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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

Proposals on Chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” presented

YANGON, 26 Dec — Delegates presented proposals of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and nine independent representatives-elect of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect 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” in drafting the State Constitution at the Plenary Session of the National Convention which continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 1 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Con-

vening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of subcommittees, delegates of political parties National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Kokang Demo-

cratic Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or)

Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Mandalay, Mandalay,

Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions,

delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and (See page 9)



Plenary Session of the National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 27 December, 2006

Towards flourishing of Union Spirit

Thanks to the unity of the entire national people, the Union of Myanmar has been able to stand tall among nations of the world. The preservation of the fine tradition of living together through thick and thin for years countable by the thousand is the duty of all the citizens of present days.

The government is making all-out efforts in accordance with the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. With the active participation of the entire national people, remarkable progress has been made in this regard.

At present, the National Convention, the first phase of the seven-step Road Map, is being convened, in the process of transition to democracy. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the eight delegate groups to the National Convention, an enduring State constitution will soon emerge.

At such a time, efforts are to be made for perpetual flourishing of the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit, that are the foundation of the Union as well as the national fervour.

Only when there is national unity will a peaceful, modern and developed nation emerge. This being so, the entire national people are to strive in unison for the perpetuation of sovereignty on the basis of the already-achieved peace and development.



CASH DONATED: U Tin Win -Daw Cho and family of Latpan Village in Thongwa Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Treasurer of the Home U Aung Than accepting the donation. — H

Republics Destroy

- * 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

Commander inspects progress of development tasks in Kungyangan, Kawhmu



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects prawn breeding of Top Win Co in Kungyangan Township. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Dec — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win met departmental personnel in Kungyangan and Kawhmu townships on 23 December morning.

In the afternoon, the commander met with departmental personnel at the hall of Lekkhokkon Model Village in Kungyangan Township. Chairman of the Township PDC U Kyaw Kyaw Win reported on facts about the village, local businesses, sea water prawn and natural prawn breeding tasks.

Officials also submitted reports on fish and prawn breeding in the village and salt industry.

The commander gave instructions on regional

development and attended to the needs.

Next, the commander inspected progress of prawn breeding of Top Win Co and digging of prawn ponds near Wetkaik Village. At Lekkhokkon Station Hospital, the commander donated K 1.5 million to the medical fund through officials.

At the hall of Kawhmu Township PDC, the commander heard reports on water supply tasks of the township by an official, and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander accepted K 2.4 million donated by eight wellwishers including K 1 million by Yangon Division PDC. Later, Head of the Township Health Department Dr Sein Aye expressed gratitude. — MNA

Vice-Mayor on tour of Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — USDA CEC member (In-charge of Yangon Division) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected regional development task in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township on 24 December morning.

First, he viewed the growing of flowers in the park situated at the entrance to the town and condition of Baho Street and the wooden bridge on the street. After offering provisions to the Sayadaw of Dhammapiti monastery, the vice-mayor met departmental staff, social organizations and local people at the Dhammayon. Next, he visited the Township Hos-

pital (25-bed), comforted the patients and made cash donations. He proceeded to the pre-primary school of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and fed nutritious food to the children. Later, he paid

homage and offered alms to the Sayadaw of Mahawithu-tayama monastery in Khanaungto Ward (West) and met departmental staff, social organizations and local people. He presented K 100,000 each

donated by Yangon Division USDA for the township hospital, for sport activities purposes and for renovation of Phon-edawtoe Pagoda in Khanaungto Ward (East) through officials. — MNA



Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa meeting with townselders and members of social organizations in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township. — YCDC

Malaysian leaders inspect flood-affected areas

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Dec—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak inspected flood relief centres in the states of Johor and Malacca respectively earlier Saturday and joined together later a relief centre in Malacca, local media reported.

During his tour at the relief centre in Malacca, Badawi said he was happy with volunteers' participation in the relief work.

He also urged the flood victims to cooperate with relief workers to facilitate distribution of foodstuff and other necessities.

The death toll from the floods in several states of Malaysia rose to seven on Saturday after the body of a Nepali man was found on the day.

The health authorities were on high alert for the outbreak of diseases, especially dengue and cholera, in Segamat, one of the districts worst hit by floods in the state of Johor. The Malaysian Meteorology Department were forecasting improved weather conditions in the five flood-hit states — Johor, Malacca, Sembilan, Pahang, Kelantan in the coming days.

Analysts said that the improved weather conditions would help ease the flooding in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

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The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China meets in Beijing, on 24 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

UK raid angers Basra politicians

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec—Basra City Council has withdrawn co-operation from UK forces in southern Iraq after the police's serious crimes unit was disbanded by troops.

More than 1,000 troops blew up a police station run by the unit, which has been blamed for robberies and death squads. Major Charlie Burbridge said local politics was "complicated" and the actions had been justified.

Mohammed al Abadi, head of the city's council, said the raid was provocative and illegal.

Basra police commander Brigadier General Ali Ibrahim also expressed similar views. "This storming operation is illegal and violates human rights," he said. "We think that what the operation sought to achieve is very simple and could have been settled by Iraqi troops." During the operation, UK troops raided the unit's headquarters and took charge of 127 prisoners whom they feared might be killed. They demolished the Jamiat police station, which was the Serious Crimes Unit's base in Basra.

Soldiers from 19 Light Brigade supported by Iraqi forces surrounded the police station before the Royal Engineers used a combat tractor to breach the walls. — Internet



Police walk amid the rubble of a building of a police station after it was destroyed by British forces in Basra, on 25 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

WHO says year 2006 of both "challenges and successes"

LUSAKA, 26 Dec—The World Health Organization (WHO) has said the year 2006 has been a year of both challenges and achievements.

In its 2006 review of major health issues obtained by *Zambia News and Information Services* on Sunday, WHO states that although a lot of successes have been scored in many areas, a lot more still needed to be done.

The report points out that the "3 by 5" initiative launched by WHO and UNAIDS in December

2003, has increased access to HIV treatment by threefold.

It said by June 2006, 1.65 million people were receiving treatment in low and middle income countries, in comparison with 400,000 in December 2003 and that sub-Saharan Africa was the first to benefit from the expansion of treatment.

WHO said there are currently 57 countries with critical shortages of health workers which prevent them from delivering vital interventions such as vaccination of children,

antenatal and obstetric care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

There is a shortage of more than four million physicians, nurses, midwives, support staff and public health workers to meet the needs of these countries, 36 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, WHO said.

The report said other achievements included the launch of a new vaccine in women that protects against infection of cervical cancer.

Cancer of the cervix is said to be the second most common cancer in women, with about 500,000 new cases and 250,000 deaths in 2005.

The report said the introduction of such vaccines could help to develop synergies between vaccination, cancer control and sexual and reproductive health.

WHO said that the vaccine could also yield valuable experience for the future introduction of a vaccine against HIV.

MNA/Xinhua

3 more US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Dec — Three more US soldiers were killed in Iraq in the past two days, the US military said on Monday.

One US soldier was killed in a bombing attack in Baghdad on Monday, while

the other two died from wounds sustained during fighting on Sunday, the military said in a statement.

According to the military, a roadside bomb exploded near a mounted patrol in a southern neighbourhood of Baghdad on Monday, killing one soldier and wounding two others.

Media reports said that at least 86 US military personnel died in Iraq in December now.

The latest deaths bring the number of US fatalities in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 2,971, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



A poster of "Night at the Museum". Family comedy "Night at the Museum" topped the box office in the United States and Canada over the Christmas holiday weekend, knocking out Rocky Balboa and Will Smith, according to box office estimates released on 24 Dec, 2006. —XINHUA

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



U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency. — MNA

YANGON, 26 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 collectively presented by independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency, Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency, Shan State (South), and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency, Shan State (North) at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today.

Esteemed 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, and the Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee and members, National Convention delegates,

I am independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency, Chin State. I wish you Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, officials and National Convention delegates health and happiness. The proposal paper on “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” is collectively compiled by independent representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency, Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency, Shan State (South), and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency, Shan State (North). I will read the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution” and “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”; U Aung Thein, the chapter “Transitory Provisions”; and U Tun Kyaw, the chapter “General Provisions”.

Mr Chairman,

A nation is formed and safeguarded in accord with the provisions contained in the constitution. If we study the constitution of a nation we can know its system, formation and stance and the persons it serves and protects. The constitution is called the backbone, the lifeblood or the mirror of a nation. In other words, the Constitution states the fundamental principles concerning the organizations that will realize the political and public affairs, the stipulations that will guarantee the rights of the people, and the sectors where the public will have to participate with cooperative efforts. Constitution is not the affairs of a person, a group or an organization. It is the affairs of every citizen. All the people should take interest in and understand the essence of the constitution and the fact that the



Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency. — MNA

constitution is concerned with them.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention has been laying down and adopting the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles of the 15 chapters for the formulation of the Constitution. Now, the National Convention has reached the stage of discussing the detailed basic principles of the last four chapters. The fundamental principles and detailed basic principles have been laid down based on further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality and flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy. The Constitution whose provisions are based on the said fundamental principles and detailed basic principles will surely serve the interest of all the national races who are the people of the nation.

Amendment of the Constitution

Mr Chairman,

Now I will present the proposal in connection with the detailed basic principles for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”. Human thoughts, ideas, efforts and knowledge never remain the same. They are constantly developing. Changes, substitutions and developments should be made in accord with the time and situation. It is necessary to amend a constitution in accord with the time and situation. If the provisions concerning the amendment are too strict, the Constitution will not be in conformity with the time and situation because of the difficulties in amending it. It is true that there will be difficulties in carrying out the functions if they are being implemented in accord with the original constitution without making amendments even though the situation is calling for changes in the Constitution. And if amendments are permitted easily, the essence of the Constitution will be ruined because of the frequent amendments. Moreover the Constitution may become different from its original stance. Hence, we must avoid the two extremes — too much restrictions and too little restrictions — in designating the provisions concerning the amendment. Hence, the middle way should be our option in this matter.

The 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution stipulated the provisions on the amendment in the separate chapters. There should be means to amend the Constitution. There should be a provision saying that any amendment must be in the form of a Bill and that the Bill should not contain other proposals. The 1947 Constitution stated the same. As explained by the Work Committee Chairman, a detailed basic principle saying that any proposal for constitutional amendment should be in the form of a Bill and that no other proposals should be included in it, should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

The future Constitution will have the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. There should be a prescription to initiate the Bill. The



U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency. — MNA

countries with two parliaments have precise prescriptions to initiate the Bill. The 1947 Constitution stated, “Such Bill may be initiated in either Chamber of Parliament.” And the 1974 Constitution stated, “Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw may submit to the Pyithu Hluttaw motions for amending this Constitution.” 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. As explained by the Work Committee Chairman, such Bill to amend the Constitution may be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Mr Chairman,

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. As regards the matter, 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 new Constitution, the Bill can be submitted only to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Hence, there should be a prescription stating the number of MPs needed to ask an amendment. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have 664 members — 440 from Pyithu Hluttaw and 224 from Amyotha Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw will be formed with 16 members each from all Regions and States. Regions and States may submit an amendment in accord with the local situation or time. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should consider discussing the Bill only if 20 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submit it.

In this regard, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“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.”

Mr Chairman,

Now, the specific methods to amend the specific provisions of the Constitution will be discussed. In the Constitutions of some nations, it is prescribed that the main provisions can be amended after seeking the public approval at a nation-wide referendum, and that some provisions can be amended only with the approval of the members of the Chamber concerned. In other nations, some provisions can be amended with the proportionate ratio of the votes of all the MPs.

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, which said, “The main articles shall be amended with the prior approval of 75 per cent of all the members of the

(See page 5)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution

(from page 4)

Pyithu Hluttaw, in a nation-wide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote. Provisions other than those mentioned in the Clause shall be amended only with a majority vote of 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw.”

Mr Chairman,

At present, the situation is not ripe yet to state the amendment of the provisions chapter by chapter and article by article as the National Convention is only at the stage of adopting detailed basic principles in accord with its motto — to lay down and adopt basic principles. It is opined that only at the stage of drafting Constitution, the methods to be followed in making amendments of the respective chapters and articles should be prescribed in detail, so the Constitution will be clearer and easier to understand. At present, specific methods for specific chapters should be designated based on the chapters that have been adopted.

The Work Committee Chairman has explained the following point.

- “(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 nation-wide 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.”**

Seventy-five per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw means three fourths of all the MPs. It will be more appropriate and in accord with the era, if the number for MPs needed for the purpose is fixed at less than two thirds of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

But when we studied from the general point of view, we have found that the point explained by the Work Committee Chairman is suitable for the matter. Hence, the detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

We would like to suggest that the following four detailed basic principles should be adopted.

1. **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.**
2. **Such Bill to amend the Constitution shall be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.**
3. **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.**
4. **(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 nation-wide 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 the Constitution is drafted.**

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital

Mr Chairman,

Suggestions will be presented on the detailed basic principles to be adopted for the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital” to be included in formulating the Constitution.

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.

First, I will present suggestions on the State Flag. Usually, provisions concerning the State Flag focus on the means to stipulate and design it. The stipulations on the State Flag mostly depend on history of a nation. As regards the State Flag, the section 215 of the 1947 Constitution prescribed, “The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape and red in colour with a canton of dark blue. In the canton shall be a five-pointed large white star with five smaller stars between the points. One of the five points of each star, large or small, shall direct upwards. The dimensions of the Flag shall be nine feet by five feet, and the canton shall be four feet by two and a half feet. The size of the large star shall be such that a circle drawn through the five points shall have a diameter of 18 inches and the smaller stars nine inches. National Flag of other sizes shall conform as nearly as possible to the above proportions.”

The Article 190 of the 1974 Constitution prescribed, “The State Flag shall be as shown below” together with the picture of the State Flag. The colours used according to both the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution were red, white and blue. We have constantly believed that red stands for courage, decisiveness, perseverance and solidarity; blue stands for peace, serenity and stability in addition to profoundness and the dawn; and white stands for purity, sincerity, straightforwardness, correctness and firmness. We have accepted the definitions of those colours constantly since we regained independence. Although the symbols of the Flag were changed in accord with the era, colours have never been changed. The nation has used present colours of the Flag for over half a century, and all the people of Myanmar, old or young, are familiar with the said colours. In our view, despite the changes in time, era and provisions of the Constitution, the said familiar colours should not be changed. Making of changes in accord with the time and situation should be based on the origin. We assume that it will be more appropriate if subtraction and additions are made based on the original Flag.

Mr Chairman,

We would like to suggest to choose red, dark blue and white, which are the original colours of the current Flag, for the future State Flag. The size and shape of the new State Flag should be the same as the present one. The New Flag should have a canton of dark blue. The picture of pinion and rice plants should be omitted, and the 14 stars whose sizes are of the same should be in a circular position as they are portrayed in the present Flag. According to the adopted fundamental principles, the future Union of Myanmar will have 14 Regions and States that are enjoying equal rights and status. The 14 stars should be used to represent the 14 Regions and States and the national unity.

Here, we would like to suggest to state the para 1 “**The size, shape and colours of the State Flag shall remain the same. In the canton of dark blue shall be the 14 stars of the same size as they are portrayed in the previous State Flag. The 14 stars shall be directing upwards.**” instead of “**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.”

So, in our view, the para 1 should be stated as follows:

- “(1) The State Flag shall be prescribed as follows: “The size, shape and colours of the State Flag shall remain the same. In the canton of dark blue shall be the 14 stars of the same size as they are portrayed in the previous State Flag. The 14 stars shall be directing upwards.”**
- “(2) Law shall be promulgated concerning the State Flag.”**

Now, I will present my suggestions concerning the State Seal. The National Convention has already 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)”. The national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar in weal or woe and in love and unity. They took part in the anti-colonialist and national liberation struggles with unyielding spirit, patriotism, unity, sacrificing spirit and valour till the independence was regained. In accord with the new Constitution, the nation will practise genuine multiparty democracy system. For the success of the system, there should be coordination, mutual respect and bilateral connections between all levels of administrative organizations. Moreover, the lower level bodies should obey the orders of their superior organizations while the upper level bodies should pay attention to the submissions of the subordinate organizations. There should be harmony between the upper and lower levels. If not, the system may not achieve success. Similarly, democracy will not flourish. As long as there is corrupt-free coordination and unity among the people and between the administrator and the people, the nation will enjoy the fruits of justice, freedom and equality. To highlight the fact that unity leads to prosperity and strength, the State Seal should include the map of the Union of Myanmar and the words “Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw”. The white star symbolizing the anti-colonialist and anti-fascist struggles should also be included in it. Moreover, it 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.

Hence, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted with the picture of the State Seal under it.

“The State Seal shall be as shown below.”

Mr Chairman,

Now, I will give suggestions on the National Anthem. The present National Anthem which has been used for many years is in accord with the adopted fundamental principles of the National Convention. It is appropriate to use the present song as the National Anthem. The song was composed with the word “Bamar”. The then Secretary of the State Council General San Yu presented a proposal at the fifth meeting of the first Pyithu Hluttaw held in March 1976 to substitute the word ‘Bamar’ with the word ‘Myanmar’. The proposal called for the formation of a commission if the country would continue to use the National Anthem or substitute with it a new song.

Seven Pyithu Hluttaw members discussed the proposal, saying that the composing of the National Anthem was based of the song “Doh Bamar” used throughout the national liberation struggle; that the words and verses of the song were in accord with the era and system; that the song depicted the Union Spirit, the task of safeguarding independence and sovereignty and national development; that the song was totally familiar with the entire people young or old; and that instead of composing a new National Anthem, the word “Bamar” of the present song should be substituted with the word “Myanmar”. When the approval of the Pyithu Hluttaw members was sought, the MPs suggested to use the original song and to substitute the word “Bamar” with the word “Myanmar”.

(See page 6)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution

(from page 5)

The State Law and Order Restoration Council on 18 June 1989 issued the Order No 2/89 which said that the word “Bamar” included in the National Anthem of the Union of Myanmar was like representing only the Bamar people; that actually the National Anthem stood for all the national races of the Union; and that the word “Bamar” should be substituted with the word “Myanmar” representing all the national races. But some are still singing the song casually with the word “Bamar”. Notifications and orders should be issued in the future to remind the people to use the word “Myanmar” in accord with its essence instead of the word “Bamar”.

The following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

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

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the detailed basic principle concerning the designation of 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. At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 10 November 2006, the Work Committee Chairman said, “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. Hence, discussions are to be held and suggestions to be made whether the detailed basic principle **“The capital of the State is Nay Pyi Taw.”** should be laid down or not.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to discuss the point that is not clear for us. At the plenary session of the National Convention, held on 18 January 1994, the Work Committee Chairman explained the detailed basic principles for the chapters “the State”, “the State Structure” and “the Head of State”, saying, “Fundamental principles have already been laid down to form the nation with seven Regions and seven States. Hence, if the nation’s Capital is designated as a separately-governed Union Territory, the matter should be included in the fundamental principles of the chapter “State Structure”. The designation of the Capital should be discussed only at the chapter on State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital. However, it should be discussed at the chapter “State Structure, because of the said matter. In accord with the international practice, the city that is the seat of the government is designated as the Capital. In some countries the Capital is directly administered by the President or the Central Government. If Yangon, the seat of the government, is designated as Myanmar’s Capital, Yangon should be designated as Union Territory under the direct administration of the President instead of designating as a city under the administration of Yangon Region. The delegates should give suggestions whether a fundamental principle concerning the matter should be laid down or not.” The delegates gave suggestions in connection with the Work Committee Chairman’s explanation.

At the plenary session of the National Convention, held on 1 September 1994, detailed basic principles for the chapter “the State Structure” were laid down. Included in the detailed basic principles is the subpara (a) of the para 11, which states, “Yangon city, the Capital of the Union, is designated as Union territory placed under direct administration of the President of the Union.” As regards the administration of Yangon city, which is a Union territory, the para 35 comprising 11 detailed basic principles and the para 36 in connection with the prescription of status

of the chairman and members of Yangon City Council” have been laid down for the chapter “Formation of Executive”.

Mr Chairman,

As Yangon was designated as the Capital in accord with the said fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, there may be two Capitals in the nation, if Nay Pyi Taw is designated as the new Capital without abolishing the status of Yangon. At present, Nay Pyi Taw is included in Mandalay Division, and no detailed basic principle concerning Nay Pyi Taw has been laid down yet.

We are confused as to when and how a Union territory under the direct administration of the President concerning Nay Pyi Taw, its boundary and its administration will be designated. We are unable to know whether they will be designated at the on-going National Convention or when the bodies emerge under new constitution.

We are not clear yet which city will be the capital of Yangon Region, if Yangon remains as a Union territory.

The laying down of the fundamental principle to designate Yangon as the Capital and Union territory was based on the executive.

Concerning the designation of Union territories, the subpara (c) of the para 11 says, “If the need arises to designate areas that have special situation in connection with national security, administration and economic etc. as Union territories they may be so designated as Union territories after enacting laws”. It is not proper to designate Yangon, that is no longer the nation’s Capital, as a significant area without holding formal discussions on the matter at the National Convention. We assume that Yangon should be designated as a Union territory after enacting laws. We would like to suggest that the matter concerning the designation of Nay Pyi Taw as the Capital should be explained at the National Convention for all the delegates to know about it clearly.

Mr Chairman,

It is appropriate to designate Nay Pyi Taw in accord with the time and situation as the Capital as it is the region located in the central part of the country to further enhance national unity and facilitate transport with all the states and divisions. And all the government institutions are carrying out their normal functions at their head offices set up in Nay Pyi Taw.

In this regard, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

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

Transitory Provisions

I am U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South). May all of you Mr Chairman and the National Convention delegates be free from dangers and blessed with happiness.

Mr Chairman,

Suggestions will be made on the points that should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions” to be included in the State Constitution. In formulating a State Constitution, the situation of a nation before the Constitution does not come 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, execution 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.

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.

Section 234 of the 1947 Constitution says, “This Constitution shall come into operation on such date as the Provisional President may announce by proclamation not being later than the eighth day of Kason waxing, 1310 BE (fifteenth day of April, 1948 AD)”.

And 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”.

Hence, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“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.”

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 until 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 State Peace and Development Council exercises the three sovereign powers during the transitional period between the adoption of the State Constitution and coming into being, of the Hluttaws and then hands them over.

As regards the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

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.

Mr Chairman,

After the adoption of the Constitution, Hluttaw members will be elected in accord with the State Constitution. In the process, the State Peace and Development Council will have to take necessary steps in accord with the State Constitution. In other words, it is the duty of the State Peace and Development Council. So, power should be vested in the State Peace and Development Council to carry out legislative functions on behalf of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heretofore the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comes into existence. The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force should be deemed to have been carried out in accord with the Constitution.

Concerning the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“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.”

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.

In connection with the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“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”.

(See page 7)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution

(from page 6)

Mr Chairman,

Before a new Constitution comes into operation, the existing laws continuously 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.

Concerning the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“Existing laws shall remain in force so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

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.

Therefore, regarding the existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures to remain in force, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“Existing rules, regulations, by-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Union Government.”

Mr Chairman,

After a Constitution comes into force, it is needed to take steps such as judicial formation or establishment of courts at different levels, and devolving of jurisdiction and powers to courts at all levels in accord with the Constitution. As it has been explained, such matters cannot be completed on the date on which the Constitution comes into operation. So, jurisdiction should devolve upon all courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of the Constitution until new courts have been established by the law in accord with the Constitution to ensure continuous exercise of jurisdiction during the transitional period.

As regards, the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“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.”

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.

Section 229 of the 1947 Constitution prescribes, “All persons who were in the service of the Government of Burma immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue in service until the Union Government provide otherwise”

And paragraphs (g) and (h) of Article 202 of the 1974 Constitution prescribe:

“(g) The Bodies of Public Services shall perform their duties in the spirit of this Constitution.

“(h) All functioning organs and all public servants and workers serving under the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Council of State”.

Therefore, regarding State service personnel, we are in favour of adopting the following detailed basic principle.

“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”

Mr Chairman,

I would also like to make a suggestion about the Chapter “Transitory Provisions”. The purpose of convening the National Convention is to promulgate the basic principles for the State constitution. The basic principles and detailed basic principles are being adopted through broad discussions of the representatives of respective delegate groups hold at the National Convention to ensure perpetual existence of the nation and well-being of the people and to strengthen national solidarity. In this regard, their discussions focus on further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality. So, we delegates give priority to ensuring the State constitution, State’s legislative system and judicial system that will be in conformity with the noblest and worthiest of worldly values.

The National Convention is going to be over in the near future. The people are looking forward to seeing the successful completion of the National Convention as well as the State Constitution and the modern and developed nation that will emerge under the State Constitution. So, not only we delegates but also the people are duty-bound to serve the interests of the nation and the people. As you know, the people no longer accepted the weak points of the 1947 constitution and the provisions of the 1974 constitution, and consequently that had adverse effect on the stability of the State and national unity. Now, the national duty we delegates are discharging is to complete the National Convention.

Mr Chairman,

In the past, Myanmar saw strenuous efforts to raise the politics in the political sector. For example, Ne Thurein Conference and Panglong Conference went down in the annals of the nation’s history for their contributions towards the drive for national reconsolidation. I am sure the ongoing National Convention is better than those conferences in essence in all aspects. The National Convention was launched on 9 January 1993 and it went on till 1996. However, it had to be adjourned temporarily due to certain reasons. And it was reconvened in 2004. Before long, the National Convention will be able to complete the adoption of all the basic principles and detailed basic principles for the State Constitution. In my opinion, the National Convention is just and fundamental step for the framing of the State Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

In the seven-step Road Map, the second step says “After the successful holding of the National Convention, step-by-step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system”, the third step, “Drafting of a new Constitution in accord with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention” and the fourth step, “Adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum”. 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. Section 234 of the 1947 Constitution says, “This Constitution shall come into operation on such date as the Provisional President may announce by proclamation not being later than the eighth day of Kason waxing, 1310 BE (fifteenth day of April, 1948 AD)”.

Now, I would like to hold discussions about the 1974 constitution. A 97-member commission for drafting the State constitution was formed on 15 September 1971. And the following day, the commission asked the people for

their advice and suggestions for the drive. After the State constitution was drafted, the commission members made field trips to various parts of the nation from late April to June in 1972. They conducted a poll on the draft from October to December the same year. Based on the stance of the public, the members upgraded to draft the State constitution for the second time and explained it to the people in April 1973. They sought the public stance on the second draft from 11 to 25 June the same year. In accordance with the stance of the people, they drafted it for the third time, and then submitted the third draft to the second conference of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party held from 23 to 25 July 1973 for approval. Then, the officials gave talks about the approved State constitution (draft) beginning from 29 October 1973. The referendum for the 1974 State Constitution was held from 15 to 31 December 1973. Of more than 14 million (14,760,036) voters, more than 13 million (1,331,200) voters or 90.19 percent cast assenting votes.

Mr Chairman,

In order to complete the drawing of the State Constitution, the National Convention has adopted the basic principles and detailed basic principles that reflect the policies and stances, which are necessary foundations for building a new nation. We have to complete the State Constitution with these basic principles and detailed basic principles. The aspiration of the people will come true if the fourth step of the Road Map—Adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum—is realized within one year after the completion of the National Convention. Personally, I suggest that the officials take necessary measures to hold a referendum within one year after the completion of the National Convention.

Mr Chairman,

I would also like to make a suggestion about the fifth step of the Road Map—Holding of free and fair elections for Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new Constitution. Section 233 of the 1947 constitution says “The first general elections under this Constitution shall be held within eighteen months from the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution”.

Regarding the 1974 constitution, the 1974 constitution was declared on 3 January 1974, the first elections were held under the 1974 constitution from 27 January to 10 February 1974. In addition, the first session of the Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Yangon at 11 am on 2 March 1974.

So, I would like to make a suggestion that officials concerned should make preparations for implementation of the fifth step in a suitable occasion through a referendum for speedy building of a modern and developed nation.

General Provisions

I am representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North). Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, officials and National Convention delegates, may you be blessed with physical and mental well-being.

Mr Chairman,

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.

So, I suggest that the point “**This State Constitution is the basic law of the laws of the State**” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

The State fundamental principles are the guidelines to be followed in enacting laws. These fundamental principles

(See page 8)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution

(from page 7)

were laid down through views in various aspects to be in conformity with the nation's geographical features, history and prevailing conditions and to ensure greater development and political stability. The legislative bodies are to follow the State fundamental principles as guidelines in enacting laws and defining the State constitution and other laws. Therefore the point **"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"** has been adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

I would also like to present my views regarding the designating of Myanmar language as the official language. Myanmar language is widely used everywhere in the country. It should be used as the official language to ensure equality and smooth relations, so there has been adopted a detailed basic principle **"Myanmar language is the official language"**. It is appropriate. However, Myanmar is a multicultural country. Throughout the history of the nation from the colonial days to date, all the national races have been living in amity and unity through thick and thin. In presenting ideas in Myanmar, the expressions should be simple and comprehensive in order to enhance national solidarity and equality of all the national races. So, the points—

"1. Myanmar language is the official language.

2. 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." should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Only the Constitution written in Myanmar language will be adopted and promulgated. Afterwards, the Constitution may be translated into English and other languages as necessary. Although the Constitution may be translated into various languages, only the Constitution written in Myanmar language will be adopted and promulgated. Hence, if there arises a matter to interpret a provision it will be based on Myanmar text. Therefore, the point:

"Interpretation of the preamble, articles, clauses, words and expressions contained in this Constitution shall be based only on Myanmar text" should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

In exercising the State constitution, there might be a situation that calls for defining an expression specifically. Unless an expression in a law of the State constitution is defined specifically, the Expressions Law should be referred. So, regarding defining an expression in a law of the State constitution, the point **"Interpretation of the expressions of this Constitution should be referred to the existing Interpretation of Expressions Law"** should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

The Constitution of a nation is a milestone of that nation. Every country promulgates its Constitution in conformity with its own prevailing economic and social conditions. Hence, the Constitution is worthy of recording as a historic landmark. Hence, the manuscript of the Constitution should be kept safely for a long time. The country has the National Records and Archives Law. In accord with the law, the Myanmar manuscript of the Constitution, that will be adopted and promulgated through a referendum, should be enrolled for record in the National Archives.

Therefore, the point **"A Myanmar manuscript of this Constitution shall be enrolled for record in the National Archives. The manuscript shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of this Constitution."**

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

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. Therefore, the point—

"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."**

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

There have been many treaties and agreements the Government of the Union of Myanmar ratified after regaining independence with the governments of other countries. Also in the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the government has ratified treaties and agreements with the governments of many other countries including ASEAN nations. In this regard, the Union of Myanmar will have to honour the legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which have been in force before the coming into force of this Constitution 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.

Therefore, the point:

"The Union of Myanmar shall honour all legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which before the coming into force 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".

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

Any proceedings relating to contracts signed with the Government of the Union of Myanmar or liabilities which might have been brought against the Government of the Union of Myanmar before this Constitution comes into force, may be brought for losses against the Union Government to be formed under this Constitution. Similarly, if given the similar right, the Government of the Union of Myanmar should also have the right to sue the bodies concerned.

Likewise, the Union of Republic of Myanmar 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 Union of Republic of Myanmar.

Therefore, the point:

"(1) 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.

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

should be laid down as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman

Some of the detailed basic principles the National

Convention has adopted concern general provisions. These principles prescribe tasks to form a Constitutional Tribunal and its duties such as 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 hear and make decisions 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, and to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

The functions of the Constitutional Tribunal are 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, he should be knowledgeable about political, administrative, economic and security affairs. And such kind of person should be the one who is loyal to the State and the people because he 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. Therefore, the points from No 10 to No 26 the Work Committee chairman explained at the NC plenary session held on 13 November 2006 in addition to the points on—

- 1. forming a Constitutional Tribunal, appointment of its members, designation of qualifications of the members,**
 - 2. term of the Constitutional Tribunal,**
 - 3. appointment of a member to the Constitutional Tribunal,**
 - 4. impeaching of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal,**
 - 5. functions of the Constitutional Tribunal,**
 - 6. making decisions on a dispute as to whether a provision prescribed in a law is in conformity with the Constitution in hearing a case by a court,**
 - 7. interpreting the provisions of the State Constitution, and**
 - 8. designating the role of the chairman or a member of the Constitutional Tribunal,**
- should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

I would also like to make a suggestion about a constitutional index. An index should be stated in the booklet of the State constitution in order that when need arises to refer sub-paras, paras and pages, the facts can be looked up in the booklet in a short time. The constitutions of some countries feature an index, but those of most countries do not feature an index. The former countries state an index in the end of the booklet of the State constitution. So, I would like to suggest that after the booklet of the State constitution should feature a constitution index.

Mr Chairman,

I have learnt that in order to achieve success in working in a systematic and smooth way, there need some methods such as implementation of tasks in accordance with policy guidelines, reviewing the weak points in doing so, assessing the reviews, evaluating the assessments, and laying down better policy guidelines based on the findings. This aphorism is reasonable and useful at any times. In pursuing policy guidelines, it is required to regularly fund out weak points and strong points. It is also needed to assess the reviews to know as to whether achievement is made or not. Only then, will it be possible to know whether

(See page 9)

Proposals on Chapters "Amendment of the Constitution", ...

(from page 1)

Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5, Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Democratic Party (KNDP) (Dragon) Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayinni National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBA) and Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Nyeinchanyay Myothit Group from Hpa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine State Group), Arakan Army (AA), Homein Region Development and Welfare Group, Shwepyiaye (MTA), Manpan People's Militia Group, Mon Peace Group (Chaungchi Region) and Mon Nai Seik Chan Group that had exchanged arms for peace.

Before the Plenary Session of the National Convention, Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of the National Races, Peasants, Workers, Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, State Service Personnel, and Other Invited Persons, signed attendance books at Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall.

U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect presided over the Plenary Session of the National Convention together with Member of NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of National Races, U Kan Nyunt of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, Dr Maung Maung Wint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, and U Tin Kha of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel



Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and delegates to National Convention attend Plenary Session of National Convention. — MNA

and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of NCCWC Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

The MC declared the start of meeting as 1,069 out of 1,080 delegates were in attendance, accounting for 98.98 per cent, and the plenary session commenced with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Delegates presented proposals of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and nine representatives-elect of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect 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" in drafting the State Constitution. First, Delegate U Thet Wai of National Unity Party said that the proposals to be submitted are the same as those presented by U Tun Yi of the party on 21 December, 2006 and thus to save the time he would not submit the proposals again and presented them to the chairman.

Next, Representative-elect U San Tha Aung of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization of Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township Constituency-2 said that the proposals to be submitted are the same as those presented by U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of the organizations on 21 December, 2006 and thus to save the time he would not submit the proposals again and presented them to the chairman.

Afterwards, three Independent Representatives-elect of the Delegate Group of Representatives-elect presented their 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" in drafting the State Constitution in three parts. First, Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency, Chin State, presented the proposals and the Plenary Session took a break at 1.50 pm.

When the Plenary Session resumed at 2.10 pm, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency, Shan State (South) presented the proposals.

Next, U Tun Kyaw of Namhsam Township constituency, Shan State (North) presented the proposals and the Plenary Session took a break at 3.05 pm.

(Proposals are reported separately.)

When the Plenary Session resumed at 3.20 pm, proposals of six Independent Representatives-elect including U Tin Win of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect were presented in two parts. First, Independent Representative-elect U Tin Win of Kyauklat Township Constituency-2 presented the proposals.

Next, U Thein Kyi of Taungdingyi Township Constituency-1 presented the proposals and the Plenary Session went into recess at 4.15 pm.

(The proposals of six Independent Representatives-elect will be reported.)

The Plenary Session continues tomorrow at 9 am.

MNA

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution

(from page 8)

the assessments are effective. And it is required to constantly review the weak points and causes and effects of the remedies to lay down better plans and new guidelines. Now, most nations are practising such methods. So, in building a modern and developed nation in accordance with the upcoming State constitution, emphasis should be placed on reviewing, assessing the reviews, remedying and evaluating.

Mr Chairman,

The basic principles and detailed basic principles the National Convention have made it clear that the State constitution is complete with the basic principles about national solidarity, basic principles to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, basic principles on prudent political, economic and social policies, basic principles to form administrative bodies and governmental organizations

at different levels that can serve the interests of the people, democratic principles, basic principles on fundamental rights and duties of the citizens, basic principles to shape a brighter future of the women and the youth, and basic principles that can guarantee achievement in building a modern and developed nation with the cooperation of the entire people.

However, the adoption of such fine basic principles is not enough. They must be the ones that can help serve the interests of the people in practice. In the process, it depends much on correct practice of the State constitution by the persons concerned. Such persons should understand and put in the fore the life, feelings and desires of the people. It will be far from the achievement of building a modern and developed nation if some misuse the provisions of the State constitution in the interests of their own, their parties, organizations, the

circle of their relatives and friends, and races; practice pernicious system characterized by man by man with the use of law; and misuse the provisions defining them as they wish. Therefore, both governing bodies and the people are to work in an effective way without giving priority to the interests of their own and their families. If so, surely, there will be soon the modern and developed nation aspired by the entire people.

Mr Chairman and NC delegates,

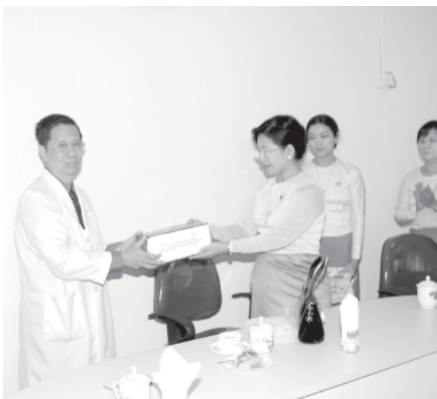
Now, those responsible for the National Convention and NC delegates have made friends each other. I wish that the delegates will arrive home safe and sound and are blessed with happiness. I have to express my sincere thanks to those from the group offices who helped us submit our proposal, officials from the reception committee, staff of the mess, and other officials. That is all for our proposal. — MNA

Women trained to prevent HIV infection from mother to embryo

YANGON, 26 Dec — As part of the project of prevention of infection of HIV virus from mother to embryo, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and UNICEF jointly organized a multiplier course on raising awareness of infection of HIV virus from mother to embryo today in Hline Township.

A total of 10 trainees are attending the course which will conclude on 29 December.

At the opening ceremony of the course, wellwishers donated cash amounting to over K 1.8 million to Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare through Chairperson of the division supervisory committee for MCW Daw Mar Mar Wai and Secretary Dr Hla Myint.



Daw Mar Mar Wai presents cash assistance to cleft lips and palate patients through Prof Dr Pwint Phu. — MNA

After the opening ceremony, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party went to Department of Palastic, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery of University of Dental Medicine in Thingangyun Township and provided cash assistance to patients who are undergoing free

treatment for cleft lip and palate at the department. — MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw views educational project competitions.

MNA

Minister visits Educational Project Contest, ICT Week Exhibition, Market Festival

YANGON, 26 Dec — Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw visited the Third Educational Project Contest, the ICT Week Exhibition and Market Festival at Myanmar Info-Tech, here, on 24 December afternoon.

President of Myanmar Computer

Federation U Thein Oo and members reported to the minister on organizing the exhibition and contests.

On 23 December, the minister inspected tasks of ECS International (Express Couries Service) and EMS International (Express Mail Service) of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

On 25 December,

the minister and party inspected auto-exchanges and digital auto-telephone exchanges in Bago Division (West).

The minister also met townselders, departmental personnel and responsible persons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in Ingapu and Mezaligon and attended to the needs.

MNA



First Exhibition on Knowledge of Traffic Rules in Nay Pyi Taw 27-31 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Under the supervision of the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, the First Exhibition on Knowledge of Traffic Rules will be held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pynmana from 27 to 31 December.

Anyone may visit the exhibition to observe booths on traffic rules, sales centres of private entrepreneurs, vehicles assembled at the industrial zones including computer quizzes on traffic rules, from 8 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA

ISD Basic Education School Junior and Mini-Tennis Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 Dec — A ceremony to open the 10th Inter-State and Division Basic Education School Junior and Mini-Tennis Tournament was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court, here, this morning.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and President of MTF U Zaw Zaw gave speeches.

Also present on the occasion were General Secretary of MTF U Lay Naing and executives, officials of No 3 Basic Education Department, guests and spectators.

More than 110 tennis players from eight teams representing Kachin, Chin, Shan (South), Rakhine, Yangon, Magway, Mandalay and Bago are taking part in the tournament. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs back from Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — After paying a goodwill visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of Additional Foreign Secretary Mr Akhter Tufail of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back here on 24 December.

The Myanmar Delegation attended the 2nd Bilateral Consultations Myanmar and Pakistan, and discussed matters concerning cooperation in the fields of economy, education, science and technology, and tourism between the two countries on 21 December. Next, the deputy minister and party attended a luncheon hosted by Pakistani Additional Foreign Secretary Mr Akhter Tufail, and they exchanged the gifts. Then, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu paid courtesy calls on Mr Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Riaz Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

On 22 December, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu visited Lok Virsa Museum, Shakerparian Garden, Daman-e-Koh View Point and Faisal Mosque. The deputy minister and party visited the ancient Buddhist heritage site of Taxila on 23 December.

Member of the delegation — Assistant Director U Kyaw Sithu of the Ministry and Head of Branch (1) Daw Cho Cho Soe of the South-east Asia Division of

the Political Department — also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA



Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu meets Mr Riaz Khan, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

MOFA

All this needs to be known

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



A dogsled team carries tourists down the frozen Torne River in Jukkasjarvi, above the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden, on 24 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



Cambodian King visits east China province

HEFEI, 25 Dec—Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Sunday arrived in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, for a four-day visit. In a meeting with Cambodian King Sunday,

Anhui Provincial Governor Wang Jinshan said Sihamoni will get a better knowledge of the province through the visit and further build the friendship between Anhui and Cambodia.

friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between Cambodia and Anhui.

The King is expected to visit cities of Chizhou and Wuhu in the province. Sihamoni arrived in Beijing Thursday for an informal visit.

This was his second visit to China in a month.

Sihamoni spoke highly of the achievements Anhui has achieved in recent years.

He said he hoped his visit would promote the

MNA/Xinhua

Train-truck collision injures 14 in Egypt

CAIRO, 25 Dec — A train ploughed into a truck in Egyptian city of Fayoum, some 90 kilometres south of Cairo, on Saturday, wounding 14 Egyptians, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

The accident occurred when a truck pulling a trailer ignored traffic signals and crossed the track while the train was passing, said MENA.

The train was derailed, while the sand-laden truck and trailer over-turned, said the report, adding that the driver fled the scene.

The injured, including the train driver and co-driver, were rushed to nearby hospitals, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Toyota 'to be top world automaker'

NAGOYA, 25 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp expects to produce a record 9.42 million vehicles next year, a 4 percent rise that should take it past General Motors Corp as the world's biggest auto maker.

As the Japanese firm wooes buyers worldwide with cars seen as safe, affordable and fuel efficient, US rivals GM and Ford Motor Co battle falling market share,

closing factories and shedding thousands of jobs.

Soaring fuel prices have battered Detroit's auto heartland, with customers shunning gas-guzzling pickups in favour of cheaper-to-run models from Japanese and South Korean car makers.

Asked about the possibility of passing GM in 2007, Toyota's 70th anniversary, company

President Katsuaki Watanabe said, "That would merely be a result, not a goal."

"The important thing is to be a leader in car-making, and that's done by improving products," he told a year-end news conference, adding that vehicle quality will be Toyota's top priority at a time of rising vehicle recalls.

Internet



A person is silhouetted by Christmas lights decorating a street in Shanghai, China, on 24 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET

Construction starts on world's largest DC converter station

SHENYANG, 25 Dec — Work on a direct current converter station started on Saturday in Gaoling Town of Huludao City in northeast China's Liaoning Province to serve to aim of ensuring power supply in Beijing during the Olympic Games in 2008.

With a budget of 2.23 billion yuan (about 279 million US dollars), the station will have four changers with a combined converting capacity of 3 million kilowatts, the biggest of the kind in the world, according to Zheng Baosen, deputy general manager of the State Power Grid Corp.

The four changers will play a role in avoiding risks and hidden dangers once the power grids operate abnormally.

Liu Guoqiang, deputy governor of Liaoning, said the new station was one of the infrastructure designed to rejuvenate the rust belt in northeast China and would produce an active and profound influence on economic and social development in Liaoning.

According to Zheng, the first phase construction of the station will be finished in 2008. By then, the station will have gained a converting capacity of 1.5 million kilowatts.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire in Colombia damages 46 homes

BOGOTA, 25 Dec— At least 46 straw and cardboard homes were burnt down on Sunday in a fire in Cali, capital of the Colombian department of Valle del Cauca, the fire brigade told media. The fire broke out in Cinta Sardi, a poor neighbourhood in Cali, Colombia's third largest city, after a petrol stove exploded.

The fire left 150 people homeless, but no injuries were reported. The victims demanded the local emergency service get involved immediately and provide them with shelters on Christmas Day.

MNA/Xinhua

Villagers use a boat to

move through their

flooded village in

Pelawi on the island

of Sumatra, on 25 Dec,

2006.—XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (189)

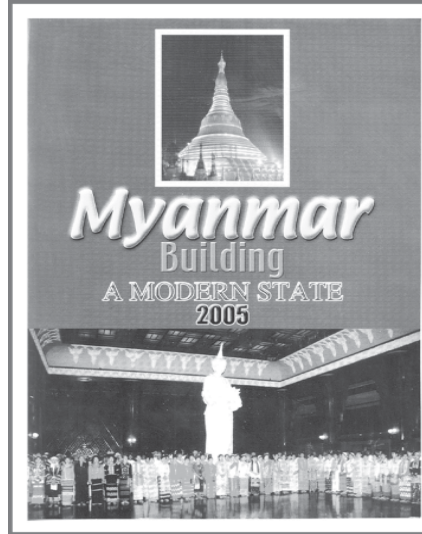
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (189) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 26.12.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
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Thein Aung B.Sc./R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
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 Yangon. 27 December 2006

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF ENERGY
 MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
 IFB NO. 1(T) CONST-MOGE/PPT (2006-2007) CAP
 P.O BOX 1049, YANGON
 FAX NO:095-01-222964/222965**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Sealed Bids are invited by the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Yangon for the supply of:
ASSORTED SIZE OF ERW STEEL LINE PIPES, BALL VALVES, PRESSURE GAUGE, PIPE FITTINGS AND WELDING ELECTRODES
2. Commencing from 22 December 2006 a complete set of bidding document shall be available at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE, No 604, Merchant street, Yangon, Myanmar during office hour by payment to the order of Myanma Foreign Trade Bank attesting remittance of US \$ 100.00 in favour of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (or) FEC 100.00 to the above office for each set of document.
3. Bids shall be accepted only from the Bidders who officially purchased the bidding document.
4. The Bids received shall be opened in the presence of Bidders or Representatives who choose to attend at 13:00 hours on 15 January 2007 at the office of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.6 Complex, NAY PYI TAW, Myanmar.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR,
 MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE**

Chinese grain producers awarded for outstanding contributions

BEIJING, 25 Dec— Hundreds of grain producers were awarded here Saturday for outstanding contributions to China's grain production. Addressing the prize-awarding ceremony, Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu urged the honoured individuals and units to

continue to promote agricultural and rural development in China. It is the first time for the country's grain output to rise for three years running since 1985, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. It predicted that per capita annual income of Chinese farmers will

increase by more than 300 yuan (37.5 US dollars) this year, a third actual rise of over 6 per cent in a row. The awarded grain producers included 215 individuals, 214 counties, cities, districts and farms as well as 10 provincial agricultural departments. *MNA/Xinhua*

Ethiopian police detain British man for drug trafficking

ADDIS ABABA, 25 Dec— A British man was detained on Saturday at Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport for alleged attempt to smuggle 8 kilos of cannabis, police said. The suspect was detained while trying to smuggle the cannabis out of the country by hiding it in four traditionally made lampshades, said Dejene Bekele, head of the country's drug control service. Dejene told journalists

that the suspect brought the cannabis from the southern town of Shashemene, adding he was arrested on his way to Britain. The cannabis was

spotted by using modern screening devices, he said. Drug traffickers had previously been detained at the Bole International Airport, according to Dejene.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Nicaraguan police seize three tons of cocaine

MANAGUA, 25 Dec— The Nicaraguan police seized on Sunday three tons of cocaine as part of its Drug-Free Christmas operation, the country's National Police chief Aminta Granera said. "This is the present that the National Police wants to give to the people of Nicaragua," Granera said, adding that the seizure was the result of more than a month of intelligence work.

Two of the three tons of cocaine was captured in Nicaragua's capital city, Managua, and the other in the Pacific coast resort of Hueguete. A total of 20 people were arrested in the operation, among which two Guatemalans and two Nicaraguans were nabbed in La Primavera neighbourhood in Managua. Granera said the operation had also seized two trucks and a van in which several people carrying light guns. "We have altogether 12 undocumented foreigners and we are now investigating whether they have links to the drugs intercepted," said the police chief.— *MNA/Xinhua*

An Indian fisherman throws his net in the backwaters of Devanampattinam in Cuddalore, around 165 kilometres (103 miles) south of Chennai, India, on 24 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET



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ပညာရေးပြင်ဆင်မှုနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးစနစ်များကို အသုံးပြုရန် အားပေးခြင်း

FDA says cloned animals' meat, milk safe

LOS ANGELES, 25 Dec— Meat and milk from cloned animals are safe and could be sold without special labelling, the Food and Drug Administration said recently.

This was a conclusion of a long-awaited study by federal scientists, the

FDA said in a report.

"All of the studies indicate that the composition of meat and milk from clones is within the compositional ranges of meat and milk consumed in the US," the FDA scientists concluded in a report published in the 1 January issue of the journal *Theriogenology*, which focuses on animal reproduction. "The US food safety system is designed

to screen meat and milk for hazards, regardless of the means by which the animals were derived," the report said. "There is no science-based reason to apply additional safeguards."

The go-ahead sends a strong signal that the FDA will endorse the use of cloning technology for cattle, goats and pigs, health sources said.

MNA/Xinhua



Members of Berlin's ice swimming club 'Berliner Seehunde' (Berlin seals) take a dip in the water of Lake Orankesee in Berlin on 25 Dec, 2006. Several members of the swimming club met on Monday for having their traditional Christmas ice swimming session. —INTERNET

Israeli drug kingpin arrested in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Dec— An Israeli man, who was wanted by Brazil, Israel, the United States and Uruguay for drug trafficking, has been arrested in Brazil, the Federal Police said on Saturday. Police chief Fernando Francichini told the Press that Yoram El-Al was accused of smuggling 1.4 million ecstasy pills into the United States in 2004. After the seizure of the illegal drug, El-Al fled Israel. He went to the United States to try to collect payment for the drug and from there fled to Uruguay, where he was arrested by police. But he managed to escape and fled to Brazil. Brazil's police detained El-Al near Ipanema beach after tracking him down for more than two weeks.

MNA/Xinhua



An Afghan family carries wood home with a donkey and cart in the capital Kabul on 24 Dec, 2006. —INTERNET

China vows to improve youngsters' health

BEIJING, 25 Dec— Chinese educational authorities have attached more importance to the physical education, with a view of addressing the declining youngsters' physical constitution.

At a national meeting on physical education which was held over the weekend, Chinese state councillor Chen Zhili called on educational departments and schools to embark on concrete measures to improve physical education, and most urgently, change teachers and parents' conventional ideas of pursuing high scores at the cost of students' health.

For the once-for-all college entrance exam, Chinese high school students have to compete by having more classes that left little time for physical exercises, which has resulted in a surge of nearsightedness and obesity among students in recent years.

Minister of Education Zhou Ji noted that the Beijing Municipal government has invested more than 700 million yuan (around 87.5 million US dollars) to renovate 300 pieces of school playground in the capital.

The government has also purchased 20 million yuan (2.5 million US dollars) worth of body-building facilities for 681 rural primary schools and invested six million yuan (around 750,000 US dollars) to build constitution test machines on campus.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia launches new telecommunications satellite

Moscow, 25 Dec— Russian Space Forces on Sunday launched a new telecommunications satellite designed to improve telecommunications services for

the north and far east of the country, news reports said.

A Soyuz-2 rocket carrying a new-generation Meridian satellite lifted off at 11:34 am Moscow Time

(0834 GMT) from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia, the Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies reported.

MNA/Xinhua

29 dead, five missing in Indonesian flood

JAKARTA, 25 Dec— At least 29 people have been dead and 5 other missing in flood and landslide in Indonesia's provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra since Friday, Health Ministry official Rustam Pakaya said on Sunday.

The official said that 17 people were dead in Langkat Regency of North Sumatra and 12 in Aceh Province.

"The death toll is 17 in Langkat and 12 in Aceh, with five missing," he told Xinhua.

Heavy torrential rain sent streams overflowing their banks, with the effects of the downpours made worse by deforestation, said Pakaya.

The rain has also caused landslide in Bener Meriang Regency of Aceh Province, he said.

Four other regencies were hit by the flood, said Pakaya.

Over 43 people have left their home in Langkat Regency of North Sumatra Province and more than 500 in Aceh Pro-

vince, said Pakaya.

The aids are underway from the local governments and Jakarta, he said.

About two years ago, on 26 December, 2004, Aceh was struck by the Indian Ocean tsunami, which left some 170,000 dead or missing in the province. More than a half million people were internally displaced.

The official said that deforestation was blamed for the cause of the disaster.

MNA/Xinhua



A couple pose for a photo in front of an ice sculpture in Bruges, Belgium on 24 Dec, 2006, the Christmas Eve. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Players sale backs up south American clubs

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Dec— South America's top clubs have to sell off their best players to balance their economic budgets drained by bad management and stay-away fans, a survey in the Brazilian *O Globo* newspaper suggested on Sunday.

The Deloitte company claimed that the transfers of players accounted for 30 per cent of income for Brazilian clubs in 2005, 50 per cent for Argentinian sides and 53 per cent for Uruguayan teams.

In those countries, gate receipts bring in just 7 per cent of revenue. However, in Europe, ticket sales are responsible for 34 per cent of English clubs' incomes, 31 per cent in Spain and 16 per cent in Italy.

Only Mexico among Latin American countries can boast a similar balance to Europe with 25 per cent of revenue from tickets and 23 per cent from the sale of players.

Brazil was the top exporter of talents in 2005 with 804 players, worth 100 million dollars (76 million euros), on the move.

Brazilian international Robinho was the most expensive export costing Real Madrid 30 million dollars (22.8 million

euros) when he left Santos. Despite the transfer revenues, Brazilian clubs still ended 2005 with a combined deficit of 83.5 million dollars (63.5 million euros), reported Deloitte.

The *O Globo* newspaper concluded that South American clubs were caught up in a vicious circle—fans stay away from the games as the top stars can only be seen on television, playing in the top European leagues. In the last 10 years, the average attendance at Brazilian games has been 12,000, with 10,600 in Argentina and just 4,800 in Chile. In Europe, the figure is 20,000.—MNA/Xinhua

Cibona's Brindley Wright (L) of the US is fouled by Partizan Belgrade's Nikola Pekovic during their Adriatic League basketball game in Belgrade on 24 Dec, 2006.
INTERNET



Brazilian striker Robinho organizes charity match

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Dec — Real Madrid's Brazilian striker Robinho said on Monday that he has brought together a team of Brazilian soccer greats to play a charity match on Tuesday at the

Vila Belmiro Stadium, the Santos team ground.

"It is a great joy to return to the Santo stadium, my second home, and to help Brazil's charities at the same time," said Robinho.

His team includes Diego, Elano, Renato, Leo and Deivid, who were former Santos players but now play for European clubs.

Corinthians player Carlos Alberto will lead a rival team which includes Deco, who plays for Spanish league team Barcelona; as well as Vagner Love, Romario and Falcao, who plays five-a-side football.

Vanderlei Luxemburgo is training one team, while Serginho Chulapa is training the other.

MNA/Xinhua



New Zealand wicket keeper Peter McGlashan, right, leaps in the air as Sri Lanka's Dilhara Fernando turns in the 20/20 international cricket match at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Tuesday, 26 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

Cahill eyes stonger rebound from injury

LONDON, 26 Dec— Australian midfielder Tim Cahill in Everton club believes he will bounce from his injury-enforced absence to be a better player.

The Australian international is expected to return to the first-team in January after a lengthy absence and is stepping up his rehabilitation from a knee injury suffered against Aston Villa on November 11.

"I've not had one moment down throughout this injury, I've worked hard and looked at the positives," said Cahill. "Obviously it's hard being injured but you have to have high spirits for the lads."

Despite his absence, Cahill remains Everton's top scorer with seven goals and was playing a crucial role for the Merseysiders when he suffered the injury which was caused by a challenge from team-mate Lee Carsley.

"I want to come back fully fit and start where I left off. when I get back hopefully I'll be revived for the start of the New Year - I hope to be buzzing and scoring more goals," he told the Liverpool Daily Post.

MNA/Xinhua



Oklahoma football coach Bob Stoops, centre, is joined by seniors Rufus Alexander, left, and Chris Messner, during a news conference following the team's arrival at Sky Harbor Airport, on Monday, 25 Dec, 2006, in Phoenix. Oklahoma will face Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl, on 1 Jan, 2007.

INTERNET

Colo Colo seeks Colombia's Giovanni Hernandez

SANTIAGO, 26 Dec — A source within Chilean soccer club Colo Colo said on Monday the club was interested in signing Colombia's Giovanni Hernandez, who plays with Colon, a team from Argentine city Santa Fe.

"The manager likes him, he has shown interest in joining us, but we have to sort out the problem of his contractual problem with the Argentine club," said an unnamed person linked to Colo Colo.

The Chilean team is seeking to strengthen for next season, which includes the continent wide Copa Libertadores, after midfielder Matias Fernandes, seen as the revelation of the 2006 season, transfers to Spanish league team Villarreal.

Negotiations for the Colombian player may be difficult however, as buying his contract may be too expensive for the Chilean team.

Colo Colo recently hired Rodrigo Millar and Paraguay's Edison Gimenez, but local press say the team is keen to look for more players. Among the names they mention are Colombia's Alvaro Dominguez, 25, who plays for Colombia's Deportivo Cali; and Paraguayan winger Jose Montiel, 18, who was recently bought by Italian league team Udinese.

Colo Colo director, Gabriel Ruiz Tagle, is currently in Europe seek Montiel and also seeking to renew the short-term transfer contract for Alexis Sanchez.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



Carolina Panthers runningback DeShaun Foster (26) sails over Atlanta Falcons cornerback DeAngelo Hall (21) and defensive end Chauncey Davis (92) as he runs for yardage in the first half of NFL football action in Atlanta, Georgia on 24 Dec, 2006.

INTERNET

Thailand beat Vietnam to lead King's Cup

BANGKOK, 26 Dec— Hosts Thailand topped the standings on the first day of the King's Cup tournament after beating rivals Vietnam 2-1 on Sunday, while Singapore and Kazakhstan finished a goalless draw.

The Thais sealed a well-earned victory with goals from Sarayuth Chaikamdee and Datsakorn Thonglao after Phan Thanh Binh put the Vietnamese side ahead on 35 minutes.

Binh silenced the crowd when he fired home on the turn from three meters after Thai keeper Kittisak Rawangpa failed to collect a header deep into the box from Le Cong Vinh.

Thailand levelled less than a minute later after Kwanchai Fuangprakob's inch-perfect

cross beat the Vietnamese keeper and landed on the head of the unmarked Sarayuth.

The hosts piled on the pressure after the break and took the lead on 61 minutes when evergreen striker Kiatisak Senamuang threaded the ball through for Datsakorn to net from six metres.

In another match, Kazakhstan had the best of their match but squandered chance after chance against a below-par Singaporean team, which could have won the game with five minutes remaining.

The four countries will play in Bangkok again on Tuesday and Thursday, while the top two teams will meet in the final on 30 December.

MNA/Xinhua



Old students of BEHS-1 Lanmadaw pay respects to their teachers on 24.12.2006.—H

US citizen detained at Chennai Airport

CHENNAI, 26 Dec — A US citizen, who arrived by a private airlines from Frankfurt with a rifle and cartridges in a baggage, was on Monday taken into custody at the Chennai Airport, Customs officials said.

Airport sources said Lesli George Thomas 47, a native of San Francisco had flown to Frankfurt from Los Angeles to take the Lufthansa flight to Chennai.

He had left one baggage on his arrival at Chennai Airport on Sunday night as he could not pay the Customs duty.

The man had said

that he would come back Monday to pay the duty and clear the baggage.

On scanning, the baggage was found to contain a rifle and 200 cartridges.

When the man came to clear the baggage Monday morning, he was detained for questioning.

Officials said the

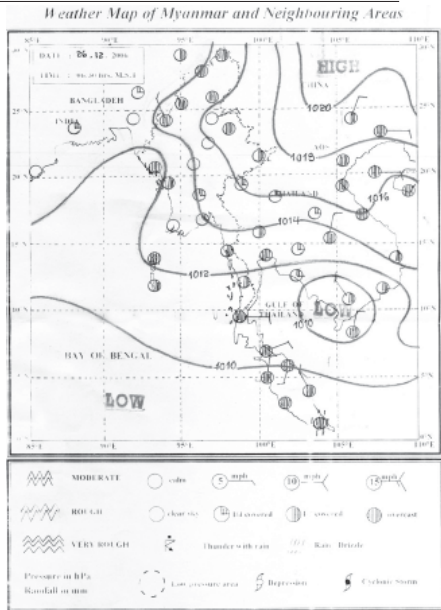
man was making contradictory statements during the interrogation.

Initially, he claimed that he had brought the rifle and cartridges for the Rifle Club here, but later disowned the baggage itself.

The officials said they were surprised how the baggage was not noticed by the airport

officials at Frankfurt.

MNA/PTI



WEATHER

Monday, 26 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, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Shan State and Magway Division and about normal in the remaining states and divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Pinlaung (2°C), Namhsan, Heho and Mogok (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 25-12-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 26-12-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-12-2006 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 25-12-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-12-2006 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 (8) mph from North-east at 11:30 hours MST on 25-12-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin Rakhine and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 27-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-12-2006: Fair weather.

More flood victims return home in southern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Dec — The situation in flood-hit Johor State in southern Malaysia improved Monday with more evacuees allowed to return home, according to a spokesman from a state Social Welfare Department.

In the southernmost state, the number of evacuees dropped to 65,534 Monday morning, compared with

72,109 Sunday night, the spokesman said

However, in Muar, a western district with the most evacuees, the number of people taking shelters in relief centres climbed to 25,191 from 23,685 Sunday night, according to local media reports.

MNA/Xinhua



Wednesday, 27 December
View on today

- 7:00 am
- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော် သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပာဏ္ဍိတတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- Morning news
- 7:40 am
- Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:15 am
- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am
- ရင်ပြိုင် ရေထိန်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
- International news
- 8:45 am
- Let's Go
- 2:50 pm
- ၂၀၀၆ခုနှစ် (၄၅) ကြိမ်မြောက် တပို့မတော် ကာကွယ်ရေး ဦးချီးချုပ်လား (ကြည့်ပါ၊ ရေလေ) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (ဒုတိယအကြိမ်လွှင့်လှည့်)
- 4:45 pm
- Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 5:15pm
- ရှုဖွယ်ဆုံး အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30pm
- ရသစာပေလွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
- Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- သုတစုံလင်စဉ်စဉ်ရှင်
- 7:00 pm
- Guinness World Records
- 7:15 pm
- ယဉ်စဉ်းကမ်း ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှု ကော်မတီ ဉာဏ်စမ်းပေးပေးပြိုင်ပွဲ (အခြေခံပညာမူလတန်းအဆင့်)
- 7:45 pm
- အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ဓွန့်ရှည်ကြာ ခိုင်မာစေမှု ဒီ.ဂျေ.ဂျေ "ပြောင်းလဲသစ်လွင် ယနေ့ ဝေဖတ် ပညာရေး တိုးတက်မှုအစီအစဉ်"
- 8:00 pm
- News
 - International news
 - Weather report
 - Myanmar movie "ဖူးစာလမ်းဆုံ" (မိုလ်ဗကို၊ ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ စံရှာတင်၊ ဓနု) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မိုလ်ဗကို)
 - The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, 27 December
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Always you ... Tennifer Pai
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45am Music:
Mambo No 5 ... Lou Bega
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-Alahla ... Toontastic
9:05am International news
9:10 am Music:
Obsession ... Antimonia
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40pm Lunch time music:
-On & On ... Erykah Bady
- A thousand miles ... Venessa Carton
-Back to your heart ... BSB
9:00pm Feature for Independence Day
9:10 pm Variations on a tune:
-Right here waiting
-Richard Marx, Branda Cochrare, Top of the pops, Monica & I
9:15pm Article
9:25 pm Music at your request
-In 100 years ... Modern Talking
-Facts of love ... Clome Fisher
9:45 pm News / Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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Progress of Cereal Products Factory (Yanpei), Cement Plants inspected

YANGON, 26 Dec — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang inspected production process of Cereal Products Factory (Yanpei) of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries near Paratkyei Village of Taungdingyi Township yesterday morning.

Managing Director U Soe Hlaing of MFI and General Manager Dr Cho Win Maw conducted the minister round the factory.

The minister viewed warehouses of maize and production process of maize oil.

In Thayet, the minister oversaw raw material crushers No 1 and No 3 at Thayet Cement Plant. Next, he inspected No 2 raw material crushers, No 1 kiln and machine parts manufactured by the plant, No 3 kiln and stockpile of limestone.

General Manager U Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Energy reported on sending of natural gas from Pyayi Oilfield to the cement plant.

At Kyangin Cement Plant in Kyangin, the minister looked into raw ma-

terials and running of raw material crushers. Managing Director U Soe Yee of Myanmar Ceramics Industries and Plant Manager U Zaw Win reported to the minister on salient points of the plant. Next, the minister also viewed

regular production of four kilns.

At the briefing hall, the minister instructed officials to make utmost efforts to beef up the production capacities with man, machinery and management powers. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thuang inspects Cement Plant in Thayet.

INDUSTRY-1

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.

Proposals to be published

YANGON, 26 Dec— Proposals of six Independent Representatives-elect of the Delegate Group of Representatives-elect 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 at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, will be published in the dailies.

MNA

Minister looks into Yenwe Hydel Power Project

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min met with Project Director U Wan Kyi and employees at Yenwe Hydel Power Project in Kyauktaga Township on 23 December evening.

The minister inspected running of No 1 turbine of the underground power station. General Manager U Kyi Tha and Director U Khin Maung Win of Hydel Power Production Enterprise and officials conducted the minister round the station.

Next, the minister inspected installation of No 2 turbine and gave necessary instructions.

On 24 December,

the minister inspected tasks of the power station and the power intake building.

Yenwe Hydel Power Station is being installed with two 12.5 megawatt turbines to generate 25 megawatts. So far, one turbine has been installed and it runs to produce 12.5 megawatts. Another turbine is being installed. Soon, the power station will generate 25 megawatts. — MNA

Power station at Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam in Kyauktaga Township.

MNA

