

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Ensure perpetuation of sovereignty at risk of lives

Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a nation. The three powers — legislative, executive and judicial—must be understood as sovereignty. These three powers must be in the hands of our citizens and our national races. We cannot put them in the hands of any alien directly or indirectly. Once the sovereignty of our country is influenced in any way by others, it is tantamount to indirect enslavement under neo-colonialism. Hence, the Tatmadaw must ensure perpetuation of sovereignty at the risk of lives.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council**  
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**  
 (From address delivered at the parade of the 52nd Anniversary  
 Armed Forces Day)

## Many famous Myanmar athletes emerge in international events

## Secretary-1 attends dinner to mark 60th Anniversary of MOC

YANGON, 1 Jan — The dinner to mark the 60th Anniversary of Myanmar Olympic Committee was held at Karaweik Palace this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech on the occasion. Also present at the dinner were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, members of MNOC, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Vice-Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and members, the director-general of the SPDC Office, heads of departments and responsible personnel, former Chairmen and former General Secretaries of MOC, Myanmar selected players who participated in Olympic Games and guests.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at 60th Anniversary of Myanmar Olympic Committee. — MNA

First, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech on the occasion. He said that it is the 60th anniversary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee that has been steering and administering the country's sports sector to raise its standard.

Formed in 1946, the MOC has witnessed and the ups and downs of Myanmar sports. It is an honour for the MOC to strive for systematic progress and perpetuation of the Myanmar sports

based on its many experiences throughout the past successive years.

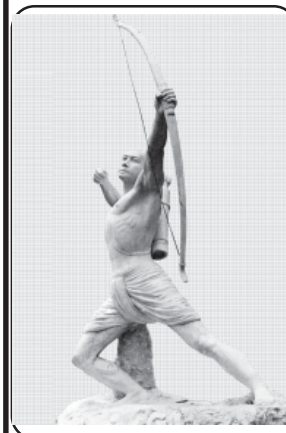
MOC is a member of International Olympic Committee that has already turned 100. The World Olympics began in 1896. Myanmar has been participating in the global sports competitions since the 14th World Olympic in 1948 till the 28th World Olympics held in 2004, except from the 21st event.

Myanmar has not won any medals yet in the

World Olympics, but her football team won the Fair Play Trophy at the 20th World Olympics held in 1972. Aung Gyi set a record in the snatch event of the weightlifting competitions of the World Olympics.

The country has been taking part in the Asian Games and Southeast Games as the founding member. Myanmar has won medals and victories in the events from Southeast Asian Games to Asian  
 (See page 8)

### HAILING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY



#### ARTICLE

Hence, such persons cannot pay any attention to the...

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#### POEM

Take full cognizance of Objectives...

PAGE 7

#### CARTOON

True patriotism...

PAGE 7

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 2 January, 2007

### For soonest realization of national objectives

With prevalence of peace and stability, the government is taking all the necessary measures for strengthening national economy in the process of transition to democracy. Remarkable progress has been made in this regard.

Turning a blind eye to national development, destructive elements holding negative views in collusion with internal and external destructionists are perpetrating subversive acts and imposing economic sanctions against the country.

Only when each and every citizen is imbued with wisdom, knowledge and national outlook will he be able to correctly discern the current events of the world.

This is why development of the education sector is of utmost importance. Uplift of education standards of the entire nation being implemented in the education sector proved to be a contributing factor for national development.

This being so, teachers are to train and nurture students not only to be outstanding in their studies but also to be endowed with knowledge and common sense so that they can distinguish good from bad or right from wrong.

Only then, will they be able to engage in nation-building endeavours all the more, thereby contributing to soonest emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

### Translation of "The Story of Civilization Our Oriental Heritage II" in circulation

YANGON, 1 Jan—GantgawU Publishing House published translation of "The Story of Civilization Our Oriental Heritage II" by writer Hlaing Thin today.

The book features basic foundations of India, Lord of Buddha, life of nationalities, lives of gods, mental life, literature of India and artistic works of India.

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### Proposals to be published

YANGON, 1 Jan—Proposals of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons 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 Nyaunhnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, will be published in the dailies. —MNA

## People's Desire

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

### Matters on implementation of hydel power projects discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min met with Mr Shi Chongliang, Vice-President of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) at his office here on 28 December.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, directors-general of enterprises under the the ministry, Vice-President of Department of Planning and Development Mr Wang Xian Chun and responsible persons of CPI and Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co Ltd.

They discussed matters related to implementation of Maykha Malikha valley region hydel power project and Ayeyawady confluence hydel power project.

Next, the officials of Hydel Power Implementation Department and personnel of China Power Investment Cooperation signed the MoU for Maykha Malikha Water Resources Development

and Ayeyawady confluence hydel power project.

After the signing ceremony, Director-General U Aung Koe Shwe and Mr Wang Xian Chun of CPI exchanged the documents and had a documentary photo taken.

Hydel Power Implementation Department and CIP will build Chibwe 2,000-megawatt Hydel Power Project on Maykha river and 3,600-megawatt Hydel Power Project in the confluence.

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### MWAF Vice-President visits Mental Health Hospital (Yangon)

YANGON, 31 Dec—Collective sanitation task, growing of physic nut plants and cash donations were organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, members of MWA of Dagon Myothit (East) township, members of social organizations and departmental officials at Mental Health Hospital (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township this morning.

Present also on the occasion was MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Next, the Vice-President and members planted physic nut plants and extended greetings to the patients. The Vice-President and visitors inspected the collective sanitation task and observed the serving of breakfast to the patients. Next, the donors presented cash and kind worth K 6.75 million to Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Win of Mental Health Hospital (Yangon).

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Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai presents K 200,000 to Mental Health Hospital (Yangon). — YCDC

### F&R Minister meets officers from departments, enterprises in Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 1 Jan — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with officers from the departments and enterprises at the meeting hall of Myanma Economic Bank in Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

During his meeting with the officers, the minister gave instructions on functions of the departments and enterprises. The meeting was attended by Managing Director of MEB U Myat Maw and responsible personnel at division, district and township levels in Ayeyawady Division.

Responsible personnel briefed the minister on accomplishment of functions during the fiscal year and future tasks and Managing Director U Myat Maw on financial matters and banking services.

Afterwards, the minister made a speech, saying that responsible personnel are to actively participate in the regional development tasks together with the local people while performing financial duties and banking services and to try their best to become

### Electric Power Minister receives guest

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Mr Xie Ming Liang, President of Central China Power Grid International Economic and Trade Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China at the ministry here on 27 December.

They discussed matters related to win-win cooperation in the electric power sector between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General of Electric Power Department Dr Thein Tun, Managing Director of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo and officials concerned.—MNA

good service personnel on whom the local people could rely. The following day, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun together with Managing Director of MEB, Managing Director of Myanma Insurance and Director-General of Pension Department U Kyaw Htay inspected progress in building the new Division Manager's Office in Pathein.

MNA

## 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

YANGON, 1 Jan— *The following is a translation of 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 presented by the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 28-12-2006.*

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

I am U Win Maung (Tampawady). Now, I will read out the first part of the proposal of our group.

**Mr Chairman,**

I would like to make suggestions about the points the Work Committee chairman explained at the National Convention plenary session on 10 and 13 November 2006 to lay down the detailed basic principles for the Chapter "Amendment of the Constitution", Chapter "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital", Chapter "Transitory Provisions" and Chapter "General Provisions" to be included in the State Constitution.

In order to make sure effectiveness, we members grouped ourselves into four sub-groups according to background knowledge and interest, and each group held discussions about each of the four chapters.

**Mr Chairman,**

Each of the four sub-groups read out the proposal paper and it had compiled for the approval of the sub-group concerned. Then, the four proposals of the four sub-groups were submitted for the approval of the whole group.

**Mr Chairman,**

At first, I would like to present our views about the detailed basic principles proposed for the Chapter "Amendment of the Constitution".

As you know the State Constitution is the basic law of the laws of a nation. It is natural that however much a State constitution is written completely, sooner or later it will need amendments according to the changes. So, specific procedures should be prescribed in advance in the process of making amendments to the State constitution.

It was explained that regarding amendments, the Constitutions of some nations and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar prescribe a separate Chapter. And the method of

**The colour green on the State Flag stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment, yellow depicts solidarity, Moreover, red means valour and decisiveness. That is complete with good intention.**



*U Sein Kyi, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia. — MNA*

amendment should be designated, and the proposal for an amendment should be in the form of a Bill, and that the Bill should contain no other proposals. The explanation is systematic and all the attention can be focused on the Bill. So, we consider it is appropriate.

**Mr Chairman,**

But, in this regard, there should be a detailed basic principle that prescribes which Hluttaw should initiate the Bill.

The constitutions of some countries have two Hluttaws each, and some countries, only one Hluttaw. The new Constitution will have two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the highest organ, comprises the said two Hluttaws. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will solely draw and enact the laws.

Therefore, the Work Committee chairman's explanation "Such Bill to amend the Constitution may be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw" is appropriate.

He said that 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. And the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should consider discussing the Bill only if at least 20 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submit it.

In this regard, we believe that the proceedings of amendment to the State constitution will ensure careful attention of the members in submitting proposals if the minimum number of the members is fixed at a greater number instead of 20 per cent in order to avert submitting proposals of unrestricted amendments to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and a waste of time.

**Mr Chairman,**

He also explained the procedures of submitting a Bill to make amendments to the State Constitution. Then, we conducted a study on the constitutions of some countries and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar to know the procedures of how make amendments can be made to specific provisions prescribed in the constitutions in the constitutions. The main articles shall be amended with the prior approval of 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw, in a 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. According to our study, the Constitutions prescribe the amendment of the provisions chapter by chapter



*U Win Maung, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia. — MNA*

and article by article. It is opined that only at the stage of drafting the 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 clear and easy to understand. Specific principles can be prescribed only in drafting the State constitution.

He explained that the Constitutions prescribe the amendment of the provisions chapter by chapter and article by article. Only then can the specific methods of the specific chapters and articles be clearly known. But the amendment of the provisions can be arranged chapter by chapter and article by article only at the stage of drafting the Constitution. His explanation is reasonable and appropriate and it thoroughly covers follow-up procedures.

Therefore, the four points the Work Committee chairman explained for the Chapter "Amendment of the State Constitution" should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

**State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital**

**Mr Chairman,**  
Regarding the detailed basic principles proposed at the plenary session held on 10 November 2006 by the National Convention Convening Work Committee chairman for the Chapter "State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital" to be included in the State Constitution, we members of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia would like to present our views.

It is proposed that:

- (1) The Flag is marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. On the left end of the green stripe at the top of the Flag is a large white star directing upwards.
- (2) Law shall be promulgated concerning the State Flag.

He said that the colour green on the State Flag stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment, yellow depicts solidarity. Moreover, red means valour and decisiveness. That is complete with good intention.

We studied the State flags of 194 nations. Of them, 24 countries' State flags are marked with stripes of three colours in a proportionate ratio. Each of the 24 countries uses three colours that match with the conditions of the nation concerned. Members of the delegate groups of intellectuals and intelligentsia made a comparative study

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# Law shall be promulgated concerning the State Flag

(from page 3)

of the State flags of the world nations and drew many new designs of State flag. Then, they submitted their works and exchanged views about the designs in the group.

**Mr Chairman,**

In our group, some members are knowledgeable about historical and Myanmar affairs. They specially studied the designs of the State flag of our country in Bagan Period, Innwa Period, Konbaung Period and pre-independence period. My thanks go to the members who drew new designs of State flag based on the designs of State flag used in the past and appreciate their efforts and goodwill. We members all participated in the discussions about the design of State Flag.

Some held discussions about the design of the three-colour State Flag and the place of the white star the Work Committee chairman presented.

**Mr Chairman,**

We considered that the proposed State Flag marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio is endowed with essence and meaning. The big white star, which reflects perpetual existence of the consolidated Union, should be on the left end of the green stripe at the top.

Therefore, the point:

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

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

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

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

**Mr Chairman,**

The present State Seal, that has been used since the post-independence period and is decorated with the picture of the lion king and our nation’s map fringed by traditional floral arabesque. The proposed State Seal is the old State Seal to be renovated a little to be modern, and it is acceptable.

Some members of our group who are also craftsmen and historians assessed the Work Committee chairman’s explanation about the State Seal and submitted new designs they had created. Then, the remaining members assessed the proposals.

The proposed State Seal features a big white star that represents the Union, picture of lion king that portrays valour and decisiveness, our nation’s map fringed by traditional floral arabesque that reflects our nation’s cultural civilization, and the words “Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw”. These facts are complete with essence and meaning.

Therefore, the point:

With the picture of the State Seal under it,

**The proposed State Seal features a big white star that represents the Union, picture of lion king that portrays valour and decisiveness, our nation’s map fringed by traditional floral arabesque that reflects our nation’s cultural civilization, and the words “Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw”. These facts are complete with essence and meaning.**

**“The State Seal shall be as shown below.”** should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

**Mr Chairman,**

The Work Committee chairman called for suggestions to decide whether the point:

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

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle or not. Some members of our group are musicians and literati.

The present National Anthem was conceived of the independence struggles. The words of National Anthem should reflect the State’s policies and goals. And its tunes should be serious and lively. It should be a long-lasting one. It should also be a simple and listener-friendly one that can be sung easily by millions of people including children.

**Mr Chairman,**

The present National Anthem was conceived of the independence struggles of the anti-colonial forces, and it became well-known in the post-independence period. It depicts justice, liberty, peace, and equality that the State values much.

In the National Anthem, the words “Gaba Magye Myanmar Pyay” mean Myanmar nation and Myanmar people exist as long as the world does. And they indicates the vow of ensuring perpetual existence of the Union, the heritage of our ancestors. So, the present National Anthem is composed precisely and is endowed with essence.

It is a simple and lively song that can be sung by anyone, young or old, regardless national race, to the accompaniment of any traditional or modern orchestras. And it can be sung to full blast in chorus by a large number of people at any victory.

**Mr Chairman,**

It is clear that the present National Anthem has won the heart of the entire people. Therefore, the point:

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

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Now, I would like to make suggestions about the points for designating the capital city of our nation.

**Mr Chairman,**

The Work Committee chairman made a complete explanation about the points for designating the capital city of our nation, and sought advice and suggestions to decide whether the point:

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

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle or not.

**Mr Chairman,**

Whenever we members of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia hold discussions, we referred to the basic principles, procedures and decisions of the National Convention. At the beginning of the National Convention, it was prescribed that “The capital of the State is Yangon” and Yangon is designated as a Union territory.

**Mr Chairman,**

As the time when the National Convention launched was long ago, there have been many changes in the condition for designating the capital city.

The shifting of the administrative seat to the centre of the nation can bring many fruitful results such as more effectiveness of the administrative machinery in the far-flung areas and more equitable development of all parts of the Union in the transport, economic and social sectors. Therefore, the government has established Nay Pyi Taw as the capital city in the more strategic region.

Previously, Yangon was the capital city. But, now the capital city of the nation should be Nay Pyi Taw where the administrative seat is based. Yangon still exists as the most important exit of the nation economically and geographically. So, Yangon City should be a Union territory under the direct rule of the President.

**Mr Chairman,**

Therefore, regarding the designation of the capital city of the Union of Myanmar, the point:

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

should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

U Sein Kyi of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia will read out the next part of our proposal regarding the detailed basic principles proposed for the Chapter “Transitory Provisions”.

**Transitory Provisions**

**Mr Chairman,**

Every independent and sovereign nation has to adopt the principles on sharing of sovereign powers, and fundamental rights and duties of the citizens. These principles are combined into a State Constitution.

Some governmental organizations have to organize the tasks for drawing the State Constitution. After being drawn, a State Constitution can be approved through each of many ways. In some countries, it was approved under the signature of the President. In some countries, it was approved by legislative assemblies. In some countries, it was approved through a referendum. The 1974 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar was approved through a referendum.

The committee for drawing State Constitution will have to complete the drive after the National Convention has adopted all the basic principles and detailed basic principles. The fourth step of the State’s seven-step Road Map is “Adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum”.

**Mr Chairman,**

Myanmar regained independence on 4 January 1948. It started to write the State Constitution in 1947. The parliamentary assembly and the Myanmar interim government organized the responsibilities for framing the 1947 State Constitution in 1947. At that time, the State Constitution was a much-needed thing for regaining independence. So, it was to be completed hastily by the day on which the nation would regain independence. The parliamentary assembly adopted that State Constitution on 4 January 1948, on which Myanmar regained independence.

The Revolutionary Council, the Revolutionary Government organized the tasks for writing the 1974 Constitution. Before the launch of the drive, it sought advice and suggestions of the people. The State Constitution Writing Commission wrote the first draft. Then, it presented the first draft to the public. After that, it sought the advice and suggestions and wrote the second draft. Then, it presented the second draft down to the grassroots level. After seeking advice and suggestions of the people, it wrote the third draft. And the final draft was approved through a referendum.

**Mr Chairman,**

The State Peace and Development Council organized the tasks for writing the State Constitution that will come into force soon, and in the process it holds the National Convention. More than 1,000 delegates who are people of diverse national races, workers, peasants, intellectuals, intelligentsia, State service personnel, political parties, representatives-elect, national race peace groups, retired diplomats who are versed with politics, and historians from the states and divisions held discussions and laid down the basic principles and detailed basic principles. After the completion of the National Convention, the State Constitution will be written systematically. The forthcoming State Constitution will be approved by the people through a referendum.

**Mr Chairman,**

We members of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia evaluated the eight detailed basic principles the Work Committee chairman presented at

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# The present National Anthem shall be prescribed as the National Anthem

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the plenary session held on 13 November 2006 for the Chapter "Transitory Provisions".

So, these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter "Transitory Provisions". They are:

1. "This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote."
2. "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."
3. "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"
4. "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"
5. "Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw"
6. "Existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Union Government"
7. "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."
8. "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"

General Provisions,

Mr Chairman,

At the plenary session held on 13 November 2006, the Work Committee chairman elaborated on the 26

**The upcoming State Constitution will portray the State structure and reflect the history of the nation. This Constitution includes some points that prescribe the procedures of how to share the three State's sovereign powers. Other laws will be enacted after the State Constitution has been drawn. So, the State Constitution is the basic law of the laws of the nation.**

detailed basic principles for the Chapter "General Provisions" to be included in the State Constitution. Among them, six detailed basic principles concern the points that the official language is Myanmar language and Myanmar language should be designated as the official language of the State, and that the Myanmar manuscript of the Constitution should be enrolled for record in the National Archives; one detailed basic principle that concerns the point that operation of economic enterprises through joint-venture system with the government; two detailed basic principles that concern the points that the treaties, agreements and charters should be honoured, and the remaining detailed basic principles concern the formation of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Mr Chairman,

The upcoming State Constitution will portray the State structure and reflect the history of the nation. This Constitution includes some points that prescribe the procedures of how to share the three State's sovereign powers. Other laws will be enacted after the State Constitution has been drawn. So, the State Constitution is the basic law of the laws of the nation.

Myanmar is a Union that is made up of more than 100 national races. All the national races should use Myanmar language as the official language. Indeed, Myanmar language has existed for thousands of years like the Myanmar's history. The Teachings of the Buddha, Pali and some words of English were adopted to the Myanmar language to enrich the vocabulary of the language. Using Myanmar language as the official language enhances the image of the State and uplifts the national prestige and dynamism of patriotic spirit. Like some languages used in some countries, Myanmar language is fine and rich in vocabulary. Moreover, it covers various profound technologies. It is comprehensible to all the national people. Using Myanmar language as the official language ensures uniformity in relations between the people and the government and between the governmental organizations. It can specifically define the expressions. The 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution prescribed Myanmar language as the official language of the State. In addition, the National Convention has adopted that point as a detailed basic principle since 1993. Therefore, the first six points such as ensuring the State constitution as the basic law of the laws of the State, designating Myanmar language as the official language, designating the State fundamental principles as the guidelines to be followed by the legislative Hluttaws in enacting laws and interpreting provisions of the State Constitution and of other laws; referring to Myanmar text interpreting the preamble, articles, clauses, words and expressions contained in this Constitution and in existing Interpretation of Expressions Law, and keeping a Myanmar manuscript of this Constitution at the National Archives, should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

Among the economic enterprises in the nation, many are the ones that the Union government has to solely operate. No 7 para guarantees permission to a Region or State government, a cooperative society or a person to run economic enterprises with the government through joint-venture system or under agreements in the interests of the State. So, it should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Paras (8) and (9) mean that 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. And 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. The Union of Myanmar may sue and may be sued. These points are used in many countries. The previous State constitutions also prescribed these points. So, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

The points from (10) to (19) concern formation of a constitutional tribunal, designation of its membership, qualifications to be possessed by the members, their rights and power, and impeachment of the members.

(a) A constitutional tribunal should be formed to interpret the provisions of the State constitution if necessary, and to make a decision if there arises a dispute. Having to make important decisions, the members should be the ones who should be knowledgeable about political, administrative, economic and security affairs, and who are loyal to the State with the qualifications set for a Union Chief -Justice and a Union Chief Court Judge.

(b) Equal number of the members are appointed by the President, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw from among Hluttaw members or non-Hluttaw members. And the appointment shall meet the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should not reject the nominated members unless it can prove them disqualified. The President may have the right to nominate new members if the nominated members are rejected by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The term of the Constitutional Tribunal is five years, and the ongoing Constitutional Tribunal, on expiry of its term, shall continue to carry out its functions till a new Constitutional Tribunal is formed. This method is also for the appointment of the chairman.

(c) a member of the Constitutional Tribunal should resign if he is a Hluttaw member or a government employee so that he has to stay away from bias and misuse of power. He shall have no right to participate in activities of the political party concerned during tenure of membership if he is a member of a political party. A member of the Constitutional Tribunal has to submit his resignation to the President if he wishes to resign of his own accord due to a reason. The President may fill the vacant seat with a new member. A member of the Constitutional Tribunal can be blamed or impeached for treason, violation of any of the provisions of the Constitution, misbehaviour, incompetent discharge of duties. If need arises to blame or impeach a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, it shall do so under the provisions prescribed in this Constitution set to blame or impeach the Union Chief-Justice or a Union Supreme Court Judge.

Mr Chairman,

Para (20) prescribes seven functions of the Constitutional Tribunal including 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, and to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution. Para (21) is that if there is a dispute as to whether a provision prescribed in a law is in conformity with the Constitution in hearing a case by a court, and the Constitutional Tribunal has not made any decision regarding the case, the court shall suspend its hearing and submit its views to the Constitutional Tribunal in accord with the procedures for its decision. The decision of the Constitutional Tribunal regarding the dispute shall apply all the cases. The decisions of the Constitutional

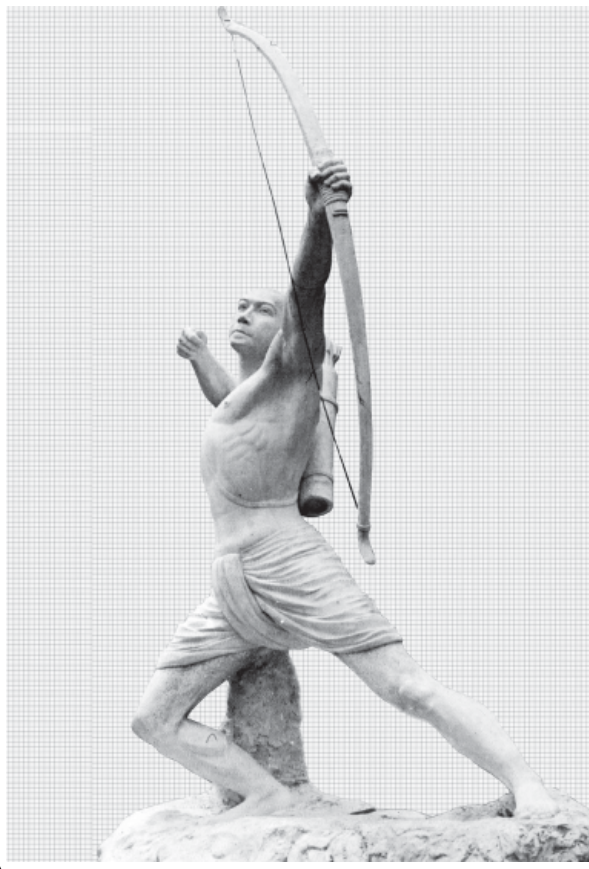
(See page 10)

## Hailing the 59th Anniversary Independence Day

## Essence of perpetuation of independence and sovereignty

Thiha Aung

## Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at risk to lives



*Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a nation. The three powers—legislative, executive and judicial—must be understood as sovereignty. These three powers must be in the hands of our citizens and our national races. We cannot put them in the hands of any alien directly or indirectly. Once the sovereignty of our country is influenced in any way by others, it is tantamount to indirect enslavement under neo-colonialism. Hence, the Tatmadaw must ensure perpetuation of sovereignty at risk to lives.*

**Head of State Senior General Than Shwe**  
27-3-1997, Yangon

The national leaders and ancestors managed to regain independence and sovereignty, which had been lost in the past owing to the colonialists' annexation of the nation and their hegemony, and handed down them to their posterity as the legacy.

**Our ancestors had to sacrifice a lot of lives in the independence struggles to enable the motherland to liberate from the state of being a puppet nation. In other words, the purpose of the independence struggles was to make sure that the nation would never become a puppet nation again.**

Today, there are certain neo-colonialist countries that are attempting to manipulate and control the nation in their own interests ignoring the prevailing situations of the nation, the lifestyle and attitude of Myanmar people. Surely, Myanmar will lose its sovereignty again if it becomes a puppet or satellite country of an alien nation.

Essence of ensuring the perpetuation of sovereignty is the right to shape the future of the nation for peace and development of the nation and well-being of the people in line with the culture, history and traditions.

It is required to take necessary steps to strengthen the political, economic and defence forces of the nation first so that the nation will always exist as a sovereign one that can serve the interests of its people independently.

National development means that a nation has strong

political, economic and defence forces. Myanmar is becoming politically strong due to collaborative efforts to foster national solidarity, restore peace and ensure the rule of law. With a good political climate, more and more foundations are being built for economic development. And with the economic development, stronger defence forces can be built. So, these three strengths are interrelated each other.

In this regard, political strength is fundamental factor, and economic strength is the connection between the two other strengths. Therefore, with combined endeavours to strengthen these fundamental strengths and a careful study of the political affairs, the nation will enjoy cumulative development.

It is required to ensure perpetuation of sovereignty throughout the country for expediting the tasks for the political, economic and social development. That is why the government is bolstering the internal strength made up of various national races to wipe out all forms of dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements both at present and in future.

**It is common knowledge that while restoring peace and stability of the nation in cooperation with the people and the Tatmadaw, the government is joining hands with other congenial nations in consistence with the five principles of peaceful co-existence in the international relations to ensure mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty. Myanmar believes that regional and global peace can be built only if all the nations respect and exercise the principles stipulated in the UN Charter.**

Due to the geographical features of the nation, global imbalance in power and international affairs in which powerful nations are trying to gain hegemonic control over weaker ones, the entire people are to be further imbued with the spirit of making sacrifices to defend the motherland and to make the national defence force stronger for ensuring perpetuation of sovereignty.

If compared with neighbouring countries, Myanmar lags behind development especially economic development to an extent.

Thus, the most fundamental national duty is to transform the nation into a modern and developed one. In accomplishing such a noble duty, all the nations have to do their bit with a sense of duty, exerting patriotic fervour, Union Spirit and nationalistic vigour.

It calls for a lot of formidable tasks to be implemented sector-wise and region-wise for fulfilling the necessary requirements of a development-lagged country. Our country will become a modern and developed nation in the near future if the strength of national cohesion, natural resources and human resources are combined harmoniously.

It is needed to make sure equitable development of all parts of the nation to achieve the drive for national development. With this context, the government is building necessary infrastructures such as roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, hospitals, educational institutions, factories and mills the length and breadth of the country for proportionate development of states and divisions.

The government has been building economic and energy infrastructures that serve as the lifeblood of the national development across the nation. Simultaneously, it is fulfilling the fundamental requirements in the economic, education, public relations, communication and transport sectors for the development of rural areas and border areas.

After assuming the State's responsibilities in 1988, the government gave priority to the restoration of peace and stability throughout the nation and started to carry out the economic reform, which covered the adopting of the

market-oriented economic system and creation of a variety of opportunities in all the sectors including the private sector to encourage economic enterprises.

In addition, it is granting more adaptable permission to improve the role of the private sector in the production, service and trade aspects for ensuring proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system.

It has placed emphasis on boosting production of commodities in such important sectors for economic development as the agricultural, forestry and fish and meat sectors along with the energy sector, on which the nation will have to rely increasingly. It is also taking necessary steps for the development of other sectors for the economic development, services and commerce.

In its attempt to make the nation economically strong, the government is encouraging agro-based enterprises and suitable industries and constructing basic infrastructures such as irrigation and transport facilities that can make a dominant contribution towards the national economic development.

Pursuing the drive for the national economic development with the agricultural sector as the base is some way "raising the socio-economic life of the majority of the people in practice.

As food is the important thing among the three basic needs, the government is making a provision for ensuring food security of the future generations.

In the 1990s, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe occasionally gave guidance on the drive for food sufficiency as follows.

The nation's population is growing and it will reach 50 million or 51 million by the year 2000. The paddy-sown acreage remains at around 12 million acres, the same as that before World War II. So, the nation may face lack of food in future if the agricultural tasks are still being carried out in a nonchalant way. Therefore, the government is taking effective measures for greater development of the agricultural sector for the food security of the nation.

The aim of building dams and reservoirs is to raise the standard of living of farmers, the majority of the national people, and to ensure the well-being of future generations. So, all are to work together to promote the agricultural sector with effective use of the irrigation water.

Paddy is to be cultivated extensively for local rice sufficiency to cover the supply of the nation's growing population. In order to achieve that target, plans are under way to put at least 14 million acres under monsoon paddy and four million acres under summer paddy, and to reclaim two million acres in Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon divisions.

In this regard, all are to work hard to accomplish a national duty to hit the target of 18 million acres of paddy—14 million acres of monsoon paddy and four million acres of summer paddy with an average paddy per acre yield of 100 baskets so as to produce surplus of rice, the staple food of all national races.

**Now, the nation has about 23 million acres of arable lands alongside 23 million acres of vacant and virgin lands that can be used for agricultural purpose. So, plans have been adopted to accelerate the reclamation of these vacant and virgin lands.**

The nation has to spend a lot on imported edible oil annually. Therefore, it is needed to extend the

(See page 7)

## Essence of perpetuation of independence and sovereignty...

(from page 6)

growing of such edible oil crops as groundnut, sesame, sunflower and oil palm as much as possible. If the plan has been achieved, hundreds of millions of US dollars the nation has to use annually for imported edible oil will go to nation-building tasks including the education, health and industrial sectors.

As Myanmar is blessed with a favourable condition it can grow crops all seasons. Through that advantage, regional and seasonal crops are to be grown extensively. Definitely, the nation will enjoy development if all the agricultural methods and labour are welded together.

**In implementing the plans for the economic development of the nation, the government pays a serious attention to raising the standard of living of the people, boosting per capita income, reduction of unemployment rate, and creation of job opportunities. Myanmar will transform itself into an international level country if it is economically strong.**

Myanmar has prospects for economic development due to its favourable geographical features with temperate climate and aquatic and terrestrial resources and forest resources in abundance. So, the government has been building a number of necessary infrastructures in all sectors to harness the natural resources at full capacity. At the same time, it is also pursuing a strategy for rapid development of the agricultural sector, the fundamental economy of the nation.

So, the people are to cooperate with the government exerting patriotic fervour and Union Spirit to achieve the State's objectives. At such a time when the nation has to reconstruct all the infrastructures from the beginning, the people need to extend their active participation in the drive for employing the strengths and tapping the national resources of the nation in the interests of the nation.

The government is devoting itself to such imprudent plans to have its wishes of ensuring the development of the national people fulfilled. Now, it has put a lot of efforts into the plans for ensuring stable economy, practising thrifty, boosting production of commodities, and manufacturing of import-substitute items.

It is common knowledge that the territorial waters and lands of the nation are rich in natural resources

especially in terrestrial and aquatic resources, forest resources, minerals, oil and gas, fish and prawn. The nation needs technical know-how and investments to efficiently use the natural resources in the interests of the Union.

**Despite not having a lot of natural resources, some countries are achieving a great success due to the fact that they have nurtured human resources in all aspects and then built infrastructures with the effective use of those human resources.**

So, only when we national people are able to use the aquatic and terrestrial resources effectively will the nation enjoy national economic development with high per capita income.

With this context, the government is nurturing the people especially the youth to produce human resources in all sectors. Therefore, the nation will become a developed one in the near future with its human resources and abundant natural resources.

However, certain countries, which are desirous of putting Myanmar under their domination, and subversive elements are resorting to all possible ways to make the nation get into economic crisis and to harm the economic development of the nation. So, Myanmar has to take measures to cope with such man-made barriers to the drive for national development. Braving such destructive acts, Myanmar is making sustained efforts to improve the agricultural sector for food security, establish more enterprises for manufacturing import-substitute items, and ensure economic development and peace and stability.

Peace and stability of the State are the most important factors for economic development. Without these fundamental factors, a nation will never enjoy any economic development. Economic development is interrelated with peace and stability of the State.

The nation has to take steps with self-reliant basis for economic growth. It is heartening to learn that the entire nation is constantly seeing construction projects.

Now, standing on its own feet and mobilizing all possible investments and resources, the nation in a position to build economic infrastructures. As a result, it is now reaping the rewards of all its hard work and prudent projects.

**It is also required to consolidate the national reconsolidation. And the people are to make harmonious attempts with a great patience for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution through the National Convention.**

If the provisions of the State Constitution are implemented with the passage of time after the State Constitution comes into force, Myanmar will be able to transform itself into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

**Discipline-flourishing democracy is the most suitable democratic system for Myanmar. All are to notice the fact that the exercise of democracy will not last long and the nation will collapse and lose its independence if the democracy to be practised is not a discipline-flourishing one.**

In doing their bit in the tasks for peace and stability of the State and national development, the people should conduct a comparative study of the different situations and to distinguish between constructive efforts and subversive acts. They must be able to differentiate what is enhancing national unity and what is leading the nation to collapse. They are to realize the difference between positive attitude and negative attitude, and between development and backwardness and to stand on the right side.

In this context, all the national people are duty-bound to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation. And for further flourishing of essence of independence and sovereignty, they are exhorted to join hands with the conviction and concept that each citizen is to be armed with vigour, with which they can prevent anyone from making the motherland lose independence and sovereignty.

Translation: MS

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### POEM

## Take full cognizance of Objectives

- \* If you let life pass unnoticed  
Only in the country you cherish  
Full of traditions, Independence  
Is likely to come to pass in an instant  
Become enslaved and will be lost  
That will surely happen.
  - \* If you try to regain it  
How could that be done  
With sweat and blood, much of it sacrificed  
Time and resources spent for some time  
You may regain it, as exactly  
As to us by leaders, and remembered.
  - \* Union-born national citizens  
Unwavering, with hands clasped  
In unison practicing Our Three Main National Causes  
And only if these are safeguarded  
The Independence that we all cherish  
Will last long and remain ever strong.
  - \* If Myanmar's Constitution is to be Firm and strong and likewise democracy  
To build a new nation in unison  
Thriving to prosper  
Moving ahead with seven-step Road Map  
To get together with clear mind  
Giving full credence, we carry them on our heads  
And practice them with full cognizance.
- Pho Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)  
(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Independence Day)

### True patriotism

- \* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- \* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

## True patriotism



## Destructionist

Maung Chit Kaung

## Many famous Myanmar athletes...

(from page 1)

Games. Many famous Myanmar sportsmen and sportswomen emerged in the international events.

The Myanmar sports sector was away from victories and its standard was low for many years due to certain reasons at the time when the Tatmadaw took over the State duties.

With the conviction—advancement of the

cess with the combination of dynamic management, strong financial power and modern sport techniques and gear, he added.

Achievements have been made in Myanmar sport world due to correct policy of the government, supervision of the MNOOC and MOC and efforts of the federations and athletes and encouragement of the people, he said.

He said athletes won

utmost efforts for success of the respective sports.

It is necessary to turn out more outstanding sports athletes and to train them to achieve victories at the international level. Looking to the international sports field, methods and sports equipment are becoming sophisticated and other sports related sectors such as management, rules, finance and health are developing rapidly. Besides, sports, business and media are benefiting each other.

In such a time like this, the country needs to develop the above-mentioned sports related sectors for the improvement of national sports standard, he said.

MOC has gained a lot of experience and achieved historic victories in its long history. So it is also necessary to further improve the sports sector under the leadership of MOC. All in all, the Secretary-1 said, all with national spirit are to try to raise the national sports standard for the uplift of the fitness of the people, for the development of socio-economy as well as for the national prestige and integrity.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to former chairmen and general secretaries of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Lt-Gen Myint Swe to victorious Myanmar athletes. MOC Chairman Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented 2006 Sport & Community Trophy to Chairman of Myanmar Sports Writers Association Dr Tin Tun Oo. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the medals and trophies awarded by International Olympic Committee. Later, those present were served



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gift to retired official of Myanmar Olympic Committee. — MNA

national sports standard helps raise the dignity of the nation and the people; and victories in international sports events is the glory for the nation and people — the Tatmadaw government has been striving to develop Myanmar's sports standard as a national duty.

Myanmar National Olympic Council Law was promulgated in 1993, and the MNOOC was formed as the highest sports body to issue directives and policies concerning the Myanmar sports.

Similarly, Myanmar Olympic Committee was reorganized and encouragement is being given to raise Myanmar sport standard, he said.

Each sport developed rapidly after sport federations were reorganized according to the international sports and games.

He said there are 38 sport federations led by entrepreneurs and old athletes who are interested in the respective fields. The federations are gaining suc-

medals in international competitions of Wushu, rowing, yachting, archery and taekwando and billiards and snooker and outstanding woman athletes have turned out in most of the fields. Despite the better results in those fields, much efforts are needed to reach the expected target, he said.

Under the correct leadership of Myanmar National Olympic Council, Myanmar Olympic Committee, sport federations and all the athletes are to make



## Winners of Horticulture Show awarded



Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Thet Htay, Daw Mar Mar Wai and Dr Daw Khin Than Nwai visit 15th Horticulture Show. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Jan— Winners of the 15th Yangon Mayor's Cup of Horticulture Show and Competitions were awarded today at the exhibition in Mayangon Township.

Patrons of Myanmar Floriculturists

Association Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Thet Htay, Daw Mar Mar Wai, Dr Daw Khin Than Nwe and wife of Vice-Mayor of Yangon Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing and Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Tin Soe

presented awards to winners.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presented the cup to a winner. A total of 460 shops participated in the exhibition which was held to mark the 59th Anniversary Independence Day. — MNA

## Found Happening Project of Shar Nyo opens

YANGON, 1 Jan— A ceremony to open Found Happening Project of Shar Nyo was held at National Museum on Pyay road this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Ruth Schatz, responsible personnel of the Ministry of Culture, Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and

Artisans Asiyan U Thaug Han and members, director of Original Group Co, Ltd Daw Kyi Khin and responsible personnel.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiyan U Thaug Han made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, Actor Shar Nyo explained facts about the purpose of the opening of Found

Happening Project and formally unveiled its stone plaque.

Afterwards, Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Ruth Schatz, Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiyan U Thaug Han and officials formally opened the Found Happening Project which displays artistic works of Shar Nyo.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents gift to an Olympic medal winner. — MNA

Israeli Ambassador Mrs Ruth Schatz, Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiyan U Thaug Han and Director of Original Group Co Ltd Daw Kyi Khin formally open Found Happening Project. — MNA



# First cash donation for renovation of historic Hsandawshin Danok Hsutaungpyi Pagoda in Dalla held

YANGON, 1 Jan — The first cash donation for renovation of historic Hsandawshin Danok Hsutaungpyi Pagoda in Dalla Township was held at Dhamma Rekkhita Dhammayon at Maha Wizaya Pagoda, here, this afternoon.

Present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-

Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Work Committee for Renovation of Danok Hsutaungpyi Pagoda Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and authorities concerned.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa reported on measures undertaken by the work committee.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented K 17.5 million donated by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw

Kyaing Kyaing to Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and the commander presented K one million each donated by Yangon Division PDC and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and wife Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing K 500,000 to him.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the minister, the vice-mayor and officials accepted K 81.85



million donated by wellwishers.—MNA

**Lt-Gen Myint Swe hands over K 17.5 million donated by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family for renovation of Danok Pagoda in Dalla Township to Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win. — MNA**

## Sagaing Division gets 22nd dam...

(from page 16)

Besides, it is expected that Pale Township will enjoy the food sufficiency and local farmers will earn a lot of money as agriculture will flourish in the region, the commander said.

He continued to say that the Government has built dams, reservoirs and canals across the nation not only to support the living of people but also to underpin the electricity production sector.

Besides, Htaman-thi Hydel Power Project is under construction on Chindwin River in Sagaing Division, and upon completion, it is ex-

pected to produce 1,200 MW and to irrigate 1 million acres of farmland, the commander said.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said in his address that with the aim of boosting the agricultural produce, the Government has been implementing the irrigation projects and agricultural development projects.

He continued to say that Hlaing Chaung Dam is the valuable irrigation facility for the arid region. Thanks to Hlaing Chaung Dam, local farmers will be able to grow double cropping and their income will be increase. The dam will supply drinking water and irrigation water to

the residents, and social and living standards of the local people will be improve. Therefore, the dam is worthwhile for the State.

Hlaing Chaung Dam will irrigate 1,000 acres of farmland in two village-tracts in Pale Township and local farmers can grow 1,000 acres of paddy in rainy season and 500 acres in summer. The number of acres of gram cultivation will be increased from 600 acres to 1,000 acres, the minister said.

At the opening ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveiled the stone inscription of Hlaing Chaung Dam.

After the opening ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the main dam, the control tower, the conduit pipe and the spillway of the dam.

The commander and the minister also met with officials concerned and called for boosting the agricultural production. At the meeting, the director of the Construction-4 of the Irrigation Department reported on implementation of the dam and its irrigation.

The dam will irrigate 1,000 acres through its 5-mile long main canal and 7-mile long distributory canals.

MNA

## Lt-Gen Myint Swe pays obeisance ...

(from page 16)

and member Sayadaws. He presented a set of robes to the chairman Sayadaw.

The commander, the minister and officials presented sets of robes to the member Sayadaws.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe left the Cave after paying respects to examination supervisor Sayadaws and the candidate monks.

A total of 276 monks are sitting for the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations that are being held from 24 December 2006 to 25 January 2007. — MNA

### All this needs to be known

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



Hlaing Chaung Dam in Pale Township. — AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

## All the four detailed basic principles of the chapter should be adopted for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution” to be included in formulating the Constitution

YANGON, 1 Jan— The following is a translation of proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital” and “Transitory Provisions” to be included in drafting the State Constitution presented by the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 29-12-2006.

I wish you all Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee and members and National Convention delegates health and happiness.

**Mr Chairman,**

I am U Sein Lwin of the delegate group of State service personnel of the Ministry of Mines.

The Work Committee Chairman asked the delegates to give suggestions on the detailed basic principles for the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” explained by him at the plenary session of the National Convention held from 10 to 13 November 2006, and to give separate suggestions if they have. The delegate group of State service personnel held a meeting on 17 November 2006 and formed three proposal-compilation groups. The three groups compiled the proposal on the respective chapters. The panel of chairman after studying our proposal paper in detail presented it to the meeting of the delegate group of State service personnel held on 12 December 2006 and sought suggestions from the participants. The panel of chairman studied and assessed the suggestions and compiled our proposal paper, which was approved by the group meeting held the next day.

I and U Than Tun of the delegate group of State service personnel of Attorney-General’s Office will read out proposal paper on the chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions”. The charter on Amendment of the Constitution will be read first.

**Amendment of the Constitution**

**Mr Chairman,**

The plenary session of the National Convention held on 7 April 1993 laid down the Chapter Headings and



*U Sein Lwin of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel.— MNA*

their serial. The Work Committee Chairman presented the explanations concerning the adoption of the detailed basic principles for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution” after elucidating the constitutions of some world nations and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar.

Constitution is the main pillar of all the laws of nation and also the mirror reflecting its political, economic and social conditions. The nation will be able to stand tall among the world nations only if its constitution is adaptable to fast changing and advancing global situation. After the adoption of a constitution, we will have to make Constitutional amendments as and when necessary.

The explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman are really necessary for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”.

At the plenary session the Work Committee Chairman explained: “The Constitutions prescribe the amendment of the provisions chapter by chapter and article by article. At present, the situation is not ripe yet to state the amendment of the provisions chapter by chapter and article by article as we are only at the stage of adopting detailed basic principles. It is opined that, only at the stage of drafting the 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 clear and easy to understand.” We find that his explanation is realistic and proper.

**Mr Chairman,**

The Work Committee Chairman explained that the main chapters should 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. He also said that the Constitution ensures easy constitutional amendments for the remaining chapters. His explanation concerning the matter are in conformity with the six objectives of the National Convention.

We would like to suggest that all the four detailed basic principles of the chapter should be adopted for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution” to be included in formulating the Constitution.

**State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital Mr Chairman and National Convention delegates,**

Now, I will give suggestions on the chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”.

Some nations state the prescriptions for the State Flag in the Constitution and in some nations, the legislative assembly promulgates separate laws concerning them. It is found that procedures and rules in connection with the State Flag and punishments for offences are prescribed in the separate law enacted by the legislative assembly.

Mostly, a nation prescribes the colours of a State Flag in accord with the nature of its people. Prescription of the symbols for the Flag are mostly based on the main political, economic and social sectors of a nation.

The colours used according to both the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution were red, white and blue. Red stands for courage and decisiveness, white for purity and blue for peace, tranquillity and stability.

**Mr Chairman,**

The national brethren of Myanmar have been living in unity and amity. A big white star representing the love and unity of the Myanmar people should be included in the State Flag.

Green representing agriculture that is the main business of Union of Myanmar which is peaceful, lush and verdant should be portrayed. Yellow which reflects the unity and amity of the national races should be included. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness, should also be portrayed.

We are in favour of adopting the following detailed basic principles.

*(See page 11)*

## The capital of the State is Nay Pyi Taw

*(from page 5)*

Tribunal in paras (20) and (21) shall be final. So, sub- paras from (a) to (g), para (21) and para (22) should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

**Mr Chairman,**

A task of the Constitutional Tribunal is to interpret the provisions of the State constitution, to make decisions and to give its stances. Para (23) says that the President, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Union Chief-Justice, and Chairman of Union Election Commission shall have the right to directly submit a case to the Constitutional Tribunal for its interpretation, decision, and stance. It is appropriate because they are the heads of respective organizations. Para (24) says that Region or State Chief Ministers, Speaker of the Region

or State Hluttaw, Chairman of Leading Body of Self-Administered Areas or at least 10 per cent of the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw shall have the right to submit a case to the Constitutional Tribunal in accord with the procedures for its interpretation, decision and stance. This point is also appropriate because they are those in charge of the organization concerned and the number of Hluttaw members is fixed. Para (25) is to prescribe by law formation and relations of the Constitutional Tribunal, and duties, rights and privileges of the chairman and members of the Constitutional Tribunal. Para (26) is to designate the role of the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member, to the position of a Union minister in order to make reference. It is appropriate to designate the role of the chairman and

members of the Tribunal of the State Constitution that is the most important, fundamental and basic law to enable them to discharge their duties with prestige. So, the points from 23 to 26 should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

We members of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia suggest that the 26 points the Work Committee chairman proposed for the Chapter “General Provisions” should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

In conclusion, we would say that the 26 points the Work Committee chairman proposed for the Chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”, Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, Chapter “Transitory Provisions” and Chapter “General Provisions” to be included in the State Constitution should be adopted as detailed basic principles. — MNA

## 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

*(from page 10)*

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

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

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

**Mr Chairman,**

Constitutions of some nations prescribe that the State Seal should be prescribed with a law enacted by the legislative assembly; that their constitutions have provisions stating that the State Seal should reflect the history, culture and customs of the race. In some countries, it is stated that after the State Seal has been adopted by the legislative assembly, it has to be ratified at a referendum.

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

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

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

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

**“The State Seal shall be as shown below.”**

**Mr Chairman,**

Now, my suggestions will focus on the National Anthem. New National Anthems were composed in the past, but the great majority of the people loved and accepted the present National Anthem. Hence, the present National Anthem should be used until a new National Anthem is prescribed by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

**The present National Anthem depicts the task of safeguarding the Union that we have inherited from our forefathers, at the risk of our lives, and serving the interest of the Union in harmony and unison. Hence, it is in accord with the adopted fundamental principles.**

When we studied the constitutions of some nations in connection with the National Anthem, it is found that many countries mention the song that should be prescribed as the National Anthem. Constitutions of some nations state that the legislative assembly should enact a law to prescribe the National Anthem.

The present Anthem has been in use for over half a century. One of the fundamental principles adopted by the National Convention is “further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality”.

Objectives of the National Convention include the adopted fundamental principles — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; perpetuity of sovereignty. Other fundamental principles “the Union is constituted by Pyidaungsu (Union) systems” and “no part of the territory of the Union, namely regions, states and self-administered areas etc., shall ever secede from the Union” have already been adopted.

The present National Anthem depicts the task of safeguarding the Union that we have inherited from our forefathers, at the risk of our lives, and serving the interest of the Union in harmony and unison. Hence, it is in accord with the adopted fundamental principles.

Because of the oppression of the colonialist, the nationalistic fervour was low among the people when Myanmar was under colonial occupation. Myanmar writer YMBA Saya Tin composed the songs such as “Tagaung Abhiyaza” and “Doh Bamar” to revitalize the nationalistic fervour of the Myanmar people then. The people while singing the song “Doh Bamar” became revitalized with nationalistic fervour, and were able to regain independence. The words “Kaba-ma-kye” were used in composing the National Anthem in 1948.

The Myanmar word Kaba-ma-kye means Myanmar will exist as long as the world exists. Hence the song which begins with the words “Kaba-ma-kye Myanmar Pyay” have been used continuously. The words “Kaba-ma-kye Myanmar Pyay” have been in the hearts of Myanmar people, young or old, since the time of our forefathers. Hence, the present National Anthem should be used. The following detailed basic principle should be adopted

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

**Mr Chairman,**

Presentation will be made on the detailed basic principle concerning the designation of the nation’s capital. Most of the nations designate a central core city as their capital. The seat of the government is also designated as the Capital. A city that is located in the hub of the nation is chosen as the Capital.

**Mr Chairman,**

There are many other reasons to designate Nay Pyi Taw as the Capital of Myanmar. Nay Pyi Taw is located in a place that is not too wet nor too dry. As it is almost in the middle of the nation, its transport links with all the four corners of the nation are easy. Hence, the designation of Nay Pyi Taw as the Capital is much appropriate. In addition, Burma Defence Army, that played a pivotal role in the independence struggle, was set up in Pinyinmana.

Now all the government institutions are carrying out their normal functions at their head offices set up in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hence, we make a profound suggestion to adopt the following detailed basic principle.

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

**Transitory Provisions**

**Mr Chairman,**

I will now give suggestions on the chapter “Transitory Provisions”.

The Work Committee Chairman explained: “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.”

According to the lessons we have learnt from transitory experiences of some big nations, it is much important for us to pass through systematic, smooth and gentle transitory process. Hence, the transitory provisions are essential for the constitution. We need great care to adopt comprehensive and precise provisions of the transition.

**Mr Chairman,**

The following eight points are to be adopted as detailed basic principles as explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

- (1) The coming into force of the Constitution.
- (2) The exercising of the State sovereignty during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened.
- (3) The work done to bring the Constitution into force.
- (4) The devolving of all policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights.
- (5) The existing laws.
- (6) The revocation or amendment of the existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures.
- (7) The continuation of the functions of courts at all levels.
- (8) The continuation of the functions of all State service personnel of departmental organizations including the Tatmadaw.

**Mr Chairman,**

The Work Committee Chairman explained the eight detailed basic principles of the chapter reasonably and comprehensively after studying the 1947 Constitution and Acts and bylaws enacted by the constitution, the 1974 Constitution and the laws and bylaws enacted by the constitution, and the constitutions of some world nations. The said eight detailed basic principles should be adopted.

U Than Tun of the delegate group of State service personnel of Attorney-General’s Office will read out proposal paper on the chapters “General Provisions”.

MNA

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 DLF Phase-III  
**National Capital Region 122002**  
 India. 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007

**Dutch bank acquires 49% shares in Zambian bank**

LUSAKA, 31 Dec — The Dutch Rabobank has bought 49-per-cent shares in the Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZNCB) after the Zambian Government approved the deal which will be finished at the end of January 2007, local mediareported on Saturday.

After the acquisition, the Zambian Government will hold 25 per cent shares while the remaining 26 per cent will go to the public, Zambia Privatization Agency spokesperson Alphonsius Hamachila was cited by *Times of Zambia* as saying in a statement on Friday.

"The government selected Rabobank following international competitive tender for a number of reasons including the fact that it intends to increase the number of branches particularly in the rural areas," Hamachila said.

Rabobank Group executive board chairman Bert Heemskerk said he was pleased with the participating interest his group takes.—MNA/Xinhua

**Pentagon to request nearly \$100b more in war money**

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec —The US Defence Department is seeking 99.7 billion US dollars for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, *The New York Times* reported Saturday.

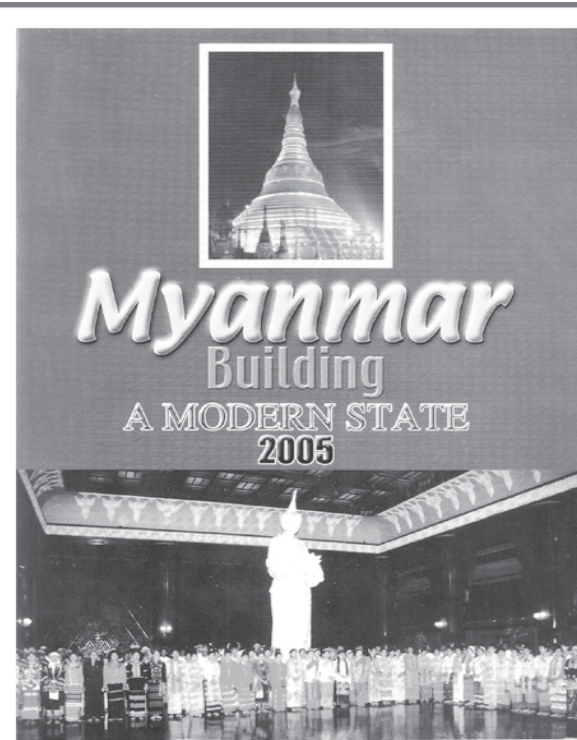
The request, if approved by Congress, would set an annual record for war-related spending, the report said.

The request, detailed in a 17-page internal Defence Department memorandum dated December 7, would be in addition to 70 billion dollars appropriated in September and would push the total for the 2007 fiscal year to nearly 170 billion dollars, 45 per cent more than Congress provided for 2006.

The request is likely to receive more scrutiny from Congress next year than previous supplemental spending bills, in part because Democrats would control both the House and Senate in the new Congress that convenes early next month.

About 50 billion dollars of the money would go to the Army, which is conducting the bulk of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua



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**China's defence expenditure is low compared with major powers**

BEIJING, 31 Dec — Both the total amount and per-serviceman share of China's defence expenditure is low compared with those of some other countries, particularly major powers, says the White Paper on China's National Defence in 2006 issued here Friday.

According to the White Paper, in 2005, China's defence expenditure equalled 6.19 per cent of that of the United States, 52.95 per cent of that of the United Kingdom, 71.45 per cent of that of France and 67.52 per cent of that of Japan. China's defence expenses per serviceman averaged 107,607 yuan (around 13,450 US dollars), amounting to 3.74 per cent of that of the United States and 7.07 per cent of that of Japan.

"Pursuant to the National Defence Law and the Budget Law, and guided by the principle of coordinated development of national defence and the

economy, the Chinese Government decides on the size and use of defence expenditure in an appropriate way to meet the demands of national defence in keeping with China's economic development," the White Paper said.

Financial departments are instituted at the General Logistics Department, military area commands, Navy, Air Force and Second Artillery Force, and units at the levels of corps, division (brigade) and regiment. These departments are responsible for the appropriation, management and super-

vision of the defence funds. The auditing offices of the state and the PLA conduct strict supervision of the defence budget, says the White Paper.

The White Paper says that China's defence expenditure in 2004 and 2005 was 220.001 billion yuan (around 27.5 billion US dollars) and 247.496 billion yuan (around 30 billion US dollars), respectively, with growth rates of 15.31 per cent and 12.50 per cent.

In the past two years, the share of China's annual defence expenditure in its GDP and in the state financial expenditure in the same period has decreased, being 1.40 per cent and 7.74 per cent respectively in 2003, 1.38 per cent and 7.72 per cent in 2004, and 1.35 per cent and 7.29 per cent in 2005. Its defence budget for 2006 is 283.829 billion yuan (around 35 billion US dollars), the White Paper said.—MNA/Xinhua

**German consumer confidence drops ahead of tax raise**

BERLIN, 31 Dec — German consumer confidence has dropped from recent highs amid concerns that an imminent increase in value-added tax (VAT) could hurt the purchasing power of shoppers in Europe's biggest economy, a survey showed on Friday.

The GfK research group said on Friday that its consumer climate index for January fell to 8.7 points from 9.2 in December. The index reached a five-year high of 9.3 in November.

The Nuremberg-based group attributed the drop of consumer confidence mainly to an increase in VAT, from 16 per cent to 19 per cent from January 1, which will prompt a jump in the prices of cars, fuel, appliances and homes.

Consumers obviously perceive the imminent rise in VAT, a move designed to curb Germany's budget deficit, "as a huge burden on their purchasing power," GfK said in a statement.

"This situation is exacerbated by higher health care and pension contributions as well as the abolition of tax benefits," it said. The GfK group's forward-looking indicator is based on around 2,000 interviews with consumers each month. —MNA/Xinhua



A snowmobile pulls a child on a tube in an empty snow covered field in Thornton, Colo, on Saturday, 30 Dec, 2006.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Shanhaiguan Pass, about 26 kilometres northeast of Qinhuangdao City in north China's Hebei Province, is the eastern end of the Great Wall. — XINHUA

**China has 18 combined corps of mobile combat troops**

BEIJING, 31 Dec — The Army of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has 18 combined corps, which serve as mobile combat troops, and the People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) has a total force of 660,000, says the white paper on China's National Defence in 2006 issued by the Information Office of the State Council, here Friday.

The Army has no independent leading body, and the leadership of it is exercised by the four general headquarters/departments. A military area command exercises direct leadership over the Army units under it. The Navy, Air Force and Second Artillery Force, each of which has a leading body consisting of the headquarters, the political department, the logistics department and the armaments department, direct the military, political, logistical and equipment work of their respective troops, and take part in the command of joint operations. The Navy organizes and commands maritime operations conducted independently by its troops or in support of maritime operations. There are three fleets under the Navy, namely, the Beihai Fleet, Donghai Fleet and Nanhai Fleet. Each fleet has flotillas, aviation divisions, etc under its command, the paper says. — MNA/Xinhua

**Spanish woman 'is oldest mother'**

BARCELONA, 30 Dec — A 67-year-old Spanish woman is reported to have given birth to twins according to hospital officials in Barcelona, becoming the world's oldest mother.

The woman, whose name has not been revealed, became pregnant after fertility treatment in Latin America.

She gave birth to the twins, who have been placed in an incubator, by caesarean section early on Saturday. It was the woman's first birth and she is expected to spend a few days in the Sant Pau hospital for recovering.

A spokesman for the hospital, which specializes in high-risk births, said that both the mother

**Study says adults living with children eat more fat**

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec — Adults living with children eat more fat than do other adults who do not live with children, according to a study made public on Saturday.

Researchers at the University of Iowa and University of Michigan Health System analyzed questionnaires given to 6,600 adults ages 17 to 65 living with and without children under age 17.

Compared to other studies, the participants represented a more diverse racial, ethnic and economic population.

Trained nutritionists asked detailed questions about what individuals and family members had eaten in the previous 24 hours and how frequently they ate high-fat foods.

Compared to adults living without children, adults living with children ate an additional 4.9 grammes of fat daily, including 1.7 grammes of saturated fat.

Saturated fat is linked to heart disease. Adults with children in the home were also more likely to eat foods such as cheese, ice cream, beef, pizza and salty snacks.

"Adults with children in the home ate more of those snacks and other

foods that we considered convenience foods," said Helena Laroche, an associate in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Iowa Roy J and Lucille A Carver College of Medicine and the study's primary author.

Laroche said. "These dietary choices may be due to time pressures, advertising aimed at children that also includes adults, or adults' perception that children will eat only hot dogs or macaroni and cheese. Once these foods are in the house, even if bought for the children, adults appear more likely to eat them."

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors are attracted by all kinds of out-dated doors and windows existing in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in a Door & Window Museum newly established in Changzhi, north China's Shanxi Province on 29 Dec. The museum shows visitors historical development of Chinese constructions.—INTERNET

**High bacteria level reportedly discovered in Zambezi River**

LUSAKA, 31 Dec — Namibian scientists probing a mysterious and fatal disease outbreak that has killed fish in backwater of the Zambezi River have found dangerous level of bacteria in sampled areas, *The Post* reported on Friday.

Zambia has also conducted tests but is yet to announce the results.

According to Namibia's *New Era* newspaper the scientists have sampled fish and water from areas where the infection was reported, and tested them for pathogenic bacteria.

It said the results showed dangerously high levels of coliform which can be toxic and cause severe illness at all sites.

They also found salmonella, a deadly bacterium that causes food

poisoning and diarrhoea, at one site.

The scientists suggested that sewage leaking into the river from the Caprivi Region in Namibia could have caused the high levels of bacteria in the Zambezi River.

Namibia has declared a ban on fishing on the Zambezi River since last week till 31 January, pending the outcome of further laboratory tests.

Zambia has already enforced a ban on fishing till March 2007.

MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks explode over the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the annual display to celebrate the New Year in Sydney, on 1 Jan, 2007. Organizers claimed it to be the largest fireworks display ever seen over the harbour of Australia's largest city in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the bridge's opening on March 2007.—INTERNET

# SPORTS

## Fergie ready for title fight

LONDON, 31 Dec— Sir Alex Ferguson has admitted winning the title this season will be harder than any other of his championship successes.

United go into the New Year six points clear of Chelsea at the top of the table and are favourites to lift the title in May.

Ferguson, who celebrates his 65th birthday on New Year's Eve, is refusing to take anything for granted and knows Chelsea still offer a great threat to his side's hopes.

"The influence of Chelsea and the big players they have been able to buy has made winning the league harder, there is no doubt about it," said Ferguson.

"It has not been easy for us because they have won the league quite comfortably in the last two years. That is why we wanted to make a good start this season.



Alex Ferguson

"We have achieved that now. Hopefully, we can cash in on it."

Ferguson also hailed the contribution of Cristiano Ronaldo this season describing the Portuguese winger as the best player in the Premiership.

"We think Cristiano is the best in this league and have done so for a while," said Ferguson.

"There is no battle between the two of them, they are the jokers in the dressing room and we have all been subject to their pranks," said Ferguson.

Internet

## Positive progress for Owen



Michael Owen

LONDON, 31 Dec— Michael Owen is making excellent progress in his rehabilitation from a serious knee injury, according to his surgeon Dr Richard Steadman.

The revered American operated on the Newcastle striker after he suffered a ruptured cruciate whilst on World Cup duty in the summer.

Steadman has delivered the verdict after looking at the latest scans, declaring Owen's knee to be in 'pristine condition'.

Newcastle boss Glenn

Roeder is reticent to put a date on when Owen could be ready to make a return but he admits to being buoyed by the latest developments.

"At worst Michael is on schedule," Roeder told the club's official website. "He got a scan sent over to Dr Steadman in Colorado to have a look at. He looked at the scan and is absolutely delighted.

Internet

## Wenger prepared to battle

LONDON, 31 Dec— Arsene Wenger has rubbished suggestions that his Arsenal side are a 'soft touch' when faced with the more physical aspects of the Premiership.

While there can be no denying that an Arsenal side in full flight is one of the most exhilarating sights in football, against the more robust top flight sides they have undeniably struggled.

Saturday's defeat at Sheffield United was a prime example of Arsenal being outmuscled in a game Wenger described as 'a typically old-fashioned cup tie'.

Wenger believes that it is a fallacy built up by the media that he has a prob-



Arsene Wenger

lem with 'physical' encounters but he was critical of some of Sheffield United's challenges - with Chris Morgan singled out in the Frenchman's appraisal of the events that unfolded at Bramall Lane.

"It is difficult to accept losing a game like that because you come out of it thinking they didn't create a lot," said Wenger. —Internet

## Latin America players of the year since 1986

MONTEVIDEO, 1 Jan— Following are the winners of the Latin America Footballer of the Year since the award's introduction:

- 1986 - Antonio Alzamendi (Uruguay) River Plate
- 1987 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia) Deportivo Cali
- 1988 - Ruben Paz (Uruguay) Racing Club
- 1989 - Bebeto (Brazil) Vasco da Gama
- 1990 - Raul Vicente Amarilla (Paraguay) Olimpia
- 1991 - Oscar Ruggeri (Argentina) Velez Sarsfield
- 1992 - Rai (Brazil) Sao Paulo
- 1993 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia) Atletico Junior
- 1994 - Cafu (Brazil) Sao Paulo
- 1995 - Enzo Francescoli (Uruguay) River Plate
- 1996 - Jose Luis Chilavert (Paraguay) Velez Sarsfield
- 1997 - Marcelo Salas (Chile) River Plate
- 1998 - Martin Palermo (Argentina) Boca Juniors
- 1999 - Javier Saviola (Argentina) River Plate
- 2000 - Romario (Brazil) Vasco da Gama
- 2001 - Juan Roman Riquelme (Argentina) Boca Juniors
- 2002 - Jose Cardozo (Paraguay) Toluca
- 2003 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina) Boca Juniors
- 2004 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina) Boca Juniors
- 2005 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina) Corinthians
- 2006 - Matias Fernandez (Chile) Colo Colo

MNA/Xinhua

## Gerrard named Member of British Empire

LONDON, 1 Jan— England and Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard expressed his delight Saturday after being named a Member of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. "I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive this recognition for playing a game I've loved all my life," Gerrard said.

"I'd like to accept this on behalf of all those people who have been so supportive to me throughout my career, all my teammates over the years, everyone at Liverpool Football Club, everyone at Team England, all my family and friends and all those coaches who have helped me since I was eight."

Gerrard has been instrumental in two of the most extraordinary matches of recent years. He inspired Liverpool to fight back to victory from 3-0 down against AC Milan in the 2005 Champions League final, and scored twice in Liverpool's FA Cup final victory over West Ham last May.

MNA/Xinhua

## Liverpool up to third after 3-0 win

LONDON, 1 Jan — Two goals inside two second-half minutes saw Liverpool see-off Bolton and in the process leap-frogged their opponents into third place in the table.

Peter Crouch's fantastic overhead kick broke the deadlock on the hour mark before Steven Gerrard volleyed home from just inside the area 83 seconds later.

Liverpool had failed to turn their possession into goals during the first half at Anfield.



Super strike: Crouch's acrobatics broke the deadlock. —INTERNET

But Crouch, restored to the starting line-up in the place of the injured Craig Bellamy, ended his 11-match goal drought by opening the scoring in style.

Dirk Kuyt laid the ball off to Jermaine Pennant on the right-hand wing and Pennant's centre was met by the acrobatics of Crouch.

Bolton found themselves 2-0 down moments later when Gerrard scored his fourth Premiership goal of the season with a volley from 12 yards from Kuyt's assist.

It nearly got worse for the visitors when Abdoulaye Faye was lucky to stay on the pitch after bumping into referee Graham Poll and kicking the ball away moments after he had been booked for disputing a foul on Crouch.

But Liverpool punished Bolton further when Kuyt completed an impressive performance with the hosts' third eight minutes from time. —INTERNET

### English Premier League

1 Jan, 2007 (Monday)

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

INTERNET



Manchester City's Georgios Samaras, right, celebrates after scoring past Everton's goalkeeper Tim Howard during their English Premier League soccer match at the City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on Monday, 1 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

### Rio hit by wave of gang violence

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Jan** — A new wave of criminal attacks hit Rio de Janeiro on Saturday after gang-related street violence left 18 people dead and 30 others injured two days earlier.

Gang members clashed with police in a highway connecting downtown Rio with towns in the metropolitan region of the state.

In the western part of the city, a public pavement was damaged by a grenade explosion. And police then exchanged fire with gangsters who were trying to storm into a precinct building. A homeless man was shot in the shootout.

In retaliation, State Police raided Rio's main slums often controlled by drug traffickers, and five drug dealers were killed in the operation.

In the metro region, a bus was burnt, but no one was injured. Bus companies refused to operate at night after gangs set fire to nine buses on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

### US troops death toll hits 3,000 in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 1 Jan** — At least 3,000 US soldiers have died in Iraq since the war began in 2003 as the US military announced on Sunday one more soldier was killed.

Spc Dustin R Donica, 22, of Spring, Texas, was killed Thursday in Baghdad, by small arms while conducting combat operations, the Pentagon said on the website, www.icasualties.org.

He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska, the

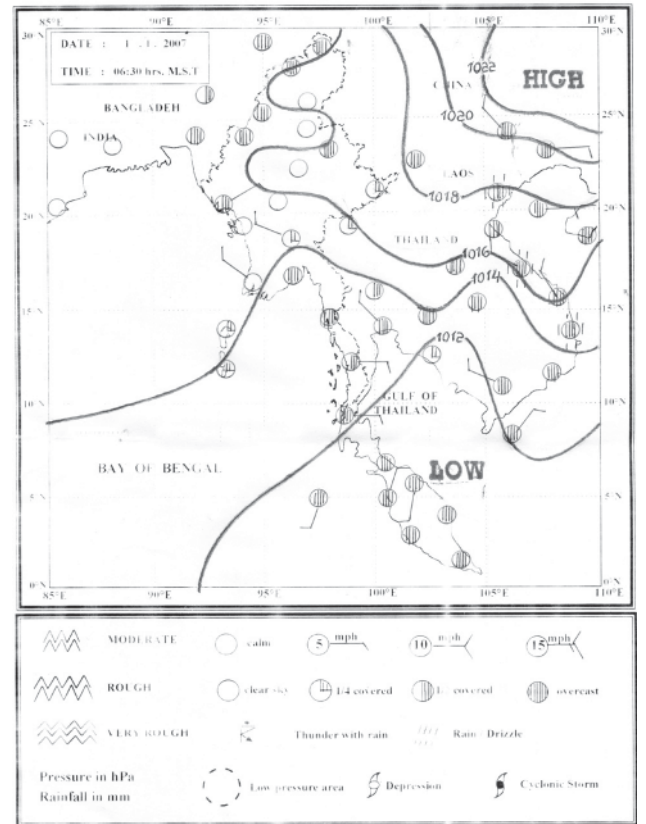
Defence Department added.

The death is previously unreported. Earlier on Sunday, the US military also said that a roadside bomb detonated near a US patrol, killing one soldier and wounding two others in a southeastern neighbourhood of Baghdad on Saturday.

The soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it said. So far, at least 111 US soldiers have died in Iraq in December alone, which became the bloodiest month for US military this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### WEATHER

Monday, 1 January, 2007

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State, (5°C) above normal in Shan State and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Pinlaung and Heho (3°C) each and Mogok (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 31-12-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 1-1-2007 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-1-2007 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 31-12-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 1-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon and Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Southeast at (12:15) hours MST on 31-12-2006.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 2-1-2007:** Possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of increase of night temperatures are likely in the Southern Myanmar areas.


**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 2-1-2007:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-1-2007:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-1-2007:** Fair weather.



Three sharks use their flexible bodies to lay out a comma, a full stop and a question mark during a public performance at an aquatic park in Fuzhou, South China's Fujian Province on 30 Dec, 2006. — INTERNET



**Radio Myanmar**

**Tuesday, 2 January**  
**Tune in today**

<p><b>8:30 am</b> Brief news</p> <p><b>8:35 am</b> Music -Walking on the sun</p> <p><b>8:40 am</b> Perspectives</p> <p><b>8:45am</b> Music -Say what you want</p> <p><b>8:50 am</b> National news/Slogan</p> <p><b>9:00 am</b> Music -Bee hebum</p> <p><b>9:05am</b> International news</p> <p><b>9:10 am</b> Music - A life lerr ordinary</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b> News /Slogan</p> <p><b>1:40 pm</b> Lunch time music -I take you with me -Power of two -Why -Willow</p> <p><b>9:00 pm</b> Discussion with Thu Khi Aung English Speaking Course</p> <p><b>9:10 pm</b> Article</p> <p><b>9:20pm</b> Weekly sport reel</p> <p><b>9:30 pm</b> Music at your listening pleasure : -Just a little bit of love -Like the rose -Be a man -Where did the loving go</p> <p><b>9:45 pm</b> News /Slogan</p> <p><b>10:00 pm</b> PEL</p>	<p><b>8:30 am</b> 8. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b> 9. Let's Go</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b> 1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15pm</b> 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b> 3. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ်(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b> 4. Dance of national races</p> <p><b>5:00 pm</b> 5. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်</p> <p><b>5:10pm</b> 6. "အနိုင်အရှုံး" (ပိစိ၊ ကောင်းမြတ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နီ.နီ.မူ)</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b> 7. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့. ဂုဏ်ပြု အစီအစဉ်</p> <p><b>5:25 pm</b> 8. ဆိုကြမယ်၊ ပျော်ကြမယ်</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b> 9. Evening news</p> <p><b>6:10 pm</b> 10. Weather report</p>	<p><b>6:15 pm</b> 11. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တောတွင်းသားငယ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၃၉)</p> <p><b>6:50 pm</b> 12. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ</p> <p><b>7:05 pm</b> 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ညီမငယ်ပါသေး" (အပိုင်း-၄)</p> <p><b>7:45 pm</b> 14. အချုပ် အခြာအာဏာခွန်. ရှည်ကြာ ခိုင်မာစေမှုခို. ခရု. ရှု ကွန်ကရစ်အလား ဖြန့်ကျက်ထား ကျေးလက်လမ်းနှင့်တံတားများ"</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b> 15. News</p> <p>16. International news</p> <p>17. Weather report</p> <p>18. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "တိုက်ပွဲခေါ်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ သီဟတင်စိုး၊ မင်းဦး၊ ဇော်လင်း၊ ဇင်မာဦး၊ ဆွေဇော်ထိုက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)</p> <p>19. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးပိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်</p> <p>20. The next day's programme</p>
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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

**Lt-Gen Myint Swe pays obeisance to candidate monks for religious examinations**

YANGON, 1 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence paid obeisance to the members of the Sangha, who are sitting for the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations and Tipitaka oral examinations at Maha Pasana Cave in Kaba Aye, here this evening.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Lt-Gen Myint Swe arrived at the Cave where the examinations are being held under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

They were welcomed at the Cave by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, Pro-Rector (Admin) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi and officials.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party paid respects to Chairman of the Tipitakadhara selection examination board Abhiadhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe pays obeisance to Sayadaws sitting for Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida oral examination. — MNA

**Sagaing Division gets 22nd dam to irrigate 1000 more acres**



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivers address at opening ceremony of Hlaing Chaung Dam. — AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan — Hlaing Chaung Dam in Pale Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, was opened yesterday by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

Hlaing Chaung Dam is the 193th one in the time of the Tatmadaw Government and the 22nd for Sagaing

Division and it is expected to irrigate 1,000 acres of farmland.

The State relies on Sagaing Division economically as cultivation of paddy, cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses and other crops is successful in the region, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye said in his opening address. The dam is 73 feet high and 4,500 feet long and can store 5,370 acre feet of water. It is constructed

on Hlaing Creek in Pale Township, Sagaing Division. Its spillway is 491 feet long and 60 feet wide.

Hlaing Chaung Dam and Myauk Yama Supporting Dam have been implemented to supply water to farmland in Sagaing Division so that the division can become “granary” of Upper Myanmar and can produce reserve paddy for the nation.

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