Mass meeting in support of National Convention of Yangon Division USDA held

YANGON, 7 Jan —
Organized by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, the mass meeting in support of National Convention was held at National Stadium-1 (Thuwanna) on Waizayanta Road in Thingangyun Township this morning. Present on the occasion were Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint and CEC members, secretaries and CEC members of USDAs of districts and townships in Yangon Division, social organizations, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Association, Myanmar Music Association, Myanmar Thabin Association, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association, Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross Society, entrepreneurs in Yangon, townswomen and departmental personnel totalling over 2,000 people.

Rector of Dagon University (Retd) Dr Maung Thin presided over the meeting together with members of panel of chairmen Myanmar Engineering Association Chairman U Than Myint, Eye Specialist Dr Tun Aung Kyaw, Myanmar Industrialists Association Chairman U Khin Maung Myint, entrepreneur U Swe Aung, UMFCCI General Secretary U Seti Win Hlaing and Patron of MMA and MMPA Bo Galay U Tint Aung, Mingaladon Township USDA Executives Daw Tin Malar Myint acted as master of ceremonies together with Thingangyun Township USDA Executive Daw Cho The Kyi.

Meeting Chairman Dr Maung Thin delivered a speech. He said the Union of Myanmar with a population of nearly 55 million is home to over 100 national races living in amity and unity. The country had stood tall among world’s nations with its own monarchs, culture and literature. Myanmar is blessed with favourable weather and geographical conditions. Colonialists who coveted rich natural resources of Myanmar annexed and exploited the country for more than 100 years.

Patriotic national people, who could not stomach the alien subjugation, fought against the colonialists at risk of their lives. As a result, Myanmar regained her independence and became a sovereign nation. He said a constitution is the one in which principles are adopted how State powers are to be shared and to whom they are to be entrusted by the people.

* Tatmadaw government has been striving for the development of the nation by upholding Our Three Main National Causes and the 12 objectives.
* Measures were taken for national reconsolidation.
* The Tatmadaw has not only served the interests of the State and the people but also striven for democratization.
Strive to be endowed with knowledge and prowess

The Defence Services medical unit is responsible for ensuring health and fitness of the Tatmadawmen who are safeguarding the territorial integrity of the State.

The Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science has been producing the graduates in paramedical science.

The Institute held the graduation parade of its 3rd Intake at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy, Yangon on 6 January with an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye stressed the need for the graduating cadets to safeguard the 12 traditions of the Tatmadaw, to show their skills when there arises the need to fight in battles, to make coordinated efforts for the fitness of the people, and to try their utmost to become qualified ones in accord with the objectives of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science by uplifting Our Three Main National Causes.

As the graduating cadets have completed not only in the military training as platoon commanders but also in the studies of nursing and paramedical science, they are to be commissioned in Defence Services medical unit.

Looking back to the history of Defence Services medical unit, it was found that patriotic doctors and nurses took part in the independence struggles risking their lives. There were members of Defence Services medical unit who were decorated with medals for their gallantry while participating in battles together with infantry troops.

The graduating cadets are required not only to discharge medical duties but also to do their bit in battles as a platoon commander. They are to provide health care to the public wherever they are assigned to while engaging in the health care services of the Tatmadawmen and their families.

This being so, the graduating cadets are to try their best to be endowed with knowledge and prowess for uplift of health and fitness of the entire national people including the Tatmadawmen and for safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes.
Iranian President insists on nuclear right

TEHERAN, 6 Jan— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday reiterated his determination to defend its right to develop peaceful nuclear technology, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“The Islamic nation will not let the enemies deprive it of such a legal right,” Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying at a gathering in the central city of Qom.

Ahmadinejad said that the United States accusation that Iran was seeking nuclear weapons was “unfounded” and aimed at depriving Iran of its legal rights to peaceful nuclear technology.

“Today those who have stockpiled nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in their arsenals and used them against defenseless people several times have claims over Iran and intend to deprive Iran of its inalienable right,” Ahmadinejad said.

The President’s remarks came two days after Iran decided to resume nuclear fuel research as of January 9, a move which led to immediate warnings from the US, the European Union (EU) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Teheran restated uranium conversion last August. Iran suspended all uranium enrichment related activities in October 2004 as confidence-building measure before entering talks with the EU.

The EU warned on Wednesday that Iran’s tough position would endanger the planned talks on 18 January about reviving negotiations on Iran’s controversial nuclear programme.

The negotiations between Iran and the EU trio of Britain, France and Germany broke off after uranium power reactors or make atom bombs.

Iran has insisted on enriching uranium on its territory for peaceful purposes as a right under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

50 Killed as suicide bomber hits police recruits in Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 6 Jan— Up to 50 Iraqi recruits were killed and dozens wounded in a suicide bomb attack on a police and Army recruits in the flashpoint city of Ramadi on Thursday, medical source said.

“We have received some 50 bodies and dozens of wounded people,” a medical source in Ramadi Hospital told Xinhua.

A police source said that a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up among a crowd of police and Army recruits near a recruitment centre at the al-Tamuz District in central Ramadi, some 110 kilometres west of Baghdad. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, Japan sign agreements for earthquake rehabilitation

ISLAMABAD, 6 Jan— Pakistan and Japan on Thursday signed two agreements formalizing a loan of 100 million US dollars for earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction and human resource development.

The agreements were signed in Islamabad by Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri and Japan’s Foreign Minister Taro Asa.

The soft loan of 100 million dollars for quake-affected areas was announced by Japan during donors conference in Islamabad in November last year. The loan being extended on concessional terms will have an interest rate of 1.3 per cent, and repayment period of 30 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Under the second agreement, Japan has provided an initial grant of $270 million dollars for enhancing the training capabilities of Construction Machinery Training Institute. It will benefit the road construction workforce to master new technologies and meet the current demand for an appropriately skilled labour force.

Talking to journalists at the end of the signing ceremony, Kasuri said that during their talks the Japanese Foreign Minister announced additional assistance of $5 million dollars as grant for Pakistan.

He said that they exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters dealing with peace process with India and the central issue of Jammu and Kashmir. They also had discussions on fight against terrorism, non-proliferation and the situation in Afghanistan.

Kasuri said that he raised the issue of discussions on security on annual basis, adding that Pakistan also sought Japanese cooperation for Karachi Circular Railway.

He said that the Indus Highway, known as Japan-Pakistan Friendship Highway, had been completed to the extent of 80 per cent and Pakistan asked Japan to help complete this important project. —MNA/Xinhua

Eleven US troops killed in one day in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan— The US military said Friday that six more American troops died in the recent surge of violence in Iraq, bringing to 11 the number of US troop losses on the same day.

About 5,000 Shiites, meanwhile, rallied in Baghdad to protest the bloodshed and denounce what they said was American backing of some Sunni politicians who have supported — or at least failed to condemn — insurgent groups in order to bring them into a broad-based government.

In new violence in southern Iraq, a suicide car bomber struck a police patrol in Baghdad, killing one officer, Col Noori Ashur said.

Elsewhere, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw held talks in southern Iraq with local officials on forming a broad-based coalition government.

A US Marine and a soldier died in Thursday’s separate small arms attacks while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, the military said.

The military had previously announced the deaths of five soldiers hit by a roadside bomb south of Kabulah. The attacks came minutes before a second suicide bomber struck Shiite pilgrims in that city, killing 63.

It was the fourth-deadliest day in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, with at least 136 total deaths, including the US troops.

The 11 US deaths were the most in a single day since 11 Americans were killed on 1 Dec. On that day, 10 Marines were killed by buried bombs as they gathered for a promotion ceremony at an abandoned flour mill in Fallujah, and one soldier was killed in Ramadi.

At least 2,194 members of the US military have died since the war began, according to an Associated Press count. — Internet

Five injured in train derailment near Washington

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan— A commuter train en route to Washington, DC, derailed during early Thursday’s rush hour, injuring five people, police and railroad officials said.

Three cars and the engine went off the tracks in Prince William County, Virginia, and three passengers and an employee of Virginia’s Railway Express were injured, CNN reported.

The four injured were taken to a hospital. A fifth person was taken from the crash in a life-support unit, news reports said.

About 500 people were on board the train, said Mark Roebear, a company spokesman.

Some 15 Amtrak trains were delayed or cancelled, and about 3,000 passengers were affected, Amtrak spokesman Cliff Black said.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, and officials from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railroad Administration were at the site to find out what had caused the derailment. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi policemen check residents as the security intensifies in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, on 6 Jan, 2006. —Internet

A woman digs to create a pathway through heavy snow which has piled up to over three metres in the northern Pakistani town of Tawnan on 6 Jan, 2006. —Internet
Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No 2/2006
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1367 ME
(4 January 2006)
(Continue from yesterday)
Medal for Excellent Performance in Social field
(Third Class)
148. U Hla Hsan, Mechanic (Sat) In charge, Dredging Branch, Civil Engineering Dept, Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Transport.
149. U Aung Win, Township USDA (Executive), No 52, 40th Street, 82x81, Maha Aung Myay East Ward, Maha Aung Myay Township.
151. U Thein Zaw, Mechanic, No (46/2) (A), Hledan Street, Mandalay City Development Committee.
152. U Myo Han, Driver, No 93, Maga Street, Ward-2, Oakkalapa Township.
153. U Chit Thein, Worker, Civil Engineering Department, Ministry of Forestry.
154. U Hok Kyi, Director (Civil), Sagaing Division, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Ministry of Energy.
155. U Aung Hsan Kyi, Foreman, Fisheries Department, Myanma Port Authority, Ministry of Transport.
156. U Min Sein, Lower Division Clerk, Lanmadaw Township.
157. U Khin Win, Assistant Deputy Supervisor, No 4, Hlawga Road, Lutlatyay Ward, Mandalay City Development Committee.
158. U Myint Soe, Deputy Supervisor, Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, (Kyakkhami Salt Production Division, Ministry of Mines.
159. Daw Than Than Nwe, Branch Clerk, Workers’ Records Office, Ministry of Defence.
160. U Kyaw Hlaing (Ma-3475), Deputy Director-1, No 12th Bus Line, Road Transport, Ministry of Transport.
161. U Ko Ko Hlaing (Ma-6496), member of Fire Services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.
162. U Kyaw Myint, Zaw, Worker, Mechanical Division, No 6 Saw Mill, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
163. U Khin Hlaing, Assistant Deputy Supervisor, No 4 Saw Mill (Ahtlon), Foreign Trade and Saw Mill Division, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
164. U Aung Myay, Township USDA (Executive), No 401161, Camp Commandant Office, Central Command, Mandalay Palace.
165. U Hla Tun, (Ma-4199), Fire Services Sergent, Thayet Township Fire Services Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
166. U Khin Oo, Merchant, No-393, Aung Chantha Street, Ward-13, Hlin Township.
167. U Kyaw Hlaing, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
168. U Aung Than, Merchant, Plot-184, Thiri Malat (East), 82x82, 22x22, Aung Aung Thazan Township, Mandalay.
169. U Thazan Township, Mandalay.
170. U Aung Than Than Sein, Merchant, No 26, Department Street (Lower), Magyidan, North/ West Ward, Kymyinindy Township.
171. U Aung Thaw, Merchant, No 26, Department Street (Lower), Magyidan, North/ West Ward, Kymyinindy Township.
172. U Kyaw Win, General Workers in charge, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Ministry of Energy.
173. U Aung Myat Sein, Agriculture, No (15/956), Aung Raza Street, Shwe pwaikan Ward, North Oakkalapa Township.
174. U Khin Maung Huy, Head of Section, Match Factory (Mandalay), Myanma Paper and Chemical Enterprise, Ministry of Industry-1.
175. Police Sergeant Aung Min (La-173434), Supply Section, Myanma Police Force (Headquarters), Ministry of Home Affairs.
177. WO Hla Thein (No 538590), the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Ministry of Defence.
179. U Aung Myin, Upper Divisional Clerk, South Workshop Department, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Ministry of Electric Power.
180. U Aye Tun Sein, Branch Clerk, (Rakhine State Commodity Transport, Yoma Maung Bus Terminal), No 115, 29th Street, Pabedan Township.
181. U Kyaw Win, Workshop, No 903, Mayan Su Sabei Road, Ward 3, Mayangon Township.
182. U Myint Soe, Deputy Supervisor, Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, (Kyakkhami Salt Production Division, Ministry of Mines.
183. U Aung Hlaing, Workshop, No 998, Thiri Zeyar Road, Ward 7, South Oakkalapa Township.
184. U Thein Maung, Merchant, No 238, Hintha Road, 14/2 Ward, South Oakkalapa Township.
185. U Aung Gyi, Director, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
186. U Maung Maung Than, Technician-3, Supervi- sor-1, No 12th Bus Line, Road Transport, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
187. U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Communication techni- cian-3, Management and Training Unit, Border Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce.
188. Daw Myint Myint Khaing, Tutor (Myanmar De- partment), Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Mandalay University, Ministry of Education.
189. U Aung Myint Zaw, Foreman (Technician), No 2 Saw Mill, Foreign Trade and Saw Mill Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
190. U San Tin, Astrologer, No 125, Myazinaz Street, No 125 Ward, Dagon Myothit (East) Township.
191. U Janeya, Monk, Mingala Theingi Monastery, Dhammahathu Monastery, Old Yadashay Road, Bahan Township.
192. U Dhamma Mon, Monk, No 18/8, Gyardwaraaw Road, Gyardwara Ward, U Aria Monastery, Bahan Township.
193. U San Lwin, Merchant, No 3, Yadana Theinhta Monastery, Monchaung Monastery, No 12, Kywehsegan, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay.
194. U Aung Shwetya, Merchant, No 49, Ground Floor, Lanthut Road, Ward 3, Lammadaw Township.
195. U Min Sein, Lower Division Clerk, Lammadaw Township General Administration Department, General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.
196. U Kyaw Min, Agent, No 5, Thiri Myayng 5th Street, Ward 13, Hlin Township.
197. U Hla Shein, Merchant, No 306, Thumingala Road, Ward 4, South Oakkalapa Township.
198. U Nyo Yin, Driver-5, Carriage and Cargo Shed, Myintge Workshop, Myanma Railways, Minis- try of Rail Transportation.
199. U Ba Thaung, Technician-4 (Carriage Inspect- or), Mahlawgan Carriage Shed, Myanma Rail- ways, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
200. U Tin Aye, Technician-5, Blacksmith, Civil En- gineer Department, Myanma Railways, Ministry of Rail Transportation.
203. U Kitti sa (a) U San Aung, Monk, Monk, South Mogok Vipassana, Mingala Yeiktha, Showwawin Mon- astery, No 12, Kywehsegan, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay.
204. U Aung Tun Kyaw, Captain, Waterway Depart- ment, Cargo Transport Division, Inland Water Transport, Ministry of Transport.
205. U Hla Thaing, Production Technician-3, General Management Department, Okkyin Gunny Fact- ory, Myanma Jute Enterprise, Ministry of Agri- culture and Irrigation.
206. U Tun Min, Storekeeper-4, Myanma Farm En- terprise, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
207. U Kyaw Myint, JAT, Pyigyidagun BEPS No 1, No 2 Basic Education Department, Ministry of Education.
208. U (Ma-708370), L/Cpl Tin Tun, Defence Services Records Office, Ministry of Defence.
209. U Myint Zaw, Worker, Mechanical Division, No 4 Plywood Factory (Pathein), Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
210. U Khin Win, Assistant Deputy Supervisor, No 4 Saw Mill (Ahtlon), Foreign Trade and Saw Mill Division, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
211. U Tin Maung Win, Worker, No 6 Saw Mill, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry.
213. U Ni Tar, Worker, No 3 Saw Mill (Shwe pwyita), Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of For- esty.

Ye Thura Title
1. La/28369 Police Lt-Col Win Naing, Deputy Di- rector, CCDAC and Drug Elimination Department, Myanma Police Force.
2. Ohn Myint, (Ma-6496), member of Fire Services (Deceased), Fire Services Department.

Ye Bula Title
1. La/28518 Police Captain Myint Oo, Supervisor, Kengtung Special Anti-Drug Squad.
2. U Ko Ko Hlaing (Ma-3475), Deputy Director- General, Fire Services Department.

Ye Thurein Title
1. La/149950 Police Inspector Khin Maung Thein, Investigator, CCDAC and Drug Elimination De- partment, Myanma Police Force.
2. Kyaw Thet Oo (Ma-5296), member of Fire Serv- ices, Fire Services Department.

Ye Kyawwsa Title
1. U Myo Myint, Assistant Director, Fire Services Department.

Ye Kyawthu Title
1. U Kyi Win, Chairman, Thingangon Village-tract PDC, Nayaung Township.
2. U Kan Yin, Lower Division Clerk, Thingangon Village-tract PDC, Ngaputaw Township.

By Order,
Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1, State Peace and Development Council
Industrial sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of industries in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Emerging factories and workshops in states and divisions

Industrial development plays a vital role in national development. Nowadays, emphasis is being placed on development of the industrial sector along with the agriculture sector.

Emerging State-owned factories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>States and Divisions</th>
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<th>2005</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of active cooperation under the dynamic leadership, achievements have been made year after year in the industrial sector. For the development of the industrial sector, new State-owned factories are being built and at the same time, serious attention is being paid to running of the old factories in full capacity.

The table provides readers with facts and figures on development in factories and workshops in states and divisions in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Australians make breakthrough in research on breast cancer

CANNESRA, 6 Jan—Australian scientists have made a breakthrough that could lead to new drugs or therapies to treat breast cancer by discovering rare stem cells.

The discovery was made after researchers from Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne, capital of the state of Victoria, induced female mice to grow new mammary glands from stem cells. ABC radio quoted Researcher Mark Shaks-leton as saying that the discovery means treatments can be designed to better target dangerous cancer stem cells that can not be treated with current methods.

“Although many people respond quite well to treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy, unfortunately a significant proportion of people relapse with their disease at a time subsequent to that,” he said. “And it may be that treatment such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy don’t actually target those cells within a mass of cancer.” — MNA/Xinhua

Bakari Idd on 11 January

YANGON, 6 Jan — The Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that 11 January 2006, Wednesday, is a public holiday as it is Bakari Idd Day, under section 25 of Negotiable Instruments Act. — MNA
Only when living standard of the people including rural people in various sectors improve, can national development be made.

Eighth cash and book donation for self-reliant rural libraries held

YANGON, 7 Feb — The eighth cash and book donation for self-reliant rural libraries was held at the Ministry of Information on Thimbyu Road this morning. Present were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Maj-Gen Hsan Hsin of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, managing directors and directors-general of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Information, officials of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Picture and Music Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, social organizations, publishing houses, wellwishers and guests.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech at the eighth cash and book donation ceremony for self-reliant rural libraries.

He thanked the wellwishers and guests. He said 490 wellwishers presented 1,657,449 books of various kinds valued at K 86,694,811 at the seventh donation ceremony and they also donated K 48,374,000 to the fund. The amount of donation up to the seventh reached over K 135 million including the value of books so far. At the ceremony, wellwishers would present over K 51.6 million and such donation would contribute much towards the opening of the libraries.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally opened libraries in Yekyi-Athoke region. Altogether 48,064 libraries have been opened up to now. There are over 10,000 libraries left to be opened. He believed that tasks to open libraries and national tasks would be successfully implemented through unity. Systematic arrangements are being made for keeping books, he said.

He said Information and Public Relations Department is making arrangements for dissemination of library science. Efforts are being made for various kinds of books and publications donated by wellwishers, and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

At the eight cash and book donation for self-reliant rural libraries, K 4,555,000 plus a library worth K 20 million donated by President of MWF Daw Than Than Nwe; various kinds of journals and documents related to the building of lawkamon self-reliant library worth K 20 million by Maj-Gen Hsan Sint, Maj-Gen Mya Win and wellwishers; K 1 million each by Dr Khin Shwe of Zaykabar Co and UMFFCCI President U Win Myint and various kinds of books and K 2.1 million by wellwishers, and certificates of honour were presented to wellwishers.

Other wellwishers also donated various kinds of books and publications to self-reliant libraries through Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Director-General U Khin Maung Huy of Myanmar Radio and Television, Managing Director U Soe Win of Newspapers and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise accepted the donations from a wellwisher.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

Over K 4.5 million, books worth K 27 million donated to self-reliance libraries.

Minister Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech at the ceremony.

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, social organizations, publishing houses, private entrepreneurs, wellwishers and guests.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech. He thanked the wellwishers for their cash and book donations for rural people to gain general knowledge. Out of the 54 million people, 70 per cent, the majority of them, are living in rural areas. They are simple, honest and helpful one another.

They have very few chances to read books and other publications. That is why self-reliant rural libraries are established in order to raise the living standard of rural people and to improve their education, health and agriculture sectors and thinking power.

Only when living standard of the people including rural people in various sectors improve, can the national development be brought about. Therefore, based on three strengths — strength of the State, strength of local authorities and people and strength of the wellwishers, rural libraries were opened under the arrangement of the Ministry of Information.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects donated books for self-reliant rural libraries. — MNA

Wellwishers donated various kinds of books and cash to self-reliant libraries. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted various kinds of magazines and journals donated by President of MWF Daw Than Than Nwe; various kinds of journals and documents related to the building of lawkamon self-reliant library worth K 20 million by Maj-Gen Hsan Sint, Maj-Gen Mya Win and wellwishers.

President U Win Myint and Maj-Gen Mya Win formally opened libraries in Yekyi-Athoke region. Altogether 48,064 libraries have been opened up to now. There are over 10,000 libraries left to be opened. He believed that tasks to open libraries and national tasks would be successfully implemented through unity. Systematic arrangements are being made for keeping books, he said.

He said Information and Public Relations Department is making arrangements for dissemination of library science. Efforts are being made for various kinds of books and publications donated by wellwishers, and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

At the eighth cash and book donation for self-reliant rural libraries, K 4,555,000 plus a library worth K 20 million donated by 24 cash donors and various kinds of books and publications worth K 27,053,620 by 85 donors were accepted. After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted the wellwishers.

Various kinds of donated books for self-reliant rural libraries. — MNA
Drawing a new enduring constitution is imperative for the future of the State...

(from page 1)

There did exist the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution. The 1947 constitution included some principles that approved the right to secede from the Union. Consequently, the country had to face the danger of disintegration of the Union more than one time. Again, over 13 million people accounting for 90.19 percent unanimously supported the 1974 constitution that gave priority to socialism and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In doing so, peace and stability of the State, strong national economy and national education promotion are instrumental. So, the government built social and economic foundations. Meanwhile, the Tatmadaw has not only served the interests of the people living in the country. It was chronicled that the ultimate aim of the patriotic Burma Tatmadaw in 1945 was to regain independence and shape a democracy. In 1992 a total of 29 delegates comprising 15 of State Law and Order Restoration Council, representatives-elect and independent representatives met and co-ordinated measures were taken to enable the people to develop spiritually and produce human resources. He said the government officially announced the seven points Road Map on 30 August 2003 when the requirements on transitional democracy for the State are fulfilled, while undertaking the national tasks. Those from home and abroad supported the Road Map.

Nowadays, the State and the entire people are striving through cooperation for the emergence of discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In the process of transition to democracy, the constitution is essential for leading the nation and serving the interests of people living in the country.

for 90.19 percent unanimously supported the 1974 constitution that give priority to socialism with centralized one party system, ignoring private interest. Due to its weaknesses, the constitution became unpopular with the public and there occurred 1988 unrest.

Therefore, drawing a new enduring constitution is imperative for the future of the State. The constitution needs to be in accord with the State objectives and wishes of reconciliation. The Tatmadaw has not only served the interests of the State and the people but also striven for democratization. It was chronicled that the ultimate aim of the patriotic Burma Tatmadaw in 1945 was to regain independence and shape a democracy. In 1992 a total of 29 delegates comprising 15 of State Law and Order Restoration Council, representatives-elect and independent representatives met and co-ordinated measures were taken to enable the people to develop spiritually and produce human resources. He said the government officially announced the seven points Road Map on 30 August 2003 when the requirements on transitional democracy for the State are fulfilled, while undertaking the national tasks. Those from home and abroad supported the Road Map.

Without knowing the essence of National Convention, the elements holding negative views are making instigation with the false propaganda and exaggerated Myanmar’s affairs to reach up to the UN Security Council. In fact, those interfering in and disturbing the National Convention and the emergence of democracy are the common enemies of the entire people.
We have already learned that there will be seven legislative bodies in the legislative structure in the future State. They are: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region/State Hluttaws, and the self-administered division/zone leading bodies.

The National Convention has already adopted a basic principle: The legislative powers of the State are distributed among Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaws. Legislative power prescribed by the Constitution is distributed to self-administered areas.

A study of the Hluttaws will show that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprises the two Hluttaws, namely, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region/State Hluttaws are formed with elected Hluttaw representatives and Tatmadaw member Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services according to law.

Qualifications of the representatives of the respective Hluttaws are prescribed with emphasis on their abilities to serve the interests of the nation and the people. The Hluttaw representatives concerned should be truly the good sons of the nation and the people.

In connection with the qualifications of the Hluttaw representatives who will exercise the legislative powers on behalf of the people, I had an interview and present them in this article.

Soe Mya Kyaw: We have already discussed the legislative structure and essence of future State in detail. But I think there also remain certain points.

Bagyi Soe: Of course, there are. There remain points that need to be known in connection with the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives or the representatives of the people. Let’s continue our discussions.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Uncle. Please explain to me starting from the qualifications prescribed for the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Bagyi Soe: In connection with the qualifications of the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, the detailed basic principle has been laid down as follows: Persons possessing the following qualifications are eligible to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to the Pyithu Hluttaw—

1. having attained the age of 25;
2. being a citizen born of parents both of whom are also citizens;
3. having settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative;
4. possessing qualifications prescribed in the election law.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes Uncle. Let me know the qualification concerning the age of 25.

Bagyi Soe: In the 1947 Constitution, the minimum age of the Pyithu Hluttaw representative was prescribed 21 years.

Soe Mya Kyaw: In 1974 Constitution, the age for the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives was 28.

Kyee Kyee Mya: I remember that the 1989 Multi-Party Democracy General Election Law prescribed that a person who had attained 21 years of age and met other requirements prescribed by the Law was eligible to stand for election to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Bagyi Soe: You are right, Maung Kyaw. So, the persons who have attained 25 years begin to gain experience and are able to learn more. Considering this, the National Convention delegates have laid down this principle.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes Uncle.

Bagyi Soe: Furthermore, if you study the two Hluttaws at the central level, you will find that the number of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives is the largest. The number is 440. It is thus laid down to enable extensive participation of national races residing the length and breadth of the nation and a large number of new generation youths.

That is why the age is prescribed 25.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please continue, Uncle.

Bagyi Soe: This being so, the youths who have attained 25 years and who are qualified will be able to participate in the Pyithu Hluttaw. At the same time, the middle aged persons of about 40 years or so as well as the seniors who are 50-60 years old will also take part in it.

Kyee Kyee Mya: The seniors are experienced persons with ample knowledge about the past and the middle aged persons are ready to play whatever role they are going to be assigned. The qualified youths are to work together with the elders and gain experience and knowledge. This is the way they will prepare for the heavier responsibilities in the future. The Pyithu Hluttaw therefore serves as a proper link for the people of different ages.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I see now, Kyee Kyee. The age of the Pyithu Hluttaw representative has been prescribed 25 in consideration of the future prospects of the nation and the people.

Kyee Kyee Mya: In other words, it is the plan to provide a proper link between the fine historical tradition and the energetic qualities among the seniors, the middle aged and the youths or to ensure that there is no break in the link of national politics in future.

Bagyi Soe: The main reason is to constantly turn out patriotic youths who will be able to shoulder the responsibilities of the State in future.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Now it is clear. By the way, I have studied that the Pyithu Hluttaw representative is to be a citizen born of parents both of whom are also citizens. Please explain this to me, Uncle.

Bagyi Soe: It happened that in the section 76 (1) of the 1947 Constitution, it was prescribed: Every citizen who has completed the age of twenty one years and who is not placed under any disability or incapacity under this Constitution or by law, shall be eligible for membership of the Parliament.

Kyee Kyee Mya: That’s right, Maung Kyaw. I remember this was amended in the 1974 Constitution that Hluttaw representatives are to be citizens born of parents both of whom are also citizens.

(See page 9)
Soe Mya Kyaw: Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw are the highest bodies in exercising the legislative powers in the interest of the nation. Since only the citizens who are born of parents both of whom are also citizens should be a representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw. This being the case, the principle laid down by the National Convention is most appropriate.

Kyee Kyee Mya: In introducing laws, it is of utmost importance not to harm national sovereignty but safeguard it. The nation may face different kinds of threats. There might occur armed aggression that is quite obvious. At the same time, there might be plots and conspiracies using spies and decoys. Hence, Hluttaw representatives should be citizens who are born of parents both of whom are also citizens.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I have learned that as in our country, others have also prescribed similar qualifications for Hluttaw representatives in national interest.

Bagyi Soe: That is why the National Convention has laid down a basic principle concerning the citizens and citizenship. It is the right and responsibility — All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals are citizens; all persons who have become citizens in accord with law on the date the State Constitution comes into force are citizens; and citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be as prescribed by law.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Please explain to him, Ko Soe, about the related point that a Pyithu Hluttaw representative shall have settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative.

Bagyi Soe: A person who will stand for election to Pyithu Hluttaw should have experienced the political, economic, administrative and social developments in the country. For this, he should have lived in the Union of Myanmar for 10 consecutive years. If he has not lived in the country for ten years but lived abroad and if he is elected, no one will know his mentality and tendency influenced by external elements. That is why this specific qualification is prescribed.

Kyee Kyee Mya: When we practise multi-party democracy system it is necessary to prevent a group of persons from the misuse of power and also guard against traitorous elements relying on the foreign masters from interfering in the affairs of the State.

Soe Mya Kyaw: That’s right. So, similar qualifications are to be prescribed for the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Bagyi Soe: Well, they are almost the same. The only difference is that the Amyotha Hluttaw representative is to have completed 30 years of age. The number of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives is 224. As they will have to be more experienced and knowledgeable to be able to deal with political, economic, administrative and social affairs, the age is thus prescribed as 30 years.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Very well, Uncle. How about the qualifications of the Tatmadaw member Hluttaw representatives?

Bagyi Soe: The qualifications are the same. The Tatmadaw member Hluttaw representatives should possess the same qualifications I have just discussed. It has been done so to be in accordance with democratic practices.

Kyee Kyee Mya: That’s right Maung Kyaw. Although the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has been granted the right to nominate Tatmadaw member Hluttaw representatives, every nominee needs to possess similar qualifications as the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. This may be seen as check and balance in practice. They may also be seen as distribution of power and check and balance, that are democratic practices.

Bagyi Soe: Similarly, qualifications of the Region/State Hluttaw representatives are the same as that of the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It is clear, Uncle. I have learned the qualifications of the candidates who are eligible to stand for election to the Hluttaw. As there are qualifications for the eligible candidates there may be restrictions any election for those who are not eligible to stand for election. So, let me know who are prescribed ineligible to stand for election.

Bagyi Soe: Concerning those prescribed ineligible to stand for election, the 12 detailed basic principles have been laid down. Obviously, those who are serving prison terms for criminal offences, who are prescribed to be ineligible for violation of the election law, who are declared bankrupt, who are insane, who are members of the Sangha and State service personnel.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Besides, there are certain points laid down to guard against the attempts of neo-colonialists to indirectly enslave the nation or keep our nation under their control.

Bagyi Soe: The detailed basic principles have been laid down that a person owing allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country; person who is entitled to rights and privileges of a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country; they have no right to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Soe Mya Kyaw: If such persons are given the important positions it will amount to offering the hilt of the sword to the enemy.

Bagyi Soe: You are right. That is why persons owing allegiance to a foreign government, or subjects of a foreign government or citizens of a foreign country are therefore prescribed ineligible to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Bagyi Soe: Like manner, those engaged in politics at the expense of religion have no right to stand for election as Hluttaw representatives.

Soe Mya Kyaw: All those persons Uncle has described shall have no right to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives nor Region/State Hluttaw representatives, I believe.

Bagyi Soe: You are right, Maung Kyaw. Moreover, the points I have stated also apply to the Tatmadaw member candidates nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to the respective Hluttaws.

Soe Mya Kyaw: By the way Uncle, in our discussions last week, we dealt with the matter on an ethnic group which has a population of over 10,000 but it has no self-administered zone of its own can win a seat in the self-administered division or self-administered zone. We have also discussed that if the Self-administered Area Leading Body is less than ten members and if there is no ethnic group with a population of over 10,000, the Leading Body could choose and appoint a suitable person residing in the self-administered area and that are the qualifications for those representatives?

Bagyi Soe: They, too, are to meet the qualifications prescribed for the Hluttaw representatives and at the same time the 12 points meant for those ineligible to stand for election also apply to them.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Uncle. I have learned that according to the form of legislature of the future State, the persons who will always serve national interests are to be elected to the legislative bodies and there is full of essence for the nation. May I request you to discuss the remaining parts next week.

Bagyi Soe: Oh sure. I’ll make all the preparations.

Translation: AK
**Drawing a new enduring constitution is imperative for the future of the State...**

(from page 7)

Despite difficulties, the Tatmadaw government has made up its mind to successfully hold the National Convention, essential programme for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Now the National Convention is in session.

Over 100 delegates include Ph.D degree holders, literatis, those whom the people respect, experienced persons, leaders of armed groups who rose against the government for 40 years.

The delegates who represent various strata of life in the township are genuine ones and they laid down basic principles for drafting an enduring State constitution.

Of the 15 chapters to be included in the constitution, detailed basic principles for principles of the State, State Structure, Head of State, legislative, executive and judiciary sectors have been laid down. Now detailed basic principles for legislation are under discussion. Principles on rights and responsibilities for citizens and the Tatmadaw will be discussed.

Holding the National Convention is an important effort for external destructive elements.

The colonialist imperialists try to break up the unity to weaken the national strength. The people are to prevent their acts with great national awareness.

No party or an individual person can hinder national political developments. If one tries to hinder the national convention, he will be regarded as a culprit of the history. The national forces have decided to ward off the danger of external and internal threats and destroy all the hindrance with obstacles. The seven-point Road Map is the correct path to future State.

In fact, the National Convention reflects the desire of the people and it represents the entire country and it is a noble task that brings about national essence. Various national races are laying down the future State.

The delegates who represent the entire people to participate in the respective roles after holding the National Convention, essential programme for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Now the National Convention is in session.

Despite difficulties, the Tatmadaw government has made up its mind to successfully hold the National Convention, essential programme for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Now the National Convention is in session.

The National Convention is a national political activity that will lay down basic principles in writing the State’s Constitution. Only when the National Convention is completed will the people and all national races amidst diversity of region and religion enjoy fruits of peace and development.

(See page 11)
Drawing a new enduring constitution is imperative...

(from page 10)

The leaders of national race armed groups are also participating in the drive for the emergence of a democratic State in accord with the State’s Road Map. At the same time, regardless of national interests, the neo-colonialists are instigating to create economic crisis among Myanmar people and impose economic and political sanctions on the country.

Without knowing the essence of National Convention, the elements holding negative views are instigating with the false propaganda and exaggerated Myanmar’s affairs to reach up to the UN Security Council. In fact, those interfering in and disturbing the National Convention and the emergence of democracy are the common enemies of the entire people. If the State’s constitution can be adopted in accord with the desire of the people, under the influence of super powers, the scheme of the internal and external axehandles to take over power of the State will be put to an end.

The government, on its part, has been implementing to achieve the stability, peace, prevalence of law and order, economic and human resource development that are the basic foundations for the practice of the democracy.

There have emerged better foundations in the sectors of agriculture, livestock breeding, industry and transportation. The Government has also established a lot of factories, workshops and industrial zones so as to build a new modern nation.

Many of agriculture, transport, health and education facilities can be witnessed the length and breadth of the nation. At the same time, the State is taking systematic steps to improve knowledge of the people to keep pace with the knowledge age.

To have learning oppotunity, the basic education high schools, have been extended throughout the Union. New universities, colleges and hospitals were built. While making efforts for the development of rural far-flung areas, the government is trying to improve socio-economic life of the people in rural areas. Thanks to relentless efforts of the State, the State’s GDP has increased in 2004-2005 more than that of 1988-1989. It is found that Per Capita income has also upped. Therefore, foreign media recognized Myanmar Economic Development.

We, all the people, need to support the National Convention to be successfully completed by warding off destructive elements within and without the nation who are trying to hinder development of the nation.

The National Convention is a national political activity that will lay down basic principles in writing the State’s Constitution. Only when the National Convention is completed will the people and all national races from various region enjoy fruits of peace and development.

We, therefore, unanimously support the National Convention removing obstacles to the National Convention placed by the destructionists at home and abroad.

Next, Daw Kaythi Win of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation discussed that our nation is a sovereign state. At present, the State and the people are marching towards a new modern discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Apart from doing so, the Government is doing its utmost to enable the nation to be a developed one. As a result, all national races residing in the Union have enjoyed fruits of development in a short time. The Seven-point Road Map is now being implemented.

At the National Convention, the first and most important step of the Road Map, the delegates are laying down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing the State Constitution in accord with the wishes of the people. Now, the delegates have been able to lay down 15 chapter-wise titles, 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles under 6 chapter-wise titles.

In 104 basic principles, it is stated that the one who has not met the set qualification is not eligible to be elected as a Pyithu Hluttaw representative. In the same way, the set qualification had been stated categorically in Section 74 of the 1947 Constitution. As the basic principles are the ones our Myanmar people could unconditionally accept, we strongly support them.

According to detailed basic principles already laid down by the National Convention, the future nation will be made up of 7 regions, 7 states, two Pyidaungsu territories, self-administered division and 5 self-administered zones. According to the 1947 Constitution, there were four states—Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Shan State and one division—the Special Division for Chins. Now, there are 7 regions, 7 states and self-administered areas for Wa, Dhanu, Palaung, Pa-O, Kokang and Naga national races. It is found that extensive rights for the minority national races have been created democratically. The ongoing National Convention laid down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the State Constitution for ethnic groups and national races to enjoy equal rights democratically and for perpetuation of the Union.

In shaping a future nation, the ongoing National Convention laid down detailed basic principles on the basis of Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty in order not to let the bitter experiences of the past recur.

Such being the case, I second the motion to support the National Convention that laid down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the State Constitution, a prerequisite for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation with fully institutionalized disciplines.

In shaping a future nation, the ongoing National Convention laid down detailed basic principles on the basis of Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty in order not to let the bitter experiences of the past.

A ceremony to suppprt the National Convention in progress. NLM

People marching to attend the ceremony to support the National Convention. MNA

Next, Daw Khin Thazin Myint of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association seconded the motion to support the National Convention. She said that there were two constitutions—the 1947 Constitution drawn before independence was regained and the 1974 Constitution drawn after independence was regained. It is learnt that the 1947 Constitution was drawn out of the wishes to regain independence from British colonialists in a peaceful way and the 1974 Constitution was drawn through the holding of a referendum. As the two constitutions could be no longer in use, the government is convening the National Convention for framing an enduring State Constitution to shape a future nation.

The National Convention started on 9 January 1993 and continued up to 30 March 1996 with added momentum. The NC had been able to lay down basic principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. The NC was adjourned in 1996 due to various reasons. The National Convention, which was adjourned temporarily in 1996, was reconvened on 17 May 2004.

The plenary sessions of the NC detailed basic principles for sharing legislative, executive and judiciary powers in addition to basic principles laid down in the past. The delegates to the National Convention are now discussing matters on laying down detailed basic principles for legislative affairs. (See page 12)
A glance at basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention will reveal that there are nine basic principles on citizen, rights and responsibilities of citizens, five basic principles on education, health and national culture, two basic principles on mother, child and disabled ones, and seven basic principles on religion out of 104 basic principles.

Studying basic principles and detailed basic principles laid by the ongoing National Convention, it is found that all the principles laid down are capable of shaping a future nation.

Now is the time when efforts are to be made for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the national unity. In the meantime, the National Convention is being reconvened in accord with the seven-point Road Map.

Looking back to the world’s democratic trends, it is found that some nations have been in a position to enjoy rapid economic development as they took sufficient time in transition to democracy. But some experienced contradictions and conflicts instead of enjoying economic development as they were in a hurry in transition to democracy.

Therefore, delegates to the National Convention are paying serious attention to laying down detailed basic principles in order to avoid weaknesses and dis-advantages in the drafting of the State constitution.

In conclusion, I would like to disclose that the ongoing National Convention is shaping a future nation, and taking the course of confrontation is an act of betrayal to the nation. Such cowardly act is totally unacceptable and I second the motion to support the National Convention that laid down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the State Constitution.

Seconding the motion to support the National Convention Col Tin Soe of MWVO (Reid) said now the government is convening the National Convention with its six objectives that is fundamental in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. It is a good thing to know that out of the six objectives, one is for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State. It means that the Tatmadaw has taken with the people. It has always stood by the country and the people in times of emergency.

The Tatmadaw will always serve the interests of the people and strive for the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map of the State together with the national people.

As now is the time when the Tatmadaw is not only safeguarding the national interest but also striving for emergence of a modern and developed democratic country, all national people support the Tatmadaw’s participation in the national political leadership role of the State because it has been in accord with the wishes of the people. The national political leadership is one of the important factors such as Our Three Main National Causes and State development. So, it is reasonable that like other delegates from political parties, the Tatmadaw members are to participate in the political leadership role in the nation. The 41st principle stated that the Tatmadaw has the right to participate in the leadership role of the State because it has been in accord with the wishes of the people. The national political leadership is one of the important factors such as Our Three Main National Causes and State development.

Nowadays, it is important to have a strong Tatmadaw in the nation as neo-colonialists are trying to influence small countries under the pretext of human rights phase of the Seven-point Road Map, is well under way.

Delegates from every walk of life and of all national races are attending the National Convention. So, it is obvious that holding of the National Convention will be an important milestone in Myanmar history.

We also stand by a basic principle of freedom of worship to be included in basic principles in drafting the State’s Constitution. Each citizen of Myanmar has the most extensive right constitution observed by all of us to enable the nation to shape peaceful and developed one.

The constitution is indispensable to build a new democratic nation. So, the National Convention plays a key role in writing the constitution and is practically being held through the Seven-point Road Map.

Organizations comprising various national races have the right to attend the National Convention. It is an opportunity of the races. Sixty seven delegates from Yangon Division are now attending the National Convention and 100 leaders of armed groups and other invited persons are discussing the matters relating to the future State. In building a nation, legislative power, executive power and judicial power are to be kept check and balance so that the nation can be built in stability. The National Convention in session has laid down the detailed basic principles for sharing of power of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, seven Region Hluttaws, seven state Hluttaws, leading bodies of self-administered division and self-administered zone.

The national convention in session is paving the way for sharing of power based on prevailing conditions of the national races and he seconded the motion to support the National Convention.

Afterwards, the meeting chairman sought the approval from the mass meeting. Later, the meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans.

Now is the time when the Government has been on the right path to a new democratic nation. Delegates representing all the nationals are attending the National Convention and 70% of functions of the NC has been completed.

Now is the time when the Government has been on the right path to a new democratic nation. Delegates representing all the nationals are attending the National Convention and 70% of functions of the NC has been completed.
YANGON, 7 Jan—The following is a translation of suggestions submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency regarding the detailed basic principles for legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaw in formulating the State Constitution collectively presented by the three Independent Representatives-elect — Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency, Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency, Shan State (North) — on 5 January at Nyaungshapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

This paper was collectively compiled by Independent representative-elect Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South), and Independent representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) and me. We three will take turn to read out the three parts of this paper.

I would like to present some points about the detailed basic principles for legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. One of the detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted for legislative functions says that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be made up of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be convened during the time the first regular sessions for the new term of its two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw — are in session. One of the detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted for executive formation says that after electing the President and Vice-Presidents, the President of the Union shall, with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, designate the Union government ministries as necessary. Moreover, he can make changes and addition to the designated ministries.

The principles also state that he shall present the list of nominees for the post of Union ministers, the Union attorney-general and the Union auditor-general to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval. There should also be a detailed basic principle regarding the number of annual regular sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in a year after the first regular session, and the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be carried out when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is in session.

In a nation, there might be an extraordinary situation on political, security, economic and social affairs for which a Hluttaw has to convene a special or emergency meeting. In our nation, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be vested with the power to convene a special or emergency meeting to resolve such an important case. And the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should have the power to convene a special or emergency meeting when informed by the President and Vice-President, so that the President, as well as the administrative head, can submit a report to the Union Hluttaw if there occurs an extraordinary situation on State security, economic and social affairs, and when the President presumes that the bill the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submits needs to be under discussion as soon as possible for approval in the interests of the people, and when need arises to convene a session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the policy of exercising the power as separately as possible and the reciprocal control in the interests of the people. Similarly, members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be vested with the power to ask for convening of a session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw based on a situation.

Members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are to attend Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sessions and to carry out Hluttaw functions regularly. If a member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw cannot attend a session due to a sound reason, he has to ask the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for leave.

There should be the constitutional right of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for validity of the sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and for the matters to be decided by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through votes of the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Here, I would like to make a suggestion regarding the principle “Even if there are vacant seats, the Pyithu Hluttaw shall have the right to carry out its tasks. The decisions of the session shall not be revoked, even if the acts of some person who is not entitled to do so, sat or voted or took part in the proceedings are discovered later.”

In making an important decision, it is designated valid if it wins the votes of not less than three-fourths of the Hluttaw members or the votes of not less than the two-thirds of the Hluttaw members present. In making a normal decision, it is designated valid if it wins the votes of more than half the total number of Hluttaw members or the votes of more than half the total number of Hluttaw members present. In adopting detailed basic principles for the nation-building sector, measures for re-delineation of the nation’s territorial boundary shall be taken only if it wins the votes of more than half of the members each of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the votes of more than half of the Hluttaw members from the region or state concerned. If this way is unsuccessful, the case shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And the case shall go on only if it wins the votes of three-fourths of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw members or above. Similarly, measures for re-delineation of the territorial boundary of a region or state shall be taken only if it wins the votes of three-fourths and above of the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. There should be a principle to prescribe a way for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to make a decision through the votes regarding the matters to be decided and approved with its approval.

These points indicate the importance of the right of a Hluttaw member to vote. So, it is improper that a person who is not entitled to attend the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw sat, voted, or had participation in the proceedings of the Hluttaw.

So, respective bodies should supervise the tasks in order to avert an undesirable situation that a person who is not entitled to attend the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw sat, voted, or had participation in the proceedings of the Hluttaw.

In the Constitutions of many nations, there is a provision that says functions and records of Pyithu Hluttaw shall be published for public information. In our country, a principle should be adopted to issue, except such kinds of records prohibited under a law or a decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, records and activities of the Hluttaw for public information.

The Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, which are included in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, have same duties and rights. Such two Hluttaws also have same duties and rights to enact a bill into a law. If there is a decision of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw approve a bill, relating to the matters that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has the right to enact, it should mean the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves that bill.

In a law prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be a principle that vests power to issue bylaws, rules, regulations, notifications, directives and procedures, and to revoke or amend a bylaw, a rule or a regulation if they are not in conformity with the Constitution or the law concerned. In issuing an ordinance, the President shall submit such an ordinance to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval. In this regard, there should also be a principle that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall decide to approve or not and fix the term if it approves the ordinance.

The major task of Hluttaws is legislation. The National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman has explained matters relating to submission of a bill to the Pyadaungsu Hluttaw and approving it. Now, I would like to discuss matters relating to the duties and rights of the Patron of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

A head of the Hluttaw has to supervise Hluttaw sessions in accord with Hluttaw laws and bylaws when the Hluttaw is in session. There should be a detailed basic principle that the power to supervise Hluttaw sessions shall be vested in the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so that he will be able to systematically supervise the sessions of the future Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be vested with the right to freely submit proposals, hold discussion and raise queries at the sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. If need arises to arrest members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regarding participation in the sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, no member shall be liable or punishable therefor, except under the law, rules and regulations of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Similarly, the persons who are entitled to the sessions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or are invited to these sessions should, like members of the Pyadaungsu Hluttaw, have such privileges regarding participation in the sessions.

The National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman discussed in detail such matters at the plenary session of the National Convention on 13 December 2005. The explanation of the Work Committee Chairman is proper, so I have no further suggestions.

The points in the explanation of the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted as detailed basic principles for legislative functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be included in the Chapter “Legislature” in formulating the Constitution.
The first session that gives birth to the tenure of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be convened not later than 45 days after the commencing date of general elections

**Italians to build telescope on moon**

ROMA, 5 Jan—Italy plans to build a large telescope on the moon that will expand knowledge of the Earth, the moon and the universe, Italian News Agency ANSA reported here on Wednesday.

The telescope will be built by robots and positioned in a lunar crater to give a new perspective on the Earth, said the head of the Italian Space Agency (ASI), Sergio Vetrella. The telescope will also be able to look deeper into space than Earth-based equivalents.

The project will provide new information on the moon’s resources, Vetrella added. ASI has earmarked 150 million euros for the project and will work with the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA for help in getting the telescope in place. The first robots will be sent up between 2010 and 2012, Vetrella said.

“Over the next few years we’ll launch the pieces of the huge telescope which should be completed within 15 years,” the ASI chief said. “The goal of the project is ‘to gain more knowledge of the parts of the universe not visible from the Earth, as well as looking at our own planet with extreme precision.’

The so-called ‘modular robots’ will be taken to the moon aboard the Vega launcher, Vetrella said.

**Thein Than Jewellery Shop opened**

YANGON, 7 Jan—A new Thein Than Jewellery Shop was opened at the shop, No. 266, Shwebontha Street in Panbandan Township this morning.

Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin and Director U Myo Myint of Zabu Yadan Co Ltd formally inaugurated it.

Later, the Vice-President unveiled the signboard of the shop and the guests observed the shop. A full range of designs of gold chains, handchains, ear-rings, diamonds and gems to mark opening of the shop are available at special discount at the shop.

**Yangon, 7 Jan—**The following is a translation of suggestions submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency, Shan State (South), regarding the Constitution.

The Constitution is vested in self-administered areas. One of the detailed basic principles for legislative formation says that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is made up of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The two Hluttaws are formed separately, but they have to deal with each other in carrying out legislative functions, the major task of Hluttaws. Firstly, I would like to discuss matters on the convening of first regular sessions of the two Hluttaws. Some nations convene first regular sessions based on the elections, while some nations fix a date to convene first regular sessions. In this regard, if the date for elections is fixed based on the date of the first session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, there might be some difficulties. So, it should be fixed based on the date of the general elections. A detailed basic principle has been adopted that the term of the Amyotha Hluttaw is the same as that of the Pyithu Hluttaw. On expiry of the term of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the term of the Amyotha Hluttaw expires. So, the term of the Amyotha Hluttaw comes into force on the date of the first session of the Pyithu Hluttaw. Now, the State Peace and Development Council has to be exercising the three branches of State power due to various reasons. So, in my opinion, for ensuring smooth running, the State Peace and Development Council will have to convene first sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw formed under the Constitution. And Speakers and Deputy Speakers of respective Hluttaws should be vested with the power to convene the first regular sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw in the terms after the Constitution comes into force.

The 1947 Constitution stated that the first session that gave birth to the tenure of the Pyithu Hluttaw should be convened not later than 60 days after the commencing date of general elections. But the nation’s present situation is much different from that of 1947. The nation’s population at present is over 50 million, it has witnessed a significant development in all sectors. Because of the development of the transport infrastructure people can travel to any place at any time in a short period. In 2002, the nation had 621 Union highways and 18,640 miles of roads, up from 461 Union highways and 13,635 miles of roads in 1988. In addition to Yangon International Airport there are many other airports all over the nation. Because of the developments the time limit should be fixed at 45 days rather than 90 days. Thus, I would like to suggest that the detailed basic principle “The first session that gives birth to the tenure of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be convened not later than 45 days after the commencing date of general elections” should be laid down.

I have gained much knowledge about the functions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw including the taking of the oath by the members, convening of the sessions, validity of the meetings, the number of members required for approvals, decisions concerning the matters not included in the Constitution, and the voting right of the Speaker. In cases concerning the absence of the members from the hlluaws without leave, laws and bylaws should be enacted to take action against the members. In my view, the activities and records of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw should be released for the knowledge of the people. However, the activities and records that should be restricted under an act or the order of the Pyithu Hluttaw or Amyotha Hluttaw should not be released.

Matters relating to submission, approval, sending back and promulgation of the bills, the rights of the representatives of the Union level organizations and invited persons at the Hluttaws, solving of disagreements between the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are included in the Work Committee Chairman’s clarification.

Except from my separate suggestions in which I have suggested to laid down a detail basic principle which states “The first session that gives birth to the tenure of the People’s Hluttaw shall be convened not later than 45 days after the commencing date of general elections” I am in support of adopting all the remaining detailed basic principles which in my view should be adopted as provisions for the Constitution.

MNA
Britain to import half of gas needs by 2010

LONDON, 5 Jan — Britain, once an energy exporter, will import about half of its gas needs by 2010, according to a BBC report on Wednesday.

By 2020, existing North Sea gas fields will be supplying only 10 per cent of the gas needed in Britain, the report said. The existing pipeline to Belgium, which has been used to export gas to continental Europe, is being upgraded to be able to deliver 15 per cent of the Britain’s peak gas demand by the end of this year. A new interconnector to be built between Holland and Bacton will supply a further 10 per cent.

The biggest pipeline of all is due to be completed later this year. The Langeled pipe will link Britain directly to a huge gas field off the coast of Norway, which will be capable of supplying 16 per cent of the British’s peak demand when it is fully operational. A small amount of gas is also imported as liquefied natural gas (LNG) via a terminal on the Isle of Grain, in Medway, Kent, which was opened last year.

At the same time, new import terminals for LNG are being built at Milford Haven in Wales. Those terminals are due to start receiving gas in late 2007. When they are fully operational, they will be capable of handling about 20 per cent of Britain’s gas.

The LNG for Milford Haven will be supplied under long-term contracts from the Gulf state of Qatar. And by the end of the decade, Britain will have a reasonably diverse range of suppliers, including the Middle East and Norway.

But up to a quarter of the Britain’s gas will be coming from the continental network, whose biggest supplier is Russia. And the terms on which Russia supplies gas to the European network will be very important in determining the price Britain pays for gas in future.

MNA/Xinhua
Matters coordinated for organizing 59th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 7 Jan — The first meeting of the Management Committee for organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day took place at the building of Pyithu Hluttaw on Pyay Road this afternoon. Chairman of the committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

In his speech, Li-Gen Myint Swe said the management committee has assigned duties to subcommittees for organizing the 59th Anniversary Union Day for the year 2006. They are to discharge their duties successfully and requirements are to be presented to the management committee. Objectives of the 59th Anniversary Union Day have already been laid down.

They are for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union of its perpetual existence; to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme. That is why the management committee and subcommittees are to strive for the realization of the objectives, he said.

Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein reported on matters related to the tasks to be carried out by respective subcommittees. Chairmen of the subcommittees also reported on their respective tasks for organizing the occasion. Later, Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Objectives of the 59th Anniversary Union Day
* Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
* To keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
* For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union of its perpetual existence;
* To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and
* For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme

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* Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw are the highest bodies in exercising the legislative powers in the interest of the nation. Only the citizens who are born of parents both of whom are also citizens should be a representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw. This being the case, the principle laid down by the National Convention is most appropriate.
* A person who will stand for election to Pyithu Hluttaw should have experienced the political, economic, administrative and social developments in the country. For this, he should have lived in the Union of Myanmar for 10 consecutive years. If he has not lived in the country for ten years but lived abroad and if he is elected, no one will know his mentality and tendency influenced by external elements. That is why this specific qualification is prescribed.
* The detailed basic principles have been laid down that a person owing allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country; person who is entitled to rights and privileges of a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country; they have no right to stand for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.