Four political objectives
* Stability of the state, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring state constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accordance 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

Plenary Session of the National Convention continues
Delegates of political parties submit suggestions on detailed basic principles for the chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the State Constitution

Yangon, 24 Jan — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

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

Presentations at NC to be published

Yangon, 24 Jan — Presentations made today at the National Convention by U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions of the National Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Office of Civil Service Selection and Training (See Page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**People's Desire**

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

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**Minister inspects Kyatmauktaung Dam**

**YANGON, 24 Jan—Extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and summer paddy is to be undertaken at the most possible degree, making better use of irrigated water, said Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo in his meeting with officials and local people at Kyatmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadauang Township, Mandalay Division on 20 January.**

Next, the minister and party inspected flowing of water into Kyatmauktaung Dam and gave instructions to officials concerned. In his inspection of retaining wall-5 and progress of the channel, the minister heard a report presented by Director of Construction Group-7 of the Irrigation Department on storage of water and construction of the channel.

After that, the minister inspected water storage of Kyauktiga Dam in Natmauk Township, main embankment and Pinchaung canal.

Later, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected water storage of Kyatmauktaung Dam, where the Assistant Director of ID reported on water supply for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. On 21 January evening, the minister looked into the cotton plantation of farmer U Soe Maung in Tawma Village, Meiktila Township, where officials reported on cultivation of cotton in the township.

The minister gave instructions on extended cultivation of long staple cotton, and inspected sample of long staple cotton and heard a report presented by officials.

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**Transport Minister inspects extension of Yangon International Airport**

**YANGON, 23 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected extension of Yangon International Airport on 21 January. At the briefing hall, Director of Asia World Co Ltd U Kye explained measures on construction of the extension project.**

Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department for Civil Aviation gave a supplementary report to the minister. The minister oversaw undertakings earth works, fuel tank, farm and fuel hydrant.

On arrival at the briefing hall of extension of runway project, the minister heard reports on the extension tasks of runway, attended to the needs and left there.—MNA

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**ICT Week from 28 Jan to 3 Feb**

**YANGON, 24 Jan—Myanmar ICT Week will be held from 28 January to 3 February at Myanmar InfoTech in Hlone Township, here. Workshops, talks, programming and web development contests will be held and introduction of new ICT equipment and talks on services will be also be made.**

Those who wish to participate in the Programming and Web Development contests may dial phone number 652276 of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association at Building-4, Room-4 of Myanmar InfoTech not later than 28 January and those who wish to introduce ICT equipment or hold talks on service may contact phone number 652272-74 not later than 27 January. —MNA

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**International Trade Course opened**

**YANGON, 24 Jan—Organized by the Education Work Committee of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Batch-4 of the International Trade Course (Program-3) was opened this afternoon at the UMFFCCI training centre here. Present on the occasion were Adviser Dr Htin Kyaw of UMFFCCI, Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin, CEC members, members of the Education Work Committee, instructors and trainees.**

Altogether 50 trainees are attending the course which will be conducted from 24 January to 7 February. —MNA

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**Merit-sharing ceremony of the Nagayon Buddha image on 28 January**

**YANGON, 24 Jan—The collective merit-sharing ceremony of the Nagayon Buddha image kept at Historic Maha Dhammaranthi Pagoda on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township will be held at Yadana Beikmandaw on 28 January morning.**

The Pagoda Board of Trustees has extended invitation to well-wishers to attend the ceremony. —MNA

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Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects cotton plantation in Meiktila Township.

A & I

Minister inspects Kyatmauktaung Dam in Meiktila Township, where the Assistant Director of ID reported on water supply for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. On 21 January evening, the minister looked into the cotton plantation of farmer U Soe Maung in Tawma Village, Meiktila Township, where officials reported on cultivation of cotton in the township.

The minister gave instructions on extended cultivation of long staple cotton, and inspected sample of long staple cotton and heard a report presented by officials.

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ICT Week from 28 Jan to 3 Feb

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects cotton plantation in Meiktila Township.

A & I

Transport Minister inspects extension of Yangon International Airport

Minister inspects Kyatmauktaung Dam

International Trade Course opened

Merit-sharing ceremony of the Nagayon Buddha image on 28 January

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**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 25 January, 2006

Strive for success of the Road Map and the National Convention

The Union of Myanmar is a land where more than 100 national races have been living together for ages. It is not that each and every national group live in their own region but that there are various national groups living in each and every region. No matter which part of the Union they live in, there is always national unity and Union Spirit among the national races.

Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Prime Minister General Soe Win hosted a dinner in honour of the trainees of No 37 Course (BED) of the University for Development of National Races at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on 23 January. In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister General Soe Win called on the trainees to foster the spirit to live in unity, peace and stability, equality and progress and patriotism and Union Spirit, and to actively lend themselves to the task of successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention.

The purpose of the University for Development of National Races is to train the youths from far-flung border areas in order that they will become highly-educated human resources who can effectively serve the best interests of the Union and the people. Now is the time when the government is shaping the nation into a discipline-flourishing democracy and, in doing so, priority has been given to peace and stability, human resources and economic development. To enable each and every citizen to pursue higher education, colleges and universities including the University for Development of National Races have been opened the length and breadth of the Union. As a result, intellectuals and intelligentsia are emerging in each and every region.

Products of the University for Development of National Races are responsible not only for imparting knowledge to but also for education of youths so that they will become all-rounders who are patriotic and physically and mentally healthy.

The government is now holding the National Convention for the emergence of an enduring constitution and basic principles to be drafted into the constitution are being thoroughly discussed. At such a time like this, we would like to call on the products of the University for Development of National Races to do their bit to make the seven-point Road Map and the National Convention a complete success.

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 25 January, 2006**
Anibal Cavaco Silva elected Portugal's new President

LISBON, 23 Jan—Anibal Cavaco Silva, a former prime minister, won Portugal's presidential election on Sunday.

Cavaco Silva became director of research at the Bank of Lisbon in 1977, then Planning and Finance Minister from 1980 to 1981. He served as the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1985 to 1995, after which he competed in the presidential campaign of 1996, to be defeated by incumbent President Jorge Sampaio.

Cavaco Silva's promises to help solve an economic crisis, revive the stagnant economy and cut unemployment rate which is at an 18-year high, have helped him maintain a strong lead in opinion polls over recent months.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Two W Virginia miners killed in fire

CHARLESTON (West Virginia), 23 Jan — Two miners trapped in a West Virginia coal mine that had caught fire were found dead on Saturday, and officials, angered also by 12 other mine deaths this month, vowed to make the industry safer.

“We found the two miners that we were looking for the past 40-some hours. Unfortunately, we don’t have a positive outcome,” said Doug Conaway, West Virginia’s mine safety chief.

“We did find the two miners near the fire area that was on the (conveyor) belt line,” he said. “It appears right now that the two miners were trying to make a valiant effort. They were together trying to get outside and they encountered pretty high temperatures and high (carbon monoxide) levels.”

The accident was the second this month at an Appalachian mountain coal mine to claim workers’ lives. Three weeks ago, 12 men perished at the Sago Mine near Tallmansville in central West Virginia.

Government officials, still seething over the Sago tragedy that is now under investigation, pledged on Saturday to tighten rules that protect workers toiling in vast coal mines sometimes 1,000 feet underground.

**MNA/Xinhua**

CIA runs detention centre in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Jan — The United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been running a detention centre near the Afghan capital of Kabul, an Afghan newspaper reported on Sunday.

“Detainees at Guantanamo Bay prison revealed that they had been kept and interrogated by CIA officials at prison near Kabul,” daily Chorgah quoted the New York-based Human Rights Watch as reporting.

Based on eight detainees admission who were kept at the US detention centre near Kabul between 2003 and 2004, the Watchdog reported that Afghan and American warders were not dressed in military uniform but in plain clothes, which indicates the jail is run by the CIA.

“The warders applied maltreatment to the detainees and almost all eight detainees who spent time in the prison told the same thing,” the daily added, quoting the rights watchdog.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Freeway pileup kills six, injures 32 in south China

GUANGZHOU, 23 Jan — A freeway pileup killed six people, injured 32 and left one missing in south China’s Guangdong Province on Saturday afternoon, said local traffic police. A truck running northward on the Beijing-Zhuhai Freeway bumped into the rear of a bus near Rouyuan County, resulting in a pileup of 11 other buses, at about 2:00 pm. Five people died on the spot, another one died in hospital. Doctors said two of the 32 injured are in serious condition.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Plane carrying eight crashes in western Canada

OTTAWA, 23 Jan — A single-engine Cessna plane carrying eight passengers, including a baby, crashed on Saturday in the wilderness on Vancouver Island in Canada’s western province of British Columbia.

The plane went down about 10 kilometres south of the airport in Port Alberni, about 140 kilometres north of Victoria along the island’s east coast, Canadian Broadcasting Cooperation (CBC) reported.

Authorities have not yet said whether there were any casualties in the crash, which occurred on Saturday afternoon local time near Port Alberni.

The single-engine Cessna was flying from Tofino on the west coast of the island to Vancouver.

The pilot requested an emergency landing in Port Alberni before the crash. Emergency crews reached the scene by helicopter.

**MNA/Xinhua**

Malaysia seeks for role in India’s highway construction

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Jan — Malaysia is offering a solution package to India to help the South Asian country build its major expressways, local media said on Saturday.

Malaysian Works Minister Samy Vellu Friday made the offer to Indian contractors and government officials.

The package includes highway network planning, construction, and management services.

Malaysia’s intention was only to complement the activities of the National Highway Authority of India, Samy Vellu said. — **MNA/Xinhua**

US troops kill three Iraqi soldiers north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan — US troops opened fire at civilian cars on Saturday night in Baiji Town, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing three people, who turned out to be US-trained Iraqi Army soldiers, a source from the Iraqi-US liaison office in Tikrit told Xinhua on Sunday.

“The Multinational force opened fire last night at four civilian cars travelling on the main road between Tikrit and Baiji, setting fire to all the cars,” the source from the Joint Coordination Centre in Tikrit said.

The US shoot-out killed three people and wounded four others and the US soldiers detained six other people, who turned out to be Iraqi soldiers travelling to their base in Samarra in the south of the country, the source said. He said the Iraqi soldiers’ cars were surprised by a US military convoy travelling wrongly on their side of the two-side road and opened fire.

**MNA/Reuters**

Iraqi soldiers stand near the wreckage of a police vehicle after a suicide bomb attack outside the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on 23 Jan, 2006. — **INTERNET**

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 25 January, 2006 3**
Italy wants CIA agents questioned over Milan kidnap

ROME, 23 Jan—Italy has asked the United States to assist its prosecutors investigating 22 CIA agents accused of kidnapping a Muslim cleric in Milan, officials said on Sunday.

Justice Minister Roberto Castelli approved a request by Milan prosecutors for international court assistance, or a "rogatory", a spokeswoman said, which could allow prosecutors to travel to the United States to question suspects and witnesses. Milan prosecutor Armando Spataro told Reuters Castelli's backing means the request now heads to the United States.

"(We) await the response from US authorities over the request to question all of those under investigation," said Spataro, who is heading the case. The US Embassy in Rome could not be immediately reached for comment.

Milan magistrates say a CIA team snatched Muslim cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr off a Milan street in 2003 and flew him for interrogation in Egypt, where he said he was tortured. Nasr is still believed to be in Egyptian custody. Italian investigators have accused Nasr of ties to al-Qaeda and recruiting combatants for Iraq. A Milan judge has issued a warrant for his arrest.

In November, prosecutors also requested Castelli seek the US agents' extradition, a more politically hostile move given the government's close ties to US President George W Bush. Prosecutors particularly wanted to speak with retired Milan CIA station chief Robert Seldon Lady, the main suspect in the probe. He is believed to be living in the United States.

MNA/Reuters

US troops death toll rises to 2,231

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—As of Monday, 23 Jan, 2006, at least 2,231 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 1,751 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include six military civilians.

The AP count is six lower than the Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 am EST.

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, 2,092 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,637 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. — Internet

Famous Chinese brands choose airlines company for first time

BEIJING, 23 Jan—The Hainan Airlines was chosen as the first airlines company on the list of "Famous Chinese brands". The carrier's logo is a flying bird in Chinese legend, signifying Hainan Airlines' huge potential. "We pay attention to company's service and record to build it as a first class airline company," said Zhao Zhongying, executive president of the company.

Experts regarded the Hainan Airlines as a new emerging company right after Air China, China Eastern and China Southern Airlines, due to its flexible operation mechanism and less governmental background.

It was the 7th year that the Hainan Airlines company won the "Customer Satisfaction Award". Established in 1993, the Hainan Airlines now consisted of airports, hotels and three airline companies.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey concedes on death of Kosovo's President

ANKARA, 23 Jan—Turkey on Sunday expressed sorrow over the death of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian President Ibrahim Rugova who died of lung cancer on Saturday at the age of 61.

Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Turkish people shared the grief of the Kosovo people over the loss of Rugova.

The statement also said that Turkey expected the upcoming talks on Kosovo's future status to reach a solution that would be accepted by Kosovo people.

The statement pointed out that the conclusion of negotiations on the status of Kosovo successfully carried great importance for the future of Kosovo and the peace and stability of South European region. Rugova had been leading a nonviolent struggle for independence from Serbia since the early 1990s. — MNA/Xinhua

At least three killed, many trapped as building collapses in Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 Jan—At least three people, including a day-old baby, died while many others still trapped after a three-storey building collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos, police said on Sunday.

Some Nigerian newspapers however put the death toll at at least five with the baby, his parents, his grandmother and a relative who had come to rejoice with his birth killed as the building came down in Amukoko, a suburb of Lagos on Friday morning.

"It was a building under construction. Three people were trapped and we tried to rescue them, (but) they are dead. That's what happened," Lagos police spokesman Bode Oajuminya told Xinhua by telephone.

"I think there are still many others wounded or whatever. There are a number of people still there. Actually we cannot say what the exact cause is. There is an investigation," he said, adding the owner of the building was wanted by the police.

The newspapers reported that the building showed signs of weakness last November when the owner started the construction of another floor although the project was once stopped by local council. — MNA/Xinhua

140 Poles frozen to death

WARSAW, 23 Jan—At least 140 Poles have frozen to death so far this winter which has seen temperatures plunging to nearly minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), police said on Sunday.

"We know of 17 new deaths over the past two days alone which should be added to the previous toll of 123," police spokesman Krzysztof Hadas told Reuters by telephone.

"The weekend is not over. Severe temperatures are again forecast for Sunday night and early Monday morning," he added.

Homeless people seeking shelter in unheated or makeshift premises and inebriated individuals account for the majority of victims. — MNA/Reuters

Ethiopia orders British reporter to leave country

ADDIS ABABA, 23 Jan—Ethiopia has ordered a British journalist to leave the country within 24 hours, accusing him of portraying it in a bad light, state television said on Saturday.

Anthony Mitchell, who worked for the Associated Press, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told to leave.

"Anthony Mitchell has been asked to leave the country in the next 24 hours because of disseminating information tarnishing the image of the country despite repeated advice not to do so," the television said.

Associated Press Managing Editor Mike Silverman said the news agency was aware of the order and was seeking clarification. "We stand by our reporter and we hope he will be able to remain in the country," he said in a statement.

Western diplomats were making efforts to dissuade the government from expelling Mitchell, diplomatic sources said.

Ethiopian television did not elaborate on the reasons for ordering him out of the country.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese enjoy themselves in a boat in Qinhuaihe River in Nanjing, China's Jiangsu Province, on 23 Jan, 2006. — Internet

An Iraqi soldier unloads an artillery shell from a vehicle inside an Army headquarters in Baquba, about 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 23 Jan, 2006. — Internet
NUP finds detailed basic principles for Citizenship, Rights and Duties of Citizens and Role of Tatmadaw within framework of 104 basic principles

YANGON, 24 Jan — The following is a translation of the paper presented by U Tun Yi of National Unity Party concerning the chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and the chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw”.

The Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee on 10 January 2006 explained the chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens comprising 48 points and the chapter “the Role of the Tatmadaw” comprising 14 points.

First, I will present my paper concerning the chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens. Now, I will discuss the following points:

All persons who have either one of the following requirements are citizens of the Union of Myanmar:

(a) All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals of the Union of Myanmar
(b) Persons who are vested with citizenship according to existing laws on the date this Constitution comes into force

The chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens is included in constitutions of most of the nations and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 constitution of Myanmar. The National Convention has already adopted the detailed basic principles concerning citizenship and naturalization which the Work Committee presented after making studies thoroughly. The adopted basic principles are appropriate to be laid down as basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens.

We have no further suggestions for the point “Citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be prescribed by the law.”

The Work Committee presented the six adopted basic principles in the paras 3 to 8 regarding the equality among the citizens. In our view, the following points are appropriate to be adopted by the constitution:

1. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.
2. The State shall not discriminate against or be in favour of any citizen based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth.
3. Citizens shall enjoy equal rights in the following spheres:
   (a) Civil service
   (b) Occupation
   (c) Trade
   (d) Business
   (e) Technical know-how and vocation
   (f) Exploration of science & technology
4. Women shall be entitled to the same rights and legal protection.
5. There shall be liberty in the exercise of the right of free association, peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and union.
6. Every citizen shall have the right to freely operate any business activity in accord with the law for the national economic development.
7. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.
8. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.

As the paras 23, 24 and 25 concerns the protection, development and cherishing of literature, culture, arts, customs and traditions and development education and human resources in this knowledge age, they should be adopted.

In the multiparty system, elections will be held for Hluttaw at different levels, and the citizens will have the right to be elected and recall a Hluttaw member. Thus the points “Subject to this Constitution and relevant laws, every citizen shall have the right to elect and be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw” and “Respective electorates shall have the right to recall a Hluttaw member in accord with the law” should be adopted.

The citizens will have to run businesses in accord with the changing and advancing global conditions, and the State will have to render necessary assistance and protection. Thus, the following praras are appropriate to be adopted:

1. Every citizen shall have the right to freely operate any business activity in accord with the law for the national economic development.
2. The State shall help national businessmen to access to technologies, investments, machinery, and raw materials.
3. Subject to provisions of this Constitution or existing laws, the State guarantees the right of ownership of property, using of assets and initiation and copyright in operating business activities. Moreover, he shall not be subject to a penalty greater than that is applicable.

In our view the operation of agricultural undertakings with the assistance of the government is also inclusive in the paras.

In connection with the criminal law, the following points should be adopted:

1. An accused shall be convicted of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offence, nor shall he be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable.
2. Except the matter for which a higher court revokes a judgement and orders to rehear the case regarding the judgement in which the court concerned convicted or acquitted an accused of the crime, any cases shall not be reheard.
3. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge.
4. No citizen shall except matters on precautionary measures taken for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, and community peace and tranquility in accord with the law in the interest of the people, or the matters permitted according to an existing law, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial organ.

The points concerning the right to apply to the Supreme Court of the Union, the right and conditions to issue writs, and the right of every citizen, at home or abroad, dealing with foreign countries to seek protection of the State firmly guarantees the rights of citizens. They are suitable to be adopted. Moreover, the point “If some of the rights prescribed in this chapter that concern members of the defence forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order so as to ensure fulfilment of their duties and the maintenance of discipline are needed to be restricted or abrogated, they shall be done so only through enactment of necessary law” shall also be adopted.

According to the new constitution, citizens will have the right as well as responsibilities. The following responsibilities of the citizens explained by the Work Committee Chairman are suitable to be adopted.

1. Every citizen is responsible to uphold:
   (a) Non-disintegration of the Union
   (b) Non-disintegration of national solidarity
   (c) Perpetuation of sovereignty
2. Every citizen is responsible to abide by the provisions of the Constitution.
3. Every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of the Union of Myanmar.
4. Every citizen, charged with Union Spirit, is responsible to enhance unity among national races and to ensure community peace and stability.
5. Every citizen is responsible to build a modern developed nation.

(See page 6)
NUP finds detailed basic principles for...

6. Every citizen is responsible to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State.

7. Every citizen is responsible to pay taxes to be levied according to the law. Moreover, concerning the expression “The State”, which says “In this Chapter “The State” means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution” is appropriate. We find the clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the rights and responsibilities of the citizen are appropriate.

Now, I will present our suggestions on the Role of the Tatmadaw. The National Convention has laid down 14 detailed basic principles concerning the chapter, and it stated “Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens”. And the 1974 Constitution consisted of 16 headings or chapters and it stated “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens”. The Constitution we are drawing consists of 15 headings of chapters, and a decision was made on 7 April 1993 to use “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens”. The preamble of the 1947 Constitution says “We the people of Burma including the Frontier Areas and the Karenni States, determined to establish in strength and unity a sovereign independent State, to maintain social order on the basis of the eternal principles of justice, liberty and equality and to guarantee and secure to all citizens justice social economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action; equality of status, of opportunity and before the law in our constituent assembly”.

We also found that the preamble of the 1948 Constitution says “We, the working people, firmly resolved that we shall build a socialist economic system by the Burmese Way to Socialism, for the country to be peaceful and prosperous, opposing all pernicious systems characterized by exploitation of man by man, and of one national race by another, with a view to promoting justice and goodwill among the people, and to freeing them from apathy and callousness, ignorance, backwardness and want of opportunity; build a socialist democratic social order which will afford an opportunity to the people to shape their own destiny, by the Burmese Way to Socialism; live forever in harmony, unity and social equality sharing joys and sorrows through weal and woe in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma; efficiently perform all duties and fulfill all obligations in the interest of the State and for the cause of Socialism while enjoying the democratic rights and personal rights and freedom bestowed by this Constitution; constantly strive to promote international peace and friendly relations among the nations.

Citizenship means the one who is loyal to the State, conscientiously discharges duties assigned by the State, and has the right of residence assigned by the State. Fundamental rights of citizens is the inborn right. It will be virtually impossible to exist as human if each and every citizen has no fundamental rights. The Union of Myanmar is a member of the United Nations, and it participated in the drawing of rules and regulations of UN Charter and the

The principles No 1 to 14 for Role of Tatmadaw the Work Committee discussed should be adopted
The principles No 1 to 14 for the Role...

industry, one principle for profession, two principles for maternal and child and elderly persons, one principle for religion, seven principles for economy, three principles for land, waters and natural resources, two principles for election, one principle for political parties, three principles for emergency times, three principles for foreign relations, two principles for crimes, one principle for environment, three principles for general provisions, and nine principles for citizenship, fundamental rights and duties of citizens, totalling 104.

If one takes a careful study on the six objectives of the National Convention and the 104 basic principles, one will notice that they represent equal rights for all citizens, fully grant rights of the citizens, and lead the Myanmar to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The Work Committee has given instructions on referring already-laid down basic principles in discussing matters on headings, and adopting basic principles as detailed basic principles if necessary. The Work Committee Chairman said that citizens are to uphold "non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty" in enjoying the fundamental rights pre-scribed in the Constitution; that steps are to be taken in order not to harm culture, customs, fine arts and literature of national races and to practise them right-eously; and that the words basic principles on citizen-ship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship should be changed to the detailed basic principles.

The noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality are the rights the citizens enjoy in building a democratic nation. Then, the citi-zens will have the freedom of speech, the freedom of publication, the right to assemble, freedom of proces-sion, the freedom of association, the right to settle and reside in any part of the Union, the right to acquire property, and the right of privacy and security of premises. In practising democracy system, I would like to suggest that the enlisting of human and traf-ficking in person shall not be allowed. In enjoying the right of faith, measures should be taken to avoid the association of the freedom of faith with politics, offer-ing and taking bribes, and conflicts between two sides in the interests of the nation and the people. There are more than one hundred national races in our nation, so there should be the right to develop language, literature and culture of national races. Moreover, encourage-ment should be given to every sector in every sector as the education standard of the citizens plays an important role in building a modern and developed nation.

It is impossible that more than 30 million people of the nation handle matters on State sovereignty in a single place, so citizens are to have the right to vote and to be elected to Hluttawas. There should be a principle to revoke the responsibilities of Hluttaw members who fail to discharge their duties. The State is now practis-ing the market-oriented economic system. So, the State shall help citizens have access to technical know-how, investments, machinary and raw materials. Moreo-ver, no citizen shall, except matters on precautionary measures taken in accordance with law for the security of the State or prevalence of the order or the peace, and tranquility and interests of the people or matters permitted under an existing law, be held in custody for more than 24 hours without the remand of a competent magistrate. The power to issue writs shall be vested in the Supreme Court to effectively remedy deprivation of fundamental rights of citizens. Each citizen has access to fundamental rights. So, duties that all citizen have to perform duties without fail shall be prescribed. So, of the points in the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens the Work Committee Chairman has discussed, (18) four points on citizenship, (19) two points on equality, (20) six points on liberty, (21) two points on ensemblment and forced labour, (22) seven points on freedom of faith, (23) three points on rights of culture and education, (24) two points on election, (25) three points on economics, (26) nine points on the rights of criminals, (27) six points on enfore-cement of remedies for loss and damages, (28) seven points on duties of citizens, and (29) one point on the word "The State" numbering 48 points should be adopted.

Now, I would like to discuss the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications to the detailed basic princi-ples that should be adopted for the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the Constitution. Each and every citizen is duty bound to protect and safeguard the nation and the people. According to the provisions of the constitution, the major task of every government is to safeguard lives and property and to crush all forms of dangers to the citizens. Things everyone loves and cherishes most are one’s own life and property. So, the duty to protect the lives and property of citizens from dangers is noblest. Natural disasters and dangers posed by acts of people are of most destructive to lives and property of human. The Tatmadaw was conceived with the lofty motto “Nation is not for the Tatmadaw, but the Tatmadaw is for the nation”. At the military officer graduation ceremony held on 13 March 1944 in Mindalagon, national leader General Aung San said, “The duties of we soldiers are to protect and safeguard independence, territory and sovereignty of our nation at risk to our lives. Is there any duty that is more noble than that? Our Tatmadaw is for the entire nation. Even if our nation is weak, we are not afraid of a superior nation if it unjustly insults us, and we do not want to unfairly treat weaker nations. So, the Tatmadaw is the basis of the nation”.

In the time of King Anawrahta, all the men had to serve as soldiers. In the time of King Bayinnaung, there formed fifty forces, each of which consisted of 15,000 troops. In the time of King Alaungpaya, there formed forty forces, each of which consisted of 10,000 troops. In the time of King Mindon and King Thibaw (1880 Myanmar Era) the number of soldiers stood at 26,329. The number of 30,000 soldiers was not enough to safeguard sovereignty of the motherland. It was evidenced by the point that the nation fell under alien subjugation.

The National Convention held on 16 September 1993 laid down 16 principles. At the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services gave guidance, saying that a capable and modern Tatmadaw was to be established to protect the gradually developing nation. The Tatmadaw has to take a leading role in crushing dan-gerers of all internal and external destructive elements, enlisting the mighty strength of the people. According to the 1947 Constitution and basic principles the ongo-ing National Convention has adopted, every citizen shall undergo military training, and discharge military services under the control of the Tatmadaw. The Com-mander-in-Chief of Defence Services is head of all the armed forces, and his position should be designated as the post equivalent to the Vice President. The administrative head is the President of the nation, so he shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the approval of the defence and security council. Separate military acts are enacted and courts formed as the Tatmadaw is an armed force. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is well-versed with military acts and code of conduct, so his decision shall be final. The Tatmadaw shall take all necessary measures when-ever the nation comes under natural disasters.

The conditions of world nations today have indi-cated that when loopholes of a constitution are associ-ated with social and economic crises alongside alien instigation, it leads a nation to collapse. So, I would suggest that the principles No 1 to 14 for the Role of Tatmadaw the Work Committee discussed on 10-1-2006 should be adopted.

SAA awarded best airline in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 24 Jan — South African Airways (SAA) said here on Sunday that it snatched the coveted Best Airline to Africa Award for the 15th consecutive time at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards.

The South African flag carrier came up against top airlines such as British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Kenya Airways. SAA said in a statement that the awards are voted for exclusively by travel agents based in Britain. Voters take into consideration service, convenience of the airline’s flight schedule and price. Also, in the United States this week, SAA was awarded Best Airline in Africa from Global Traveller Magazine.— MNA/Xinhua

Three books win Dr Tin Shwe literary award

YANGON, 24 Jan — The literary works, namely, “A Myanmar Looks at Others” by U Thet Tun (Rein Aung), “Storming the Brain” by Kyaw Win and “Myanmar Tapestry” by Daw Kyi Kyi Hla won Dr Tin Shwe literary award.

The books were chosen with the assistance of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association. The winners will get K 100,000 each.

The fourth literary award presentation cer-eemony will be held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 9 am on 28 January. — MNA

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever approached

All this needs to be known
The chairman of the National Convention Convoking Work Committee, on 13, 14 and 15 December 2005, explained matters on the detailed basic principles for legislation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and damental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the role of Tatmadaw.

After thoroughly studying the clarification, the delegates discussed the detailed basic principles for the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and continued to say that the delegate groups would present their proposals to the plenary session. 

He urged the delegates to thoroughly study the suggestions as the papers presented would include important suggestions for laying down the detailed
Members of the Panel of Chairmen at the mass meeting in support of the National Convention. — MNA

Success of National Convention...

(from page 16)

The government also built basic foundations on social development. With the national solidarity throughout the country, development tasks are being carried out in the Union. The already-achieved conditions are favourable and the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are to build the nation firmly.

He said sovereignty must be in the hands of Myanmar people. It is important to lay down the basic principles that the national races agree and can guarantee Our Three Main National Causes. Detailed basic principles on sharing of powers in legislative, judicial and executive sectors have been laid down at the National Convention. Being a sovereign nation, Myanmar has rights to create its own fate of the nation. It is the national duty for all national races to prevent the danger of external and internal elements that encroach upon national objectives with the strength of the people. Only when the seven-point Road Map is implemented phase by phase, can a discipline-flourishing democratic nation be built.

He called on the entire people to participate in the tasks for success of the National Convention. Magway District USDA executive U Zaw Myint tabled a motion calling on the people to support the National Convention. He said the 1988 unrest caused near-disintegration of the Union. Rule of law had disappeared at that time in the country and administrative machinery halted with a reign of anarchy. Therefore, the Tatmadaw inevitably took momentum. The government, the people and Tatmadaw members struggled for country’s independence by risking their lives. It safeguarded lives and property of the people when the nation was faced with political crises in 1949, 1958, 1962 and 1988. So it is reasonable to lay down a basic principle that states the Tatmadaw’s participation in political leadership role of the State. The Tatmadaw was formed with patriotic persons and it has fine traditions. Tatmadaw members are urges to support the National Convention. The State constitution can be drawn successfully only when the National Convention meets its success. And then a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation will emerge. So, the people are to fully support the National Convention that is working for the constitution. Business en-trepreneur U Htay Lwin Aung of Magway township seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said the ongoing National Convention is trying to write the constitution in order to serve and protect the national interest. At the same time, it is building national consolidation. The State today is also striving for national development with added momentum. The government, enlisting strong national forces, is shaping a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with Our Three Main National Causes and 12 objectives of the State Constitution.

All delegates are carrying out the tasks dutifully at the National Convention based on nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit. The eventual goal of all the national people is to shape a new modern and developed democratic nation. So they all fully support the NC that is striving to draw the State constitution.

Dr Thi Thi Tun, Magway Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee member, seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. She said the Union of Myanmar is a sovereign nation. Every independent nation needs a constitution to share State powers. The constitution cannot be drawn by only a single party or organization. As more than 100 national races are living in all states and divisions of the nation, participation of delegates from all national races in the National Convention is necessary. That’s why the National Convention representing delegates from all walks of life is in session. The delegates are discussing and laying down detailed basic principles to be included in the framing of the constitution. It can be assumed that emphasis is on unity of all national races in order not to cause disintegration of the Union. Therefore, all the people of Magway Division are in full support of the National Convention that is shaping a constitution in the interest of the State and the people. All delegates are carrying out the tasks dutifully at the National Convention based on nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit. The eventual goal of all the national people is to shape a new modern and developed democratic nation. So they all fully support the NC that is striving to draw the State constitution.
**Improving information work in the time of the Tatmadaw Government**

**Development of mass media**

In the age of rapid information economy, mass media reach and influence almost all fields. Taking full advantage of the advanced information technology, some big countries are trying to influence upon political, economic and social affairs of other countries. During the time, the Government is carrying out the nation-building tasks and disseminating news and information to the people at home and to those around the world. Being the major component in the mass media, the information and public relations task plays an important role in sending the authentic news to people.

In an effort to disseminate knowledge to the people in urban and rural regions Information and Public Relations Department - IPRD is providing information to all over the country. Arrangements are being made to establish libraries in the rest of villages in 2006. In an attempt to distribute dailies without delay, sub-printing houses were established in different regions. Moreover, daily newspapers are available online today. The table shows increase in the mass media tasks in the time of the Tatmadaw Government.

<table>
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<td>4</td>
<td>sub-printing houses</td>
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**Success of National Convention...**

(from page 9)

in support of the National Convention. To march towards the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing of discipline, all national people are to take part in their respective roles for the development of economic, cultural and social infrastructures and for the success of the National Convention.

Next, Captain Myint Lwin (Retd) seconded the motion in support of the National Convention. He said that the government is making all-out efforts with goodwill for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this regard, it has to surmount a series of difficulties and obstacles. In the meantime, the government is convening the National Convention, the first and the most important step of the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. The enduring State constitution is aimed at strengthening the national unity among national brethren who have been living in the Union, sharing weal or woe for years countable by the thousand and ensuring perpetual existence of the Union. Therefore, Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty were included in the six objectives of the National Convention. Likewise, as the entire national people including the Tatmadaw are to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes, 104 basic principles laid down at the National Convention have been in line with the national objectives. Reviewing the Myanmar history, resolution was passed to practise a Pyidaungsu system that ensures non-disintegration of the Union. With this end in view, the entire national people are to actively take part in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map.

A sovereign nation will have to adopt a constitution that is able to shape the future of the nation, without relying on any other nations. Hence, we support the National Convention capable of drawing the most suitable constitution that is superior to those constitutions of the past in form and essence. Thanks to concerted efforts of delegates to the National Convention, 104 basic principles, which are complete and appropriate have been laid down. The essence of the seven-point Road Map is to build a modern and developed nation through the democratic practice. A total of 70 per cent of work programmes for the emergence of a constitution, which are the objectives of the National Convention, have been completed. As the National Convention is to shape the future of the nation, we unani mously support it.

Next, Daw Wah Wah Myint, member of Magway Division Women Affairs Committee seconded the motion in support of the National Convention, saying that the government is building a modern and developed nation step by step to fulfill the wishes of the people. In the process, significant progress has been made in all aspects. At the same time, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map, is being convened for the emergence of a State constitution.

In building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, systematic steps are being taken for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. Work for the emergence of a constitution that is in conformity with own traditions and way of life cannot be carried out in a hurry. A constitution with weaknesses is a grave danger to the nation. At the National Convention, discussions were made in line with the six objectives of the National Convention for the drawing of a State constitution. Warding off discords and dissension sown by colonials, the National Convention which highlights the national essence and represents the entire national people is now in full swing. Delegates of various strata to the National Convention hold discussions and made resolutions to shape the future of the nation.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held on 15 September 1996, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that national solidarity is to be built on the basis of peace and stability and preva lence of law and order; that there requires a constitution for the national people to follow in order to bring about peace and development in all parts of the nation; that efforts are to be made for the emergence of a constitution; and that the success of the National Convention is a must for the emergence of a State constitution.

At the on-going National Convention, detailed basic principles for sharing executive, legislative and judiciary powers have been adopted. Discussions are being held to be able to lay down other necessary detailed basic principles. Efforts are being made for the emergence of a State constitution, a prerequisite for building modern and democratic nation. All in all, the entire national people are against the acts that are detrimental to the National Convention and she seconded the motion to support the National Convention. The meeting chairman sought the approval from the participants who unanimously supported the National Convention. Next, the mass meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans.

**Myanmar-Thailand Friendship...**

(from page 16)

Peace and Development Council gave welcoming statements. Next, the Director-General of Royal Highway Department submitted the report on the construction of the bridge.

After delivering speeches, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyin Wun formally opened the bridge. The two Foreign Ministers and officials from both sides strolled along the bridge and inspected temporary offices of the customs, immigration and border trade departments.

The reinforced concrete bridge is 90 metres long and 14.7 metres wide and it will not only contribute much towards flow of goods and convenience of people from both sides but also further promoting of trade between the two countries.

The reinforced concrete bridge is 90 metres long and 14.7 metres wide and it will not only contribute much towards flow of goods and convenience of people from both sides but also further promoting of trade between the two countries. MNA
Let's enjoy ourselves in centenary of Yangon Zoological Gardens

Paying a visit to a zoo in families or in groups on holidays not only brings pleasure and relaxation but also enhances knowledge of the visitors.

Some think a zoo is an amusement place enjoyable for children only. A zoo is in truth a nice place for everyone including elderly persons where they can seek leisure and recreation and widen the scope of their knowledge.

The Yangon Zoological Gardens was established in 1906, so it turns its 100th anniversary on 25 January 2006. Now, the Yangon Zoological Gardens has been upgraded to an all-round developed garden with a large variety of animals and many attractive sites from which one can gain a great deal of knowledge.

So, people should grab the unique opportunity to pay a visit to the zoo at a time when it is celebrating its centenary starting today (25 January) until 29 January with a great many of special amusement programmes staged by the Ministry of Forestry including entertainment programmes to be performed by popular artistes, vocalists and film stars, Yangon Zoological Gardens contest (2006) for children, animal-costumes contest for children, Rap song contest (2006), floral arrangement contest, international chef meal preparation demonstration, cartoon films, performances for all-comers, fashion show, quiz on facts about animals, circus show, magic show, and to mark the centenary-commemorative exhibition and so on.

In the zoo, more than 150 species of animals including 61 species of mammals, 70 species of birds, and 16 species of reptiles are displayed along with over 200 species of trees.

There, visitors can observe the rare species of animals sent from foreign countries under the animals exchange programme, and visit the Natural History Museum.

The Kandawgyi Gardens All-round Development Project and the Yangon Zoological Gardens All-round Development Project have been launched since 1 April 2003 with the aim of ensuring public recreation.

Moreover, arrangements have been made for visitors to take a trip around the zoo with elephant carts and vehicles. Souvenir shops, restaurants, funfairs, showrooms are opened in conjunction with other interesting programmes. The Yangon Zoological Gardens has been maintained and conserved as an attractive place for 100 years without compromising the original style, thereby receiving about 1.5 million visitors a year. It is expected that the people enjoy themselves and seek relaxation and recreation in the centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Translation: MS

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Beijing re-starts sale of firecrackers after 12-year ban

Beijing, 23 Jan—"HAPPY NEW YEAR!" Sound of firecrackers is coming back to Beijing people’s lives, in a legal way this time.

The Chinese capital re-started Sunday the sale of firecrackers that have been banned for 12 years, in a bid to make its citizens happier in the Spring Festival, China’s Lunar New Year, in response to people’s love for a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. The Beijing government has organized the sale of 600,000 boxes of firecrackers valued at more than 100 million yuan (12.5 million US dollars) for its citizens. Authorities will keep a close eye on the sale of firecrackers to ensure the city does not run out of firecrackers during the holiday season, according to Tang Yunyi, a police officer with Beijing Public Security Bureau.

With great pleasure

We have the great pleasure to extend our heartfelt congratulations to

Maha Upasika Dr Bongkot Sithipol

as she is honoured and conferred the prestigious title “Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi!” on the auspicious occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

With deep reverence for

Maha Upasika Bongkot’s noble work and dedication in propagating the teachings of the Buddha Sasana for peace in the world.

Col Than Myint (Retd)
Director-General, Department of Mines
Ministry of Mines
daw Nwe Nwe Yi
together with Big M Group Services Co., Ltd.

Mercedes sold 39% more autos in China last year

Beijing, 23 Jan—The Mercedes Auto group sold 16,128 sedans in China last year, up 39 percent compared with the previous year.

Mercedes will promote more new brands this year, to cater for the growing demand in China.

The group also planned to invest 1.5 billion euros in producing Mercedes sedans and commercial cars in China, including manufacturing Chrysler 300C type in Beijing. Last September, Mercedes started financial services in China’s Mainland for sedans and commercial autos.—MNA/Xinhua

James Bond spy car fetches $1.9m at auction

Phoenix (Arizona), 23 Jan—A Swiss businessman won the keys to James Bond’s silver 1965 Aston Martin DB5 coupe on Friday with a 1.9 million US-dollar bid at an annual classic car auction in Arizona.

The 45-year-old man, who did not want to be identified, placed his bids over the telephone through friend and car dealer Beat Roos to win the gadget-packed 007 car used in such classics as "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball." Both men live in Bern, Switzerland.

"His instructions were to bring the car back to Switzerland," Roos said. "The 007 car used in such classics as "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball." Both men live in Bern, Switzerland.

Fire destroys 10 buses at London garage

London, 23 Jan—A fire at a bus station in west London on Sunday destroyed ten buses and damaged two others, briefly forcing the closure of the busy A40 road into the capital, police said.

Police and fire fighters were called at 9:4 a.m. to the fire at Westbourne Park Bus Garage. "At that stage three of the buses were on fire and there were several subsequent explosions as a result," a police spokeswoman said.

Around 40 firefighters and eight fire engines brought the blaze under control by late morning.

Police shut the A40, which passes over the garage, because of smoke from the fire. The road reopened around noon, with other local streets reopening at 1:35 p.m.

Nearby buildings were briefly evacuated but residents were later allowed to return.

MNA/Reuters
**Iran warns West over UN nuclear referral**

**LONDON, 23 Jan—** Iran will resume industrial-scale uranium enrichment if it is referred to the UN Security Council over its nuclear standoff with the West, a senior Iranian official was quoted on Monday as saying.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani urged the European Union to reopen talks which stalled after Tehran broke UN seals on uranium enrichment equipment. The West suspects Iran wants the radioactive material to help make nuclear arms. Teheran says it will be used to generate electricity.

“If the negotiating route is open, we prefer to reach a conclusion through talks,” Larijani told the newspaper. “But if this route is closed, we are obliged to follow up our other scenario. Everything depends on the way we are treated.”

Asked if there was a timescale for uranium enrichment on an industrial scale, he said: “Yes. We have a plan for resumption. If we are referred to the Security Council, the government is obliged…to lift all voluntary measures.”

Washington and the EU want the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for pressure on uranium enrichment.

Alireza Nourizadeh, an adviser to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, told an American university that Iran was prepared to enter closed-door talks with the international atomic agency over uranium enrichment.

The ministry is pushing forward its herbal plants conservation scheme to provide better protection and sustainable using of Thai herbs mok bori wai and other traditional medical treatment. Bangkok Post newspaper reported on Monday.

Mok bori wai, the latest herb put on the near-extinction list, is a rare Thai herb believed to contain substances that could be used to treat liver cancer and malaria, Public Health Minister Phumji Jarusombat was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Scientists have found that mok bori wai contains flavonoids, a substance that eases inflammation, the newspaper said, adding that specialists in Thai traditional medicine said mok bori wai could be used to treat droopy, swelling from excessive accumulation of fluid, caused by liver cancer, which killed about 12,000 people a year in Thailand.

The Public Health Ministry has drafted a regulation on intellectual property rights protection of Thai traditional medicine.

**Public health deputy permanent secretary**

**HK busts website selling pirated Japanese cartoon DVD**

**HONG KONG, 23 Jan—** Hong Kong authorities have demolished an illegal website selling pirated animation DVD to Japanese customers through mail, local Press reported on Sunday.

The website, registered by a Hong Kong native named Cheung, made up as a legitimate Japanese one by updating stockpile information and purchase details in Japanese, Customs officials were quoted by Chinese daily Wen Wei Po as saying.

During its operation over half a year, the website has sold out some 12,000 pirated DVDs and made Cheung around one million HK dollars (129,198 US dollars), estimated the officials. According to the Japanese instruction on the page, interested customers were asked to make their choice on-line and transfer the purchase and mailing fee to a certain account in Japanese bank, one of three bought by Cheung through black market.

In a bid to avoid investigation, Cheung, a 22-year-old man, travel to Japan once a month to withdraw the money put into the accounts.

For all the transactions were conducted through Internet, Cheung’s illicit business went unnoticed until two months ago, when the Hong Kong Customs received complaints from copyright holders.

**Manit Theerattikamon** said the regulation, expected to be enacted this year, would provide intellectual property rights over traditional herbal medicine formulae, general knowledge of herbal medicine and individual prescriptions.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Bushfires rage in Australia, two dead, homes lost**

**CANBERRA, 23 Jan—** Bushfires raging across four Australian states have left two people dead and destroyed several homes with firefighters battling on Monday to control the massive blazes along more sweltering heat expected later this week.

Bushfires have so far burnt through more than 200,000 hectares (half a million acres) — an area nearly three times the size of Singapore — across Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and the southern island state of Tasmania.

Two people were found dead in a burnt-out car on Monday in southwestern Victoria, where the biggest fire is raging. Three homes and several other buildings were lost at Anakie, 150-kilometre (90 miles) southwest of the Victorian State capital, Melbourne, while farmers estimated that tens of thousands of sheep and cattle had been lost in the bushfires.

Firefighters across all four states were hoping to take advantage on Monday of a respite from the weekend heatwave, when temperatures soared above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), but the sweltering heat is forecast to return later in the week.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Guangdong leads nation in media revenue**

**GUANGZHOU, 23 Jan—** The radio, television and film sector of south China’s Guangdong Province reported an annual revenue of 7.67 billion yuan (about 946.9 million US dollars) in 2005, leading the nation for five consecutive years.

The province’s Broadcasting Media Southern Group (BMS) earned 4.6 billion yuan (about 567.9 million US dollars) in the past year, the largest provincial-level media group in China.

Established in January 2004, the group has scored prominent progress through cooperation with other media companies. The media companies under BMS, including Guangdong TV, Southern TV and other 19 city-level television and broadcasting stations, registered a 44.8 per cent audience rating last year, outdoing their competitors from Hong Kong and foreign countries.

A latest survey of the internationally recognized AC Nielsen showed that in Guangzhou the audience rating of all the eight overseas TV channels has dropped from 72.5 per cent to 43 per cent in the past six years. In the same period that of the domestic channels soared up to 57 per cent, with BMS contributing the lion’s share in the city.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**King of Saudi Arabia arrives Beijing for state visit**

**BEIJING, 23 Jan—** King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz arrives in Beijing at noon Sunday, kicking off his three-day state visit to China as guest of President Hu Jintao. It will be the first ever visit of the Saudi Arabian king to China since the two countries established their diplomatic relations in 1990. This will also be the first official visit that the King has ever made to another country since he came to the throne.

During his stay in Beijing, Chinese President Hu, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao will meet or hold talks with him respectively for an exchange of views on such issues as the further expansion of bilateral cooperation in energy, economic and trade areas.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Thai Gov’t enhances medical herbs protection**

**BANGKOK, 23 Jan—** Thailand is stepping up efforts to protect medical herbs used to treat major illness but are facing extinction in the kingdom, Manit Theerattikamon, said the regulation, expected to be enacted this year, would provide intellectual property rights over traditional herbal medicine formulae, general knowledge of herbal medicine and individual prescriptions.

**MNA/Xinhua**


Taiwo’s free kick gives Nigeria 1-0 win over Ghana

PORT SAID (Egypt), 24 Jan— Nigeria left back Taye Taiwo scored with a stunning free kick in the 85th minute to give the Super Eagles a 1-0 win over Ghana in their opening African Nations Cup match on Monday.

Taiwo, who was close with a similar effort in the first half of the Group D match, blasted a left-foot effort into the bottom corner from about 30 metres just as the game appeared to be petering out into a draw. Both teams hit the post in an entertaining match in which Ghana became the third of the continent’s five World Cup finalists to lose their first game, alongside Togo and Angola.

The Black Stars missed an excellent chance in the 70th minute when forward Mathew Amoah had a generally quiet match, struck the post from a narrow angle after pouncing on a defensive mistake and rending the Ghana keeper.

Romario nets hat-trick in loss to Botafogo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan— Veteran Brazilian striker Romario scored a hat-trick on Sunday but could not prevent Vasco da Gama losing 5-3 to Botafogo in a Maracana stadium re-opened after months of renovation works.

The hat-trick took Romario, a week away from his 40th birthday, closer to his target of 1000 goals in professional football. The diminutive striker says he has scored 955 goals so far, and hopes to emulate a feat achieved by Brazilian great Pele, although there is some debate over the statistics.

But there was no denying the quality of Romario’s performance on Sunday’s Rio de Janeiro state championship encounter.

After Ze Roberto opened the scoring for Botafogo with a shimmy and shot, Romario equalized with a smartly struck half-volley then won and converted a penalty when one of his shots was handled by Botafogo’s Asprrilia. — MNA/Reuters

Camara inspires Senegal to victory

PORT SAID (Egypt), 24 Jan— Senegal striker Henri Camara inspired his side to a 2-0 win over Zimbabwe in their opening African Nations Cup Group D match on Monday.

Camara made the breakthrough with a well-taken goal on the hour and then set up the second for substitute Ismael Ba to seal the points with his first touch of the ball in the 81st minute.

Senegal made life tough for themselves by missing two open goals in the first half while Zimbabwe’s Benjani Mwaruwari squandered a golden chance to score when Senegal were 1-0 ahead.

The win was a timely boost for the Lions of Teranga, who surprisingly missed out on a place at the 2006 World Cup finals as Togo qualified at their expense. Earlier, Nigeria beat Ghana 1-0 in the same group.

Senegal should have gone ahead after five minutes when Camara chipped the ball over goalkeeper Gift Muzadzi to El Hadji Diouf, who contrived to miss from two metres.

Somehow, they produced a similar run in the 28th minute.

This time Dommamy Kamara sprayed the offside trap and broke down the right to reach the byline. After dallying over his cross, he finally chipped the ball to the far post where goalkeeper Rahmane Barry knocked the ball wide.

Minutes later, they wasted another chance when both Camara and Barry delayed over shots in the same attack, allowing the Zimbabwe defenders to block their efforts.

Senegal were also unlucky to be denied a goal in the 32nd minute when Henri Camara burst through the middle of the Zimbabwe defence and shot into the corner, only to see his effort disallowed for handball. — MNA/Reuters

Hingis holds off Stosur, advances to last eight

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan— Former world number one Martina Hingis continued her fairy tale return to grand slam tennis with a 6-1, 7-6 victory over local hope Samantha Stosur in the fourth round of the Australian Open on Monday.

Hingis, who retired in 2002 with ankle and foot injuries after winning five grand slam titles, made her return to competitive tennis earlier this month at the Australian hardcourt championships on the Gold Coast.

The 25-year-old Swiss started in impressive fashion, displaying the skills that allowed her to dominate women’s tennis in the late 1990s.

She placed Stosur under intense pressure from the fourth game of the first set, breaking to establish a 3-1 lead and then racing away with the next three games to seal the first set in 23 minutes, slating a backhand winner at set point.

The Swiss was successful with an astonishing 82 per cent of her first serves, allowing her to attack with groundstrokes and run the 98th-ranked Stosur all over the court.

The second set, however, would prove more difficult for Hingis. After Stosur’s serve was broken in the third game, the stubborn Aus- tralian fought back to set up a crowd-pleasing run of games dominated by long rallies and both players squandering serve.

Hingis’s serve looked particularly vulnerable as she tired, with the speed of the first serve dropping markedly away.

Mommentum swung back and forth before Stosur broke to level the set at 6-6 and take the match to a tie-breaker.

Stosur raced out to a 5-2 lead, but the greater experience of Hingis eventually told and she fought back to seal victory on her fourth match point, setting up a quarter-final with world number two Kim Clijsters. — MNA/Reuters

Federer survives five-set scare from Haas

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan— Top seed Roger Federer survived a five-set scare from unseeded German Tommy Haas on Monday to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open.

At two sets up the world number one’s game inexplicable fell apart before he regained his composure to win 6-4, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Federer will now play Russian fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko, who beat Slovakian ironman Dominik Hrbaty 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Federer won the Australian Open in 2004 and has claimed five of the last eight grand slam titles.

The Swiss looked to be cruising to his fourth consecutive straight-sets win when he ripped through his cross, he finally chipped the ball to the offside trap and broke down the right to reach the byline. After dallying over his cross, he finally chipped the ball to the far post where goalkeeper Rahmane Barry knocked the ball wide.

Minutes later, they wasted another chance when both Camara and Barry delayed over shots in the same attack, allowing the Zimbabwe defenders to block their efforts.

Senegal were also unlucky to be denied a goal in the 32nd minute when Henri Camara burst through the middle of the Zimbabwe defence and shot into the corner, only to see his effort disallowed for handball. — MNA/Reuters
Japan pushes US for explanation on beef

Tokyo, 24 Jan — Japan said on Monday it would not resume US beef imports without an explanation of how banned spinal material, believed to carry a high risk of causing a human form of mad cow disease, came to be found in a shipment of US meat last week.

Japan, formerly the biggest market for US beef, just last month had lifted a ban on imports imposed in 2003 after the first US case of the disease was found in a cow in Washington State. As a condition of lifting the ban, Japan said all risk material, such as a spinal cord and brains, that could cause the brain-wasting disease had to be completely removed.

Imports were halted again after the banned material was found in a shipment of US beef on Friday.

“First of all, the United States must find out the cause, then introduce measures to prevent this from happening again,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe told a news conference.

“We will make a decision based on that,” he added, when asked about the ban. The government will also ask Japanese importers to check whether any banned material has been included in US beef imported since the ban was lifted, Abe said. — MNA/Reuters

Chartered flight takes migrant workers home for Chinese New Year

Quanzhou, 24 Jan — Li Qiujing, 24, felt she was a lucky dog indeed when she boarded an airplane for the first time in her life.

The textile worker at Baode Apparels Co was one of the 130 migrant workers in Quanzhou, a manufacturing base in east China’s Fujian Province, who were privileged to take a chartered flight to their hometown in southwestern Sichuan Province Sunday, a week before the Chinese New Year.

The special flight was sponsored by the Quanzhou Trade Union and 46 local businesses who have set up trade unions to safeguard the migrant workers’ rights and interests. Most of the 130 passengers’ fares were subsidized by the trade unions: 26 people from poverty-stricken counties were offered a free trip and the others paid no more than 300 yuan each (37.5 US dollars), about the same price as a train ticket. It’s my third trip home in eight years,” said Peng Guohua, 42. “My previous two train rides during the pre-holiday rush were extremely tiring, crowded and took two or three days each.”

Peng and Li are both workers at Baode Apparels Co. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 24 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), PyinOoLwin (2°C), Mogok (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-1-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 24-1-2006 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-1-2006 was (87%). Total sunshine hours on 23-1-2006 was (6.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (13:15) hours MST on 23-1-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South and Southeast Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-1-2006: Fair weather.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 22:30 hours MST, on 24 January 2006) An Earthquake of Moderate intensity (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter at Myanmar-China border about (420) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (20) hrs (12) min (23) sec MST on 24th January 2006.
Success of National Convention a major task for political development and building of a democratic nation
People of Magway Division express support for National Convention

Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No-2 spanning Mae Sai creek opened
The bridge helps promote trade between Myanmar and Thailand

INSIDE

Arrangements have been made for visitors to take a trip around the zoo with elephant carts and vehicles. Souvenir shops, restaurants, funfairs, showrooms are opened in conjunction with other interesting programmes.

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ARTICLE BY WIN ZAW,
PHOTOS BY TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)