the 3 May concert.

Buyers who opted to buy the $85 seats online were instructed to line up at the arena just before the show, and were told they would be notified of their locations which could range anywhere for prime seating to further back in the venue. — Reuters

Suhana and Yusuf Pathan’s wife Afreen lucky for Kolkata Knight Riders

Mumbai, 6 May—Having roped in Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) player Yusuf Pathan’s wife to cheer the knights to victory, Bolly-wood superstar Shah Rukh Khan asserted that things for the burly allrounder will fall in place post his man-of-the-match performance at the Eden Gardens here on Friday.

“He is a marvellous player, marvellous person and great guy to have in the team,” said Khan after his team grabbed an eight-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals.

“I think all of us go through patches where things don’t fall right for you. So I think from now on it will all fall right and go well for the team too.”

Khan was seen egging the Knights on to a much-needed win along with his daughter Suhana and Pathan’s wife Afreen.

“This is the lucky combination — my daughter, me and now we have added Afreen (Yusuf’s wife) to the lucky combination.”

PTI

Mick Jagger of British band The Rolling Stones performs during the opening night of their “50 & Counting” worldwide tour at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California on 3 May, 2013.— Reuters

Rock, pop, country singers to headline Boston

Los Angeles, 6 May—Boston bands Aerosmith and New Kids on the Block, singer-songwriter James Taylor and country singer Jason Aldean will headline a concert to benefit the victims of last month’s Boston Marathon bombing, organizers said on Friday.

The 30 May concert at the city’s TD Garden arena is also aimed at showing support for the people of Boston after the bombing that killed three people and injured 264.

Steven Tyler (L) and Joe Perry of the group Aerosmith pose with the ASCAP Founders Award during a photo opportunity in Los Angeles on 8 April, 2013.— Reuters

Steven Tyler (L) and Joe Perry of the group Aerosmith pose with the ASCAP Founders Award during a photo opportunity in Los Angeles on 8 April, 2013.— Reuters

The 17-date tour is the veteran British rockers’ biggest in six years and follows a handful of dates in London, Paris and New York at the end of 2012 marking 50 years since they burst on to the music scene at London’s Marquee Club in 1962.

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Everton’s European hopes fade after Liverpool draw

Liverpool’s Lucas (R) challenges Everton’s Leon Osman (C) during their English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on May 5, 2013. REUTERS

LONDON, 6 May—Everton’s hopes of playing European football next season receded after they drew 0-0 at city rivals Liverpool on Sunday, who have only one of their last 13 Premier League matches.

Everton had two games remaining and have slim hopes of securing the Europa League place for the side finishing fifth in the Premier League.

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Everton’s interim manager Rafael Benitez said: “If we can beat Tottenham on Wednesday, we will be in the top four with two games left to play.”

Everton’s slim hopes of playing European football next season receded further after they drew 0-0 at city rival Liverpool in a derby short on entertainment.

Everton, who have drawn 15 Premier League games this season—more than any other side—remain sixth on 60 points. They have just two games remaining and have slim hopes of securing the Europa League place for the side finishing fifth. Liverpool are seventh on 55 points.

“We want to get Everton back into Europe. As a football club we need desperately to give those nights back to the supporters. If we don’t make it, it won’t be for a lack of effort,” said Everton manager David Moyes.

United defender Rafael was sent off in the 89th minute by referee David Longeard.

The Spaniard Juan Mata in the 17th hole during the Volvo China Open in Tianjin, China. —Reuters

Chelsea sink champions United with late own goal

United’s Victor Moses (L) challenges Everton’s Ross Barkley as they battle for the ball during their English Premier League match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on May 6, 2013. REUTERS

Chelsea’s Oscar (L) challenges Manchester United’s Anderson during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on May 5, 2013.—Reuters

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho on the European Tour title took him back as the Argentine’s 16th double of the season took his breaking total.

Mauricio Taricco’s brace on his 35th birthday made the Betis game to help Barcelona to a 20th league title to 46, just four short of last season’s record breaking total.

Barca have 88 points with four games left to play, 11 ahead of second-placed Real Madrid who triumphed 4-3 at home to Real Valladolid on Saturday.

Tito Vilanova’s side, who need two more points to secure a fourth league title in five years, could claim the trophy on Wednesday if Real fail to win at home to Malaga. “We have to think we will need more points because M atid will probably collect all theirs,” Vilanova told a news confer-

Mourinho’s League Merseyside derby, were aggrieved after Sylvain Distin’s headed goal from a corner early in the second half was ruled out for a push.

David Moyes’s side remain sixth on 60 points, five behind Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea. Everton have just two games remaining and have slim hopes of securing the Europa League place for the side finishing fifth in the Premier League.

Champions Manchester United hosted Chelsea in a 1600 BST kickoff at Old Trafford.—Reuters

Venus Williams

Reuters

Madrid, 6 May—Former world number one Venus Williams has been forced to withdraw from the Madrid Open due to a back problem, organizers said on Sunday.

The 32-year-old American, who now ranked 21, was due to play her first-round match against Spanish wild card Andrea Petkovic on the clay at the premier event on Sunday.

She will be replaced in the draw by 56th-ranked Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland.—Reuters

Real Madrid, 6 May—Leo Messi pulled out of the team’s bench to score twice and help Barcelona to a 4-2 win at home to Real Betis that moved them to within striking distance of the La Liga title on Sunday.

The World Player of the Year had missed Barca’s humiliating Champions League semi-final exit to Bayern Munich on Wednesday as he recovered from a hamstring injury.

Everton, who had “taken our foot off the pedal in a big way” since the FA Cup semi-final, were aggrieved at the sending off of defender Jonny Evans.

Ferguson conceded his side’s lack of effort, said Everton manager David Moyes.

“We want to get Everton back into Europe. As a football club we need desperately to give those nights back to the supporters. If we don’t make it, it won’t be for a lack of effort,” said Everton manager David Moyes.

United and Chelsea, like Manchester United, are the only clubs who have already sealed their place in the top four. United and Chelsea are the only clubs who have already sealed their place in the top four.

Everton back into Europa League pool are seventh on 55 points. United interim manager Rafael

“Mikko certainly put the pressure on me through the turn there, and obviously he was driving well... but it’s amazing this game, how quickly it can turn,” Rumford added.

“Last week on 17 it turned for the worst and here, in the space of just three or four holes, all I had to do was finish it off,” France’s Victor Dubuisson finished third on 11-under while first-round leader Robert-Jan Derksen was fourth, a shot further back.—Reuters

Venus Williams: "I didn’t play well enough," he told reporters at a press conference. "It was a bit of a lucky goal but I can’t make any excuses in terms of our performance."—Reuters

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi celebrates a goal against Real Betis during their Spanish first division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain on May 5, 2013.—Reuters

It’s quite surreal— it’s the first time I’ve actually played the week after a win so I’m more than pleased. It’s hard to get my head around it at the moment,” Ilonen, who won the last of his two European Tour titles in 2007, has to wait longer to end his drought. “I don’t know how to find four birds with three bogeys for a final round one-under,” he said.

Ilonen, who finished ninth in Qatar and second in Morocco this season, cut Rumford’s lead to one over birds on the 10th and 11th, but two bogeys on 13th and 14th dropped him back as the Australian won a birdie on the 16th.

Brett Rumford (AUS) kisses his trophy while posing for photographs after winning the Volvo China Open in Tianjin municipality, on May 5, 2013.—Reuters

Brett Rumford of Australia watches his tee shot on the 17th hole during the Volvo China Open in Tianjin municipality, on May 5, 2013.—Reuters

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Sluggish Serena begins Madrid defence with laboured win

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(7-5-13 09:30 am ~ 8-5-13 09:30 am) MST

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- Kyaiik Hmaw Wun Yelé Pagoda Festival
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- Revealing Can-ball Sport through Art News
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- Myanmar M ovies “Heartbroken Lady”

Serena Williams of the US celebrates her victory over Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan during their women’s singles match at the Madrid Open tennis tournament on 5 May, 2013. — Reuters

Somalia suicide bomb attack kills eight in Mogadishu

Mogadishu, 6 May—At least eight people were killed and several more wounded on Sunday when a suicide car bomber rammed into a government convoy at a main junction in the Somali capital, according to fresh information.

The attack at the busy K4 junction targeted the Somali government convoy in the morning rush hour. State media said the interior minister’s vehicle was in the convoy, but the official was unharmed in the assault, in which most victims were civilians. “The criminal drove the car towards the government vehicles and it exploded after it hit one of them,” police officer Mohammad Gurey told Xinhua, disclosing by-standers were among the dead. The area was cordoned off by security forces and ambulances rushed to the scene to take the injured to nearby hospitals. — Xinhua

**Cave-in of subway under construction buries five**

X’ian, 6 May—One person was injured and five others remain buried after part of a subway line that is under construction caved in on early Monday in northwest China’s Shaanxi province, local authorities said.

Nine people were working underground when the accident occurred around 2:40 am on a section of the subway line No 3 in Xi’an, the provincial capital.

Four people have been pulled out, including three who were uncathed and one who is suffering from fracture. The injured has been sent to a local hospital.

Rescue of the five buried workers is under way, and safety measures have been put in place to prevent secondary disasters, sources said. — Xinhua

**Madrid, 6 May—**World number one Serena Williams overcame a lethargy 8 & 1/2 to her M adrid Open title defence to seal an ultimately comfortable 7-6, 6-1 victory against teenage qualifier Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan in the first round on Sunday.

Chasing her fourth ti-

**Lanzhou, 6 May—**An agricultural tricycle rolled over into a roadside trench in northwest China’s Gansu Province on Sunday, leaving four passengers dead and the rest two aboard the vehicle injured, local au-

**Haravana, 6 May—**Nearly a third of Cubans are expected to be over 60 years old by 2030, making it home to Latin America’s most aging population, according to a study. By 2030, the number of Cuba’s elderly people is expected to jump to 3.4 million from 1.2 million in 2010, imposing considerable strains on social security, health-

**New Light of Myanmar**

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker calls for an effective law to protect farmers

Yangon, 6 May—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann admitted inadequate agricultural loans and high interest rates in his addresses to parliametary workshop on agriculture, at Hluttaw Branch (Yangon) here this noon.

The workshop was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairperson for Pyithu Hluttaw committees Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Htay Oo, U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe, U Hla Myint Oo, U Soe Naing, U Htay Myint, and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than. US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell, agriculture officer from US Agency International Development (USAID), the president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The Speaker admitted that farmers who make up 70 percent of the population do not have access to adequate agricultural loans and input while the loans are provided at high interest rates.

He spoke of the need of reforms to be beneficial to people. He hopes that the US-organized workshop would benefit a great deal the agricultural sector.

USAID Agriculture Officer Mr Gary John discussed background condition of Myanmar agricultural sector. The US Ambassador and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made discussions.

The Speaker in his concluding remarks said farmers find it difficult to keep on farming as the major source of livelihood, being in debt. In some places, farmers leave their farms uncultivated to seek jobs in other countries—a severe loss to the country. Therefore, a law is being drafted to protect the rights of farmers. This law must be fair and practical; otherwise there would not be rule of law. Some laws are in force but often violated, thereby weakening the rule of law. It would be beneficial to farmers if fair and just legislation was enacted under the law to ensure the rule of law, said the Speaker.

Water supply works gaining momentum in Kyaukpadaung Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun inspected water supply works being carried out by Rural Region Development Department in Kyaukpadaung Township this morning, calling for timely completion of underground water tapping tasks and systematic use of the State’s funds.

Next, he looked into storage of water at 100000-gallon capacity water tank, quality of water pumping out of the tubewell and progress of construction of 200000-gallon capacity water tank at Thiri Mingala Ward.

Then the Union minister attended the annual meeting of Sagawah Myay Foundation at Kyauk-padaung Township People’s Hospital. He called for participation of local people in the realization of future tasks of the foundation.

Next, the Union minister presented awards to winners. It is learnt that the foundation spent over K 173 million on development of education, health, religious and social sectors during the three-year period.

Coordination centre to be set up for Rakhine victims

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—A preliminary meeting on opening of coordination center for implementation of stabilization and development undertakings in Rakhine State was held at Sittway Border Areas and National Races Youths Development Training School yesterday morning, attended by Secretary of Rakhine State Stability and Development Central Committee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win.

The deputy minister quoting the Rakhine State Conlicts Investigation Commission mentioned some urgent tasks as provision of shelters to victims ahead of monsoon, overcrowded Bengali relief camps and consequential health problems, food safety, humanitarian aids provision programmes through cooperation between the government, donor organizations, and UN agencies and INGOs.

The proposed coordination center will be tasked with ensuring effective coordination between the Union government, Rakhine State government, UN agencies and INGOs and exchange of information, according to the deputy minister who announced the plans for opening of such centers in other townships.

He also invited open criticism from UN agencies and INGOs as regard to operational hindrances. Next, personnel from UN agencies and INGOs and government discussed related issues.—MNA

Low pressure area

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—According to the observations and analysis of Meteorological conditions at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area may form over South Bay during next (48) hrs commencing this evening. When the low pressure area forms over the Bay of Bengal, there will be issue about their conditions in timely manner.

NLM

Verdicts delivered

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—The plenary tribunal comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Oo and all the judges of the Supreme Court of the Union delivered verdicts on two special criminal appeal cases and four special civil appeal cases, at the Supreme Court of the Union today. The judges also heard two general civil cases.

Close cooperation between township management committee and supportive committee for development of township and ward or village-tract stressed

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—In meeting with officials of political parties on 5 May, President U Thein Sein said that a shift to people-centered administrative system was ongoing, urging to complain administrative weakness and faults of the executive branch with firm evidences, pledging to take care of the defective administration and inviting participation of all.

Under Order No (27/2013) dated 26 February 2013 issued by the President Office, it had already been informed that supportive committee for development of township and ward or village-tract are to be formed not later than 31 March 2013 and a coordination meeting on developmental undertaking between the committee comprising townswelders and the township management committee comprising departmental personnel are to be held once a month. Moreover, it is also included that Hluttaw representatives are to be invited to the meeting in order to seek advice from them.

It is learnt that Region/State governments and leading bodies of Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zone are urged to ensure a close cooperation between the township management committees comprising departmental personnel and supportive committees for development of township and ward or village-tract comprising townswelders.