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

**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

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**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of congratulations to UAE**

**Yangon, 12 Jan—** Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, on his assumption of duties as Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. — MNA

**National Convention Convening Commission holds meeting No 1/2006**

Delegates from eight groups hold group-wise discussions and are compiling proposal papers

**Yangon, 12 Jan—** The meeting No 1/2006 of the National Convention Convening Commission was held at the meeting room of the NCCC at the Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today and it was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Vice-Chairmen Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, U Myint Thein, Joint Secretary-2 of the Commission and Director-General of the Office of the Pyithu Hluttaw, enanced the meeting.

In his address at the meeting, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council said that the National Convention started on 5 December, 2005, that it had been held for over five weeks now and that the National Convention was making good progress. He continued that, if we reviewed the work done by the National Convention since it was resumed in 2004, it was found that detailed basic principles on sharing of legislative power, executive power and judicial power to be drafted into the Constitution had been successfully laid down.

NCCC needs to prepare for seven chapters, namely, election, political parties, provisions on emergency, amendment of the constitution, the State Flag, the emblem, the anthem and the capital, provisions of transitional periods and miscellaneous provisions.

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

YANGON, 12 Jan— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, on his assumption of duties as Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaking at the meeting No 1/2006 of the National Convention Convening Commission. — MNA

In connection with this, the delegates from eight groups held group-wise discussions and are compiling proposal papers. (See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Work for national development together with the government

Good transport plays the most fundamental role in the development of a region. The easier the transport of a region, the better the trade and economy of that region. In the same way, its education, health and social conditions will also improve. This being the case, the government is taking systematic measures to link one region and another and the length and breadth of the Union.

In accordance with the guidance by the Head of State, construction of motor roads and railroads is being extended to link the eastern, western, northern and southern parts of the Union. In addition to motor roads and railroads, bridges, big and small, are being built.

The Panlaung bridge built across the Panlaung river was inaugurated on the morning of 30 December. It was constructed by the special bridge construction group No. 14 of the Ministry of Construction in Singaing Township, Kyaukse District. It is a two-lane concrete reinforced bridge 24 feet wide and 400 feet long and can bear 60-ton loads. It cost K 140 million plus US$ 0.007 million.

The Panlaung bridge is the 210th of the 180-feet-and-above-long bridges built during the time of the Tatmadaw Government and it is the 190th built by Public Works. Before 1988, Mandalay Division had only eighteen 180-feet-and-above-long bridges but it has 27 now. In addition, there are five bridges under construction. Because of the opening of the Panlaung bridge, people in Sagaing Division can now reach the Mandalay International Airport direct, not via Myitnge as before, and the Yangon-Mandalay highway through Paleik. Moreover, the bridge will enable people to travel easily from Paleik to TadaU and vice versa.

As the government is doing everything in its power for all-round development of the nation, the people on their part are required to cooperate with the government and lend themselves to all the nation-building work being carried out by the government.

Objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Yangon Division to put 500,000 acres of land under jetropa curcas

YANGON, 12 Jan—The opening ceremony of course on growing jetropa curcas organized by Myanmar Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held this morning at Central Farm Research and Training Centre near Zayatkwin village in Hlegu Township, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe.

In his address, the commander urged trainees to thoroughly study the lessons lectured at the course as plans have been made to put 500,000 acres of land under jetropa curcas in Yangon Division in 2006. Deputy General Manager U Aye Tun of MAS reported to the commander on growing methods of jetropa curcas.

After the ceremony, the commander and officials observed demonstration of jetropa curcas oil and running of power tillers using bio diesel processed from jetropa curcas.

Next, the commander and party viewed thriving honey orange in the compound of Vegetable and Fruit Division of MAS.

At the jetropa curcas nursery farm, the commander and party inspected 100,000 jetropa curcas saplings.

The commander also attended the ceremony to demonstrate growing of jetropa curcas.

Afterwards, the commander inspected growing of jetropa curcas on 20 acres of land.

Next, the commander and party also took part in the ceremony to grow jetropa curcas.—MNA

ITF 14 & under Asian championship tennis tourney continues

YANGON, 12 Jan—International Tennis Federation (ITF) 14 & under Asian Championship 2006 Group (2) tennis tournament continued at Thunbyu tennis court this morning.

Aung Kyaw Naing in men’s singles event and Aung Kyaw Naing and Aung Ko Oo in men’s doubles event reached finals.

Khaing Nyein Tha in women’s singles event and Khaing Nyein Tha and Thanda Aung in women’s doubles event also reached finals. The final matches of men’s and women’s singles and doubles event will be held tomorrow.

Malaysian entrepreneurs to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 12 Jan—Second Secretary of the Malaysian Embassy Mr Syahimi (a) Muhammad Syahmi Bin Jaafar met General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at UMFFCCI this afternoon. They discussed matters on visit to Myanmar of a 16-member delegation of Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia on 24 January, entrepreneurs who will provide job opportunities for Myanmar workers and promotion of trade between the two countries. Malaysian entrepreneurs who wish to meet Malaysian entrepreneurs may register at UMFFCCI.—MNA

MWAF holds educative talks

YANGON, 12 Jan—Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, an educative talk was given at the Ministry of Transport this morning.

It was attended by Heads of department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Dr Daw Khin San Nwe, officials of MWAF, Chairpersons and executives of MAO of District and Township of Yangon Division and members of MWAF of the Ministry of Transport.

First, wife of the Minister for Transport Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha extended greetings. Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha presented membership applications to MWAF to Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo.

Deputy leader of Organizational Department Daw Thein Nyunt gave the educative talk to those present and the ceremony ended.

Deputy leader of Organizational Department of MWAF Daw Thein Nyunt speaking at a ceremony to give an educative talk.—MNA

Myanmar Livestock Services Co Ltd donates K 100,000 to the Hninzigone Home for the aged through Joint-secretary U Thein Aung of Administrative Board of the Home for the Aged.—MNA
Chavez says US blocks Brazilian plane deal

CARACAS (Venezuela), 11 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday accused Washington of blocking a sale of Brazilian military aircraft to his government as part of a US campaign against his socialist revolution.

An ardent foe of US President George W. Bush, Chavez last year sought out arms deals with Russia, Spain and Brazilian manufacturer Embraer to modernize the military in Venezuela, the world’s No 5 oil exporter and a key US energy supplier. US officials, who brand Chavez a negative influence in South America, worry his government’s purchase of attack helicopters, patrol ships and new automatic rifles could test the stability of the region.

“The United States did not authorize Embraer to make the planes for Venezuela because Embraer uses US technology, just like they tried to stop the Spanish making boats for us,” Chavez told officers at a military academy.

“If we are independent, they want to neutralize our military power,” he said. Washington must authorize companies such as Embraer to sell military systems containing US components to third countries. Caracas was negotiating to buy Tupan-type turboprop training planes from Brazil.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Caracas and an official at Embraer in Brazil declined to comment on Chavez’s remarks. Venezuela last year signed a 2-billion-US-dollar deal to buy ships and transport aircraft from Spain and ordered military helicopters and 100,000 Kalashnikov rifles from Russia.

Venezuela and the United States are increasingly at odds as Chavez promotes his socialist model as an alternative to Washington’s political and trade influence in Latin America. Chavez accused Washington of trying to block the sale by Spain and has previously said US officials were sabotaging delivery of spares and maintenance for Venezuela’s US-made F-16 fighter jets. US officials reject those accusations. — MNA/Reuters

New York City sued over right to film in public

New York, 11 Jan—An award-winning Indian documentary-maker sued New York City on Tuesday because police ordered him to stop filming in public in 2005 and held him for four hours, apparently suspecting he was plotting an attack.

The New York Civil Liberties Union, acting as lawyers for filmmaker Rakesh Sharma, believes it is the first suit to challenge police restrictions on taking pictures in public following the 11 September attacks.

It alleges Sharma’s constitutional rights to free speech and against unreasonable search and seizure were violated.

Sharma has won numerous international film awards for the documentaries “Final Solution,” on the killing of Muslims in the northwest Indian state of Gujarat in 2002 and 2003, and for “After shocks,” on the 2001 earthquake in Kutch, Gujarat.

He was taking video in a hand-held camera in midtown Manhattan for a project about New York taxi drivers last May when he was stopped by a plain-clothes officer, questioned on the sidewalk, taken in for more questioning and had his camera damaged, the lawsuit alleges.

The civil liberties union said it was concerned about a growing but undeterred number of incidents where police stop people from taking pictures in public.— MNA/Reuters

2,210 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — As of Wednesday, 11 Jan, 2006, at least 2,210 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,741 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is the same as the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 98 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,071 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,632 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.— Internet

100 Thai workers injured in gas leakage

BANGKOK, 11 Jan—Some 100 workers at a factory making hard disk parts were rushed to hospitals late Tuesday night after two tanks of gas used for cleaning tools leaked in central Province of Pathum Thani.

Local police said on Wednesday that the leakage occurred just before midnight Tuesday at the Belton Industrial in Klong Luang District. About 2,000 workers were on the night shift, police said.

The plant manager Sangad Kosoomsriyai told police that the gas was a vapourized form of acid used for cleaning tools at the plant. Two tanks leaked without explosion, he said.

Workers seeking the white fume from the tanks ran out of the plant but some 100 of them inhaled parts of the gas and suffered nausea. Some of them became unconscious.

The workers were rushed to Thammasat Hospital and pattara Thomburi Hospital. Three workers remained in the intensive care unit of Thammasat Hospital until Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian oil production up 2.4% in 2005

MOSCOW, 11 Jan—Russia pumped 470 million tons of oil in 2005, up 2.4 per cent year-on-year and hitting its highest level in five years, the Industry and Energy Ministry said on Tuesday.

Crude oil exports declined 1 per cent to 251 million tons last year, but those are in line for a boost with the construction of the East Siberia-Pacific oil pipeline.

President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia will start construction of the oil pipeline from Siberia to the Pacific Ocean this summer. The line will span about 4,000 kilometres and is expected to have the capacity to transport up to 80 million tons of oil a year.

Russia has the world’s largest natural gas reserves and is the second largest producer and exporter of crude oil.

Cholera death toll rises to 17 in Rwanda

KIGALI, 11 Jan—Death toll of the recent outbreak of cholera in Rwanda has risen to seventeen, officials said here on Monday.

“We are facing a serious outbreak of cholera; so far, over 150 people have been admitted in Masaka Hospital, out of which 80 have already received treatment and have been discharged. Seventy are still admitted in the hospital,” said Fidel Ndayisaba, the executive secretary of Rwandan capital Kigali.

The disease which erupted in December is attributed to the use of contaminated water from Nyabarongo River, he added. The official said that the state-run company, Electrotag, is repairing the water pipes.

“We are trying to supply enough clean water to the area with the help of the city council, police, Army and volunteers,” he said.— MNA/Xinhua
Report says million pupils at poor schools in England

LONDON, 11 Jan—Around a million pupils are studying at poorly performing schools in England but the number of failing schools is falling, an official report said on Wednesday.

It also found the number of teachers applying to be head teachers was dropping, on a perception that heads were under too much pressure.

The National Audit Office found 1,557 schools across the country were “poorly performing”, educating 980,000 pupils or around 13 per cent of all school students.

The schools represent around 23 per cent of secondary schools and 4 per cent of primary schools.

Edward Leigh, Chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, said pupils were being let down by the quality of their school education.

“Although the number of poorly performing schools has fallen, it is tragic that so many pupils are still not getting the education they deserve,” he said.

“Most of these schools need better leaders and governors, higher standards of teaching, and more effective support from their local authority.”

The Audit Office said the government was spending around £840 million a year in various programmes to either turn schools around or prevent them failing in the first place.

Some 577 of the substandard schools have been identified as needing improvement by the government school inspector Ofsted.

Of these, 242 are in “special measures” after Ofsted judged them to be failing to provide an acceptable standard of education.

But the Audit Office said the number of failing schools in special measures had fallen by half between 1998 and 2005.

The remaining 980 schools had been earmarked as poor performers by the Department for Education and Skills.

The Audit Office said the number of primaries in the figures could rise as the Education Department has only recently started identifying poorly performing primary schools.

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African swine fever kills 2,000 pigs in northwestern Uganda

KAMPALA, 11 Jan—Over 2,000 pigs have died of African swine fever in Adjumani District, northwestern Uganda in the last one week, local Press reported on Monday.

Dozens of rotting carcasses on Thursday lay in the villages while many other pigs were being given out to the residents to eat, a report from Adjumani said.

Local veterinary officer Christopher Dratele confirmed the report, saying that “it’s true the disease has hit the area and our department is trying hard to contain the pandemic from spreading further.”

Dratele said the worst affected sub-counties include Pakelle, Dzapi and Ofua where over 1,500 pigs had been reported dead in the last five days.

“This type of disease spreads very fast especially if proactive measures are not taken in time by the farmers. We have been advising them to keep their pigs indoors to avoid catching the disease since it can even be spread through eating the bones of the dead animals,” he said.

Dratele added that they were still tracing the origin of the epidemic that kills about 100 pigs in the affected areas on a daily basis.

Baghdad, 11 Jan—As the past week has shown, death tolls in suicide bombings are appallingly high in Iraq generally much higher than elsewhere in the world.

Analysts say this is because Iraqi security checks are still sporadic despite US training, policemen are often ill-equipped and ill-disciplined, public gatherings tend to be large and chaotic, and high-grade explosives are readily available.

“Security just isn’t good enough to cope in Iraq,” said Mustafa Alani, an Iraqi consultant with the Gulf Research Centre in Dubai. “Until it improves, we’ll keep on seeing these very high death tolls from suicide bombings.”

Only last week, two bombers struck in the cities of Kerbala and Ramadi. Both were alone and on foot, but they still managed to kill 120 people between them and injure around 200. By contrast, no suicide bomber in Israel has managed to kill more than six people in a single blast for well over a year.

Beijing declares war on spitting, littering on streets

BEIJING, 11 Jan—China’s capital Beijing has vowed to eradicate five boorish behaviours among its citizens this year, including spitting and littering on the street.

For the citizens’ convenience, Beijing will set up trash boxes at every 100 metres in the city’s major streets and other public areas and provide handy sanitary bags for people to spit into on buses, taxis and other public facilities.

Most Beijingers said hawking phlegm and throwing wastes onto the pavement were among the five most disgusting habits in a survey among 10,000 citizens last November, according to officials with Beijing office for the promotion of social ethics.

It was also considered rude for pedestrians to run about the road amid heavy traffic, for passengers to create a rowdy scrum while getting on buses and for pet owners to allow their animals to relieve themselves on the streets.

Iraqi’s vulnerability to such attacks was exposed again on Monday when two bombers dressed as senior police officers walked through a checkpoint of the Interior Ministry compound in Baghdad and killed 28 people.

With the US ambassador at a nearby police ceremony, security should have been solid, but al Qaeda, which claimed responsibility, said the bombers evaded nine checkpoints.

They also got hold of high-level security passes that enabled them to get inside the compound and would have admitted them to the ministry building itself.

Ocean disasters leave 371 people dead, missing in China in 2005

BEIJING, 11 Jan—Ocean disasters left 371 people dead and missing in China in 2005, in addition to 33.24 billion yuan (approximately four billion US dollars) of direct economic losses, according to a yearly report on ocean disasters issued by the State Oceanic Administration.

The economic losses were six times that of 2004, and also the biggest ever since 1949 when the People’s Republic of China was founded, the report said. “China saw frequent occurrences of ocean disasters in the year 2005, which affected wide-ranging areas,” it said.

A total of 176 ocean disasters, including storm tide, red tide, ocean wave, and oil spill, were reported in the past year, affecting all the 11 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions along the coast, such as Liaoning, Tianjin, Shanghai, Fujian, Guangdong and Hainan, statistics show.

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Most US states ill prepared for medical crises

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—Most US states are ill prepared for emergency medical crises such as terror attacks, natural disasters or flu outbreaks, according to a report released by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) on Tuesday.

The organization gave an overall grade of C-minus to emergency care in the 50 US states and the District of Columbia, with more than half earning below-average scores in areas dealing with the availability of hospital beds and emergency specialist coverage, immunization rates, injury-prevention programmes, malpractice laws and sophistication of 911 telephone systems.

In the report, no state received an A grade. California, Massachusetts, Connecticut and the District of Columbia scored the highest, with overall ratings of B.

Overall, more than 80 percent of the states earned poor or failing grades. At the bottom, earning D grades, are Arkansas, Idaho and Utah.

The report supported what many Americans have experienced directly—long waits in overcrowded emergency rooms, loss of health insurance, and specialist shortages in areas such as neurosurgery and obstetrics. Many patients are facing higher bills and travelling longer distances to receive necessary care, it said.

From 1990 to 1999, hospitals across the United States cut 107,000 beds, 7,200 of which are critical-care beds, according to the report. At the same time, more and more people sought care with emergency department visits increasing by 5 million a year, hitting 144 million patient visits in 2003, the last year for which data were available.

Britain’s Morrison to cut 1,600 jobs as depots close

LONDON, 11 Jan—Britain’s Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc said on Tuesday around 1,600 jobs would be cut when it closes two distribution centres.

The country’s fourth-largest grocer said it was closing the depots in Kent in south-east England and Bristol in west England after reviewing its distribution network following its three billion-pound (5.3 billion US dollars) takeover of the Safeway supermarket chain in March 2004.

“We announced in September that the depots were being reviewed following the Safeway takeover and the planned closure of some stores and we can confirm now that the Aylesford and Bristol centres are to shut,” a Morrison’s spokesman said.

“Morrison’s said in a statement it aimed to minimize the redundancies and would be talking with staff about alternative employment options at the group.

Morrison’s, whose acquisition of the Safeway group resulted in spiral-ling costs and a sequence of profit warnings, recently sold five stores to supermarket firm Waitrose. It also sold 30 fuel stations and convenience stores to supermarket rival Tescos Plc. Morrison shares were steady at 196-1/2 pence by 1031 GMT, valuing the business at around 5.2 billion pounds.

Mozambique rains kill 22, cyclone alert declared

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Jan—At least 22 people have been swept to their deaths in Mozambique and thousands more have fled heavy rains there and in neighbouring South Africa and Malawi, emergency officials said on Tuesday.

Government officials in Mozambique said the death toll had risen sharply from the initial 8 reported on 3 January, and heavy rains were expected to continue until March, forcing the government to put the country on a cyclone alert.

Rains have fuelled the spread of disease, with 114 cases of cholera reported in the central Sofala region, but Mozambique had contained the crisis well and there were no deaths from cholera, State Administration Minister Lucas Chormera said.

“The death toll stands at 22. Heavy rains continue but there is no cause for alarm yet,” said a senior emergency official.

Officials said Mozambique’s major rivers remained near the 7-metre flood alarm level but were not a concern at the moment.

Mozambique weather services predicted rain would continue to fall over the entire week. Meteorologists have forecast normal to above-normal levels of rainfall in central and southern Mozambique to the end of the rainy season in March.

Southern Mozambique is expected to see normal to below-normal rain.

In 2000, devastating floods in Mozambique killed an estimated 700 people and made up to 500,000 homeless. Rains damaged roads and other infrastructure and threatened food supplies to the needy, officials said.

Rains had made it difficult for relief workers to distribute food to some 800,000 people cut off in the Sofala and Gaza regions where stocks were declining fast, one official said.

India among top ten world travel destinations

HOUSTON, 11 Jan—India figures among the top ten world travel destinations and is the fifth choicest place to visit, according to the latest list of the Top Travel Destinations by Exploren, an online seller of adventure and experiential travel.

India ranks amongst the fifth choicest place to visit in the world in 2004 and 2005.

Egypt, Peru, Galapagos and China are the first four top travel destinations.

Other destinations preferred after India are South Africa, France, Italy, New Zealand and Alaska.

Destinations that showed strong growth in 2005 included Morocco (12th), Argentina (14th) and Jordan (16th). Bumped from last year’s top ten were Chile (20th) and Costa Rica (40th).

Explosion at Dutch shopping centre

AMSTERDAM, 11 Jan—An explosion at a shopping centre, possibly caused by gas, in the central Dutch city of Utrecht has injured several people, police said on Tuesday.

“There has been a large explosion at a shopping centre... We have heard from the fire brigade radio that it may have been a gas explosion. We cannot confirm this,” a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said people were wounded in the blast but could not give any numbers or details. — MNA/Reuters

23 killed in Morocco coach crash

RAABT, 11 Jan—Twenty-three people were killed and 65 injured when two coaches collided on a road in southern Morocco on Tuesday, state news agency MAP reported.

The accident, which took place 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the tourist city of Marrakesh, was blamed on excessive speed, MAP said, citing local authorities.

The Moroccan Government launched a road safety campaign two years ago after it estimated that around 10 people died everyday in road accidents that cost the country 11 billion dirhams (1.21 billion US dollars) a year. — MNA/Reuters

Three die in rockfall at S African mine

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Jan—Three people died and four were injured in a rockfall at AngloGold Ashanti’s TauTona mine near Carletonville on Tuesday, the company said in a statement.

The fall was caused by a seismic event with a 2.4 magnitude which occurred some 3 kilometres below the surface at 11.37 am (0937 GMT).

Two of the four injured were seriously hurt, according to a report from South African Press Association. TauTona mine was in the process of notifying the families of the employees involved.

The Department of Minerals and Energy and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) had been informed. — MNA/Xinhua

Three killed in fire in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 11 Jan—An adult and two children died on Tuesday when their home was extensively damaged by fire in Secunda, about 100 kilometres east of Johannesburg.

“The bodies are being removed now,” said Mpumalanga police spokeswoman Captain Tanya Oosthuysen. She said it was too early to reveal the identity of the deceased, but police believed it was a father and his children who had died in the fire. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police secure the main entrance of the Ministry of Interior, on 9 Jan, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq; moments earlier guerrillas attacked the ministry during National Police Day celebrations, killing 29. — INTERNET
Increased output of mineral resources in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Devoting all its energies to national development, the Tatmadaw government, relying on own strength, is seeking various ways and means to exploit minerals in all parts of the country and thanks to these relentless efforts, precious gems and minerals have been unearthed year by year. Coal is one of the minerals found in Myanmar. In the past, there was only 2 coal mining blocks namely Kalaywa coal mine and Nampa coal mine, but now, there are 82 coal mining blocks in the country. Increase in the number of coal mining blocks fulfills the fuel needs of the country.

There were very few antimony and marble mining blocks in the past but now the number of antimony and marble blocks has increased up to 68 each and 18 blocks of fireproof soil, 11 blocks of soft soil and 2 blocks of sandstone has emerged.

Moreover, the number of gypsum blocks has reached 7 from one in the past. The table shows minerals exploited in ores of the country in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

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<th>1988</th>
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<td>367025</td>
<td>327693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Antimony (metric ton)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marble (metric ton)</td>
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<td>Gypsum (metric ton)</td>
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<td>Sandstone (metric ton)</td>
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Vietnam’s electronics export to surge in 2006

HANOI, 11 Jan— Vietnam is expected to earn two billion US dollars from exporting electronics goods this year, up 33.3 per cent against last year, said an industry group official on Tuesday.

“We reaped nearly 1.5 billion dollars from exporting electronics goods, including computers, in 2005. By penetrating deeply into both traditional and new markets, including Japan, some Southeast Asian countries, China, South Korea and France, we can make export turnover of two billion dollars this year,” said Tran Quang Hung, general secretary of the Vietnam Electronic Industries Association.

To gain bigger export revenues and maintain domestic market shares under pressure of regional tariff reduction roadmaps, electronics producers in Vietnam, many of them are making electronics appliances under outsourcing contracts with foreign firms, should increase the added value in their products, which currently stands at only 10-15 per cent, he said.

The producers should either design their own product models, instead of relying on models supplied by the foreign firms, or strengthen production of components and spare parts for export, he said, noting that foreign-involved enterprises in Vietnam are doing that very well. “We’ve proposed the government slash the current import tariffs of 5-20 per cent imposed on electronics components to zero per cent. I think the government will agree with our proposal soon,” Hung said.

China highways to carry 1,855 bln passengers during holiday

BEIJING, 11 Jan— With the Spring Festival, or the traditional Chinese New Year, approaching, China predicted that its highway network will carry a massive 1,855 billion passengers during the upcoming holiday season, up 3 per cent from the same period last year.

China has identified a 40-day period — from January 14 to February 22 — as the peak travel season, while the Spring Festival falls on 29, January. Waterways will transport 28 million passengers, up 1.5 per cent year-on-year, said the Ministry of Communications.

People around China celebrate the Spring Festival as a special occasion for family reunion. For years, the nation’s transportation system has been strained during the season, as millions of migrant workers and other Chinese flock back home and then return to the workplace in just two weeks.

The ministry said the Lunar Spring Festival comes not more than one month after the New Year’s day, a large number of people, including students, migrant workers and other staffers will visit their homes in this short period.

The ministry said about 700,000 vehicles and 20,000 ships are ready to transport passengers.

Excavation brings out vital clues about primitive human beings

RAICHU, 11 Jan— The discovery of a huge stone engraved into the shape of primitive tools has led the archaeologists to believe that Basadera Village of East Singhbhum District in the eastern state of Jharkhand could shed light on important evidence about the transformation of primitive human beings.

“We stumbled upon several axes, scrapers and choppers near a stream, Dharagiri, in Ghatsila block recently and the tools are strikingly similar to the ones found at excavations at Sohan Valley in Jharkhand, where the ‘pliocene’ and ‘holocene’ period fell between 12 million years and 1 million years ago,” said O N Chauhan, PTI.

Explaining the physical features on the engraved boulder that forms the shape of an elephant, Chauhan said the length of the ‘elongated’ trunk is very long and the about four-inch imprint point to a primitive species.

“This unusual figure of an elephant on the stone at Basadera takes one back to a primitive period,” he said.

Describing the tools — ‘bifacial’ and ‘unifacial’ — found at Basadera in the district as ‘mini-polished’ and ‘crude’, Chauhan said his team would explore the site to determine evidence of the life-style of ‘homo sapiens’ (ancient human beings) who roamed on earth after ‘homo erectus’ 1.2 million years ago.
Delegate Groups hold meetings to compile proposals

Yangon, 12 Jan — Delegate Groups of the National Convention — the Delegate Group of Peasants, the Delegate Group of Workers, the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons — held their group meetings at designated hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Delegate Group of Peasants
The Delegate Group of Peasants held its meeting at the hall-4 this morning. U Mya Aye of Yangon Division presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen U Sai Tint Aung of Shan State (North) and U Kan Nyunt Aung of Shan State (South) Special Region-6.

The meeting opened with a speech by meeting chairman U Bo Thein of Shan State (East) explaining the purpose of the meeting. The meeting was presided over by U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division together with members of the panel of chairmen.

Delegate Group of Workers
The Delegate Group of Workers held its meeting at the hall-5. The meeting was opened with an address by meeting chairman U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division together with members of the panel of chairmen.

Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia
The meeting of the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia took place at the hall-6 this morning. President of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences U Tin Hlaing together with members of the panel of chairmen held a discussion.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel
The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel held its meeting at the hall-7. Dr DAW MYAT MYAT Oo of the Ministry of Health presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks.

Aung of Shan State (North) and U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division, Deputy Director U Myint Kyai and Assistant Director Daw Myint Sein of Work Group-6 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as MCs.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks. — MNA

The meeting of delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia in progress. — MNA

The meeting of delegate group of workers in progress. — MNA

The meeting of delegate group of peasants in progress. — MNA

The meeting of group of other invited persons in progress. — MNA

The meeting of delegate group of state service personnel in progress. — MNA

The meeting of group of state service personnel in progress. — MNA

The panel of chairman Secretary of Myanmar History Commission U Tun Aung Chein and U Paw Laik Khamb of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 presided over the meeting.
National Convention Convening...

(From page 1)

He spoke of the need for the commission to study and prepare for seven chapters, namely, election, political parties, provisions on emergency, amendment of the constitution, the State Flag, the emblem, the anthem, and the capital, provisions of transitional periods and miscellaneous provisions.

He said the National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee are to discharge their functions until the National Convention ends and to make arrangements for convenience of the delegates regarding meals, health and accommodation.

Next, members of the commission discussed papers presented by the Work Committee and matters to be submitted to the National Convention Plenary Session.

Chairman of the commission the Secretary-1 took part in the discussions. The meeting ended at 11.30 am. — MNA

The Tatmadaw Government making... (from page 16)

In studying progress of the politics, anarchism objectives and four social objectives were adopted for the emergence of a modern and developed nation in the future.

Successes have been achieved due to these correct policies and objectives of the State. Therefore, national race armed groups that realized genuine goodwill and correct endeavours of the Government, had returned to the legal fold to make peace with the Government for ensuring national reconciliation. The Tatmadaw Government made utmost efforts by step by step for drafting an enduring State Constitution through national unity, and met with respective delegates for several times. Later, six objectives of the National Constitution could be adopted.

With wishes of the entire nation, the National Convention in which delegates representing all strata of the people and national races are attending is being convened in line with six objectives of NC for drafting the enduring State Constitution. So far, 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles have been laid down.

After that, the National Convention was adjourned temporarily.

Despite facing many difficulties, the Government made arrangements for designating 24 special development regions, and development of transport facilities, dams and embankments, education, health and other sectors in external destructive acts was reconvened.

The state has lagged behind in developments due to many issues such as unbalanced and some big nations have come a democratic one. In doing so, the far-flung areas were provided with transport and communication, education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding and supply of electricity facilities.

In accord with the seven-point Road Map, the delegates upholding the Three Main National Causes are unitedly attending the NC so as to enable the nation to become a democratic one.

External destructive acts could be witnessed thanks to concerted efforts of the people and the State. As a result of the national consolidation, border areas and national races development projects have been systematically implemented in the time of the Tatmadaw Government. In addition, to improve the

U Sai Than Tun Lay of Shan State (East) USDA — MNA

occurred due to the 1988 disturbances, and the nation with lack of security reached the situation to lose Independence and sovereignty of the State. At that time, the Tatmadaw Government had returned to the legal fold to make peace with the Government for ensuring national reconciliation. The Tatmadaw Government made utmost efforts by step by step for drafting an enduring State Constitution through national unity, and met with respective delegates for several times. Later, six objectives of the National Constitution could be adopted.

The three races development projects have been systematical efforts for filling rural-urban development inequality gap, by implementing border and rural areas development projects. Kengtung is one of the 24 special development regions. These are genuine goodwill of the State. It is important for the state to cultivate a sense of unity among all national races.

To enable the region to be a developed one, we have to live in unity and amity. In the 21st century, all the world nations are heading for progress. So, all national races of the Union must cultivate a sense of unity and amity for peace and progress. By doing so, the progress can be witnessed. So, we have to support the National Convention that is headed for the progress. We strongly support the National Convention.

Captain Chit Wai (Retd) of Kengtung Township VWO — MNA

In accord with the seven-point Road Map, the delegates upholding the Three Main National Causes are unitedly attending the NC so as to enable the nation to become a democratic one.

Bearing in mind the four-point People’s Desire, we must safeguard the people and the National Convention from being harmed.
In accordance with the wishes of the entire nation, the National Convention in which delegates representing all strata of the people and national races are attending is being convened in line with six objectives of NC for drafting the enduring State Constitution. So far, 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles have been laid down.

At present, internal and external destructive elements that do not want to see progress and achievements in political sector of the nation are plotting to disturb the National Convention by using various ways and means. Therefore, the people are to guard against the danger posed by destructive elements through strength of the people.

Tatmadaw Government making...

(See Page 9)

Afterwards, Daw Nan San Hwam of Kengtung District Women’s Affairs Organization seconded the motion in support of the motion in support of the motion in support of the National Convention. She said that the motion tabled by Shan State East USDA Executive U Sai Than Tun Lay highlighted how important the National Convention is for the nation. But, the destructive elements holding negative views are scheming against the National Convention by all means.

Myanmar has good and friendly relationships with the neighbouring countries including ASEAN nations. The Head of State and officials went to those countries on goodwill visits and Myanmar also warmly welcomed the goodwill visits to the nation. It stands witness to having local security in Myanmar.

Besides, they accused Myanmar of being involved with narcotic drugs, human rights, trafficking in human and money laundering. They are the only one-sided accusations discredit Myanmar having peace and stability.

In 1992, the discussions of the National Convention were held for three times and agreements were achieved in principle. On 10 July 1992, the third discussion was held upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

For building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation which is also the national goal of the State, the basic foundation of the State, the National Convention was successfully launched attended by attendance of national races from all walks of life on 9 January 1993.

In August 2003, the seven objectives of NC for drafting the enduring Constitution of the State. As the first phase, the National Convention held from 1993 to 1996 had been able to adopt 104 basic principles.

Thus, she seconded the motion in support of the National Convention that will formulate the enduring Constitution which is the most appropriate one for the nation guaranteeing the full rights of citizens.

In conclusion, she urged the nationalities including people and Tatmadaw to actively play a role for the success of the National Convention for the future nation.

Next, Daw Na Hka Bo seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. At such a time, the nation is in transition to democracy National Convention which is the first phase of the Seven-Point Road Map is being convened and the NC delegates are discussing the basic principles and the

The panel of chairmen at the mass meeting in support of National Convention held in Kengtung, Shan State (East) chanting slogans. — MNA

Those at the mass meeting in support of the National Convention held in Kengtung, Shan State (East) chanting slogans. — MNA

The Head of State convened the National Convention held in Kengtung, Shan State (East) chanting slogans.

Daw Nan San Hwam of Kengtung District Women’s Affairs Organization seconded the motion in support of the National Convention.

Before convening the National Convention, the government held discussions with representatives-elect of political parties, and independent representatives to be able to convene the National Convention.

The reason why the discussions are being held at the National Convention to lay down the basic principles and the detailed basic principles is for adopting the Constitution essential for the future nation.

In conclusion, she seconded the motion in support of the National Convention that is the lifeblood of the nation and plays an important role in transition to democracy.

Advocate U Sai Kyaw Zan of Ward 1 of Kengtung seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said that in the National Convention, national races and delegates of various strata are holding meetings to adopt detailed basic principles that need in drafting the Constitution. The six objectives of the National Convention are in conformity with the Union of Myanmar.

Over 1,000 delegates who are attending the National Convention came from all the national races and various strata of the people residing in the entire nation.

In laying down detailed basic principles, the delegates are holding discussions freely.

Colonialists made instigation among the national brethren in the colonial eras.

Nowadays, destructive elements are also sowing discord among the national people. Various national races are residing in unity and amity in States and Divisions of the country.

(See page 10)
The successful completion of the NC is the duty of all national races. It is understood that a genuine democracy will flourish in the nation by implementing the State’s seven-point Road Map.

It is important for the State to cultivate a sense of unity among all national races. To enable the region to be a developed one, we have to live in unity and amity. In the 21st century, all the world nations are heading for progress. So, all national races of the Union must cultivate a sense of unity and amity for peace and progress.

New digital photo copier introduced

YANGON, 12 Jan — A ceremony to introduce QSS brand digital photo copier jointly imported by Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and Accel International Co Ltd was held at Traders Hotel today. Managing Director of Accel Int’l Co Ltd Mr Alvin Law extended greetings and Country Sales Manager of Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd Mr Leong made a speech.

Noritsu Business Manager of Accel Int’l Co Ltd U Thitha Zaw explained matters related to QSS brand digital photo copier.

Various kinds of cards can be made with the use of new brand photo copier in a short time. Moreover, the company is selling Noritsu Digital Copier and Noritsu film developer. For more details, facts, contact No 442/426, sixth floor, Forest Joint Venture Commercial Building, Botataung Pagoda Road, Yangon. (Tel: 202092/202096).

Pacific digital color lab on Anawrahta Street, here, is offering service of copying photos to the customers with QSS-3411 machines. MNA

Blazon Department Stores in Yangon and Mandalay hold special sales

YANGON, 12 Jan — As part of sales promotion programmes, Blazon Department Stores in Yangon and Mandalay are holding special sales from 9.30 am to 8.30 pm daily on 7 to 15 January.

Those who wish to purchase quality digital cameras may join the special sales of Blazon. At the department stores, Cannon, Panasonic and Sony brand digital cameras are being sold at special prices. The buyers can win memory card and other gifts.

Yangon Blazon Department Store is located at 72, corner of U Wisara Road and Chindwin Road in Kamayut Township, and a similar store in Mandalay at 462 on 80th Street between 28th and 29th Streets. MNA

International Fair 2006

organized by
Myanmar ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association (MAWFA)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14th January 2006
Piyar Road
Saturday 10 A.M.
The detailed basic principles to be adopted meet the standard of the international principles

(See page 12)
The detailed basic principles to be adopted meet the standard of the international principles

(from page 11)
As the delegate group find the 19 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman complete and comprehensive, it sees them appropriate for the Constitution.

Yangon, 12 Jan—The following is a translation of suggestions of Delegate Group of Peasants submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention by U Saw Lin Aung of Bago Division regarding the detailed basic principles for legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region or State Hluttaws in formulating the State Constitution on 5 January at Nyaungshupin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

In connection with the first session of the two hluttaws, we are in support of the following detailed basic principle:

(a) The first session that gives birth to the tenure of the People’s Hluttaw shall be convened not later than 90 days after the commencement of general elections.

(b) The day the tenure of the National Hluttaw comes into force is the day the tenure of the People’s Hluttaw starts.

The first session of the National Hluttaw shall be launched not later than seven days after the start of the tenure of that Hluttaw.

The delegate group of peasants support the detailed basic principles concerning the convening of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw by the State Peace and Development Council and the Speaker and the taking of the oath by the hluttaw members.

The delegate group is in support of the explanation made by the Work Committee Chairman in connection with the fixing of time limit for intervals which says, “(a) The National Hluttaw shall call regular session of the People’s Hluttaw at least once a year. The interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months” and “(b) The Speaker of the National Hluttaw shall call regular session of the National Hluttaw at least once a year. The interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months”. We also find that Work Committee Chairman’s clarification concerning the para 5, para 6, para 7 and para 8 should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

As regards the vacant seats, we would like to adopt the detailed basic principle “(a) The People’s Hluttaw has the power to act despite some vacancies in the membership. Furthermore, any functions in the Hluttaw shall be valid notwithstanding that it is exposed subsequently that an entitled person attended a session, voted, or took part in the functions” and “(b) The National Hluttaw has the power to act despite some vacancies in the membership. Furthermore, any functions in the Hluttaw shall be valid notwithstanding that it is exposed subsequently that an entitled person attended a session, voted, or took part in the functions”.

The clarification of the Work Committee Chairman on reports of the functions of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw as in support of adopting the detailed basic principle “(a) The activities and records of the People’s Hluttaw shall be released for the knowledge of the people. However, the activities and records that shall be restricted under an act or the order of the People’s Hluttaw shall not be released” and “(b) The activities and records of the National Hluttaw shall be released for the knowledge of the people. However, the activities and records that shall be restricted under an act or the order of the People’s Hluttaw shall not be released”.

As regards the case in which a hluttaw member should be arrested, we are in support of the following detailed basic principle:

(a) (1) If it is needed to arrest a member of the People’s Hluttaw who is attending a session of the People’s Hluttaw or a person who is attending that session under the permission of the Speaker, reliable evidences shall be submitted to the Speaker of the People’s Hluttaw. No such arrest shall be made without prior approval of the Speaker of the People’s Hluttaw or a person who is attending that session under the permission of the Speaker, reliable evidences shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Hluttaw.

(2) If it is needed to arrest a member of a committee, commission, or body of the National Hluttaw who is attending a session of the commission or body formed by the National Hluttaw, reliable evidences shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Hluttaw.

(3) If a member of the National Hluttaw is arrested when the National Hluttaw or the committee of the National Hluttaw or the commission and body formed by the National Hluttaw are in session, reliable evidences shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Hluttaw.

All the delegates of the group after making discussions have agreed all the 28 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 19 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and 23 detailed basic principles for legislation of Region and State Hluttaws of the National Hluttaw or a person who is attending that session under the permission of the Speaker, reliable evidences shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Hluttaw. No such arrest shall be made without prior approval of the Speaker of the National Hluttaw.

As we have come to understand the Work Committee Chairman’s clarification on the presentation of the bill, we agree that the detailed basic principle “(a) Except the matters prescribed in the constitution that must be submitted to and judged only at the Union Hluttaw, with respect to the remaining matters prescribed in the Union Legislative List, bills should be submitted initially to the People’s Hluttaw” and “(b) Except the matters prescribed in the constitution that must be submitted to and judged only at the Union Hluttaw, with respect to the remaining matters prescribed in the Union Legislative List, bills should be submitted initially to the National Hluttaw” should be adopted.

We are in support of the para 12 concerning the releasing of bylaws and rules and regulations, para 13 in connection of the submission of the bills to the two hluttaws, para 14 for the rights of the two hluttaws, para 15 concerning the rights of the representatives of Union level organizations, and para 16 on the powers and functions of the Speaker that were explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

As regards the general elections, we are in support of the following detailed basic principles:

(a) The general elections shall be launched not later than seven days after the commencement of the tenure of the Hluttaws.

As the delegate group find the 19 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman complete and comprehensive, it sees them appropriate for the Constitution and the group has no further suggestions.

U Saw Lin Aung of Bago Division, Mandalay Division, will present the remaining part of the suggestions.
All the delegates of the group after making discussions have agreed all the 28 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 19 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and 23 detailed basic principles for legislation of Region and State Hluttaws

(From page 13)

Concerning the maximum time limit between the two hluttaw session, the detailed basic principle “The Speaker of the region or state Hluttaw shall call the regular session of the region or state Hluttaw at least once a year. The interval between two regular sessions shall not exceed 12 months” should be adopted. Moreover we find the points stated in the para 5 appropriate.

As regards the emergency session and special session, the detailed basic principle “(a) Speakers of respective region or state Hluttaws shall have the right to call a special or emergency meeting of region or state Hluttaws “(b) Speaker of respective region or state Hluttaw shall call a special or emergency meeting of region or state as soon as possible in the directive of the Prime Minister for region or state” and “(c) Speakers of respective region or state Hluttaws shall call a special meeting of region or state as soon as possible if at least one-fourths of the members of region or state Hluttaw call for a meeting of region or state Hluttaw” should be adopted.

In connection with the validity of the sessions, we would like to adopt the detailed basic principle “(a) The first day meeting of the region or state Hluttaw shall be considered to be valid if more than half the number of members who have the right to attend the sessions of the region or state Hluttaws, are present. If the meeting is not valid it shall be postponed and “(b) The postponed meetings and the valid meetings, that are extended, shall be considered to be valid if at least one-thirds of the members, who have the right to attend a meeting of region or state Hluttaws, are present.”

Concerning the voting, the delegate group is in support of the detailed basic principle “(a) Save as otherwise provided by this Constitution, a matter that should be decided through voting in the region or state Hluttaw shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting” and “(b) The Speaker of the region or state Hluttaw or the Deputy Speaker discharging duties as the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker shall not vote in the first instance in the sessions of the region or state Hluttaw, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the matters of an equality of votes.”

As for the maximum days permitted for absence without leave, the detailed basic principle “The region or state Hluttaw may declare the seat of the region or state Hluttaw member vacant in accord with the rules prescribed if he is absent, without asking the region or state Hluttaw for leave, from a session of the region or state Hluttaw for at least 15 days successively. In computing the absent 15 days from a session of the region or state Hluttaw, the postponed period of the session shall not be included” is appropriate. We are also in support of the detailed basic principle “A region or state Hluttaw shall have the power to act despite some vacancies in the membership. Any vacancies shall be filled by the rules prescribed” and “(c) It is exposed subsequentially that an unattended person attended a session, voted, or took part in the functions”.

The delegate group agree that the detailed basic principles “The activities and records of the region and state Hluttaws shall be released for the knowledge of the people. However, the activities, and records that shall be restricted under an act or the order of the region and state Hluttaws shall not be released” and “Region and state Hluttaws have the right to make laws that cover entire or part of the region or state Hluttaws” should be adopted. Concerning the matters that need approval of the Region or State Hluttaw, we are in favour of adopting the following detailed basic principle:

(a) matters that calls for decisions and approval of region or state Hluttaw shall be:
   (1) at the request of the Speaker of region or state Hluttaw is in session
   (2) at the nearest session if region or state Hluttaw is not in session
   (3) at a special or emergency meeting in the interests of the people if they need to be tackled urgently.

Concerning the detailed basic principle “(a) Region and state level bodies formed under the Constitution shall, of the matters stated in the Region and State Legislative Law, submit bills on the matters solely administered by region or state government, to region or state Hluttaw in accord with the procedures prescribed” and “(b) Regional plans, annual budget and any matters that region or state Hluttaw have the right to solely submit, shall be presented to region or state Hluttaw in accord with the procedures prescribed” should be adopted. The group support the principal para 17 as explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

We are in favour of adopting the detailed basic principles concerning the chief minister which states as follows:

(a) region or state chief minister shall—
   (1) sign and declare the bills approved by region or state Hluttaw, within seven days from the date of reception.
   (2) The bills approved by self-administered divisions or self-administered regions shall be declared as a law within 14 days from the date of reception.

(b) even though chief minister fails to ratify the bills in a fixed period, the bills shall be a law on the date after the expiry of the period as if prime minister ratified the bills

(c) The laws ratified by prime minister or state prime minister and the laws that are to be assumed as ratified by region or state prime minister shall be declared in the State Gazette. This law is attached with no separate statements, it shall be come into force commencing from the date of declaration.

We also find the paras 19, 20, 21 and 22 suitable for the Constitution. As regards the publications, we are in support of adopting the detailed basic principle “The reports, papers and hluttaw records pertaining to the Region or State Hluttaw or under its authority shall be privileged.”

All the delegates of the group after making discussions have agreed all the 28 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 19 detailed basic principles for legislation of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and 23 detailed basic principles for legislation of Region and State Hluttaws, and we have no further suggestions of the matter.—MNA

Roma, Milan reach Italian Cup quarterfinals

Room, 12 Jan — AS Roma set up an Italian Cup quarterfinal against Juventus when they beat Third Division Napoli 2-1 aggregate win.

They were joined in the last eight by AC Milan, who won 4-3 at Brescia for a 7- aggregate win, while Udinese and Sampdoria edged through against Atalanta and Cagliari respectively.

Juventus crushed Fiorentina 4-1 in the second leg of their two-legged tie for 4-3 aggregate victory on Tuesday.

The match in Rome was played behind closed doors in an empty Olympic Stadium following trouble between rival fans during Roma’s 3-0 win in the first leg in Naples in December.

Even so, second-string Roma side had little trouble mastering twice Italian champions. Napoli, Alberto Aquilani gave them the lead in the 39th minute on home from close range after a scuffed clearance.

Brazilian winger Mancini, who was making his first competitive appearance since a two-month injury layoff, grabbed their second goal just before the interval.

Nicolas Amoroso got a consolation goal for Napoli in second-half stoppage time.

In Brescia, Milan played in an end-starts, going two up in the opening half hour through Clarence Seedorf and Filippo Inzaghi before Simone Del Nero struck back for Brescia just before halftime.

Rui Costa restored Milan’s two-goal cushion in the 60th minute, curling the ball round the keeper at the end of a fine solo run.

A Luigi Di Biagio penalty, after visiting keeper Zeljko Kalinic foiled Marios Stankevicius, and a Mark Hamsky strike looked to have earned Brescia a draw on the night.

But Federico Agliardi brought down Inzaghi in the area two minutes from time allowing Rui Costa to dispatch Milan’s winner from the penalty spot.

Sampordia’s game against Cagliari was the most dramatic.

In Zams level at 1-1 after the first leg, in Italian Cup, Francesco Flachi’s 33rd minute goal seemed to have put Sampordia on their way to the quarterfinals until the fourth minute of stoppage time when Massimo Gobbi headed an equalizer.

MNA/Reuters

Pedersen keeps Blackburn’s Cup final bid alive

LONDON, Jan — Norwegian Morten Gamst Pedersen hit a blistering equalizer to secure Blackburn Rovers a 1-1 draw with Manchester United in a fiery League Cup semifinal, first-leg clash on Wednesday.

Pedersen, who scored twice at Old Trafford earlier in the season when Rovers won 2-1 in a surprise league victory, quickly cancelled out Louis Saha’s 30th-minute goal from the penalty spot. A shaky United then allowed Blackburn to grab a second when Portuguese forward Rui Costa restored Morten and we could have had a couple more as well.”

United manager Alex Ferguson, chastened by the inept display from his second-string side in the humilitating 0-1FA Cup draw by minor league Burton on 22 detailed bills on the legislation of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region and State Hluttaws, and we have no further suggestions of the matter.—MNA

MNA/Reuters

Weary Corinthians wilt in first Paulista clash

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Jan — Corinthians slumped to a 1-0 defeat by Noroeste in the opening match of the Sao Paulo state championship on Wednesday barely six weeks after lifting the Brazilian title.

Corinthians’ weary, willing players were outflanked in the midst of a warm afternoon in the Sao Paulo bittersweet town of Bauru.

Noroeste’s Luciano Santos scored the only goal after 38 minutes, finding the top corner with a long-range shot. — MNA/Reuters

Lyons’ forward Sidney Govou, left, and Jerome Boateng of Marseille challenge for the ball during their French League one soccer game in Lyon, central France, on 11 Jan. 2006. — INSET

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“It was a good cup tie, ball round the keeper at the end of a fine solo run. A Luigi Di Biagio penalty, after visiting keeper Zeljko Kalinic foiled Marios Stankevicius, and a Mark Hamsky strike looked to have earned Brescia a draw on the night.

But Federico Agliardi brought down Inzaghi in the area two minutes from time allowing Rui Costa to dispatch Milan’s winner from the penalty spot.

Sampordia’s game against Cagliari was the most dramatic.

In Zams level at 1-1 after the first leg, in Italian Cup, Francesco Flachi’s 33rd minute goal seemed to have put Sampordia on their way to the quarterfinals until the fourth minute of stoppage time when Massimo Gobbi headed an equalizer.

MNA/Reuters

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Chinese experts find ways to cure adult weak sight

HEFEI, 11 Jan — Chinese experts cooperated with his US peers and developed a possible way to cure adult weak sight, with their thesis published in the latest authoritative magazine of Vision Studies.

The scientific outcome was jointly made by Professor Zhou Yifeng and his colleagues from University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and Professor Lu Zhonglin from American South California University.

Zhou and Lu chose 23 patients at an average age of 19.3 and divided them into three groups. Zhou said weak sight is merely one function of people’s visual system, the researchers found the eyesight of the patients were improved by 70 per cent after the tests. Zhou said weak sight was relevant to abnormal visual experience in early growth, such as strabismus.

The vision system has been considered having no or weak plasticity in the key growth period for a long time.

MNA/Xinhua
Despite facing many difficulties, the Government made arrangements for designating 24 special development regions, and development of transport facilities, dams and embankments, education, health and other sectors in accord with the policy on cent per cent equitable development of all parts of the Union without losing sight of the emergence of a democratic nation that the entire people long for.

Prime Minister congratulates Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE

YANGON, 12 Jan—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, on his assumption of duties as Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. —MNA

Tatmadaw Government making utmost efforts setp by step for drafting an enduring State Constitution through national unity

Mass meeting in support of National Convention held in Kengtung, Shan State (East)

YANGON, 12 Jan — A mass meeting in support of the National Convention organized by Shan State (East) Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at Myoma Sports Grounds in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 10 January morning.

It was attended by members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, nurses, teachers, social organizations and local people of Kengtung, Mongphyat, Monghsat, Tachilek, Mongkhat, Mongyang, Mongyawng, Mongpyin, Mongtung and Metmang Townships, totalling over 11,600. Townselder U Sai Yi Tip Pa Won presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen Additional Shan State Education Officer U Than Nyunt, Lahu national U Kha Ba She, Akha national U Ya Htu, entrepreneur U Sai La and MPF Officer (Retd) U Than Lwin Oo.

Kengtung District USDA Executive Daw Nan Hwam Kham and Kengtung Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Wo Kham acted as MCs.

First, all the participants saluted the State Flag. Speaking on the occasion, meeting chairman U Sai Yi Tip Pa Won said that now, the National Convention is being convened successfully at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township. Delegates representing the people of Shan State (East) are attending the National Convention. (See page 8)

Those attending the mass meeting in support of National Convention in Shan State (East). —MNA

Only when the first step of the seven-point Road Map as well as the first pace of the future State meets success, will all the people reach the goal called a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.