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Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Plenary Session of the National Convention continues

Delegates of political parties submit suggestions on detailed basic principles for the chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the State Constitution

YANGON, 24 Jan — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the respective sub-committees, delegates of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, and Wa National

Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State(North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State(North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office,

the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Office of Civil Service Selection and Training
(See Page 8)

Presentations at NC to be published

YANGON, 24 Jan — Presentations made today at the National Convention by U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Kyahashe of Lahu National Development Party on detailed basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of Tatmadaw will be published. — MNA



The Plenary Session of the National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp .—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 January, 2006

Strive for success of the Road Map and the National Convention

The Union of Myanmar is a land where more than 100 national races have been living together for ages. It is not that each and every national group live in their own region but that there are various national groups living in each and every region. No matter which part of the Union they live in, there is always national unity and Union Spirit among the national races.

Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Prime Minister General Soe Win hosted a dinner in honour of the trainees of No 37 Course (BED) of the University for Development of National Races at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on 23 January. In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister General Soe Win called on the trainees to foster the spirit to live in unity, peace and stability, equality and progress and patriotism and Union Spirit, and to actively lend themselves to the task of successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention.

The purpose of the University for Development of National Races is to train the youths from far-flung border areas in order that they will become highly-educated human resources who can effectively serve the best interests of the Union and the people. Now is the time when the government is shaping the nation into a discipline-flourishing democracy and, in doing so, priority has been given to peace and stability, human resources and economic development. To enable each and every citizen to pursue higher education, colleges and universities including the University for Development of National Races have been opened the length and breadth of the Union. As a result, intellectuals and intelligentsia are emerging in each and every region.

Products of the University for Development of National Races are responsible not only for imparting knowledge to but also for edification of youths so that they will become all-rounders who are patriotic and physically and mentally healthy.

The government is now holding the National Convention for the emergence of an enduring constitution and basic principles to be drafted into the constitution are being thoroughly discussed. At such a time like this, we would like to call on the products of the University for Development of National Races to do their bit to make the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention a complete success.

Merit-sharing ceremony of the Nagayon Buddha image on 28 January

YANGON, 24 Jan—The collective merit-sharing ceremony of the Nagayon Buddha image kept at Historic Maha Dhammaranthi Pagoda on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township will be held at Yadana Beikmandaw on 28 January morning.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees has extended invitation to well-wishers to attend the ceremony.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Minister inspects Kyatmauktaung Dam

YANGON, 24 Jan—Extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and summer paddy is to be undertaken at the most possible degree, making better use of irrigated water, said Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo in his meeting with officials and local people at Kyatmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division on 20 January.

Next, the minister and party inspected flowing of water into Mondaing Dam in Meiktila Township, where the Assistant Director of ID reported on water supply for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. On 21 January evening, the minister looked into the cotton plantation of farmer U Soe Maung in Tawma Village, Meiktila Township, where officials reported on cultivation of cotton in the township.

After that, the minister inspected water storage of Kyauktaga Dam in Natmauk Township, main embankment and Pinchaung canal.

Later, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected water storage of



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects cotton plantation in Meiktila Township. A & I

Later, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected water storage of

The minister gave instructions on extended cultivation of long staple cotton, and inspected sample of long staple cotton and heard a report presented by officials.

MNA

Transport Minister inspects extension of Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 23 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected extension of Yangon International Airport on 21 January. At the briefing hall, Director of Asia World Co Ltd U Kye explained measures on construction of the extension project.

Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department for Civil Aviation gave a supplementary report to the minister. The minister oversaw undertakings earth works, fuel tank, farm and fuel hydrant.

On arrival at the briefing hall of extension of runway project, the minister heard reports on the extension tasks of runway, attended to the needs and left there.—MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects extension project of Yangon International Airport.

TRANSPORT



ICT Week from 28 Jan to 3 Feb

YANGON, 24 Jan— Myanmar ICT Week will be held from 28 January to 3 February at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, here. Workshops, talks, programming and web development contests will be held and introduction of new ICT equipment and talks on services will be also be made.

Those who wish to participate in the Programming and Web Development contests may dial phone number 652276 of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association at Building-4, Room-4 of Myanmar Info-Tech not later than 28 January and those who wish to introduce ICT equipment or hold talks on service may contact phone number 652272-74 not later than 27 January.

MNA

International Trade Course opened

YANGON, 24 Jan— Organized by the Education Work Committee of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Batch-4 of the International Trade Course (Program-3) was opened this afternoon at the UMFCCI training centre here. Present on the occasion were Adviser Dr Htin Kyaw of UMFCCI, Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin, CEC members, members of the Education Work Committee, instructors and trainees.

Altogether 50 trainees are attending the course which will be conducted from 24 January to 7 February.

MNA



Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force soldiers build a snow sculpture for the Sapporo Snow Festival 2006 in Sapporo, northern Japan on 23 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

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CIA runs detention centre in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Jan— The United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been running a detention centre near the Afghan capital of Kabul, an Afghan newspaper reported on Sunday.

“Detainees at Guantanamo Bay prison revealed that they had been kept and interrogated by CIA officials at prison near Kabul,” daily *Cheragh* quoted the New York-based Human Rights Watch as reporting.

Based on eight

detainees admission who were kept at the US detention centre near Kabul between 2003 and 2004, the Watchdog reported that Afghan and American warders were not dressed in military uniform but in plain clothes, which indicates the jail is run by the CIA.

“The warders applied maltreatment to the detainees and almost all eight detainees who spent time in the prison told the same thing,” the daily added, quoting the rights watchdog.

The prisoners disclosed that the warders tied them in rope in small cells and deprived them of sleep for several hours besides sinking their heads in cold water and creating noise at their cells through loudspeakers.

Some 400 Afghans reportedly have been languishing in 23 US Army detention centres in Afghanistan, with majority of them in Bagram, the headquarters of American troops 50 kilometres north of Kabul.

MNA/Xinhua

Anibal Cavaco Silva elected Portugal's new President

LISBON, 23 Jan— Anibal Cavaco Silva, a former prime minister, won Portugal's presidential election on Sunday.

The centre-rightist Cavaco Silva gained 50.78 per cent of the vote with 98 per cent of polling stations having returned their results, the country's election commission reported.

The 66-year-old Cavaco Silva, candidate for a coalition of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Popular Party, won a small vote majority just over 50 per cent, narrowly avoiding an enforced run-off.

Born in July 1939 in Loule, Cavaco Silva entered the Institute of Economic and Financial Studies in Lisbon before studying in Britain. He joined the PSD in 1974.

Cavaco Silva became director of research at the Bank of Lisbon in 1977, then Planning and Finance Minister from 1980 to 1981. He served as the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1985 to 1995, after which he competed in the presidential campaign of 1996, to be defeated by incumbent President Jorge Sampaio.

Cavaco Silva's promises to help solve an economic crisis, revive the stagnant economy and cut unemployment rate which is at an 18-year high, have helped him maintain a strong lead in opinion polls over recent months.

MNA/Xinhua

Freeway pileup kills six, injures 32 in south China

GUANGZHOU, 23 Jan— A freeway pileup killed six people, injured 32 and left one missing in south China's Guangdong Province on Saturday afternoon, said local traffic police. A truck running northward on the Beijing-Zhuhai Freeway bumped into the rear of a bus near Ruyuan County, resulting in a pileup of 11 other buses, at about 2:00 pm.

Five people died on the spot, another one died in hospital. Doctors said two of the 32 injured are in serious condition.

MNA/Xinhua

Plane carrying eight crashes in western Canada

OTTAWA, 23 Jan— A single-engine *Cessna* plane carrying eight passengers, including a baby, crashed on Saturday in the wilderness on Vancouver Island in Canada's western province of British Columbia.

The plane went down about 10 kilometres south of the airport in Port Alberni, about 140 kilometres north of Victoria along the island's east coast, Canadian Broadcasting Cooperation (CBC) reported.

Authorities have not yet said whether there were any casualties in the crash, which occurred on Saturday afternoon local time near Port Alberni.

The single-engine *Cessna* was flying from Tofino on the west coast of the island to Vancouver.

The pilot requested an emergency landing in Port Alberni before the crash. Emergency crews reached the scene by helicopter. — MNA/Xinhua

Two W Virginia miners killed in fire

CHARLESTON (West Virginia), 23 Jan — Two miners trapped in a West Virginia coal mine that had caught fire were found dead on Saturday, and officials, angered also by 12 other mine deaths this month, vowed to make the industry safer.

“We found the two miners that we were looking for the past 40-some hours. ... Unfortunately, we don't have a positive outcome,” said Doug Conway, West Virginia's mine safety chief.

“We did find the two miners near the fire area that was on the (conveyor) belt line,” he said. “It appears right now that the two miners were trying to make a valiant effort. They were together trying to get outside and they encountered pretty high temperatures and high (carbon monoxide) levels.”

The accident was the second this month at an Appalachian mountain coal mine to claim workers' lives. Three weeks ago, 12 men perished at the Sago Mine near Tallmansville in central West Virginia.

Government officials, still seething over the Sago tragedy that is now under investigation, pledged on Saturday to tighten rules that protect workers toiling in vast coal mines sometimes 1,000 feet (300 metres) underground.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia seeks for role in India's highway construction

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Jan— Malaysia is offering a solution package to India to help the South Asian country build its major expressways, local media said on Saturday.

Malaysian Works Minister Samy Vellu Friday made the offer to Indian contractors and government officials. The package includes highway network planning, construction, and management services.

Malaysia's intention was only to complement the activities of the National Highway Authority of India, Samy Vellu said. — MNA/Xinhua

US troops kill three Iraqi soldiers north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan — US troops opened fire at civilian cars on Saturday night in Baiji Town, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing three people, who turned out to be US-trained Iraqi Army soldiers, a source from the Iraqi-US liaison office in Tikrit told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

“The Multinational force opened fire last night at four civilian cars travelling on the main road between Tikrit and Baiji, setting fire to all the cars,” the source from the Joint Coordination Centre in Tikrit said.

The US shoot-out killed three people and wounded four others and the US soldiers detained six other people, who turned out to be Iraqi soldiers travelling to their base in Samarra in the south of the country, the source said. He said the Iraqi soldiers' cars were surprised by a US military convoy travelling wrongly on their side of the two-side road and opened fire. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers stand near the wreckage of a police vehicle after a suicide bomb attack outside the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on 23 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Italy wants CIA agents questioned over Milan kidnap

ROME, 23 Jan—Italy has asked the United States to assist its prosecutors investigating 22 CIA agents accused of kidnapping a Muslim cleric in Milan, officials said on Sunday.

Justice Minister Roberto Castelli approved a request by Milan prosecutors for international court assistance, or a "rogatory", a spokeswoman said, which could allow prosecutors to travel to the United States to question suspects and witnesses. Milan prosecutor Armando Spataro told *Reuters* Castelli's backing means the request now heads to the United States.

"(We) await the response from US authorities over the request to question all of those under investigation," said Spataro,

who is heading the case. The US Embassy in Rome could not be immediately reached for comment.

Milan magistrates say a CIA team snatched Muslim cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr off a Milan street in 2003 and flew him for interrogation in Egypt, where he said he was tortured. Nasr is still believed to be in Egyptian custody. Italian investigators have accused Nasr of ties to al-Qaeda and recruiting combatants for Iraq. A Milan judge has issued a warrant for his

arrest. In November, prosecutors also requested Castelli seek the US agents' extradition, a more politically hostile move given the government's close ties to US President George W Bush. Prosecutors particularly wanted to speak with retired Milan CIA station chief Robert Seldon Lady, the main suspect in the probe. He is believed to be living in the United States.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese peers enjoy themselves in a boat in Qinhuaihe River in Nanjing, China's Jiangsu Province, on 23 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

US troops death toll rises to 2,231

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—As of Monday, 23 Jan, 2006, at least 2,231 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,751 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include six military civilians.

The AP count is six lower than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 98 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,092 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,637 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



An Iraqi soldier unloads an artillery shell from a vehicle inside an Army headquarters in Baquba, about 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 23 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Famous Chinese brands choose airlines company for first time

BEIJING, 23 Jan—The Hainan Airlines was chosen as the first airline company on the list of "Famous Chinese brands".

The carrier's logo is a flying bird in Chinese legend, signifying Hainan Airlines' huge potential. "We pay attention to company's label and protection and hope to build it as a first class airline company," said Zhao Zhongying, executive president of the company.

Experts regarded the Hainan Airlines as a new emerging company right after Air China, China Eastern and China Southern Airlines, due to its flexible operation mechanism and less governmental background.

It was the 7th year that the Hainan Airlines company won the "Customer Satisfaction Award".

Established in 1993, the Hainan Airlines now consisted of airports, hotels and three airline companies.

MNA/Xinhua

At least three killed, many trapped as building collapses in Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 Jan—At least three people, including a day-old baby, died while many others still trapped after a three-storey building collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos, police said on Saturday.

Some Nigerian newspapers however put the

Turkey condoles on death of Kosovo's President

ANKARA, 23 Jan—Turkey on Sunday expressed sorrow over the death of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian President Ibrahim Rugova who died of lung cancer on Saturday at the age of 61.

Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement that

Turkish people shared the grief of the Kosovo people over the loss of Rugova.

The statement also said that Turkey expected the upcoming talks on Kosovo's future status to reach a solution that would be accepted by Kosovo people. The statement pointed out that the conclusion of negotiations on the status of Kosovo successfully carried great importance for the future of Kosovo and the peace and stability of South European region. Rugova had been leading a nonviolent struggle for independence from Serbia since the early 1990s.—MNA/Xinhua

140 Poles frozen to death

WARSAW, 23 Jan—At least 140 Poles have frozen to death so far this winter which has seen temperatures plunging to nearly minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), police said on Sunday.

"We know of 17 new deaths over the past two days alone which should be added to the previous toll of 123," police spokesman Krzysztof Hajdas told *Reuters* by telephone. "The weekend is not over. Severe temperatures are again forecast for Sunday night and early Monday morning," he added.

Homeless people seeking shelter in unheated or makeshift premises and inebriated individuals account for the majority of victims.—MNA/Reuters

Ethiopia orders British reporter to leave country

ADDIS ABABA, 23 Jan—Ethiopia has ordered a British journalist to leave the country within 24 hours, accusing him of portraying it in a bad light, state television said on Saturday.

Anthony Mitchell, who worked for the *Associated Press*, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told to leave.

"Anthony Mitchell has been asked to leave the country in the next 24 hours because of disseminating information tarnishing the image of the country despite repeated advice not to do so," the television said.

Associated Press Managing Editor Mike Silverman said the news agency was aware of the order and was seeking clarification. "We stand by our reporter and we hope he will be able to remain in the country," he said in a statement.

Western diplomats were making efforts to dissuade the government from expelling Mitchell, diplomatic sources said.

Ethiopian television did not elaborate on the reasons for ordering him out of the country.

MNA/Reuters

NUP finds detailed basic principles for Citizenship, Rights and Duties of Citizens and Role of Tatmadaw within framework of 104 basic principles

YANGON, 24 Jan — *The following is a translation of the paper presented by U Tun Yi of National Unity Party concerning the chapter "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" and the chapter "The Role of the Tatmadaw".*

The Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee on 10 January 2006 explained the chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens comprising 48 points and the chapter "the Role of the Tatmadaw" comprising 14 points.

First, I will present my paper concerning the chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens. Now, I will discuss the following points:

All persons who have either one of the following requirements are citizens of the Union of Myanmar—

- (a) All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals of the Union of Myanmar
- (b) Persons who are vested with citizenship according to existing laws on the date this Constitution comes into force

The chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens is included in constitutions of most of the nations and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar. The National Convention has already adopted the detailed basic principles concerning citizenship and naturalization which the Work Committee presented after making studies thoroughly. The adopted basic principles are appropriate to be laid down as basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens.

We have no further suggestions for the point "Citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be prescribed by the law."

The Work Committee presented the six adopted basic principles in the paras 3 to 8 regarding the equality among the citizens. In our view, the following points are appropriate to be adopted by the constitution:

3. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.
4. The State shall not discriminate against or be in favour of any citizen based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth.
5. Citizens shall enjoy equal rights in the following spheres—
 - (a) civil service
 - (b) occupation
 - (c) trade
 - (d) business
 - (e) technical know-how and vocation
 - (f) exploration of science & technology
6. Women shall be entitled to the same rights and salaries as that received by men in respect of similar work.
7. Mothers, children and expectant women shall enjoy rights as prescribed by law.
8. The State shall, in appointing or assigning duties, not discriminate against or in favour of any citizens with qualifications set for posts or duties based on race, birth, region, and sex.

But concerning the point "However, nothing in this section shall prevent appointment of men to the positions that are naturally suitable for men only" should not be contained in the constitution. We would like to suggest that point should be enacted by separate law or issued under directives of the respective ministries.

The NUP finds the point "Nothing shall, except in accord with existing laws, be detrimental to the lives and personal freedom of any citizens" provides ad-

equate protection for the citizens.

We agree that the following points are in conformity with the democracy practices.

There shall be liberty in the exercise of the following rights subject to the laws enacted for State security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity or public order and morality—

- (a) The right of the citizens to express freely their convictions and opinions
- (b) The right of the citizens to assemble peacefully without arms
- (c) The right of the citizens to form associations and unions
- (d) The right of the citizens to develop their language, literature, culture they cherish, religion they profess, and customs without prejudice to the relations between one national race and another, or among national races and to other faiths.

As the national races have been living in the Union since yore, the point "Every citizen shall have the right to settle and reside in any place within the State according to the law" is in conformity with the nation's objective conditions.

As the points "The State shall, according to the law, protect every citizen's belongings and property lawfully earned and acquired." and "The State shall, by law, protect the premises and security of the home, property, correspondence and other communications of citizens subject to the provisions of this Constitution" are comprehensive and appropriate the NUP has no further discussion concerning them.

The world nations including Myanmar never accept slavery or human trafficking in any form. Thus, we find the following points appropriate:

1. The State prohibits enslaving of man and trafficking in persons
2. The State prohibits any form of forced labour except hard labour as a punishment for crime duly convicted and duties assigned thereupon by the State in accord with the law for public interests.

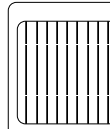
We have no further discussions for the points contained in the paras 16 to 22 concerning the religious affairs.

As the paras 23, 24 and 25 concerns the protection, development and cherishing of literature, culture, arts, customs and traditions and development education and human resources in this knowledge age, they should be adopted.

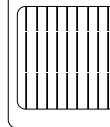
In the multiparty system, elections will be held for hluttaws at different levels, and the citizens will have the right to be elected and recall a hluttaw member. Thus the points "Subject to this Constitution and relevant laws, every citizen shall have the right to elect and to be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw" and "Respective electorate shall have the right to recall a Hluttaw member in accord with the law" should be adopted.

The citizens will have to run businesses in accord with the changing and advancing global conditions, and the State will have to render necessary assistance and protection. Thus, the following praras are appropriate to be adopted.

1. Every citizen shall have the right to freely operate any business activity in accord with the law for the national economic development.
2. The State shall help national businessmen have access to technologies, investments, machinery, and raw materials.
3. Subject to provisions of this Constitution or existing laws, the State guarantees the right of ownership of property, using of assets and initiation and copyright in operating business activities. Moreover, he shall not be subject to a



U Tun Yi of National Unity Party



penalty greater than that is applicable.

In our view the operation of agricultural undertakings with the assistance of the government is also inclusive in the paras.

In connection with the criminal law, the following points should be adopted:

1. An accused should be convicted of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offence, nor shall he be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable.
2. Except the matter for which a higher court revokes a judgement and orders to rehear the case regarding the judgement in which the court concerned convicted or acquitted an accused of the crime, any cases shall not be reheard.
3. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge.
4. No citizen shall except matters on precautionary measures taken for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, and community peace and tranquillity in accord with the law in the interest of the people, or the matters permitted according to an existing law, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial organ.

The points concerning the right to apply to the Supreme Court of the Union, the right and conditions to issue writs, and the right of every citizen, at home or abroad, dealing with foreign countries to seek protection of the State firmly guarantees the rights of citizens. They are suitable to be adopted. Moreover, the point "If some of the rights prescribed in this chapter that concern members of the defence forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order so as to ensure fulfilment of their duties and the maintenance of discipline are needed to be restricted or abrogated, they shall be done so only through enactment of necessary law" should also be adopted.

According to the new constitution, citizens will have the right as well as responsibilities. The following responsibilities of the citizens explained by the Work Committee Chairman are suitable to be adopted.

1. Every citizen is responsible to uphold:
 - (a) Non-disintegration of the Union
 - (b) Non-disintegration of national solidarity
 - (c) Perpetuation of sovereignty.
2. Every citizen is responsible to abide by the provisions of the Constitution.
3. Every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of the Union of Myanmar.
4. Every citizen, charged with Union Spirit, is responsible to enhance unity among national races and to ensure community peace and stability.
5. Every citizen is responsible to build a modern developed nation.

(See page 6)

The principles No 1 to 14 for Role of Tatmadaw the Work Committee discussed should be adopted

YANGON, 24 Jan—*The following is a translation of the Union Pa-O National Organization's proposal for the clarifications, made by National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe at the National Convention, to the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, and the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the State Constitution submitted by U Aung Khin representing the Union Pa-O National Organization from the delegate group of political parties.*

Law experts of constitution define that essence of every constitution shall be based on justice, liberty and equality, and every citizen shall have justice of social relations, justice of economy, justice of politics, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of faith, freedom of profession, freedom to organize, and freedom of action. In reality, genuine sovereignty is justice, and that calls for check and balance among the three branches of power and no exceptional exercise of sovereignty. Nothing, except justice and reasoning power, can conceive sovereignty. It is needed to recognize freedom of an individual, but no one has the right to oppose sovereignty. Only when there prevail laws, rules and regulations that are acceptable to the majority of people in food, clothing and shelter, relations, and international relations, will people be able to cooperate in a peaceful way in the interests of mankind.

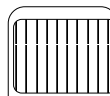
Regarding human rights or fundamental rights of people, priority was given to conditions and freedom of an individual in the late 16th Century and early 17th Century. In 1240 Myanmar Era, there emerged a treatise "Raja Dhamma Singaha" compiled by Yawmgyi U Po Hlaing that was the first-ever treatise of Myanmar. The treatise called for replacement of absolute monarchy with constitutional monarchy, formation of a senate to practise constitutional monarch, and a house of representatives. The sector "Fundamental rights" was stipulated in every constitution drawn in the 20th Century. The 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar comprised 14 headings or chapters, and it stated "Fundamental Rights" instead of "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens". And the 1974 Constitution consisted of 16

headings or chapters and it stated "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens".

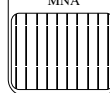
The Constitution we are drawing consists of 15 headings of chapters, and a decision was made on 7 April 1993 to use "Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens". The preamble of the 1947 Constitution says "We the people of Burma including the Frontier Areas and the Karenni States, determined to establish in strength and unity a sovereign independent State, to maintain social order on the basis of the eternal principles of justice, liberty and equality and to guarantee and secure to all citizens justice social economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action; equality of status, of opportunity and before the law in our constituent assembly".

We also found that the preamble of the 1974 Constitution says "We, the working people, firmly resolved that we shall build a socialist economic system by the Burmese Way to Socialism, for the country to be peaceful and prosperous, opposing all pernicious systems characterized by exploitation of man by man, and of one national race by another, with a view to promoting justice and goodwill among the people, and to freeing them from apathy and callousness, ignorance, backwardness and want of opportunity; build a socialist democratic social order which will afford an opportunity to the people to shape their own destiny, by the Burmese Way to Socialism; live forever in harmony, unity and racial equality sharing joys and sorrows through weal and woe in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma; efficiently perform all duties and fulfil all obligations in the interest of the State and for the cause of Socialism while enjoying the democratic rights and personal rights and freedom bestowed by this Constitution; constantly strive to promote international peace and friendly relations among the nations.

Citizenship means the one who is loyal to the State, conscientiously discharges duties assigned by the State, and has the rights bestowed by the State. Fundamental rights of citizens is the inborn right. It will be virtually impossible to exist as human if each and every citizen has no fundamental rights. The Union of Myanmar is a member of the United Nations, and it participated in the drawing of rules and regulations of UN Charter and the



U Aung
Khin of
Union
Pa-O
National
Organiza-
tion.



MNA



1948 Human Rights Declaration paper. And it is a signatory to UN conventions, and the conventions and agreements of the International Labour Organization. At the 49th UN General Assembly (1994), the representative of the Union of Myanmar said that not only as a duty-conscious member of the UN but also a nation that had been steadfastly abiding by the principles representing UN, Myanmar had been constantly practising UN Charters, and fundamental rights stated in the international declaration. Lessons are to be taken to avert the recurrence of incidents that occurred in Myanmar in 1962 and 1988. The NC Work Committee has laid down the detailed basic principles for chapter-wise headings for the future State Structure to be free from loopholes and weak points. They are four principles for the State, six principles for the State objectives, one principle for multi-party democracy, seven principles for State Constitution, two principles for the Head of State, two principles for State sovereignty, five principles for legislature, five principles for executive, five principles for judiciary, six principles for Role of Tatmadaw, three principles for national races, two principles for peasants, one principle for workers, one principle for intellectuals and intelligentsia, two principles for State service personnel, one principle for national culture, four principles for education and health, one principle for agriculture, one principle for

(See page 7)

NUP finds detailed basic principles for...

(from page 5)

- Every citizen is responsible to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State.
- Every citizen is responsible to pay taxes to be levied according to the law.

Moreover, concerning the expression "The State", which says "In this Chapter "The State" means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution" is appropriate. We find the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the rights and responsibilities of the citizens appropriate.

Now, I will present our suggestions on the Role of the Tatmadaw. The National Convention has laid down 14 detailed basic principles concerning the chapter, and the para 14 says, "The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people upon occurrence of a calamity in the Union that affects the nation and the people". In our view, the point means that the Tatmadaw will have to render assistance only in the time of a calamity. Because of its fine traditions, organizational set-up, experiences and ability, it is an undeniable fact

that the Tatmadaw is a national force. The Tatmadaw has been taking part in the social and economic undertakings in the interest of the nation and the people. And in normal times, the Tatmadaw has been participating in social endeavours, road, railroad, bridge, dam and rural development projects. In our view, the following points should be added to the chapter as the 15th detailed basic principle.

"The Tatmadaw shall, as and when necessary, take part as a social force as well as an economic force in accord with the Constitution for development of the nation and the people."

The Tatmadaw born of the anti-colonialists, anti-Fascists and independence struggles is formed with the sons and daughters of the national races. The Tatmadaw has the fine historical tradition of standing by the people, while striving for the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty. The Tatmadaw has the responsibility for national defence and security. Thus, the Tatmadaw needs to always stand firm as the sole armed forces of the nation. In accord with the new constitution it will continue to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

The Tatmadaw will have the right to strive for national, economic development systematically as a national, economic and social force, while correctly assessing its organizational set-up, experiences and qualifications in accord with its fine traditions. With those facts in mind, the Tatmadaw has been striving to

become a modern and developed armed forces for all the national people to rely on.

The National Convention held on 16 September 1993, has adopted the six basic principles concerning the Tatmadaw. The Work Committee Chairman proposed to take those basic principles as the base in discussing the respective chapters and to transfer them to the related chapters. Unlike armed forces of other nations, the Tatmadaw was born of a significant situation. Thus, the NUP has no further discussions concerning the chapter.

The Work Committee Chairman made his explanations after thoroughly studying the constitutions of world nations and the 1974 Constitution and the 1948 Constitution so that the explanations will be in conformity with the traditions and culture of Myanmar. Likewise the detailed basic principles for the chapter of the Role of the Tatmadaw are in accord with the nation's objective conditions and within the framework of the basic principles on the Tatmadaw already adopted by the National Convention.

We found that the detailed basic principles for the chapters the Citizenship, the Rights and Duties of the Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw are within the framework of the 104 basic principles. Thus we found them appropriate. We would like to request to take into consideration our suggestions in the interest of the nation and the people.

MNA

The principles No 1 to 14 for the Role...

(from page 6)

industry, one principle for profession, two principles for maternal and child and elderly persons, one principle for youths, two principles for religion, seven principles for economy, three principles for land, waters and natural resources, two principles for election, one principle for political parties, three principles for emergency times, three principles for foreign relations, two principles for crimes, one principle for environment, three principles for general provisions, and nine principles for citizenship, fundamental rights and duties of citizens, totalling 104.

If one takes a careful study on the six objectives of the National Convention and the 104 basic principles, one will notice that they represent equal rights for all citizens, fully grant rights of the citizens, and lead the Myanmar to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The Work Committee has given instructions on referring already-laid down basic principles in discussing matters on headings, and adopting basic principles as detailed basic principles if necessary. The Work Committee Chairman said that citizens are to uphold 'non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty' in enjoying the fundamental rights prescribed in the Constitution; that steps are to be taken in order not to harm culture, customs, fine arts and literature of national races and to practise them righteously; and that the words basic principles on citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship should be changed to the detailed basic principles.

The noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality are the rights the citizens enjoy in building a democratic nation. Then, the citizens will have the freedom of speech, the freedom of publication, the right to assemble, freedom of procession, the freedom of association, the right to settle and reside in any part of the Union, the right to acquire property, and the right of privacy and security of premises. In practising democracy system, I would like to suggest that the enslaving of human and trafficking in person shall not be allowed. In enjoying the right of faith, measures should be taken to avoid the association of the freedom of faith with politics, offering and taking bribes, and conflicts between two sides in the interests of the nation and the people. There are more than one hundred national races in our nation, so

there should be the right to develop language, literature and culture of national races. Moreover, encouragement should be given to the education sector in every sector as the education standard of the citizens plays an important role in building a modern and developed nation.

It is impossible that more than 50 million people of the nation handle matters on State sovereignty in a single place, so citizens are to have the right to vote and to be elected to Hluttaws. There should be a principle to revoke the responsibilities of Hluttaw members who fail to discharge their duties. The State is now practising the market-oriented economic system. So, the State shall help citizens have access to technical know-how, investments, machinery and raw materials. Moreover, no citizen shall, except matters on precautionary measures taken in accordance with law for the security of the State or prevalence of law and order or the peace and tranquillity and interests of the people or matters permitted under an existing law, be held in custody for more than 24 hours without the remand of a competent magistrate. The power to issue writs shall be vested in the Supreme Court to effectively remedy deprivation of fundamental rights of citizens. Each citizen has access to fundamental rights. So, duties that all citizen have to perform duties without fail shall be prescribed. So, of the points in the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens the Work Committee Chairman has discussed, (1) two points on citizenship, (2) six points on equality, (3) five points on liberty, (4) two points on enslavement and forced labour, (5) seven points on freedom of faith, (6) three points on rights of culture and education, (7) two points on election, (8) three points on economy, (9) four points on the rights of criminals, (10) six points on enforcement of remedies for loss and damages, (11) seven points on duties of citizens, and (12) one point on the word "The State" numbering 48 points should be adopted.

Now, I would like to discuss the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications to the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the Constitution. Each and every citizen is duty bound to protect and safeguard the nation and the people. According to the provisions of the constitution, the major task of every government is to safeguard lives and property and to crush all forms of dangers to the citizens. Things everyone loves and cherishes most are one's own life and property. So, the duty to protect the lives and property of citizens from dangers is noblest. Natural disasters and dangers posed

by acts of people are of most destructive to lives and property of human. The Tatmadaw was conceived with the lofty motto "Nation is not for the Tatmadaw, but the Tatmadaw is for the nation". At the military officer graduation ceremony held on 13 March 1944 in Mindalagon, national leader General Aung San said, "The duties of we soldiers are to protect and safeguard independence, territory and sovereignty of our nation at risk to our lives. Is there any duty that is more noble than that? Our Tatmadaw is for the entire nation. Even if our nation is weak, we are not afraid of a superior nation if it unjustly insults us, and we do not want to unfairly treat weaker nations. So, the Tatmadaw is the basis of the nation".

In the time of King Anawrahta, all the men had to serve as soldiers. In the time of King Bayintnaung, there formed fifty forces, each of which consisted of 15,000 troops. In the time of King Alaungphaya, there formed forty forces, each of which consisted of 10,000 troops. In the time of King Mindon and King Thibaw (1880 Myanmar Era) the number of soldiers stood at 26,329. The number of 30,000 soldiers was not enough to safeguard sovereignty of the motherland. It was evidenced by the point that the nation fell under alien subjugation.

The National Convention held on 16 September 1993 laid down 16 principles. At the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services gave guidance, saying that a capable and modern Tatmadaw was to be established to protect the gradually developing nation. The Tatmadaw has to take a leading role in crushing dangers of all internal and external destructive elements, enlisting the mighty strength of the people. According to the 1947 Constitution and basic principles the ongoing National Convention has adopted, every citizen shall undergo military training, and discharge military services under the control of the Tatmadaw. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is head of all the armed forces, and his position should be designated as the post equivalent to the Vice President. The administrative head is the President of the nation, so he shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the approval of the defence and security council. Separate military acts are enacted and courts formed as the Tatmadaw is an armed force. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is well-versed with military acts and code of conduct, so his decision shall be final. The Tatmadaw shall take all necessary measures whenever the nation comes under natural disasters.

The conditions of world nations today have indicated that when loopholes of a constitution are associated with social and economic crises alongside alien instigation, it leads a nation to collapse. So, I would suggest that the principles No 1 to 14 for the Role of Tatmadaw the Work Committee discussed on 10-1-2006 should be adopted.

MNA

National consultation workshop on establishment of framework for energy management system in industries and buildings held

YANGON, 24 Jan — The national consultation workshop on establishment of a framework for energy management system in industries and buildings organized by the Ministry of Energy and Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held at Grand Plaza ParkRoyal Hotel here this morning. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Mr Francis Chin, an expert of ESCAP delivered

speeches. The workshop ended in the evening. Present were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Managing Director of Myanma Economic Corporation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and officials.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and participants pose at national consultation workshop on establishment of a framework for energy management system in industries and buildings—ENERGY

SAA awarded best airline in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Jan — South African Airways (SAA) said here on Sunday that it snatched the coveted Best Airline to Africa Award for the 15th consecutive time at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards.

The South African flag carrier came up against top airlines such as British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Kenya Airways. SAA said in a statement that the awards are voted for exclusively by travel agents based in Britain. Voters take into consideration service, convenience of the airline's flight schedule and product. Also, in the United States this week, SAA was awarded Best Airline in Africa from *Global Traveller Magazine*.—MNA/Xinhua

Three books win Dr Tin Shwe literary award

YANGON, 24 Jan — The literary works, namely, "A Myanmar Looks at Others" by U Thet Tun (Retd Ambassador), "Storming the Brain" by Kyaw Win and "Myanmar Tapestry" by Daw Kyi Kyi Hla won Dr Tin Shwe literary award.

The books were chosen with the assistance of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association. The winners will get K 100,000 each.

The fourth literary award presentation ceremony will be held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 9 am on 28 January. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



Members of the Panel of Chairmen— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance book. — MNA

Plenary Session of the National Convention...

(from page 1)

Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee, and ministries concerned, other invited delegates, delegates of national race

egate Group of Political Parties, U San Tha Aung of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Mya Sein of Delegate group of National Races, U Sai Tint Aung of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Hla Myint

The chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, on 13, 14 and 15 December 2005, explained matters on the detailed basic principles for legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and

damental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the role of Tatmadaw.

After thoroughly studying the clarification, the delegates discussed the detailed basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and

continued to say that the delegate groups would presented their proposals to the plenary session.

He urged the delegates to thoroughly study the suggestions as the papers presented would include important suggestions for laying down the detailed

Next, U Aung Khin of Union Pa-O National Organization presented the proposals.

(The presentation is reported separately.)

The plenary session took a break.

When the plenary session resumed, U Maung



Those attending the National Convention in Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp. — MNA

groups that have returned to the legal fold and exchanged arms for peace.

Before the Plenary Session of the National Convention at 7.30 am, Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen of sub-committees, officials, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed in the attendance books at the Pyidaungsu Hall and recreation hall for the delegates.

U Kyaw Myo Win of Delegate Group of Workers presided over the Plenary Session of the National Convention together with Dr Paik Tin of National Convention Convening Work Committee, U Tun Yin Law of Del-

of Delegate Group of Intellectual and Intelligentsia, U Hla Tin of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and U Paw Laik Kham of Other Invited Persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-master of ceremonies.

The MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,068 delegates out of 1,079 were present, accounting for 98.98 per cent.

First, Chairman U Kyaw Myo Win made a speech saying that the National Convention resumed on 17 May 2004 to lay down detailed basic principles for drafting enduring State Constitution for the Union of Myanmar and on 3 March 2005, detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative power included in the judicial sector and the financial commission were laid down. Detailed basic principles for sharing of executive and judicial power were also laid down at the plenary session held on 12 December, 2005.



Meeting Chairman U Kyaw Myo Win speaks at the National Convention Plenary Session. — MNA

Region or State Hluttaw.

After studying the clarification, delegates to the National Convention compiled papers for proposals on detailed basic principles for legislation of Hluttaws and submitted the proposals at the plenary session from 2 to 9 January. On behalf of the panel of chairmen, the meeting chairman thanked the delegates for they thoroughly study the proposals.

On 10 January, 2006, the chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee explained matters on detailed basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fun-

the role of Tatmadaw and compiled papers.

The meeting chairman

basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the role of Tatmadaw.

Next, delegates to the National Convention submitted their proposals on detailed basic principles to be laid down for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the role of Tatmadaw.

First, U Tun Yi of National Unity Party presented the proposals of the party which included in Delegate Group of Political Parties.

(The presentation is reported separately.)

Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization presented proposals.

(The presentation will be reported.)

Next, U Kyahashe of Lahu National Development party presented the proposals.

(The presentation will be reported.)

The Plenary Session of the National Convention was adjourned at 11.30 am.

The Plenary Session of the National Convention continues tomorrow at 9 am.

*MNA



U Kyahashe of Lahu National Development party. — MNA



U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization — MNA



Members of the Panel of Chairmen at the mass meeting in support of the National Convention.—MNA

Success of National Convention...

(from page 16)
sector. The government also built basic foundations on social development.

With the national solidarity throughout the country, development tasks are being carried out in the Union. The already-



Principal U Tun Aung of Yenangyoung Degree College.—MNA

achieved conditions are favourable and the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are to build the nation firmly.

The government is holding the National Convention with essence for emergence of a constitution after laying down the seven-point Road Map. The success of the National Convention is a major task for political development and building of a democratic nation.

He said sovereignty must be in the hands of

Myanmar people. It is important to lay down the basic principles that the national races agree and can guarantee Our Three Main National Causes.

Detailed basic principles on sharing of powers in legislative, judicial and executive sectors have been laid down at the National Convention.

Being a sovereign na-



Magway District USDA executive U Zaw Myint.—MNA

tion, Myanmar has rights to create its own fate of the nation. It is the national duty for all national races to prevent the danger of external and internal elements that encroach upon national objectives with the strength of the people. Only when the seven-point Road Map is implemented phase by phase, can a discipline-flourishing democratic nation be built.

He called on the entire people to participate in the tasks for success of the National Convention. Magway District USDA executive U Zaw Myint tabled a motion calling on the people to support the National Convention. He said the 1988 unrest caused near-disintegration of the Union. Rule of law had disappeared at that time in the country and administrative machinery halted with a reign of anarchy. Therefore, the Tatmadaw inevitably took



Deputy Law Officer U Thein Win.—MNA

over the State duties and placed emphasis on ensuring community peace and tranquility and rule of law. The State was able to bring national race groups, which had risen against the government, into negotiation table and build up national reconsolidation. And then it built development infrastructures across the country. The existence of a country depends on its constitution. Peace and stability and prosperity of the State also depend on its constitution. So, six objectives were adopted to convene the National Convention which is to lay down detailed basic principles for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. Arrangements were made to enable those who were well-versed in current political situations of global nations and their constitutions to participate in

the National Convention. He said it is heartening to learn that one of the basic principles prescribes Tatmadaw's participation in the national political leadership role of the State. The Tatmadaw was formed with patriotic persons and it has fine traditions. Tatmadaw members struggled for country's independence by risking their lives. It safeguarded lives and property of the people when the nation was faced with political crises in 1949, 1958, 1962 and 1988. So it is reasonable to lay down a basic principle that states the Tatmadaw's participation in political leadership role. The country needs to transform itself into a discipline-flourishing democracy in accord with the seven-point Road Map of the State. All in all, all national people are urged to play their active part in respective roles for the success of the National Convention.

Next, Deputy Law Officer of Magway Division U Thein Win seconded the motion, saying that the State's ultimate national objective is to ensure perpetual existence of the Union and to build a peaceful, modern and de-



Entrepreneur U Htay Lwin Aung.—MNA

veloped discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The State constitution is of utmost importance to achieve the goal. At the National Convention, the eight delegate groups are laying down 104 detailed basic principles under 15 titles in accord with the



Member of Women's Affairs Organization Daw Wah Wah Myint. MNA

six objectives. The principles have been laid down to include in executive, legislative and judicial sectors of the State. As the principles prescribe sharing of executive, legislative and judicial powers, fundamental rights and duties of the citizens and economic basic principles, all the people are urged to support the National Convention. The State constitution can be drawn successfully only when the National Convention meets its success. And then a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation will emerge. So, the people are to fully support the National Convention that is working for the constitution. Business entrepreneur U Htay Lwin Aung of Magway township seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said the ongoing National Convention is trying to write the constitution in order to serve and protect the national interest. At the same time, it is building national consolidation. The State today is also striving for national development with added momentum. The government, enlisting strong national forces, is shaping a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with Our Three Main National Causes and 12 objectives of the State



Dr Thi Thi Tun of Magway Division MCWA.—MNA

after adopting the seven-point Road Map. He said on the celebration of 51st Anniversary Union Day in 1998, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that whatever system the nation practises, not only is a State constitution needed but also it needs to be an enduring one to serve the interest of the people. The ongoing National Convention is being attended by the delegates from all strata of life in the whole

Union including national race organization members who returned to the legal fold. As they are laying down detailed basic principles to be included in the constitution, it can be envisaged that democracy will emerge soon. Therefore, all national people are in full support of the National Convention that is shaping a constitution in the interest of the State and the people. All delegates are carrying out the tasks dutifully at the National Convention based on nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit. The eventual goal of all the national people is to shape a new modern and developed democratic nation. So they all fully support the NC that is striving to draw the State constitution.

Dr Thi Thi Tun, Magway Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee member, seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. She said the Union of Myanmar is a sovereign nation. Every independent nation needs a constitution to share State powers. The constitution cannot be drawn by only a single party or organization. As more than 100 national races are living in all states and divisions of the nation, participation of delegates from all national races in the National Convention is necessary. That's why the National Convention representing delegates from all walks of life is in session now. The delegates are discussing and laying



Captain Myint Lwin (Rtd) of Minbu District WVO. MNA

down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the constitution. It can be assumed that emphasis is on unity of all national races in order not to cause disintegration of the Union. Therefore, all the people of Magway Division are (See page 10)



Daw Thazin Aung and Daw The Wah of Aunglan Township USDA.—MNA

Information sector witnesses sustained progress

Improving information work in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Development of mass media

In the age of rapid information technology, mass media reach and influence almost all fields. Taking full advantage of the advanced information technology, some big countries are trying to

influence upon political, economic and social affairs of other countries.

During the time, the Government is carrying out the nation-building tasks and disseminating news and information to

the people at home and to those around the world. Being the major component in the mass media, the information and public relations task plays an important role in sending the authentic news to people.

In an effort to disseminate knowledge to the people in urban and rural regions Information



IPRD Self-reliant library opens in Sandawut village on 24 May, 2005.

Development of the mass media tasks of the Information Sector

Sr	Subject	1988	2005	Progress
1	IPRD offices in townships and libraries	100	375	275
2	library membership (million)	-	3.10	3.10
3	self-reliant libraries	-	48,667	48,667
4	sub-printing houses	-	9	9

and Public Relations Department - IPRD is providing information to all over the country.

Self-reliant libraries have been set up in 48,667 villages, out of over 60,000 villages in

the country. Arrangements are being made to establish libraries in the rest of villages in 2006.

In an attempt to distribute dailies without delay, sub-printing houses were established

in different regions. Moreover, daily newspapers are available online today. The table shows increase in the mass media tasks in the time of the Tatmadaw Government.

Success of National Convention...

(from page 9)

in support of the National Convention. To march towards the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing of discipline, all national people are to take part in their respective roles for the development of political, economic and social infrastructures and for the success of the National Convention.

Next, Captain Myint Lwin (Retd) seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said that the government is making all-out efforts with goodwill for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this regard, it has to surmount a series of difficulties and

obstacles. In the meantime, the government is convening the National Convention, the first and the most important step of the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. The enduring State constitution is aimed at strengthening the national unity among national brethren who have been living in the Union, sharing weal or woe for years countable by the thousand and ensuing perpetual existence of the Union. Therefore, Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty were included in the six objectives of the National Convention.

Likewise, as the

entire national people including the Tatmadaw are to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, 104 basic principles laid down at the National Convention have been in line with the national objectives. Reviewing the Myanmar history, resolution was passed to practise a Pyidaungsu system that ensures non-disintegration of the Union. With this end in view, the entire national people are to actively take part in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map.

A sovereign nation will have to adopt a constitution that is able to shape the future of the nation, without relying on any other nations. Hence, we support the National Convention capable of drawing the most suitable constitution that is superior to those constitutions

of the past in form and essence. Thanks to concerted efforts of delegates to the National Convention, 104 basic principles, which are complete and appropriate have been laid down. The essence of the seven-point Road Map is to build a modern and developed nation through the democratic practice. A total of 70 per cent of work programmes for the emergence of a constitution, which are the objectives of the National Convention, have been completed. As the National Convention is to shape the future of the nation, we unanimously support it.

Next, Daw Wah Wah Myint, member of Magway Division Women Affairs Committee seconded the motion in support of the National Convention, saying that the government is building a modern and developed nation step by step to fulfill the wishes of the people. In the process, significant progress has been made in all aspects. At the same time, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, is being convened for the emergence of a State constitution.

In building a modern, developed and disci-

pline-flourishing democratic nation, systematic steps are being taken for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. Work for the emergence of a constitution that is in conformity with own traditions and way of life cannot be carried out in a hurry. A constitution with weaknesses is a grave danger to the nation.

At the National Convention, discussions were made in line with the six objectives of the National Convention for the drawing of a State constitution. Warding off discords and dissension sown by colonialists, the National Convention which highlights the national essence and represents the entire national people is now in full-swing. Delegates of various strata to the National Convention hold discussions and made resolutions to shape the future of the nation.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held on 15 September 1996, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that national solidarity is to be built on the basis of peace and stability and prevalence of law and order;

that there requires a constitution for the national people to follow in order to bring about peace and development in all parts of the nation; that efforts are to be made for the emergence of a constitution; and that the success of the National Convention is a must for the emergence of a State constitution.

At the on-going National Convention, detailed basic principles for sharing executive, legislative and judiciary powers have been adopted. Discussions are being held to be able to lay down other necessary detailed basic principles. Efforts are being made for the emergence of a State constitution, a prerequisite for building modern and democratic nation. All in all, the entire national people are against the acts that are detrimental to the National Convention and she seconded the motion to support the National Convention. The meeting chairman sought the approval from the participants who unanimously supported the National Convention. Next, the mass meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans.

Myanmar-Thailand Friendship...

(from page 16)

Peace and Development Council gave welcoming statements. Next, the Director-General of Royal Highway Department submitted the report on the construction of the bridge.

After delivering speeches, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr

Kantathi Suphamongkhon and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win formally opened the bridge. The two Foreign Ministers and officials from both sides strolled along the bridge and inspected temporary offices of the customs, immigration and border trade de-

partments.

The reinforced concrete bridge is 90 metres long and 14.7 metres wide and it will not only contribute much towards flow of goods and convenience of people from both sides but also further promoting of trade between the two countries.

MNA

MNA

Let's enjoy ourselves in centenary of Yangon Zoological Gardens

*Article by Win Zaw,
photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*

Paying a visit to a zoo in families or in groups on holidays not only brings pleasure and relaxation but also enhances knowledge of the visitors.

Some think a zoo is an amusement place enjoyable for children only. A zoo is in truth a nice place for everyone including elderly persons where they can seek leisure and recreation and widen the

Near the zoo are the Shwedagon Pagoda, the Maha Vijaya Pagoda, and Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens. After visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Maha Vijaya Pagoda, one can drop in the zoo for relaxation or take a stroll in the Kandawgyi Gardens to enjoy scenic beauties.

The Yangon Zoological Gardens was established in 1906, so it turns its 100th anniversary

animals and many attractive sites from which one can gain a great deal of knowledge.

So, people should grab the unique opportunity to pay a visit to the zoo at a time when it is celebrating its centenary starting today (25 January) until 29 January with a great many of special amusement programmes to



The northern archway of the Yangon Zoological Gardens.



Visitors making an around-the-zoo trip with vehicles.

fashion show, quiz on facts about animals, circus show, magic show, and to mark the centenary-commemorative exhibition and so on.

In the zoo, more than 150 species of animals including 61 species of mammals, 70 species of birds, and 16 species of reptiles are displayed along with

of animals sent from foreign countries under the animals exchange programme, and visit the Natural History Museum.

The Kandawgyi Gardens All-round Development Project and the Yangon Zoological Gardens All-round Development Project have been launched since 1 April 2003 with the aim of en-

around the zoo with elephant carts and vehicles. Souvenir shops, restaurants, fun fairs, showrooms are opened in conjunction with other interesting programmes. The Yangon Zoological Gardens has been maintained and conserved as an attractive place for 100 years without compromising the original style, thereby receiving about 1.5 million visitors a year. It is expected that the people enjoy themselves and seek relaxation and recreation in the centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Translation: MS

scope of their knowledge.

The Yangon Zoological Gardens is situated in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township.

sary on 25 January 2006. Now, the Yangon Zoological Gardens has been upgraded to an all-round developed garden with a large variety of



The 7'x6' Yangon Zoological Gardens scale model cake baked to mark the centenary of the zoo.



The 100-year-old Padauk (gumkino) tree near the snake house.

be performed by popular artistes, vocalists and film stars, Yangon Zoological Gardens contest (2006) for children, animal-costumes contest for children, Rap song contest (2006), floral arrangement contest, international chef meal preparation demonstration, cartoon films, performances for all comers,

over 200 species of trees.

There, visitors can observe the rare species

surging public recreation.

Moreover, arrangements have been made for visitors to take a trip

The tiger house that is about 100 years old.



လှိုက်လှဲစွာ ဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက်ခြင်း



(၅၈) နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့တွင်

“မဟာဥပါသိကာဒေါက်တာဘွန်ကျော်(တိ)စိပေါ(လိ)” အား
 “အဂ္ဂမဟာ သီရိသုဗ္ဗသီရိဘွဲ့” ချီးမြှင့်ခံရခြင်းအတွက်
 လှိုက်လှဲစွာ ဂုဏ်ယူဝမ်းမြောက်ပါကြောင်း။ ကမ္ဘာကြီး
 ငြိမ်းချမ်းစေရန်၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဘုရား သာသနာတော်များ ပြန့်ပွား
 စေရန်ရည်ညွှန်း၍ တရားပြပေးသော ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး
 လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များ အပေါ် အထူးလေးစား ဆည်းကပ်ခြင်း
 များဖြင့်...။

ဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးသန်းမြင့်(ငြိမ်း) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်
 (သတ္တုတွင်းဦးစီးဌာန၊ သတ္တုတွင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန)နှင့် ဒေါ်နွဲ့နွဲ့ရီ
 ဘစ်(ဂ်)အမ် ဂရု(ပိ) ဆားဗစ်စက်(စ်) ကုမ္ပဏီလီမိတက်

With great pleasure



We have the great pleasure to extend our heartfelt
 congratulations to

Maha Upasika Dr Bongkot Sitthipol
 as she is honoured and conferred the prestigious title
 “Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi”
 on the auspicious occasion of the 58th Anniversary
 Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

With deep reverence for
 Maha Upasika Bongkot's noble work and dedication
 in propagating the teachings of the Buddha Sasana for
 peace in the world.

Col Than Myint (Retd)
 Director-General, Department of Mines
 Ministry of Mines
 and Daw Nwe Nwe Yi
 together with Big M Group Services Co.,Ltd.

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်
 လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါလုပ်ငန်းသုံး
 စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

- (က) Radio & TV Transmitters Power Tube 3 မျိုး
- (ခ) Equipment for Globe Caster 5 မျိုး
- (ဂ) Spares For TASCAM BR-20 10 ခု

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၃-၂-၂၀၀၆)ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၃၀)နာရီတွင် ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
 ၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်
 စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်ဝေရေးဌာန
 ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
 အမှတ် ၂၂၀၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
 ဖုန်း- ၂၄၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၅

Beijing re-starts sale of firecrackers
 after 12-year ban

BELING, 23 Jan— "Bing! Bang!" Sound of firecrackers is coming back to Beijing people's lives, in a legal way this time.

The Chinese capital re-started Sunday the sale of firecrackers that have been banned for 12 years, in a bid to make its citizens happier in the Spring Festival that will come just a week later. At the weekend, 585 out of the 2,116 stores that have obtained the licence to sell firecrackers opened the business, and the rest will be doing so later in succession.

"To me, no fireworks,

no New Year. So it's a good thing for the government to lift the ban," said Liu Jianguo, a citizen in Beijing's Xuanwu District.

Last September, Beijing lifted a 12-year ban on firecrackers during the traditional Spring Festival, China's Lunar New Year, in response to people's love for a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. The Beijing

government has organized the sale of 600,000 boxes of firecrackers valued at more than 100 million yuan (12.5 million US dollars) for its citizens.

Authorities will keep a close eye on the sale of firecrackers to ensure the city does not run out of firecrackers during the holiday season, according to Tang Yunli, a police officer with Beijing Public Security Bureau.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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 Dated 25 January 2006

Mercedes sold 39% more
 autos in China last year

BELING, 23 Jan—The Mercedes Auto group sold 16,128 sedans in China last year, up 39 per cent compared with the previous year.

Mercedes will promote more new brands this year, to cater for the growing demand in China.

The group also planned to invest 1.5 billion euros in producing Mercedes sedans and commercial

cars in China, including manufacturing Chrysler 300C type in Beijing. Last September, Mercedes started financial services in China's Mainland for sedans and commercial autos. —MNA/Xinhua

Fire destroys 10 buses
 at London garage

LONDON, 23 Jan—A fire at a bus station in west London on Sunday destroyed ten buses and damaged two others, briefly forcing the closure of the busy A40 road into the capital, police said.

Police and fire fighters were called at 9:54 a.m. to the fire at Westbourne Park Bus Garage. "At that stage three of the buses were on fire and there were several subsequent explosions as a result," a police spokeswoman said.

Around 40 firefighters and eight fire engines brought the blaze under control by late morning.

Police shut the A40, which passes over the garage, because of smoke from the fire. The road reopened around noon, with other local streets reopening at 1:35 p.m.

Nearby buildings were briefly evacuated but residents were later allowed to return.

MNA/Reuters

James Bond spy car
 fetches \$1.9m at auction

PHOENIX (Arizona), 23 Jan— A Swiss businessman won the keys to James Bond's silver 1965 Aston Martin DB5 coupe on Friday with a 1.9-million-US-dollar bid at an annual classic car auction in Arizona.

The 45-year-old man, who did not want to be identified, placed his bids over the telephone through friend and car dealer Beat Roos to win the gadget-packed 007 car used in such

classics as "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball". Both men live in Bern, Switzerland.

"His instructions were to bring the car back to Switzerland," Roos said.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ဒေသစိမ့်မြို့များတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Thousands of people shop at a village fair for the upcoming Spring Festival in Yingchengzi town in northeast China's Liaoning Province on 22 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Thai Gov't enhances medical herbs protection

BANGKOK, 23 Jan— Thailand is stepping up efforts to protect medical herbs used to treat major illness but are facing extinction in the kingdom, according to Thai Public Health Ministry.

The ministry is pushing forward its herbal plants conservation scheme to provide better protection and sustainable use of Thai herbs mok bor wai and other traditional medical treatment, *Bangkok Post* newspaper reported on Monday.

Mok bor wai, the latest herb put on the near-extinction list, is a rare Thai herb believed to contain substances that could be used to treat liver cancer and malaria, Public Health Minister Phinij Jarusombat was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Scientists have found that mok bor wai contains flavonoids, a substance that eases inflammation, the newspaper said, adding that specialists in Thai traditional medicine said mok bor wai could be used to treat dropsy, swelling from excessive accumulation of fluid, caused by

liver cancer, which killed about 12,000 people a year in Thailand.

The Public Health Ministry has drafted a regulation on intellectual property rights protection of Thai traditional medicine.

Public health deputy permanent secretary

Manit Theeratantikanon said the regulation, expected to be enacted this year, would provide intellectual property rights over traditional herbal medicine formulae, general knowledge of herbal medicine and individual prescriptions.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran warns West over UN nuclear referral

LONDON, 23 Jan— Iran will resume industrial-scale uranium enrichment if it is referred to the UN Security Council over its nuclear standoff with the West, a senior Iranian official was quoted on Monday as saying.

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani urged the European Union to reopen talks which stalled after Teheran broke UN seals on uranium enrichment equipment. The West suspects Iran wants the radioactive material to help make nuclear arms. Teheran says it will be used to

generate electricity.

"If the negotiating route is open, we prefer to reach a conclusion through talks," Larijani told the newspaper. "But if this route is closed, we are obliged to follow up our other scenario. Everything depends on the way we are treated."

Asked if there was a timescale for uranium enrichment on an industrial

scale, he said: "Yes. We have a plan for resumption.

"If we are referred to the Security Council, the government is obliged...to lift all voluntary measures."

Washington and the EU want the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for pressure including possible sanctions.—MNA/Reuters

King of Saudi Arabia arrives Beijing for state visit

BEIJING, 23 Jan — King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz arrives in Beijing at noon Sunday, kicking off his three-day state visit to China as guest of President Hu Jintao. It will be the first ever visit of the Saudi Arabian king to China since the two countries established their diplomatic relations in 1990. This will also be the first official visit that the King has ever made to another country since he came to the throne.

During his stay in Beijing, Chinese President Hu, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao will meet or hold talks with him respectively for an exchange of views on such issues as the further expansion of bilateral cooperation in energy, economic and trade areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Bushfires rage in Australia, two dead, homes lost

CANBERRA, 23 Jan— Bushfires raging across four Australian states have left two people dead and destroyed several homes with firefighters battling on Monday to control the massive blazes ahead of more sweltering heat expected later this week.

Bushfires have so far burnt through more than 200,000 hectares (half a million acres) — an area nearly three times the size of Singapore — across Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and the southern island state of Tasmania.

Two people were found dead in a burnt-out car on Monday in southwestern Victoria, where the biggest fire is raging. Three homes and several other buildings were lost at Anakie, 150 kilo-

metres (90 miles) southwest of the Victorian State capital, Melbourne, while farmers estimated that tens of thousands of sheep and cattle had been lost in the bushfires.

Firefighters across all four states were hoping to take advantage on Monday of a respite from the weekend heatwave, when temperatures soared above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), but the sweltering heat is forecast to return later in the week. — MNA/Reuters

Guangdong leads nation in media revenue

GUANGZHOU, 23 Jan— The radio, television and film sector of south China's Guangdong Province reported an annual revenue of 7.67 billion yuan (about 946.9 million US dollars) in 2005, leading the nation for five consecutive years.

The province's Broadcasting Media Southern Group (BMS) earned 4.6 billion yuan (about 567.9 million US dollars) in the past year and has become the largest provincial-level media group in China.

Established in January 2004, the group has scored prominent progress through cooperation with

other media companies.

The media companies under BMS, including Guangdong TV, Southern TV and other 19 city-level television and broadcasting stations, registered a 44.8 per cent audience rating last year, outdoing their competitors from Hong Kong and foreign countries.

A latest survey of the

internationally recognized AC Nielsen showed that in Guangzhou the audience rating of all the eight overseas TV channels has dropped from 72.5 per cent to 43 per cent in the past six years. In the same period that of the domestic channels soared up to 57 per cent, with BMS contributing the lion's share in the city. — MNA/Xinhua

HK busts website selling pirated Japanese cartoon DVD

HONG KONG, 23 Jan— Hong Kong authorities have demolished an illegal website selling pirated animation DVD to Japanese customers through mail, local Press reported on Sunday.

The website, registered by a Hong Kong native named Cheung, made up as a legitimate Japanese one by updating stockpile information and purchase details in Japanese. Customs officials were quoted by Chinese daily *Wen Wei Po* as saying.

During its operation over half a year, the website has sold out some 12,000 pirated DVDs and made Cheung around one million HK dollars (129,198 US dollars), estimated the officials. According to the Japanese instruction on the page, interested customers were asked to make their choice on-line and transfer the purchase and mailing fee to a certain account in Japanese bank, one of three bought by Cheung through black market.

In a bid to avoid investigation, Cheung, a 22-year-old man, travel to Japan once a month to withdraw the money put into the accounts.

For all the transactions were conducted through Internet, Cheung's illicit business went unnoticed until two months ago, when the Hong Kong Customs received complaints from copyright holders.

MNA/Xinhua



A staff decorates the Amritsar-Lahore bus with flowers before its maiden journey to Lahore in Pakistan, in Amritsar, India, on 23 Jan, 2006. India and Pakistan signed an agreement in December starting two buses every week between Lahore and Amritsar.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Nigeria's Taye-Taiwo (L) executes a free kick against Ghana during African Nations Cup Group D soccer match in Port Said, Egypt on 23 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Taiwo's free kick gives Nigeria 1-0 win over Ghana

PORT SAID (Egypt), 24 Jan—Nigeria left back Taye Taiwo scored with a stunning free kick in the 85th minute to give the Super Eagles a 1-0 win over Ghana in their opening African Nations Cup match on Monday.

Taiwo, who was close with a similar effort in the first half of the Group D match, blasted a left-foot effort into the bottom corner from around 30 metres just as the game appeared to be petering out into a draw.

Both teams hit the post in an entertaining match in which Ghana became the third of the continent's five World Cup finalists to lose their first game, alongside Togo and Angola.

The Black Stars missed an excellent chance in the 70th minute when forward Mathew Amoah headed wide from six metres.

Nigeria were missing captain Jay-Jay Okocha, who had failed to recover from a thigh injury he picked up during a pre-tournament training camp in Portugal.

With both teams happy to try their luck from long range, the first half pro-

duced a flurry of chances.

Olympique Marseille's Taiwo set the tone with a blistering 30-metre free kick in the 25th minute which was pushed away by Ghana goalkeeper Sammy Adjei.

Nigeria then had two good chances when Adjei dropped successive corners but they were unable to capitalise on them.

At the other end, Mathew Amoah hit the post with a left-foot shot from 25 metres and shortly afterwards had his effort blocked rounding Vincent Enyeama.

Peter Odemwingie's 20-metre shot forced Adjei to make another awkward save before Julius Aghahowa fired into the side netting after working an opening on the edge of the area.

Adjei again had difficulty blocking a 30-metre effort from Wilson Oruma

just before the break.

In the 51st minute Obafemi Martins, who had a generally quiet match, struck the post from a narrow angle after pouncing on a defensive mistake and rounding the Ghana keeper.

MNA/Reuters



Fiorentina's Luca Toni, right, looks to control the ball, pursued by Messina's Rahman Reazei, during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Fiorentina and Messina in Florence, central Italy, on 22 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Camara inspires Senegal to victory

PORT SAID (Egypt), 24 Jan—Senegal striker Henri Camara inspired his side to a 2-0 win over Zimbabwe in their opening African Nations Cup Group D match on Monday.

Camara made the breakthrough with a well-taken goal on the hour and then set up the second for substitute Issa Ba to seal the points with his first touch of the ball in the 81st minute.

Senegal made life tough for themselves by missing two open goals in the first half while Zimbabwe's Benjani Mwaruware squandered a golden chance to score when Senegal were 1-0 ahead.

The win was a timely boost for the Lions of Teranga, who surprisingly missed out on a place at the 2006 World Cup finals as Togo qualified at their expense. Earlier, Nigeria beat Ghana 1-0 in the same group.

Senegal should have gone ahead after five minutes when Camara chipped the ball over goalkeeper Gift Muzadzi to El Hadji Diouf, who contrived to miss

from two metres.

Somehow, they produced a similar miss in the 28th minute.

This time Diomansy Kamara sprang the offside trap and broke down the right to reach the byline. After dallying over his cross, he finally chipped the ball to the far post where the unmarked Rahmane Barry knocked the ball wide.

Minutes later, they wasted another chance when both Camara and Barry delayed over shots in the same attack, allowing the Zimbabwe defenders to block their efforts.

Senegal were also unlucky to be denied a goal in the 32nd minute when Henri Camara burst through the middle of the Zimbabwe defence and shot into the corner, only to see his effort disallowed for handball.—MNA/Reuters

Hingis holds off Stosur, advances to last eight

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Former world number one Martina Hingis continued her fairytale return to grand slam tennis with a 6-1, 7-6 victory over local hope Samantha Stosur in the fourth round of the Australian Open on Monday.

Hingis, who retired in 2002 with ankle and foot injuries after winning five grand slam titles, made her return to competitive tennis earlier this month at the Australian hardcourt championships on the Gold Coast.

The 25-year-old Swiss started in impressive fashion, displaying the skills that allowed her to dominate women's tennis in the late 1990s.

She placed Stosur under intense pressure from the fourth game of the first set, breaking to establish a 3-1 lead and then racing away with the next three games to seal the first set in 23 minutes, slotting a backhand winner at set point.

The Swiss was successful with an astonishing 82 per cent of her first serves, allowing her to attack with groundstrokes and run the 98th-ranked Stosur all over the court.

The second set, however, would prove much more difficult for Hingis.

After Stosur's serve

was broken in the third game, the stubborn Australian fought back to set up a crowd-pleasing run of games dominated by long rallies and both players squandering serve.

Hingis's serve looked particularly vulnerable as she tired, with the speed of the first serve dropping markedly away.

Momentum swung back and forth before Stosur broke to level the set at 6-6 and take the match to a tie-breaker.

Stosur raced out to a 5-2 lead, but the greater experience of Hingis eventually told and she fought back to seal victory on her fourth match point, setting up a quarter-final with world number two Kim Clijsters.

MNA/Reuters

Federer survives five-set scare from Haas

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Top seed Roger Federer survived a five-set scare from unseeded German Tommy Haas on Monday to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open.

At two sets up the world number one's game inexplicably fell apart before he regained his composure to win 6-4, 6-0, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2.

Federer will now play Russian fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko, who beat Slovakian ironman Dominik Hrbaty 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Federer won the Australian Open in 2004 and has claimed five of the last eight grand slam titles.

The Swiss looked to be cruising to his fourth consecutive straight-sets win when he ripped through the first two sets in an hour before Haas staged a remarkable fightback to force the match into a deciding fifth set.

Federer got the vital break in the sixth game when his German opponent missed an easy volley and broke again in the eighth game to advance to the quarter-finals.

Haas made an impressive start, winning his first two service games and forcing Federer to fend off break points but he was unable to keep in touch with the Swiss master once he raised his game.

Haas dropped his serve in the fifth game when he

hit a forehand over the baseline allowing Federer to take control of the opening set.

In the second set Federer broke in the opening game and conceded just 15 points before he wrapped up the set in 28 minutes.

But Haas, who beat Federer over five sets at the 2002 Australian Open before injury stalled his career, refused to give in.—MNA/Reuters



Tommy Haas of Germany hits a return to Roger Federer of Switzerland during the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 24 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Romario nets hat-trick in loss to Botafogo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan—Veteran Brazilian striker Romario scored a hat-trick on Sunday but could not prevent Vasco da Gama losing 5-3 to Botafogo in a Maracana stadium re-opened after months of renovation work.

The hat-trick took Romario, a week away from his 40th birthday, closer to his target of 1000 goals in professional football. The diminutive striker says he has scored 955 goals so far, and hopes to emulate a feat achieved by Brazilian great Pele, although there is some debate over the statistics.

But there was no denying the quality of Romario's performance in Sunday's Rio de Janeiro state championship encounter.

After Ze Roberto opened the scoring for Botafogo with a shimmy and shot, Romario equalized with a smartly struck half-volley then won and converted a penalty when one of his shots was handled by Botafogo's Asprilla.—MNA/Reuters

Japan pushes US for explanation on beef

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Japan said on Monday it would not resume US beef imports without an explanation of how banned spinal material, believed to carry a high risk of causing a human form of mad cow disease, came to be found in a shipment of US meat last week.

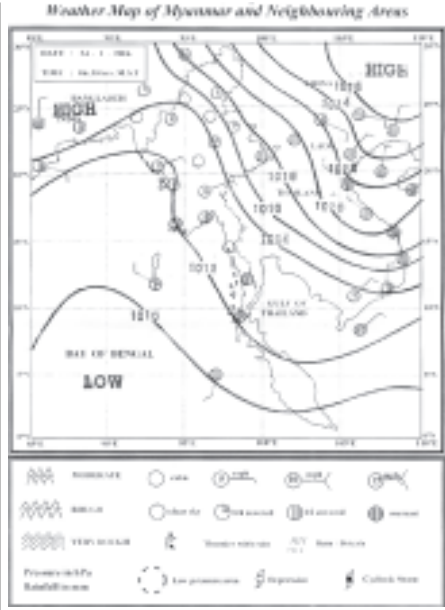
Japan, formerly the biggest market for US beef, just last month had lifted a ban on imports imposed in 2003 after the first US case of the disease was found in a cow in Washington State. As a condition of lifting the ban, Japan said all risk material, such as spinal cords and brains, that could cause the brain-wasting disease had to be completely removed.

Imports were halted again after the banned material was found in a shipment of US beef on Friday.

“First of all, the United States must find out the cause, then introduce measures to prevent this from happening again,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe told a news conference.

“We will make a decision based on that,” he added, when asked about the ban.

The government will also ask Japanese importers to check whether any banned material has been included in US beef imported since the ban was lifted, Abe said. — MNA/Reuters



Chartered flight takes migrant workers home for Chinese New Year

QUANZHOU, 24 Jan — Li Qiuqing, 24, felt she was a lucky dog indeed when she boarded an airplane for the first time in her life.

The textile worker at Baode Apparels Co was one of the 130 migrant workers in Quanzhou, a manufacturing base in east China's Fujian Province, who were privileged to take a chartered flight to their hometown in southwestern Sichuan Province Sunday, a week

before the Chinese New Year.

The special flight was sponsored by the Quanzhou Trade Union and 46 local businesses who have set up trade unions to safeguard the migrant workers' rights and interests. Most of the 130 passengers' fares were

subsidized by the trade unions: 26 people from poverty-stricken counties were offered a free trip and the others paid no more than 300 yuan each (37.5 US dollars), about the same price as a train ticket.

“It's my third trip home in eight years,” said

Peng Guohua, 42. “My previous two train rides during the pre-holiday rush were extremely tiring, crowded and took two or three days each.”

Peng and Li are both workers at Baode Apparels Co.

MNA/Xinhua



Wednesday, 25 January
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ဗဟိုကော်မတီ၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြော၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောသဒ္ဒမ္မဇာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
- 6. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

- 8:15 am
- 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am
- 8. မနိုးချောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Let's go
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm
- 4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လေ့လာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (သရုပ်ဆောင်ရေး၊ ရုပ်ပေး)
- 5:00 pm
- 5. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm
- 6. Classical song
- 5:25 pm
- 7. ရုက္ခသိပ္ပံအဘိဓမ္မာအစီအစဉ်
- 5:35 pm
- 8. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာပွဲ

- 6:00 pm
- 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 11. သုတေသနအဖွဲ့အစည်း
- 7:05 pm
- 12. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:15 pm
- 13. ကြားမြင်သုတေသနစာပေ
- 7:25 pm
- 14. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:35 pm
- 15. စုတန်တန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပွဲ သီချင်းများ
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်ဆုတံဆိပ်အကြိမ် (၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆိုအကအရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ (ရုပ်ပေး) “မင်းကုသမာတော်ကြီး” ဒုတိယဆု (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း) (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 20. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 25 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Ooh aah
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Because you loved me
- 8:50 am National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Mysterious girl
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -My love is for real
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -I can wait forever - My love is your love - One sweet day - I can love you like that
- 9:00 pm Variations on Tune: -When you say nothing at all
- 9:15 pm Article/music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request: -Come as you are -Take it so heard -Where were you -Frosty
- 9:45 pm New & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Tuesday, 24 January, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), PyinOoLwin (2°C), Mogok (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-1-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 24-1-2006 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-1-2006 was (87%). Total sunshine hours on 23-1-2006 was (6.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (13:15) hours MST on 23-1-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South and Southeast Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-1-2006: Fair weather.

Earthquake report
(Issued at 22:30 hours MST, on 24 January 2006)
An Earthquake of Moderate intensity (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter at Myanmar-China border about (420) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (20) hrs (12) min (23) sec MST on 24th January 2006.

Success of National Convention a major task for political development and building of a democratic nation

People of Magway Division express support for National Convention



The panel of chairmen and those attending the mass meeting to support the National Convention chant slogans. —MNA

YANGON, 24 Jan — The mass meeting in support of the National Convention organized by Magway Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at district sports ground in Magway on 21 January.

Present were Secretary of Magway Division USDA, secretaries and executives of Magway, Minbu, Thayet, Pakokku and Gangaw district USDAs, secretaries of USDAs in 25 townships, members of Women's Affairs Organization, Mater-

nal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, auxiliary fire brigade and Red Cross Brigade, nurses and service personnel and local people totalling over 25,000.

Principal of Yenangyoung Degree College U Tun Aung presided over the meeting with head of surgical department of Magway Institute of Medicine Professor Dr Thit Lwin, Trader U Tin Myint, eye specialist Dr Aung Hsan Win, entrepreneur U Kyaw Naing,

Magway Division Judge U Than Win and Professor Daw May Than Su of Botany Department of Magway University as members of panel of chairmen.

Daw Thazin Aung of Aunglan Township USDA acted as master of ceremonies and Daw The Wa of Yenangyoung Township USDA as co-master of ceremonies.

Principal of Yenangyoung Degree College U Tun Aung delivered a speech. He said the government is making efforts

consistently for perpetuation of the Union, strengthening friendship among the national races, perpetuation of sovereignty and emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation after laying down the twelve objectives on political, economic and social sectors. In political sector, the government created stability and peace and prevalence of law and order and built national reconsolidation. In economic sector priority was given to private (See page 9)



Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No-2 spanning Mae Sai creek opened

The bridge helps promote trade between Myanmar and Thailand

YANGON, 24 Jan — The opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No-2 spanning Mae Sai creek

between Tachilek and Mae Sai on the border of Myanmar and Thailand was held on 22 January. Present on the occasion

were a Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win and a Thai del-

egation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon.

Also present were Col Myint Han of Tachilek Station, Chairman of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and members, representatives from the Ministry of Construction, local authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, War Veterans Organization, Women's Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and Fire Brigade, local national races such as

Shan, Akha and Lahu. Also attending the ceremony from the Thai side were Deputy Governor of Chiang Rai Province Nai Wunchai Udomchai, Director-General of Royal Highway Department Nai Chaisathat kiti Phompaiphon and officials from

Thai Armed Forces and civil service and local residents of Mae Sai totalling over 4,000 from both sides.

First, the Deputy Governor of Chiang Rai Province and the Chairman of Tachilek District (See page 10)



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon cordially greet each other at the opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No-2. — MOFA

INSIDE

Arrangements have been made for visitors to take a trip around the zoo with elephant carts and vehicles. Souvenir shops, restaurants, fun fairs, showrooms are opened in conjunction with other interesting programmes.