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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

Colonialists practised divide-and-rule policy with every intention of prolonging their rule and undermining national unity

Coordination meeting for organizing 60th Anniversary Union Day held



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting for organizing 60th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—A coordination meeting for organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day was held at the meeting hall of the Prime Minister's Office here this afternoon with an address by Chairman of Central Committee for Organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Management Committee for Organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, members of the Central Committee ministers, the deputy ministers, the Deputy Auditor-General, senior military officers, heads of department and officials.

In his address, Chairman of Central Committee for Organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the ceremonies to mark the Union Day is held annually on a grand scale with the aim of further cementing Union Spirit among the national races, reflecting the fine tradition of regaining the independence and sovereignty through the national solidarity.

He said that the national races, who live in the same land and partake water from the same source, have been residing in the Union since ancient times through thick and thin.

It is obvious that the national brethren who have been living under their own monarch fought back any danger that encroached upon the Union with Union Spirit, he noted.

Also at a time when colonialists encroached upon Myanmar territory the national brethren brilliantly drove them out of the country at the risk of lives. The colonialists sowed discord and dissension among the national races after waging three aggressive wars and occupying the nation to jeopardize Union Spirit deeply rooted among the national races, he stressed.

In the meantime, the colonialists practised the divide-and-rule policy with every intention of prolonging their rule and undermining the national unity. But, far-sighted and visionary leaders of national races were able to reconcile the national unity and regained the independence.

(See page 8)

60th Anniversary Union Day Objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
- For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence;
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 December, 2006

Towards production of potent traditional medicines

The Ministry of Health established Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin and the department is conducting research on common diseases in upper Myanmar and health problems. At the herbal plantation, there are various herbal plants that can cure six major diseases— malaria, tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes, diarrhea and dysentery.

Research on potent Myanmar herbal plants for treatment and production process was conducted in cooperation with the ministries concerned. Production process of certain herbal medicines has been handed over to the Ministry of Industry-1 recently.

Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 is implementing PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory (Project) for production of medicines. Now the factory starts production of tablets, capsules, lotion, syrup and medical powder. On completion of the project, the factory will produce 213 kinds of medicine including vaccine and injection.

Nowadays, the government has provided assistance for uplift of Myanmar traditional medicine and development of traditional medicine to reach international standard. The PyinOoLwin Pharmaceutical Factory will produce potent medicines of high quality in cooperation with Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, researchers and officials concerned soon.



Piyaputhinan's Family & F.S International (Thailand) Co Ltd donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through a responsible person of the Home.—H

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

Greening and beautifying tasks along Yangon circular railroad inspected

YANGON, 22 Dec — Accompanied by departmental officials, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win yesterday inspected greening and beautifying tasks being carried out along the Yangon circular railroad.

First, the commander inspected the laying of concrete sleepers at the railroads of platform Nos 1 and 2 at Yangon Railway Station. Next, he inspected condition of rail tracks, sanitation tasks being carried out along the route and growing of crops including physic nut plants on both sides of the railroad and overpasses.

On arrival at the office



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects beautifying tasks carried out along Yangon Circular Railroad.—MNA

of Yangon Railway Station, the commander heard reports by Yangon Division PDC Secretary U Hla Soe and Myanmar Railways General Manager U Myint Wai on measures being taken for the convenience

of passengers and maintenance and beautifying tasks being carried out along the railroad.

In response to the reports, the commander stressed the need for ensuring the convenience of

passengers, greening and beautifying of the railroads and stations, timely arrivals and departures of trains and keeping the buildings and houses and overpasses along the railroad neat and tidy. — MNA

MCWA members provide public-centred health care in Hline Township

YANGON, 22 Dec — Hline Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized a ceremony to provide public-centred health care for patients with HIV/AIDS, TB and other chronic diseases at No-4 Basic Education Middle School in Hline Township yesterday morning.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee delivered a speech and accepted K 1,260,000 for the patients donated by wellwishers. Next, the chairperson of Township MCWA explained health care programme.

Later, the chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC and party comforted the patients at No 8 Ward and assisted cash and kind. They also inspected the delivery room of Township MCWA. — MNA

Ven Shi Fa Zhao of S'pore, disciples, donate cash

YANGON, 22 Dec — Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Venerable Shi Fa Zhao of Golden Temple in Singapore and disciples on 17 December donated cash to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, a monastic education school and the renovation of a building for relics in MraukU.

The cash donation ceremony was held at Wijaya Mingala Hall in Thiri Mingala KabaAye Hill, Mayangon Township.

Ven Shi Fa Zhao and lay persons donated K 10 million to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, K 23 million to Seikphutaung Monastic Education School to spend it on rice supply to the school for a year, K 50 million to construction of the school hostel, K 13 million to the construction of a mess hall of the school and K 14 million to the renovation of a building for relics in MraukU, Rakhine State.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials accepted the donations amounting to K 110 million. Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merit gained. — MNA

Tourism Industry Development Course concludes

YANGON, 22 Dec — A conclusion ceremony of Tourism Industry Development Course was held at Traders Hotel, here, this evening.

It was attended by Chairman of ASEAN Task Force, Director-General of ASEAN-Lao PDR Mr Sayakane Sisouvong, Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department, Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department, officials from the Japanese Embassy,

Director Mr Anish Kumar Roy and officials of ASEAN Secretariat, Deputy Vice President Ms Grace NG of International Trade Institute of Singapore, officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam and trainees from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Ministry of Forestry.

Director-General U Hla Kyi, Director-General U Aung Bwa and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Japanese Embassy presented certificates to 20 trainees at the ceremony. — MNA

Wen calls for expanding China-Kazakhstan cooperation

BEIJING, 22 Dec— China and Kazakhstan should use their complementary economies to encourage bilateral cooperation, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday.

In a meeting with visiting Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Wen said cooperation should be improved in fields such as energy, trade, and infrastructure construction.

China and Kazakhstan shared comprehensive common interests and prospects for the development of bilateral relations, Wen said, noting that establishment of the



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

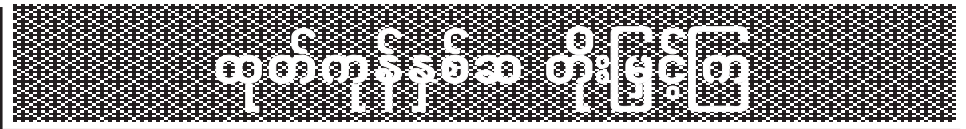
China-Kazakhstan strategic partnership offered a solid foundation for the long-term growth of the bilateral ties.

“We should work closely to strengthen energy cooperation, increase the proportion of high-tech products in two-

way trade and encourage the Chinese and Kazakh enterprises to step up mutual investment in infrastructure fields such as railways, highways and power stations,” Wen said.

Nazarbayev expressed his satisfaction with the growth momentum of the bilateral relations. The sustainable growth of the Chinese economy offered opportunities for the two countries to promote mutually beneficial cooperation, Nazarbayev said. Nazarbayev’s visit, the first since he won reelection last December, is at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors pass a large snow sculpture during an International Snow Sculpture Art Expo held in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 22 Dec, 2006. The expo opened on Friday.—XINHUA

Olive oil ‘can cut cancer risk’

COPENHAGEN, 23 Dec — Adding plenty of olive oil to a diet could help protect against cell damage that can lead to cancer, experts say.

A study of 182 European men found those who had 25 millilitres of olive oil per day had reduced levels of a substance which indicates cell damage.

The Danish team said it may explain why many cancer rates are higher in northern Europe than the south, where olive oil is a major part of the diet.

The study is in the Federation American Societies for Experimental Biology.

The Copenhagen University Hospital researchers looked at 182 healthy men aged between 20 and 60 from five European countries.

The scientists added either virgin, common or refined olive oil to their diets over two weeks.

At the end of study, scientists measured levels of the substance which indicates oxidative damage to cells, called 8oxodG, in the men’s urine.

Internet

Eight US Marines charged in Iraq mass murder case

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec— Eight US Marines were charged with criminal offenses Thursday for their alleged roles in the mass murder of 24 civilians in the Iraqi town of Haditha last year, CNN reported.

The US Marine Corp. announced the charges at a Press conference in Camp Pendleton, California, according to the report.

However, no charges against the Marines could lead to death sentences.

Four of them were charged with multiple counts of murder.

Although the four are not charged with premeditated murder, the charges indicate that they intended to kill their targets

and should have known that their actions could have led to the deaths of innocent civilians.

The other four Marines, all officers, were charged with crimes related to an alleged cover-up of the incident.

The officers, including a lieutenant-colonel, two captains and a first lieutenant, face the charges of violating and order and dereliction for failing to accurately investigate and report the slayings to superiors.

Charges in such a case are the first step in the US military’s legal process and will be followed by an Article 32 hearing, which is roughly equivalent to a civilian grand jury investigation.

MNA/Xinhua



A boat is seen after a heavy snow contributed its sinking on 21 Dec, 2006, in the Valdez harbor, Alaska. Over a 24-hour period, the city got 21 inches of snow, breaking the record for 19 Dec, recorded in 1985 when 12.5 inches of snow fell on Valdez.—INTERNET

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec— Three American soldiers were killed and three others wounded in two incidents in Baghdad and western Iraq, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

“The mounted combat patrol was escorting personnel to their forward operating base when a roadside bomb detonated,” the statement said.

The latest deaths bring the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003 to 2,959, according to the Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

Cargo ship fire kills four Chinese in S Korean waters

SEOUL, 22 Dec— Four Chinese crewmen aboard a cargo ship were killed Thursday afternoon when the ship caught fire in waters off South Korea’s southwestern coast, South Korea’s Coast Guard said.

The cargo ship, registered in Sierra Leone with the name *JIDA*, caught fire at 1:30 pm in waters nine kilometres off South Korea’s southwestern coast. Local media said explosion took place on the ship.

Following the accident, South Korea’s Coast Guard sent vessels and helicopters to the spot and rescued eight out of the total of 12 crewmen, all Chinese, while the other four people failed to escape

the ship, said an official of the Chinese Embassy in South Korea.

The South Korean Coast Guard said the missing four presumed dead as the fire has not been put out yet. According to the official, two of the eight rescued were seriously injured and had already been sent to a hospital in Seoul. The other six crewmen are in stable condition in Mokpo City.

The Chinese Embassy has sent officials to visit the rescued and expressed gratitude to the South Korean Government for their cooperation in the rescue, the Chinese Embassy said. The identities of the crewmen are still being investigated. MNA/Xinhua

As all the national races are living through thick and thin and in unity, a big white star in an upward position representing the Union should be portrayed in the State Flag

YANGON, 23 Dec—The following is a translation of the proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made by Lahu National Development Party at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday.

I wish you all, Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee and members and delegates health and happiness. I am U Kya Ha She, a National Convention delegate of the Lahu National Development Party. I will now discuss the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions”.

Amendment of the Constitution

Mr Chairman,

First, I will discuss the adoption of the detailed basic principles in connection with the Chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”.

As regards the matter, the section 208 of the 1947 Constitution prescribed as follows:

- (1) Every proposal for an amendment of this Constitution shall be in the form of a Bill and shall be expressed as a Bill to amend the Constitution.
- (2) A Bill containing a proposal or proposals for the amendment of the Constitution shall contain no other proposals.

Hence, we are in favour of adopting the following detailed basic principle.

“If there is wish to amend anyone of the provisions of this Constitution, the following methods shall be applied:

- (a) The proposal to amend the Constitution shall be submitted in the form of a Bill.
- (b) A Bill to amend the Constitution shall contain no other proposals.”

The new Constitution will have two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu

As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used. In addition, yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races should be used in the Flag. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed. As the said three colours — green, yellow and red — portray the nation’s objective conditions and national unity, the Flag should be marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio.

Hluttaw comprises the said two Hluttaws. Only the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will draft bills and promulgate laws.

Hence, the following detailed basic principle concerning the matter should be adopted.

“Such Bill to amend the Constitution may be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

Mr Chairman,

As regards the matter, the section 209 (2) of the 1947 Constitution prescribed, “After it has been passed by each of the Chambers of Parliament, the Bill shall be considered by both Chambers in joint sitting.”

According to the above-mentioned point it has already been explained clearly that, the Bill can be submitted only to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should consider discussing the Bill only if 20 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submit it. We agree to adopt the following detailed basic principle:

“The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution for consideration, if 20 per cent of all the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw members submit it.”

The 1947 Constitution of Myanmar prescribed, “The Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Chambers in joint sitting only when not less than two-thirds of the then members of both Chambers have voted in its favour.” The 1974 Constitution prescribed the amendment of the Constitution in a separate Chapter. Hence, we would like to suggest to adopt the following detailed basic principle.

“(a) The adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a nationwide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.

(b) Provisions other than those mentioned in the paragraph (a) shall be amended only with a majority vote of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(c) Articles that are concerned with or inclusive in Chapters stated in the paragraph (a) shall be prescribed when drafting the Constitution.”

“State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”.

The national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar in weal or woe and in love and unity since time immemorial. As all the national races are living through thick and thin and in unity, a big white star in an upward position representing the Union should be portrayed in the State Flag. As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used. In addition, yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races should be used in the Flag. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed. As the said three colours — green, yellow and red — portray the nation’s objective conditions and national unity, the Flag should

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be marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. On the left end of the green stripe at the top should be a big white star directing upwards in the State Flag.

Thus, we are in support of adopting the following detailed basic principles.

“(1) The State Flag shall be prescribed as follows:

The Flag is marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. On the left end of the green stripe at the top of the Flag is a large white star directing upwards.

(2) Law shall be promulgated concerning the State Flag.”

Mr Chairman,

Now, I will discuss the adoption of detailed basic principles in connection with the State Seal. Concerning the State, the National Convention has adopted the fundamental principles “sovereign power of the State is derived from the citizens and is in force in the whole country” and “the State shall be known as the Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw (the Union of the Republic of Myanmar)” Hence, the State Seal should include the map of the Union of Myanmar.

In accord with the adopted fundamental principle “the State shall be known as the Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw”, the words “Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw” should be included in the State Seal.

The white star that is the symbol of the anti-colonialist and anti-Fascist struggles launched with the people’s strength should also be included in it. The Seal should be decorated with the picture of the lion king used as a tradition in the State seals of the Union Myanmar, and Myanmar traditional floral arabesque.

The picture of the State Seal should be portrayed and the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“The State Seal shall be as shown below.”

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the adoption of a detailed basic principle in connection with the National Anthem. The present Anthem has been used for over half a century. One of the fundamental principles adopted by the National Convention is “further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality”. The present National Anthem also depicts the sincere policy — justice, freedom and equality. Objectives of the National Convention include the adopted

(See page 5)

As all the national races are...

(from page 4)

fundamental principles — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; perpetuity of sovereignty. Other fundamental principles “the Union is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) systems” and “no part of the territory of the Union, namely regions, states and self-administered areas etc., shall ever secede from the Union” have already been adopted. The present National Anthem depicts our task of safeguarding the Union that we have inherited from our forefathers, at the risk of our lives, and serving the interest of the Union in harmony and unison.

Hence, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“The present National Anthem shall be prescribed as the National Anthem.”

Mr Chairman,

Now, I will discuss the matter concerning the Capital of the Union of Myanmar. The capitals of most of the nations are located at the centre of the country. Every country designates the city that is the seat of the government as the capital. Mostly, a city located in a place that is lying in the nation’s hub and that is easy to access is prescribed as the capital.

The government has already built the capital “Nay Pyi Taw”, in the region located in the central part of the country to further enhance national unity and facilitate transport with all the states and divisions. Now all the government institutions are carrying out their normal functions at their head offices set up in Nay Pyi Taw. Hence, Nay Pyi Taw where all the government institutions have established headquarters, should be prescribed as the nation’s capital.

We agree to adopt the following detailed basic principle.

“The capital of the State is Nay Pyi Taw.”

Transitory Provisions

Mr Chairman,

Now, I will discuss the detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions”.

Article 195 of the 1974 Constitution says, “This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote”.

And Article 196 of the 1974 Constitution says: “The Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyithu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyithu Hluttaw under the Constitution. The work done by the Revolutionary Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accordance with the Constitution”.

Mr Chairman,

The State Peace and Development Council has built basic foundations to realize the State objectives,

and issued policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, orders, and proclamations to expedite all-round tasks for building a modern developed democratic nation. Accordingly, a detailed basic principle “All measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall devolve on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that will come into being under the State Constitution” should be laid down. The future Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Government of the Union of Myanmar have the rights to exercise powers, responsibilities and privileges the State Constitution has bestowed on them. Detailed basic principles regarding the devolving on the State’s policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights, the cases pending in courts at all levels on the date on which the Constitution comes into operation, and State service personnel should be laid down.

The eight detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention are in conformity with the nation’s realistic conditions, history and current situation. We discuss in support of adopting all the eight detailed basic principles.

General Provisions

Mr Chairman,

Presentation will be made on the points that should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter “General Provisions” to be included in the Constitution.

The 1974 Constitution of Myanmar and constitutions of some world nations state that the Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State. The Constitution is the main pillar of the laws of a nation stipulating the sharing of the three branches of power — the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power — and the political and economic system. Hence all the laws of a nation should be in conformity with the Constitution.

Not only the 1947 Constitution but also the 1974 Constitution prescribed that Myanmar language shall be the official language. Actually, Myanmar language is widely used in various parts of the nation. We support that in the future also Myanmar language should be proclaimed as the official language for uniformity and clarity in communications between the people and the government institutions, and among the government institutions, without any controversy.

In the 1947 Constitution it was prescribed that the copy of the Constitution should be enrolled in the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court; and that copy shall be the conclusive evidence of the provisions of the Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

One of the basic principles on the economy says: “The State permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint-venture organizations and private concerns, etc. to take part in economic activities for the development of the national economy.”

Now, the nation has seen many economic

enterprises that are jointly run with the government based on mutual interest, or internal or external organizations or persons are running under the terms and conditions stipulated by the State. After the State Constitution comes into force, there will emerge economic enterprises the Union government will have to run solely, and economic enterprises that Region government or State government will have to run in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution. And there may arise a situation for which a Region or State government is to be vested with the right to run one of the economic enterprises which the Union government has to run solely, in the interests of the State. Moreover, there may arise situations for which a cooperative society or an economic organization or a person may enjoy the right to run such economic enterprises. It is assumed that a detailed basic principle should be adopted concerning the matter.

Mr Chairman,

The Union of Myanmar will have to honour the legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of any other State provided that these countries honour any reciprocal obligations towards the Union of Myanmar. It is found that the 1947 Constitution of our country and the State constitutions of many other countries carry similar provisions.

The Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw that will come into existence after this Constitution comes into force should have the right to sue and may be sued by the name of the Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw.

A Constitutional Tribunal shall be set up to interpret provisions of the State Constitution, to scrutinize whether or not laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaws and the State Hluttaws and functions of executive authorities of Pyidaungsu, Regions, States and Self-Administered Areas are in conformity with the State Constitution, to decide on disputes in connection with the State Constitution between Pyidaungsu and Regions, between Pyidaungsu and States, between Regions and States, among Regions, among States, and between Regions or States and Self-Administered Areas and among Self-Administered Areas themselves to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution.

The tasks of Constitutional Tribunal should be prescribed in the detailed basic principles as necessary in order that they can be scrutinized and decided when the President informs the matters regarding the Union territories.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to prescribe necessary laws for formation of the Constitutional Tribunal, relations with other organizations, and responsibilities, rights and privileges of the Constitutional Tribunal. In the process, the role of the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal should be designated to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, to the position of a Union minister in order to make reference in prescribing the laws.

Mr Chairman,

The Work Committee Chairman explained the 26 detailed basic principles for the chapter on General Provisions at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 13 November 2006. In his explanations, he gave references to the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution of Myanmar, and constitutions of some world nations, for the benefit of the nation. Moreover, we find that his explanations are in conformity with the nation’s natural conditions, traditions and culture, customs, history and current political, economic and social conditions. In this regard, we would like to suggest that all the 26 detailed basic principles should be adopted.

And with this, I conclude our proposal on the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions”.

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The government has already built the capital “Nay Pyi Taw”, in the region located in the central part of the country to further enhance national unity and facilitate transport with all the states and divisions. Now all the government institutions are carrying out their normal functions at their head offices set up in Nay Pyi Taw. Hence, Nay Pyi Taw where all the government institutions have established headquarters, should be prescribed as the nation’s capital.

Specific principles should be prescribed so that amendments can be made to the constitution in a proper way if need arises

YANGON, 23 Dec— The following is a translation of the proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for Chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made by Union Kayin League at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday.

Mr Chairman and members of the Panel of chairmen, 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 extend my greetings to you all.

I am representative U Saw San Shwe of the Union Kayin League.

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

Firstly, I would like to make suggestion about the clarification the National Convention Work Committee chairman made to the points for the Chapter “Amendment of the State Constitution” to be included in the State constitution.

The nation after adopting and promulgating the Constitution will have to make amendments as necessary depending on time and situation. When the amendments of the Constitutions of some nations are studied, there are two ways to amend a Constitution. The first method is to hold a referendum to make an amendment of some provisions of the Constitution after 75 per cent of all the MPs or two-thirds of the MPs have made a prior approval to amend them. The second method calls for the approval of 75 per cent or two-thirds of all MPs. In the Union of Myanmar also, the topic has been provided as a separate Chapter in both the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

In explaining the points for the Chapter “Amendment of the State Constitution”, the Work Committee chairman referred to the provisions stated in the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution. He said that the new Constitution will have two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprises the said two Hluttaws. Only the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will draft bills and promulgate laws.

Mr Chairman,

Specific principles should be prescribed so that

Procedures and rules in connection with the State Flag and punishments for offences are prescribed in the separate law enacted by the legislative assembly. The stipulation of the State Flag mostly depend on history of a nation. Colours including white, red, blue, green, yellow, orange etc are used in the State Flags in accord with the history of a nation.

amendments can be made to the constitution in a proper way if need arises. In the process, the provisions that need amendments should be submitted as bills, and these bills should stipulate no other proposals except the provisions. And there should be a principle that the bill to make amendments to the Constitution may be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And instead of submitting the bill directly to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there should be a stipulation, and the submission of the Bill should be in accord with the provisions. It means that such a bill shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw only. So, there should be a principle that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall hold discussions about a bill, to which amendments should be made, when the report endorsed by at least 20 percent of the number of Hluttaw members is submitted.

Mr Chairman,

It has been stated that the adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a nation-wide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.

The four points the Work Committee chairman explained are appropriate for the Chapter “Amendment of the State Constitution”, and so they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital
Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

Now, I would like to make suggestions about the Work Committee chairman’s clarification to the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital”.

Every independent and sovereign nation has its own specific State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital. Some nations stated them in the Constitution and in some nations, the legislative assembly promulgates separate laws concerning them. Mostly, provisions concerning the State Flag focus on the means to stipulate and design it. Procedures and rules in connection with the State Flag and punishments for offences are prescribed in the separate law enacted by the legislative assembly. The stipulation of the State Flag mostly depend on history of a nation. Colours including white, red, blue, green, yellow, orange etc are used in the State Flags in accord with the history of a nation.

Mr Chairman,

In his explanation about the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital”, the Work Committee chairman referred to the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution. We members of the Union Kayin League would like to refer to the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution in making suggestions about the State Flag. The State leaders designated red, blue and white for the State Flag in Section 215 of the 1947 constitution.

The design of the State Flag proposed by the Work Committee chairman will contribute towards the drive for transforming the nation into a modern and developed one. So, we do not make any suggestions, and these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

Stipulation of the State Seal is prescribed in the constitutions of some nations. In the constitutions of

U Saw San Shwe of Union Kayin League. MNA



some nations, the stipulation of the State Seal is not included in the provisions, instead, their constitutions prescribe that the State Seal should be prescribed with a law enacted by the legislative assembly. But their constitutions have provisions stating that the State Seal should reflect the history, culture and customs of the race. In some countries, it is stated that after the State Seal has been adopted by the legislative assembly, it has to be ratified at a referendum.

Concerning the State, the National Convention has adopted the fundamental principles “sovereign power of the State is derived from the citizens and is in force in the whole country”.

Therefore, the State Seal the Work Committee chairman proposed is appropriate and the point should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Now, I would like to discuss the detailed basic principle for the National Anthem.

Our nation has used the present National Anthem for more than half a century. One of the objectives of the National Convention of the State says “Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values of such as justice, liberty and equality”. The State’s objectives cover non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The present National Anthem reflects the tasks for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union that is the heritage handed down by ancestors, protection of the Union at risk to life, and harmoniously serving the interests of the Union.

In addition, it conforms with the basic principles adopted by the National Convention. So, the point “The present National Anthem shall be prescribed as the National Anthem” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the laying down the detailed basic principle for the designation of the capital of the Union of Myanmar, the point “The capital of the State is Nay Pyi Taw” the Work Committee chairman explained should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Transitory Provisions

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

Now, I would like to discuss the detailed basic principles that the Work Committee chairman proposed for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions” to be included in the State constitution.

(See page 7)

Specific principles should...

(from page 6)

In formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution comes into force is somewhat different from that after the Constitution comes into force. It is, indeed, transition from one system to another. In the process, there follow changes in the major pillars—legislation, executive and jurisdiction—and economic and social infrastructures during the transitional period. It is required to prescribe transitory provisions in the State Constitution to ensure continuous exercise of State sovereign powers as well as charter, duties and responsibilities to be carried out during the transitional period. It is found that the State Constitutions of the nations of the world carry transitory provisions, and so does the 1947 Constitution of Myanmar. The 1974 Constitution does not feature a separate heading for transitory provisions, but transitory provisions are prescribed in its Chapter XVI “General Provisions”.

Mr Chairman,

After a State Constitution is drafted, only when the date, on which a Constitution comes into force, is mentioned, will the Constitution come into operation on that date.

Now, the seven-step Road Map is in the process of being implemented for the building of a new nation.

The fourth step says “Adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum”. In accord with the work programme, the draft will be adopted through a referendum.

Therefore, regarding the coming into force of the State Constitution, the point:

“This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

After the State Constitution comes into force, the State Peace and Development Council will have to hand over the power to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that will emerge under the State Constitution. Hluttaws to be formed under the State Constitution will not emerge immediately, but only after Hluttaw members have been elected. The three sovereign powers of the State — legislative, executive and judicial powers — can be exercised continuously only if the SPDC exercises the three sovereign powers during the transitional period between the adoption of the State Constitution and coming to being of the Hluttaws and then hands them over.

Section (231) of the 1947 Constitution and Article 196 of the 1974 constitution say that the government, which is currently taking responsibilities, has to continue to exercise the three branches of State sovereignty until it hands over the power to its successor.

So, the point “The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session

of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

So, power should be vested in the SPDC to carry out legislative functions on behalf of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heretofore the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comes into existence. In this regard, it is required to lay down a principle to recognize that the work done by the SPDC to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with the Constitution. Article 196 of the 1974 Constitution says, “The work done by the Revolutionary Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accordance with this Constitution”.

Therefore, the point “The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

The SPDC has built basic foundations to realize the State objectives, and issued policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, orders, and proclamations to expedite all-round tasks for building a modern developed democratic nation. Accordingly, a detailed basic principle “All measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that will come into being under the State Constitution” should be laid down. The future Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Government of the Union of Myanmar have the rights to exercise powers, responsibilities and privileges the State Constitution bestowed on them. So, they will have to continue in their functions.

Article 199 of the 1974 Constitution says, “All policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma shall devolve on the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma”.

Therefore, the point “All policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall devolve on the Union of Myanmar” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Before a new Constitution comes into operation, the existing laws continue to be in force in a nation. After the new Constitution comes into operation, without prejudice to the new Constitution, the existing laws are to remain in force. And any existing laws contrary to the Constitution are to be amended or repealed from time to time by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

That was referred to paras (1) and (2) of Section 226 of the 1947 Constitution and paragraph (b) of Article 202 of the 1974 Constitution. Therefore, the point “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far

as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Before a new Constitution comes into force, there have been predominant rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures in a country. After the new Constitution comes into operation, these existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures are to remain in force if they are not contrary to the new Constitution, and to be annulled if they are contrary to the new Constitution.

These points were stated in paragraphs (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Article 202 of the 1974 Constitution. So, the point, “Existing rules, regulations, by-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Union Government.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

To ensure continuous exercise of jurisdiction during the transitional period, all courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution.

Therefore, regarding the cases pending in courts at all levels, the point, “All courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution. All cases, civil, criminal and revenue, pending in the said courts, shall be disposed of in accord with the laws exercised on the date on which the cases came up for trial.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

All functioning administrative bodies or governmental bodies and service personnel are to continue in their functions. It is also required to ensure regular attendance of the service personnel.

That is enumerated in paras (f) and (g) of Section 202 of the 1974 Constitution. Therefore, regarding State service personnel, the point “All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

We find complete the points the Work Committee chairman clarified at the NC plenary session for transitory provisions. So, we would like to make no suggestions about that.

So, the eight points proposed for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions” should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

General Provisions

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

Now, I would like to deal with the points proposed for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions” to be included in the State constitution.

A Constitution is the main law that reflects a nation’s history and portrays the structure of that nation. Moreover, the Constitution is the main pillar of the laws of a nation stipulating the sharing of the three branches of power — the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power — and the political and economic system. Hence all the laws of a nation should be in conformity with the Constitution. In the 1974 Constitution of our nation and constitutions of some nations, it is stated that the Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State.

(See page 8)

The SPDC has built basic foundations to realize the State objectives, and issued policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, orders, and proclamations to expedite all-round tasks for building a modern developed democratic nation. Accordingly, a detailed basic principle “All measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall be vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that will come into being under the State Constitution” should be laid down.

Defending Myanmar territorial waters

Stormy seas, ready for havoc in eight directions

**Rolling seas jump, going up, down, rolling
Rude winds drive sea into hell
Small boat under the horizon
Won't yield though it be small detail.**

**Dare to live, dare to die, ever on the seas
Defending the territorial waters with life
'Tis the territorial domain
We defend Myanmar territorial seas
With pride never diminishing.**

**Will uproot terrorists, thieves
Our seas are rich in resources
Never laxing in mercantile trade
Gas and petroleum resources brimming
For the country to develop and prosper.**

**Whether there's sun, moon or lean
We're well aware of danger's routes
Months, years pass, with seasons
There's joy at sea, in territorial waters
Happily discharging duties together.**

**Passing down, strength and fervour
Now calculated as past years nine and fifty
Won't give up even if only hull's left
Men of the Armed Forces (Navy)
Will be dutiful as ever in future as today.
Not hesitant at heart now, comrades in writing
Forever thoughtful, we salute the Navy.**

**Zaw Min Min Oo (Trs.)
(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Navy Day.)**

Colonialists practised divide...

(from page 1)

However, due to discord and dissension sowed among the national races by the colonialists for over a hundred years there reigned armed conflicts in the nation for over 40 years although the independence was regained. At that time the national development tasks could not be carried out and the country was on the verge of disintegration, he said.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government efforts were made to forge the national unity on the basis of mutual trust and understanding among the national races, he added.

Only when there is national unity will peace prevail and the nation develop. Realizing this, the government exerted efforts for all-round development

of the nation. As a result, remarkable progress has been made in various aspects.

Moreover, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation.

Those projects contributed to peace and stability, regional development and higher living standard of the national brethren, he said.

With the prevalence of peace and stability in the nation, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, is in session in the process of transition to democracy. And progress has been made in this regard, he said.

(See page 9)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views the computer showrooms at ICT Exhibition, Market Festival-2006. (News on Page 16) — MNA

Specific principles should...

(from page 7)

Mr Chairman,

After conducting a careful study on the points the Work Committee chairman explained for the Chapter "General Provisions", the points:

1. "This Constitution is the basic law of laws of the State.
2. Myanmar language is the official language.
3. The State fundamental principles are the guidelines to be followed by the legislative Hluttaws in enacting laws and interpreting provisions of the State Constitution and of other laws.
4. Interpretation of the preamble, articles, clauses, words and expressions contained in this Constitution shall be based only on Myanmar text.
5. Interpretation of the expressions of this Constitution should be referred to the existing Interpretation of Expressions Law.
6. A Myanmar manuscript of this Constitution shall be kept at the National Archives. The manuscript shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of this Constitution.
7. In the interest of the State, the Union Government may permit—
 - (a) Region or State government,
 - (b) a cooperative society or a person to run any of economic enterprises, which are prescribed to be operated solely by the Union Government, through a joint-venture system with the Union Government or under agreements.
8. The Union of Myanmar shall honour all

legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which before the commencement of this Constitution were in force between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of any other State, provided that such other State honours any reciprocal obligations towards the Union of Myanmar.

- 9.(a) Any proceedings relating to contracts or liabilities which might have been brought against the Government of the Union of Myanmar before this Constitution comes into force, may be brought against the Union Government.

- (b) The Union of Republic of Myanmar may sue and may be sued by the name of the Union of Republic of Myanmar.

are appropriate. So, we would like to make no suggestions about these points and they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

The Work Committee chairman explained matters on the formation of a constitutional tribunal.

We would like to make suggestions for the formation of a constitutional tribunal.

The functions of the Constitutional Tribunal are very formidable. Some of them are to define the provisions of the State Constitution if necessary, and resolve disputes on matters related to the State Constitution. So, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal should be the one who is at least 50 years of age with the qualifications set for a Union Chief Justice and a Union Chief Court Judge. In addition, it should have members who are knowledgeable about political, administrative, economic and security affairs. And members should be the ones who are loyal to the State and the people because they will be

assigned high-level duties in the interests of the State. It will be suitable if the membership of the Constitutional Tribunal is nine including the chairman. The President, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw should choose three members each from among Hluttaw members or non-Hluttaw members with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It is assumed that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should not have the right to reject a member of the Constitutional Tribunal nominated by the President unless it can prove the member disqualified. In addition, the President should have the right to nominate new members for the seats that are still vacant due to the failure to obtain the agreement of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The points the Work Committee chairman explained are complete, so I would like to suggest that these points be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The 26 points the Work Committee chairman explained regarding the term of the Constitutional Tribunal, appointment of a member to the Constitutional Tribunal, impeachment of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, its functions, disputes as to whether a provision of a law is in conformity with the Constitution in a case being heard by a court, and designation of the status of the chairman and a member of the Constitutional Tribunal are complete. So, these 26 points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

That is all for the Union Kayin League's suggestions about the Chapter "Amendment of the Constitution", Chapter "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and Capital", Chapter "Transitory Provisions" and Chapter "General Provisions" to be included in the State Constitution.—MNA

Colonialists practised divide...

(from page 8)

Due to harmonious efforts of the eight delegates of the National Convention, fruitful results can be achieved for the emergence of the State Constitution. Furthermore, the Government had firmly pledged to implement the seven-step Road Map phase by phase after successful completion of the National Convention.

The 60th Anniversary Union Day will be observed for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw with political essence and patriotism. As it is the new venue for the ceremony, responsible persons are to harmoniously coordinate among them for carrying out the tasks of the ceremony by laying down the plans. At present, the State Peace and Development Council has formed the Central Committee for Organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day and the Management Committee, and subcommittees under the Management Committee.

As the persons from the subcommittees have work experiences in holding the previous Union Day ceremonies, they will have the abilities to successfully observe the anniversary of the Union Day without difficulties. This year's anniversary ceremony will be held at the new venue. Hence, officials of the subcommittees are to place emphasis on convenience of the Union Day delegates at their hostels and studies on their excursion tour, providing health care and reception services. He stressed the need to facilitate convenient transportation for

the delegates in Nay Pyi Taw and take care of ensuring traffic safety for the delegates.

The Secretary-1 said that it is necessary to hoist the State Flags, colourful banners, put up the billboards and decorate colourful lights along the road between the City Hall and the hostels and at the main points. He spoke of the need to present entertainment based on the national unity and the Union Spirit at the dinner, produce news and articles, Union Day objectives, songs and plays through newspaper, radio and TV, and put up the Union Day billboards. In addition, preparations are to be made for observing the ceremony by applying past experiences. All are to place emphasis on carrying out the tasks without weak points.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged all to work in concert for achieving success in observance of the Union Day in accord with its objectives: For all national races to safeguard the national policy —non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; for all the national races to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all the people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; for all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development;

and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin reported on preparations for selecting members of the Panel of Chairmen at the Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony, tasks of the Flag Hoisting Ceremony, putting up the Union Day billboards and financial matters.

Secretary of the Management Committee Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office submitted reports on forming subcommittees for organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day, preparations for the Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony and the dinner, and reception and accommodation for the Union Day delegates.

Chairmen and officials of the subcommittees reported on their respective tasks.

Later, the Secretary-1 called on all to make harmonious efforts for observing the Union Day for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw with political essence with a view to flourishing the Union Spirit forever.—MNA

Civilian injured in mine explosion

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Maung Myint Oo, 30, son of U Sein Win of Thabyaynyunt Village, Htantapin Township, Bago Division, on his way to the jungle to collect bamboo, stepped on a mine planted by insurgents near Zindinegalay village losing his left ankle at about 9 am on 16 December.

He is now undergoing treatment at Taungoo People's Hospital and being provided all necessary assistance by authorities concerned.

Authorities in cooperation with the local people are in hot pursuit of insurgents, it is learnt.

MNA

Two members quit NLD

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — Ma Yi Yi Win (a) Ma Yin Yin Win of Yadanabon Ward, a member of Monywa Township National League for Democracy and U Swe of Nwarmathin Village, a member of Ayadaw Township NLD in Sagaing Division, resigned from the party of their own volition, and sent their resignations to NLD Headquarters and local authorities on 7 and 18 November respectively.

In their resignations sent to Sagaing Division Multi-Party Democracy General Election Subcommittee, they said they quit the NLD of their own accord on the grounds that they lost interest and faith in the party and they wished to serve the interests of the State and their own region in collaboration with the government.

MNA

NPED Minister back from 62nd meeting of ESCAP



Minister U Soe Tha being welcomed back by the officials at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec— Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha arrived back from Thailand this morning after attending the 62nd meeting of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The minister was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for NPED Col Thurein Zaw and officials. — MNA

Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association holds annual meeting

YANGON, 23 Dec — The 5th annual meeting of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs As-

sociation was held at Oriental House (1) on Myoma Kaung Street in Dagon Township this afternoon. It was attended by

Chairman of the association Dr Maung Maung Lay, CEC members, merchants, entrepreneurs and members.

First, the Chairman gave an opening speech. Secretary Dr Saw Hla Tun read the annual report of the executive committee and the financial statement and approved them.

In hailing the National Convention, the secretary gave certificates of honour to seven pharmaceutical companies for their donations.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the vice-chairman.

MNA



Chairman Dr Maung Maung Lay speaks at 5th annual meeting of the association.—MNA

77 inmates get treatment

YANGON, 23 Dec — Eye, nose and throat specialist Dr U Soe Hlaing, dental specialist Dr U Aung Htin Lin, Dr Daw Myint Myint Aye, Dr U Yarzar and members of Sao San Htun Hospital of Taunggyi provided health care for 77 inmate patients at Taunggyi Prison and Taunglaylon Agricultural Camp in Taunggyi from 8 am to 12 noon on 15 December.

MNA



A worker uses a steamer to smooth the wrinkles on a large billboard advertisement for a skin care product in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 Dec, 2006. Indonesia is struggling to boost its economic growth through foreign investment as a vast capital injection is needed to tackle widespread poverty and unemployment in the world's fourth most populous country.—INTERNET

Singh calls for India-Pakistan peace treaty

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec— Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Wednesday expressed his wish that India and Pakistan would create history by signing a treaty of peace, security and friendship, according to New Delhi TV.

“I earnestly hope that the relations between our two countries become so friendly and that we generate such an atmosphere of trust between each other that the two nations would be able to agree on a Treaty of Peace,



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Security and Friendship,” Singh told a public rally in Amritsar, India.

He pointed out that there

was no dispute the two South Asian neighbours would not be able to resolve if they approached them with an open and friendly mind.

“The destinies of our two nations are interlinked. We need to put the past behind us,” he said.

The Indian Prime Minister also advocated more people-to-people contacts and bus services between the two countries, which have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947. At the same time, Singh hailed “new ideas” in response to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf’s four-point proposal to solve the Kashmir issue. The four points are joint management of Kashmir, demilitarization, self-governance, and making the Line of Control irrelevant.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb hoax delays Thai flight to India

BANGKOK, 21 Dec— A bomb threat on a Thai Airways plane at Suvarnabhumi International Airport caused a five-hour delay on Wednesday but after an intense search officials found no explosive on the aircraft, according to a local media report.

Sunathee Isvarphornchai, Thai Airways International’s Vice-President for Corporate Communication Relations, said she was told that a bomb had been planted on flight TG 521 bound for Dubai via the south Indian city of Chennai and was about to leave Bangkok at 10:55 am local time Wednesday. A female passenger later identified as Padmapriya Natarajan, 29, from India told airline staff just before boarding that she had received a bomb threat on her mobile phone. A female voice had allegedly asked if she knew Bin Laden and told her that a bomb had been planted on the TG 521 plane, according to Sunathee.

Thai Airways officials along with police and bomb squad officers spent nearly three hours searching the aircraft, passenger luggage and cargo but found nothing unusual, she was quoted by Thai news group *The Nation* as saying. However, the airline decided to fly the 270 passengers and 18 crew members to the scheduled destination on another aircraft, which departed at 3:30 pm local time, while Natarajan was held for further questioning.—MNA/Xinhua



An aerial view of flooded area in Malaysia’s southern state of Johor, 20 Dec, 2006. Floods hit southern Malaysia after unusually heavy monsoon rains, forcing some 30,000 people to flee their homes, cutting off major roads and disrupting train services.—INTERNET

Four Indonesian forest rangers wounded after falling from helicopter

JAKARTA, 22 Dec— Four forest rangers Thursday posed serious wounds in their legs after falling from a helicopter during a demonstration in Indonesia’s West Java Province.

No immediate detail reports about the condition of the rangers, but eye witnesses said the four posed nose bleeding and serious wounds in their legs after falling 20-metre high from the ground, the national *Antara* news agency reported.

The demonstration took place at the Pelabuhan Ratu Beach in Sukabumi Regency and was part of the ceremony to inaugurate 298 new rangers, which was attended by Forest Minister Malam Sambat Kaban.

During the incident, the four rangers were trying to demonstrate their skills to go down from the helicopter with ropes, but the chopper position was too high when the four jumped from the ropes.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy pact to stop skinny models

ROME, 22 Dec— Italy’s fashion industry and the government have pledged to abide by a voluntary code of conduct which aims to keep unhealthy models from the catwalk. According to the code, models must provide a medical certificate proving they do not suffer eating disorders. The code also bans the use of models aged under 16 and urges the use of larger-sized models.

Italy’s youth and sports minister said fashion’s obsession with slimmness created an extreme aesthetic. “Sixty percent of teenagers in our country would like to be skinnier than they are,” said Giovanna Melandri.

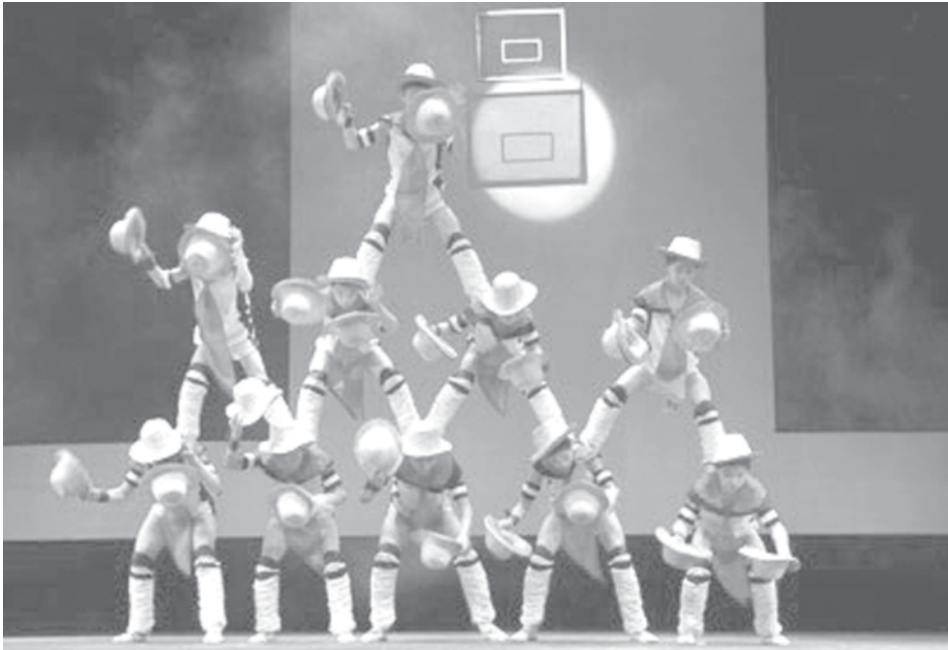
“There is a line between a thin girl and a sick one that is often crossed. Italy, with this manifesto, is committed to recognising this boundary and not crossing it,” she said. The code does not clarify how those who violate the code would be punished, nor does it carry any legal weight.—Internet

Model Carolina Reston weighed only 40kg (88 lbs) when she died.

INTERNET



A Filipino family watches as dolphins perform during a dolphin and sea lion entertainment show at a mall in Manila, Philippines, on 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



A team of acrobats stages a performance named Straw Hat during an acrobatic evening party in Beijing on 18 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

Russia ensures success of “Year of China” in Russia

Moscow, 22 Dec— Russia will do its best to ensure next year’s “Year of China” in Russia is as successful as the “Year of Russia” in China was, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday.

Thanks to “impeccable organization and the assistance of our Chinese friends, the Year of Russia in China was immensely successful”; Lavrov told a Moscow Press conference. In response, the Russian Government will do its best to assist the Chinese people to stage in Russia next year, Lavrov said.

Last year, Chinese and Russian leaders announced plans to hold the events aimed at boosting the strategic partnership between the two countries.

During the Year of Russia in China, which was launched in March

this year, more than 250 events have been held in the trade, investment and cultural fields, highlighting the level and scope of cooperation between Russia and China, according to the Foreign Minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Obese people have higher levels of bacteria

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec— Obese people have higher levels of unusually efficient bacteria that free up more calories, according to study findings available here on Thursday.

Compared with obese people, lean people have less bacteria in their guts. This offers an explanation for why obese people get fat, researchers at Washington University in St Louis reported in two papers published on Thursday in the journal *Nature*.

Humans need bacteria in their guts to help convert otherwise indigestible foods into a form that is digestible, and the bacteria in obese people are better

at the process, said the researchers.

In effect, obese people obtain more energy than lean people do from the same amount of food, and those extra calories are deposited on their waists.

In their study, the researchers gave lean mice the bacteria from fat animals and found the mice gaining weight as a result, said the researchers.

These findings could help people find new ways to induce weight loss or to prevent weight gain from happening in the first place.

“This is a potentially revolutionary idea that could change our views of what causes obesity and how we depend on the

bacteria that inhabit our gut,” wrote Matej Bajzer and Randy J Seeley of the University of Cincinnati in an accompanying editorial. “But a great deal remains poorly under-

stood,” they added.

Experts cautioned that it was too soon to manipulate gut bacteria in the hopes of becoming slimmer.

MNA/Xinhua



Vindex Tengker, executive chef, prepares hamburgers at a hotel in Jakarta recently. A luxury hotel in Indonesia is cooking up an exotic 110-USD hamburger made with Japanese Kobe beef which the chef sees as a marriage between Western food and Asian flavour.—INTERNET

British soldier accused of passing secrets to Iran

LONDON, 22 Dec— A British soldier has been charged with passing secret information to Iran, according to a report by *The Times* on Thursday.

The 44-year-old Corporal Daniel James was an interpreter for the British Commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, General David Richards. He appeared at London’s city of Westminster Magistrates’ court on Wednesday, accused of divulging information to Iran, the report said.

James spoke fluent Pashtun, the main language in Afghanistan, and has been charged under the Official Secrets Act with communicating to another person

information “calculated to be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy” on 2 November this year.

According to the report, the soldier was charged in relation to the passing of confidential information about British activities in Afghanistan to Iran, which neighbours Afghanistan and has a strategic interest and influence in the region. James was remanded in custody until 27 December.

MNA/Xinhua

Farmer painters in Shanghai’s suburban Jinshan District, known as “Chinese Picassos,” are famous for their paintings of colorful scenes of country life, and the government is schooling them and setting up a website so they can turn out art to order.—XINHUA

Indian wife produces 6 blind children with blind husband

PATNA (India), 22 Dec— In a bizarre case that has puzzled the medical science, a woman in the northern Indian state of Bihar with good eyesight has produced her six children, all of them blind by birth.

The 45-year-old woman, who is named Kamala Khatoon, married with her blind husband Md Mahboob in the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar 25 years ago.

So far as medical studies shows that a normal man married with another one having some sort of physical disorder will not produce

disabled children except in some exceptional cases.

The woman has mothered as many as six blind babies in a row, that is really puzzling to us, Dr S R Padmdeo, a senior professor of Biochemistry at Patna University told *Xinhua* over the phone Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း
မော်တော်ယာဉ်သုံးသဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့အရောင်းဆိုင် (၁၁)ဆိုင်
တည်ဆောက်ရန်အတွက် မြစ်သဲများ ပေးသွင်းရန်
ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

တင်ဒါအမှတ် ၁/(၂၀၀၆-၂၀၀၇)

- ၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - မြစ်သဲ (ပန်းရံလုပ်ငန်းသုံး)
၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်အရေအတွက် - (၂၀၀၂)ကျင်း
ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ဆိုင်နေရာနှင့်အရေ
အတွက်ကို တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းချက်
များတွင် ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ - မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့
လုပ်ငန်း၊ စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊
အဆောက်အအုံအမှတ်(၆)၊
နေပြည်တော်။
၄။ တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့်နေ့ရက်/အချိန် - (၂၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၆)နေ့ ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ။
တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့်စည်းကမ်းများကို ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဌာနမြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝ
ဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရန်ကုန်နှင့် အဆောက်အအုံ အမှတ်(၆) နေပြည်တော်
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အလက်များကို တယ်လီဖုန်း နံပါတ် (၀၆၇-၄၁၁၃၄၀၊ ၀၁-၂၄၆၃၇၂)
တို့တွင် မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရေးအဖွဲ့
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တည်ဆောက်ရန်အတွက် မြစ်ကျောက်စရစ်များပေးသွင်းရန်
ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

တင်ဒါအမှတ် ၂/(၂၀၀၆-၂၀၀၇)

- ၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - မြစ်ကျောက်စရစ်
၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်အရေအတွက် - (၇၄၅)ကျင်း
ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ဆိုင်နေရာနှင့်အရေ
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တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့်စည်းကမ်းများကို ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဌာနမြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝ
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တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရေးအဖွဲ့
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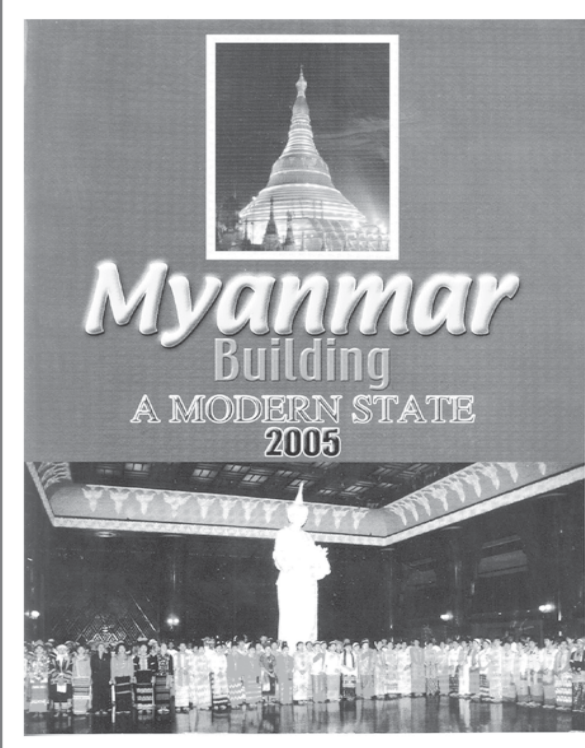
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ပေးသွင်းရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

တင်ဒါအမှတ် ၃/(၂၀၀၆-၂၀၀၇)

- ၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - ၆"x၉" မုပ္ပလင်လိပ်သံကျောက်
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ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင် လေသန့်စင်၍
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။



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တည်ဆောက်ရန်အတွက် (၉"x၄၅" x၃") လက်အုတ်များ ပေးသွင်းရန်
ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

တင်ဒါအမှတ် ၄/(၂၀၀၆-၂၀၀၇)

- ၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - (၉" x၄၅" x၃") လက်အုတ်
၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်အရေအတွက် - (၁၀၂၂၀၀)ချပ်
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HK Customs steps up
interception of drugs at
control points

HONG KONG, 22 Dec
— Hong Kong Customs
officers cracked three
drug-trafficking cases at
the Hong Kong Inter-
national Airport in the past
two weeks which worth
about 1.9 million HK
dollars (about 243,589 US
dollars) in total, said the
Customs here Wed-
nesday.

The cases involving
cannabis buds, ketamine
and cannabis resin
trafficked into Hong Kong
by means of air parcels or
passengers.

Head of HK Customs
Drug Investigation Bureau
Ben Leung said the success
in intercepting the
dangerous drugs de-
monstrated that Hong
Kong Customs officers

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်
သတ္တမအကြိမ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ် ၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ပညာသင်
နှစ်မှ မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့၊ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့၊ ဒီပလိုမာဘွဲ့၊ သင်တန်း အောင်မြင်ကြသူများ
အတွက် သတ္တမအကြိမ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်အခမ်းအနားကို အောက်ပါအတိုင်း
ကျင်းပမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

- ကျင်းပမည့်နေ့ - ၁၁-၂-၂၀၀၇ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
ကျင်းပမည့်နေရာ - ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ခန်းမ (ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်)
ကျင်းပမည့်အချိန် - (၀၉:၀၀) နာရီ
ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ကြေး - ၁၅၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်ငါးရာတိတိ)
အဝေးရောက်ဘွဲ့ကြေး - ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)
အစမ်းလေ့ကျင့်မည့်ရက် - ၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၇ (စနေနေ့)
အချိန် - (၁၀:၀၀) နာရီ
လျှောက်လွှာလက်ခံမည့်ရက် - ၂၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၉-၁-၂၀၀၇
ရက်နေ့အထိသတ်မှတ် လျှောက်လွှာ
ပုံစံဖြင့်လျှောက်ထားရန်

- (၁) မှတ်ပုံတင်မိတ္တူနှင့် (၁.၅"x၂") ဓါတ်ပုံ(၂) ပုံကိုလျှောက်လွှာတင်
သည့်ရက်တွင် ယူလာရပါမည်။
(၂) မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့(အင်္ဂလိပ်) ၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ ခု ပညာသင်နှစ်၊ ၂၀၀၆
ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လအောင်၊ ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများ
(၃) ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့(၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ ပညာသင်နှစ်)၊ ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ
အောင် ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများ
(၄) ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့(မြန်မာဘာသာ) ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လအောင်၊ ကျောင်းသား၊
ကျောင်းသူများ
(၅) ဒီပလိုမာ အချိန်ပိုင်း၊ အချိန်ပြည့် (တရုတ်၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်၊ ပြင်သစ်၊
ဂျာမန်၊ ဂျပန်၊ ကိုရီးယား၊ ရုရှား၊ မြန်မာဘာသာ၊ ထိုင်း) ၂၀၀၆
ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လအောင်၊ ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများ
(၆) ယခင်ဘွဲ့ လျှောက်ထားခြင်း မရှိခဲ့ဖူးသူများသည် အဝေးရောက်ဘွဲ့
အတွက်သာ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။
(၇) ဘွဲ့ဝတ်စုံငှားရန်ထောက်ခံစာကို (၅-၂-၂၀၀၇) (တနင်္လာနေ့)မှစ၍
ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ဌာနတွင် ထုတ်ပေး
ပါမည်။
(၈) ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်တက်ရောက်မည့်ဟု တင်သွင်းပြီး တက်ရောက်ရန်
ပျက်ကွက်ပါက ဘွဲ့လက်မှတ်ကို အဝေးရောက်ဘွဲ့လက်မှတ်များ
ထုတ်ပေးသည့်အချိန်မှသာ ထုတ်ပေးပါမည်။
(၉) ဘွဲ့တက်ရောက်ယူမည့် အမျိုးသားများသည် မြန်မာဝတ်စုံ၊ တိုင်းရင်း
သားဝတ်စုံ(သို့) အနောက်တိုင်းဝတ်စုံအပြည့်နှင့် အမျိုးသမီးများသည်
မြန်မာဝတ်စုံ၊ တိုင်းရင်းသားဝတ်စုံကိုသာ ဝတ်ဆင်ခွင့်ပြုမည်။
(၁၀) အသေးစိတ်ကို ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်
ဌာနတွင် စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကြည်ကြည်ဆွေ
မော်ကွန်းထိန်း၊ စာမေးပွဲနှင့်ဘွဲ့နှင်းဌာနခွဲ

Pakistan-India shipping protocol will help
boost bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec — Pakistan has described the signing of a revised
shipping protocol with India as a "milestone" towards promotion of trade in
South Asia, especially between the two neighbouring countries.

"With this new protocol, shipping industries of both the countries would
flourish. Huge private investment is seen to be diverted in this very potential
sector," Pakistan's Minister for Ports and Shipping Babar Khan Ghauri told
reporters in Karachi Wednesday.

MNA/PTI

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Beijing county to restore 4,000 metres of wild Great Wall

BEIJING, 19 Dec— The county government of Yanqing in Beijing Municipality has announced plans to restore a 4,000-metre-long wild section of the Great Wall next year.

Wang Weidong, deputy director of the Badaling region office, said the county would launch a large-scale survey of the unopened stretch of the Great Wall next year and restore it in keeping with the original.

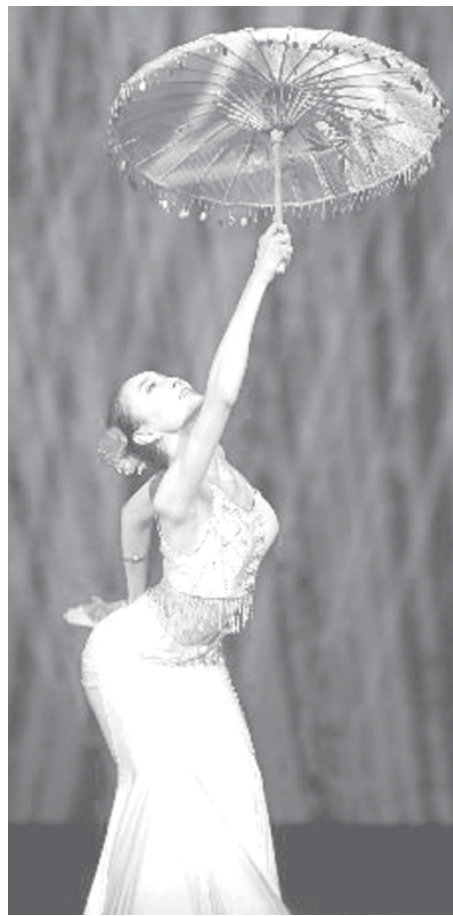
Wang said more than 200 signposts on the Great Wall will be changed into English-Chinese bilingual signs next year for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The Great Wall, which

stretches over 6,700 kilometres from west to northeast China, receives an estimated 10 million visitors a year, many of which swarm around the 10-kilometre segment open to tourists at Badaling, the nearest part of the wall to downtown Beijing.

China's central government has spent 50 million yuan on restoring the the Great Wall.

MNA/Xinhua



A student of Beijing Dance Academy performs Chinese folk dance at the opening of 2006 season of Beijing Dance Academy on 12 Dec, 2006. The 2006 season of China's top dance academy opens on that day. XINHUA

Malaysia to introduce security charges at airports

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dec — Malaysia will begin to introduce passenger security charges on 15 January next year, the Malaysian airport management authorities said here Thursday.

The security charges, 3 ringgit for domestic destinations (0.83 US dollars) and 6 ringgit (1.67 dollars) for international destinations, will be charged at all airports operated by Malaysia airports for all tickets issued on and after January 15 next year, Malaysia airports said.

“The passenger security charge will be collected together as

part of the cost of ticket, similar to the current passenger service charge collection procedure,” Malaysia Airports said in a Press release.

“Passengers who have bought the tickets before 15 January, 2007 for travel on or after 15 January, 2007 are not required to pay the security charge,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua



A labourer marks steel bars at a steel and iron factory in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province on 21 Dec, 2006. China plans to issue new policies that would limit the number of companies allowed to import iron ore, said Chen Xianwen, deputy director general of the China Iron and Steel Association's department of market research.—INTERNET

US museum clashes with Italy over ancient artifacts

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec— Clashes between the US Getty Museum in Los Angeles and Italy took a turn for the worse on Thursday after consultations on the return of allegedly looted art failed.

Museum officials said efforts to resolve a spat with Italy over allegedly looted art have been stalled “by a 40-year-old claim for a Greek statue found in international waters”.

At dispute is the Statue of Victorious Youth, known as the Getty Bronze, which is now possessed by Getty but allegedly belongs to Italy.

Italian Culture Minister Francesco Rutelli said earlier that talks were on

the verge of breaking down because the Getty Museum refuses to return the statue and other ancient Greek and Roman artifacts.

Getty officials said they will return 26 antiquities to Italy as part of an October agreement, which does not include the disputed Getty Bronze. In November, a meeting “ended abruptly” when the Italian Culture Minister said no agreement could be reached without the

return of the statue.

Getty officials have said they are prepared to return the Cult Statue of a Goddess, known as the Aphrodite, if further study proves that the statue does belong to Italy. “We continue to be disappointed that the ministry's attempt to revive a claim regarding the Statue of Victorious Youth a claim that was decided decades ago by Italian courts has stalled our progress,” a Getty Museum statement said.

The Getty Bronze was found in international waters in 1964 and obtained by the Getty Museum after Italian courts ruled there was no evidence to suggest the statue belonged to Italy, according to Getty director Michael Brand.

“We want to reiterate how important it is to resolve our differences,” the Getty statement said. “Italy and the Getty have many common interests when it comes to the arts. We tell the story of Italy's rich cultural heritage every day at the J Paul Getty Museum.”—MNA/Xinhua



Salvadoran Nahuas Indians light a fire as they offer corn and flowers to the Sun during winter solstice celebrations at the archaeological ruins of San Andres, El Salvador, on 21 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

China Unicom's CDMA subscription hits new high

BEIJING, 22 Dec — Telecommunications giant China Unicom saw 373,000 more mobile phone users subscribe to its CDMA network last month, the largest monthly growth since July last year, said China's largest portal website Wednesday.

The company's CDMA network provides services for more than 36 million mobile phone users, according to Sina.com.

Based on the CDMA (code division multiple access) technology, the network promotes itself on claims of a large capacity and high quality of communication as well as low radiation.

Subscribers to China Unicom's GSM (global system for mobile communication) network increased by 930,000 to about 105 million, bringing the company's total subscribers to 141 million by the end of November, said the website.— MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Zimbabwe to face Guinea in women's Olympic soccer qualifier

HARARE, 23 Dec—Zimbabwe women soccer team the Mighty Warriors have been drawn to play Guinea in the first round of CAF preliminary round qualifier for the 2008 Olympic tournament in Beijing, China. According to the draw conducted by CAF, Zimbabwe will start with an away assignment in Guinea on the weekend of February 16-18 2007 and then host the West Africans on the weekend of March 9-11. Thirty-two countries will participate in the qualifiers and neighbours South Africa have a relatively easy assignment against Equatorial Guinea whom they booted out of the African Women's Championship in the quarter-final.—MNA/Xinhua

Prensa Latina gives Cuban runner top athletic prize

HAVANA, 23 Dec—Cuban runner Zulia Calatayud, Venezuelan pitcher Johan Santana, and the Brazilian volleyball team topped the 43rd annual Prensa Latina poll for the best Latin American athletes, published on Friday.

Calatayud, an 800-metre runner, won 45 of the 115 possible votes for the region's best woman athlete. She has won 12 of the 16 finals that she took part in this season, including the 10th Athletics World Cup, in the Greek capital Athens, where she beat Kenya's Janet Jepkosgei, who has 2006 best 800 metres time: one hour 56 minutes 56 seconds. Santana, who won 41 votes, pitches for the Minnesota Twins in the United States Major Leagues, where he won the league's triple crown with a 2.77 earned runs average, 245 strikes and 19 wins.—MNA/Xinhua

Premiership 23 Dec, 2006

Fulham	0-0	West Ham
Wigan	2-3	Chelsea
Arsenal	6-2	Blackburn
Reading	0-2	Everton
Liverpool	2-0	Watford
Newcastle	3-1	Tottenham
Man City	0-2	Bolton
Middlesbrough	2-0	Charlton
Portsmouth	3-1	Sheff Utd

Internet

Aston fail to stop Manchester United

BIRMINGHAM, 23 Dec — Manchester United maintain their advantage over Chelsea, beating Aston Villa 0-3 in Birmingham.

No goals were scored in the first half but Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo showed his class, breaking the deadlock in the 58th minute.

Midfielder Paul Scholes added a second, six minutes later, and Cristiano Ronaldo took care of United's third in the 85th minute.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side have a two-points advantage over Chelsea, although the Londoners do still have to play Wigan later on Saturday.—Internet



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, right, of Germany, drives around Los Angeles Clippers guard Sam Cassell in the first half of an NBA basketball game, on 22 Dec, 2006, in Dallas. Dallas won, 115-83.—INTERNET

Zimbabwe young warriors trio makes history

HARARE, 23 Dec—Zimbabwe might have failed to qualify for the African Under-17 Soccer Championship finals in Togo next year but three members of the team were included in the CAF squad for the UFA-CAF Meridian Cup and Conference in Spain next year. Team captain Knowledge Musona, Khama Billiard and Daniel Million made history by making the African Under-18 All-Star squad. Zambian legend Kalusha Bwalya who was the match commissioner when Zimbabwe were thumped 5-1 in South Africa in the second round, first leg on November 25 recommended

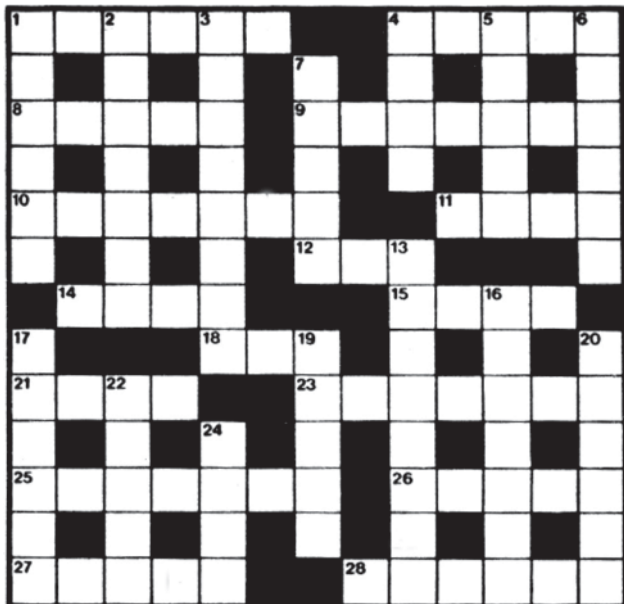
Musona and Billiard.

Maxwell Mtonga who was the match commissioner in the reverse fixture, which ended 2-2 at Barbourfields on December 9 was impressed by Musona and Million. National Under-17 coach Rodwell Dhlakama has also been invited to send his application for consideration as one of the two coaches for the African side.

Dhlakama by virtue of being the players' coach is also required to accompany the trio to the UEFA/Meridian Cup and Conference running from 26 February to 1 March, 2007 in Barcelona, Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Busy
- 4 Excavated
- 8 Hold fast
- 9 Result
- 10 Ravish
- 11 Side
- 12 Regret
- 14 A tangle
- 15 Inventory
- 18 Prosecute
- 21 Verdi opera
- 23 Shifty
- 25 Utterly confused
- 26 Laconic
- 27 Coach
- 28 Father of Saturn

DOWN

- 1 Recess
- 2 Three-cornered hat
- 3 Tramps
- 4 Silent
- 5 Loop with running knot
- 6 Given to reverie
- 7 Lid
- 13 Lift
- 16 Highlander's purse
- 17 Talisman
- 19 Decree
- 20 Evaluate
- 22 Preliminary sketch
- 24 Commotion

Olympique Marseille's Mickael Pagis (R) challenges Saint-Etienne's Julien Sable during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, on 22 Dec, 2006. INTERNET



Egyptian-Saudi Super Cup to be relaunched in 2007

CAIRO, 23 Dec— Egyptian Football Association President Samir Zaher has agreed with Saudi Arabian Football Federation vice-president Prince Nawaf Bin Faisal on reviving the Egyptian-Saudi Super Cup, local soccer news website filgoal.com reported Friday.

Zaher and Bin Faisal told a joint Press conference in Cairo that they decided the event will be relaunched at the end of this season. The event was held twice in 2001 and 2003, and was divided into two games.

In the first game, the winners of the Egyptian and Saudi Cups contested for Egyptian President Mubarak's Cup Winners' Super Cup in Riyadh. In the second game, league winners in both countries contested for King Fahd's League Champions' Super Cup in Cairo.

MNA/Xinhua



Wigan's Emile Heskey, left, scores past Chelsea's goalkeeper Henrique Hilario during their English Premier League soccer match at the JJB Stadium, Wigan, England, on Saturday 23 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Arsenal's joy of six too much for Rovers

LONDON, 23 Dec— Arsenal gave their home supporters some long overdue festive cheer with a raucous 6-2 victory over struggling Blackburn Rovers at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsene Wenger's side may have stuttered for long spells this season, but this was the sort of regal performance which makes their failure to challenge for the Premiership title all the more surprising.

Yet the scoreline did not tell the whole story. Arsenal may have controlled the bulk of a richly entertaining game but their lack of ruthlessness left them in danger of dropping more home points until a flurry of late goals left Blackburn beaten and bedraggled.

Rovers qualified for the UEFA Cup last season, but they now face a bleak mid-winter and Mark Hughes must address his team's glaring defensive deficiencies if relegation is to be avoided.

This should have been the sort of pre-Christmas appetiser to have fourth-placed Arsenal smacking their lips, but the yawning gap separating Wenger's team from the league leaders can largely be attributed to their failure to dispatch such mediocrity.

Internet

Over 100,000 cleft palate patients in China receive free surgery

BEIJING, 23 Dec — More than 101,000 poor Chinese cleft lip and palate patients have received free surgery provided by a charity project over the past eight years, a charity official said on Thursday.

The free treatment project, jointly initiated by the China Charity Foundation (CCF) and US-based charity "Smile Train" in 1999, has helped impoverished patients under 40 years old in 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

Victoria Z Moy, managing director of the "Smile Train" China branch, said "Smile Train" had invested about 35 million US dollars in the project in China and funded the training of

more than 4,000 Chinese doctors over the past eight years. Urban and rural patients can apply for the free surgery at the nearest appointed local hospital with certification from local governments.

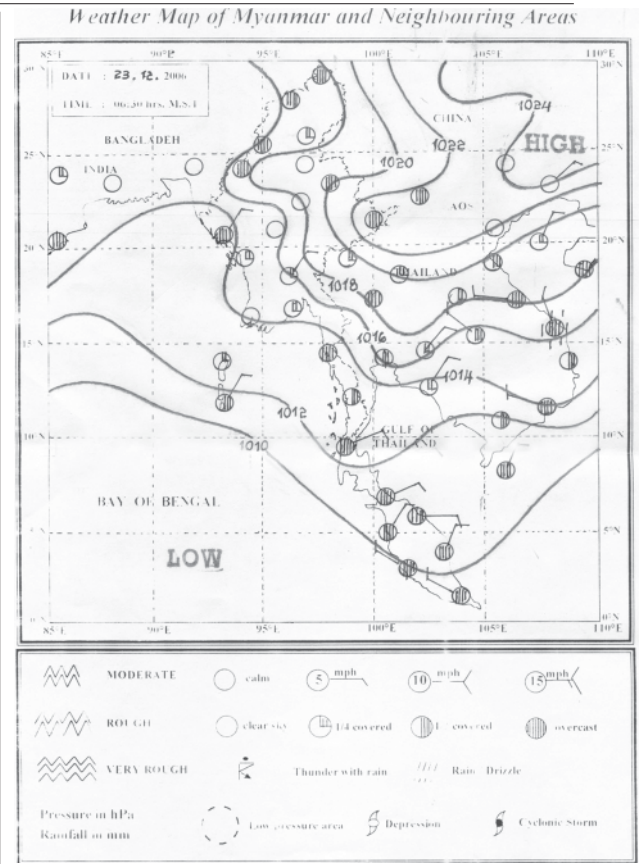
It also allows rural migrant worker patients to receive treatment in cities instead of going back to their hometowns.

Harelips, which are often associated with cleft palates, are a common congenital malformation caused by hereditary and environmental factors.

MNA/Xinhua



Jemairah Kimmayong, a nine-year-old bone cancer patient, looks out as a man dressed as Santa Claus visits the paediatric ward of the Baguio General Hospital, north of Manila, on 20 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



WEATHER

Saturday, 23 December, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Kayah States, Magway, Yangon and Bago Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Shan and Kayin States, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namsam (-1°C), Haka (2°C) and Mogok (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-12-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 23-12-2006 was 57°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-12-2006 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 22-12-2006 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-12-2006 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 (7) mph from North-east at 11:15 hours MST on 22-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the Sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Sea will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-12-2006: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued 06:00 hours MST Today)

A Strong earthquake of intensity (6.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (370) miles Southwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (02) hrs (22) min (18) sec MST on 23rd December, 2006.



Sunday, 24 December

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Merry X'mas ...The Ray-mones
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45am Music: -Little St Nixk ...The Beach Boy
- 8:50 am National News/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Wonderful X'mas time ...Paul Mc Carthey
- 9:05am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -Last Christmas ...Wham!
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40pm Children's delight for children "Hansel & Gretal" -X'mas songs with children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20pm X'mas let's improve English through songs -Slight night ... Madi -Ary's boy child ... Lay Lay Wah -Jingel bell rock ...Saw Yuri
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Sunday, 24 December

View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော် သံဃာ့မဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာရဋ္ဌာရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိကာ၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတာဂါရိကာ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. ကူးလူးဆက်သွယ်ချစ်ကြီးနွယ်

8:20 am

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. 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 internation news

11:35am

4. Yan Can Cook

11:50am

5. Myanmar movie: "ချစ်ကြီးလိမ်" (စိန်မြင့်၊ နိုင်မိုး၊ ချိုဖြိုး၊ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းနိုင်)

1:30 pm

6. ပြင်ဦးလွင်အမျိုးသား အထိမ်းအမှတ် ဥယျာဉ်

1:55 pm

7. Musical programme

1:30 pm

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:20 pm

9. "စည်ကမ်းလိုက်နာဘေးကင်းမှာ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မော့စ်၊ လင်းစာနည်ဇော်၊ ပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်၊ မြင့်စိုး (ဝ/သ ရန်ကုန်)

2:30 pm

10. ဆွာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ

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. English for everyday use

4:40 pm

4. သံသာချိုအေး (၃၈) ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး

4:50 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of National Races

5:20 pm

7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news.

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. သိရိဓဟာ

7:00 pm

11. Discovery

7:10 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြယ်ကြွေရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၆)

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

17. The next day's programme

ICT Exhibition, Market Festival-2006, Educational Project Contest open

YANGON, 23 Dec — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening of ICT Exhibition and Market Festival-2006, and Third Educational Project Contest being held at Myanmar Info-Tech Building in Hlaing University Campus, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry of Education, those from Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association and others.

President U Thein Oo of MCF first briefed those present at the exhibition and contest. Next Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department and the responsible persons formally opened the exhibition and contest.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed the computer showrooms and observed the competition of Third Educational Project Contest. The contest is held in order to apply ICT technologies in the education sectors and write the educational programs.

The teachers and students are taking part in the contest and the prizes will be awarded on 25 December.

There are 60 computer showrooms and 120 booths in the ICT Exhibition and Market Festival-2006. Arrangements are being made to hold the exhibition and Market festival three times per year. The exhibition runs till 25 December 2006.

MNA

Objectives of 59th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to join hands forever for safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty of the State;
- All the national people to collectively safeguard non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
- All the national people to make concerted efforts for the emergence of an enduring constitution and building of a new, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; and
- All the national people to work in concert for the success of the seven-step Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party view Educational Project Contest.

MCIA



Sports Minister takes part in December mass walk for the fourth week in Nay Pyi Taw



2006 December Mass Walk for the fourth week being held in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — With a view to ensuring uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, Ministry of Sports organized the 2006 December mass walk for the fourth week and the first Nay Pyi Taw mini marathon contest for 2006 in front of the Myoma market here this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint together with member of the committee Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and wife, departmental officials, government employees and their families, teachers and students participated in the mass walk. They walked along Taungnyo-Pyinmana road from Myoma market, Pyankapyay and Thabyaygon gathering points to the Myoma market gathering points and encouraged the contestants of the mini marathon contest.

A total of 79 athletes from respective ministries took part in the mini marathon contest. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented first, second and third prizes to the winners.

The Ministry of Sports will also hold marathon events to mark the 59th Anniversary Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA