### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

### Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Plenary Session of the National Convention continues**

**Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, Delegate Group of National Races submit suggestions**

**NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein and party seen together with NC delegates at Plenary Session of National Convention. — MNA**

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**Delegates to the National Convention submit their proposals on detailed basic principles to be laid down for the Chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw.**

**Members of the Panel of Chairmen. — MNA**

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**Inside**

All the activities for national development carried out at the grassroots level by the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation are in reality the perpetual service of the nation and the people.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Minister inspects Khabaung Dam construction

YANGON, 26 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 22 January inspected the construction project of Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam in Ottwin Township, Bago Division, and called for timely completion of work.

First, he inspected the construction of the Khabaung Diversion Weir at the dam. Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam is located five miles from the diversion weir.

At the dam the director-general and officials of the Irrigation Department reported to the minister on construction works. The minister also urged them to cultivate physic nut plants in the environs of the dam and the diversion weir.

MNA

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects construction project of Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam in Ottwin Township, Bago Division. — Ad1

26th Myanmar Dental Conference, 7th FDI-MDI Joint Education Meeting held

YANGON, 25 Jan — Organized by Myanmar Dental Association, the 26th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 7th FDI-MDA Joint Education Meeting were opened at Traders Hotel this morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors and directors of the departments under the Ministry of Health, Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, officials of Myanmar Dental and Oral Council, Chairman of MDA Dr Ba Myint and CEC members, delegates to MDC, resident representatives under the UN agencies, Delegate to World Dental Federation Prof Jennifer Neo and members, delegates of social organizations and resource persons at home and abroad. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made an opening speech saying that Myanmar has been carrying out health development tasks systematically laying down health projects including the Primary Oral Health Care Project.

The minister urged MDA to take part in the drive for the Myanmar dental development joining hands with other local and international organizations. After the ceremony, the minister viewed medicines and medical equipment showrooms.

Afterwards, the 26th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 7th FDI-MDI Joint Education Meeting took place with an opening address by Prof Jennifer Neo of World Dental Federation. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the opening ceremony of 26th Myanmar Dental Conference and 7th FDI-MDI Joint Education Meeting. — MNA

All this needs to be known
- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed
Abraham Lincoln, cockroaches are. Little the display. How brave the Europe.

munist government and led marchers. As he climbed the podium to send off the Havana’s Malecon seafront, as he has in previous protests. Organizers said 1.4 million people marched by the US diplomatic compound during the six-hour demonstration. Most were driven to the march by buses and trucks during the night.

Castro said no government in the world could accept such a “perverse violation of its dignity and sovereignty” and warned there would be a firm, though peaceful, Cuban response.

MNA/Reuters

US watchdog says millions wasted in Iraq reconstruction

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan— Millions of dollars of US money intended for the reconstruction of Iraq were wasted and mismanaged by the US-run government in Iraq between 2003 and 2004, a military watchdog said in a new report.

The special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction said that the Coalition Provisional Authority had “not effectively managed” more than 2.000 contracts for central and southern provinces worth $8.1 million dollars.

The inspector general, Stuart Bowen, said in his report that signs of fraud had been detected and were being investigated.

Bowen said he recommended that the US embassy in Baghdad demand the repayment of 571,823 dollars from 11 contracts.

Bowen’s unit has released other reports criticizing the management of reconstruction contracts after the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Internet

Anti-war chant opens World Social Forum in Venezuela

CARACAS (Venezuela), 25 Jan— Thousands marched in Caracas on Tuesday chanting against US imperialism and the war in Iraq at the start of the World Social Forum, where activists campaign for causes from fair trade to indigenous rights.

US peace activist Cindy Sheehan, who held a vigil outside US President George W Bush’s Texas ranch after her soldier son was killed in Iraq, led the flag-waving crowds shouting “No to the war” in Spanish to end of the rally.

“We need to stop the war in Iraq, we need to bring our troops home immediately,” Sheehan said from a stage. “We need to see George Bush and the rest of them tried for crimes against humanity. We need justice for our children.”

Many at the rally hailed Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a self-styled socialist revolutionary and critic of Washington, who has become a regional standard-bearer for left-wing and anti-US movements since allying himself with Cuba.

Colombian drummers, whistles and stick-walkers brought a festive atmosphere to an event that has become a central forum for international debate on subjects as diverse as gay rights, anti-globalization and global arms control.

“This is against conflict, against wars all over the world,” said Marie Eve Bowen, executive director of the coalition.

Overcrowded service shelters, exorbitant cost of housing and cutbacks in government housing assistance are being blamed for the rise of homelessness.

MNA/Reuters

Second Filipino journalist killed within one week

MANILA, 25 Jan— Another Filipino journalist was gunned down in the Philippine town of Morong, west of Metro Manila, who was the second newspaperman killed within one week, police said on Tuesday.

A newspaper columnist, identified as Graciano Aquino, was shot dead by gunmen at a cockfight in Morong Town, west of Metro Manila over the weekend.

The 40-year-old columnist of the Central Luzon Forum newspaper was another media victim following a radio broadcaster, Rolly Canete.

Police said that they suspected the rebel group of the New People’s Army as being behind the killing.

On Friday, Rolly Canete, a part-time radio journalist was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the southern city of Pagadian.

The Philippines was branded last year by the Paris-based Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) as the second most dangerous country in the world to journalists.

MNA/Reuters

Homeless on the rise in New York

New York, 25 Jan— The first five years of the new century have seen a rise of the number of homeless people on the streets of New York, according to an annual report released on Tuesday by an advocacy group for homeless people.

The report, the seventh released by the Coalition for the Homeless, calls this the worst decade for homelessness since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The group found that through the first half of this decade, an average of 32,609 New Yorkers slept in homeless shelters each night, compared to an average of 23,295 in the 1980’s and a 44-per-cent increase compared to the 1990’s.

In the same period, the number of homeless families in city shelters each night has nearly doubled from an average of 3,947 families in the 1980’s to a mid-decade average of 7,640 families in 2005. The most drastic increase came in the number of children seeking shelter. This decade — through 2005 — an average of 13,616 children are in New York City shelters each night, a 55-per-cent increase on the number of children who used city shelters on average throughout the 1990’s. “This decade is turning out to be the worst decade for homeless New Yorkers since the Great Depression,” the report said.

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The number of children in city shelters has risen by more than half since the 1990’s, while the population of families in shelters has skyrocketed.
Mainland airlines to offer cosmically snug services for Taiwan passengers

BEIJING, 25 Jan— The Chinese mainland airlines will offer.cosmo services for Taiwan passengers, said Li Wei, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council here on Tuesday.

The Mainland airines concerned have made full, meticulous preparations and arrangements for the Spring Festival charter flights and will offer cosy and snug services for passengers in an effort to ensure a safe and comfortable trip for the Taiwan passengers heading for the family reunion.

Taiwan-based China Airlines charter flight C1585 wrapping up its round trip between Taibei and Shanghai unveiling the charter flights between the Chinese Mainland and the Taiwan Strait for this year’s traditional Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, he said.

On 25 January, seven airlines from the two sides will fulfill their round trip missions, he said, and officials from the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council here on Tuesday.

Six killed in Iranian bombs blasts

TEHRAN, 25 Jan — At least six people were killed and several others injured in two bomb blasts that ripped through Iran’s southwestern city of Ahvaz on Tuesday morning, state television reported.

Earlier, the TV reported that four people were killed in the huge explosions.

In addition, the blasts also caused some damage and fire engines and ambulances were rushed to the scene, the official IRNA news agency said, revealing no other details.

Tuesday’s explosions are the third such bombing case since last June in Ahvaz, capital city of the southwestern province of Khuzestan, which borders Iraq. On 12 June, 2005, three bombs exploded concurrently near public facilities in the city, killing eight dead and scores of others injured.

On 15 October, 2005, two consecutive bomb blasts ripped through an IT commercial centre in Ahvaz, killing six and wounded more than 50.

Almost 90 per cent of Iran’s nearly 132 billion barrels of proven oil reserve and most of the country’s two million ethnic Arabs live in the province.

Conflicts between the government and local residents have become a major concern of the Iranian authorities, which blame the tension on the continuous provocation of some foreign countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s “H-2A” rocket sends satellite into orbit

TOKYO, 25 Jan— Japan’s domestically made H-2A rocket successfully sent a land-observation satellite into orbit on Tuesday, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced.

The eighth version of the H-2A rocket, carrying the Advanced Land Observing Satellite, nicknamed “Daichi,” was launched at 10:33 am (0133 GMT) Tuesday from Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, according to JAXA.

The satellite separated smoothly from the rocket sixteen minutes later at an altitude of about 700 kilometres, JAXA said.

The satellite, which will orbit about 690 kilometres above the Earth, is intended to collect topographic data to contribute to cartography and capture images of disaster hit areas anywhere in the world as part of Japan’s international cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

Statue of Tutankhamun’s grandmother unearthed in Upper Egypt

CAIRO, 26 Jan— A statue of Queen Ti, grandmother to one of the country’s most famous pharaohs Tutankhamun, has been discovered at an ancient temple in Luxor, Upper Egypt, the official MENA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), was quoted as saying that an American archaeological mission working at Mot Temple in Luxor unearthed the roughly 3,400-year-old statue, which is one of half a metre of rocks and sand, said the Egypt’s chief archaeologist.

“The SCA and the city of Luxor have started carrying out a giant project to salvage the area of Amenhotep III on the western bank of the River Nile,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Four US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan — Four US soldiers were killed in separate incidents in Iraq on Monday, the US military said on Tuesday.

Two US soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb attack targeted at their vehicle in southeastern Baghdad on Monday, the US military said in a statement.

“One soldier died at the scene and the other died on the way to the military hospital,” the statement added.

In a separate statement, the military said that two US Marines died in a vehicle accident near a US military base near the western flashpoint city of Fallujah.

“Two Marines assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) were killed in a non-hostile vehicle accident near Al Taqaddum, 23 January,” the statement said. The names of the soldiers were being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.— MNA/Xinhua

A US Marine shoots the lock off a door during a search of property near the western Iraq town of Hit, on 25 Jan, 2006.
Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will it be able to discharge State security and defence duties and protect and safeguard sovereignty and lives and property of the people.

YANGON, 26 Jan — The following is a translation of the proposals of the Wa National Development Party 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 Hsawng Ka of the Kokang Democracy Unity Party yesterday.

We have reviewed the discussions of the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

Then, we found that the clause “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” indicates requirements to win citizenship. It is stated that:

- 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 are prescribed by law.

These provisions are prescribed on the conditions of Myanmar where various national races are making their homes in harmony. Every citizen has the right to enjoy fundamental rights as prescribed by this Constitution in a just way. The noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as equality, liberty, and justice are democratic rights of citizens. So, the citizens have the rights to enjoy them.

We consider that full implementation of the characteristic “equality before the law” is a point of democratic practice.

To achieve the goal, it is drawing an enduring State Constitution.

To have to learn lessons from the incidents of the nations where colour, class and racial discrimination is still in existence and causing internal instability.

According to the records, we learn that our nation is home to 135 national races. These national races (citizens) have different faiths, customs, culture, arts, literature, and languages. So, the principle “Every citizen shall, in accord with the law, have the right to freely develop literature, culture, arts, customs and traditions they love” is key to non-disintegration of national solidarity and they are fundamental rights of citizens.

The prescription of the fundamental right — freedom of speech, press, assembly, procession, association, settlement in the State, property ownership and security of premises — can shape the brighter future of the entire national people. And only when such a fine fundamental right is practised, will the nation be transformed into a developed, peaceful and modern one. Opposition against the enrolling of human and trafficking in persons is humankind.

In accordance with the educational policies laid down by the State regarding the education sector, the principle that “Every citizen shall — have the right to pursue education, — pursue the free compulsory primary education as prescribed by the law” is a fundamental policy of the national education. Promotion of the education standard of the entire nation means the raising of the standard of the State.

Moreover, it is stated that the State shall give guarantee to the citizens in doing businesses without prejudice to the protection of the citizens’ rights to use assets and to innovate. That will help ensure all-round development of the national economic sector and enhance the definition of the words “fundamental rights of citizens”.

Citizens are bestowed with fundamental rights, and are to conscientiously discharge the duties stated in the Constitution. Some of the duties of citizens are to uphold Our Three Main National Causes that can guarantee perpetual existence of the motherland, and every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territory of the State.

The definition of the word “The State” and the explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman are appropriate, and so they should be adopted for the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens”.

Two of the basic Principles as regards the Role of the Tatmadaw are:
- The Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing Tatmadaw.
- The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

These basic principles are of great importance and essence for the State and the entire national people.

Past historic evidences have borne a profound witness to the fine tradition of the Tatmadaw that it has showed its brilliant performances in times of emergency.

All the nations implement political, economic, social and defence duties entitling the mighty power of the Tatmadaw concerned.

It is found that only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will it be able to discharge State security and defence duties and protect and safeguard sovereignty and lives and property of the people.

The Work Committee’s findings comprise the duties of the Tatmadaw, the role, duties and rights of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, conduct of military conduct, and the duty to take care of the families of the Tatmadaw members. So, I would like to suggest that they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The 14 detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee should be adopted.

The basic principles on freedom of speech, press, assembly, procession, association, settlement in the State, property ownership and security of premises, prohibiting enslavement of man and trafficking in persons and forced labour, and hard labour for those who are sentenced to prison terms under law, are appropriate.

The principles that ensure the exercise of this right shall not, in the interests of the State and the people, associate with politics, social affairs and other secular affairs, abuse of religion for political purpose, and any act which is intended or likely to promote feelings of enmity, conflicts and disagreements between racial or religious communities or sects are also appropriate.

(See page 7)
Independent representatives-elect support adoption of detailed basic principles for Citizen and Tatmadaw

YANGON, 26 Jan — The following is a translation of the suggestions presented by independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township constituency, Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency, Shan State (South), and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency, Shan State (North), concerning the chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw yesterday.

The State will have to issue bylaws and rules and regulations for the people to legally exercise their fundamental rights and the authorities to always accept themself as the members of the bodies serving the public interest. The constitutions of some nations permit citizens to hold dual passports and in some countries there are only one type of passport. Precise provisions are required in promulgating laws for the citizenship.

Hence, in connection with the citizenship, I would like to suggest that the already-adopted basic principles should be transferred to the chapter Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The National Convention has already adopted the basic principle “Every citizen shall enjoy rights of equality, rights of liberty and rights of justice etc. as prescribed in the Constitution”. In reality, justice, liberty and equality are the worldly values or in other words genuine democratic practices. The authorities and the ordinary people should be equal before the law. Constitution is the life and dignity of a nation, and the only pillar on which the people can rely. Officials concerned have made earnest efforts to act well for drafting a new constitution. The important thing is to always value the constitution that is being drafted after making preparations to the best of the ability of all persons concerned for its continued existence. Thus necessary measures should be taken and specific bylaws and rules and regulations enacted for the constitution to be always effective. Market economy of the new constitution will permit more Myanmars to work abroad, and the nation will earn foreign exchange from them. Thus the nation should enact specific laws to protect them. The matter should be prescribed in the new constitution.

The six points explained by the Work Committee Chairman in connection with citizens to enjoy equal rights before the law should be adopted as detailed basic principles as they reflect the nation’s objective conditions.

Freedom of thought, worship, expression, forming organizations, assembling and procession will be included in practising a genuine democracy according to the new constitution. Freedom of expression is much important for the future democratic state. All the democratic nations guarantee this freedom as the fourth estate in addition to the legislative, executive and judicial pillars. But freedom of press should not be misused. And if misused no one will be able to fully enjoy the freedom of rights stipulated in the constitution.

The media should distribute authentic news to help develop the nation. Too much restriction on the local media will make way for the penetration of foreign media. Rumours will never crop up if news about the latest developments, success or failure and good or bad are made public. The future constitution should enact laws and bylaws to permit the private media to run effectively.

Regarding the rights, I found that the five points explained by the Work Committee Chairman are in conformity with the era. Thus, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

All human beings will have to eradicate slavery in any forms. Thus in my view, the two detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman in connection with slavery and forced labour should be adopted.

Every citizen is equally entitled to enjoy the right to freely profess and practise religion. But the religion should not be misused for political purpose. There should be prohibitions against eruption of sectorial violence resulting from racial or religious hatred and dissension.

In connection with the religious rights and freedom, the seven points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

As for the independent representatives-elect, we all support the social object “Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit”. In preserving their literature, culture, customs and art some of the national races are facing financial shortages constraints. Thus, the State should provide assistance both in cash and kind for the purpose by enacting laws. As education and knowledge development is important, I would like to make suggestions to enact laws to narrow the gap between the rural and the urban areas to the most possible degree.

I am in support of adopting the three points concerning the cultural sector and education opportunities explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

Members of the hluttaws at all levels will have to see the public affairs. But if they fail to do their duties well, the people have the right to recall them. Moreover the people themselves can be the candidates for the elections and can elect MPs.

Concerning the election, the two points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

I would like to present a suggestion saying that necessary laws should be enacted to narrow the rich and poor gap and the social gap of the future nation. Thus, the three detailed basic principles stating the economic opportunities should be adopted.

The National Convention has laid down the basic principle “The State will not demonetize the currency that is legally put into circulation.” I would like to suggest that the principle should be transferred to the “Economic opportunities”.

When the multi-party system is practised in accord with the new constitution, there will be differences of opinion among the political parties as well as remarks critical of one another. This may result in the detention of the dissidents. If so, they should not be treated as prisoners. They should be granted rights prescribed by law. Families of the dissidents should not be harmed.

Concerning the criminal procedures, the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted as they are appropriate.

In connection with the power of the Supreme Court of the Union to issue writs, the six detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

As the seven points concerning the duties of citizens explained by the Work Committee Chairman are comprehensive, I would like to suggest that they should be adopted.

Moreover, the point “The word the State stipulated in this Chapter means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution” should also be adopted.

Now, I will present suggestions on the role of the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw with unyielding spirit was able to launch anti-colonialist, anti-Fascists and national liberation struggles till independence was regained. And till now, it has been safeguarding the nation’s independence and sovereignty. The National Convention has already adopted the basic principle “Every citizen shall have the duty to learn military science as prescribed by the law” and “Every citizen shall be responsible to undergo military service as prescribed by the law.”

As the Tatmadaw itself was born of the people, the people have taken part in the struggles to drive out the colonialists and Fascists and regain independence. Thus, I believe that the people are always ready to play a part in national defence and security as and when necessary with loyalty. There are instances in which the people rendered assistance to the Tatmadaw in the battles to crush multi-coloured insurgent and Konnminang troops.

The basic principles the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution” and “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty”. All should abide by the constitution.

All the people including women and children as well as the old played a role in repelling the colonialists to regain independence. They did so because of patriotism. Hence, in the face of alien aggression every citizen will come forward to defend the nation since the Tatmadaw alone will not be able to do the job. What is important is that the Tatmadaw and the people are always to be united.

The Tatmadaw members have to observe the civilian rules as well as military rules in addition to adhering to their 60 codes of conduct, and four oaths. The nation will be strong and developed as long as the Tatmadaw members observe the laws and rules.

The 14 points clarified by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” are in conformity with the ever advancing age. Thus, the 14 points should be adopted as the detailed basic principles for the chapter.

Laws should be enacted to protect the constitution against manipulation, misinterpretation, disrespect, perpetration to weaken it and misuses for self-interest and to bully others.—APA
State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection associate with politics, social affairs and other secular affairs, abuse of religion for political purpose, and any act which is intended or likely to promote feelings of enmity, conflicts and disagreements between racial or religious communities or sects. The right of religious freedom should not be exercised only by the citizens and foreign registration citizens. The 1947 Constitution bestowed the right of religious freedom covering all people including the citizens.

So, regarding the right of religious freedom, with reference to the basic principles the National Convention has laid down, I would like to suggest to adopt the following detailed basic principles:

1. Any person is equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess and practise religion subject to public order, morality and to the other provisions of the State Constitution
2. The above right shall not include any economic, financial, political or other secular activities that may be associated with religious practice
3. The freedom of religion shall not be an estate of the State from enacting laws for the purpose of social welfare and reform
4. The State recognizes the special position of Buddhism, the faith professed by the great majority of citizens of the State
5. The State also recognizes Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and other faiths
6. The Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer religion it recognizes
7. The abuse of religion for political purposes is forbidden; and any act which is intended or is likely to promote feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sects is contrary to the State Constitution and may be punished by law.

7. The 14 detailed basic principles...

Every citizen shall, in accord with the law, have the right to freely develop literature, culture, arts, customs and traditional way of life.

The education standard of the citizens a major role in building a modern developed nation. So, the basic principles of education shall have the right to innovate and express conscience for the development of science, literature, and arts, and freely do research on culture and “The State shall encourage and provide, based on qualifications, assistance for citizens to be educated in the education, irrespective of race, religion, and sex” are proper.

In a democratic nation, State’s sovereignty resides in the people in the different levels to be formed in accordance with the Constitution to deal with the procedures on sovereignty. Citizens have to elect Hluttaw representatives. It is a proper principle that citizens have the right to revoke the mandates of citizens elected in accord with the law.

The Tatmadaw of a nation shall be a principle that ensures the exercise of this right in accord with the law. As regards the freedom of speech, publication, expression, assembling, procession and the right of the citizens to develop their language, literature, culture they cherish, religion they profess, and customs without prejudice to the relations between one national race and another, or among national races and to other faiths.

The Tatmadaw leadership. So, I would like to make a suggestion, regarding the principle “Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer religion it recognizes” explained by the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary session on 10 January this year, the Tatmadaw’s leadership will be more suitable if it is “The Tatmadaw, with the approval of the National Defence and Security Council, has the right to administer for participation of the entire people in the State security and defence. The people’s militia strategy shall be formed with Tatmadaw’s leadership.”

Our two suggestions can be added to the principles if they are considered to be added, and the 14 detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee should be adopted.

5. The State shall, by law, protect the privacy and security of the home, property, correspondence and other communications of citizens subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

The Tatmadaw’s leadership. So, the citizens in the State should have the right to settle and reside in any place within the Union according to the law and the interests of the State and the people.

Buddhism is the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens of the nation who profess Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Animism.

So, the citizens of the State should have the right to freely promote and act on these religious beliefs. For this reason, there should be a principle that ensures the exercise of this right shall not, in the interests of the State and the people.

The principle “Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer religion it recognizes” is proper.

2. The right of the citizens to form associations and unions.
3. The right of the citizens to develop their languages, culture, literature, arts, customs and traditional way of life.
4. The right of the citizens to enjoy equal rights without arms and the right of procession.
5. The State shall, by law, protect the privacy and security of the home, property, correspondence and other communications of citizens subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
6. The State shall, in appointing or assigning duties, not discriminate against or in favour of any citizen based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth.
7. The Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer religion it recognizes.
8. The State shall, in accord with the provisions of the law, görev in the interests of the State and the people.
9. There should be matters concerning equality, liberty, justice, anti-slavery and anti-human trafficking, religion, culture and education, election, economy, criminal procedures and the protection granted by the constitution. Thus, regarding the matters, I would like to suggest that the following points should be adopted as detailed basic principles:

1. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.
2. The State prohibits any forms of forced labour except hard labour as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted and duties assigned by the State in accord with the law in the interests of the State and the people.

The lifeblood of a nation rests on its constitution be-

1. The State shall enable any citizen to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection.
Plenary Session of the National Convention continues...

(from page 1)

Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, 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 Supreem 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 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 Commis- sion members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Luu Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen of sub-committees, officials, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed in the attendance books at the Pyidaungsu Hall and recreation hall for the delegates.

U Hla Tin of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel presided over the Plenary Session of the National Convention together with Dr Pak Tin of National Convention Convening Work Committee, U Tun Yin Law of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U San Tha Aung of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Mya Sein of Delegate Group of National Races, U Sai Tint Aung of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Myo Win of Delegate Group of Workers, U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia and U Paw Laik Kham of Other Invited Persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-master of ceremonies.

59th Anniversary Union Day objectives

First, For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Second, To keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.

Third, To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development.

Fourth, To keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.

U Tun Thwe of Rakhine State presented proposals.

Daw Khin Aye of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-2 presented the proposals.

U Tin Win of Kyaiakt Town-ship constituency-2 presented the proposals.

U Thein Kyi of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 presented the proposals.

U Thein Tun of Mandalay Division — MNA

U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-1. — MNA

U Tun Thwe of Rakhine State. — MNA

U Tin Win of Kyaiakt Township constituency-2. — MNA

U Tin Win of Kyaiakt Township constituency-2. — MNA

The MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,068 delegates out of 1,079 were present, accounting for 98.98 per cent.

Delegates to the National Convention submitted their proposals on detailed basic principles to be laid down for the chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw. Afterwards, the proposals of the six representatives-elect — Representatives-elect U Tin Win of Kyaiakt Township constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-1, U Mya Hlaing of Tantay Town-ship constituency-2 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township constituency-2 — were presented to the plenary session in three parts. First, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 submitted the proposals. (The presentation is reported separately.) Next, U Tin Win of Kyaiakt Township constituency-2 presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.) Afterwards, Daw Khin Aye of Yangon Division presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.) Finally, U Tun Thwe of Mandalay Division presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.)

The Plenary Session of the National Convention adjourned at 11.30 am. The Plenary Session of the National Convention continues tomorrow at 9 am. — MNA
Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held

YANGON, 26 Jan — The Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took place at the head office of the federation on Thanlawin Road in Bahan Township this morning, with an address by President Daw Than Than Nwe.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-President of the federation Daw Khin Lay Myint, patrons of the State/Division WAO, intelligentsia, members of the supporting groups, representatives of State and Division WAOs and guests. MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe presided over the meeting.

First, President Daw Than Than Nwe gave a speech. General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun submitted the CEC report to the meeting.

Second, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Kyi, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Administrative Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Head of Disciplinary Department Daw May Kyi Sein, Head of Finance Department Daw Aye Aye, Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win and Deputy Head of International Relations Department Prof Dr Daw Myint Kyi, Leaders of Working Groups Daw Khin Aye, Dr Daw Sanda Aung, Daw Aye Aye, Daw Kyin Khaing, Daw Nil Thaw and Deputy Leader Prof Dr Daw Than Nwe participated in the discussions.


Their respective sectors and future tasks.

YANGON, 26 Jan — Survey Vessel Western Trident of Daewoo E&P Myanmar that is undertaking joint venture tasks with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in functions of oil exploration will conduct 3D seismic survey tasks at Block A-1 and Block A-3 at offshore Rakhine coastal from 30 January to 30 March.

The Fisheries Department issued a notice reminding that watercraft are not to under take passing through the survey areas, anchoring and fishing. — MNA

Reminders issued to watercraft

YANGON, 26 Jan — Survey Vessel Western Trident of Daewoo E&P Myanmar that is undertaking joint venture tasks with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in functions of oil exploration will conduct 3D seismic survey tasks at Block A-1 and Block A-3 at offshore Rakhine coastal from 30 January to 30 March.

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Reminders issued to watercraft
MWAF members at different levels to go field trips to fulfil economic and social requirements of women

AGM of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation commences

Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at the Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Jan — The centenary celebration of the Yangon Zoological Garden continued today for the second day.

The celebration of its centenary was opened yesterday attracting over 28,000 visitors.

Visitors are entertained with the programmes of animal shows and stage show and can have photos taken together with a big snake, a tiger, elephants, bear and other animals and can study flora and fauna. Pavilions of the Ministry of Forestry are staged and restaurants and shops of personal goods are also opened for the convenience of the visitors at the centenary celebration which will last up to 29 January. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and party view photos showing activities of MWAF and its subordinate bodies. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address at the Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. — MNA

Centenary of YZG crowded with visitors

Want to pose for a photo together with a tiger cub? Come, visit the Yangon Zoological Garden. — MNA

Visitors at the elephant house. — MNA
The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was formed on 20 December 2003 with the aim of ensuring development and security of the womenfolk of the Union of Myanmar and bringing about a reliable force of the women mass.

The MWAF is a non-governmental organization. In Myanmar women make up 50.3 per cent of the nation’s population. The purpose of the formation of the federation is to cooperate with internal and external congenial NGOs to effectively and broadly carry out tasks for the development and security of Myanmar womenfolk. The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is implementing the following objectives to promote the living standard of womenfolk.

- to enhance the role of women in building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation
- to protect the rights of women
- to ensure the economic, health, education and general welfare of women and to provide measures for their security
- to instill and foster in Myanmar women a greater appreciation for their national, cultural heritage and customs
- to systematically protect women from violence and provide means for rehabilitation where necessary
- to diminish and finally eliminate trafficking in women and children as a national task
- to collaborate with international as well as local organizations, in ensuring the rights of women in accordance with the traditions and customs of the ethnic groups.

After forming the central executive committee, departments, and State/District, Township, Ward and Village Women’s Affairs Organizations, the MWAF is putting its energies into the implementation of these objectives.

The MWAF consists of six departments namely Organization Department, Administrative Department, Rules and Discipline Enforcement Department, Finance Department, Information Department, and International Relations Department, and six working groups namely working group of rehabilitation and reintegration, working group of social affairs and culture, working group of raising the living standard of women, working group of nationalities affairs, working group of legal affairs, and working group of environmental conservation.

The working group of prevention of violation against women, working group of prevention of trafficking in persons, working group of rehabilitation and resettlement, and working group of young women have been formed under the working group of rehabilitation and reintegration to accelerate the drive for the development and security of women.

The working group (branch) of education, the working group (branch) of health, and the working group (branch) of culture have been formed under the working group of social affairs and culture. Respective branches are undertaking the tasks for raising the education and health standards of women and for preservation of cultural heritage.

The six departments and the six working groups, adhering to the lofty objectives of the federation, are making efforts for promotion of the role and security of the Myanmar women, while conscientiously taking part in the national development tasks. As a result, the membership of the federation has touched about 2.2 million so far.

The Organization Department is holding educative talks on uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit, and conducting courses in cooperation with other social organizations, and carrying out social welfare tasks. The Management Department is carrying out environmental conservation and social welfare tasks through mass activities in collaboration with other congenial organizations. The Information Department is holding educative talks to enhance knowledge and uplift moral conduct of the members. The International Relations Department is reading and submitting papers on women’s affairs in cooperation with international organizations on women’s affairs, and attending the paper reading sessions as representatives.

Under the supervision of the MWAF, state/division, district, township and ward/village WAOs have been doing their utmost for greater development of Myanmar womenfolk.

In the process, with good volition, the WAOs at different levels are carrying out various tasks such as consoling women facing social difficulties, holding educative talks, conducting health education talks, helping those with eye problems to receive medical treatments, participating in the health care services in rural areas, carrying out sanitation tasks in hospitals, making cash donations, and providing cash and relief aid to fire relief organizations.

The activities of the federation contribute much towards national development.

Throughout the periods, Myanmar women have showed their brilliant performances by keeping abreast of men in the tasks by doing their bit for the development of the political, economic and social sectors. The harmonious efforts of the members under the leadership of the federation represent mighty strength of the entire mass of Myanmar women.

All the activities for national development carried out at the grassroots level by the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation are in reality the perpetual service of the nation and the people.

Translation: MS

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**Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation in perpetual service of the nation**

*Nwe Yi (Myanmar News Agency)*

Chin State WAO holds round-table discussions in Chunkyon Village of Haka Township.
Urban and rural areas witness sustained progress

Development of urban and rural areas in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

As part of efforts for the development of the State, urban and rural areas development projects were carried out by the Government joining hands with the people. Being not easily accessible by road in the past, inland areas were lagged behind the development. During the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Development Affairs Department has constructed road network linking villages, towns and districts. At present, rural and urban areas enjoy the fruits of the smoothful transportation.

Besides, water supply projects were also implemented. Therefore, economy of the urban areas are booming in parallel with the improvement of the living standards of the people. Therefore, there is gradually narrowing development gap between the urban and rural areas. The number of school, hospital and station hospital has increased in urban and rural areas. Moreover, special development zones were designated and implemented across the country.

The table is the tangible proof of progress of the urban and rural areas.

### Development of urban areas

<table>
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<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>- tar road (mile)</td>
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<td>1,018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- gravel road (mile)</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- laterite road (mile)</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- earth road (mile)</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Urban bridge</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,809</td>
<td>5,809</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- new concrete bridges in urban areas</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,673</td>
<td>3,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Water supply tasks in urban areas</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- tasks carried out</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has been named the cabinet new emir of the oil-rich Gulf region country on Tuesday, the Justice Minister said.

Ahmad Bager said the nomination letter will be sent to the Parliament on Wednesday, and if confirmed, the Prime Minister will officially replace the ailing emir.

The appointment came just hours after Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah died on January 15, but the Cabinet said he is no longer fit to carry out his constitutional duties.

Under the country's Law of Succession, the emir can be removed if he is incapable of carrying out power for health reasons, and the removal will come if it is found by two-thirds of the legislators.

The official KUNA news agency reported earlier that Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family met the powerful Prime Minister on January 20, appealing to him to continue guiding the country and to bring it to "the shore of safety".

MNA/Xinhua

Landslide hits Papua New Guinea, 13 dead

WELLINGTON, 25 Jan—A landslide in a remote village in Papua New Guinea northwest of the capital Port Moresby after days of torrential rain.

Thirteen people including a mother and an infant were buried alive by the massive landslide, said The National. It said eight bodies had been recovered while the rest including the mother and infant remained unaccounted, according to provincial government officials.

Port Moresby-based The National reported the landslide occurred on Friday at Bapa about 270 kilometres northwest of the capital Port Moresby after days of torrential rain.

The landslide was triggered when heavy rains lashed the area, an emergency services spokesperson said.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria arrests 2 over hostage crisis

WARRI (Nigeria), 25 Jan—Nigerian secret agents have detained two men suspected of helping militants holding four foreign oil workers hostage, security sources said on Tuesday, raising hopes of a breakthrough in the 13-day-old crisis.

The men, officials in the southern Nigerian state of Delta, were picked up on Monday afternoon and are believed to have close links to Ijaw ethnic militants whose month-long campaign of sabotage has cut a tenth of Nigeria’s oil supply.

Two men are helping us with our enquiries,” said Adebayo Babalola, deputy chief of the State Security Service in Delta state.

Government officials have expressed confidence the hostage crisis would soon end as negotiations progress on a ransom payment with a person whom they believe to be the credible representative of the kidnappers.

However, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which claims responsibility for the attacks and the kidnaping, has said it is not in talks with anyone.

In a statement on Tuesday, the group said it would keep the hostages until it wins the release of two Ijaw leaders and 1.5 billion US dollars in pollution compensation from Royal Dutch Shell for delta villages.

MNA/Reuters

Third Int’l Enterprise Forum opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 25 Jan—The third International Enterprise Forum (IEF) opened in Singapore’s Raffles City Centre Convention Tuesday, bringing together more than 30 speakers from the world to share internationalization strategies for local companies.

Themed “the Globalization of Asian Enterprise,” the two-day event features topics such as the role of execution in companies’ growth, challenges of mergers and acquisitions as a growth strategy, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises’ readiness for overseas expansion.

Among the speakers is Ram Charan, co-author of the highly acclaimed business book entitled “Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done,” which was on the New York Times’ best-seller list for more than a year.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said that Asian enterprises outside of Japan have been catching global attention in the international corporate arena. He urged Singapore-based companies to exploit “the technologi- cal, developmental and sociological gaps in the regional and international markets” to achieve high growth.

“Singapore companies are beaten to the consumer electronics segment need to invest in R&D (research and development) and scientific manpower, to create patents and bring them into the market efficiently,” Lim said.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait crude hits new record

KUWAIT CITY, 25 Jan—Kuwaiti crude was traded on Monday at 58.31 US dollars per barrel, a new record high in less than a week, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said on Tuesday.

It was the highest price ever after crude oil price hit 57.92 dollars last Friday, surpassing its previous record high of 57.91 dollars on Sunday, August, 2005, said the KPC.

World oil markets are currently witnessing a notable increase in prices, with Brent oil trading at 66 dollars per barrel and US crude oil hovering at 68 dollars per barrel.

An oil expert was quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) as saying that global oil demand and supply were not directly responsible for this increase, citing political concerns in the Middle East region and fluctuations in the global oil market for the price jump.

Kuwait is a founding member of the Organization of Petroleum- Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The oil cartel is currently producing 28 million barrels per day and Kuwait pours about 2.29 million barrels per day. —MNA/Xinhua

Johannesburg, 25 Jan — A seismic event measuring 3.2 on the Richter Scale shook Johannesburg on Tuesday morning, the Council for Geosciences said.

Most of people in Johannesburg felt the earth shaking while hearing a big sound in the long roll of thunder from the sky.

“It measured 3.6 in magnitude around the East Rand Gold Mining area,” said geotechnologist Ian Saunders.

It also measured two kilometres in depth when it started at 11:13 am, he said.

“It’s definitely not serious but it’s a large event for that area,” he said.

He could not say what the cause of the seismic event was.

DRDGold spokesman Ilja Graulich said, “We haven’t got any reports yet of any incidents on our mines.”

 Willie Jacobsz of Goldfields said that it had not affected any of the company’s West Rand operations.

MNA/Xinhua

Small earthquake jolts Johannesburg

Indian bus arrives in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, 25 Jan—A bus carrying 39 Indian passengers arrived in the Pakistani city of Lahore from Amritsar on Tuesday after the two countries opened the first road link between the two sides of Punjab in an effort to enhance people-to-people contact.

Pakistan’s Punjab Province Tourism Minister Mrs. Ayesha Iqbal along with dozens of local welcomed the passengers at the Wagah border crossing.

Expressing his delight at the arrival of the Indian passengers, Iqbal said his country would do everything to make it comfortable.

This is the third road link between the two countries after the Delhi-Lahore and Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus services. Earlier on Monday, the bus was flagged off by Indian Punjab’s Deputy Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal from Amritsar.— MNA/PTI

Kaur Bhattal from Punjab said on Tuesday that the Punjab government, taking into account the needs of the passengers, has decided to set up an international bus service with a frequency of three times a week.

The bus service will start from Lahore and will operate on a weekly basis.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait PM named as new emir

KUWAIT CITY, 25 Jan—Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has been named by the cabinet new emir of the oil-rich Gulf region country on Tuesday, the Justice Minister said.

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The appointment came just hours after Kuwait’s Emir Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah died on January 15, but the Cabinet said he is no longer fit to carry out his constitutional duties.

Under the country’s Law of Succession, the emir can be removed if he is incapable of carrying out power for health reasons, and the removal will come if it is found by two-thirds of the legislators.

The official KUNA news agency reported earlier that Kuwait’s ruling al-Sabah family met the powerful Prime Minister on January 20, appealing to him to continue guiding the country and to bring it to “the shore of safety”.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia/India: Small earthquake jolts

Johannesburg, 25 Jan — A seismic event measuring 3.2 on the Richter Scale shook Johannesburg on Tuesday morning, the Council for Geosciences said.

Most of people in Johannesburg felt the earth shaking while hearing a big sound in the long roll of thunder from the sky.

“It measured 3.6 in magnitude around the East Rand Gold Mining area,” said geotechnologist Ian Saunders.

It also measured two kilometres in depth when it started at 11:13 am, he said.

“It’s definitely not serious but it’s a large event for that area,” he said.

He could not say what the cause of the seismic event was.

DRDGold spokesman Ilja Graulich said, “We haven’t got any reports yet of any incidents on our mines.”

 Willie Jacobsz of Goldfields said that it had not affected any of the company’s West Rand operations.

MNA/Xinhua
**Peruvian pair give Bayern victory in German Cup**

**FRANKFURT, 26 Jan**— Peruvian strikers Claudia Pizarro and Paolo Guerrero staged a rescue mission to send Bayern Munich through to the German Cup semifinals with a 3-2 extra-time win over Mainz on Tuesday.

Holders Bayern fell behind to a Mohamed Zidan penalty in the 21st minute and took a long time to get going in the first game back after Germany’s long mid-season break.

Pizarro grabbed an equalizer with a close-range header eight minutes from time when Guererro glanced in another header in the fourth minute of extra-time to put Bayern ahead.

Petr Ruman equalized with a sweet volley for Mainz in the first minute after the restart before Pizarro clinched victory for Bayern five minutes from time with a 25-metre shot that went in off a post. Weder Bremen are away to Third placed Eintracht Frankfurt and Arminia Bielefeld are at home to Kickers Offenbach in the three remaining ties on Tuesday.

Bayern, who held a six-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga, return to league action at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday.

“We knew it wasn’t going to be an easy task,” Bayern coach Felix Magath told reporters. “After a long pause it’s always hard to find your rhythm.”

Mainz looked set to start World Cup year in Germany with a major surprise.

Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn had already been forced into a fine one-handed save from Michael Thurk when Mainz went ahead.

The home defence blocked a free kick on the edge of the box and as the ball came back in Valerien Ismael tripped Nikolce Noveski and Zidan converted the resulting penalty.

Ze Roberto hit the bar with a free kick and Pizarro raced on to a Willy Sagnol pass two minutes before the break only to shoot straight at the keeper. — MNA/Reuters

**Mauresmo moves into semifinals in Australian Open**

**CANBERRA, 26 Jan**— Amelie Mauresmo moved to the semifinals of the Australian Open on Wednesday after crashing out of Switzerland’s Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-0.

The French player dominated the match which finished in less than one hour.

Mauresmo, the third seed, broke Schnyder’s serve in the opening game.

Schnyder’s resistance appeared to be briefly impressive in the sixth game, but Mauresmo fought back to lead 4-3 and won the next eight games, the seventh seed concentrating on the court.

“I was relaxed in the warm up and I was feeling the ball well,” she said. In men’s singles, German No 21 seed Nicolas Kiefer won a marathon five-set quarterfinal with France’s Sebastien Grosjean.

In the four hours and 48 minutes match, he won 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (1-7), 8-6 to set up a semifinal showdown against either Roger Federer or Nikolay Davydenko. It is the first time Kiefer has moved to a Grand Slam semifinal in 35 attempts since 1996. — MNA/Xinhua

**DR Congo survive sending off to draw with Angola**

**CAIRO, 26 Jan**— Democratic Republic of Congo survived an early sending off to hold out for a goalless draw against World Cup finalists Angola in their African Nations Cup Group B match on Wednesday.

The Congolese, who lived dangerously at times, must now win their last group game this weekend to have any chance of progressing.

Congo were on the back foot for much of the game after Tresor Mputu was dismissed for kicking out at Angolan defender Kali inside the first 20 minutes.

But even with the man advantage, Angola could not capitalize on their dominant possession with captain Akwa particularly guilty of squandering a myriad of half chances.

— MNA/Reuters

**Kanu restricted to substitute role**

**PORT SAID (Egypt), 26 Jan**— Nigeria striker Nwankwo Kanu is restricted to a substitute’s role at the African Nations Cup after fracturing his cheekbone.

Kanu, who came on in the second half of Nigeria’s opening Group D 1-0 win over Ghana, needed surgery after being injured playing for West Bromwich Albion against Reading on 7 January.

“I have to wait up to three or four weeks before I can really start to play,” Kanu told reporters after training on Tuesday.

“It doesn’t mean I can’t play football but I have to be cautious and careful.”

Asked if it was a gamble to have played against Ghana, he said: “It was, but right now I’m okay. I train every time so I feel good.”

“If we’re winning 2-0 or 3-0 there’s no point me coming on. But if it’s difficult, of course you have to come on.” — MNA/Reuters

**Di Canio, Burdisso sent off as Inter hold Lazio in Italian Cup**

**Rome, 26 Jan**— Lazio striker Paolo Di Canio was sent off in the fifth minute of a 1-1 home draw with holders Inter Milan in their Italian Cup quarterfinal on Tuesday.

Di Canio and Inter defender Nicolas Burdisso were dismissed for fighting in the first-leg tie in Rome.

Inter went in front thanks to two former Lazio players, Giuseppe Favalli crossing perfectly for Dejan Stankovic to turn the ball past keeper Marco Ballotta after 26 minutes.

Hosts Lazio hit back within a minute as midfielder Christian Manfredini charged on to Igli Tare’s long ball and lobbed keeper Francesco Toldo, who had advanced a long way off his line.

Tare almost put Lazio ahead before halftime when he unleashed a shot from outside the area that rebounded off the bar. Inter striker Julio Cruz also went close when he headed the ball over the bar from close range 10 minutes into the second half.

Visiting coach Roberto Mancini sent on Adriano in place of Cruz with 20 minutes to go and the Brazilian striker had an effort blocked by Massimo Oddo.

Both teams wasted good chances late on. — MNA/Reuters

**Unseeded Baghdatis beats Ljubicic to reach semifinals**

**MELBOURNE, 26 Jan**— Unseeded Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis extended his extraordinary run at the Australian Open on Tuesday, upsetting seventh seed Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the semifinals.

Baghdatis, a former world junior number one currently ranked 54th, followed his shock win over second seed Andy Roddick with another gritty victory.

Baghdatis played superbly in the first two sets, unleashing his full range of shots to grab a two-set lead before Ljubicic fought back to win the next two and force the match into a decider.

Baghdatis fended off two break points in a tense third game then ripped a cross-court forehand past Ljubicic to gain the decisive break in the next game.

He held on to advance to Thursday’s semifinal against Argentine fourth seed David Nalbandian. — MNA/Reuters

**Roberts sends Wigan into League Cup final**

**LONDON, 26 Jan**— Jason Roberts scored in the last minute of extra-time to send Wigan Athletic into their first major final on Tuesday, 2-1 win over Arsenal sending them through on the away-goals rule after a 2-2 aggregate scoreline.

Arsenal looked on course to advance after substitute Robin van Persie netted a spectacular free kick in the 18th minute of extra-time to make it 2-0 after Thierry Henry had headed them into a 1-0 lead in the 65th.

Juan Antonio Reyes had a penalty saved by Mike Pollitt in the 22nd minute and the Wigan keeper made several more good saves to keep Wigan in what was a pulsating, action-packed second leg tie. — MNA/Reuters

**Bode Miller of the US is airborne on his way to the fourth place in World Cup Downhill race in Kitzbuehel, on 21 Jan, 2006. Snow cannons have been firing away every day to ready the slopes for the Winter Olympics next month in an unusually dry season that could favour skiers such as Bode Miller, who are used to racing on icy ground. — Internet**

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**MNA/Reuters**

**Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium hits a return against Maria Sharapova of Russia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 26 Jan, 2006. — Internet**

**MNA/Reuters**

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**MNA/Reuters**

**Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium hits a return against Maria Sharapova of Russia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 26 Jan, 2006. — Internet**

**MNA/Reuters**
Study shows snails “rode on birds” to remote islands

LONDON, 26 Jan — Land snails, not the quickest of creatures, managed to travel from Europe to remote islands in the South Atlantic by hitching rides on birds.

Scientists had assumed that snails living on the Tristan da Cunha islands midway between South Africa and Brazil were a different species from those in Europe but researchers in the Netherlands and Britain have shown they belong to the same family. “Land snails, which we normally think of as being rather slow moving, can actually disperse enormous distances by hitching rides on birds,” said Richard Preece, of the University of Cambridge, in England in an interview on Wednesday.

A genetic analysis of snails from the isolated islands, which were thought to be unique to them, revealed they belong to the genus Balaea just like their European cousins. “We have shown that they are indeed exactly the same genus as Balaea,” said Preece, who reported the finding in the journal Nature.

Opening day of Myanmar ICT Week changed

YANGON, 26 Jan — Arrangements were made to organize the ceremony to mark Myanmar ICT Week at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township from 28 January to 3 February. Now, the days to hold the Myanmar ICT Week will be refixed, and the newly-fixed days for the ceremony will be announced soon.

WEATHER

Thursday, 26 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah and Mon States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio (3°C), Pinlaung and PyinOoLwin (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 25-1-2006 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 26-1-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 26-1-2006 was (86%). Total sunshine hours on 25-1-2006 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from northwest at (14:30) hours MST on 25-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayan States, Mandalay, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-1-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-1-2006: Partly cloudy.

Weather map of Myanmar and neighbourig areas — MNA (News on page 16)
Commander inspects progress of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone

YANGON, 26 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe made an inspection tour of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone in Yangon North District this afternoon.

At Kanaung Hall in the industrial zone, the commander heard reports on functions of Shwepyitha, Hlimethaya and Mingaladon Industrial Zones in the district, performance of management committees for four sections of the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone, progress of tasks and arrangements for growing physic nut plants in the zone presented by Chairman of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone Management Committee Chairman of Yangon North District PDC Lt-Col Myat Min.

Officials also reported on progress of the industrial zone, water supply facilities and requirements. After fulfilling the requirements, the commander said that development of the industrial sector is one of the basic needs in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Only when private industries achieve progress, will the industrial sector of the nation be developed. A total of four industrial zones and 25 sub-industrial zones have been set up in Yangon Division to manufacture various kinds of industrial products. The commander stressed the need for entrepreneurs to take innovative measures for manufacturing new items in demand in the market. In addition, the entrepreneurs are to make arrangements for growing physic nut plants to be able to produce bio-diesel for the industrial sector of the nation. In conclusion, all are to strive for enhancement of the State’s industrial sector.

Due to all round development in transport and communication, education, health and economic sectors, Kali village upgraded to model one

YANGON, 26 Jan — Kali village is situated in Kunhing Township in Loilem District, Shan State (South). In the past, transportation of the village was poor. Now, it can be upgraded as a model village thanks to assiduous efforts of the government. Being located on the Taunggyi-Kengtung Un-