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

Matters relating to adoption of detailed basic principles on Powers and Functions of the President clarified

Plenary Session of National Convention continues at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 12 Dec — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the respective sub-committees, delegates of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North), and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North), and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, (See page 8)

The Plenary Session of National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall in Nyaunghnapin Camp of Hmawby Township. — MNA

INSIDE

"It was so wonderful to see the natural lake that exists at an altitude of 12,800 feet. It may be called Nanda Lake from the Tavatimsa, the abode of celestial beings." “Of course, you’re right.” I would like to invite adventurers to come over and have a look at the wonderful lake located in the snow-capped mountain in Putao Region in Kachin State, the only snow-covered scenic sight in South-East Asia. 

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HTAY AUNG (TOURISM)

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

Tuesday, 13 December, 2005

Produce literary works in the interests of the nation and the people

Literature mirrors the time. The standard of Myanmar culture was great in the history of Myanmar literature and it can be found in royal literature. It is obvious that gentle literature and customs of all walks of life can also be found in the literature. Myanmar literature has existed as genuine national character and reflects noble characteristics of Myanmar society such as gentility, sympathy, helpfulness and unity.

The holding of presentation of literary awards annually to mark the Sarsodaw Day which Myanmar and its people are proud of is an effective enhancement for development of Myanmar literature. It is also a continued effort for creation of literature of high standard in literary world.

A ceremony to present the 2004 Life-long Literary Award, National Literary Awards, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and the prizes for the 16th National Motto, Literary and Photo Contests was held at the National Theatre in Yangon on 11 December and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that Myanmar literature that developed throughout the different eras in conformity with political, economic and social foundations had noble tradition that led to political, economic and social development of Myanmar society on the correct path under the leadership of literati of different periods.

In cultural aspect, Myanmar literature has good historical tradition and power. Development of such literature is a national prestige for the entire national people. Presentation of various kinds of literary awards for development of Myanmar literature shows the government’s noble goodwill towards literati and promotes national prestige.

The literati ought to accept the fact that art is not only for art’s sake but also for the sake of the nation and the people and to prevent alien culture and literature harmful to the people from penetrating into Myanmar culture and literature. They should also ward off the danger of destructive elements which make instigations with the assistance of foreign media while the government is building a modern nation based on Union Spirit and consolidated national solidarity.

We would like to call on literati to produce literary works in the interests of the nation and the people and try to enlighten the people for the successful realization of the Road Map for the nation’s future.

Low-grade jade lots sales attract 483 merchants

YANGON, 12 Dec — Chairman of the Central Committee for Holding of Myanmar Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Tin who is currently on the inspection tour, went to the low-grade jade lots sales for 2005 at Myanmar Gems Mart and inspected jade lots displayed.

Jade lots will be sold through tender system on 14 and 15 December.

So far, 483 gems merchants — 229 at home and 254 from abroad — have arrived here and more will be arriving tomorrow. Merchants are allowed to inspect the jade lots and to put the bidding forms into tender boxes today and tomorrow.

Flower Arrangement Course opened

YANGON, 12 Dec—The Flower Arrangement Course No 1/2005 organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was opened at the multi-functional building of the association at the corner of Parami and Thanthuma Streets in South Okkapa Town this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win and NEC members, course instructors and trainees.

First, the president made an opening speech and the ceremony came to a close.

After the ceremony, the president and the CEC members inspected the demonstration of flower arrangement in the hall.

The two-week course is being attended by 20 trainees.

President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win and NEC members view Flower Arrangement Course at MMCWA building. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 13 Dec— The Government of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Vasil Pytel as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to HE Mr Marian Tomasik.

Mr Vasil Pytel was born in 1954. He studied at the University of Kosice, Faculty of Law from 1973 to 1978 and got Doctoral Degree in 1981. He speaks English, German, Russian and Bulgarian. He started his professional career as judicial candidate at District Court Michalovce in 1978 and continued to take up the profession till 1985.

In 1986, he joined the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia and was assigned duties as Consul of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Bonn, Germany in 1987. From 1988 to 1990, he worked at the International Law Department of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia. He once again took up the diplomatic profession as Private Attaché at the Slovak Republic from 1990 to 2004. He returned to the diplomatic career in 2005 and worked at the Territorial Department for EU Countries in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

He is currently serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Kingdom of Thailand. He will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok. Ambassador HE Mr Vasil Pytel is married and has two daughters.

MNA

MWAF donates cash and clothes to fire victims

YANGON, 12 Dec — Wellwishers on 10 December went to the relief centre in Hline Township and donated cash and clothes to victims of fire which broke out in Ward-13 in Hline Township.

Financial Department of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated K 700,000; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Thengi Daw Hse 200 cloths worth K 170,000; and Nun Daw Khemačari of Zayyar Thiri Nunnery, and wellwishers 50 longyis.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on increased production of engines, distribution of farm equipment to be able to reach the market, arrangements to be made for meeting the production target.

Officials urged to meet farm equipment production target

YANGON, 12 Dec — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials went on an inspection tour of Indagaw Industrial Regional in Bago Division yesterday afternoon.

The minister and party inspected production process of aluminum wire, to manufacture various sizes of aluminum wire, to constantly provide raw materials in line with the production target, to systematically check production of wire meeting the set standard, to efficiently use electricity and fuel.

Next, the minister oversaw parts of power-tiller engines at Power-Tiller Engine Factory. The minister was briefed on production of engines by Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries U Myo Tint and factory manager U Kyaw Lwin.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on increased production of engines, distribution of farm equipment to be able to reach the market, arrangements to be made for meeting the production target.

The holding of inspection tours, management and coordination in the hall. — MNA
Russia calls for abandoning double standards of human rights

MOSCOW, 11 Dec — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Yakovenko said on Saturday that the United Nations’ commission for human rights should drop double standards in human rights, urging reforms to raise its efficiency.

"The UN commission for human rights must be reformed to raise its efficiency and prestige and to eliminate double standards existing in that area," Yakovenko said in connection with the International Human Rights Day.

A detailed discussion on ways to reform the commission is underway at the United Nations General Assembly, the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Yakovenko as saying.

Yakovenko indicated that Russia is concerned about massive encroachments on the rights of Russian-speaking communities, including in some countries of the European Union.

He mentioned “the hundreds of thousands of native speakers of Russia in Estonia and Latvia, who are deprived of citizenship there”.

"Here we have a glaring instance of violation of universal international standards and we can’t put up with it," Yakovenko said.

The Russian official reiterated the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the UN endorsed on 10 December in 1948. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian PM urges for enhanced regional business linkage

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Saturday called on the East Asian business community to complement initiatives undertaken by their respective governments to enhance business linkages within the region.

Trade and industry associations in the region should also work to further enhance their networking, the prime minister said while opening the East Asia Business Exhibition here.

This could be facilitated through more frequent exchanges of trade and investment delegations as it would contribute to better understanding of the business environment and more frequent sharing of views and information, the Prime Minister said.

It would serve to enhance awareness and facilitate closer business co-operation and discussions on issues of common interest as well as provide feedback to the governments,” he said.

Last year, the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) together with China, South Korea, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand accounted for 22.7 per cent of world trade.

“This is no small achievement because it represents 24.2 per cent of world exports and 21.2 per cent of world imports,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Quake jolts eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 11 Dec — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richer Scale shook Turkey’s eastern province of Bingol on Saturday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The report said that the quake occurred at 2:09 am (0009 GMT) and the epicenter of the quake was at the Karliova Town of Bingol, but no casualty was reported.

The neighbouring towns of surrounding Erzurum, Elazig and Erzincan provinces also felt the quake.

The Turkish Government has sent a four-man information team to Bingol for investigation into the quake, said Anatolia.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey. A strong quake hit western Turkey in 1999, killing more than 18,000 people. — MNA/Xinhua

Ten killed as petrol tanker rams into building in Nigeria

LAGOS, 11 Dec — At least 10 people, including a pregnant woman, were killed when a petrol tanker rammed into a building after being hit by a bus attempting to overtake it at a remote Nigerian village, according to the village’s head.

Alhaji Idriss Mohammed of the Ushiba Village in the western state of Niger told Nigeria’s Saturday Punch newspaper that the wife and two children of the owner of the building were among those who were crushed by the tanker at Friday’s accident.

Mohammed said that the drivers of both vehicles and a mother with a baby of about eight months also died on the spot. — MNA/Xinhua

Plane crashes in Nigeria, 103 dead

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 11 Dec — A Nigerian plane carrying 110 passengers and crew crashed and burst into flames in the oil city of Port Harcourt on Saturday killing 103 people, a Nigerian aviation official said.

A mother awaiting news of her child at the Port Harcourt Airport said the plane was carrying 75 passengers and 35 crew, including 42 EU envoys, for a conference in Paris.

"I called the school and they confirmed there were 75 students on board," said the mother, who was distraught and did not give her name.

The plane, travelling from Abuja to Port Harcourt, was operated by private Nigerian carrier Sosoliso.

Civil aviation spokesman Samuel Adoroboje said the plane was carrying 103 passengers and seven crew when it missed the runway on landing and burst into flames.

He said 103 people died. Seven survived the crash. The disaster comes seven weeks after a plane operated by another Nigerian airline, Bellview, crashed near the commercial capital Lagos killing all 117 people on board.

Sosoliso flies many domestic routes daily. It is one of only two airlines that operate on the busy Abuja to Port Harcourt line.

The aviation industry of Africa’s most populous country has grown dramatically in the past decade, but it has been struck by a number of fatal air crashes.

An inquiry is under way into the Bellview crash but there is no word yet on the cause and investigators have not found the voice or flight data-recorders. — MNA/Xinhua

Snow storms hit US midsection

NEW YORK, 10 Dec — Heavy snow up to 25 centimetres deep has swept through the United States’ midsection over the past two days, with traffic disrupted and schools closed due to snow-packed roads.

The storm sweeping to the east was expected to leave snow of 15 centimetres in central Illinois and 7.5 to 13 centimetres in the Chicago area. By late afternoon, some 30 flights had been cancelled at O’Hare International and Midway.

Kansas City was hit by the heaviest snow, up to 25 centimetres, which brought down temperatures to below zero degrees Celsius, a National Weather Service forecaster said. Many vehicles slipped off roads or got into fender benders.

Students in dozens of schools in Indiana were asked to leave early. Schools in northern and central Texas were closed Thursday and others rescheduled start times. — MNA/Xinhua

Four US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 11 Dec — Four US soldiers were killed in separate attacks in Iraq on Saturday, the US military said.

The first soldier assigned to Task Force Baghdad was killed when his patrol struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad’s northern district of Adhamiyah, the military said in a statement.

The second soldier from the same force was killed by small arms fire while on patrol in northwestern Baghdad.

Another two soldiers were killed in a shootout with guerrillas whengunmen attacked their patrol in Yusufiyah, southwest of Baghdad.

At least 2,138 US military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to the US Defence Ministry estimate. — MNA/Xinhua
China supports ASEAN’s leading role in East Asia cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here on Saturday at the East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers’ Working Lunch that China supports ASEAN’s role as the major driving force in East Asia cooperation, a spokesman for the Chinese delegation said.

Wang Donghua, deputy director of the Information Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, quoted Li as telling Xinhua that the EAS is a new thing in the East Asia cooperation process, which will provide a forum for various parties to exchange views on issues of common concern.

ASEAN has played a key role in initiating the first EAS, Li said, adding that China believes East Asia cooperation should remain open and China expects the consensus reached by the ASEAN countries on East Asia cooperation. China supports East Asia cooperation which will be developed through the existing ASEAN+3 mechanism, the Chinese Foreign Minister said. Established in 1967, The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

China, Li said, is willing to make joint efforts with other countries to ensure the success of the EAS. Malaysia will host the first EAS on 14 December. 2005. The historic decision for ASEAN to host the EAS was taken by ASEAN leaders at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos, in November 2004. The first EAS will be participated by ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, Li also met Saturday with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Australian counterpart Alexander Downer in Kuala Lumpur separately. During the meeting with Lavrov, Li spoke highly of the development of the Sino-Russian strategic and cooperative partnership.

Both sides expressed the hope that the two countries will continue to strengthen coordination in solving the pollution in the Songhuajiang River which was contaminated due to blasts on 13 November at a chemical plant in neighboring Jilin Province. — MNA/Xinhua

Saudi formally joins WTO

GENEVA, 12 Dec — Saudi Arabia formally joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Sunday.

The WTO approved Saudi Arabia to become its 149th member on 11 November, winding up a 12-year negotiation process.

The move entered into force in 30 days, just in time for Saudi Arabia to participate in the WTO summit in Hong Kong, at which WTO members are supposed to agree on an outline deal to boost the world’s economy by lowering more trade barriers.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy has hailed the acceptance of another heavyweight of world trade, which is the world’s top oil producer and the main force in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Failing to join the organization last year, Saudi Arabia set its sight on membership in time for the WTO summit, which is due to begin in Hong Kong on Tuesday. — MNA/Xinhua

East China city posts $100m in exports to Russia

FEIZHUO, 11 Dec — Xiamen, a port city in east China’s Fujian Province, realized exports to Russia of 100 million US dollars in the first ten months this year, local Customs statistics showed.

The exports are in over 50 categories and include canned mushrooms, sneakers, diesel-engine coaches, and granite materials.

The combined value of imports and exports between Xiamen City and Russia stood at 190 million US dollars in 2004, 69.3 per cent up over the previous year.

The same year, the city earned 100 million US dollars in exports, 1.4 times that of 2003.

The surging trade with Russia is an immediate result of its growing purchasing power and economic recovery, experts say.

Currently, products from Japan, South Korea, India, Turkey have flooded into Russian markets, posing a threat to Chinese-made products.

“Our foreign trade partners are mainly from Japan, the United States and Europe, and our trade with them account for 70 per cent of the city’s total,” said Fu Rurong, head of the foreign economics department of the Xiamen Trade and Development Bureau, adding that Russia and India are becoming their new targets. — MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills Iraqi soldier, wounds seven near north of Baghdad

TIKRIT (Iraq), 11 Dec — A roadside bomb struck an Iraqi Army convoy near the town of Balad, some 80 kilometres north of Baghdad on Saturday, a police source told Xinhua.

“One soldier was killed and seven others seriously wounded when a makeshift bomb detonated near their vehicle while patrolling the al-Rawashed area near Balad,” said Colonel Ahmed Hassan from Tikrit police. — MNA/Xinhua

KLM plane evacuated in Sweden over bomb message

STOCKHOLM, 11 Dec — A Dutch airliner was evacuated at a Swedish airport on Saturday after a passenger found what appeared to be a bomb threat written in a magazine on board, but police said later no explosives were found.

A passenger on the KLM flight from Gothenburg to Amsterdam raised the alarm after finding a threatening message in an on-board magazine shortly before it was due to take off. Sniffer dogs found no device on board, police spokesman Glenn Sjoberg told the local news agency TT.

“We found nothing,” said Sjoberg. “The message could have been written a week ago. We don’t really know if anyone read the magazine the last time the plane was in the air.”

The coach of a handball team on board, Stefan Albrechtson, said a Dutch passenger alerted the KLM crew just as the plane started moving away from the terminal and the captain told the rest of the 144 passengers there was a possible bomb threat. — MNA/Reuters

One dead after German chemical factory fire

BERLIN, 11 Dec — One fireman died and three workers were injured after an explosion and fire at a chemicals factory in the southern German on Saturday, police said.

Heinz Rindelbacher, spokesman for Ingolstadt police, said the works fireman died from injuries sustained while trying to extinguish the blaze at Petrochemie Muenchsmuenster in the southern state of Bavaria.

One worker was being treated for burns at a hospital in Munich while two others sustained slight injuries.

According to a notice posted on Bavarian television’s teletext service at 1733 GMT, police urged residents of Muenchsmuenster not to leave their homes because of a large cloud of unknown chemical composition. Rindelbacher said, however, there was no serious danger. — MNA/Reuters

US soldier mans a machinegun in a helicopter flying over one of Baghdad’s bridges in Iraq, on 11 Dec. 2005. — Internet

North Korean protesters march at an anti-US rally against the plan to expand the US army base in Pyongtaek, about 80 km (50 miles) south of Seoul, on 11 Dec. 2005. — Internet
Australia invests fund for closer economic ties with ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Dec — Australia will invest five million Australian dollars (3.8 million US dollars) into a research project to help ASEAN countries develop closer economic links with other East Asian Nations, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announced here on Saturday.

This is part of a 10.5-million-Australian-dollar pack (7.9 million US dollars) of development assistance to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Australia is to fund, Downer said at a Press conference held on the eve of the inaugural East Asian Summit (EAS).

The EAS, to be held here on 14 December, will gather leaders from the 10 member states of ASEAN, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and those from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand, though located geographically outside of East Asia, are also included in the East Asian process.

Downer said that in all, four initiatives focusing on trade and economic development will be funded.

“The 5-million-dollar project will fund joint research examining economic integration between ASEAN nations and the other East Asian nations — Japan, the South Korea, China, India, New Zealand and Australia,” he said, adding the project builds on work already underway through the “highly successful ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme.”

Men watch plumes of smoke rise from an oil depot fire near Hemel Hempstead, on 11 Dec, 2005. Explosions tore through a fuel depot north of London on Sunday, spewing out a huge tower of smoke and flame in what officials said could be the biggest incident of its kind in peacetime Europe. Police said there were 43 casualties but only one person appeared to have suffered serious injuries. —INTERBOR

Large explosions at British fuel depot an “accident”

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (England), 12 Dec — Explosions tore through a fuel depot north of London before dawn on Sunday, creating a huge tower of smoke and flame and seriously injuring two people in what police said appeared to be an accident.

“All indications at this stage are that this was an accident. However clearly we will keep an open mind,” Hertfordshire Chief Constable Frank Whiteley told a news conference after Britons, still on edge from July bomb attacks in London, awoke to images of destruction from new blasts. Eye witnesses described a series of massive explosions at the Buncefield oil depot just after 0600 GMT. The explosions shot flames and blowing smoke several hundred feet into the air, smashed the windows of nearby homes and caused widespread damage.

A Reuters witness said the blast was heard 40 kilometres (25 miles) away in northwest London. Hours later, the skies over Buncefield were still blackened with a wall of smoke. Some homes in the region were evacuated. “It’s probably the largest that I have seen ... in terms of actual fire size,” the county’s chief fire officer, Roy Wilsher, told a news conference. —MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh seizes explosives, detains militants

DHAKA, 11 Dec— Police in Bangladesh hunting for Islamist suicide bombers have seized explosives and detained 30 militants, a Home Ministry official said on Saturday.

“Some 22 kilos of explosives including gunpowder, gel, iron chips and other bomb making materials were recovered from a hideout in northern Tangail late on Friday,” the official said.

Police raided the hideout, on a remote fish farm in Tangail, 100 kilometres (62 miles) northwest of the capital Dhaka, after a tip-off.

Three militants were detained during the raid on the hideout and 27 others were picked up from different spots, where a number of live bombs were also recovered over the last 24 hours.

Most of the detainees are believed to be militants of Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin, one of the three banned groups, blamed for waves of bomb attacks across the country since August.

Police have intensified their hunt for bomb makers after two bombs exploded on a crowded street in the northern town of Netrokona on Thursday, killing eight people including a suicide bomber and wounding 50.

Police have detained nearly 70 suspected militants following the latest bomb attack which took the number of people killed by suspected suicide bombers to 28 in three weeks, including judges, lawyers and policemen.

At least 150 people have been wounded.

MNA/Reuters

Iran says will not enrich uranium while talks go on

TEHERAN, 11 Dec— Iran will not enrich uranium for as long as it is negotiating with the international community over its disputed atomic programme, the country’s atomic chief said on Saturday.

However, Gholamreza Aghazadeh reiterated that Iran would never give up nuclear fuel production.

“The Islamic Republic will not engage in activities such as gas injection or enrichment during negotiations,” Aghazadeh was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

It was not immediately clear whether Aghazadeh was referring to talks on Iran’s nuclear activities at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or to lower level talks aimed at reviving dialogue with the European Union.

Iran’s resumption of uranium conversion earlier this year, the step before enrichment, severed talks with Britain, France and Germany.

“The Islamic Republic will not participate in activities which may lead to the enrichment process in anyway,” said Aghazadeh.

In the conversion process, Iran converts uranium hexafluoride gas. Aghazadeh made no mention of stopping this work, which is a goodwill gesture EU countries have sought as a basis for rebuilding dialogue.

Enrichment is the next step, when the gas is pumped into centrifuges to produce enriched uranium.

Iran has not threatened an immediate start to enrichment and many scientists believe Teheran could still be several years from mastering centrifuge technology.

MNA/Reuters

Three die of fire in Cape Town

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Dec— A woman and two teenagers burnt to death in Khayelitsha, Cape Town early on Friday while residents fled their luxury homes as a fire raged out of control in the Oudekraal area.

Emergency operations room controller Martin Du Toit said, “The Khayelitsha woman and boy, 14 and girl, 13, were reported dead at 2:51 am after their shocks burst.” At daybreak, he said helicopters were on their way to Oudekraal to try to bring the “big” fire under control.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian politician in Iraq’s Najaf escapes assassination

NAJAF (Iraq), 11 Dec— A former mayor of the southern Iraqi city of Najaf who is contesting next week’s parliamentary elections escaped an attempt on his life on Saturday, police said.

But a roadside bomb targeting Shi’ite Muslim politician Adnan al-Zurfi’s convoy wounded three of his guards.

Zurfi heads the Faithful to Najaf Party in the Shi’ite stronghold 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Baghdad.

“My way back to my party office a road-side bomb exploded targeting my convoy, wounded three of my guards,” Zurfi told Reuters. He blamed two rival politicians but declined to name them.

Former Iraqi prime minister Iyad Allawi said earlier this month that gunmen loyal to Islamist Shi’ite parties tried to assassinate him inside Najaf’s holy shrine.
Hiay Aung (Tourism)

Wonderful lake in the high mountains

I have been to Bagan recently. From the Nannyaung Tower, I enjoyed the scenic beauty of the area at sunset. The plain of Bagan was fascinating. The Tamkyi mountain range stretching along the river was also beautiful. A poet once described Mya Kan Tha, the Emerald Lake, with Bagan in the background. The lake is situated at the foot of Tuyindaung Hill, at the entrance to Bagan. It was built to store mountain torrent. The embankments were strong and water was cool, clean and clear. Different kinds of fragrant lotus flowers were in full bloom. Birds of different species came here. The poet in his poem likened the lake to the four heroes of Bagan that have been skilfully created. They add the majestic beauty of the hotel. The lobby is spacious and impressive. A small artificial waterfall is created in front of the hotel.

There are one-unit accommodations categorized into four classes. An entrepreneur’s effort to strike a balance between personal interest and others is apparent. He has concentrated on achieving international class while preserving and upholding national prestige and national character. The project has created many jobs for the local people. A sure thing is that there will be more jobs when the hotel opens.

On my return from Bagan and Popa where I attended workshops on Mystikyna and Putao on several occasions on duty. However, I saw the mount of ice only from afar. Mt Khakaborazi seems not far away. In practice, it is a long way to get there. If one goes to the base camp at the foothill via Putao and Nagmon, it will take about two months. In 1996, Mr Ozaki of Japan and Nama Johnson of Myanmar scaled Khakaborazi and reached the peak.

I happened to meet the team led by Dr Khin Maung in Putao one day. I learned that they had just completed the climbing of the mountain. He seemed to be elated after their accomplishment. We too were proud of their success.

Indeed, the journey was rough. Every member of the team had to be fit and strong as well as diligent. Team spirit and esprit de corps were essential. Each had to carry his or her equipment throughout, and to clear the way by himself or herself. In some cases, they had to take life threatening risks. The weather was very uncertain. A shower of snow can occur all of a sudden although everything was bright and clear presently. There would be total darkness then.

Dr Khin Maung showed me the photo he had taken along the route and recounted his experiences. When the mountaineering team first arrived in Putao it met local authorities. The team members discussed the route with the guides. They saw that the items they were going to carry were actually essential on the way. They paid special attention to carrying dry rations and food items.

According to Dr Khin Maung, on the first day of the journey they left Putao. It was near dusk when they reached Tahteindan village. It was thrilling to cross the suspension bridge across Palat creek before entering the village. They had dinner with the village headman and put up at the Primary School.

On the second day, they left the village. On the way, they had to cross Nanyin creek with the help of ropes. They stopped in the grove of reeds on the west bank of Malikha River.

On the third day, they moved on along the river and crossed the Mankhu creek. They also found colourful butterflies in some places.

On the fourth day, they continued the journey along the Malikha River. They crossed Ma Dwe creek with the help of ropes. Water in the creek was very cold. When they got to Kyaugugyi camp it was 1 pm. In fact, the camp was not far from Putao. The elevation was not different. It was close to the foothill.

On the fifth day, they moved along the east bank of the Nampha creek, a tributary of Ma Dwe creek. They crossed the creek and pitched camp on the west bank. Elevation of the place is over 2,800 feet above sea level. Along the way they saw a variety of flowers that are common only in the mountain. The sound of a myriad of birds over whelmed that of the current of Ma Dwe creek. They also found colourful butterflies in some places.

On the ninth day, they climbed slowly on and got to the Yegangyi camp, the large lake camp. As the place was over 12,800 feet above sea level, they saw scanty number of big trees. At mountain tops, they saw grass and short rhododendron. They pitched camp on the surface of ice near the large lake. The temperature was minus 12 degree, so they could not sleep.

“We were anxious to climb the peak early in the morning following day. So we made all necessary arrangements. On the tenth day, our mountaineering team started climbing Ma Dwe mountain. We were very lucky because weather was favourable. We took about four hours to reach the peak that is 15,177 feet above sea level.

(See page 7)
Wonderful lake in the high... (from page 6)

Then State Flag, Kachin State flag, the flag of the Hiking and Mountaineering Federation and that of the Women’s Sports Federation were flown at the peak and we posed for documentary photos. At that time, a sudden gust of wind blew and fogs and snow were falling thereby blocking our vision. So we climbed down in a big hurry before the mountain was covered with ice.

Dr Khin Maung’s story of climbing the mountain ended here. But as I was curious to know some other things, I asked him: “Doctor, I’ve heard a foreign researcher studied the Khakaborazi National Garden with our help of Forest Department. He wrote a book on facts about this region. Was the route he took the same as that of your mountaineering team?”

“Of course, he wrote the book titled ‘Beyond the Last Village’, which is based on Tehondam village. In his book, he wrote on the life of local national races, local flora and fauna and natural resources from environmental conservation point of view. For us, we have climbed mountains in the region depending on the feasibility. Our aim is different from his. And we did not take the same route. Ma Dwe mountain is situated in the north of Putao while the Tehondam lies in the north-east. There is the only one main route to reach Mt Khakaborazi.

For us, the more mountains there are, the more we want to climb them. We’ll try our best to climb Mt Khakaborazi.”

“Doctor, I’d like to know necessary requirements regarding the climbing of a mountain?”

“Well, in brief, a mountaineer must be specially strong and fit himself. He must undergo continuous practice and training. A mountaineering team needs all necessary assistance to succeed in climbing a mountain. If provided with necessary things such as easy transport and enough meals and funds, mountaineers will be in a position to perform their task with high spirit. In our mountain trip, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, departmental officials and entrepreneurs raised funds and provided other assistance to us.”

“Well, the lake is about one and a half square miles. As water in the lake is cool and clean, its colour is dark like that in deep sea. Water coming from Ma Dwe spring makes a lake naturally. So we were also surprised to see the lake.” “Of course, you’re right.” I would like to invite adventurers to come over and have a look at the wonderful lake located in the snow-capped mountain in Putao Region in Kachin State, the only snow-covered scenic sight in South-East Asia.

(Translation: AK+ST) (Kyemon: 12-12-2005)
Matters relating to adoption of detailed basic...

(from page 1)

Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention, and Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as MC.

The MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,069 delegates out of 1,080 were present, accounting for 98.98 per cent.

NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe clarified matters concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for Powers and Functions of the President in the executive and judicial sectors to be included in writing the Constitution.

When the Plenary Session of the National Convention was adjourned at 11.55 am.

Member Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Aung Aye continued to read out the clarification made by the NCC Work Committee on collections of matters regarding detailed basic principles laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in drawing the State Constitution.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects regional…

by Chairman U Htein Win of Myitmakha Co Group and wife were presented to Director-General Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of No1 Basic Education Department. The donors also raised funds of K 10,759,100 for the school. Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu presented a certificate of honor to the donors. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for producing human resources as they are the strength of the nation. Then Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected multimedia rooms of the school. The school was built at a cost of K 370 million.

Later, they visited Khamonsiek station hospital, Htaintaw station hospital in Moenyo township and Htaintaw BEHS where Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the multimedia rooms and left necessary instructions.

The Union Government shall uphold and maintain…

The suggestions, presented its compilation of the detailed basic principles to the National Convention Convening Commission. The Commission studied the compilation in detail and approved it. I will now explain the approved detailed basic principles for the executive and judicial power.

At the plenary session on 7-3-2005, the Work Committee Chairman explained that the previous sessions of the National Convention had laid down the detailed basic principles, “The Head of State is the President of the Union”, “The Executive Head of State is the President of the Union” and “The President shall exercise powers and function assigned and vested by the constitution and other laws”. He then explained that the following detailed basic principles concerning the Powers and Functions of the President should be laid down:

1. The President shall be responsible to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible to the President and also to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the President.
2. To be able to discharge the duties assigned in accord with the Constitution or any of the laws, the National Defence and Security Council led by the President shall be formed with the following persons:
   1. President
   2. Vice-President
   3. Vice-President
   4. Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw
   5. Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw
   6. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
   7. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
   8. Minister for Defence
   9. Minister for Foreign Affairs
   10. Minister for Home Affairs
   11. Minister for Border Affairs.
3. The President shall have
   (a) the right of pardon
   (b) the right of amnesty in accord with the recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council.
4. The President shall
   (a) confer titles, honours and awards
   (b) revoke titles, honours and awards.
5. The President shall establish or sever diplomatic relations with foreign nations with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. But in the cases which need immediate action, the President shall coordinate with the National Defence and Security Council to sever diplomatic relations with foreign nations, and he shall seek the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concerning the action taken by him.
6. The President of the Union, in accord with law,
   (a) shall appoint and recall the diplomats of the country;
   (b) shall agree on the appointment of foreign diplomats and send information on the recall
   (c) shall accept the letters of accreditation presented by foreign diplomats.
7. The President of the Union, in accord with law, shall appoint and dismiss heads of bodies of public services.
8. The President of the Union, in accord with law,
   (a) shall enter into, ratify or annul international, regional or bilateral treaties, or withdraw from such treaties with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; and
   (b) shall enter into, ratify or annul international, regional or bilateral treaties which do not require the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or withdraw from such treaties.
9. The President of the Union shall have the right to occasionally on behalf or sometimes send a

Progress of road sections, bridges…

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to Pyidaungsu Kanthaya Natural Garden in Lashio. Officials reported on the increase of population in Lashio during 10 years period, and water supply functions. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the requirements.

On arrival at Lashio General Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Khan Maung Wah briefed Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on common diseases and medical treatments, and U Tin Ko Ko of Asia World Co Ltd on completion of the children’s ward.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected thriving Yeit-3 strain maize plantation. They also viewed Hsinshweli strain sugarcane plantation and opium-substitute maize plantations.

On completion of the multimedia rooms of the school. The school was built at a cost of K 370 million.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to construction site of Hsinwi Bridge crossing Namtu Creek being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd on Hsinwi-Lashio road section. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on progress of construction tasks by officials.

At Maize Research Farm of North-East Command in Lashio, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected multimedia rooms and left necessary instructions.

MNA
The Union Government shall uphold and maintain... (from page 9)

message to the meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw, or to the whole country on any matter regarding the policies and conditions of the State.

10. The President of the Union shall communicate with the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to summon an emergency or special session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if necessary.

11. (a) Except Union budget matters, the President has the right to issue an ordinance on administrative matters that need immediate action during intervals between sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(b) If the President has not withdrawn the ordinance issued under sub para (a), he shall submit the ordinance for approval to the nearest session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within 60 days after the promulgation of the ordinance. If the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has not any schedule to hold a session within 60 days, the President shall cause to convene a special session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

(c) The ordinance shall cease to have effect from the date on which it is disapproved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(d) The ordinance issued by the President will be in force with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw till the required date.

(e) Even such an ordinance is revoked within 60 days after its promulgation, it shall be submitted to the nearest meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(f) If such an ordinance contains matters which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has no right to make decision according to the Constitution, the ordinance ceases to have effect.

12. The President shall

(a) in coordination with the National Defence and Security Council, formed within the framework of the Constitution, take suitable military action in the face of aggression against the State;

(b) submit the action so taken to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval if it is in session or call an emergency meeting to present the matter for approval if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not in session.

(c) declare war or make peace only with the assent of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

13. “The President shall sign the laws passed and enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw within 60 days, the President shall cause to convene the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw till the required date.

As the sub para of the para 11 covers all the objectives of the ordinance, no addition is needed to it.

Representatives-elect of the political parties present the opinion of the own parties. U Tin Win of Kyakktal Township constituency, U Thun Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency 1, U Hta Soe of Minbu Township constituency 2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township constituency 2, U Kyi Win of Mingladon Township constituency 1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingladon Township constituency 2 respectively addressed the delegates of the 11th and 12th paraselect-eat said that sub para (c) and (d) of the para 3 state as follows:

(c) The President shall make rules for the transaction of the business of the Union Government, and for the allocation of the business among the ministers of the Union Government or to the official responsible under a law, except matters conferred on him by this Constitution to act in his own discretion.

(d) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the allocation of business by the President may be made as subjectwise as well.

As the said two paras concern the functions of the President they should be included in the chapter “The Powers and Functions of the President”.

Concerning the matter, I would like to say that the definitions of the sub paras 1 and 2 and sub paras 3 and 4 of the para 2 will be more comprehensive and complete only if they are stated in the same para. If the sub para 3 and 4 is stated in the chapter “Powers and Functions of the President”, the definition can also change. The two said paras are also stated under the Chapter “The Union Government” of the 1947 Constitution. Thus, it is not appropriate to state them under the chapter “Powers and Functions of the Union Government”.

Hence, in accord with the suggestions of the delegates the following detailed basic principles concerning the heading “The Powers and Functions of the President” of the sector for sharing the executive and judicial powers are adopted:

1. The President shall be responsible to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible to the President and also to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the President.

2. To be able to discharge the duties assigned in accord with the Constitution or any of the laws, the National Defence and Security Council led by the President shall be formed with the following persons:

   1. President
   2. Vice-President
   3. Vice-President
   4. Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw
   5. Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw
   6. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
   7. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
   8. Minister for Defence
   9. Minister for Foreign Affairs
   10. Minister for Home Affairs
   11. Minister for Border Affairs

3. The President shall have

   (a) the right of pardon
   (b) the right of amnesty in accord with the recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council.

4. The President shall

   (a) confer titles,honours and awards
   (b) revoke titles, honours and awards.

5. The President shall establish or sever diplomatic relations with foreign nations with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. But in the cases which need immediate action, the President shall coordinate with the National Defence and Security Council to sever diplomatic relations with foreign nation, and he shall seek the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concerning the action taken by him.

6. The President of the Union, in accord with law, shall

   (a) appoint and recall the diplomats of the country;
   (b) agree on the appointment of foreign diplomats and send information on the recall;
   (c) accept the letters of accreditation presented by foreign diplomats.

7. The President of the Union, in accord with law, shall appoint and dismiss heads of bodies of public services.

8. The President of the Union, in accord with law,

   (a) shall enter into, ratify or annul international, regional or bilateral treaties, or withdraw from such treaties with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw;
   (b) shall enter into, ratify or annul international, regional or bilateral treaties which do not require the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or withdraw from such treaties.

9. The President of the Union shall have the right to occasionally deliver an address or a message to the meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, or to the meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Amyotha Hluttaw, or to the whole country on any matter regarding the policies and conditions of the State.

10. The President of the Union shall communicate with the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to
As it is the duty of the Union government to draft the bill on Union budget and present it to the Union Hluttaw for approval, no addition will be needed for the para 7 and the wording is already compact and complete.

Yangon, 12 Dec—The following is the presentation of clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman on adoption of detailed basic principles on The Executive Powers of the Union Government and The Executive Power at Region or State government included in the sharing of executive and judicial powers for formulating State Constitution by Vice-Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee U Aye Maung at the plenary session held today at Nyan U Min Camp in Hmauby Township, Yangon Division.

At the plenary session of the National Convention, held on 7 March 2005 the Work Committee Chairman explained the detailed basic principles concerning the executive power of the Union government of the sector for sharing the executive and judicial powers that should be laid down.

Delegate group of Nationalities, delegate group of peasants, delegates group of workers, delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates group of State service personnel and delegate group of other invited persons, and delegate group of political parties — Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kain League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party suggested that the following detailed basic principles should be laid down in the executive powers of the Union Government.

1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the executive power of the Union extends to the matters with respect to which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has power to make laws.

2. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the executive authority of the Union, shall be vested in the President; but nothing in this section shall prevent the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw from conferring duties and functions upon any authoritative body, or any person in authority, or be deemed to transfer to the President of the State any functions vested in any authoritative body concerned, or any other person in authority concerned by existing laws.

3. (a) All executive actions the Union Government shall be expressed in the name of the President.

4. The Union Government shall uphold and maintain stability, peace, and the prevalence of law and order in the country.

5. The Union Government shall lay down its policies in accord with the stipulations contained in the Constitution. The Union Government shall not be called in question on the ground that it does not contain the stipulations of the Constitution. The Union Government shall not be called in question on the ground that it does not contain the stipulations of the Constitution.

6. Based on annual budgets of the Union, drawn after coordinating with the Financial Commission, the Union Government shall draft the bill on Union budget, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in line with the stipulations contained in the Constitution for approval.

7. The Union Government shall have the right to use the funds within the allotment of the normal expenditure included in the latest-enacted Union budget law of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, if thePyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot approve the Union Government-submitted bill before the end of fiscal year.

8. The Union Government shall submit the bill concerning the matters the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can enact into law within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

9. The Union Government shall manage, supervise and inspect their subordinate government departments and organizations to ensure that the said subordinate bodies are conducting their functions in accord with the stipulations of the Constitution and the existing laws.

10. The Union Government cooperates and coordinates with the region government, the state government, and the self-administered area leading body to enable them to effectively and successfully carry out their tasks.

11. The Union Government, save constitutional disputes and the disputes over the re-delineation of territorial boundary, shall —

(a) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(b) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(c) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(d) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(e) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions or states and self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

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The Union Government shall —

11. The Union Government, save constitutional (a) The President shall make rules for the transaction of the business of the Union Government, and for the allocation of the said business among the ministers of the Union Government or to the official responsible under a certain law, except matters conferred on him by this Constitution to act in his own discretion.

(b) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the allocation of business by the President may be regionwise as well as subjectwise.

4. The Union Government shall lay down its policies in accord with the stipulations contained in the Constitution. The Union Government shall not be called in question on the ground that it does not contain the stipulations of the Constitution. The Union Government shall not be called in question on the ground that it does not contain the stipulations of the Constitution.

7. The Union Government shall have the right to use the funds within the allotment of the normal expenditure included in the latest-enacted Union budget law of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, if thePyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot approve the Union Government-submitted bill before the end of fiscal year.

8. The Union Government shall submit the bill concerning the matters the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can enact into law within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

9. The Union Government shall manage, supervise and inspect their subordinate government departments and organizations to ensure that the said subordinate bodies are conducting their functions in accord with the stipulations of the Constitution and the existing laws.

10. The Union Government cooperates and coordinates with the region government, the state government, and the self-administered area leading body to enable them to effectively and successfully carry out their tasks.

11. The Union Government, save constitutional
A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

Uganda closes over 100 fake drug shops
KAMPALA, 11 Dec—Over 100 drug shops without licences have been closed by the Uganda National Drug Authority (NDA) in a crackdown on fake drug dealers in Kayunga, central part of the country, the local Press reported on Saturday.

District drug inspector Phoebe Mukasa was quoted as saying that the drug containers had fake labels and expiry dates had been changed.

“We confiscated over 500 containers of fake drugs,” Mukasa said, adding that the swoop covered all sub-counties of the district.

She said that “National Drug Authority enforcement officers and Kayunga police are hunting for the shop owners who are on the run to answer charges”.

Mukasa said it was illegal for a person who was not trained in medical discipline to run a drug shop.

According to the NDA, a person running unlicensed drug shop is liable for a fine not more than two million shillings (1,086 US dollars) and a jail term of not more than six months.

But, the NDA official said the punishment was not deterrent, adding that “after the culprits are fined, they go elsewhere and open another shop. This makes life difficult for us (NDA)”.

NDA prefers to confiscate drugs, which it said, were involved in an operation to crack down on suspected Islamist terror groups on Spain’s Costa del Sol, but declined to give details.

Police arrested the suspects—seven men and a woman—on the order of a Spanish court and are holding them in the southern city of Malaga, the radio said, citing sources close to the investigation.

The arrest operation started on Thursday night in houses in different coastal locations, including the holiday resorts of Torremolinos and Marbella, it said.

The detainees include Israel Vallarta, a Mexican and Marie Louise Cassez, Florence, a French woman, the Federal Attorney General’s Office confirmed in a news release.

Two alleged kidnappers arrested in police raid in Mexico
MEXICO CITY, 11 Dec—Two alleged kidnappers were arrested and three kidnapping victims rescued when police on Friday raided a house on the outskirts of Mexico City, the capital’s government said.

The raid was made in the morning by the Federal Agency of Investigation, an organ similar to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The detainees include a man, a woman and her eight-year-old daughter, all abducted on the outskirts of Mexico City, had been held for more than two months, the office said.

Spanish police arrest eight Algerians linked to militants
MADRID, 11 Dec—Spanish police have arrested eight Algerians on Spain’s southern coast suspected of helping fund Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda, state radio said on Friday.

Police confirmed they were involved in an operation to crack down on suspected Islamist terror groups on Spain’s Costa del Sol, but declined to give details.

Police arrested the suspects—seven men and a woman—on the order of a Spanish court and are holding them in the southern city of Malaga, the radio said, citing sources close to the investigation.

The arrest operation started on Thursday night in houses in different coastal locations, including the holiday resorts of Torremolinos and Marbella, it said.

The detainees include Israel Vallarta, a Mexican and Marie Louise Cassez, Florence, a French woman, the Federal Attorney General’s Office confirmed in a news release.

Malaya advised patients to get treatment from the government-aided medical centres where services were free.

Illegal S Lanka moonshine kills 14
COLOMBO, 12 Dec—Fourteen Sri Lankans have died after drinking illegally-produced moonshine, including an official tackling the trade, and another 74 fell ill, the Attorney General’s Office said last month.

Moonshine, made from sugar, starch and yeast, becomes toxic liquid used as a solvent and in antifreeze.

Moonshine, known locally as kassippu, is usually made from sugar, starch and yeast, but becomes potentially lethal if methanol is added to cut costs.

Kassippu, commonly known as kassippu, is usually made from sugar, starch and yeast, but becomes potentially lethal if methanol is added to cut costs.

A car carrying five Haitian police officers was shot at on Monday on the outskirts of Cite Soleil, north of the capital Port-au-Prince, leaving two policemen wounded.

The UN peacekeepers might have confused the officers with armed gang members, Onses-Cardona said, explaining that although the officers appeared to have been in uniform, their car did not appear to be clearly identified as a police vehicle when peacekeepers shot at them.

Cite Soleil was gunfight between peacekeepers and gangs takes place nearly every day, remains a serious threat to security ahead of the national elections scheduled for 8 January.

One of the two wounded Haitian police officers remains hospitalized and undergoing an operation. He is in stable condition.
As it is the duty of the Union government to draft...

(from page 11)

Government-submitted bill before the end of fiscal year.

Concerning the matter, I would like to explain that paragraphs 3 and 4 in the para 7 mean that the Union government shall have the right to use the funds of the current expenditure to continuously run the administrative machinery, if the Union Hluttaw cannot pass the bill on the budget.

The para 6 has already stated the matter concerning the submission of the budget bill by the Union government. As it is the duty of the Union government to draft the bill on Union budget and present it to the Union Hluttaw for approval, no addition will be needed for the para 7 and the wording is already compact and complete.

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia suggested the setting up of a separate trust fund in the budget bill for emergency financial cases.

Concerning the matter, when the new constitution comes into force, the Union government after consulting with the Financial Commission will have the right to draw a separate fund in drafting the budget bill.

Mr Chairman,

Representatives-elect agreed to the detailed basic principles for the chapter “The executive powers of the Union Government” of the sector for sharing the executive and judicial powers.

1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the executive power of the Union extends to the matters with respect to which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw extends.

2. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the executive authority of the Union shall be vested in the President; but nothing in this section shall prevent the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw from conferring duties and functions upon any authoritative body, or any person in authority, or be deemed to transfer to the President of the State any functions vested in any authoritative body concerned, or any other person in authority concerned by existing laws.

3. All executive actions of the Union Government shall be expressed in the name of the President.

(b) Orders and instruments made and executed in the name of the President shall be authenticated in such manner as may be specified in rules to be made by the President. In addition, the validity of an order or instrument which is so authenticated shall not be called in question on the ground that it was not done by the President.

(c) The President shall make rules for the transaction of the business of the Union Government, and for the allocation of the said business among the ministers of the Union Government or to the official responsible under a certain law, except matters conferred on him by this Constitution to act in his own discretion.

(d) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the allocation of business by the President may be regionwise as well as subjectwise.

The Union Government uphold and maintain stability, peace, and the prevalence of law and order in the country.

The Union Government shall lay down its policies in accord with the provisions contained in the Constitution. The Union Government shall draft necessary projects in accord with the policies and implement them with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Based on annual budgets of the Union, drawn after coordinating with the Financial Commission, the Union Government shall draft the bill on Union budget, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in line with the stipulations contained in the Constitution for approval.

The Union Government shall have the right to reduce the funds within the allotment of the normal expenditure stipulated in the latest-enacted Union budget law of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot approve the Union Government-submitted bill before the end of fiscal year.

8. The Union Government shall submit the bill concerning the matters the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can enact into law within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, and shall submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

9. The ministries of the Union Government shall manage, guide and supervise their subordinate government departments and organizations to ensure that the said subordinate bodies are conducting their functions in accord with the stipulations of the Constitution and the existing laws.

10. The Union Government cooperates and coordinates with the region government, the state government, and the self-administered area leading body to enable them to effectively and successfully carry out their tasks.

11. The Union Government, save constitutional disputes and the disputes over the re-delineation of territorial boundary, shall —

(a) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states; among regions; among states; between regions and states or self-administered areas; and among self-administered areas; and

(b) cooperate, coordinate and make decisions if necessary on disputes over administration between regions and states or Union territories and between self-administered areas and Union territories; and make decisions if necessary.

12. The Union Government, in accordance with law, shall —

(a) constitute Union-related service organizations as necessary, and stipulate the duties and functions for such organizations; and

(b) appoint the required number of staff.

13. The Union Government shall —

(a) implement administrative resolutions passed occasionally by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and submit the measures it has taken to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(b) submit the report on the entire affairs of the Union to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on an occasional basis.

The Work Committee Chairman explained the detailed basic principles for the executive power of the region or state government at the plenary session of the Convention held on 7 March 2005.

Delegate group of nationalities, delegate group of peasants, delegate group of workers, delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegate group of State service personnel and delegate group of other invited persons, and delegate group of political parties —Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khambi National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party suggested that the following detailed basic principles should be laid down in the executive power of the region or state government.

1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of the region or state government extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state hlutaw has power to make laws. Moreover, in such manner, the executive power of the region or state government also extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state government has been allowed to carry out in accord with any of the Union laws.

2. The region and state governments shall have the responsibility to assist the Union Government in its drive to ensure the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law.

3. Subject to the provisions adopted by the Union Government and Union laws, the region or state governments shall implement the projects in connection with the task to be implemented in the respective regions or states with the approval of the Region or State Hluttaws.

4. Region or state government shall submit to the respective Hluttaws of the regions and states the budget bill of the regions and states based on the annual budget of the Union Government in accord with the provisions in the Constitution.

5. If the Region or State Hluttaw cannot pass the bill on the budget of the region or state submitted by the region or state government concerned, the said region or state government shall have the right to use the funds of the current expenditure included in the last-enacted budget law of the region or state hlutaw.

6. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the region or state government shall have the right to reallocate, if necessary, the Region or State Hlutaw the necessary Bill relevant to the matters embodied in the Region or State Legislative List.

7. The region or state government shall —

(a) manage, guide, supervise and inspect the performance of the region or state governments and their subordinate government departments and organizations to ensure that they conduct their functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, or with those of the existing laws.

(b) supervise, inspect, cooperate and coordinate in accordance with law the performance of the civil service organizations discharging duties in their respective regions or states.

8. To implement the tasks under its charge in accordance with the Union Law for State Civil Service, or through coordination in advance with the Union government, the region or state government shall —

(a) establish civil service organizations of the region or state as necessary;

(b) appoint the required number of civilian staff.

9. The region or state government shall —

(a) implement the resolutions occasionally passed by the Region or State Hluttaw concerned, and submit the report on the measures taken to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned.

(b) submit the report on the entire affairs of its area to the Union government and to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned.

10. The region or state government shall implement the tasks occasionally assigned by the Union government.

I will now present the separate suggestions of the delegates. The National Unity Party presented a suggestion, saying, the issuance of the budget bill in time for the end of the budget year. The para 5 concerning the rights of the region and state governments should be amended as follows to be in line with the party’s suggestion for the executive power of the Union government.

The region or state government shall strive to enact its budget bill before the end of the fiscal year. Only if for any reason the region or state Hlutaw cannot pass the bill, the region or state government shall have the right to use the funds of the current
As it is the duty of the Union government to draft...

(continued)

As it is the duty of the Union government to draft a budget and present it to the Region or State Hluttaw for approval, no addition will be needed for the para 5. The wording is already compact and complete.

Mr. Chairman,

Delegates group of the nationalities presented a suggestion, saying, it is clearly stated in the financial sector that monetary assistance and loans will be provided to the regions and states as a special privilege. Thus, the regions and states should also provide extra funds to the Union budget if they enjoy surplus income. In 1992-93, Taninthayi Division contributed K 148.14 million to the State funds as its income during the fiscal year was K 361.37 million and expenditure K 213.33 million. In the future, Regions and States may enjoy more surplus income depending on their efforts. Thus, the Regions and States should contribute an appropriate amount of funds to the Union budget.

We would like to say that it is a fitting suggestion. The Regions and States may contribute their surplus income to the Union funds on its own volition, and the Union may also provide more loans to them. The inclusion of the provision stating that the Union will provide financial aids and loans to the regions and states is to highlight the Union’s staking of its financial responsibility.

Hence the nation will exercise the policy of contributing the surplus funds of the regions and states to the Union fund and providing loans to the Regions and States from the Union fund. The representatives-elect of the political parties presented the opinions of their own parties.

The independent representative group has agreed to the detailed basic principles presented by the Work Committee. In accord with the suggestions of the delegates, the following detailed basic principles are adopted for executive power of the region or state government of the sector of the sharing of the executive and judicial power.

1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive power of the region or state government extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state hluttaw has power to make laws. Moreover, in such manner, the executive power of the region or state government also extends to the matters with respect to which the region or state government has been allowed to carry out in accord with any of the Union laws.

2. The region and state governments shall have the responsibility to assist the Union Government in its drive to ensure the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law.

3. Subject to the policies adopted by the Union Government and Union laws, the region or state governments shall implement the projects in connection with the task to be implemented in the respective regions or states with the approval of the region or state hluttaws.

4. Region or state governments shall submit to the respective hluttaws of the regions and states the budget bill of the regions and states concerned based on the annual budget of the Union Government in accord with the provisions in the Constitution.

5. If the Region or State government cannot pass the bill on the budget of the region or state submitted by the region or state government concerned, the said region or state government shall have the right to use the funds of the current expenditure included in the last-enacted budget law of the region or state hluttaw.

6. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the region or state government shall have the right to submit to the Region or State Hluttaw the necessary bill relevant to the matters embodied in the Region or State Legislative List.

7. The region or state government shall —

(a) manage, guide, supervise and inspect the performance of the region or state government departments and organizations to ensure that they conduct their functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, or with those of the existing laws;
(b) supervise, inspect, cooperate and coordinate in accordance with law the performance of the civil service organizations discharging duties in their respective regions or states.

8. To implement the tasks under its charge in accordance with the Union Law for State Civil Service, or through coordination in advance with the Union government, the region or state government shall —

(a) establish civil service organizations of the region or state as necessary;
(b) appoint the required number of civilian staff.

9. The region or state government shall —

(a) implement the resolutions occasionally passed by the Region or State Hluttaw concerned, and submit the report on the measures taken to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned;
(b) submit the report on the entire affairs of the area to the Union government and to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned.

10. The region or state government shall implement the tasks occasionally assigned by the Union government.

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Osasuna extend perfect home record with win over Mallorca

MADRID, 12 Dec — Primera Liga high-fliers Osasuna extended a perfect home record this season to eight wins as they beat struggling Real Mallorca 1-0 at the El Sadar on Saturday.

The victory left Osasuna three points clear at the top, although champions Barcelona could overtake them on goal difference if they win their latest match at home to Sevilla. Javier Aguirre's side got off to a dream start when Camacho, striker Deigo Paulino volleyed in the ball for the Navarrans before Carlitos added a second. Osasuna dominated throughout and regularly threatened with their slickly worked counter-attacks, but despite a host of clear scoring chances they were unable to extend their lead.

The Navarrans lead the standings with 34 points from 15 games, three clear of Barca and eight ahead of third-placed Villarreal who were held to a goalless draw at the Mestalla. Osasuna's only defeat of the season came against Deigo Paulino's former club Mallorca.

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Feyenoord's early goal sinks leaders PSV

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 12 Dec — Dirk Kuyt struck after seven minutes to inspire Feyenoord to a 1-0 home win over First Division leaders PSV's Eindhoven on Sunday.

After 15 matches AZ Alkmaar, Feyenoord and PSV all have 35 points. AZ, 3-1 winners at Twente Enschede on Saturday, moved top on their goals tally, while Feyenoord are second above PSV, who slipped to third. In a compelling match, Feyenoord started out better and took a deserved lead when Kuyt changed the direction of a Salomon Kalou shot to beat goalkeeper Gomes.

Midway through the first half, a well organized PSV took control and forced the home side back in defence. Jefferson Farfan came close to an equalizer shortly before the interval when he outwitted goalkeeper Patrick Lodewijks after a fine combination with Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink, but Pascal Bosschaart cleared the ball off the line.

In the second half, both title candidates battled for every metre with Feyenoord having the best chances to double the lead. After an hour, PSV coach Guus Hiddink replaced Belgian midfielder Timmy Simons with striker Robert and therefore lost control of midfield.

MNA/Reuters

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Juve beat Cagliari 4-0 to move 10 points clear

Roma, 12 Dec — Champions Juventus moved 10 points clear at the top of Serie A after David Trezeguet struck twice in a 4-0 victory over Cagliari on Sunday.

Juve have 42 points from 15 matches ahead of Fiorentina, who beat Treviso 1-0 on Saturday.

The Bianconeri moved 13 points clear in third but can reduce Juve's lead by beating fourth-placed city rivals Inter Milan (29 points) in Sunday's late match (kickoff 1930 GMT).

Having earned just one point from seven away matches this season, Cagliari were expected to offer only token resistance at Turin's Stadio delle Alpi.

So it proved, with Pavel Nedved putting the home side ahead after just 10 minutes.

MNA/Reuters
“From Russia to the world” new channel goes live

Moscow, 12 Dec— A 24-hour, English-language, state-funded television channel went live from its Moscow studios on Saturday, designed to broadcast news from a Russian perspective around the globe.

At 4 pm (1300 GMT) the countdown clock and swirling orange graphics melted away and the anchor welcomed viewers to Russia Today — “from Russia to the world”.

The launch comes amid growing Western criticism of Moscow’s attitude to democracy and the rule of law, while Kremlin officials complain the foreign media misrepresent Russia.

The first bulletin led on a health scandal close to home — an investigation into how blood supplies in the southern Russian city Voronezh became contaminated with the HIV virus.

Bird flu in Ukraine and the fate of four Western hostages being held in Iraq followed before the channel ran teasers for some of its feature programmes, including a German artist who lives on the ruins of a Soviet collective farm.

As well as looking at how some former Soviet countries were rewriting children's history books now they are independent from Moscow, it ran an exclusive interview with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

“We aren’t just another global news channel that simply reports international events. Above all we are a Russian channel that reports what is happening in Russia,” said Margarita Simonyan, Russia Today’s editor-in-chief.

“Naturally we will shed light on international events as well, but we will say how those events reflect on Russia and what people think about them in Russia,” she said in remarks broadcast on Russian television.

The first high-profile guest did not face tough questions. Speaking in fluent English, Lavrov reiterated Russia’s position on a range of foreign policy issues, for example that Iran was cooperating with international nuclear inspectors.

The channel has offices in London, Washington, Paris and Jerusalem and plans to open more soon, said Simonyan, a former Kremlin correspondent for state TV channel Rossiya.

In this photo released by Philippine Airforce, houses remain under water as flood water continue to rise due to monsoon rain on 9 Dec, 2005 in Mindoro island southeast of Manila. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 12 December, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthyi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Kachin State and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin States and upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthyi Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (4°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.43) inch.

Maximum temperature on 11-12-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 12-12-2005 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 12-12-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 11-12-2005 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 12-12-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (103.62) inches at Mingaladon,(102.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (107.44) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest (14:00) hours MST on 11-12-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-12-2005: Isolated drams or thundershowers are likely in Mon State and Taninthyi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Ayeawaddy and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-12-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-12-2005: Generally fair weather.
Progress of road sections, bridges, agriculture and water supply functions inspected in Lashio, Hsenwi

YANGON, 12 Dec — Construction tasks are to be carried out systematically for durability of Namhkaing Bridge by spending a large amount of money with a view to ensuring smooth flow of commodity for border trade functions. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence said at Namhkaing Bridge construction site on Muse-Kutkai-Hsenwi-Lashio Road on 9 December after inspecting preservation of reserved forests, protected public forests and pine and eucalyptus plantations along Muse-Kutkai section. In Hsenwi, he attended the ceremony to spread quality strain of Hsinshweli paddy seeds on 4,400 acres of land. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on cultivation of paddy to be increased and water supply tasks by officials. (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets departmental personnel, social organizations and local national races in Hsenwi. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than speaks at the ceremony to hand over new building of Khamonseik BEHS (Branch) to Ministry of Education in Letpadan Township. — MNA

The Union Government shall uphold and maintain stability, peace, and prevalence of law and order in the country

YANGON, 12 Dec — The following is the clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe on adoption of detailed basic principles on Powers and Functions of the President included in the sharing of executive and judicial powers for formulating State Constitution at the plenary session held today at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division. The delegates have already understood the clarifications made by the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman and the discussions and suggestions made by themselves concerning the sharing of the executive and judicial powers at the plenary session held from 17 February to 31 March 2005. The suggestions are appropriate and within the framework of the Fundamental Principles and detailed basic principles already laid down by the National Convention. The Work Committee after thoroughly studying (See page 9)

Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe. MNA

Presentations at NC will be published

YANGON, 12 Dec — Presentations made today at the National Convention by Secretary of National Convention Convening Work Committee (NCCWC) U Thaung Nyunt, Member of the NCCWC Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and Member of National Convention Convening Commission Judge of the Supreme Court Dr Tin Aung Aye will be presented. — MNA