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Myanmar, along with international societies, determined to face with and to overcome upon all obstacles and interferences in responding to HIV and AIDS so as to have HIV free Myanmar and HIV free world

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses ceremony to mark World AIDS Day



NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the ceremony in commemoration of World AIDS Day. — MNA

YANGON, 2 Dec — Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day a jointly organized by the Ministry of Health, UNFPA, UNICEF and FHAM at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe and members, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win and members, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, rectors, medical superintendents, members of the Central Committee for Control of AIDS and the Work Committee, Ambassadors and Charges d'Affaires ai of

foreign missions, UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie, UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha, Chairperson of UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS Mr Daniel B Baker and resident representatives of UN agencies, resident representatives of international social organizations, guests and prize winners.

First, NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said:

It has been 19 years since World AIDS Day, and World AIDS Campaign activities are being implemented in the countries around the world with the noble objective of highlighting essential role of the community, various departments, and NGOs in responding to HIV/AIDS.

Following the diagnosis of first AIDS case in 1981, HIV has spread throughout the world within 20 years. Since then, a total of 39.5 million individuals have been living with HIV/AIDS globally. Due to the rapid spread of HIV, 4.3 million individuals were infected with HIV, and 2.9 million individuals had died of AIDS

during 2006.

Since the impact of HIV and AIDS goes beyond the health sector and gradually affecting the socioeconomic status and development of the nation, prevention and control of HIV and AIDS become one of the issues that need proper attention by the countries around the world.

It has also reached to a situation

where coordinated and collective efforts of the world become essential in responding to HIV and AIDS appropriately and effectively. In line with such situation, the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations include an indicator highlighting to halt AIDS epidemic and to reverse the spread of HIV by 2015. Countries have had already made

(See page 9)



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint presents second prize in basic education primary level painting contest to Ma Phu Thinza Naing of Kamayut Township Practising High School. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 December, 2006

Fight against trafficking in persons in high gear

Nowadays, trafficking in persons is endemic all over the world and posing a grave threat to the entire human society. Therefore, the global nations are making concerted efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons and human smuggling.

Unscrupulous persons have secretly organized transnational gangs in trafficking in persons and are committing the crimes. As many as one to two million persons are trafficked annually. And altogether over 27 million persons have now been trafficked globally.

Asian countries with a high incidence of human trafficking and human smuggling are China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam. Those who are being trafficked mostly ended up in the United States of America, Britain and Japan.

Myanmar started launching the anti-human trafficking campaign in 1997. The campaign covers prevention, taking action, giving protection and rehabilitation. Myanmar also signed agreements on control of trafficking in persons and human smuggling including the UN Convention on Fighting Against Transnational Crimes.

It enacted the anti-human trafficking law in 2005 and exposed the offenders who were given severe sentences, resulting in effective prevention of human trafficking cases. In the meantime, Myanmar has been able to save the victims from the hands of human traffickers in time and hand them over to their parents. And rehabilitation measures are being taken in states, divisions, districts and townships to integrate the victims into the community.

Myanmar enlisting the strength of departmental bodies and social organizations is striving together with countries in the region and the international community in the fight against trafficking in persons and human smuggling, while taking protective measures against the victims in accordance with the anti-human trafficking law.

Mines Minister visits Thanlyin Tin Smelting Plant, Rehydrated Salt Factory

YANGON, 2 Dec — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Director-General U Win Ti of the Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department and Managing Director U Hla Thein of No 2 Mining Enterprise, visited Thanlyin Tin Smelting Plant this afternoon and inspected the growing of shady trees, flowers and vegetables in the compound of the plant.

The minister and party also visited the Rehydrated Salt Factory and the Salt Mill under Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Thakayta Township. Later, he inspected the growing of fruits and vegetables on a manageable scale. — MNA

Peoples' 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

USDA Secretariat member tours Taungtha, Myingyan Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi visited Nabekan Village Monastery in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning, and donated offertories to the Sayadaw. Next, he met local people and accepted 500 USDA membership applications.

At a ceremony to donate rice and a jeep to Chaungdaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Myingyan Township, Minister U Aung Thaung donated 80 bags of rice and handed over documents related to a jeep to Sayadaw

Secretariat member of USDA Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung accepts membership applications of Byaing-in Village in Taungtha Township.

MNA



Bhaddanta Kelasa. He also donated 100 bags of rice to Punya Thahaya Rice Offering Association, 80 bags of rice to Myingyan Home for the Aged and 30 bags of rice to members of the

Sangha. Afterwards, the minister offered provisions to Byaing-in Village Monastery Sayadaw in Taungtha Township and accepted 500 membership applications. Later, he donated K 2 million for re-

pair of Aungtheikdi Mingalar Lake, visited Shwe Umin Pagoda and attended the prize-presentation ceremony of the Village USDA football tourney.

MNA

Minister meets departmental officials under Ministry of Finance and Revenue

YANGON, 2 Dec — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry in Yangon Division at Myanma Insurance, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, managing directors, directors-general and others.

The minister made a speech saying that staff at different levels are to conscientiously perform duty in accord with the objectives of the State and respective departments. In addition, people, entrepreneurs and other departmental staff in cooperation with the ministry need to be educated on monetary and tax rules and regulations. Staff members are to redouble efforts to meet the aims of the departments and need to become the ones who win trust of the people.—MNA

Lab equipment donated to YGH

YANGON, 2 Dec — A ceremony to donate laboratory equipment for worth US \$ 89,450 by Grassroots Grant Assistance Programme of Japan to the National Blood Unit of Yangon General Hospital was held at YGH today.

It was attended by Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung and directors of Health Department, Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Tetsuro Amano and officials of the Japanese Embassy, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha of YGH and professors and heads of department. Dr Daw Thidar Aung of the National Blood Unit acted as master of ceremonies. The Japanese Deputy Chief of Mission explained the purpose of donation and handed over the equipment to the director-general.

Next, the medical superintendent of YGH thanked the donor. —MNA



Mr Tetsuro Amano of Japanese Embassy presents laboratory equipment for National Blood Unit to Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung. — MNA

Chinese Premier to attend China-ASEAN meetings

BEIJING, 1 Dec— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will attend a series of summits in Cebu City, the Philippines, and pay an official visit there from 11 to 14 December, announced Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu here Thursday.

The meetings will include the 10th ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) summit, the 10th China-ASEAN summit, and an East Asian regional summit, Jiang said at a regular Press conference of the ministry.

Premier Wen will also chair the 7th annual meeting of leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, Jiang added.

She said the 10th China-ASEAN summit will mainly discuss practical cooperation between the two sides.

“China will discuss with ASEAN on the practical cooperation for next year and put forward a series of concrete proposals, to further consolidate and raise the level of bilateral strategic

partnership,” said Jiang.

She said the relations between China and ASEAN have entered a new historic period, marked by a China-ASEAN joint statement that have strategically planned future cooperation, adopted at the sum-

mit commemorating the 15th anniversary of the dialogue partnership between China and the ASEAN held at the end of October in Nanning, capital of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Margaret Chan, newly-elected World Health Organization (WHO) chief, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 1 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Global warming drives winters out of Bangkok in next four decades

BANGKOK, 1 Dec— Bangkok would have little chance of experiencing a cool season in the next four decades as the capital's temperature continues to rise due to an “urban heat island” and global warming, experts said.

According to Jariya Boonjawat, an environmentalist at the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre, an environmental research organization, Bangkok, like other big

cities, is experiencing an “urban heat island”, a phenomenon which sees temperatures in cities rise more than in the countryside, newspaper *Bangkok Post* on Thursday reported.

Buildings, concrete and asphalt roads, as well as human and industrial activities in urban areas, were all factors contributing to high temperatures in cities, she told a conference on Thailand's and the global climate.

“We have studied the urban heat island in Thailand and found that the temperature in the capital is five C higher than in rural areas. The result is in line with big cities around the world, like Tokyo,” said the expert, who has conducted extensive research on the climate and its impacts on urban areas.

“With the warming trend increasing, we can say that Bangkok will have less chance of experiencing a cool season in the next 40 years,” the expert said.

Four decades ago, the average temperature during Bangkok's cool season was below 15 C, according to Jariya, but the minimum temperature has gradually increased to 20 C now.

Suppakorn Chinvanho, the project coordinator of the Bangkok-based centre, said that with rising temperatures the dry season in the country would in the future be longer than six months. More rainfall could

be expected in the northeastern and eastern regions, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A tourist takes a close look at a blooming plant in Xinglong Tropical Botanical Garden in Wanning of south China's Hainan Province, on 28 Nov, 2006. Agreeable weather in the island province is a main attraction for the tourists from Mainland during the winter time.—XINHUA

Fourteen killed, nineteen injured in Egyptian highway accident

CAIRO, 1 Dec— Fourteen people were killed and 19 others injured at dawn Wednesday when a bus and a truck collided head-on on a road southwest of the Egyptian capital Cairo, official MENA news agency reported.

The accident occurred on the western Cairo-Asyut Highway in Fayyum Governorate, 85 kilometres to Cairo, and the bus was totally destroyed in the crash, Fayyum Security Director Samir Awad was quoted as saying.

The bodies and the injured were moved to the Fayyum General Hospital, MENA said.

Egypt reports some 6,000 deaths and some 35,000 injuries in road accidents every year.

MNA/Xinhua



Elaborately costumed artists perform dragon dance to stage the custom of north east Asia during the opening ceremony of the 15th Asian Games held at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha, capital of Qatar, on 1 Dec, 2006.—XINHUA

Russian police seize 40 kilos of heroin near Moscow

Moscow, 1 Dec— Police have seized 40 kilos of heroin in the town of Lyubertsy near Moscow, an official of the Federal Drug Control Service said on Thursday.

“While inspecting a Mercedes-Benz cold storage truck, agents of the Federal Drug Control Service found 40 kilos of heroin. The drugs packed in 40 plastic bags were hidden in boxes for electric heaters,” the official said in a Press release.

Experts believe that the seized heroin is of Afghan

origin. “It looks like it was produced at an underground laboratory in Afghanistan,” he revealed. Both the driver and the recipient, the leader of one of the criminal rings, were detained. A criminal case has been opened against them.

The members of the criminal group “used their

international ties to arrange large-scale deliveries of heroin from Central Asian countries. Each haul included up to 100 kilos,” said the official. Since 1 January, Russian drug police have seized more than 80 tons of drugs, including 1,900 kilos of heroin.

MNA/Xinhua

In a drive for drawing a state constitution, any country should take into account its background history, prevailing situations, experiences in the political, economic and social sectors, national character, culture, customs and conditions of its neighbours



Independent Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency.—MNA

YANGON, 2 Dec— *The following is the proposals submitted by independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) on the detailed basic principles for the Chapter "Election", the Chapter "Political Parties" and the Chapter "Provisions on State of Emergency" to be included in State constitution at the Plenary Session of the National Convention in Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division on 29-11-2006.*

Mr Chairman and NC delegates, the chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Commission, the chairman and members of the NCC Work Committee, the chairman and members of the NCC Management Committee, and NC delegates,

I am independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State. I wish all delegates physical and mental wellbeing, and I wish successful completion to the National Convention that is adopting the detailed basic principles for writing a State constitution as aspired by the people. I compiled this proposal in cooperation with independent representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) and independent representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North). We will read each of the three parts of this proposal.

Mr Chairman,

Drawing a State constitution is some way building a new nation. We have adopted the detailed basic principles for further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and quality, and for building a new nation with a flourishing genuine multi-party democracy system. Such a new nation should serve the interests of all national races in the nation in accordance with the noblest and worthiest of worldly values rather than that of just an individual, a handful of people, or a national race.

In a drive for drawing a state constitution, any country should take into account its background history, prevailing situations, experiences in the political, economic and social sectors, national character, culture, customs and conditions of its neighbours. It is required to view the past historic events thoroughly and correctly and take lessons through these events. We also need to build a fine environment based on the lessons, create future opportunities, and formulate a State constitution with great care.

Indeed, the State constitution is the lifeblood as well as the prestige of a nation. Furthermore, it is the



Independent Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency. — MNA

only major pillar on which the people of such a nation can rely. There shall be "Equality before the Law" but no one shall be above the law. It is to make sure that a constitution does not include any points that will harm the constitution. To complete a standard constitution is a formidable task. The people concerned have to frame a constitution of the nation. It is natural that all performances of a human society are not perfect. Different people have different ideas, occupations and ways of life. The people of the nation concerned will have to carry out the duties prescribed by the constitution that will come into force. Here, the most indispensable point is that if the drawing of a State constitution focuses on the interests of a handful of people or a single national race without honouring the provisions of the State constitution, progress and development will be far beyond the people of the nation concerned, however much such a State constitution is good in essence. And it is a great requirement that the persons who will be appointed under the forthcoming State constitution discharge duties with goodwill and righteousness. The people on their part are to abide by the provisions of the State constitution.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention designated 15 chapters to lay down basic principles and detailed basic principles in order to complete the State constitution. Of them are the chapters "Election", "Political Parties" and "Provisions on State of Emergency". Firstly, I would like to present my views about the detailed basic principles proposed for the Chapter "Election".

Our nation will exercise the multi-party democracy system under the adopted basic principles. Every country practising the multi-party democracy system prescribes a principle in the State constitution concerned to ensure that every citizen has equal right to vote and stand for election in accordance with the law. In general, such principle stipulates,

- (1) the right of the citizens to elect people's representatives who represent them in accordance with the law; and
- (2) the right of the citizens to stand for election as people's representatives in accordance with the law.

Mr Chairman,

The right to elect people's representatives covers every citizen. In order to designate the citizens who are eligible to vote, the first priority is given to the designation of age limit. The people who have turned 18 are mature and intellectual enough to distinguish between good and bad. The 1947 constitution and the



Independent Representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency. — MNA

1974 constitution designated 18 years as the eligible age of the citizens to vote. So, the point the Work Committee chairman presented that—

"Every citizen who has turned 18 on the date on which elections commence, who is not disqualified by law, who is eligible to vote, and who has the right to vote under the law, shall have the right to vote"

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

In every country practising the multi-party democracy system, every citizen has to stand for election in accordance with the law. A candidate for election should stand for election at a constituency only so that he will be able to serve the interests of the voters concerned. If the candidates are allowed to stand for election at more than one constituency, that will make it difficult for the people to elect a people's representative in line with the desire of the people.

It is learnt that every country exercising the multi-party democracy system use ballot in electing people's representatives. Our country will have to exercise the multi-party democracy system under the basic principles the National Convention has laid down. So, our country should practise ballot in electing people's representatives.

Regarding the right to vote, all those who have the right to vote should be entrusted with the right to elect people's representatives who represent them. However, members of the Religious Order should not enjoy such a right, nor should the persons serving prison terms, the persons adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law, the persons who have not yet been cleared from being declared destitute, and those who are banned from voting under the election law. So, regarding election of people's representatives to the Hluttaws, the proposed points:

"Every citizen who is eligible to vote and who has the right to vote by the law shall cast only a vote for a Hluttaw each at a constituency.

"In addition, people of national races concerned who are eligible to vote in accordance with the provisions of the State Constitution shall have the right to vote in electing representatives of national races to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned."

regarding election, the proposed point:

"Ballot shall be exercised."

regarding the persons who should not be vested the right to vote, the proposed point:

(See page 5)

In a drive for drawing a state...

(from page 4)

“The following persons shall have no right to vote—

- (a) members of the Religious Order;
- (b) persons serving prison terms;
- (c) persons adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law;
- (d) persons who have not yet been cleared from being declared destitute; and
- (e) persons who are banned from voting under the election law.”

and regarding the right to stand for election to only one Hluttaw at a constituency at an election, the proposed point:

“At an election, a candidate—

- (a) shall be elected to one Hluttaw only.
- (b) shall stand for election at one constituency only.”

should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

The Union territories will be under the direct rule of the President, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to prescribe necessary laws for Union territories. So, electorate of the Union territories no longer need to elect Hluttaw members to the Region or State Hluttaw, and will have to elect Hluttaw members to the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, the two legislative bodies of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. When an area in a Region or State is designated as a Union territory, it needs to decide whether a Region or State Hluttaw member from that area has the right to continue to stand as a Hluttaw member. It was submitted that such point needed to be under consideration when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw promulgates a law to delineate an area as a Union territory.

Save as otherwise provided by this Constitution, such Region or State Hluttaw member should no longer be allowed to stand as a Region or State Hluttaw member.

Therefore, regarding election for Union territories, the proposed point:

- “(a) Electorate living in the Union territories, or the Union territories designated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the law, shall elect members of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw only.
- (b) Save as otherwise prescribed by the Constitution, a Region or State Hluttaw member elected in a constituency that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has designated as a Union territory shall no longer stand as a Hluttaw member.”

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Every citizen whose qualifications meet the provisions of the State constitution and the election law has the right to stand for election to a Hluttaw. One of the already-laid down detailed basic principles regulating election says, “Electorate concerned shall, in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution, have the right to recall the elected people’s representatives”. Necessary procedures to recall an elected people’s representative should be prescribed in this Constitution, so that these procedures can be used as references in promulgating laws regulating election. The National Convention will have to adopt necessary detailed basic principles regarding such procedures.

Therefore, regarding the right to stand for election, the proposed point:

“Every citizen who is not disqualified by the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the law regulating elections shall have the right to stand for election to a Hluttaw”,

regarding the right to recall, the proposed point:

- (a) A Hluttaw member may be recalled for any of the following reasons —
 - (1) treason;
 - (2) violation of any provision of the Constitution;
 - (3) misbehaviour;
 - (4) lack of qualifications prescribed in the Constitution for a Hluttaw member;
 - (5) incompetent discharge of duties.

(b) Complaint about the Hluttaw member endorsed by at least one per cent of initial number of the voters of the constituency concerned shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.

(c) Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall conduct investigation into the case in accord with the law.

(d) While the case is under investigation, the Hluttaw member concerned shall have the right to rebut the accusation in person or through a representative.

(e) The Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall, finding the accusation true and considering the Hluttaw member should no longer carry out duties, take action in accord with the law.

and regarding election and recall, the point:

“The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall prescribe necessary laws on election and recall.”

should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

One of the six objectives of the National Convention of the State is “Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy system”. The election sector plays an important role in this regard. Some basic principles on election say “every citizen shall have the right to vote and to stand for election according to law”, “voters concerned shall have the right, in accord with provisions of the State Constitution, to recall elected people’s representatives”. So, there needs to form an organization to implement these basic principles.

In addition, the practice of the multi-party democracy system will be followed by the establishment of political parties. The NC has adopted a detailed basic principle “The State shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties”. There also needs to form an organization to implement that principle. Therefore, it is needed to form a Union election commission to take responsibilities for electoral functions and the laws prescribed for political parties. So, regarding the formation of the Union Election Commission, the proposed points:

(a) The President shall form a Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Election Commission. In the process, he may appoint at least five members including the chairman of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in accord with the provisions on appointment of Union minister stated in the Constitution.

(b) The chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Election Commission shall be the ones who —

- (1) have turned 50 years of age.
- (2) meet, except age limit, requirements set for Pyithu Hluttaw members.
- (3) (aa) have served in the post of Union Chief Justice or Union supreme court judge; Region or State High Court judge or in a position equivalent to the post of Region or State High Court judge at least five years; (or)
- (bb) have served in the post of judicial officer or law officer that is not lower than Region or State level for at least 10 years; (or)
- (cc) have practised law as the advocate for at least 20 years; (or)
- (dd) are deemed to be celebrities with prestige by the President.
- (4) are well-experienced with good characters.
- (5) comply with provisions, with which they have no right to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw members.
- (6) are loyal to the State and the people.
- (7) are not members of a political party.
- (8) are not Hluttaw members.
- (9) do not accept any other positions from which they can enjoy salaries and allowances.”

should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

The Pyidaungsu Election Commission plays a key role in the drive for the emergence of genuine multi-party democracy system with flourishing discipline.

Every citizen whose qualifications meet the provisions of the State constitution and the election law has the right to stand for election to a Hluttaw. One of the already-laid down detailed basic principles regulating election says, “Electorate concerned shall, in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution, have the right to recall the elected people’s representatives”. Necessary procedures to recall an elected people’s representative should be prescribed in this Constitution, so that these procedures can be used as references in promulgating laws regulating election.

Under the future State constitution, elections will be held in accord with the law to elect members to the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Election Commission will have to discharge these functions and to supervise the tasks in accordance with the law to ensure free and fair elections. Elections to Hluttaws will be held across the nation. So, the Pyidaungsu Election Commission will have to form sub-commissions at different levels in accordance with the law and provide close supervision to ensure smooth operation elections.

The Pyidaungsu Election Commission should be vested with the responsibilities such as designating and arranging constituencies for respective Hluttaws, making and arranging lists of voters, that is the most crucial task for an election, putting off elections that are not in a position to be held in a free and fair way in some constituencies due to natural disasters or local security, and forming electoral benches to resolve electoral disputes. The commission should also be invested with the power to issue electoral laws and laws on political parties in accordance with the provisions of the State constitution, as well as procedures and directives in accordance with the laws concerned. Therefore, regarding the designation of duties of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, the points:

“Duties of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission are as follows:

- (a) holding Hluttaw elections;
- (b) supervising Hluttaw elections, and forming and supervising sub-commissions at all levels;
- (c) designating and arranging constituencies;
- (d) making and arranging lists of voters;
- (e) putting off elections that are not in a position to be held in a free and fair way in some constituencies due to natural disasters or local security;
- (f) issuing necessary laws on elections and political parties in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and procedures and directives in accordance with the laws concerned;
- (g) forming electoral benches to resolve electoral disputes;
- (h) discharging duties assigned under a law.”

should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to make some suggestions about electoral procedures. Many electoral procedures are carried out in accordance with the provisions concerned including the submission of bills of electoral expenses spent by the elected Hluttaw members after the elections. The organizations responsible for the elections have to issue final reports on the elections. Some principles related to the Hluttaw sessions are:

“The first regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be convened within 90 days after the general election commences.”

“The day on which the term of the Amyotha Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw.”

“The first regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw shall be held within seven days after the commencement of its term.” In my opinion, final reports should be

(See page 6)

In a drive for drawing a state...

(from page 5)

released in time so that first regular sessions of the Hluttaws can be held in line with the provisions concerned. In this regard, elected Hluttaw members are to complete their tasks in time. There should not be a situation in which Hluttaw sessions are put off due to the delay on the final reports. Therefore, I would like to make a positive suggestion that in issuing laws, rules and directives on election,

- (a) **specific duration for the functions to be carried out by the elected Hluttaw members,**
- (b) **the time during which the election commission has to issue the final report**

should be fixed.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding matters on blaming and charging the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, resignation of the chairman or a member of the commission, vacancy of the chairman or a member of the commission, proceedings to be implemented if the commission chairman or member is a government employee, final decisions and functions of the commission, and designation of functions, powers, privileges and status of the chairman or a member of the commission, the points the Work Committee chairman explained:

1. **If the President has to blame and charge the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, he shall do so in accordance with the provisions prescribed in this Constitution on blaming the Union Chief Justice or any of Union Supreme Court judges.**
2. **If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in service wishes to resign of his own accord due to his health condition or any of other reasons, he may submit his resignation to the President.**
3. **If the seat of the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is vacant due to resignation, termination of responsibilities, death, or any of other reasons, the President may appoint a new chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in accordance with the provisions on appointment of a Union minister enumerated in the State Constitution.**
4. **If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is a government employee, he shall be deemed to have resigned from civil service in accord with the existing civil service rules and regulations from the date he is appointed as the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.**
5. **The Pyidaungsu Election Commission's action and measures over the following matters shall be final**
 - (a) **electoral procedures;**
 - (b) **appeals and amendments on electoral benches' decisions and orders;**
 - (c) **matters taken under political party law.**
6. **Responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall be prescribed by law.**
7. **The role of the chairman of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is designated to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member, to the position of a Union**

minister in order to make reference to responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in prescribing laws.

should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

A detailed basic principle "Pyithu Hluttaw representatives shall have settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative" has been adopted. Disputes may arise in future if there is no explanation about the stay of national people who went abroad for further study under the permission of the government, on business or on personal affairs. Now, the nation has launched the market-oriented economic system. Therefore, many nationals are staying in foreign countries on duty with the permission of the government, or on business, or on personal affairs. Such stay in foreign countries should be deemed to have settled in the Union.

"The period of staying abroad with the permission of the government shall be deemed to have settled in the Union." should be adopted as the provision under the detailed basic principle:

"having settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected as Pyithu Hluttaw representative."

Now, independent representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) will present part two of our proposal.

Political Parties

I am U Aung Thein, an independent representative-elect of Ywangan Township constituency.

Mr Chairman,

The Union of Myanmar that had been under the rule of her own monarchs became a colony in 1885 due to various reasons. Patriots including monks set up national schools to launch the national movement. Later, various associations, organizations and political parties emerged. Those associations, organizations and political parties revitalized patriotism among the people with the slogan "Independence — first; independence — second, independence — third" in the entire nation. The struggle to regained independence gain extra momentum together with the revitalization of patriotism.

Because of the internal strife that broke out in the nation soon after the independence was regained, the nation was not able to carry out development undertakings with might and main. If we study the activities of political parties during the independence struggle and post-independence period we can see the good parts and bad parts of multiparty system. A nation cannot stay aloof from political parties if its government works in accord with her constitution. Existence of different races, classes, natural conditions and opinions in a nation is her objective condition. Hence public wishes and stands will be different from one another.

The National Convention has already adopted the fundamental principle "the State shall enact necessary law for systematic formation of political parties for flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system". In our view, a political party is an organization gathering good and clever persons in the interest of the nation; politics is a noble cause; and free and fair election is the essence of democracy. Hence those who respect democracy respect political parties. Persons who loathe democracy are not democrats. The ones who are scaring people away from politics are persons

who oppose democracy to become dictators. Politics is the affairs of the people. The permitting of persons who are interested in politics to do politics in the future state is an appropriate act. The political parties on their part should always keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

Hence the point **"Political parties set the objective — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty"** should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

It is necessary for the people to accept with conviction that the national cause is their concern. A nation where a majority of people having the conviction becomes more democratic. If there arise nation-wide internal problems they should be addressed and solved collectively. A political party is an organization formed by the persons with same political conviction and goals. Hence parties will have to choose leaders who can do best for the nation. When the members have the political awareness, political leaders will be able to give greater priority to national interest than their own. All the people should have the political outlook. If they have political outlook they will understand the essence of politics, express their wishes well, have untiring interest in politics and have ability to maintain and control their political belief without being deceived by others' political propaganda and organization.

When the entire nation has political awareness, the parties will be able to serve the cause of the nation and the race fairly and correctly. In the future state the people will have to try hard to understand politics and to be imbued with political knowledge. But a certain length of time is required to reach that stage. State level officials will have to pave the way to reach the level without making any discrimination. The political parties should have the capability to educate and organize their members and the public as they have relations with the people to have the conviction that the national affairs are their own, have untiring interest in the politics, fully understand the essence of politics, and be free from being deceived by others' political propaganda and organization.

Mr Chairman,

Myanmar has already witnessed the weaknesses and loopholes of the parliamentary democracy when she practised the system after regaining Independence. A study of those weaknesses and loopholes shows that they were the results of the lack of democracy experiences in history, the single party governance in real terms in the name of parliamentary democracy, the public intellectual progress that had not reached the level of defining and exercising the rights and duties of democracy with correct conviction, the political parties' insufficient ability to train, educate and lead the people to exercise democracy rights with a sense of duty, and the lack of development in infrastructure that would help realize the essence of democracy more fully, the declining situation of democracy in the parties, and the growing centralized system. It is found that it is required to lay down detailed basic principles concerning the qualifications of political parties as necessary, after taking the experiences Myanmar had faced as lessons, for the flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy in the nation.

To ensure that there will be no disputes in the future, we would like to suggest that the point **"The Union Hluttaw shall designate and prescribe the qualifications of political parties"** should be added to the points already explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

A political party must abide by the Constitution and the existing laws in addition to accepting and exercising a genuine multiparty democracy system. Moreover, it must be legally registered. Hence, the following point should be adopted:

A political party shall:

- (a) **accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.**
- (b) **abide by the Constitution and the existing laws.**
- (c) **be legally registered as a political party.**

Mr Chairman,

A nation will develop only if it is headed by firm and systematically-established political parties. As for the existence of such parties, appropriate principles should be adopted to the constitution, and the political

(See page 7)

A political party is an organization formed by the persons with same political conviction and goals. Hence parties will have to choose leaders who can do best for the nation. When the members have the political awareness, political leaders will be able to give greater priority to national interest than their own. All the people should have the political outlook. If they have political outlook they will understand the essence of politics, express their wishes well, have untiring interest in politics and have ability to maintain and control their political belief without being deceived by others' political propaganda and organization.

In a drive for drawing a state...

(from page 6)

parties should be formed systematically according to the provisions contained in the constitution without undermining the essence of multiparty democracy. A systematically formed political party can exist as a political party and carry out organizational work in the nation in accord with the law. In addition, it will have the permission to stand for elections held in the nation.

Hence, the following point should be adopted:

In accordance with the law, a political party shall have the right to:

- (a) **organize freely;**
- (b) **to stand for elections.**

The parties should serve as a bridge between the government and the people for the emergence of a multiparty system benefiting the people. They should be the organizations that are able to lay down policies in conformity with the nation's political, security, economic situations, customs and public interest. They should have the directives, fundamental policies and practices. There may be parties representing the whole nation for emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy as well as regional political parties representing the respective national races.

Hence we would like to give a separate suggestion saying that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in enacting laws concerning the political parties should consider permitting the establishment of political parties representing the whole Union as well as the respective regions.

Mr Chairman,

Political parties will have to accept and exercise in accord with Our Three Main National Causes and genuine multiparty democracy system. They will abide by the Constitution and the existing laws. In accord with the foreign policy prescribed in the Constitution, the nation will exercise independent and active non-aligned foreign policy. The parties should abide by the foreign policy. They should not give priority to the regional interest over the national interest and to the personal interest over the national interest. If the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party has infringed any one of the provisions ensuring the rights of the existence of political parties, the party's registration should be revoked. But the accusation or punishment should not be unreasonable. Action should be taken against the accused party after thoroughly investigating the accusation. We suggest that the following points should be adopted:

"1. The continued existence of a political party shall not be permitted if :

- (a) **it has been declared as an unlawful association in accord with the existing law.**
 - (b) **it contacts or abets the insurgent group waging the armed rebellion against the State or the association or persons determined by the State to have committed terrorist acts or the association declared to be unlawful association directly or indirectly.**
 - (c) **it directly or indirectly receives financial, material and other assistance from the government or a religious association, or any other association or an individual person of a foreign country.**
 - (d) **it abuses religion for political purpose.**
- 2. If the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party is connected with anyone of the points stated in the above-mentioned sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d), the party's registration shall be revoked.**

Mr Chairman,

Of the adopted fundamental principles, I would like to discuss the matters concerning the right of defence and the right of appeal stipulated in the chapters "Executive" and "Judiciary"

The paragraph (e) of the judiciary states as follows: The following are stipulated as judicial principles -

- Independent administration of justice in accord with law
- administration of justice in public except where restricted by law
- giving of right of defence and right to appeal by law in cases

Subparagraph (e) of the paragraph 16 of the matter concerning the impeachment of the President or the Vice-President states "The President or the Vice-President shall have the right to refute the charge personally or through a representative when it is investigated.

As regards the matter in which the President impeaches the Chief Justice of the Union or Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, the subparagraph (h) of the paragraph 4 states, "The person thus charged shall have the right to appeal or to be represented at the investigation of the charge and be given the chance to refute it."

As regards the matter in which the President impeaches a Region or State Chief Minister or a Minister, the subparagraph (d) of the paragraph 23 states, "The Region or State Chief Minister or Minister thus charged shall have the right to appeal or to be represented at the investigation of the charge and be given the chance to refute it."

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the matter "no right to exist" of a political party. The body having the authority to register political parties before revoking the registration of a party should make an accusation against the party only after presenting firm evidence. The party concerned should have the right to defend and appeal. The officials concerned should revoke the registration only after hearing the case thoroughly. We believe that there should be no lopsided charges against political parties. We would like to present a separate suggestion saying that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should enact laws and bylaws to observe the right of defence and the right of appeal of the political parties.

Mr Chairman,

The political parties have the duty to resolutely serve the interest of the nation and the people. The parties should have the capability to lead towards flourishing of genuine and disciplined democracy in the entire nation. The leaders of the parties should be the ones who are sincere and upright. As they also are human beings they may make mistakes in certain matters. The problems of the parties should be solved within the parties. Action should not be taken against any party leader or member for his mistakes directly by the authorities concerned. The authorities should make consultations with the steering groups of the party concerned and action should be taken against the leader or member for his error in accord with the rules and regulations of the party. The matter should be put into consideration when laws and bylaws concerning the parties are drafted.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should enact necessary laws for the political parties to prevent deviation when they carry out the leadership role. Hence, the point "The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties." should be adopted.

A collection of detailed basic principles that should be adopted are as follows:

- 1. Political parties set the objective — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.**
- 2. The Union Hluttaw shall designate and prescribe the qualifications of political parties.**
- 3. A political party shall:**
 - (a) **accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.**
 - (b) **abide by the Constitution and the existing laws.**
 - (c) **be legally registered as a political party.**
- 4. In accord with the law, a political party shall have the right to :**
 - (a) **organize freely;**
 - (b) **to stand for the elections.**
- 5. The continued existence of a political party shall not be permitted if —**
 - (a) **it has been declared as an unlawful association in accord with the existing law;**
 - (b) **it makes connections with or provides support and assistance to insurgent groups waging an armed rebellion against the State, organizations or persons the State has announced as the ones committing terrorist acts or organizations the State has declared unlawful;**

The incompetence of the administrative machinery will lead to jeopardizing the community peace and the rule of law. In such a situation, it is specially necessary for the President of the State to be empowered to exercise executive power to restore the rule of law and the community peace. It is not easy for the President to carry out the task alone. The power to do so should be vested in an organization formed with suitable persons of the respective regions or a suitable person to carry out the task on behalf of the President.

- (c) **it directly or indirectly receives financial, material and other assistance from the government or a religious organization, or any other organization or an individual person of a foreign country;**
- (d) **it abuses religion for political purpose.**

6. If the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party is connected with anyone of the points stated in the above-mentioned subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d), the party's registration shall be revoked.

7. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties.

Provisions on State of Emergency

I am U Tun Kyaw, an independent representative-elect of Namhsam Township constituency, Shan State (North).

Mr Chairman,

I will now explain the chapter "Provisions on a State of Emergency" based on the clarification made by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

According to the detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention, Regions and States and Self-Administered Areas will be designated and set up. The legislative, executive and judicial powers will also be shared with the Regions and States and Self-Administered Areas. In sharing the three powers, the constant running of the State administrative machinery is of vital importance. The administrative machinery will become ineffective because of the deficiencies and weaknesses of the administrative bodies.

The administrative machinery's failure to run in a normal situation is an ominous sign for the rule of law and community peace. In this situation, it is necessary for the President to declare a state of emergency to restore the situation in time. The act of declaring a state of emergency in an area is a very important task that needs extra care. The matter should not be decided by a single person. Failure to declare a state of emergency in time will lead the problem to spread to other areas till it becomes out of control. If necessary issuance of the declaration is delayed because of a heedless decision will harm the political, economic and social stability of the State. Hence, it will be more beneficial to the State if the President issued the declaration only after making due consideration with an organization or a person responsible for the nation's defence and security.

Mr Chairman,

The incompetence of the administrative machinery will lead to jeopardizing the community peace and the rule of law. In such a situation, it is specially necessary for the President of the State to be empowered to exercise executive power to restore the rule of law and the community peace. It is not easy for the President to carry out the task alone. The power to do so should be vested in an organization formed with suitable persons of the respective regions or a suitable person to carry out the task on behalf of the President.

It will be necessary for the President to exercise the legislative power of the Region or State or the Self-Administered Area in addition to exercising the executive power. The President should exercise the legislative power of the area which is in a state of emergency. But it should be the legislative power that concerns only the executive functions. In this matter, we assume that the President should exercise the legislative power by himself.

(See page 8)

In a drive for drawing a state...

(from page 7)

When there arises or there is sufficient reason to occur a state of emergency endangering life and property of the people in a Region or a State or a Self-Administered Area or in any part of them, the President after consulting with the National Defence and Security Council may declare a state of emergency to protect public lives and property and restore regional stability, community peace and the rule of law. If all the NDSC members are present at the meeting with the President, the declaration can be announced in time. But if not all the members of the National Defence and Security Council are present, the President instead of declaring a state of emergency after making coordination with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Home Affairs, should coordinate with all the NDSC members present at the meeting to announce the declaration. It will be more appropriate. The matter must be submitted to the NDSC soonest for approval.

Mr Chairman,

If the situation arising from the incompetence of the administrative machinery of an area is beyond the capacity of an organization or a person to restore stability and the administrative machinery back to normal, the local administrative bodies and civil bodies of the respective areas will surely need the Tatmadaw's assistance to safely discharge their administrative and judicial duties well. Martial law should be issued, if the measures being taken by the local administrative and civil bodies with the help of the Tatmadaw are ineffective and the danger is not dying down as it should be. The decree of martial law should include administrative powers and functions and judicial powers and functions of the administrative bodies.

The President in declaring a state of emergency or issuing martial law order he should issue an ordinance in line with the powers and functions vested in him. The ordinance issued by the President should include the fixed time and the specific area. If the President declares a state of emergency, the people of the inclusive area cannot enjoy all the rights ensured by the Constitution. Hence, a provision or more than one provision should be restricted during the time.

Mr Chairman,

The President should submit the ordinance to the nearest session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or should call the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if it is not in session for approval. Concerning the matter required time should be fixed.

Mr Chairman,

In declaring a state of emergency, an ordinance shall be issued when there is a need to take immediate action for the State. As the President promulgates the ordinance for immediate action for the State concerning a State of emergency, he should present it to the nearest session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within the fixed time. The ordinance after having been passed by the Hluttaw will have the force of law enacted by the Hluttaw. Such orders shall cease to have effect from the date on

If the situation arising from the incompetence of the administrative machinery of an area is beyond the capacity of an organization or a person to restore stability and the administrative machinery back to normal, the local administrative bodies and civil bodies of the respective areas will surely need the Tatmadaw's assistance to safely discharge their administrative and judicial duties well. Martial law should be issued, if the measures being taken by the local administrative and civil bodies with the help of the Tatmadaw are ineffective and the danger is not dying down as it should be.

which they are disapproved by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The power to issue an ordinance is vested in the President in accord with the rules. There shall be provisions stating the period in which the ordinance must be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the period during which an ordinance is still in force.

Mr Chairman,

In certain cases, the nation may lose sovereignty because of insurgency, unrest and terrorist acts it faces in a certain area or region or in the whole nation. And because of the insurgency, unrest and terrorist acts, the nation may face the danger of disintegration and disunity in which the nation totally lacks solidarity under an unruly situation. In such situation, the President should proclaim a State of emergency after consulting with the National Defence and Security Council. The proclamation shall stipulate the area that the ordinance is in force and its duration.

Mr Chairman,

The President in proclaiming the ordinance should transfer the State power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services to restore the national situation to normal soon and to act as necessary. The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services will be empowered to exercise all the powers and functions of the President, the Vice-President, members of the Union Government, members of the governments of Regions and States and the Self-Administered Areas beginning from the date the State power is transferred to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services automatically. To make things clearer, the detailed basic principle saying that the aforesaid bodies at all levels are terminated from their duties beginning from the date the State power is transferred to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services. But, it is suggested that the President who transfers the State power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and the Vice-Presidents should continue to remain in their same official positions without being terminated from active duty.

When the President transfers the State power to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the latter will have to enact necessary laws. The situation will be confusing if the respective Hluttaw also have the power to enact laws. Hence, the President should cease the power to enact laws of those Hluttaws at the time when the President has empowered the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to exercise the State power.

Mr Chairman,

A detailed basic principle saying that the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in exercising the State power shall empower a suitable organization or a suitable person to exercise the executive and judicial powers should be adopted.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, as he is going to strive to the best of his ability to restore national peace and stability and safeguard sovereignty can have the power to restrict a provision or provisions concerning the fundamental rights of citizens to a certain degree.

Mr Chairman,

The President should submit the matter concerning the empowerment of State power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if it is in session and convene an emergency session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to present the matters if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not in session. For the matter concerning the extension of the period, he should convene an emergency session to submit the matter to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. But the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not enough. As it is a matter of transferring the State power, it is assumed that it will be appropriate only if the President submit a separate report concerning the matter.

The President should normally extend the period to six months at a time for two terms if the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services presents a submission giving reasonable fact to him to extend the period if the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services has not yet accomplished his duties assigned to him. Concerning the matter, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw emergency session shall be called.

Mr Chairman,

The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services after accomplishing the functions empowered to him by

the President should forward a report concerning his accomplished tasks to the President. The President after receiving the report will have to revoke the ordinance to transfer State power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services. There will be no constitutional disputes in the future only if the said dates to revoke the ordinance are fixed precisely.

As all the ministers of the Union Government and members of the leading bodies of Region and States and Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones, except the President and Vice-Presidents, are terminated from their duties beginning from the date the State power is transferred to the Commander-in-Chief. Hence, the President will have to re-constitute all the levels of the State administrative machinery in accordance with the Constitution. The President should revoke the suspension of legislative functions of all the Hluttaws and leading bodies if the term of the Hluttaw has not ended yet. The President shall assign them to carry out their legislative duties. The Hluttaws after the end of their tenure automatically ceases to exist. Although the term of the Hluttaws has ended, the Commander-in-Chief will exercise the three organs of power in accord with the Constitution. Here, an organization to help him and safeguard the nation is required. The National Defence and Security Council should be empowered to safeguard the nation and help the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief in exercising the State power will have to consult with the NDSC to achieve greater success in his functions. In addition to the President and the Vice-President, the Speaker elected by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Speaker elected by the Amyotha Hluttaw also should be members in the NDSC. Even though the terms of Hluttaws have ended, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Speaker elected by the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker elected by the Amyotha Hluttaw should stay in power till the new President, the new Vice-Presidents, the new Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the new Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw have been elected in accord with the Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

A detailed principle — The National Defence and Security Council should normally extend the period to six months at a time for two terms if the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services presents a reasonable submission to extend the period as the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services has not yet accomplished his duty assigned to him — should be adopted.

Another detailed basic principle — In connection with the matter of transferring the State power to the Commander-in-Chief by the President after declaring a State of emergency, the National Defence and Security Council shall, after receiving the report on the completion of the functions of the Commander-in-Chief shall, declare to annul the order empowering the Commander-in-Chief to exercise State power — should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

The President after annulling the order to empower the Commander-in-Chief to exercise the State power will have to hold a general election during the fixed period beginning from the date he abrogates the order. A new President should be elected in accord with the Constitution. The President should form the National Defence and Security Council and should empower it to exercise the State power during the interim period when the new President has not been elected yet. The legislative, executive and judicial sectors of the State will be able to run as usual only if the NDSC heads the nation during the interim period. And only then will the nation be able to enjoy peace, stability and progress. The NDSC should empower a suitable organization or a suitable person to exercise the executive and judicial powers at Union, Region, State, Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zone levels during the interim period.

Mr Chairman,

In exercising the State power, the NDSC should form administrative bodies at different levels, leading bodies of Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones and the Pyidaungsu Election Commission with suitable persons whose qualifications meet the stipulations contained in the Constitution and assign duties to them to run the State machinery as usual.

(See page 9)

Myanmar, along with...

(from page 1)
commitments to this goal and have been seriously implementing activities in achieving the goal. Thus, it is very appropriate that the theme for this year's World AIDS Campaign has been re-selected as "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise".

As in countries around the world, HIV-AIDS is a disease of "National Concern" and one of the priority diseases in Myanmar.

The Government of Myanmar has been systematically implementing short-term and long-term

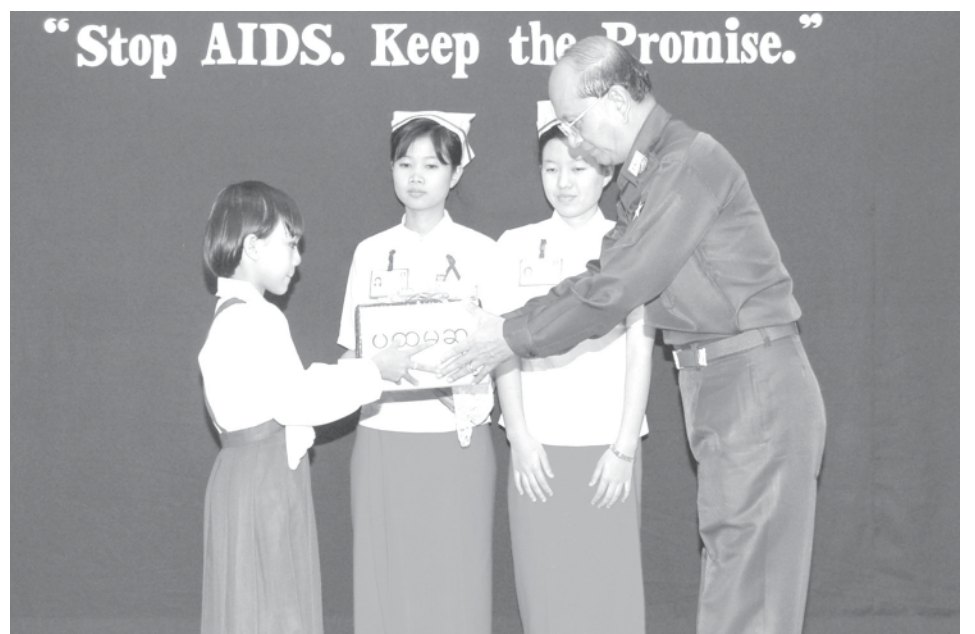
National Health Plans with the aim to uplift the health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, and for the socio-economic development and national development of the country.

With the National Health Plan, it aims for the provision of quality health care and promoting the coverage of such services, uplifting the health care services at rural areas, and prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Prevention and control activities for the

diseases, such as Polio, Small Pox, Leprosy, Iodine Deficiency Disorder, TB, Malaria, and HIV and AIDS, have been implemented with the national cause in collaboration and partnership with other countries, UN agencies, and National and International NGOs. Thus, some of the diseases had been already eradicated, and some become no longer public health problems.

In responding to HIV and AIDS as disease of national concern, a multisectoral and policy making body, the National AIDS Committee, was formed under the



Secretary-I Lt-Gen Thein Sein awards prize to Ma Khaing May Thu, who stood first in Basic Education Level Painting Contest.—MNA

guidance of National Health Committee since 1989. National AIDS Committee has member-

ships from the representatives from Ministry of Health, related ministries and local NGOs. A working committee was also formed under the National AIDS Committee.

Similarly, AIDS Committees were formed at the various administrative levels: State and Division, District and Township, to guide and coordinate the prevention and control efforts in respective levels. In addition, a coordination body for AIDS, TB and Malaria, the top priority diseases in the country, was also formed in 2006 with the membership of representatives from the Ministry of Health, related ministries, UN agencies, National and International NGOs, and

civil societies in order to coordinate the responses to these diseases.

The National AIDS Control Programme, under the guidance of Department of Health, Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Committee, had laid down ten major activities in response to HIV and AIDS. The activities are being implemented in partnership with related ministries, UN agencies, National and International NGOs, civil societies, and communities. Advocacy meetings were conducted with the authorities, partners and communities of various levels. Health education activities are also conducted across the nation so as to increase the (See page 10)



Secretary-I Lt-Gen Thein Sein and guests view an educative booth to mark World AIDS Day for 2006.—MNA

In a drive for drawing a state...

(from page 8)

It will be necessary to form the leading bodies of the Regions, States, Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The only method to do so is to make preparations to hold a general election. The period to hold the general election should begin from the date the order to transfer State power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, is annulled. To run the State administrative machinery normally, the NDSC will have to assign duties to constitutional bodies. They should continue their functions till legislative, executive and judicial bodies have been formed according to the Constitution after the election. As the Head of State is the President, the NDSC is exercising the sovereign power of the State on behalf of the President.

Mr Chairman,

During the period of the declaration of a state of emergency or during the time the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, is provisionally exercising the State power or during the time the NDSC is provisionally exercising the State power, the measures taken by the military bodies and civil administrative bodies and the military and civil personnel on behalf of the President or the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, or the NDSC should be legitimate. A detailed basic principle — During the time a state of emergency has been declared, the measures taken officially by a local administrative body or a member of the body, or a civil

body or a member of the body, or a military body or a member of the body, formed in order to take measures to restore security, stability, community peace and the rule of law soon on behalf of the President or during the period the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, is exercising the State power or during the period the National Defence and Security Council is exercising the State power, shall be legitimate — should be adopted.

The detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

When there arises or there is sufficient reason to occur a state of emergency endangering life and property of the people in a Region or a State or a Self-Administered Area or in any part of them, the President after consulting with the National Defence and Security Council may issue an order having the force of law to declare a state of emergency.

If not all the members of the National Defence and Security Council can attend the meeting in which the President consults with the National Defence and Security Council, it will be more appropriate if the President should declare a state of emergency in time after coordinating with the members who are present at the meeting, except from the members who are absent due to unavoidable circumstances instead of coordinating with the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Home Affairs who are the NDSC members.

We would like to suggest that the subpara (b) of the

para 3 should be amended as follows:

If not all the members of the National Defence and Security Council can attend the meeting in which the President consults with the National Defence and Security Council, it will be more appropriate if the President should declare a state of emergency in time after coordinating with the members who are present at the meeting, except from the members who are absent due to unavoidable circumstances. The declaration shall be submitted to the National Defence and Security Council soonest for approval.

Mr Chairman,

Because of the abuse of the constitution at will during the parliamentary era, the law began to lose force and the national solidarity was harmed. The Constitution was gradually ignored during the single party era. People lost legal rights during the eras and their sufferings were unforgettable. There should be harmony between theory and practice in exercising the Constitution. The nation will be away from success if there is disagreement between theory and practice. All must be aware of the fact that there must be harmony between theory and practice.

All should guard against abusing the Constitution for self-interest; for interest of individual organization, group, class or race; for the clever persons from bullying sincere persons; interpretation of the stipulations for self-interest; having disregard for the law though various excuses; attempts to weaken the effectiveness of the law. Moreover, all should strive to maintain the effectiveness of the Constitution. — MNA

Myanmar, along with...

(from page 9)

knowledge related to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support among the population. As for the prevention of HIV transmission through sexual means, 100% targeted condom promotion programmes is being implemented in 165 townships, and health care providers have been providing such services to those needed.

try.

The activities included in the response to HIV and AIDS in Myanmar include behavior changed communication targeting both general population as well as vulnerable populations, provision of treatment including Anti-retroviral treatment and treatment for opportunistic infections such as TB, and provision of commu-

veloped by the lead initiatives of the National AIDS Control Programme, and with the participation and inclusiveness of related Ministries, National and international NGOs, UN agencies, Community Based Organizations, and people living with HIV and AIDS. The newly drawn strategic plan has identified 13 strategic directions in response to HIV and AIDS in Myanmar. Plans have



President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win awards prize to Ma Su Hlaing Tun, who won consolation prize in Basic Education Middle School Level Cartoon Contest to mark World AIDS Day.—MNA

Activities have been also conducted on the prevention of transmission of HIV through injecting drug use and nationwide provision of safe blood supply. Besides, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV activities have been implementing in 89 townships as well as 29 general hospitals.

Moreover, care and support activities for people living with HIV and with AIDS, special programme activities, and monitoring and supervision are also being implemented in the coun-

nity home based care for the persons infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Thus, it can be said that HIV and AIDS response in Myanmar is a comprehensive one.

As the result of active collaboration and partnership among the stockholders in response to HIV and AIDS in the country, a National Strategic Plan for the 2006 through 2010 was successfully finalized and approved by the Ministry of Health, It is one of the remarkable achievements in the response.

The plan was de-

veloped to implement National Strategic Plan and its operational plan using, "Three Diseases Fund": the fund that addresses AIDS, TB and Malaria. Ongoing activities will be implemented with Bridging Fund.

With regards to care and support for the people living with HIV and AIDS and their families, counseling services have been provided to them as part of psychosocial support. Voluntary confidential counseling and testing services and Anti-Retroviral Therapy for AIDS patients have also been provided. These services will be scaled up in the coming year by expanding beyond the high transmission areas.

Community home based care activities that conducted in various townships by Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Associa-



Chairperson Mr Daniel B Baker of UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS reads out the message from UNAIDS. MNA



President of MAAF Daw Than Than Nwe presents prize to Maung Tint Wai Oo, who stood third in Basic Education Middle School Level Cartoon Contest marking World AIDS Day.—MNA

tion, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Myanmar Nurse Association highlight the ability of NGOs and community based organizations in sharing the responsibility in response to HIV and AIDS. Ministry of Health will continue in providing technical support to these National Non-Government Organizations to sustain and expand such activities in the country.

Since the impact of HIV goes beyond health sector, various relevant ministries under

and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association have also collaborated with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addressing the issue of HIV vulnerability of women. Like skill trainings and income generation activities were provided to improve the living standard of women. Various approaches have been used to improve the education, health and social status of women, to prevent women from human trafficking, and also to provide a wide range of

care and support activities for the trafficked victims.

Such activities also have impacts on HIV prevention, care and support among women.

As partnership development and multisectoral response plays important role in the effective response to HIV, 18 local NGOs, 17 international NGOs, 7 United Nations Organizations and one bilateral organization are actively collaborating with the Ministry of Health (See page 11)

Since the impact of HIV goes beyond health sector, various relevant ministries under the government have participated in the response to HIV and AIDS.

Terrorist insurgent SSA (Ywetsit) group kills innocent villagers in Mongkai Township

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Terrorist insurgent SSA (Ywetsit) group is undermining stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and bullying local people and committing terrorist acts using various means.

On 19 and 20 November, about ten terrorists led by San Pha of terrorist insurgent SSA (Ywetsit) group seized Aik Swe, 28, son of U Aik Hla of Monghan Village, Mongkai Township, Pe Ti, 29, son of U Sai Lon and Aik Pan, 31, son of U Sai Khay of Yanlwe Village, Aik Pa, 36, of Wankat Village and Khin Maung, 36, son of U Lon Pu of Konsat Village. They were taken to the forest and shot dead.

As soon as regional Tatmadaw columns learned the news, they are in hot pursuit of the terrorists.—MNA

Myanmar, along with...

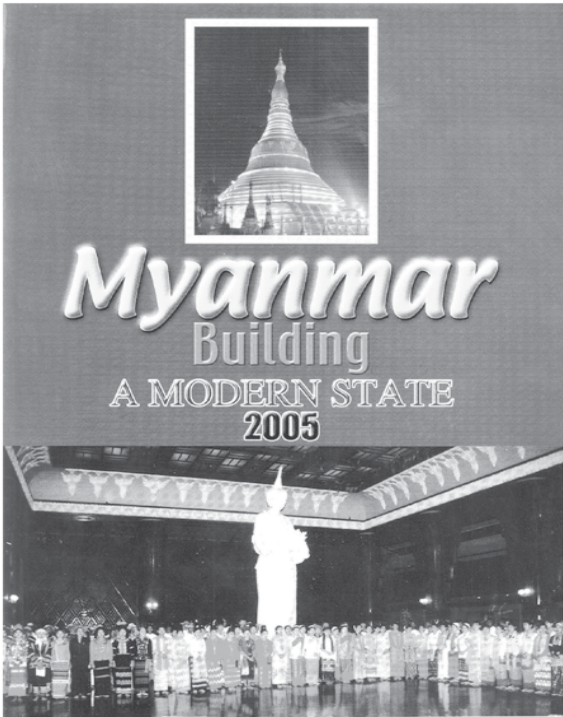
(from page 10)
 in responding to HIV and AIDS in the country. Moreover, being a member nation of ASEAN, we are also actively participating in the ASEAN work programme on HIV and AIDS, Mekong regional HIV and AIDS projects. In addition, being a member of United Nations, Myanmar has been actively participating in the global and regional activities initiated by various UN organizations. Besides, cross border HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support activities are also carrying out as bilateral activities with the neighbouring countries such as Thailand and China. The issue of TB and HIV has also dealt with the special project approach.

By addressing HIV and AIDS problem with such a multisectoral and multifaceted response, it has been observed that HIV prevalence in Myanmar has declined since 2000 and the adult HIV prevalence was reduced to 1.3% in 2006 from 1.5 % in 2000. It is

the un-refutable truth that such an achievement is due to the Government's political commitment and support, the appropriateness and relevance of the National Health Plans, and the multisectoral response from the entire community.

While successful achievements have been made by the Government of Union of Myanmar in responding to HIV and AIDS in the country as well as in actively participating in the regional and international efforts, the destructive elements inside and outside the country have made false accusations that HIV/AIDS problems is growing irrationally in the country. Since they don't want the positive developments in Myanmar, the destructive elements have made such accusations so as to diminish the dignity of the country and to minimize the effects by the government and NGOs in response to HIV and AIDS.

Interfering and disturbing the government's and NGO's efforts in pre-



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vention, treatment, and care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS by adding the political agenda in the response, blocking the international assistance and taking a political advantage with anti-government outlook on social works that are humanitarian in nature, all of these can end in negative consequences and loses not only to the people of Myanmar, but also

to the whole world.
 For the benefit of its citizens and for the mankind, the Government of Myanmar, along with international societies, is determined to face with and to overcome upon all the obstacles and interferences in responding to HIV and AIDS so as to have HIV free Myanmar, and also HIV free world.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to partner countries, UN organizations, and local and international NGOs that have contributed in the national response to HIV in Myanmar with resources, manpower, and technical assistance through kindness and humanitarian spirits. I would also like to inform you all that Myanmar will continue its active participation in HIV response.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you all to escalate our collective and concerted efforts in response to HIV and AIDS so that our noble objective: to further reduce HIV

transmission in the country, to get more access to care and treatment services by the people living with HIV and AIDS and their family members, and to reduce impacts related to HIV and AIDS, become not just a plan but can be visualized.

Chairperson Mr Daniel B Baker of UN Theme Group on HIV/

AIDS read the message of UNAIDS programme. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented first prizes to the winners in the essay, cartoon and painting contests Programme.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint also gave second prizes to the winners in the contest.

MNA

By addressing HIV and AIDS problem with such a multisectoral and multifaceted response, it has been observed that HIV prevalence in Myanmar has declined since 2000 and the adult HIV prevalence was reduced to 1.3% in 2006 from 1.5 % in 2000.



Staff members taking part in December Mass Sports Activity for 2006 in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday. (News on Page 16) —MNA

Britain targets S Asians' high rate of heart attacks

LONDON, 1 Dec — The high death rate from heart disease among South Asians in Britain could be slashed if people sought emergency treatment immediately they experienced chest pains, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) said on Thursday.

South Asians in Britain have a 40-50-per-cent higher death rate from heart disease than the general population, according to the foundation's latest statistics.

To counter the problem, the BHF launched a new

phase of its "Doubt Kills" campaign specifically targeted at the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, urging people not to delay calling 999. Evidence suggests people of all ethnic groups in Britain take an average 90 minutes to call for emergency help.

The campaign will include TV and radio ads in Hindustani and Bengali and print adverts in Bengali, Urdu, Gujarati and Punjabi. "Most people in Britain are not good at recognizing when they are having a

heart attack and taking swift action by calling 999, because they too often doubt the seriousness of the situation, or delay because they don't want to make a fuss," said Dr Sandy Gupta.

"From my experience, South Asians, particularly older people, can be even less willing to call 999," added the consultant cardiologist and chairman of the BHF's Strategy Committee on Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in Ethnic Minorities.

MNA/Reuters



Models present outfits by Indian designer Manish Malhotra during a fashion show in New Delhi on 30 Nov, 2006. —INTERNET

Scenes inside Mandalay Jail

Reporter Sinku Soe Win

I arrived in Mandalay from Yangon by car on 22 November. The next morning I called on my friend, Deputy Director U Tha Oo at Mandalay Central Jail. During my visit, I was invited to look around the jail and meet those to be released shortly. I learnt that as described in my article about Insein Jail entitled "One and all to go see for themselves" carried in the 20-11-2006 issue of Kyemon Daily, Mandalay Jail was providing adequate

treatment after the men inmates; that if one reports to officials concerned on his ill health, he is given medical treatment immediately; that serious cases are transferred to Mandalay General Hospital for treatment; if necessary the patients are given treatment at private hospitals; and that some patients are provided with medicines donated by Central Medical Store of the Ministry of Health and the Prisons Department. In some cases, inmates receive

inmates. Those who are illiterate have to engage in chopping wood, producing briquettes, making joss sticks and knitting.

Those who are skilled in machines, watch repairing, painting, sculpture, making furniture, motorcycle repairing, tailoring and weaving have to work at the respective tasks according to their skills.

A jail is not simply a place for those who are harmless and innocent. Although the condition of a jail is in good position the inmates could not be exposed to outside environment at night as they had to sleep in the wards. They could not have contact with outsiders fully. All the inmates who are serving prison terms at the respective jails are not all the notorious ones such as robbers and thieves. But they ended up in jail for whatever reasons they have to work in prison according to rules and regulations of the Prisons Department.

As inmates of jails and work sites of the Prisons Department are fed meals three times a day—boiled rice for breakfast, rice for both lunch and dinner, some 1000 bags of rice have to be used daily. As they are provided with meat two times a week, some 3000 viss of meat have to be used for one meal. And some 5,000 eggs have to be used for one meal for inmates who do not eat meat. One can ponder how much the government has spent on feeding the inmates.

The government has borne the cost of medical charges for patient inmates who were admitted to hospitals. Milk and medicine are also provided.

Now, inmates are being given vocational training so that they can earn their living correctly when they have completed their terms.

Altogether 19 farming works are being run by prisons. They have been able to generate over K 30 million income in over three months.

Wellwisher U Aung Myat donated a large amount of cash for building a water purifying plant and toilets at the Mandalay Jail for prisoners, visitors of prisoners and family members of the Prisons Department.

It is required for all not to assume that the life of inmates is repulsive and tough. They are just serving prison terms with their sweat owing to their past causes and misdeeds in present life.

Thanks to the goodwill of the State plus the supervision and assistance of officials at different levels of the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs all the necessary requirements including the food, clothing and shelter needs and medical expenses are being provided for the inmates.

(Translation: ST+TS)
Myanma Alin: 2-12-2006



The children of the women inmates pursue their education.

food for the inmates, the jail looked clean and tidy, and a water purifying plant was to be built soon.

No sooner had I passed the gate of the jail than I was impressed by its scenes. In front of the men's workshop lies an ancient glittering pagoda named Maunghsaung. I saw the women inmates at work doing their jobs such as making joss sticks, tailoring, embroidering, producing briquettes, weaving the strings of alms bowls and making slippers. And this will help them earn their living when they are out of jail.

As I heard some women and children reading something aloud upstairs, I went up and saw them memorizing the Thirty-Eight Blessings. I felt sad when I saw the 13 young children who had to be taken along with their mothers serving prison terms being taught rudiments of Myanmar language. The pity is that those children may never have seen toys nor enjoyed various kinds of snacks. Although their standard of living seems to be low because of their mothers' misdeeds and ignorance, they have now a good opportunity to receive an education thanks to the changing Myanmar jails. These are indeed the symbol of progress for the State and the people. The system of outsourcing is being practised at worksites for embroidering as well as slippers-making, joss sticks-making and tailoring. Making joss sticks requires a strong workforce, so women as well as men inmates are working there. Doing such kinds of jobs will make it possible for the inmates to earn their living in an honest way when they are released from jail.

Then I visited the men's ward where the doctor in charge Dr U Saw Lwin said the physicians, surgeons, orthopedists, pediatricians and psychiatrists of Mandalay General Hospital provided medical treatment for the inmates once a week. He also explained that traditional medical practitioners visited the jail to provide free medical treatment for the prisoners. I myself witnessed the physicians of Mandalay General Hospital and assistant traditional medical practitioner Daw Su Yamin giving treatment and donating traditional medicines to the men inmates. I learnt from Dr U Saw Lwin that the women inmates were given

treatment under cost-sharing basis. He also explained some inmates were found to be infected with HIV at the time of their arrival in prison and some were found to be HIV positive when they had served their prison terms for about six years due to their self-indulgence when they were outside.

Afterwards, I visited the men's workshops. There the men prisoners were doing their jobs such as assembling motor vehicles, making furniture, tailoring, repairing electrical appliances and drawing paintings and carving.

The inmates are working efficiently at the automobile assembling workshop. They are engaged in repairing of vehicles such as cutting off iron plates, car body work, welding, painting, installation of parts of vehicle, fixing of machine parts and wires. A jeep being repaired by the inmates was seen there. A motorcycle was also under repair. Similarly, some inmates are found to be engaged in furniture work, tailoring, producing briquettes, making joss sticks, knitting and weaving. Some inmates are working hard as they earned according to the output. Those who did not work outside had to do jobs according to their vocational skills when they became



The women inmates in Mandalay Jail are making joss sticks.

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A robot archaeologist is to be sent deep inside Egypt's Cheops Pyramid at Giza plateau south of Cairo in a bid to solve secrets revealed by a first foray more than four years ago on Friday. "The new robot will be sent down very narrow passages in the so-called Queen's Chamber, where the first robot was sent in 2002," said Hawass, who heads Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.—XINHUA

Piranha among 13 new species of Venezuelan fish

OSLO, 1 Dec — Scientists have found a new type of piranha and a ray among 13 new species of freshwater fish in an area of Venezuela where pollution from gold mines is emerging as a threat, a conservationist said on Thursday.

"There was a very high diversity of life," said LeeAnne Alonso, a director of Washington-based Conservation International, of a three-week survey of wildlife at the confluence of the Orinoco and Ventuari rivers.

Among 13 species of fish believed to be new to science were a ray, a miniature catfish and a type of meat-eating piranha. The scientists also found a small type of shrimp, also pre-

viously undocumented. "The region is still very pristine but we want to ensure protection before it's too late," Alonso told Reuters. Conservation International is a non-profit group seeking to protect the diversity of life on the planet.

"The main threat is the illegal gold mining," she said. Gold mining uses polluting mercury to help flush out gold, and some fish studied had higher than normal amounts of mercury in their flesh.

MNA/Reuters



Chopard Hong Kong and British Gorkhas compete for the ball during the semi-finals of the World Elephant Polo competition at Meghuli Forest in south Nepal on 30 Nov, 2006. The Hong Kong team beat the Gorkhas 4-3 in a sudden death shoot-out.—INTERNET

Taxi drivers join Beijing's fight against AIDS

BEIJING, 1 Dec — Five thousand taxi drivers will contribute to Beijing's fight against HIV/AIDS by raising awareness among passengers, a health official said here on Thursday.

Drivers from 15 taxi companies will dish out HIV/AIDS info cards to passengers in the first ten days of December, said Beijing Health Bureau director Jin Dapeng at a ceremony marking World AIDS Day that falls on

Friday. The move is aimed at helping Beijingers know more about AIDS and to persuade them to treat people living with HIV/AIDS in a humane manner.

Beijing has reported 633 new HIV cases so far this year, including 130 local residents, 491 migrant workers and 12 foreigners, said Jin. With the 679 new HIV cases recorded in 2005, the capital now has a total of 3,462 cases.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish poet Gamoneda wins 2006 Cervantes Prize

MASRID, 1 Dec — Spanish poet Antonio Gamoneda has won the 2006 Cervantes Prize, the top literary award for Spanish-language literature, Spanish Minister of Culture Carmen Calvo said on Thursday.

Founded in 1976 by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the Cervantes Prize, carrying a 90,180 euros (108,000 US dollars) cash award, is presented to the writer whose Castilian language work as a whole is judged to have most enriched the Spanish literary canon.

On Thursday, Gamoneda also received the Queen Sofia Ibero-Americana Poetry Prize at a ceremony in Madrid's Royal Palace. It had been "an overwhelming day for me", he said. — MNA/Xinhua

British cosmologist says humans must colonize other planets

LONDON, 1 Dec — Humans must colonize planets in other solar systems travelling there using "Star Trek"-style propulsion or face extinction, renowned British cosmologist Stephen Hawking said on Thursday.

Referring to complex theories and the speed of light, Hawking, the wheelchair bound Cambridge University physicist, told BBC radio that theoretical advances could revolutionize the velocity of space travel and make such colonies possible.

"Sooner or later disasters such as an asteroid collision or a nuclear war could wipe us all out," said Professor Hawking, who was crippled by a muscle disease at the age of 21 and who speaks through a computerized voice synthesizer.

"But once we spread out into space and establish

independent colonies, our future should be safe," said Hawking, who was due to receive the world's oldest award for scientific achievement, the Copley medal, from Britain's Royal Society on Thursday.

Previous winners include Albert Einstein and Charles Darwin. In order to survive, humanity would have to venture off to other hospitable planets orbiting another star, but conventional chemical fuel rockets that took man to the moon on the Apollo mission would take 50,000 years to travel there, he said.

Hawking, a 64-year-old father of three who rarely

gives interviews and who wrote the best-selling A Brief History of Time, suggested propulsion like that used by the fictional starship Enterprise "to boldly go where no man has gone before" could help solve the problem.

"Science fiction has developed the idea of warp drive, which takes you instantly to your destination," he said. "Unfortunately, this would violate the scientific law which says that nothing can travel faster than light."

However, by using "matter/anti-matter annihilation", velocities just below the speed of light

could be reached, making it possible to reach the next star in about six years. "It wouldn't seem so long for those on board," he said. The scientist revealed he also wanted to try out space travel himself, albeit by more conventional means.

"I am not afraid of death but I'm in no hurry to die. My next goal is to go into space," said Hawking.

And referring to the British entrepreneur and Virgin tycoon who has set up a travel agency to take private individuals on space flights from 2008, Hawking said: "Maybe Richard Branson will help me."

MNA/Reuters



People fly balloons printed with red ribbons in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 1 Dec, 2006. Activities to raise public awareness of AIDS prevention were held in Indonesia on 1 Dec, the World AIDS Day. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Pigi projection makes dazzling opening ceremony in Doha

DOHA, 2 Dec— With astonishing images like rolling waves, maps and carpet on the ground, the PIGI projections made the opening ceremony of the 15th Asian Games more colourful here on Friday.

The PIGI also set a record by using 44 projections of the kind, the largest number ever used in this way in a live stadium show. The entire system is controlled by one computer and synchronized to the soundtrack.

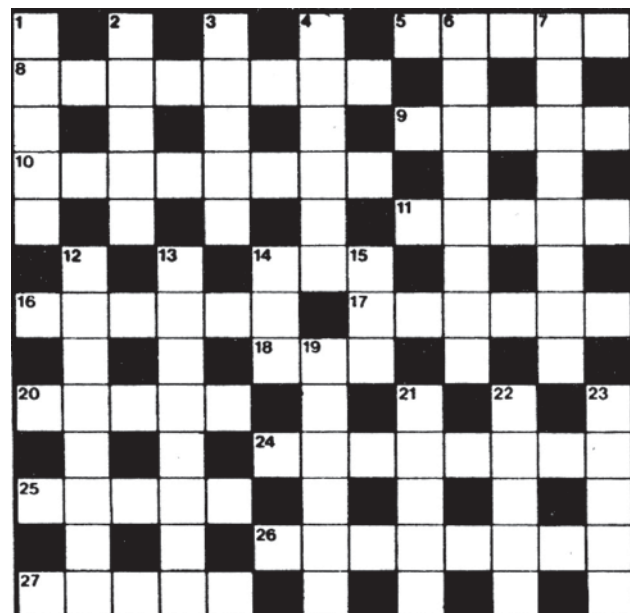
As director David Atkins promised on Tuesday that many high-tech elements would be used during the performance of opening ceremony, the PIGI projection played the most of the eye-taking role of the scientific miracles.—MNA/Xinhua

China looks for podium finish in Asiad soft tennis

DOHA, 2 Dec— With about 100 people playing soft tennis in China, the Asian sports giant has to make bricks without straw at the Doha Asian Games, just hoping for a medal of any tint from the soft tennis courts. "We only have about 100 people to play soft tennis in China, most of them are college students," said Bin Zhou, coach of the Chinese women team, at the Khalifa Soft Tennis Courts here on Friday.

"For the Doha Asiad, we sent in seven players. Five of them are from colleges, and they will retire soon after they graduate." China has geared up in the past two years to promote the sport in the country, with high schools and colleges as its priority. And the sport's national governing body also set up a training base for about half a year, inviting Japanese coaches and players for their expertise.—MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Came to know
- 8 Intuition
- 9 Jollification
- 10 Custom
- 11 Sullen look
- 14 Head covering
- 16 Tiny
- 17 Slice of bacon
- 18 Hawthorn
- 20 Simpleton
- 24 Brown sugar
- 25 Ermine
- 26 Traitor
- 27 2nd Dragoons

DOWN

- 1 Chillingly cold
- 2 Hollywood award
- 3 Laughter
- 4 Wattle
- 6 e.g. Jogging
- 7 Famous
- 12 Malign
- 13 Dilemma
- 14 Border
- 15 Essay
- 19 Tree-lined road
- 21 Banquet
- 22 Unspoken
- 23 Measure

Asian games off to spectacular start in Doha

DOHA, 2 Dec— Doha opened the 15th Asian Games in a spectacular opening ceremony which showed Asia's rich cultures and delivered a message of peace on Friday.

Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, declared the Arab region's first Asian Games open

during a 150-minute, multi-million dollar extravaganza.

Athletes and officials, escorted by women in traditional long robes and headscarfs, streamed into the Khalifa Stadium, with Afghanistan first appearing, followed by countries and regions in English alphabetical order.

China, which sent the largest delegation with 647 athletes, marched in under the flag hoisted by badminton star Bao Chunlai.

DPR Korea and South Korea joined hands under a blue and white unification flag showing the Korean Peninsula, which is the eighth time that two sides have paraded together in an international sports meet.

The parades were rounded off by Qatar, which won a standing ovation from a packed crowd of 40,000.

The ceremony started with hundreds of men in white thobes and white gutrahs forming the phrase "Peace Be Upon You" with sparkling fireworks in hands.

The spectators and a television audience of 3 billion were treated with a colourful and high-tech performance, which featured an ancient Qatari who searched for treasures and discovered other parts of Asia with the help of an astrolabe. He returned with riches and handed down not only the astrolabe, but also his respect for knowledge and their own culture.

MNA/Xinhua



Lin Dan of China returns a shot against India during the men's team League Stage Pool A of Doha Asiad badminton at Aspire Hall 3 in Doha, on 30 Nov, 2006. China won 5-0.—XINHUA

Japan aims to defend men's team title at Asiad tennis

DOHA, 2 Dec— Japanese tennis head coach Minoru Ueda said on Friday that they expected to defend the title at the men's team event at the 15th Asian Games in Doha.

"We aim for the gold medal in the men's team, but the level of Asian tennis improved so it will be tough. We will just try to play well," said Minoru on Friday at the Khalifa Tennis Courts. "Tennis is a game in which you can't say that you will win or lose".

In the Busan Asian Games four years ago, Japan beat hosts South Korea to win the title at the men's team event.

"We feel no pressure (being the defending champion). We are always a challenger and we look forward to the tournament."—MNA/Xinhua

Asian media says best show ever in games history

DOHA, 2 Dec— Arch-shaped screen, fireworks, unbelievable lighting and fascinating performance. The 15th Asian Games opening ceremony was a spectacular show of culture and dazzling effects, which led many Asian reporters to believe that it was the best opening ceremony in the past ten years and the best ever in the Asian Games history.

Capacity spectators of 40,000 were entertained on Friday by a performance using cutting-edge technology, telling a story about how an Ancient Qatari, named the Seeker, searched for treasures and found other parts of Asia with the help of an astrolabe. He returned with richness and handed down not only the astrolabe, but also his respect for knowledge and their own culture.

"It tells a good story, it introduces the history of Qatar in an extraordinary way," said Anamuthan Alagapan, a veteran photographer from Malaysia TV at the show.

"It was really amazing and you have to believe it. I've been in this line for 24 years and I have been to three Olympic Games before. I am sure this one is the best one. And this must be the best one in Asian Games history. "I photographed the eagle, the petroleum, the astrolabe and lighting the torch on a horse, they are all fantastic, great."

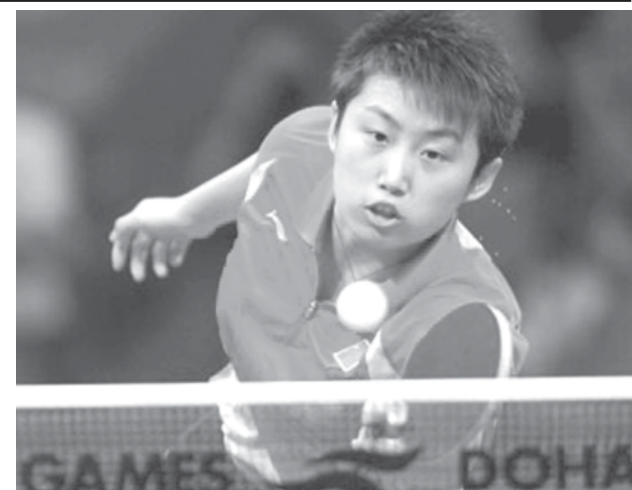
The ceremony involved an extensive use of different visual elements, like PIGI projections, AV projections and imagery on the LED screen. Sensitive as well as dramatic lighting linked these disparate elements into one picture. And the ceremony uses a broad range of lighting equipments all of them are latest technology.—MNA/Xinhua

Blatter says China can bid for 2018 World Cup

DOHA, 2 Dec— World soccer governing body FIFA president Joseph Blatter said here Friday that bidding for the World Cup 2018 is open to China and all other Asian countries.

"The bid for World Cup 2018 is not open yet. But under the rotation system, China have the chance to bid for the hosting rights of the World Cup," said Blatter, who is here to attend the opening ceremony of the Doha Asian Games this evening.

"The World Cup 2002 was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan, and for 2006 it was held in Germany. South Africa will host the 2010 World Cup. And 2014 will be a South American country to hold the World Cup."—MNA/Xinhua



China's Guo Yue returns a shot against Fukuhara Ai during the women's team quarterfinal Group of Table tennis at Al-Arabi Indoor Hall in Doha, capital of Qatar, on 30 Nov, 2006. Guo Yue won 3-1 and China won 3-0 to advance into the semifinals.—XINHUA

Three year free wireless Internet service to start in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec— The free wireless broadband Internet service will be available at public areas islandwide in Singapore from 1 December, a month ahead of schedule.

Singapore's Infocomm Development Authority will also extend the free Wireless@SG programme for three years, one year longer than announced previously, Channel NewsAsia said on Thursday.

With this free service, the number of Internet users in Singapore is expected to grow to about 250,000 in two years.

The report said to log on to the free service, users need only register at the website of any of the three operators—iCell Network, QMax Communications or Singtel.

Then users can surf for free online from notebook PC, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or mobile phone at downtown areas, major town centres, libraries, country clubs and shopping malls.

There are currently 900 hotspots across the island and this number is

set to increase to 5,000 by September next year.

MNA/Ximhwa



A young American bison lies next to an adult bison at Buenos Aires' zoo on 30 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

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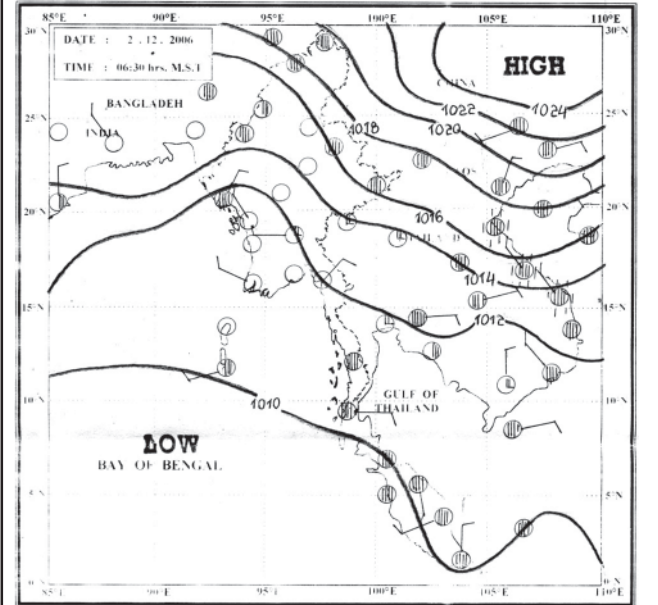
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နိုင်ငံခြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အသက် (၈၄) နှစ်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ လှိုင်မြို့နယ်၊ (၁၀) ရပ်ကွက်၊ အမှတ် ၅(၆)၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ (၆) ဝိုင်နေ (ဦးလတ်+အိမ်နိ) တို့၏သား၊ (ဦးစိန်ခိုင်+အိမ်ခင်သန်း) တို့၏ သားသမက်၊ အိမ်ခင်သိန်းခိုင်၏ ခင်ပွန်း၊ ဒေါက်တာ ဝင်းမော်ထွန်း (သုတေသနမှူး၊ ဆေးသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန၊ အောက်မြန်မာပြည်) + ဒေါက်တာ လှိုင်မြတ်သူ (ဒုတိယဥက္ကဋ္ဌကြီးရေးမှူး၊ ဆေးသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန၊ အောက်မြန်မာပြည်) တို့၏မခင်၊ မလှိုင်ဝင်းသော်တာ (GRADE 10 (H) T.T.C) ၏ အဘိုးသည် (၁-၁၂-၂၀၀၆) ရက် (သောကြာနေ့) နံနက် (၀၈:၃၀) နာရီတွင် အာရှ တော်ဝင်ဆေးခန်း၌ ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါ၍ (၃-၁၂-၂၀၀၆)ရက် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် (၁၀:၀၀) နာရီတွင် ရေဝေးအေးအေးတိုက်မှ ရေဝေးသုသာန်သို့ ပို့ဆောင် မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါမည်။

(နေအိမ်မှ ကားများ နံနက် ၈:၃၀ နာရီတွင် ထွက်ခွာပါမည်။)

ကျွန်ုပ်ရစ်သူမိသားစု။

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



MODERATE	calm	5 mph	10 mph	15 mph
ROUGH	clear sky	1/4 covered	1/2 covered	overcast
VERY ROUGH	Thunder with rain	Rain	Drizzle	
Pressure in hPa	Low pressure area	Depression	Cyclonic Storm	
Rainfall in mm				

WEATHER

Saturday, 2 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain has been in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kachin State and Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Mon and Rakhine States, Magway, Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), and Pinlaung (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2006 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 2-12-2006 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 1-12-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 2-12-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (11) mph from Southwest at 11:15 hours MST on 1-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 3-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 3-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 3-12-2006: Fair weather.



Sunday, 3 December
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missinary Sayardaw U Ottamathara.
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ
- 8:05 am**
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
7. ကွန်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ
- 8:25 am**
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Say it in English.

- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**
3. Round up of the week's International news.
- 11:35 am**
4. Yan Can Cook.
- 11:55 am**
5. Myanmar Movie: "မေတ္တာအသင်္ချေ" (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ခင်သီတာထွန်း၊ နိုင်ခင်ဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ထွန်းမြင့်ထွန်း)
- 2:00 pm**
6. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:05 pm**
7. ကချင်ပြည်နယ် မိုးကောင်းတံတား
- 2:15 pm**
8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:25 pm**
9. "မမြင်ကွယ်ရာ" (မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ မျိုးသန့်၊ မတူး) ဒါရိုက်တာ (စိုးဟိန်း-မန်းတက္ကသိုလ်)
- 2:35 pm**
10. ဟင်းရွက် ရေလှောင်တံ
- 2:45 pm**
11. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm**
3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ်(ရူပဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သင်္ချာအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm**
5. မြန်မာမှု ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းတင့်)
- 5:10 pm**
6. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မသန်စွမ်းသူများနေ့တေးများ
- 5:25 pm**
7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
8. Evening news.
- 6:30 pm**
9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
10. သီရိဇောတာ
- 7:00 pm**
11. Discovery
- 7:10 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြယ်ကြွေရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 8:00 pm**
13. News
- 8:05 pm**
14. International news
- 8:10 pm**
15. Weather report
- 8:15 pm**
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသော နေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 8:20 pm**
17. The next day's programme



Sunday, 3 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: -Around the world
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: -Absolutely
- 8:50 am** National news / Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -I'm alive
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am** Music: -Bye Bye Bye
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Children's Delight -Story for children -Songs for children
- 9:00 pm** Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm** Music/Latest hits / Let's improve English through songs -It's true -Like a rose
- 9:45 pm** News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

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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

Commander participates in mass walk, inspects DHF preventive measures

YANGON, 2 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win took part in a mass walk as part of the 2006 December Mass Sports Activities held at Aung San Stadium this morning.

Patron of Yangon Division Women's Sports Association Daw Mar Mar Wai, President of Myanmar women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, members of Yangon Division PDC, officials of Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, members of social organizations, students and the people totalling over 10,000 participated in the walk.

Next, the commander inspected preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever being carried out in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and heard reports on prevention and treatment by officials. The commander urged them to carry out pre-

ventive measures and to raise public awareness on the disease effectively.

Later, the commander and party looked into sanitation tasks along the Myanma Gonyi Street in the township and in the compound of Dawbon Township No 1 Basic Education High School and inspected the educative talk given at the Dhammayon on 94th street.

At 7.30 am, the commander inspected irrigation facilities of Ahlwamsut River Water Pumping Project of Water Resources Utilization Department for 400 acres of land in Thanlyan Township. At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on facts about the project and supply of water presented by an official and attended to the needs.

Next, the commander and party viewed the demonstration on supplying of water to paddy cultivation with various methods for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City. — MNA

INSIDE

- * A jeep being repaired by the inmates was seen there.
- * A motorcycle was also under repair. Similarly, some inmates are found to be engaged in furniture work, tailoring, producing briquettes, making joss sticks, knitting and weaving. Some inmates are working hard as they earned according to the output.
- * Those who did not work outside had to do jobs according to their vocational skills when they became inmates.
- * Those who are illiterate have to engage in chopping wood, producing briquettes, making joss sticks and knitting.
- * Jail is not simply a place for those who are harmless and innocent.
- * All the inmates who are serving prison terms at the respective jails are not all the notorious ones such as robbers and thieves.
- * As they are provided with meat two times a week, some 3000 viss of meat have to be used for one meal.

PAGE 12

REPORTER SINKU SOE WIN

Mass walk 2006 held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAYPYI TAW, 2 Dec — With a view to uplifting health and fitness of the entire nation the 2006 December mass walk was held in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Departmental personnel, their family members and local people totalling over 12,000 walked from Myoma Market and Pyankapyay gathering points as mass part of mass sport activities.

At 5.30 am, service personnel and families, teachers and students of basic education schools from Pyinnyartheikdi, Bawgatheikdi and Mingalartheikdi wards gathered at the Myoma Market.

At 6 am, they took a walk along the Taungnyo-Pyinmana Road together with member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung

Myo Min, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director U Maung Win of the Ministry of

Sports and officials.

They walked back to the starting points after going round the Thabyaygon Roundabout and took physical exer-

cises.

Similarly, people from Pyankapyay and Myoma Thabyaygon wards took part in the mass walk.

MNA



Government employees and family members, teachers and students in Nay Pyi Taw participating in the December Mass Walk for 2006. — MNA