Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Indian President

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January, 2006, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates Chilean President

YANGON, 25 Jan — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to Her Excellency Ms Michelle Bachelet, who has been elected as President of the Republic of Chile. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Indian Vice-President

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January, 2006, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India. — MNA

Plenary Session of the National Convention continues

Delegates of political parties, Representatives-elect 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, 25 Jan — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party seen together with NC delegates at Plenary Session of National Convention. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Produce more farm machinery

Being an agricultural country, Myanmar is striving for its economic growth relying on its agriculture sector. The nation is rich in natural resources and therefore, capitalizing on these resources, the government is taking measures for economic development. In the same way, necessary steps are also being taken for the industrial sector as development of the industrial sector plays a pivotal role in our drive for the modernization of the nation.

Nowadays, as new factories and workshops to produce import-substitute items are being built all over the nation, innovations are also being made to improve the technologies of industries and boost their production. The industrial zones were established with the assistance of the government and factories and workshops in these zones are being encouraged to apply technologies on a wider scale. It is found that factories that manufacture automobiles and farm equipment and machinery are now thriving.

Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by responsible officials, on 23 January visited No 5 Farm Machinery Factory (Ywathagyi) of Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Regarding the establishment of farm machinery factory in Ywathagyi, the Prime Minister called on responsible personnel to give close supervision so as to minimize loss and wastage as much as possible.

To produce farm equipment and machinery, two farm machinery factories were established — one at Ywathagyi in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Division and another at Ingon in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Division. The eight workshops of No 5 farm machinery factory (Ywathagyi) produce parts of farm machinery and Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory (Ingon) manufactures power-tillers and other farm implements. No 5 Farm Machinery Factory (Ywathagyi) will also be upgraded as Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory to produce farm equipment and machinery for farmers in Lower Myanmar.

We believe that Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory (Ywathagyi) will be able to produce power-tillers such as Leya-16 and other farm implements like Myanmar Farm Machinery Factory (Ingon).

Central Authority for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters meets

YANGON, 25 Jan — Central Authority for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters held its 1/2006 meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon.

Present were Chairman of the Central Authority Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, members Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Supreme Court, Attorney-General’s Office, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Home Affairs and officials.

At the meeting Myanmar’s signing of agreements on mutual assistance in criminal matters and future tasks were discussed. — MNA

SAM organizes 11th Charity Bazaar

YANGON, 25 Jan — The Singapore Association in Myanmar organized the 11th Charity Bazaar at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, here, from 9 am to 3 pm on 22 January.

Singaporean Ambassador Mr Thambynathan Jasudasen and Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint opened the bazaar. They visited shops of organizations and others.

The proceeds from the bazaar will be donated to social organizations including MMCWA. — MNA

Economic coordination meeting held

YANGON, 25 Jan — The economic coordination meeting jointly organized by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KLSICCI) was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road yesterday morning.

Vice-President of UMFFCCI U Zaw Min Win and KLSICCI delegation leader Mr Adolf Ludge made speeches. Next, the joint-secretary-1 of UMFFCCI and Mr Adolf Ludge and Mr Ravindra of KLSICCI clarified the matters on opportunities of investment between two countries. In the afternoon, entrepreneurs of UMFFCCI and KLSICCI held discussions separately. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Australia

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January, 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Alexander Downer, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. — MNA
Workers say Halliburton gave US troops foul water

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — A Halliburton Co subsidiary provided water to US troops at a camp in Iraq that was twice as contaminated as water from the Euphrates River, former employees of the company said on Monday.

The subsidiary, Kellogg Brown and Root, also blocked employees' attempts to inform the US military at Camp Junction City in Ramadi that the water was foul or tell them that water tanks should immediately be chlorinated, the workers said.

They cited KBR's failure to test or treat the water in the latest in a series of hearings Senate Democrats have held on Halliburton, which was once a subsidiary of Halliburton.

Halliburton said in a statement it had found "no evidence to substantiate allegations made by these former employees."

While bottled water was provided for drinking and cooking, the soldiers at the camp used the contaminated water for bathing, shaving and laundry.

"We exposed a base camp population (military and civilian) to a water source that was not treated," said an internal e-mail from Will Granger, who was KBR's water quality manager for all of Iraq and Kuwait.

"The level of contamination was roughly 2x the normal contamination of untreated water from the Euphrates River," continued the e-mail dated July 15 of last year and released at the hearing.

It said the exposure lasted for up to a year. Ben Carter, a water purification specialist who worked for KBR at Junction City, told Senate Democrats that KBR officials had assured him the water was being treated.

"But after Carter discovered a problem, he started tests and learned that the water drawn from the Euphrates and polluted with sewage and other contaminants, was not being chlorinated."

MNA/Reuters

39 killed in Montenegro train crash

BEOGRAD (Serbia and Montenegro), 24 Jan — At least 39 people were killed when the brakes failed on a train carrying more than 200 passengers, causing it to jump the tracks and crash into a ravine in mountainous Montenegro on Monday.

All injured were evacuated by mid-evening and rescuers were working on the recovery of the last two corpses in the wreckage.

"The accident occurred because of a failure of the train's braking system," Interior Minister Jusuf Kalamovcic said.

MNA/Reuters

Fallujah sniper guns down US soldier

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — A gunman nicknamed the Fallujah sniper, who is the most wanted man by US troops in the restive city, some 50 km west of Baghdad, gunned down a US soldier, witnesses said on Monday.

"Fallujah's legendary hero, the Fallujah sniper, gunned down a US soldier in central Fallujah late Sunday night," a local resident told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

After the incident, the US troops cordoned off the area and searched houses till Monday morning, detaining 15 shop owners, who were accused of trading CDs recording US soldiers receiving gunshots from the so-called Fallujah sniper, witnesses said.

The US military, however, had no comment on the information from Fallujah.

Gunmen kill three Iraqis in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — Gunmen wearing police commands uniform stormed two houses in Baghdad's Sunni Arab District early on Monday, killing three people and detaining 30 others, a police source said.

"Dozens of armed men wearing police commands uniform in about 20 vehicles stormed at about 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT) two houses in the al-Tejibieh neighbourhood, killing three people and detained over 30 others," a police source said on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops death toll rises to 2,235

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — As of Tuesday, 24 Jan, 2006, at least 2,235 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 1,750 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Department of Defence's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EST.

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At least 1,750 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Department of Defence's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EST.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,096 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,641 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Two soldiers were killed Monday when their vehicle was struck by roadside bomb in southeast Baghdad.

Gunmen killed three Iraqis in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — Gunmen wearing police commands uniform stormed two houses in Baghdad's Sunni Arab District early on Monday, killing three people and detaining 30 others, a police source said.

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**Fourteen points for the Role of the Tatmadaw appropriate to be adopted as detailed basic principles**

YANGON, 26, Jan.—The following is a translation of the proposals of the Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization for the clarifications, made by National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe at the National Convention, to the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, and the Role of Tatmadaw to be included in the State Constitution, submitted by U Maung Pein (a) U Khin Maung Thein of the Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization.

In his clarifications to the detailed basic principles made on 10 January this year for the chapters ‘the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, and the Role of the Tatmadaw’ to be included in the State Constitution, the Work Committee Chairman said that the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens shall be stipulated precisely and clearly in framing an enduring Constitution. Only then, will citizens be able to understand, when studying the Constitution, the requirements to be citizens, what the fundamental rights entrusted to the nationals according to the Constitution are, and what duties they have to carry out in the interests of the State are. In the constitutions of many nations, the 1947 Constitution, and the 1974 Constitution, Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens are stated in a chapter.

The Work Committee also explained that generally, the fundamental rights that should be prescribed in the Constitution are requirements to win citizenship, the equality before the law, the freedom of expression, the freedom of publication, the right to organize, the right to settle and reside in any part of the Union, the right to acquire property, the right of privacy and security of premises, the right of being free from forced labour, the right to profess, and practise any religion of one’s belief, the right to develop the arts, education, literature and other branches of culture, the right to elect and to be elected to the Hluttaw, the right to freely operate any business activity permitted by the State, the right to be put under arrest, investigated and tried only in accordance with prescribed laws in criminal cases, and ensuring not harming Our Three Main National Causes namely Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty that they should always uphold for perpetual existence of the State.

Since time immemorial, all the national races have been living in our Union keeping eggs and nest intact. The national races, while in search of greener pastures, have settled in the regions of the Union in amity and harmony. Some characteristics of the customs and traditions of the national races are similar in essence, and some are different from one another. They have their own arts they cherish, and some ethnic groups have own literature.

The Work Committee Chairman elaborated that the people need to take great care in ensuring the fundamental rights according to the Constitution in order not to harm the unity among the national races, and the culture, customs, traditions, arts and literature of a national race cannot be adversely affected by another national race; that it cannot be said that the fundamental rights come into force by mere inserting and adopting them by the Constitution. It is required to make the fundamental rights meaningful by ensuring the people realize and enjoy them correctly, enforcing constitutional remedies in accord with the law if they are deprived of their fundamental rights bestowed by the Constitution; and that if the citizens, instead of that, choose violent means, they will lose the fundamental rights. Therefore, to enjoy the fundamental rights bestowed by the Constitution the citizens need to exercise in a justified and fair manner. We made a thorough study on his explanations. Regarding the citizenship, the basic principle “All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals are citizens of the nation. Persons who are vested with citizenship according to the existing laws on the date this Constitution comes into force are also citizens. Citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be as prescribed by law” has been already laid down in the National Convention and is appropriate. He called for discussions to decide that —

1. All persons who have either one of following requirement 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

2. Citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be prescribed by law should be adopted in the Chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens or not.

The Work Committee Chairman also explained that the rights of equality, the rights of liberty, and the rights of justice are the noblest and worthiest of worldly values. In other words, such characteristics are democratic rights, to which the people shall have access in building a genuine democratic nation. All citizens are equal before the law irrespective of race, birth, religion, official position, culture, sex and wealth. He also made clarifications to:

- equality and freedom,
- enslavement and forced labour,
- religious rights,
- cultural and educational rights,
- the rights to vote and to be elected,
- the rights to do businesses,
- the rights on crimes,
- enforcement of remedies according to the Constitution,
- duties of citizens, and
- the word “The State”.

We found that the explanations are suitable, and so the 48 points should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens”.

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 10 January this year, the Work Committee Chairman also explained the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Chapter “The Role of Tatmadaw”. At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 16 January 1993, he explained that the basic principles for the Role of Tatmadaw:

(a) the Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing Tatmadaw.
(b) the Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer all affairs concerning the forces.
(c) the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief is the Supreme Commander of all armed forces.
(d) the Tatmadaw has the right to administer for participation of the entire people in the State security and defence.
(e) the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
(f) the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution, should be adopted.

The Work Committee Chairman added that if there is a state, there must be an institution to defend it. And the institution is none other than the armed forces “the Tatmadaw”. As the Tatmadaw’s duty is the national defence, the security and perpetuation of the state can be guaranteed only if the Tatmadaw is strong.

We have already witnessed the Tatmadaw’s role in ensuring Our Three Main National Causes throughout Myanmar history, with the national aim of serving the interest of the nation and the people to the most possible degree. The Tatmadaw has been discharging the national duty for the safety of the lives and property of the people, and for the people to stand tall with dignity in the world perpetually as a peaceful and prosperous state. The Tatmadaw must be strong to carry out the task dutifully.

We thoroughly assessed his clarifications, comparing with prevailing conditions of our nation and the principles of some nations.

The Tatmadaw was conceived with the aim of throwing the yoke of slavery. The Work Committee Chairman presented 14 points for the Role of the Tatmadaw that should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

We find that these 14 points are appropriate, and so they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

MNA
LNDP agrees to adopt points explained by Work Committee Chairman concerning Citizenship, Rights and Duties of Citizens, Role of Tatmadaw

YANGON, 25 Jan — The following is a translation of the suggestions submitted by U Kya Hashe of Lahm National Development Party concerning the chapters Citizenship, the Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw.

Over 100 national races are living in the Union of Myanmar. They have been living in weal or woe and in unity since time immemorial. While living in amity and unity, they have to new places within the territory of the nation to settle down. The culture and customs of the national races have some differences, but in general they have many similar characteristics. Thus, the national people have their own customs, language and literature.

Constitutions of the world nations and the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution stipulate the Citizenship, the Rights and Duties of Citizens as a separate chapter.

Concerning the citizenship, the following points should be adopted.

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.

In connection with the equality among the citizens, we would like to suggest that paras from 3 to 8 should be adopted for the constitution.

Most of the world nations after weighing up their past events, and political, economic and social conditions, and State security and the rule of law and community peace write the provisions for the citizens' fundamental rights, they believe will be in conformity with the prevailing conditions of the era. Thus, jeopardizing the constitution means endangering the sovereignty and security of the State. In other words, it is the most dangerous threat to the national security and sovereignty. The only institution that can effectively and swiftly ward off the threat is no other than the Tatmadaw.

Hence in reference to the basic principle "the Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing Tatmadaw", the detailed basic principle "The Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing strong and patriotic Tatmadaw" should be adopted.

The constitution is the main stem of law of a nation. All in all, the constitution is a law, and the writing of that law is based on the basic principles safeguarding "Our Three Main Nation Causes" — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Thus, jeopardizing the constitution means endangering the sovereignty and security of the State. In other words, it is the most dangerous threat to the national security and sovereignty. The only institution that can effectively and swiftly ward off the threat is no other than the Tatmadaw.

Hence the basic principle "The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution" should be transferred to the chapter of the Tatmadaw as a detailed basic principle.

Myanmar is a Union where various national races have been living in weal or woe throughout history. The nationalities are of the same family, with true patriotism as their foundation of amity.

In his address delivered at the 60th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day held on 27 March 2005, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the development of the State defence power, saying, "To be able to totally safeguard our country that is enjoying progress, we will have to raise our defence might by building a stronger and qualified modern Tatmadaw while inheriting the fine traditions of the brilliant soldiers of the Tatmadaw founded by our Great Kings — Alaungpaya, Bayintnaung and Alaungpaya U Aung Zeya".

Only a powerful Tatmadaw can ensure the national defence and security. Through the history, the Tatmadaw has been dutiful in serving the national interest while placing in the forefront "Our Three Main Nation Causes". History bears witness to the fact that Myanmar was powerful during the times the Tatmadaw was strong. But when the Tatmadaw was weak, the nation fell apart and lost her independence and sovereignty.

As regards the issuance of writs and the rights prescribed in this chapter in connection with members of the defence forces or those who are charged with the maintenance of public order, we find that the paras 35 to 40 are suitable to be adopted.

The main duty of the citizens is to safeguard our Three Main National Causes. They also have the duty to develop the nation, safeguard territorial integrity, ensure peace and stability, and undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and serve in the armed forces. Thus we find the paras 41 to 47 appropriate.

As regards the word "State", the point "In this Chapter 'The State' means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution" should be adopted.

Now I will present the Role of the Tatmadaw. The National Convention held on 16 September 1993 adopted the following basic principles:

(a) the Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing Tatmadaw.
(b) the Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer all affairs concerning the forces.
(c) the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief is the supreme Commander of all armed forces.
(d) the Tatmadaw has the right to administer for participation of the entire people in the State security and defence.
(e) the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty;
(f) the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution.

In his address delivered at the 60th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day held on 27 March 2005,
Development of urban and rural areas during the time of the Tatmadaw Government

Based on peace and stability and national solidarity, the Tatmadaw government had been carrying out the tasks for all-round development of states and divisions including rural and border areas. It is obviously seen that significant progress has been made in all regions. The government is also undertaking measures for raising of living standard of the people. As a result, urban and rural areas have been developed. More bridges are being built in urban and rural regions and model villages are established. Water supply projects are being implemented in villages in the arid zone which are far from dam and reservoir areas in order to get drinking water.

Rural roads were upgraded to earth ones, litterite ones, gravel ones and tarred ones. Schools in rural areas are also upgraded and priority is given to the increase in school enrollment in villages. Moreover, the Government is also fulfilling the requirements for the development of the economy of rural areas. The table shows increase in the number of rural roads, bridges, water supply tasks and rural housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Rural road (mile)</td>
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<td>23,898</td>
<td>19,959</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- tar road (mile)</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>887</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- gravel road (mile)</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>3,957</td>
<td>3,135</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- litterite road (mile)</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>1,689</td>
<td>958</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- earth road (mile)</td>
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<td>17,070</td>
<td>14,978</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>New bridges constructed in rural areas</td>
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<td>6,324</td>
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</tr>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Water supply tasks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- villages where tasks have been undertaken</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- tasks completed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,904</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LNDP agrees to adopt points...

(from page 5)

So we would like to suggest that the basic principle “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty” should be transferred to the chapter of the Role of the Tatmadaw as a detailed basic principle. The nation regained independence on 4 January 1948 thanks to the struggles and efforts made by the people all over the nation, with Tatmadaw serving as the main pillar of the armed resistance. But the Tatmadaw had to take the national political leading role and safeguarded the nation in 1948 and 1949 during which the Union faced the danger of disintegration and losing sovereignty again due to multi-coloured insurgency that broke out resulting from the loss of national unity soon after gaining of independence.

The Tatmadaw drove out the over 12,000 Kuomintang troops who invaded the nation in 1953, and liberated the Kuomintang-occupied territories. And when the nation was going to fall apart after the AFPP split into two factions in 1958, it was also the Tatmadaw that restored the nation as the Care-taker Government. In 1962, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties because of the grave situation arising from some loopholes of the 1947 Constitution that was driving the Union to disintegration in 1961.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw had to discharge the historic duty of assuming the State responsibilities because of the unavoidable circumstances caused by anarchy that regained the country and made public lives and property at risk without any security and of the vulnerability of the nation’s sovereignty to alien encroachment.

Hence the detailed basic principle “The Tatmadaw shall lead in safeguarding the Union of Myanmar against all internal and external dangers. The Tatmadaw is the core armed forces for national defence” should be adopted.

The Article 171 of the 1974 Constitution said every citizen in accordance with law — (a) undergo military training; (b) undertake military service for the defence of the State. The already-laid down basic principles in connection with citizens and citizens’ fundamental rights and responsibilities said, “every citizen shall have the duty to learn military science as prescribed by law” and “every citizen shall be responsible to undergo military service as prescribed by law.”

Hence, in connection with the participation of the people in State security and defence, I would like to give a suggestion that whether the detailed basic principles “The President is the Executive Head of State”; the duty to appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services should be vested in the President.

In entrusting the President with the duty to do so, it will be more appropriate if the appointment is made after seeking the proposal and recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council rather than by the President alone. Hence, the detailed basic principle “The President shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the proposal and recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council” should be adopted.

The Tatmadaw will be able to dutifully perform its task only if it has the right to administer all affairs concerning the forces. Mostly, State security and defence task involves secrets that need urgent action and swift accomplishment.

In this regard, the basic principle “The Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer all affairs concerning the forces” should be adopted. The National Constitution has already laid down the basic principle “The President is the Executive Head of State”.

We have found that the articles 98 and 99 of the 1974 Constitution said, “Justice shall be administered collectively by each judicial organ. Military justice for members of the People’s Defence Services may be administered according to law by a collective organ or by a single judge.” Hence, the detailed basic principle “Military justice for members of the Tatmadaw may be administered according to law by a collective organ or by a judge” should be adopted.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services will have to issue orders and directives as may be necessary for further enforcing discipline. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is the person who knows the requirements for discipline enforcement and current military affairs totally.

He is the man who commands the soldiers according to the law. Hence, in connection with the final decision for military justice, we would like to suggest that the detailed basic principle “The decision of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services is final and conclusive in military justice” should be adopted.

In addition, the detailed basic principles “The decision of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services is final and conclusive in military justice”; “A Law shall be enacted to provide assistance and care for families of the disabled or fallen Tatmadaw members” and “The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people upon occurrence of a calamity in the Union that affects the nation and the people” should be adopted.
Plenary Session of the National Convention continues...

(from page 1)

workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), and Shan State (South), Mandalay, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State 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 Government Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Office of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee, and ministries concerned, other invited delegates, delegates of national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and exchanged arms for peace.

Before the Plenary Session of the National Convention at 7.30 am, Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-Gen-
The National Convention has held discussions and adopted the detailed basic principles for the distribution of the legislative powers to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at the Pyidaungsu level, to the Region or State Hluttaw, and to the Self-Administered Division Leading Body, and Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies as prescribed by the State Constitution.

In the previous articles, dividing the facts on legislative power into 11 sectors, I have explained matters on the sharing of legislative power stated in the Pyidaungsu Legislative List, and the Region or State Legislative List.

Now I would like to present our discussions on the remaining ones of the detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted for the sharing of legislative power in writing the State Constitution. The discussions include matters on legislative powers vested in the Self-Administered Division Leading Body or Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies, the vesting of legislative powers regarding the matters not included in respective legislative lists in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, matters on enacting of laws by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if necessary for the Union territories, and the enforcement of the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if necessary for the Union territories, and the enforcement of the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw if necessary for the Union territories, and the enforcement of the laws enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Bagyi Soe: Of course. I’ve studied matters on the legislative powers that are vested in the Self-Administered Division Leading Body and Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies. And I noticed it’s important that the powers vested in the leading bodies that are the legislative bodies of the self-administered areas shall be manageable legislative powers. So, the National Convention has adopted a detailed basic principle “Self-administered division or self-administered zone leading bodies are vested with the legislative power relevant to the following matters for their respective division or zones:

(a) Town and village plan,
(b) Construction, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges,
(c) Public health,
(d) Development affairs,
(e) Fire prevention,
(f) Pasture,
(g) Forest protection and conservation,
(h) Environmental conservation in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu,
(i) Water and electricity supply in towns and villages, and
(j) Town and village markets”.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi. The Self-Administered Division Leading Body and the Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies have the rights to enact laws concerning the matters the State Constitution bestows. So, they have to enact necessary laws in these matters for the development of their areas. Besides, they will have to follow the laws enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Region or State Hluttaw. Am I right, Kyee Kyee?

Kyee Kyee Mya: Yes, you are. It’s indeed the essence of democracy for the sharing of legislative power. Even though the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones do not have the rights to enact laws as regards the matters with which the Central body and the Regions or States have the rights to deal, they will have the rights to handle these matters in accord with the laws enacted by the Central and the Region or State concerned.

Bagyi Soe: Similarly, the Division or State Hluttaw will be able to implement the matters included in the Region or State Legislative List after enacting necessary laws division or state-wise. Moreover, they will also have the rights in accordance with the laws enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. So, the Region or State Hluttaw will have to abide by the laws enacted by the Union level Hluttaws. And the Self-Administered Division and the Self-Administered Zones will have to follow the laws enacted by the Central and the Region or State Hluttaw. Such matters indicate that the National Convention has taken necessary measures to ensure smoothness and effectiveness in sharing legislative powers and in implementing the laws enacted.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I see, Bagyi. I notice that the matters to vest the legislative power in the Self-Administered Division Leading Body and the Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies are in reality the points respective division and zones can tackle conveniently.

Bagyi Soe: You’re right. Such matters concern the tasks to be implemented constantly in the interests of local people of respective areas. The matters are health, development affairs, clean water supply, and supply of electricity for towns and villages. As a matter of fact, these are based on environmental conservation, border areas development and rural development project the government is implementing.

Kyee Kyee Mya: That represents the essence of the sharing of legislative power with all the bodies from the central level to lowest levels. As a result, the self-administered division and the self-administered

The State Legislative Power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the Region or State Hluttaw. The Legislative Power prescribed by the State Constitution is vested in the Self-Administered Areas.

(See page 9)
zones where the ethnic minorities live will have the rights to enact the laws that con-
form with their conditions and will be able
to carry out tasks for their development.
So, it’s apparent that the forthcoming Con-
stitution formulated with the basic princi-
pies adopted by the present National Convention is more
fundamental with greater essence than in the past.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Despite so many sound evi-
dences, internal and external abovementioned and underground leftist
and rightist destructive elements stick
to the policy that the benefits of the nation
and the people aren’t their con-
cerns and their acts are centred on
their own interests. And they are speak-
ing ill of national development tasks.

Bagyi Soe: I’m sure they will keep on com-
mitting such destructive acts. But, what’s
the most important is that the entire na-
tional people should be convinced of the
prevailing conditions of the nation as what
they really are. That’s why you’re inform-
ing the people with true facts through our
discussions.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Bagyi. I would also
like to know how to vest the legislative
power regarding the matters that are not included in the Pyidaungsu Legislative
List, the Region or State Legislative List
and the Self-Administered Division Lead-
ing Body and Self-Administered Zone
Leading Bodies Legislative List.

Kyet Kye Kya: The legislative power Maung Kyaw has asked is known as re-
sidual power, isn’t it, Ko Soe? Let me
know the vesting of the legislative power in
this regard.

Bagyi Soe: Right. The legislative power also
known as residual power is vested in the
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Why is the legislative power
regarding the residual power vested in the
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: It is said that in the world nothing
can be perfect. Because of globalization, events beyond imagination can occur at
any place of the world at any moment.
There may be important matters concern-
ing the whole nation or other matters
which requires enactment of a law for swift action. The nation and the people
will have to suffer if there is a delay in
addressing a problem that concerns the
whole nation. There may be differences in
enacting a law if the legislative power for
the matters are distributed to the Re-
gion and State Hluttaws and the self-ad-
ministered division and self-administered zones leading bodies. Hence, the legisla-
tive power in connection with the matters
is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the
highest legislative body of the nation.

Kyet Kye Kyaw: In the 1947 Constitution,
the residual power to enact laws regard-
ing the matters that are not enumer-
ated in the Union legislative list are
stated in the Union legislative list.

Bagyi Soe: in the constitutions of many other
nations, the residual power is entrusted to
the Union Hluttaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I am now convinced of why
the residual power is included in the
Union legislative list. Because it concerns
the interest of the nation and the people
and also the whole Union. Please explain
to me about the detailed basic principles
concerning the matter.

Bagyi Soe: A detailed basic principle “Leg-
islative power is vested in the
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in connection with
other matters not stated in the legisla-
tive list of the Union, Region or State,
and self-administered division or zone
leading bodies” has been adopted by the
National Convention regarding the shar-
ing of the legislative power.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please explain to me more
about the detailed basic principle which
says that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact
the required laws if the need arises to do
so for the Union territories.

Bagyi Soe: According to the already-laid-down
basic principles if an area is designated as a
Union territory, owing to its significant
situation, it will not be under the direct
administration of the Region or State con-
cerned, instead, the direct administra-
tion of the President. However, it also
says that neither the President nor the
Government Council shall have the power
to enact laws for the territory. The detailed
basic principle says that the Union terri-
ory shall follow the law enacted by the
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It is the essence of
the reciprocal control, check and balance
of the legislative and executive power.

Kyet Kye Mya: The Union territories are
directly under the laws of the Union and
the administration of the President. So,
the laws enacted by the Region or State
concerned will not be in force in the Union
territories.

As the legislative power to enact laws for the Union
territories is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, all the laws
nenacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be in force in the
Union territories. Similarly, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will enact
laws for the Union territories concerning the matters in-
cluded in the legislative lists of the Region and State Hluttaws
and self-administered division and self-administered
leading bodies.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please explain the legisla-
tion for the Union territories concerning the matters for which the legislative pow-
ers are vested in the Region or State
Hluttaw and self-administered area lead-
ing bodies.

Bagyi Soe: As the legislative power to en-
act laws for the Union territories is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, all
the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be in force in the
Union territories. Similarly, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will enact
l
laws for the Union territories concerning the matters in-
cluded in the legislative lists of the Region and State Hluttaws and self-
administered division and self-administered
leading bodies.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What about the existing laws
after the ratification of the new constitu-
tion?

Bagyi Soe: The detailed basic principle “The
existing laws are still in force until they are
revoked or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and unless they are
in contrary to the Constitution” has
already been adopted.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Clear as a crystal, Bagyi.
But we have not discussed the formation
of the Financial Commission, taxation in
the Union and Regions and States, the
budget yet.

Bagyi Soe: The adopted detailed basic prin-
ciples concerning the matters are full with
essence and in accord with democratic
practices, I will explain them later.

(Translation: MS + TMT)
Government enacts rules and regulations to protect...

(from page 16)

Gardens. There are about 1,200 zoological gardens all over the world in which Asia makes up about 50 per cent, he added.

In its 100 years of existence, efforts have been made for the development of the zoological gardens. The Tatmadaw Government is also making concerted efforts for the development of the zoological gardens. During the time of the Tatmadaw Government, all-round development tasks are also being carried out to pave the way for a future discipline-bourishing democratic State.

According to Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the Government enacted rules and regulations to protect the natural resources, and established 41 wildlife sanctuaries and zoos across the country in efforts to conserve the environment.

He continued to say that in an attempt to protect the tigers an endangered species in the world, Hukaung Valley in northern Myanmar is designated as the tiger conservation area.

The Government launched the all-round upgrading project of Yangon Zoological Gardens and Kandawgyi Garden in April, 2003, and marks. Lt-Gen Thein Sein also called for more efforts to develop Hlawga Wildlife Park near Yangon.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on the purpose of the centennial ceremony of Zoological Gardens (Yangon). He said that there are various kinds of bio-diversities including 300 species of mammals, over 1,000 species of birds and over 1,000 species of butterfly in Myanmar due to her performance of environmental conservation. Since yore, people in Myanmar have had a practice to tame wild animals. In the time of King Mindon, wildlife were bred nearby Yadanaebon Palace. It was on the initiative of the history to tame wild animals.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Ministry of Forestry has been implementing upgrading tasks of Zoological Gardens. It could attract a great number of visitors increasing from 1.1 million in 2003-2004 and 2 million in 2004-2005.

In his concluding remarks, Brig-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin open the centennial ceremony of Zoological Gardens (Yangon). — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils stone plaque of Zoological Gardens (Yangon). — MNA

Elephant show at Zoological Gardens (Yangon). — MNA
Union Kayin League supports adoption of all detailed basic principles of chapters concerning citizens and Tatmadaw

YANGON, 25 Jan — The following is a translation of the suggestion presented by U Mahn Tin Maung (a) U Mahn Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League at the National Convention today.

Now we are going to discuss the 48 points concerning the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the 14 points concerning the Role of the Tatmadaw explained by the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee.

Concerning the citizenship the following points should be adopted as detailed basic principles

1. All persons who have either one of following requirement 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

2. Citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be prescribed by the law

The National Convention has already adopted the six basic principles concerning the justice, equality and liberty that are the worldly values and genuine democracy practices. Moreover the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman in connection with religion, gender, social status, maternity rights and other matters contained in the paras 3 to 8 are suitable to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The five points regarding the citizens’ freedom covers the freedom of speech, freedom of publication, freedom of expression, freedom of assembling, formation of organizations, protection of property, State security, the rule of law and community peace. Thus, the points contained in the paras 9 to 13 should be adopted as detailed basic principles. As regards slavery and forced labour, the paras 14 and 15 should be adopted for the constitution. The National Convention laid down seven detailed basic principles in connection with the religious freedom, and we find them appropriate to be adopted for the constitution.

The clarifications of the Work Committee Chairman include cultural sector, education opportunities, literature, culture and arts of the national races. In our view the paras 23 and 25 stipulating the said matters should be adopted.

The two points regarding the elections is comprehensive for the multiparty democracy system. Thus, we would like to suggest that the paras 26 and 27 should be adopted. The State will have to guarantee economic freedom in accord with law and render assistance for obtaining technology, investment, raw materials. Thus we are in support of adopting the paras 28 to 30.

As regards the criminal procedures, the Work Committee Chairman explained four points, and we are in favour of adopting them as detailed basic principles for the constitution.

In our view, the paras 35 to 40 in connection with Citizens’ right to seek protection of the State and other matters should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The paras 41 to 47 deal with responsibilities of citizens to uphold Our Three Main National Causes, abide by the Constitution, safeguard independence, sovereignty, territory of the Union of Myanmar, ensure community peace and stability, build a modern developed nation, undergo military training, serve in the armed forces to defend the State, and pay taxes to be levied according to the law. Thus we agree that the paras should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

As the para 48 comprehensively explains the definition of the term “the State” it should be included in the Constitution. All in all, we would like to say that all the 48 points of the chapter should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Now, I will give suggestions on the chapter “the Role of the Tatmadaw”. The National Convention adopted the six basic principles on the chapter. The nation’s security and perpetuation can be guaranteed only if the Tatmadaw is strong. The Work Committee Chairman explained that the nation fell apart and lost her independence and sovereignty during the time when the Tatmadaw was weak. The Work Committee chairman also explained the military build-up of the neighbouring nations.

The National Convention has already adopted the basic principle concerning the existence of a strong and modern Tatmadaw. As explained by the Work Committee Chairman, the point “The Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing brilliant and patriotic Tatmadaw” should be adopted.

Concerning the Tatmadaw’s duty for safeguarding the State Constitution, and Our Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, the paras 2 and 3 should be adopted.

As the paras 4 and 5 include the Tatmadaw’s duty of safeguarding the Union of Myanmar and right to administer for participation of the entire people in the State security and defence, they should be adopted.

We are in favour of adopting the paras 6, 7 and 8 which concern the task of commanding all armed forces in the nation and designating the official position of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The party finds the para 9 regarding the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the para 10 suitable to be adopted as detailed basic principles for the constitution. We also would like to suggest that the following points should be adopted:

“Military justice for members of the Tatmadaw may be administered according to law by a collective organ or by a judge”

“The decision of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services is final and conclusive in military justice”

“A Law shall be enacted to provide assistance and care for families of the disabled or fallen Tatmadaw members”

“The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people upon occurrence of a calamity in the Union that affects the nation and the people”

As the 14 detailed basic principles of the Role of the Tatmadaw and the 48 detailed basic principles in connection with the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens are in accord with the worldly values and six objectives of the National Convention, they all should be adopted as provisions of the new Constitution. — MNA

Trainees of 37th Course (BED) of UDNR visit Thayawady, Padaung townships

YANGON, 25 Jan — The trainees of the 37th Course (BED) of University for Development of National Races led by Prof Daw Aye Aye Kyaing left No 1 Transit Centre, here, for an excursion tour yesterday.

When the trainees arrived at Enamelware Factory and Ceramics Tile Factory in Thayawady Township, Bago Division (West), they were welcomed by District PDC Chairman Li-Col Khin Win and officials. After hearing the facts about the factory explained by officials, they viewed round the factories.

On arrival at No 1 Farm Machinery Factory (Sinde) in Padaung Township, Managing Director U Myo Tint of Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries explained the facts about the factory. Afterwards, a trainee expressed thanks and Township UDNR Secretary U Thant Zin Aung presented gifts for the trainees through a trainee. Next, they studied the equipment being produced by the factory.

Myanma Tourism Service gives services to travellers

YANGON, 25 Jan — Myanma Tourism Service is making arrangements for package tours at fair price throughout the nation.

MTS is giving transport service to the travelers to Chaungtha, Ngweahsaung and Ngapali beaches, journeys to Myitkyina, Kengtung-Tachileik journey, Sitwaddy-MraukU journey, Lashio-Muse journey, pilgrimage tours to Bagan, Kyakiktihyo, and Shwesettaw pagodas. Furthermore, the visitors will be provided with accommodation and reception at the hotels in the respective regions.

For further information, dial 252859 and 387002, Myanma Tourism Service, No 77-91, Sale Pagoda Road, Yangon.
Indonesia mulls incentives for hybrid cars

Jakarta, 24 Jan—The Indonesian Government will propose incentives to reduce price of hybrid cars to encourage local motorists to buy low-emission cars, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Ministry of Research and Technology is considering incentives for cars with emissions of air pollutants far below the tolerable limit, reported Bisnis Indonesia, quoting a minister as saying.

"The proposal should not be specific, but should be generic. The incentive is offered to vehicles that produce emissions below the tolerable limits," said Minister of Research and Technology Kusmayanto Kadim.

The government needs to give incentives because hybrid cars are 15-40 per cent more expensive than conventional cars, he said.

"The incentives include tax cut or purchase rebate, as in the US. They should be either fiscal or non-fiscal," he added. The ministry on Monday received technological assistance from Japanese automaker Honda in Indonesia for examination on hybrid cars.

On the occasion, the local unit PT Honda Prospect Motor (HPM) gave the Claims Day Notice to MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (BV 094N) consignees. The vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (BV 094N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (BV 094N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day. In case of no claims made, such cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. MNA/Xinhua

Singapore sets investment goals for 2006

SINGAPORE, 24 Jan—Singapore has set the goals for attracting investments in the manufacturing and non-financial services sectors in 2006, according to a statement released by the Economic Development Board (EDB) on Monday.

EDB, Singapore’s investment promotion agency, projects investment commitments made in 2006 to reach some 11 billion Singapore dollars (about Seven billion US dollars), which will create 20,000 to 25,000 jobs when fully implemented.

Of the total, eight billion to 8.5 billion Singapore dollars (about five billion to 5.2 billion US dollars) should go into the manufacturing sector and 2.5 billion to 2.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 1.5 billion to 1.7 billion US dollars) should be in the non-financial services sector.

Expecting investments in major industries like electronics, chemicals and the Claims Day.

Vietnam’s coffee output to drop this crop

HANOI, 24 Jan — Vietnam is estimated to see coffee output of 600,000-630,000 tons in the 2005-2006 crop ending in September, down from 750,000 tons in the previous crop due to unfavorable weather, according to a local trade information agency on Monday.

Vietnam’s main coffee-growing areas were hit by either prolonged droughts or floods, which will result in smaller output and export volume this year, the Trade Information Centre under the Ministry of Industry said noting that the country is likely to benefit from a 10-15 per cent increase in export coffee price in 2006.

Export prices of Vietnam’s robusta coffee delivered at the country’s southern Saigon Port currently stand at more than 1,210 US dollars per ton, up 6.1 per cent against early this month. The world’s coffee reserves are declining, while foreign coffee traders are slowing down their sales to wait for higher prices, the centre said. Vietnam, the world’s second bigger coffee exporter, shipped abroad 885,000 tons of coffee worth 725 million dollars in 2005, down 9.2 per cent from 2004, or a 13.1 per cent in value against 2004, according to the country’s General Statistics Office. MNA/Xinhua
China, Saudi Arabia agree to further substantial cooperation

BEIJING, 24 Jan — China and Saudi Arabia agreed here on Monday to further increase bilateral substantial cooperation and promote the in-depth development of bilateral strategic friendship and cooperation.

President Hu Jintao and visiting King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz held talks Monday afternoon at the Great Hall of the People and they spoke highly of bilateral relations.

Although the forging of diplomatic ties between China and Saudi Arabia is not long ago, bilateral ties have progressed smoothly with a frequent exchanges of high-level visits and enhancing mutual understanding and trust.

Bilateral cooperation in economy, trade and energy has witnessed remarkable results, said Hu, adding that Saudi Arabia has become China’s biggest trade partner in West Asia and North Africa.

Meanwhile, he acknowledged, the two countries have conducted fruitful cooperation in the spheres of culture, science, technology and security, and sound cooperation with wide-ranging consensus on major international and regional issues.

Hu appreciated and thanked Saudi Arabia for its valuable support for China on the Taiwan issue.

The Chinese side attaches great importance to the growth of bilateral strategic friendship and cooperation and will work with the Saudi Arabian side to turn the two countries into good friends and good partners with a long-term friendship and overall cooperation, said Hu.

MNA/Xinhua

China to build world’s first 800-KV transmission line

NANNING, 24 Jan — Preparations have begun for building the world’s first 800-kilovolt direct-current power transmission line to send electricity from resource-rich Yunnan Province in southwest China to China’s major economic powerhouse of Guangdong.

According to Yuan Maozhen, chairman of the China Southern Power Grid Corp (CSG), China’s second largest electricity distributor, the 800-kilovolt direct-current electricity transmission line will be completed before 2010.

“No far, key technologies of the project are ready, and assessment of environmental and land issues has been underway,” said Yuan.

With 60 per cent of equipment made in China, the new transmission line will have a larger capacity and be stabler than the current 500-kilovolt direct-current lines, said experts at CSG’s annual work conference held in this capital of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The power transmission line is one of the four lines for CSG’s west-to-east electricity transmission programme, which will be built in the next five years to ease the power bottleneck in Guangdong Province by tapping water resources in southwest China.

China’s southern power grid suffered a maximum power shortfall of 9.4 million kilowatts in 2005, due to the economic boom in the region. CSG estimated that the shortfall in the first half of this year will fall to 5.4 million kilowatts in five provinces and regions in south China, according to statistics from the conference. Yuan Maozhen said that to ease the shortfall, CSG planned to invest some 234 billion yuan (28.9 billion US dollars) in power grid construction in the next five years.

MNA/Xinhua

No trace yet of missing quaking aid Turkmen helicopter

ISLAMABAD, 24 Jan — Searchers have yet to locate a Turkmen helicopter that disappeared three days ago with seven crew aboard during a flight home after helping with earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan, aid officials said Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Expelled British reporter leaves Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 24 Jan — A British journalist ordered to leave Ethiopia within 24 hours after the government accused him of portraying the Horn of Africa country in a bad light for Kenya on Sunday, officials said.

Immigration sources in the capital Addis Ababa said Anthony Mitchell had flown to Nairobi. The Associated Press (AP) news agency, which employs him, confirmed Mitchell had left Ethiopia.

“Mitchell complied with a government order to leave the country today,” AP Managing Editor Mike Silverman said in a statement. “We hope he will be allowed to return to Addis Ababa soon so that he can be with his family and return to his duties.

Ironically, he is now stuck in a country where he has been doing its government a宣传 “The AP stands behind Mitchell, who is an aggressive and fair journalist, and has worked in Ethiopia for AP for more than five years,” Silverman added.

Ethiopia’s Foreign Ministry summoned Mitchell on Saturday and expelled him, accusing him of “disseminating information tarnishing the image of the country despite repeated advice not to do so”. No further details were given.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese President appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Chinese President Hu Jintao has appointed new ambassadors to four countries on Monday, in accordance with a decision made by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

Zhang Xinwu was appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, replacing Zhou Xiaopei. Geng Wenbing was appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, replacing Chen Meiwen.

Zhang Jinfeng was appointed the new ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambo-
dia, replacing Hu Quanwen. Lu Shaye was appointed the new ambassador to the Republic of Senegal.

MNA/Xinhua

Layla Berlemont, communications coordinator for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Islamabad, said a search for the Russian-made Mi-8 helicopter was continuing on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Temperatures in the mountainous border region fall as low as minus 30 Celsius (-22 Fahrenheit) during the winter.

MNA/Reuters

No local residents walk in snow in Yerevan, Armenia, on 23 Jan, 2006, after a heavy snowfall hit Yerevan on Monday. —INTERNET
Bordeaux threaten to sue Tapie over match-fixing claim

Bordeaux (France), 25 Jan—Girondins Bordeaux threatened on Tuesday to take legal action against Bernard Tapie after the former Olympique Marseille chairman suggested a league match between Paris St Germain and Bordeaux had been fixed.

"Girondins Bordeaux have noted the disgraceful and groundless accusations made by Bernard Tapie," Bordeaux said in a statement.

"We cannot accept this offence against the integrity of a club and of its officials, players and supporters, and we will take suitable action."

Tapie was reacting to comments by former Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie who accused him of various misdemeanours when he was the Marseille chairman and implied Marseille players took illegal drugs before the 1993 Champions League final.

Tapie also reacted to Tapie's allegations regarding the 1999 match and did not rule out taking action.

"Bernard Tapie has to take responsibility for what we said," said a PSG spokesman. "We will see what happens next but we will do something about this."

Kofi Annan backs Olympic truce

LAUSANNE (Switzerland), 25 Jan—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called on warring parties throughout the world to observe the Olympic truce during next month's Winter Games in Turin.

Speaking after a meeting with International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge at the organization's headquarters in Lausanne, Annan said the truce offers a chance for combatants to re-assess their motives. "The period of the Olympic Games is obviously not long enough for us to believe that we can use it to establish lasting peace," Annan told reporters afterwards.

"It is however a chance for protagonists to look around, see how they are destroying their communities and take the chance to explore other options."

"Introduced into the modern Olympics in 1991, the truce calls for the suspension of fighting for the duration of the Games."

The UN General Assembly has already adopted seven resolutions in support of the truce—most recently in November last year.

But Annan said they had also discussed ongoing collaboration between the UN and IOC in the fields of education, healthcare and the environment.

"Wherever UN agencies have offices, we can work with national Olympic committees to ensure that sports is incorporated more and more into the educational curriculum," Annan added.

Following his discussions with Rogge, Annan was later due to meet FIFA president Sepp Blatter in Zurich.

Annan, Rogge and Blatter are also set to take part in a seminar on the global impact of sport at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday.

Drogba leads Ivory Coast to second win

CAIRO, 25 Jan—An early goal from Didier Drogba led the Ivory Coast to their second successive win at the African Nations Cup finals on Tuesday, a 2-1 triumph over Group A opponents Libya.

The World Cup finalists, who beat Morocco 1-0 on Saturday thanks to a Drogba penalty, are now on the cusp of the quarterfinals while Libya have been effectively eliminated.

Chelsea striker Drogba put the Ivorians one up after a mistake by Libya goalkeeper Muftah Ghzalla in the 10th minute.

Ghzalla appeared to have smothered a shot by Arouna Kone but allowed the ball to slip from his grasp, allowing Kone to set up Drogba for an easy goal from close range.

The Ivorians squandered two good chances to add to their tally when Kone and Drogba went wide with close-range headers.

Libya, hammered 3-0 by Egypt in the opening game of the tournament on Friday, grew in confidence after several swift passing moves and equalized two minutes before halftime through Abdelsalam Khamis.

Italian-based winger Jihadi Muntasier pulled a cross back into the path of the tall Khamis, who timed his run perfectly to head home.

It was Libya's first goal at the finals since their semifinal appearance 24 years ago.

Drogba went close to restoring Ivory Coast's lead when he swivelled to hit a snap shot narrowly wide in the 50th minute.

Di Canio banned again for fascist salute

ROMA, 24 Jan—Laazio's Paolo Di Canio has been banned for one game and fined 10,000 euros (12,240 US dollars) for the raised-arm salute he made during his side's 2-1 defeat by Livorno in December, the Italian Football League's disciplinary committee announced on Monday.

It is the second time in little more than a month that the 37-year-old striker has been punished in this way, following an identical salute at the end of Lazio's 1-1 draw with Juventus, also in December.

The new ban means he will miss Lazio's Serie A match against Treviso on Sunday.

Di Canio was criticized by politicians, players, fans and Jewish groups after he ran out under the visiting fans' stand to make the salute at the end of the game in Livorno.

Sepp Blatter, president of world soccer's governing body FIFA, commented on the incident, saying players that made fascist salutes should be banned from the game for life.
Bitter cold hits Eastern Europe, Turkey

BUCHAREST, 25 Jan — Bitter cold killed nine people in Romania and the Czech Republic over the past two days, shut Black Sea ports and disrupted transport and energy supplies in parts of Eastern Europe, officials said on Monday.

Freezing weather continues to affect much of central and eastern Europe, including Moscow, on 24 Jan, 2006. — INTERNET

Wintry weather also hit northern, central and eastern Turkey, leaving nearly 4,000 villages cut off from the outside world.

Temperatures of around minus 25 degrees Celsius (minus 13 Fahrenheit) killed six men in the eastern Romanian counties of Vrancea, Bacau and Buzau, state radio Romania Actualitati reported, quoting police.

Three people froze to death overnight in various parts of the Czech Republic where temperatures dropped as low as minus 30 Celsius (-22F) and broke historical records in some cities, Czech news agency CTX reported.

The Temelin nuclear power station in the Czech Republic said it had to shut down its sole running reactor for several hours early on Monday due to the low temperatures.

Strong blizzards hit Hungary, where several roads and schools in the northeastern Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen county were forced to close and wind damaged the roofs of around 80 houses, state news agency MTI reported.

In Croatia, gale-force winds shut roads, bridges and ferry lines on Monday, including sections of the main motorway connecting the capital Zagreb and the Adriatic coast, state radio reported.

Heavy snow in Turkey caused the collision of a bus and a Foreign Ministry service vehicle, killing at least nine people including diplomats, the ministry said.

Blizzards also forced the closure of the narrow Bosporus straits to all shipping.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 25 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago and Ayeayawady Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Heho (3°C) and Mogok (4°C). The note worthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawkhong (0.39) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-1-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 25-1-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 25-1-2006 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 24-1-2006 was (7.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 25-1-2006 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 (4) mph from East at (17:15) hours MST on 24-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-1-2006: Isolated rain are likely in the Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States and upper Sagaing Division and fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-1-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2006: Fair weather.

Erthquake report

(Issued at 22:30 hours MST, today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre China-Myanmar Border Area about (420) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (20) hrs (12) min (23) sec MST on 24th January 2006.
Government enacts rules, regulations to protect natural resources, establishes 41 wildlife sanctuaries and zoos across the country

Yangon Zoological Gardens celebrates its centenary

* 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

**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

YANGON, 25 Jan — Yangon Zoological Gardens, home to over 1,000 animals of 150 species, celebrated its centenary here today.

At a ceremony to mark the centenary, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the plaque of the 100th anniversary of the zoological gardens. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said wild animals were kept and trained for the public to see their performance during the period of Roman Empire, and zoos were established in Europe. Later, the London Zoo Board was founded in 1928.

With the aims of ensuring the public relaxation and recreation, enhancing botanical and biological knowledge of visitors and conducting research, zoos were established all over the world in 1950s. At present, zoos have become very commercialized by showing the performance of the well-trained animals.

It was in 1906 that Yangon Zoological Gardens was founded and the zoo is the pride of the country. It is rare to find the 100-year-old zoo like Yangon Zoological (See page 10)

* Regarding the making of laws for the Self-Administered Division and Self-Administered Zones, a basic principle has been adopted that “The State Legislative Power is vested in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the Region or State Hluttaw. The Legislative Power prescribed by the State Constitution is vested in the Self-Administered Areas”.

* The Self-Administered Division Leading Body or the Self-Administered Zone Leading Bodies have the rights to enact laws concerning the matters the State Constitution bestows. So, they have to enact necessary laws in these matters for the development of their areas.