For this transition to succeed we have no alternative but to talk to one another

Political stability is the basis to make elections a success

“History teaches us that for this transition to succeed we have no alternative but to talk to one another. I hope this meeting will be the start of a conversation and will allow us to begin framing a common vision and a common path forward. I would like to invite all of you to work hand in hand to achieve that common vision.”

NAI PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The political dialogue of leaders of five national political forces was held at Ngu Shwe Wah Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

President U Thein Sein delivered an opening address at the dialogue. He said: On behalf of the government and the people, I would first like to thank all of you for accepting my invitation to come to this meeting today. While I have met with some of you individually to discuss Myanmar’s political process, and despite my wish to have this kind of a gathering, this is the first time we are able to hold a meeting such as this. I am truly delighted about this and I would like to thank all of you again for making this happen.

Since my administration came into power, we have tried to implement a holistic set of reforms after carefully considering from all perspective the ways to make the democratic transition take root. I have always believed that the current state of reforms and the political process are where they are not only because of what my administration has done but also because of the concerted efforts of the legislature, political parties, Tatmadaw and the people. While there are successes in these reforms that we can be proud of, there still remain many challenges that we must overcome. This is the political reality of today.

As to progress toward signing an MOU, the deputy minister said Myanmar expressed its willingness to open a OHCHR office in Myanmar in November 2012 and that Myanmar voluntarily made the proposal. He added there are only 13 countries hosting an OHCHR, but they did not open the offices of their own volition.

Making the proposal on its own shows the Myanmar government’s serious attention to promoting human rights, U Thant Kyaw said, adding that early last year Myanmar received a draft MOU from the High Commissioner for Human Rights Madame Pillay and Myanmar modified the pact to be in conformity with Myanmar’s situation and returned it to the OHCHR on 18 September 2013.

Discussion underway to open Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

YANGON, 31 Oct — A news crew from Myanmar News Agency interviewed Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw on the opening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The following are excerpts from an unofficial translation of the interview: Ed

As to progress toward signing an MOU, the deputy minister said Myanmar expressed its willingness to open a OHCHR office in Myanmar in November 2012 and that Myanmar voluntarily made the proposal. He added there are only 13 countries hosting an OHCHR, but they did not open the offices of their own volition.

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We will attain success and overcome these challenges only if Myanmar’s political forces come together in a common purpose.

I also believe that we will be able to come up with the solutions that will aid our current political process if the political forces present here today work together. That said, I want to discuss three main agendas today. I also want to invite all of you to discuss candidly other issue of interest to you during this meeting. First, I would like to talk about the continuation of the democratic transition and the political process, and how we can make sure that these reforms lead to democracy taking root and the overall development of a free society. Second, I would like to touch on the ways to strengthen the peace process so that the successes that we have achieved thus far can continue to form the basis for the national reconciliation

(See page 2)
For this transition ...

(from page 1)

process that is needed for our country. Third, I would like to discuss about how to successfully carry out the 2015 elections which is critical for the democratic transition in our country.

In order for these three broad agendas to succeed, the challenges that we will have to overcome include: state building; socio-economic reforms; development of a democratic culture; national reconciliation based on the peace process; and democratic governance including rule of law. Some of these challenges and processes must be carried out immediately while some others need to be tackled during the short and medium term. Regardless, we will only succeed if all the political forces work together to overcome these challenges and manage these processes in syncroney. Though we may each have different ideas on how best to move towards a democratic and prosperous society, I am confident that we all wish to see our democratic transition succeed. History teaches us that for this transition to succeed we have no alternative but to talk to one another. I hope this meeting will be the start of a conversation and will allow us to begin framing a common vision and a common path forward. I would like to invite all of you to work hand in hand to achieve that common vision. I would also like to stress that the current peace process has brought national reconciliation within reach and we will get to that destination if we can successfully hold the political dialogues. That is to say, the political progress we have managed to achieve so far has allowed us to aim for a brighter future for the country.

In order to make sure that the democratic transition endures, the 2015 elections must be held in a free and fair manner. Not only that, it is our national duty to make sure that it happens. At the same time, we cannot disregard the fact that political stability is the basis to make these elections a success. In doing so, we also must not restrict the political activities of any organizations. Instead, we should try to promote mutual understanding among different political forces and this will allow us to adopt pragmatic approaches to face the challenges. Only then will we be able to manage the rather high expectations that the people have from the political openness brought about by recent reforms. All political forces should also refrain from resorting to confrontation approaches so that these actions will not undermine the fact that political stability is the basis to make these elections a success. The success of these elections is to say, the political progress we have managed to achieve so far has allowed us to aim for a brighter future for the country.

In order to make sure that the 2015 elections are held freely, fairly and successfully, I would like to affirm the executive branch’s commitment to do everything necessary to bring about free and fair elections. I would like to emphasize again that this is a crucial time for all of us to work together to make sure that the reform process is successful. The success of the political reforms hinges on the ways in which the peace process evolves. As such, the government, the Hluttaw, the ethnic armed groups and the Tatmadaw should work together towards concluding the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Only then, we will be able to start the political dialogue process. We will also need to have both the short term and the long term plans to aid us in finding solutions. What we are trying to achieve is to leave behind a firm foundation of the peace process for the next democratically elected government to build upon. Only then will we be able to achieve a federal system that can guarantee equality among all ethnic peoples.

I hope that this meeting will help us find productive mechanisms which will allow us to work hand in hand to find durable solutions. I would like to suggest that all political (See page 3)
For this transition ...

(from page 2)

forces work in concert to ensure that the political transition will be smooth, that the 2015 elections will be free and fair, and that there will be a peaceful transfer of power. I am convinced that this meeting will generate the outcomes that will contribute to a brighter future for the country and the people. I would like to invite all of you to express your opinions freely and openly.

The participants of the dialogue discussed solutions for political issues through political means, amendment of constitution in line with the constitution, emphasis to be placed on building trusts among the groups for reform process, signing of nationwide ceasefire agreement at the end of 2014 or in the early 2015, laying down the frameworks for further political dialogues before 2015 general elections, holding of the 2015 general elections in a free and fair manner with the use of united strength of government, political parties, civil society organizations, media and international community, priority to be given to socioeconomic development and holding of dialogues for seeking the best ways. Also present at the dialogue were Vice Presidents Dr Sai Maik Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party U Htin Oo, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, representative of the National Unity Party U Thein Tun, representative of United Nationalities Alliance U Khun Tun Oo, representative of Nationalities Brotherhood Federation (NBF) U Sai Aik Paung and representative of Federal Democratic Alliance U Khin Maung Swe.—MNA

Coordination meeting on organizing 67th Anniversary Independence Day held

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — Although State Flag-hosting and saluting ceremonies will be held across the nation to mark the 67th Anniversary of Independence Day as usual, the Independence Day Parade for the President will take place in Nay Pyi Taw this year in accord with its own program of the central committee. Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Kham, chairman of the central committee for the 67th Anniversary Independence Day Celebration, said at a coordination meeting on Friday.

Speaking at the coordination meeting on organizing the 67th Anniversary Independence Day held at the Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice President called on a subcommittee to take responsibility for setting up of billboards bearing objectives of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day at designated places. He also invited suggestions of the committee members for the successful holding of this year’s celebration to mark the Independence Day.

Next, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the central committee secretary and chairmen of subcommittees reported on preparations for the Independence Day Parade for the President and the Independence Day celebration respectively. The central committee members, then, made supplementary reports at the meeting.

The four objectives of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day are:

1. All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. All the national people to live together in the Union forever; All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace; and All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

President U Thein Sein at political dialogue. MNA

President U Thein Sein, Vice Presidents Dr Sai Maik Kham and U Nyan Tun, state leaders and political leaders at political dialogue.—MNA

Union Home Affairs Minister meets Thai Justice Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko held a talk with Justice Minister of Thailand General Paiboon Koomchaya at his office on Friday.

They discussed cooperation matters between the two countries.

Potential of railway industry discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay received a French delegation to discuss potential of Myanmar Railways at his office on Friday.

The Union minister held talks with the delegation led by Mr. Philippe Lorand, managing director of French National Railway Company (SNCF) on exploring business opportunities for cooperation in the railway industry.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Chan Maung and U Myint Thein, the directors-general and managing directors of the ministry.

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Algeria

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and His Excellency Mr Abdelmalek Sellal, Prime Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2014.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Algerian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2014.—MNA
27 out of 30 remaining political prisoners found out to have committed other crimes

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Oct — The Scrutinizing Committee for Remaining Political Prisoners held a total of 12 coordination meetings at Myanmar Peace Centre and brought about the release of 354 prisoners after reporting the committee’s findings to the President.

A total of 404 prisoners and 12 detainees have been released so far as 50 prisoners and 12 detainees were included in the list of prisoners freed under Order No. 51/2013 of the President Office dated 30 December 2013.

The scrutiny of prisoners was carried out again as Assistance Association for Political Prisoners and Former Political Prisoners Society reported that there were still 30 political prisoners in imprisonment. It was found out that three of the prisoners have been released and the remaining 27 prisoners committed other crimes. Their sentences for political activities have been annulled under Order No. 51/2013 of the President Office and their remaining prison terms are as they were handed down by courts of law concerned. – DNA

The crimes of the remaining 27 prisoners are stated on pages (4-12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Original number</th>
<th>Jail registration number</th>
<th>Name (See page 5)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Date of Punishment</th>
<th>Case Number of Court</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Kachin-3</td>
<td>Makana/13/01600/Ka/</td>
<td>Bran Yong (U Gan Phan)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>(1)-Explosive-4</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>05-6-2014</td>
<td>MaTaRa Myitkyina-128/13</td>
<td>Total imprisonment 19 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Makana/13/01601/Ka/</td>
<td>La Phine Gam, Son of U La Phine La</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>(1)-Explosive-3</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>19-12-2013</td>
<td>MaTaRa Myitkyina-201/13</td>
<td>Total imprisonment 18 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bama/14/00281/Ka/Bamaw</td>
<td>Mali Tan (U Mali Gum)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>(1)-LaNa-19(Ka)</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>10-6-2014</td>
<td>KhaTaRa Bamaw-46/2013</td>
<td>Total imprisonment 22 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ABSDF-3</td>
<td>HaThata/12/00882/Ka</td>
<td>Thant Ko Thu/ Than Ko Oo/ Min Zaw (U Saw Htet/ Phone Moe)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(1)-TaMaA-37(1)/50</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>16-10-2012</td>
<td>Military Court, KhaLaRat(18), Hinthada 219/2012</td>
<td>Total imprisonment 40 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### List of 27 persons serving prison terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Original number</th>
<th>Jail registration number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race/Religion</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Date of Punishment</th>
<th>Case Number of Court</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>ASA/11/03740/Ka (Insein)</td>
<td>Aung Myo Thu (son of U Myint Aung)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar, Buddhist</td>
<td>TaMaAh-38 (A)/71</td>
<td>Life imprisonment</td>
<td>05-04-2011</td>
<td>KhaMaRa(436), SaLaRa(Kha), court martial -360/10</td>
<td>Total Imprisonment: unlimited period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Case in Brief</td>
<td>He is a surgeon from No.1 Weaponry Division, he was absent-with-leave after his friend Min Min Tun took him. He was arrested to take out explosives hidden at a Christian Church near Bago College, Bago. Ta-206205 (TaKaKa), SaNaRa(1), Indiang. His death penalty was commuted to life imprisonment under the amnesty order 28/2011 on 16-5-2011. His three offences were cancelled by the President Office Order 51/2013 on 30-12-2013.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Asa/11/03739/Ka (Insein)</td>
<td>Min Min Tun, (son of U Win Kyaw)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar, Buddhist</td>
<td>Ta M a A h -37(1)/71/ LaWaKa-</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>05-04-2011</td>
<td>KhaMaRa(436), SaRaPha court martial-360/10</td>
<td>Total Imprisonment: unlimited period</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Case in Brief</td>
<td>He was a corporal at Yangon Region Commander, Abscond from army, illegal meeting with Colonel Wai Linn Zin of ABSDF at Mae Sot, Thailand to ask order from him for explosion by taking K300 thousand for travel expense. He then met his friend Aung Myo Thu, and was arrested when they came to a church near Bago College, Bago.</td>
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<td>Remark:</td>
<td>His punishment was reduced from death penalty to life term under the amnesty order 28/2010 of President Office on 16.5.2011 under the Ta-163472 (TaKaKa), SaRaPha(YaKaTa), Three punishments were cancelled with the amnesty order 51/2013 of President Office on 30.12.2013.</td>
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<td>Case in Brief</td>
<td>Joined the KNU Brigade No.5, received explosives training, committed blasts in Toungoo Township, fraud, illegal possession of arms. Gun powder, three 15-ft long wires for detonating mines, six detonators, one grenade, six clocks were found with him; blasted a transformer in Toungoo, made citizenship scrutiny card fraud and held it; Made relations with KNU</td>
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<td>Remark:</td>
<td>Date of Birth: 4-6-1979; According to Announcement No. 28/2011 of the President Office dated 16-5-2011, the death sentence was commuted to the life imprisonment. According to Announcement No. 51/2013 of the President Office dated 30-12-2013 and Announcement No. 1/2014 of the President Office dated 2-1-2014, two life imprisonments and 8 yr imprisonment for illegal contacts with unlawful organization were abolished. According to Announcement No. 1/2014 of the President Office dated 2-1-2014, got 2520-days remission, one fourth of the previous 28-yr imprisonment.</td>
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<td>Case in Brief</td>
<td>Contacted with Bo Moe Gyo of Battallion-3 of KNU and raped Ma Naw Mu of Bo Gon Village in 2005, committed arson attacks, blasted the cinema in Phyu, leaving one dead, 40 injured. According to Announcement No. 28/2011 of the President Office dated 16-5-2011, the death sentence was commuted to the life imprisonment. According to Announcement No. 51/2013 of the President Office dated 30-12-2013, 8-yr imprisonment got for illegal contacts with unlawful associations was abolished. According to Announcement No. 28/2011 of the President Office dated 2-1-2014, 85-yr imprisonment was commuted to 41-yr imprisonment.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>TaNga/09/01144/Ka (Toungoo)</td>
<td>Saw Ma Don/Saw Hoo Ma Father: U Aung Nyein</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kayin, Christian</td>
<td>(1) - Y a r - 3 0 2 (2)-234 (3)-Explosive-3</td>
<td>25 yrs</td>
<td>24-11-2009</td>
<td>Kha-Ta-Ya Toungoo-91/08</td>
<td>Total Imprisonment: unlimited period</td>
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<td>Case in Brief</td>
<td>Planted mine at Thane Video Centre in Kyaukyi; blasted mine at Thane Video Centre, leaving two dead, contacts with Saw Nar of the Battalion No-9 of KNU</td>
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|     |                 |                          | Remark: | According to the Announcement No 28/2011 of the President Office dated 16-5-2011, he received 1 yr (365-days) remission. According to the Announcement No/1/2012 of the President Office dated 2-1-2012, the 56-yr
### List of 27 persons serving prison terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Original number</th>
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<th>Religion</th>
<th>Section</th>
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<th>Date of Punishment</th>
<th>Case Number of Court</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>TaNga/09/01145/Ka (Toungoo)</td>
<td>Saw Yangon/Saw Yarto</td>
<td>56,</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>(1) - Yar-302</td>
<td>28 yrs (2)/324</td>
<td>24-11-2009</td>
<td>Ka-Ta-ya Toungoo-91/08</td>
<td>Total Imprisonment: 28 yrs four months and 22 days</td>
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<td>Father: U Saw Toe He</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2)-Explosives-3</td>
<td>25 yrs</td>
<td>24-11-2009</td>
<td>Ka-Ta-Ya Toungoo-40/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>MaTaLa/12/00826/Ka (Thayet)</td>
<td>Aung Ko Latt (a)</td>
<td>37,</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(1)-PaPaKa-6 (1)</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>26-03-2012</td>
<td>KhaTaYa Nay Pyi Taw-42/11</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Father: U Ye Aung</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2)-Explosive-3</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>26-03-2012</td>
<td>KhaTaYa Nay Pyi Taw-38/11</td>
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<td>(3)-Yar-326</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>26-03-2012</td>
<td>KhaTaYa Nay Pyi Taw-43/11</td>
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<td>(4)-Yar-324</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td>26-03-2012</td>
<td>KhaTaYa Nay Pyi Taw-43/11</td>
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<td>(5)-Yar-324</td>
<td>1yr</td>
<td>26-03-2012</td>
<td>KhaTaYa Nay Pyi Taw-43/11</td>
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<td>Total Imprisonment: 8 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>MaTaLa/11/01168/Ka (Mandalay)</td>
<td>Yan Naing Soe/ Thein Zaw</td>
<td>25,</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bamar</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>T a M a A h - 3 (1)/53(Kha)/42</td>
<td>Life Imprisonment</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>16-12-2010</td>
<td>Kha-La-Ra (95)Military Court Mandalay-214/10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Father: U Hmat Kyaw</td>
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<td>(Ka)</td>
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<td>37 (1)/71/21 (Ka)</td>
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<td>Total Imprisonment – unlimited period</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A-Sa/12/03983/Ka (Insein)</td>
<td>Chi Ko</td>
<td>33,</td>
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<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>TaMaAh-71/ Electronic-33 (Ka)</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>24-12-2012</td>
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<td>TaMaAh-71</td>
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<td>24-12-2012</td>
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<td>TamaAh-71/65</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>2-3-2012</td>
<td>Khamaya (435), Military-Prison-23/12</td>
<td>Found guilty on a count of posting articles on a website of how he, as an weapon officer in an airbase in Myeik, was excluded from promotion and of the plight of military personnel. Born on 22-6-1974, Air-2282 (Captain), Malakha, Myeik Tsp. Granted a 1,800-day remission of the 20-year sentence under presidential order 1/2014 dated 2-1-2014.</td>
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<td>Male</td>
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<td>Lawaka-13/1(1)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>14-2-2012</td>
<td>Mataya / T/ H/ T/ 105/12</td>
<td>Charged with counts of defrauding the army, stabbing Nan Soe Aung to death, doing a course in explosives after joining VBSW in Mae Tsp of Thailand, planning to plant two bombs at Myenigone junction, illegal detonation of those two bombs at his brother’s place in North Okkalapa Tsp, and trying to escape Thayet Prison. Remark: On escape for 3 years, 8 months and 5 days; born on 15-8-1981; granted a 2,160-day remission of the 24-year sentence under presidential order 1/2014 dated 2-1-2014.</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Asa/12/01742/A (Insein)</td>
<td>Zaw Thet Aung alias Gadon, son of U Win Myint</td>
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<td>Lawaka-13/1(1)</td>
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<td>14-2-2012</td>
<td>Mataya / T/ H/ T/ 105/12</td>
<td>Charged with counts of defrauding the army, stabbing Nan Soe Aung to death, doing a course in explosives after joining VBSW in Mae Tsp of Thailand, planning to plant two bombs at Myenigone junction, illegal detonation of those two bombs at his brother’s place in North Okkalapa Tsp, and trying to escape Thayet Prison. Remark: On escape for 3 years, 8 months and 5 days; born on 15-8-1981; granted a 2,160-day remission of the 24-year sentence under presidential order 1/2014 dated 2-1-2014.</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Asa/11/13763/A (Insein)</td>
<td>Zaw Min Thant alias Kyaw Soe, son of U Han Oo</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Explosive-3</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>16-12-2011</td>
<td>Mataya / Yaka(na)-67/11</td>
<td>Charged with counts of trespassing into Thailand through Myanmar; blowing up two taxis in Thangtgyar Tsp killing a driver and injuring two passengers; planting a hand grenade in front of the town hall in Kyauktada Tsp; planting a hand grenade in front of Aungzeya Bakery on Sule Pagoda Road;</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Asa/10000168/A (Myeik)</td>
<td>Thura Kyaw alias Aung Aung, son of U Kyaw Nyein</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>Electronic-33(B)</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>7-1-2010</td>
<td>Yaka(na), Exclusive-134/09</td>
<td>Charged with counts of illegally recording some information of government heads of international relations and their speeches from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on his return from Cambodia to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport. Remark: Granted a reduction of imprisonment from death sentence to life sentence under presidential order 28/2011 dated 30-12-2013; granted a 1,800-day remission of the 20-year sentence under presidential order 1/2014 dated 2-1-2014.</td>
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<td>Tanga/10/000272/A (Taungoo)</td>
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<td>TamaAh-71/71/ 71/171</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>28-1-2010</td>
<td>LR-411, Nay Pyi Taw-80/09</td>
<td>Charged with a count of informing Win Naing Kyaw, a former major, of the itineraries of head of State. Remark: Kapa-877473, second warrant officer, management department of the defence (army); granted a reduction of imprisonment from death sentence to life sentence under presidential order 28/11 dated 16-5-2011.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q

It is, however, natural for a country just transforming itself into a democracy to experience challenges such as a shortage of skilled and experienced Hluttaw staff for a parliamentary democracy. As a result, most representatives at the Hluttaw have to do research and draft bills by themselves and some of them cannot do as much as they wish for the country.

This is not to blame the Hluttaw staff, but to point out that they did not have any experience in parliamentary procedures before 2011 and they were recruited from various government departments to work in a new environment.

Compared to parliamentarians in other countries, the Hluttaw office does not have enough staff or skills, but capacity-building programmes are being carried out with international organizations including the National Democratic Institute, Open Society, German Foundation, Westminster Foundation, the DFID, Hanna Siedel Foundation, and UNDP. It is important to have representatives at the Hluttaw with not only academic degrees but also practical experience to help them draft laws to meet the needs of Myanmar.

Most people think that wealth can provide absolute joy, pleasure or happiness, but that is wrong. Although a person may be very rich, he will not be happy if he does not have a good health or does not feel safe and is always worrying that he may one day lose his wealth. He may be able to enjoy life to great extents, which can be bought with his wealth, but those are not eternal happiness, just temporary or rather, illusions. As a Buddhist, I believe that there is no real Sukha, a Pali word, which can be loosely interpreted as a feeling of joy, pleasure, comfort, ease or satisfaction and has nothing to do with wealth. Our Lord Buddha in his teachings listed Sukha as Dukkha, which is very important to the DbContext.

Sukha's teaching—conception, birth, old age, sickness, death. The Four Noble Truths are summed up that there are more hazards than joy, pleasure, comfort, ease and satisfaction in life. In other words, there are more Dukkhas than Sukhas in life.

Our Buddhist belief is that by possessing a body or a physical structure, one must unavoidably encounter the sufferings of aging, sickness and finally death, which are Dukkhas. As human beings are led on from one stage of life to another in conditions of the utmost hazards, dangers and obstacles, there is a universally accepted saying that “life is a struggle”, which almost everyone irrespective of race or religion, rich or poor agrees.

To be free from these Dukkhas, the only mean for us Buddhists is to get rid of them by following the teachings of our Lord Buddha. Other religions may also have their own way of ridding them, but as a Buddhist, I would like to advise my fellow Buddhists to study and practice “The Four Noble Truths”, which our Lord expounded in his very first sermon soon after his enlightenment to his old colleagues, the five ascetics, at Isipatana near Benares in India.

The First Noble Truth is Dukkha, in which he explained the different aspects of Dukkha. The Second Noble Truth is Samudaya, the arising or origin of Dukkha. The Third noble Truth is Nikkhaya, which dealt with the cessation of Dukkha. The Fourth Noble Truth is Megga, which shows the path that lead to the cessation of Dukkha, known as the “Middle Path”, because it avoids two extremes. One extreme is the search for happiness through the pleasures of senses, which is “low, common, unbe- nefitful and the way of the coarse people” and the other is the search for happiness through self-mortification in different forms of asceticism, which too is “painful, unworthy and unprofitable”. If these “Four Noble Truths” are practiced correctly, one can attain Nirvana—free from all forms of Dukkha—which is the ultimate goal of every practicing Buddhists.

Whatever approaches different religions may take, I believe that the ultimate goal of every religion is to be free from sufferings, pains, sorrows or miseries that every human being must encounter throughout a lifetime. Thus, in conclusion I would like to urge all human beings, irrespective of their religions or beliefs, to strive for that goal.

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dep’t., Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

LIFE IS A HAZARDOUS JOURNEY

Khin Maung Myint

M

ost people think that wealth can provide absolute joy, pleasure or happiness, but that is wrong. Although a person may be very rich, he will not be happy if he does not have a good health or does not feel safe and is always worrying that he may one day lose his wealth. He may be able to enjoy life to great extents, which can be bought with his wealth, but those are not eternal happiness, just temporary or rather, illusions. As a Buddhist, I believe that there is no real Sukha, a Pali word, which can be loosely interpreted as a feeling of joy, pleasure, comfort, ease or satisfaction and has nothing to do with wealth. Our Lord Buddha in his teachings listed Sukha as Dukkha, which is very important to the DbContext.

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The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dep’t., Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

Japan grants school project in Bago Tsp

YANGON, 31 Oct.—The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US$ 95,785 for humanitarian assistance program entitled “The Project for Construction of Shwaydaung Monastic Post Primary School in Bago Township, Bago Region.”

The handover and opening ceremony of the Shwaydaung Monastic School was held in Bago Township, Bago Region on 29 October 2014. Mr. Taro WATANABE, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, U Nyan Win, Chief Minister of Bago Region, Bago Region Minister for Development Affairs, District Education Officer, Township Administrator, Head Monk, teachers and students, committee chairman and committee members of the construction project and local residents attended this ceremony.

The Shwaydaung Monastic Post Primary School was opened in 1993 and the number of students has increased year after year. The Japanese Government decided to support construction of a two-storey RC building with lavatories, water supply, electrical lighting and full furniture. This support will benefit about 300 students of the school.—GNLM

School children are happy with new desks at new school building of Shwaydaung Monastic Post Primary School in Bago Township.
NATIONAL

Information Ministry briefs on talks of five national political forces

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — A press conference was held in relation to the political dialogue by five national political forces, sources said.

The conference took place at the Ministry of Information here on Friday, officials said.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut gave briefings on what came under discussion at the political dialogue, responding to queries raised by the media.

The press conference drew 89 local and foreign journalists. — MNA

Discussion underway to ...

(from page 1)

Based on these two drafts, discussions are continuing. — U Thant Kyaw

U Thant Kyaw said the government is now engaged in promoting human rights in the country, a National Human Rights Commission was formed in accordance with the law and the commission is discharging its duties independently to promote and protect human rights. He added the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar was allowed to visit the country and was allowed to meet the persons she wanted to meet and he noted that her reports were presented to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council through the OHCHR.

As to cooperation with the OHCHR, Myanmar has said it hopes for technical assistance through close cooperation with the office to promote human rights situation and enhance capacity building, which is needed for Myanmar to sign major UN human rights conventions.

U Thant Kyaw said that in addition to the discussions underway to open the branch of a resident representative office of the OHCHR in Yangon, Myanmar has already allowed five representatives of the office to visit Rakhine State regularly to collect data on human rights there.

He added that the OHCHR is the only organization engaging in promoting human rights in Rakhine while other international organizations are focusing on humanitarian assistance.

On future cooperation on human rights, U Thant Kyaw added.

Winners in Life-time Achievement National Literary Award announced

YANGON, 31 Oct—The National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee of the Ministry of Information selected writers Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Daman-byu), Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintar Saw Chit) and U Myint Kyi (Tekkatho Myat Soe) as Life-time Achievement National Literary Award winners for 2013. The winners will be awarded K2.5 million as cash award. The prize presentation will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street on 22 November. — MNA

Local people get new asphalt road in Dekkhinathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct— Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Saw Hla and member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Min Min Zaw attended the inauguration of Ywama-Kyargu asphalt road in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Saw Hla explained development tasks in Dekkhinathiri Township.

District IPRD

U Thant Kyaw added. In cooperating with the OHCHR, Myanmar has not only shown political will but is also engaging in practical work, the deputy minister continued, adding he believes there is a good atmosphere in cooperation between the government and the non-resident members of the OHCHR.
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**List of 27 persons serving prison terms**

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<td>SaiPhone(a) SaiTint(a) Phone Tint Son of U Saw Hlaing</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(1) Section 15 of the Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law</td>
<td>5 yrs sentence for</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
<td>PaTaRa Shan/North-1/06</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(2) Section 19 (a)/22 (b) of the Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law</td>
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<td>23-2-2006</td>
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<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(3) Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic and Psycho- tropic Substances Law</td>
<td>3 yrs sentence</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(4) Section 6(1) of Telecommunication Act</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
<td>PaTaRa Shan/North-7/06</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(5) Section 302(1) (b)/34 of Criminal Act</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
<td>PaTaRa Shan/North-8/06</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<td>(6) Section 2(1)(a) of the Narcotic and Psycho- tropic Substances Law</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
<td>PaTaRa Shan/North-9/06</td>
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<td>59</td>
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<td>Shan</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(7) Section 89 of Central Bank Act</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
<td>23-2-2006</td>
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<td><strong>Total imprisonment- unlimited period</strong></td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>A S a / 1 5 / 0 0 3 3 3 / a (Thayawady)</td>
<td>Yaw Pha Li/ Kyaw Hlaing Lauk San, son of U Yaw Kya Yin</td>
<td>Yaw Pha Li/ Kyaw Hlaing Lauk San, son of U Yaw Kya Yin</td>
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<td>40 yrs</td>
<td>20-11-2002</td>
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<td>14-02-2002</td>
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<td>(4)-Drug Law-20(b)/21(22(a</td>
<td>Life sentence</td>
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<td><strong>Total imprisonment- unlimited period</strong></td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Ma La Ma/15/00264/a</td>
<td>Sai Lon/Lon The Son of U Shauk Chin</td>
<td>Sai Lon/Lon The Son of U Shauk Chin</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Shan</td>
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<td>(1)-Drug law-19(a)/21(22(a)</td>
<td>25 yrs</td>
<td>07-09-2001</td>
<td>Pa Ta Ya, Kayin-9/01</td>
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<td>(2)-Drug Law-19(a)/21(22(a)</td>
<td>25 yrs</td>
<td>07-09-2001</td>
<td>Pa Ta Ya, Kayin (Penal- ty/Amendment)-31/01</td>
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<td><strong>(1 and 2) combined Total imprisonment-40 years</strong></td>
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</table>

**Case in Brief**
Caught as commander of Battalion 702 of SSA Division 2
Penalty was changed from death sentence to life imprisonment in accord with the Order 28/11 dated 16-5-2011 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Yar-302-(1)(b)/34. The penalty was changed again from the death sentence to life imprisonment in accord with the Order (28/2011) dated 30-12-2013 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Yar-122 (1). The section changed from death sentence to life imprisonment was cancelled according to the Order No. 52/2013 of the President Office dated 30-12-2013 and Yar-122(1).

**Case in Brief**
The case was filed that 240 kilos of heroin blocks and 65 stimulant tablets were transferred from Shwe Ngar Gyi motorboat to a trawler of Thailand.
According to the amnesty under President Office Order No. (28/2011) dated 16-5-2011, the penalty was reduced from the death sentence to life imprisonment. (a) An appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (b) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (c) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under the letter 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (d) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (e) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (f) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (g) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (h) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (i) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (j) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (k) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (l) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (m) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (n) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (o) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (p) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (q) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (r) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (s) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (t) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (u) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (v) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (w) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (x) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02. (y) A special appeal was submitted to the Supreme Court of the Union under Letter 1008/3/Staff-1 of the Jail dated (26-11-2002). (z) The appeal was cancelled under the letter No. 5195/appeal228/02 of the Supreme Court of the Union dated (11-2-2003) and the approvals of death sentence No 13/02.
### List of 27 persons serving prison terms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Original number</th>
<th>Jail registration number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Date of Punishment</th>
<th>Case Number of Court</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>295-1</td>
<td>Ma Ta La/10000613/a (Myikyina)</td>
<td>Shin Moe Pyar/ Shin Nyana Son of U Mya Din</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>Bamar</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>(1)-Criminal Law-295</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>11-03-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-54/10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2)-Criminal Law-205(a)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1-03-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-54/10</td>
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<td>(3)-Vinaya-10</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>08-04-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-82/10</td>
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<td>(4)-Sangha/Organization-12</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>08-04-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-83/10</td>
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<td>(5)-Sangha/Organization-11</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>08-04-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-83/10</td>
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<td>(6)-Association-6</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>15-07-2010</td>
<td>Ma Ta Ya, Patheingyi-63/10</td>
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</table>

**Total imprisonment 20 years**

### Case in Brief

**Remarks**

1. Ma Ka Na/14/01056/a
2. Ma Ta La/10/00613/a

Ma La/Rein Maung Lwin released under Criminal Procedure-401(1) on 7-10-2014 released under Criminal Procedure-401(1) on 7-10-2014

### Italy’s tallest building to be completed in 2015

**Berlin, 31 Oct — The German government introduced a controversial road toll on Thursday which will force foreign car drivers to pay up to 130 euros (102.4 pounds) a year for using Germany’s Autobahn motorways. The plan, intended to help Germany fund the upkeep of its transport infrastructure which is used by millions of foreign vehicles, may yet face a legal challenge in Brussels for discriminating against foreign motorists. After months of heated debate between Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party Christian Social Union (CSU), Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt addressed the media in Berlin on 30 Oct, 2014.**

**REUTERS**

Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt dropped an original idea to raise the fee on all roads.

However, the minister stuck to the plan that the toll will not lead to extra costs for German drivers by allowing them to offset the levy against already existing motor vehicle tax.

Dobrindt, a leading member of the CSU, said he was convinced that his new road toll to cost foreign drivers up to 130 euros draft law does not discriminate against foreign motorists and therefore would stand if challenged in court.

“The infrastructure fee is sensible, fair and just,” the minister said, adding that the revenues of the toll would only be used to modernize Germany’s motorways and main roads.

The toll is expected to be introduced in 2016. Motorists have to pay by registering their license plates via the internet. Foreigners can also pay the levy at gas stations.

The fee will take into account the cylinder capacity and environmental compatibility of the car with a maximum toll of 130 euros a year. Foreign drivers can pay a 10-day levy for 10 euros or two month for 22 euros.

The minister expects revenues of 3.7 billion euros of which around 3 billion euros will come from domestic drivers. With estimated introduction costs of nearly 200 million euros, the net revenue might shrink to just 300 million euros a year.

Dobrindt’s CSU wants foreign motorists to pay tolls on motorways because they think it is unfair that foreigners travel for free in Germany while German drivers have to pay tolls in neighbouring countries like Austria, Switzerland and France.—**REUTERS**

### Australian Senate endorses govt’ scheme to cut greenhouse emissions

**Sydney, 31 Oct — Australia’s Senate narrowly passed legislation on Friday to reduce greenhouse house emissions, with the government scheme to replace a polarizing carbon tax abolished three months ago on grounds it made Australian businesses less competitive.**

The new legislation championed by Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who was a fierce opponent of the carbon tax, is expected to pass easily through the House of Representatives in which the ruling Liberal-National coalition has a majority.

“It is a cost-effective and practical approach that will reduce our national emissions without a multi-billion dollar carbon tax,” Environment Minister Greg Hunt said in a statement, adding that the scheme will help Australia to meet its emissions reduction target of 5 percent below 2000 levels by 2020.

The scheme is opposed by the opposition Labour and Greens parties, claiming the emissions reduction target will be unreachable.

Under the scheme, major polluters will be provided financial incentives to reduce emissions, with the government entering into contracts to buy emissions reductions from successful bidders at competitive auctions.

For that purpose, a A$2.55 billion (US$2.3 billion) Emissions Reduction Fund will be created as the centerpiece of the government’s so-called “direct action plan” to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Abbott, a climate change skeptic, was elected in 2013 on a platform of a scrapping the carbon tax.

The tax, introduced in July 2012 by a Labor-led government, required polluters to pay A$23 per ton of carbon emissions, increasing annually, which partly resulted in higher electricity bills for households and businesses.

He has denounced it as a A$9 billion-a-year hit on the Australian economy that delivered no meaningful reductions in emissions, though Labour points out that emissions in the energy sector dropped by over 10 percent while the tax was in effect.
TEPCO removes part of reactor building cover at Fukushima plant

Photo taken 31 Oct, 2014 from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the No 1 reactor building of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi complex in northeastern Japan, after its operator Tokyo Electric Power Co removed a panel from the roof of the cover shrouding the building, which is a first step toward removing spent fuel rods stored in a cooling pool in the building.—Kyodo News

Tokyo, 31 Oct—The operator of the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant on Friday tentatively removed part of the cover shrouding the No 1 reactor building installed in the wake of the 2011 disaster to keep radioactive materials from dispersing.

Dismantling the cover is a first step toward removing spent fuel rods stored in a cooling pool sitting above the reactor, which suffered a meltdown in the disaster, and eventually extracting the melted fuel, Tokyo Electric Power Co said.

On Friday morning, plant workers removed a huge panel using a crane to see whether antidespersal agents, inserted last week to prevent radioactive dust from being scattered, are taking effect. No changes in radiation levels have been observed in the contaminated area, the company said.

Minister to explain nuclear plant restart policy in Kagoshima on Monday

Tokyo, 31 Oct—Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoichi Miyazawa said on Friday he will visit Kagoshima Prefecture on Monday to explain his policy in the prefecture, his first visit since assuming the post in late March.

Miyazawa plans to meet with representatives of the prefecture, including the city’s mayor, to explain the government’s policy on restarting a once-shuttered nuclear plant in the city.

German national kidnapped in Nigeria released

LAGOS, 31 Oct — A German national, who was abducted a week ago in southwestern Nigeria, has been released, the authorities confirmed on Thursday.

Ogun State police spokesperson Aしまola Oyeyemi said the hostage was “rescued” on Thursday and reunited with officials of his German company in Lagos.

He was kidnapped by unknown gunmen on 24 October in the Ogbere area of the state.

Foreigner-targeted abductions are rampant in southern Nigeria.
**I wasn’t prepared for marriage when it happened: Anne Hathaway**

LOS ANGELES, 31 Oct — Actress Anne Hathaway says she was not ready for the changes marriage brings in, when she tied the knot with husband Adam Shulman.

The 31-year-old actress, who just celebrated her two-year wedding anniversary, said married life was more than she ever imagined, reported E! Online.

“When we got married, I thought it was a great party. I honestly thought we were doing it more for tradition. I wasn’t prepared for the radical shift my heart was going to have,” she said.—PTI

**Mila Jovovich to have a baby girl**

LOS ANGELES, 31 Oct — Actress Mila Jovovich has revealed she is expecting a baby girl with husband Paul W S Anderson.

Jovovich, who already has daughter Ever Gabo Anderson, revealed the sex of her second child yesterday at an event, reported E! Online.

“We found out. We’re having a girl,” she said, adding that their daughter was hoping she was going to get a little brother or sister. “I don’t know what we would have done if the baby was a boy,” Jovovich said.

Jovovich, 38, announced her second pregnancy on Facebook in August by telling fans that she will not be travelling to film the latest instalment of ‘Resident Evil’ just yet. “This was originally going to be a post to tell you how excited I am about flying to Cape Town, South Africa to begin working on ‘Resident Evil: The Final Chapter’. But… My husband Paul and I just discovered that we are expecting another baby!!!” she posted online.—PTI

**Sandra Bullock rescues collapsed actress on movie set**

LOS ANGELES, 31 Oct — Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock helped a fellow actress, who collapsed from apparent heat stroke on the set of her current movie, ‘Our Brand Is Crisis’. Bullock helped the actress by giving her water and fanning her until an ambulance arrived, reported TMZ.

The woman was brought to a local hospital. Bullock’s co-star Billy Bob Thornton was there, too, but was “mostly watching”, according to a source.

The heat stroke may have been the result of the warm clothes the actors were required to wear as costumes for the flick. New Orleans’ temperature on Monday, when the incident occurred, topped out at 82 degrees. Filming was shut down for the remainder of Monday but was up and running by Tuesday.—PTI

**One Direction lead Billboard Touring Awards nominations**

LONDON, 31 Oct — One Direction, Justin Timberlake, Katy Perry and the Rolling Stones are among the headliners who will compete for major prizes at the 2014 Billboard Touring Awards.

The British boyband and Timberlake, 33, will compete with the Eagles for the Top Tour trophy, while the two acts will battle country star Luke Bryan for the coveted Top Draw award when the prizes are handed out in New York on 20 November, reported Contactmusic.

Arcade Fire, Florida Georgia Line, Paul McCartney and Jason Aldean are also up for top trophies. Arcade Fire and Florida Georgia Line will take on OneRepublic for the Breakthrough Award, while Lollapalooza in Chicago, the Coachella Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California and the Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin, Texas will compete for Best Festival.

The most interesting category of all is the fight for this year’s Top Box-score title as it features old rivals McCartney and the Rolling Stones, who sold out the Tokyo Dome in Japan over three nights in November, 2013 and February and March (14), respectively. They will battle One Direction, who packed out Dublin’s Croke Park in Ireland in May, for the prize.—PTI

**Robert Pattinson moving to London for girlfriend?**

LONDON, 31 Oct — ‘Twilight’ star Robert Pattinson is reportedly moving to London to live with his rumoured girlfriend FKA Twigs.

The 28-year-old actor has been living in the US but could move to London, away from the mutual circles of his and ex-girlfriend Kristen Stewart’s, reported the Daily Mirror.

“She is behind Rob’s decision to move back. He’s serious about her. They are really happy and he seems keen to make a fresh start, away from the mutual circles he shared with his ex-girlfriend Kristen (Stewart) in LA. They’ve both got busy schedules but they’re planning to move to London together in the foreseeable future,” a source said.—PTI
Two shot, dozens arrested in San Francisco following Giants win

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Oct — Two people were shot, one was stabbed and around 40 were arrested as celebrations in San Francisco for the Giants victory in the World Series turned violent overnight, police said on Thursday.

A number of police officers were struck by bottles while responding to the mayhem and three were taken to local hospitals, one with severe lacerations to his hand. Sergeant Monica Macdonald of the San Francisco Police Department said.

Giants fans took to the streets on Wednesday night after the team won its third championship in five years by beating the Kansas City Royals, 3-2, in Game 7 of the World Series, behind the super-relief efforts of pitcher Madison Bumgarner.

Hundreds of people, many clad in team’s orange and black, flooded Valencia Street in the city’s Mission District after the final out, pelting on bus stops, setting off fireworks and toasting the Giants with beer or champagne.

“Bumgarner blew my mind today,” said San Francisco native Beau Adams, who sports a Giants tattoo. “The balance of superstition and belief and pride and confidence makes it all come together.”

But as the impromptu street party dragged on late into the night, revelers began setting fires in the streets and vandalizing buildings and police cars with graffiti, Macdonald said. Police turned out in riot gear to break up the more unruly celebrations.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency suspended bus service late Wednesday due to safety concerns.

A passerby was struck in the arm by a bullet fired during an argument between two people, while a second man arrived at San Francisco General hospital with a gunshot wound he said he had sustained in the pandemonium. Another fight ended with one person stabbed, Macdonald said.

She said 29 people were arrested for public intoxication, two on gun charges, four on outstanding warrants and one with a warrant for aggravated assault. She said police could make further arrests after studying videotapes of the scene and interviewing witnesses.

“The destruction prompted concern ahead of a parade scheduled for Friday in San Francisco to honour the team.

“We just hope that as the parade comes tomorrow and Halloween tomorrow night people maintain their composure out there, celebrate and not cause problems,” Macdonald said. “If that’s what they want to do we want them to stay home.”

New Uniqlo flagship store opens in Osaka, targets foreign tourists

OSAKA, 31 Oct — The Uniqlo casual clothing chain opened its second Osaka flagship store on Friday just outside the Hankyu Umeda Station, employing a multilingual staff to target foreign tourists.

Of the store’s roughly 360 employees, one in 10 can speak English, Chinese or Korean, operator Fast Retailing Co said.

The opening of the 3,000-square metre store on the first four floors of a renovated building was moved up by around 15 minutes in the morning to accommodate some 2,300 customers who queued outside the shop.

It is Fast Retailing’s third Uniqlo flagship outlet in Japan following ones in Tokyo’s Ginza and Osaka’s Shinsaibashi neighbourhoods.—Kyodo News

Rio 2016 says it will offset 3.6 mln tonnes of emissions at Games

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Oct — The Rio 2016 local organizing committee set a target on Thursday to offset the total amount of greenhouse gases estimated to be produced by the world’s largest multi-sport event.

The Olympic Games are expected to generate 3.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), mostly due to travelling and accommodation of spectators, the local organizing committee (LOC) said.

That number is slightly larger than what was released by the London 2012 Games, at around 3.4 million tonnes of CO2e.

Rio 2016 LOC said, however, that it has no intention to tap carbon markets for their neutralization programme. Instead, they will use a combination of projects from the public and private sectors.

Organizers of large sports events such as the Olympics and the soccer World Cup have tried to reduce their carbon footprints in a response to criticism from environmental groups.

The London Games had its emissions partially neutralized, while the Sochi Winter Olympics and the Brazil World Cup this year already reached full compensation.

Rio’s committee said Dow Chemical will be its official carbon partner, in charge of offsetting 2 million tonnes of CO2e.

Dow plans to reach the reductions by implementing programmes such as a fuel switch at power installations in its plants in Brazil.

It will also calculate the reductions achieved with the use of some of its products in the agriculture and the food processing sectors in the country.

Rio’s government will complement the Games’ carbon footprint offsetting with a reforestation programme for degraded areas of the Atlantic Rainforest.

Members of the media visit the Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium, undergoing renovation to stage athletic competitions during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, during the 2nd world press briefing for the games in Rio de Janeiro on 6 Aug, 2014. —Reuters
Nishikori reaches q’finals to inch toward ATP Finals berth

Paris, 31 Oct — Japan’s Kei Nishikori took a big step toward qualifying for his first ATP Finals after seeing off local favourite Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in three sets to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters on Thursday.

Nishikori, the No 6 seed, defeated the 10th-seeded Tsonga 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the final eight. The Japanese ace, who reached the US Open final this year, can book a world number one Novak Djokovic for a semi-final spot after the Serbian beat Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-3, 7-6(2) after 92 minutes in Thursday’s late match.

“Nishikori, who had won five of his 10 finals this year, extended his current winning run to 14 matches as he kept his eye firmly on the world number one spot, which he can achieve by winning in Paris if Djokovic does not reach the final.

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Nishikori, a long-time nemesis of Federer, beat the 10th seed 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and now faces Milos Raonic, who can still qualify for the ATP Finals after the Canadian fired 23 aces in his 7-5, 7-6(7) win over Spain’s Roberto Bautista Agut.

Kei Nishikori

Paris, 31 Oct — Andy Murray’s recent resurgence continued when he won a quarter-final thriller over Bulgaria’s Grigor Dimitrov on Thursday.

After dropping outside the top 10 following his US Open exit, Murray began a late push for a spot in the London showpiece event, which features eight of the best players this season.

The eighth seed showed he was up to the task by seeing off ninth-seeded Dimitrov, who is now eliminated from the race for the 10-16 November event at London’s O2.

Murray will take on world number one Novak Djokovic for a semi-final spot after the Serbian beat Francesc del Potro 6-3, 7-6(2) after 92 minutes in Thursday’s late match.

“Some of the matches that I’ve had against the top, top players I had some periods in the match where my level dropped off a little bit, and the best players capitalize on those moments,” Murray told reporters after becoming the fifth player to book his place in the season finale.

Second seed Roger Federer dismissed French qualifier Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4 and now faces Milos Raonic, who can still qualify for the Tour Finals after the Canadian fired 23 aces in his 7-5, 7-6(7) win over Spain’s Roberto Bautista Agut.

Federer, who has won five of his 10 finals this year, extended his current winning run to 14 matches as he kept his eye firmly on the world number one spot, which he can achieve by winning in Paris if Djokovic does not reach the final.

“Nishikori is going to be tough and difficult to beat,” the Serbian said. “But I’ve had some good matches with him in the past and I’ve played a lot of close matches. I’m feeling confident and I’m ready to go.”

Federer, who has won nine titles this year, extended his current winning run to 14 matches as he kept his eye firmly on the world number one spot, which he can achieve by winning in Paris if Djokovic does not reach the final.

“Nishikori is a tough player and a strong one,” the Swiss said. “But I’ve had some good matches with him in the past and I’ve played a lot of close matches. I’m feeling confident and I’m ready to go.”

Andy Murray of Britain returns a shot during his men’s singles tennis match against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria in the third round of the Paris Masters tennis tournament at the Bercy sports hall in Paris, on 30 October 2014. — Reuters

Nigeria set to avoid FIFA suspension after court case is dropped

Cape Town, 31 Oct — Nigeria looked like avoiding a FIFA suspension after a court case involving a battle for the leadership of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) was withdrawn from the High Court on Thursday.

Dropping the case paves the way for the FIFA-backed NFF president Amaju Pinnick and his executive to resume their duties after they had been ousted from office by an interim ruling last Thursday by Justice Ambrose Allagha, who placed Chris Giwa in charge.

Judge Allagha ruled that the elective congress that brought Pinnick to power on 30 September was invalid but that ruling is now no longer being supported by Giwa and is being dropped.

There was also some conjecture that Stephen Keshi, who left his job as national team coach earlier this month could return.

Germany media have said he would be delighted if the charismatic “Big Boss” returned.

Fifa wrote to the NFF on Tuesday

Nigeria will most likely have to win both of their remaining Nations Cup qualifiers next month away in Congo and at home to South Africa to stand a chance of reaching the finals in Morocco in January.

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