Delegate Groups of Peasants, Workers and Intellectuals and Intelligentsia present suggestions on detailed basic principles to be laid down for Chapters Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens and Role of the Tatmadaw

Plenary Session of the National Convention continues

YANGON, 27 Jan — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapi Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

It was attended by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the respective sub-committees, delegates of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of 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 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, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), and Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of 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**PERSPECTIVES**
Saturday, 28 January, 2006

**Strive for improvement of living standard of women**

Over half the population of Myanmar is women. Myanmar Women Affairs Federation was formed on 20 December 2003 with the aim of carrying out tasks effectively for improvement of the living standard of women.

The MWAF, a social organization, has a membership of 2.2 million. The MWAF is engaged in nation-building endeavours in accordance with the national policy.

The Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the hall of the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township on 26 January with an address by President Daw Than Than Nwe. The meeting was attended by intellectuals and intellectuals, women members of the supporting groups and representatives from state and division women affairs organizations.

With the Organizational Department, the Administrative Department, the Rules and Discipline Enforcement Department, the Finance Department, the Information Department and the International Relations Department, the MWAF is taking systematic measures for development and security of women’s lives.

In addition, with working group of rehabilitation and reintegation, working group of social affairs, 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, it is carrying out tasks extensively. 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 across the nation.

The MWAF is making relentless efforts for development of Myanmar womenfolk while actively participating in national development tasks. Throughout the periods, Myanmar women have shown their brilliant performances by keeping abreast of men in the drive for development of political, economic and social sectors by doing their bit. The harmonious efforts of the members under the leadership of the federation highlight the mighty strength of the entire mass of Myanmar women.

All in all, at a time when efforts are being made for the development of women sector, all the members are to contribute their shares in national development drive while striving for improvement of the living standard of women.

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**Cooperative societies coordinate matters to grow physic nut plants**

**Yangon, 27 Jan** — State and Division Cooperative Societies under the Ministry of Cooperatives held a coordination meeting on growing physic nut plants at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street here yesterday morning.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min addressed the meeting saying that cooperative societies are to grow physic nut plants extensively in a cooperative way. Growing of physic nut should be a task of cooperative sector. Measures are to be taken to organize the farmers to grow more physic nut plants in order to produce bio-diesel.

Deputy directors of Cooperative Department reported on arrangements to grow the plants in their respective states and divisions. A total of 100,000 acres of land will be put under physic nut plants in five consecutive years. — MNA

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**3,079 drug-related cases exposed in 2005**

**Yangon, 27 Jan** — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department managed to expose 3,079 drug-related cases in 2005.

The drug-related cases exposed were 772,745 kilos of opium in 407 cases, 811,692 kilos of heroin in 1,183 cases, 43,721 kilos of morphine in two cases, 20,544 kilos of opium oil in 90 cases, 127,737 kilos of low-grade opium in 139 cases, 126,387 kilos of marijuana in 185 cases, 3,651,549 stimulant tablets in 726 cases, 325,086 kilos of Ephedrine in four cases, 19,092 kilos of stimulant powder in five cases, 178,670 kilos of opium scopiosa in 57 cases, 9,722 litres of cough syrup in two cases, 280,322 kilos of ice in seven cases, 5,807 ecstasy tablets in six cases, 231,774 tablets of Diazepam in eight cases, 3,093 ampoules of Diazepam injection in one case, 1,370 tablets of Phenoobarbital in one case, 1,692 ampoules of morphine injection in three cases, 17,002 kilos of Caffeine in one case, 1,638 litres of acetic anhydride in one case, 16,221.4 litres of chemical liquid in 10 cases, 812,279 kilos of chemical powder in one case, 120 cases for failure to register and other 120 cases.

Action was taken against 4,754 persons — 3,888 men and 866 women — in 3,079 drug-related cases in 2005. While taking security measures in the regions, regiments and units of Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force occupied four opium refineries together with narcotic drugs, chemical precursors, arms and ammunitions and paraphernalia in Shan State (North) in 2005.

During the 2004-05 opium cultivation season, 142,4405 kilos of Ephedrine, 1,611.6 litres of acetic anhydride more than that in year 2004 and 161,823 kilos of heroin, 16,097 kilos of marijuana, 4,727.762 stimulant tablets and 1,749.67 litres of chemical liquid less than that in year 2004. In 2005, departments concerned exposed 67 drug-related cases and arrested 601 persons more than that in year 2004. — MNA

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**Duty assigning ceremony of growing physic nut plants held**

**Yangon, 27 Jan** — A ceremony to assign duty to grow physic nut plants organized by PyinOolwin, the柠in Coffee Extended Cultivation Project in PyinOolwin, Mandalay Division, was held at the project meeting hall on 23 January.

It was attended by Chairman of PyinOolwin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Mon, department officials and private entrepreneurs. Lt-Col Aung Mon made a speech.

Staff Officer of the project Daw Tin Mar Yi gave talks on growing physic nut. — MNA

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**Corrigendum**

Please read the name of the Indian Ambassador as Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra in the caption of the right top photo displayed on Page 12 of this daily issued on 27 January, 2006. — MNA

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**Old engineering and architectural students of 1975-1981 academic year of Yangon Technological University paying respects to their teachers at the university on 22 January, 2006. — it**
Putin undecided on expulsion of alleged British spies

MOSCOW, 27 Jan — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday he is still undecided about whether to expel the four British diplomats who Moscow accused of spying.

“As far as I am concerned, my opinion is that if these intelligence agents are expelled, they will send new ones. These new people may prove to be smart. In this case, we will have much trouble spotting them,” Putin told a Press conference in St Petersburg, quoted by the Interfax news agency.

Putin instructed the Foreign Ministry and the Federal Security Service (FSB) to present proposals on the matter.

On Monday, the FSB said it had uncovered four British diplomats who were engaged in spying activities in Moscow that included use of a communication device hidden in a rock to collect data and funding in a non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia.

“As a rule, intelligence agents working under diplomatic cover in various countries have been deported from the country in question in recent years. I do not know whether it is right or wrong, but such trends have been observed in recent years,” the President said. MNA/Xinhua

US commander admits military stretched in Iraq

DIWANIYAH, 27 Jan — The commander of multinational forces in Iraq, General George Casey, admitted that US forces were stretched thin, during a major handover ceremony in the south of the country.

“The forces are stretched, I don’t think there is any question about that,” he said in the southern city of Diwaniyah as responsibility for the security of a vast swath of the south was turned over to the 8th Iraqi army division.

“Folks are stretched and they are doing an excellent job and they are certainly accomplishing their mission,” he added.

In a report commissioned by the Pentagon, analysts warned that the US military had become perilously overstretched, with deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“This strain, if not soon relieved, will have highly corrosive and potentially long-term effects on the force,” the report said.

US military strategy has been to train up Iraqi police and army units with the eventual hope of turning over security duties to them and allow US forces to withdraw from the country.

Thursday’s turnover covered a large chunk of the south, including the entire provinces of Diwaniya and Kut and parts of three other provinces which had been under the control of US forces, the spokesperson said.

“This is the first such kind of battlespace assumption in the whole of Iraq,” said a statement from the coalition, referring to the size of the area handed over.

The area, sandwiched between US and British areas of control, was considered one of the most quiet parts of the country.

The insurgency is focused in the mainly Sunni western and central parts of the country, while the predominantly Shiite south and the Kurdish north have been much calmer.

Cold claims more lives in Europe, snow covers south

ATHENS, 26 Jan — Freezing weather has killed scores more people in Eastern Europe and snowstorms forced the closure of the Acropolis in Athens and blanketed parts of Sicily on Wednesday as the bitterly cold air pushed south.

Ukraine said 66 people had died across the country since the freeze set in last week. Russia urged neighbour Ukraine to restrict gas usage as demand rockets during the coldest winter in a generation in the region.

Ten people have frozen to death or died of burns while trying to keep warm in the Czech Republic in recent days after temperatures fell below -30 Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), media said.

Police said another 14 people have died of exposure in Poland over the past 24 hours.

The bitter cold has now spread to the far south of Europe, regions which normally enjoy milder winters.

In Greece, more than 400 villages and towns were cut off after 36 hours of continuous snowfall and hundreds of snow-clearing vehicles struggled to keep main routes open.

Ports across the country stayed shut as icy gale-force winds swept across the Aegean Sea, dropping a carpet of snow over the islands.

A Cambodia-flagged cargo ship sank in the northern Aegean Sea amid a snowstorm on Tuesday, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. All but two of the 16 mainly Turkish crew were rescued by the Coast Guard and rescuers were search for the missing.

HK man gets 25 years in prison for smuggling heroin in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 26 Jan — A Hong Kong resident was sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court for attempting to smuggle 3.1 kilos of heroin, local media reported on Thursday.

Chung Kwok Hung, 47, had been arrested in May at Phnom Penh International Airport with the drugs strapped to his thighs as he attempted to board a plane to Hong Kong. He was also fined 10,000 US dollars at the trial on Tuesday.

Chung Kwok Hung’s lawyer Kao Soupha blamed the court for failure to present heroin during the trial as evidence that his client had been smuggling heroin.

“Legally if it is a heroin trial, they need to bring the heroin as evidence and present it to the public,” Kao Soupha was quoted by The Cambodia Daily as saying. MNA/Xinhua

India, Saudi Arabia to unite in fight against terrorism

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan — India and Saudi Arabia have inked a pact and decided to cooperate in their fight against terrorism, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna said here on Wednesday.

“After Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s meeting with the Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Manmohan described Saudi Arabia as “an important partner in combating global terrorism”, Navtej Sarna said.

Meanwhile, on the terrorism issue, the spokesperson also quoted the King as saying that “this is a long-term struggle but this was one which will be carried on until this scourge is completely eliminated”.

The King said they were also against any support to terrorism whether it be of a financial nature or a moral nature,” the spokesperson said, adding that meanwhile, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on combating crime, covering terrorism.

He noted that this pact “will further strengthen cooperation in this (terrorism) regard”.

MNA/Xinhua

Two PACAF airmen killed by IED attack in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — Two Pacific Air Forces airmen were killed on Sunday by an improvised explosive device near Taji, Iraq, the Defence Department announced on Wednesday.

Tech Sgt Jason L Norton, 32, of Miami, Okla, and Staff Sgt Brian McElroy, 28, of San Antonio were assigned to the 3rd Security Forces Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The airmen died when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb while conducting convoy escort duties, according to the DOD news release. No further information about the airmen was available on Wednesday. — Internet

A Filipino protestor holds a burning US flag during a protest in front of the US Embassy in Manila, on 26 Jan, 2006. — Internet

A Filipino protestor holds a burning US flag during a protest in front of the US Embassy in Manila, on 26 Jan, 2006. — Internet

US Marines break concrete off a window during a search of property near the western Iraqi town of Hit, on 25 Jan, 2006. — Internet
Investigator says US outsourced torture to other countries

STRASBOURG (France), 25 Jan — A European human rights investigator said on Tuesday there was evidence the United States had “outsourced” torture to other countries and it was likely that European governments knew about it.

But Swiss senator Dick Marty, who heads an investigation by the Council of Europe human rights watchdog, said he had not uncovered any irresistible evidence to confirm allegations that the CIA operated secret detention centres in Europe.

His remarks, in a preliminary report, kept pressure on the CIA and European governments over allegations that the US intelligence agency flew prisoners through airports in Europe to jails in third countries where they may have been tortured.

“There is a great deal of coherent, convergent evidence pointing to the existence of a system of ‘relocation’ or ‘outsourcing of torture’,” Marty said in his initial report into the allegations for the 46-nation Council, based in the eastern French city of Strasbourg.

He said it had been proved that “individuals have been abducted, deprived of their liberty and transported to different destinations in Europe, to be handed over to countries in which they have suffered degrading treatment and torture”.

Marty estimated that more than 100 people had been involved in “renditions” — delivering prisoners to jails in third countries, where they may have been mistreated or tortured.

“It is highly unlikely that European governments, or at least their intelligence services, were unaware,” he added.

But Marty said there was no firm evidence of detention centres in Europe similar to the one operated by the United States at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The US Government has neither denied nor confirmed the reports of secret detention centres, first made in the Washington Post newspaper in November.

The allegations have named Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Kosovo, Macedonia and Bulgaria as hosts to secret detention centres.

No country has acknowledged playing any active role in the network. MNA/Reuters

Small US jet crashes, kills all four on board

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — A small jet crashed when landing at a California airport on Tuesday morning, killing all four people on board, CNN reported.

The two-engine Cessna 560 jet was flying into the McClellan-Palomar Airport from Hailey, Idaho, according to the report.

It hit the runway and burst into flames in early morning, killing all four on board. Witnesses said the jet’s landing gear was up and it was going down really fast at the time.

The US National Transportation Safety Board was sending a team to investigate the incident.

The victims’ identities have not be disclosed yet, and US authorities said the jet belongs to a company in Idaho.

The McClellan-Palomar Airport is some 50 kilometers north of San Diego, California, and it was closed after the accident.

The airport serves private planes, business aircraft and two commuter airlines. — MNA/Xinhua

S t r a t o m i c m i s s i o n a r y A g n i - I is displayed during the 57th Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India, on 26 Jan, 2006. The parade displayed missiles, tanks, artillery guns and other sophisticated military hardware. — Internet

Seven killed in Florida school bus crash

MIAMI, 26 Jan — Seven people were killed and three others seriously injured on Wednesday when a school bus and a tractor-trailer collided in north Florida, a police dispatcher said.

The accident happened on State Road 121 about four miles south of Lake Butler in rural Union County, about 50 miles southwest of Jacksonville.

“A school bus and a tractor-trailer collided, killed seven. Three (others) are bad off,” said Florida Highway Patrol Officer David Sheldon, a dispatcher in Jacksonville.

Asked if the dead were students, Sheldon said: “it appears so, yes”.

“I don’t know if they were stopping to let kids off. I can only imagine,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

Pentagon, CIA refer twenty detainee-abuse cases to DOJ

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — Twenty cases of detainee abuse allegations against CIA and Defence Department employees have been referred to the Justice Department for possible prosecution, a senior US official said in a letter released on Tuesday.

Assistant Attorney General William Moschella said in a 17 January letter to Senator Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, that the cases span both the Afghanistan and Iraq wars and contain not only allegations of physical abuse but also possible violations of federal law and US treaties.

Civil liberties advocates said the cases involve civilian interrogators and showed a double standard in light of recent convictions of lower-ranking soldiers accused of abuse. Only one CIA case has resulted in a criminal indictment.

In that case, former CIA contractor David Passaro has been charged in North Carolina in a federal case involving the 2003 death of an Afghan detainee.

Moschella said the other 19 cases referred to the Justice Department have been reviewed by a federal prosecution task force in Virginia. Two have been closed for lack of sufficient evidence, and all others remain under investigation. MNA/Reuters

Afghan Army soldiers stop a car at a checkpoint in the southern city of Kandahar on 26 Jan, 2006. — Internet

Six killed in landmine blast in southwestern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 Jan — At least six people, including three children and two women, were killed on Wednesday when a roadside landmine hit a passenger coach in Pakistan’s restive southwestern Baluchistan Province, an official said.

Five others were also injured in the blast which occurred at 7:30 am (0230 GMT) on Wednesday morning in the Dera Bugti area, around 350 kilometers east of Quetta. District Coordination Office Abdul Samad Lasi told the Geo television.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but Lasi held an anti-government nationalist group responsible for the attack. MNA/Xinhua

World Social Forum slashes US anti-immigration plan

C A R A C A S, 26 Jan — Participants to the sixth World Social Forum (WSF) condemned on Wednesday a US proposal against undocumented immigrants, saying the plan will bring about more human rights violation.

“The United States wanted to hide the fact about reduced wages of illegal immigrants by tightening border security, the participants said on the second day of the anti-globalization forum.

The anti-immigration plan will undermine human, labour and social rights, the participants added.

“It is an outrage that the United States seeks its development by stepping on the poor and less-developed nations,” said Jose Nunez, Dominican representative for the Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The US House of Representatives approved the plan on December 16 which would extend a frontier wall with Mexico by 1,200 kilometres, increase the number of agents on the border, and send undocumented workers to prison instead of merely deporting them.

The plan, which is yet to be ratified by the US Senate, was rejected by Latin America’s govern-ments and civil groups, which said it would increase the violent treatment of their citizens seeking to emigrate to the United States. MNA/Xinhua
Discussions held by delegates at National Convention with unity will go down in the annals of history

YANGON, 27 Jan — The following is a translation on the suggestions presented by U Tin Win of Kyakka Township constituency-2 in connection with the chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens and the Role of the Tatmadaw” at the plenary session of the National Convention held yesterday.

Some customs, culture and arts of the national races are similar and some are not. Some national races have own languages and literature and freely do research on culture. Those national races should also have the right to freely develop their own literature, culture and traditions. It is required to enact a law that every citizen shall be given basic education as compulsory. And every citizen should have the right to pursue science and to carry out innovation in literature and arts. Although there is free education in the nation, parents are still carrying the heavy burden of high fees and other costs of the education sector. Outstanding students should be sent abroad as scholars for further studies.

Thus, concerning the educational and cultural rights, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

1. Every citizen shall, in accord with the law, have the right to freely develop literature, culture, arts, customs and traditions they love. In the process, they shall avoid any act which might affect the education, irrespective of race, religion, and sex.

As regards the elections, I agree that the following two points should be adopted.

1. Subject to this Constitution and relevant laws, every citizen shall have the right to elect and to be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw;

2. Respective electorate shall have the right to revoke the duties of a Hluttaw member in accord with the law

National economic development is required for proper evolution of the market economy. Appropriate laws to grant business freedom is required and the State should help entrepreneurs get expertise, investment and raw materials. State should give guarantees to the citizens in doing businesses subject to the law, the citizens should be guaranteed of property ownership, rights to use assets and to innovate.

Hence, the following detailed basic principles should be adopted.

1. Every citizen shall have the right to freely do business in accord with the law for the national economic development

2. The State shall help all national businessmen have access to technologies, investments, machinery, and raw materials

3. In doing businesses subject to the law, every citizen should be guaranteed the rights of property ownership, using assets, innovation, and copyright by the State

An accused should be convicted of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offense, not shall he be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable. There should not be any authority to hold a citizen in detention for more than 24 hours without the permission of a law court. Hence, the constitution is that the following detailed basic principles should be laid down.

1. An accused should be convicted of crime in accord with the existing law at the time of the commission of the offence; he shall not be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable.

2. Except the matter for which a next higher court revokes a judgement and orders to rehear the case regarding the judgement in which the court concerned convicted or acquitted an accused of the crime, any cases shall not be reheard.

3. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge.

4. No citizen shall, except matters on precautionary measures taken for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, and community peace and tranquility in accord with the law in the interests of the people, or the matters permitted according to an existing law, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial organ

As regards the protection of fundamental rights, issuance of writs, revocation and restriction of rights as and when needed is required.

Tatmadaw will strive together with other forces to steer nation towards democracy in accord with new constitution

YANGON, 27 Jan — The following is a translation on the suggestions presented by U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-I in connection with the chapter “the Role of the Tatmadaw” at the plenary session of the National Convention held yesterday.

The term “Tatmadaw” has a profound meaning. An armed and uniformed organization cannot become a Tatmadaw without systematic organizational set-up, obedience, discipline and codes of conduct every member has to abide by. The most important thing for the Tatmadaw is the loyalty of its members at all times towards the enemy in the battle field is not enough for the Tatmadaw. The members’ loyalty to their own institution and the people they are serving is also included in the definition of the term.

The Tatmadaw was founded by the persons with significant political vision during the struggles to regain independence. It restored the independence and has cope with the political hardships throughout the successive eras with national political outlook. Thus, it is not an ordinary salaried armed forces, but an armed institution with high national political outlook or the policed army.

The clarification of the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee include the nature of the Tatmadaw, its duties, its means to perform the duties well, the measures to discipline, and programmes for its members who died in the line of duty. Thus, the role of the Tatmadaw for the future nation is obvious.

Based on the above facts, I would like to present a separate suggestion concerning the detailed basic principle “The Tatmadaw 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.”

In my view, it should be highlighted that the Tatmadaw’s endeavour for this matter is in accord with the constitution as there is also the detailed basic principle saying “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution”. Hence, I would like to suggest that the given detailed principle should read “The Tatmadaw has the right to administer for participation of the entire people in the State security and defence in accordance with the constitution”.

Only then will there be relationship between the given principle and the detailed basic principle of the Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, which says, “Every citizen is responsible to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State”.

Except from my separate suggestion, our group would like to suggest that the following 14 detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

1. “The Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing brilliant and patriotic Tatmadaw”

2. “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution”

3. “The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty”

4. “The Tatmadaw shall lead in safeguarding the Union of Myanmar against all internal and external dangers”

5. “The Tatmadaw is the core armed forces for national defence”

6. “The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people in doing businesses subject to the law, the citizens should be guaranteed of property ownership, rights to use assets and to innovate”

7. “The Tatmadaw has the right to independently lead in safeguarding the Union of Myanmar against all internal and external dangers”

8. “The Tatmadaw shall render assistance to the people in doing businesses subject to the law, the citizens should be guaranteed of property ownership, rights to use assets and to innovate”

9. “The President shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the proposal and recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council”

10. “The Tatmadaw has the right to independently administer all affairs concerning the forces”

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

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

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

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

If all have no doubts about the links between the three objectives of the National Convention “Flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system”, further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State, and “for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role”...
Abuse of religion for political purposes forbidden

YANGON, 27 Jan — The following is a translation on the suggestions presented by U Tun Thwe of Rakhine State of the delegate group of national races in connection with the chapters “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens” at the plenary session of the National Convention held yesterday.

My presentations will be in two parts — the detailed basic principles our group has supported to be adopted and a separate suggestion. The explanations of the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee included citizenship, equality before the law, freedom of speech, expression, publication, assembling, property ownership, literature, culture, religion, education, election, economic freedom, criminal procedures, and protection of rights.

As we.Wlchcr Gomrnlttirv, the following detailed basic principles should be laid down.

“(1)All persons who have either one of following requirements are citizens of the Union of Myanmar —
(a) All persons born of parents both of whom are citizens 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, nationalization and revocation of citizenship shall be prescribed by the law Equality, liberty and justice are the worldly values and the democracy rights the people will enjoy in a true democratic state that will ensure equality before the law. Democracy never tolerates discrimination against citizens, and enacts laws for mothers and children and employment.

Hence, I would like to suggest that the six points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted. Genuine democracy endures freedom of speech, press, expression, procession, association, settlement in the State, property ownership and security of premises, etc. Thus, the five detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman are appropriate to be adopted.

Democracy values human beings. In this regard, concerning slavery and forced labour, I would like to suggest that the following two detailed basic principles should be adopted.

1. The State prohibits enslaving of men and trafficking in persons.
2. The State prohibits any forms of forced labour except hard labour as a punishment for crime whereas the party shall have been duly convicted and duties assigned by the State in accord with the law in the interest of the State and the people.”

My suggestions for the points concerning the religion is to adopt the following points for the constitution.

1. Any person is equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess and practise religion subject to public order, morality or health 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 so guaranteed shall not be the State from enacting laws for the purpose of social welfare and reform.
4. The State recognizes the special position of Buddhism as the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens of the State.
5. The State also recognizes Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Animism as some religions existing in the Union on the date of the coming into force of the State Constitution.
6. The State shall help and protect as much as it can the religions it recognizes.

Disruptions made by delegates at National Convention...

(from page 5)

may be necessary and other matters, the following detailed basic principles should be adopted.

1. The right to move the Supreme Court of the Union by appropriate procedures for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Constitution is hereby guaranteed.
2. The Supreme Court of the Union shall have the power to issue the following writs as appropriate in a matter to enforce the rights bestowed by this Constitution:
(a) Writs of Habeas Corpus
(b) Writs of Mandamus
(c) Writs of Prohibition
(d) Writs of Quo Warranto
(e) Writs of Certiorari
(f) Writs of Writs of Mandamus
(g) Writs of Prohibition
(h) Writs of Quo Warranto
(i) Writs of Certiorari
(j) Writs of Quo Warranto
(k) Writs of Certiorari
(l) Writs of Quo Warranto
(m) Writs of Certiorari
(n) Writs of Quo Warranto
(o) Writs of Certiorari
(p) Writs of Quo Warranto
(q) Writs of Certiorari
(r) Writs of Quo Warranto
(s) Writs of Certiorari
(t) Writs of Quo Warranto
(u) Writs of Certiorari
(v) Writs of Quo Warranto
(w) Writs of Certiorari
(x) Writs of Quo Warranto
(y) Writs of Certiorari
(z) Writs of Quo Warranto

The vesting of the Supreme Court of the Union with the power to issue writs should not affect the power of other courts to issue orders that is likely to be the power vested according to an existing law to issue orders.

3. In the times of the following situations, the power to issue writs shall not be suspended unless the public safety may so require. In carrying out tasks, some citizens may have to deal with foreign countries. Such citizens, at home or abroad, should have the right to seek protection of the State.
(a) in time of war,
(b) in time of, invasion,
(c) in time of, rebellion;
(d) in time of, state.

4. Every citizen, at home or abroad, dealing with foreign countries shall have the right to seek protection of the State.
5. Except the following situations, the right to enforce remedies prescribed by law shall not be suspended regarding the deprivation of citizens:
(a) in time of, invasion,
(b) in time of, rebellion,
(c) in time of, insurrection or, grave emergency.
6. If there are, other rights ascribed in this chapter, some of the right to be restricted or revoked, they should be done so only after the enacting of a necessary law for members who are discharging national defence duties, or duties for prevalence of law and order and State security, to be able to discharge their duties effectively with discipline.

As a citizen can enjoy the rights bestowed by the Constitution, he should be loyal and dutiful to the State.
Mainly, he has the duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. All citizens have the duty to join hands with national races for all-round development and modernization of the nation and ensure peace and stability. They all have the duty to learn military science, serve in the military and safeguard sovereignty and independence. Hence, I am in favour of adopting the following points.

1. Every citizen is responsible to uphold:
(a) Non-discrimination of the Union
(b) Disintegration of national solidarity
(c) Perpetuation of sovereignty
2. Every citizen is responsible to abide by the provisions of the Constitution.
3. Every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty, territory of the Union of Myanmar.
4. Every citizen, equipped with Union Spirit, is responsible to enhance unity among national races and to ensure community peace and stability.
5. Every citizen is responsible to build a modern developed nation.
6. Every citizen is responsible to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State.
7. Every citizen is responsible to pay taxes to be levied according to the law.
I would also like to suggest to adopt the point “The word the State stipulated in this Chapter means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution”. In my view if the people live in accord with discipline and are dutiful and the persons in authority seriously followed provisions of the constitution we all will be able to reach a modern and developed nation where democracy flourishes and every person is enjoying human rights fully. The discussions made by the delegates at the National Convention with unity will go down in the annals of history.

Tatmadaw will strive together with other forces...

(from page 5)

of the State” and work with goodwill, based on nationalism, there will be total harmony and unity in the nation for any endeavour. As the power is not vested in any single person, but separated as much as possible, the task of exerting reciprocal control, check and balance would be carried out well.

If all have a clear view on the Tatmadaw’s participation in the State leadership role together with other forces, there will emerge three strengths — the forces including political parties representing the people through elections, the forces representing the people, and the consolidated and united Tatmadaw — in the nation. The nation will develop only if the three forces work together in unity. Of the three forces, the Tatmadaw is the only institution that can respond any matter quickly. Thus, the Tatmadaw’s participation in building a new nation is inevitable. Even if the Tatmadaw has no wish to play a part, other two forces should organize it to join in the task. In my view, all will have to work without having any extreme passions and prejudices and make assessments for the corruption-free future. Thus all will have to warmly welcome the Tatmadaw’s participation in the nation-building task. I believe that the Tatmadaw will strive together with other forces to steer the nation towards democracy in accord with the new constitution, without having any extreme passions for any ideology or individual, while keeping in the forefront the national interest and true nationalism.

— MNA
Six points on protection of the State according to the Constitution explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted

The following is a translation on the proposal of the delegation group of national races read out by Daw Khin Aye Maw at the plenary session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmwe Township, Yangon Division, yesterday regarding the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and the Chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” to be included in the State Constitution.

The people are to elect representatives to Hluttaw who behave for the people will have to manage affairs. The people also have the rights to be elected. Selective electorate shall have the right to revoke the duties of a Hluttaw member in accord with the law. So regarding the rights to elect and to be elected, the basic principles:

1. Subject to this Constitution and relevant laws, every citizen shall have the right to elect and to be elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw;

2. The respective electorate shall have the right to revoke the duties of a Hluttaw member in accord with the law” should be adopted.

The economic system the nation will practise is the market-oriented economic system. The national economic development plays an important role in the drive for proper economic evolution of the market-oriented economic system. So regarding the rights to do business freely, the basic principles:

1. Every citizen shall have the right to freely do business in accord with the law for the national economic development;

2. The State shall help national businessmen have access to technology, investments, machinery, and raw materials;

3. In doing businesses subject to the constitution and the existing laws, every citizen should be guaranteed the rights of property ownership, using assets, innovation, and copyright by the State” should be adopted.

An accused should be convited of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offence, but he shall not be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge. No citizen shall, except matters for security of the State, prevalance of law and order, and community peace and tranquillity, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial organ. So regarding the rights of criminal laws, the four points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Every citizen, at home or abroad, shall have the right to seek protection of the State.

Furthermore, if there are, of the rights prescribed in this chapter, some rights that need to be restricted or revoked, they shall be provided for the enacting of a necessary law for members who are discharging national defence duties, or duties for prevalence of law and order and State security to be able to discharge their duties effectively with discipline.

So, the six points on protection of the State according to the Constitution explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

The citizens shall have access to the fundamental rights and shall carry out their duties stated in the Constitution. The major duty of a citizen is to uphold Our Three Main National Causes for ensuring perpetual existence of the motherland. Besides, they are responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territory of the Union, to fortify national solidarity of national races, to restore peace and stability, to participate in the drive for the emergence of a modern and developed nation, and to undergo military training to serve military services when necessary.

Regarding the matters on discharging military services, nation builder General Aung San delivered a speech at the constituent Hluttaw session on 16 June 1947.

Citizens are to pay taxes to be levied according to the law. I have learnt that a developed Asian nation earns 27 per cent of its GDP from taxes, and a developing Asian nation earns at least 7 per cent of its GDP. The tax collection rate of Myanmar is less than any other nations. I think our nation should rely on income from taxes for the development of various sectors.

So, regarding the fundamental rights, the principles:

1. Every citizen is responsible to uphold:
   (a) Non-disintegration of the Union
   (b) Non-disintegration of national solidarity
   (c) Perpetuation of sovereignty

2. Every citizen is responsible to abide by the provisions of the Constitution

3. Every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty, territory of the Union of Myanmar

4. Every citizen, equipped with Union Spirit, is responsible to enhance unity among national races and to ensure community peace and stability

5. Every citizen is responsible to build a modern developed nation

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

7. Every citizen is responsible to pay taxes to be levied according to the law” should be adopted.

Regarding the word “State” in this chapter “Citizen- ship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, the principle:

The word The State stipulated in this Chapter means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution” should be adopted. — MNA

Obedience serves as system to control entire Tatmadaw

The New Light of Myanmar, 27 Jan — The following is a translation on the proposals presented by Daw Tin Tin Ohn of Shan State of the delegate group of national races in connection with the chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” at the plenary session of the National Convention held yesterday.

Chairman of the National Convention Convening work Committee in his explanation said, “If there is a state, there must be an institution to defend it. And the institution is no longer than by the President alone.

This provision, at the beginning of the existing laws, every citizen should be guaranteed the rights of property ownership, using assets, innovation, and copyright by the State” should be adopted.

An accused should be convicted of crime in accord with the law at the time of the commission of the offence, but he shall not be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable. An accused shall have the right to make an argument against the charge. No citizen shall, except matters for security of the State, prevalance of law and order, and community peace and tranquillity, be placed in custody for more than 24 hours without the sanction of a competent judicial organ. So regarding the rights of criminal laws, the four points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Every citizen, at home or abroad, shall have the right to seek protection of the State.

Furthermore, if there are, of the rights prescribed in this chapter, some rights that need to be restricted or revoked, they shall be provided for the enacting of a necessary law for members who are discharging national defence duties, or duties for prevalence of law and order and State security to be able to discharge their duties effectively with discipline.

So, the six points on protection of the State according to the Constitution explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be adopted.

The citizens shall have access to the fundamental rights and shall carry out their duties stated in the Constitution. The major duty of a citizen is to uphold Our Three Main National Causes for ensuring perpetual existence of the motherland. Besides, they are responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territory of the Union, to fortify national solidarity of national races, to restore peace and stability, to participate in the drive for the emergence of a modern and developed nation, and to undergo military training to serve military services when necessary.

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   (b) Non-disintegration of national solidarity
   (c) Perpetuation of sovereignty

2. Every citizen is responsible to abide by the provisions of the Constitution

3. Every citizen is responsible to safeguard independence, sovereignty, territory of the Union of Myanmar

4. Every citizen, equipped with Union Spirit, is responsible to enhance unity among national races and to ensure community peace and stability

5. Every citizen is responsible to build a modern developed nation

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

7. Every citizen is responsible to pay taxes to be levied according to the law” should be adopted.

Regarding the word “State” in this chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens, the principle:

The word The State stipulated in this Chapter means a body that exercises legislative and executive powers according to this Constitution” should be adopted. — MNA

As the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is the main person responsible for State security and defence, the detailed basic principle “As a reference in designating the official position of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is designated as Vice-President level” should be adopted.

The National Convention has already laid down the basic principle “The President is the Executive Head of State”. The authority 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 approval of the National Defence and Security Council rather than by the President alone.

(See page 10)
Bagyi Soe: According to the basic principles the National Convention has adopted, the future State will consist of the Pyidaungsu government, region governments and state governments. So, the ways that conform with the changes and the prevailing conditions of Myanmar should be sought and practised in sharing financial power with the Pyidaungsu government, region governments and state governments, shouldn’t they?

Soe Mya Kyaw: I’d also like to know matters on the present State budget.

Bagyi Soe: The State budget today shows that on average, expenditures exceed taxes in the majority of states and divisions. The State has to add required amount of cash assistance to the funds of such states and divisions. In other words, the government is doing its best for enabling states and divisions to use the taxes levied across the Union as proportionately as it can.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, Uncle. Would you please explain the ways to take measures regarding the budget of the future State that has been laid down based on the conditions?

Bagyi Soe: A detailed basic principle has been adopted that “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will submit to the President the bill of Union budget containing the Union budget with the expenditures of Union territories, the distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special issue and loans permission; or the bill of financial allotment; to make suggestions on financial matters worth undertaking; and to carry out duties assigned by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the promulgation of law, the Financial Commissions are to be formed with following persons:

1. The President Chairman
2. The Vice-President Vice-Chairman
3. The Pyidaungsu Attorney-General Member
4. The Pyidaungsu Auditor-General Member
5. The Chief Ministers of Regions and States Member
6. The Yangon City Council Chairman Member
7. The Pyidaungsu Minister for Finance Secretary

Soe Mya Kyaw: Is there any other matter the commission has to handle, Uncle?

Bagyi Soe: The Financial Commission will have to submit the bill of Union budget or the bill of financial allotment to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Moreover, it will have to make suggestions on financial matters worth undertaking. Similarly, the matters prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to be tackled for the emergence of an enduring financial system.

Now, the delegates are holding discussions at the ongoing National Convention for the adoption of the basic principles and detailed basic principles in formulating the State Constitution. By studying these basic principles and detailed basic principles, one can envisage the future of the nation in form and essence. Articles on the National Convention will be inserted in the newspapers daily for enabling the people to visualize the future of the nation in form and essence.

If their funds are not sufficient for development projects implemented annually, the Union Fund Account will provide the funds. Even then more funds are needed, the funds will be provided as special cases depending on the financial situation of the State. Moreover, if the regions/states are in need of funds to carry out tasks in their respective areas, they can borrow the money in consultation with the Pyidaungsu.
Bagyi Soe: Then, in the formation of the Union Fund Account. The Region/State Hluttaw concerned will consider the matter and then pass approval and to make rejection and deduction, in accord with the majority consent. However, a detailed basic principle has been laid down for certain expenditures that have to be approved; in this connection, rejection and deduction are not allowed.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What are the expenditures that have to be approved without fail?

Bagyi Soe: They are:

1. Salary and allowance of heads and members of organizations set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those organizations at Union level;
2. Salary and allowance of heads and members of leading bodies of self-administered area set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those bodies;
3. Expenditure of the state or region to settle, expenditures related to those debts, and other expenditures related to money borrowed by the Union;
4. Expenditure to be paid accord- ing to the tax ordinance or decree released by the court or a particular tribunal; and
5. Other expenditures to be paid accord- ing to a particular existing law enacted by Region or State Hluttaw.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Now, it is clear, Bagyi. With a view to practising the discipline-flourishing democracy, infrastructures are to continue to be built with momentum for the development of the three essential requirements, namely, stability of the State and community peace, progress of the national economy and economic life of the people, and human resources development. Only then will the nation continue to develop. To be able to do so substantial funds will be neces- sary. Am I right, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: Absolutely. If you study the current State affairs in the country, you will notice the Union enjoys national consolidation that has been unprecedented in the nation’s history. Col- lection of taxes and use of funds are to be carried out most systematically. For, this will contribute to perpetuation of national solidarity. To ensure proper allotment of funds be- tween the Union and the regions or states dis- cussions were held and in this connection a detailed basic principle has been laid down, which says:

Taxes to be collected according to the law of the region or state and to be put in the Region or State Fund Account are as follows:

1. Land tax;
2. Excise;
3. Water tax, embankment tax of dams and embankments the region or state has the right to manage, and tax on the use of electric power produced by such facili- ties managed by the region or state;
4. Tolls from roads and bridges the re- gion or state has the right to manage;
5. (aa) Royalty collected from fresh water fisheries, (bb) Royalty collected from marine fish- eries located in limited distance;
6. Tax collected according to vehicles and vessels law of the region or the state;
7. Other benefits and profits realized from the sale and rent property owned by the region or state;
8. Charges, taxes and other incomes real- ized from services provided by the re- gion or state;
9. Fines imposed at Region or State Hluttaw according to Region or State courts, taxes and other incomes col-

lected for services provided;
10. Interests realized from the lending of money of the region or state funds;
11. Profits realized from investment made by the region or state;
12. Taxes collected for extraction of the following items from forests in the region or state;
  (aa) Taxes collected on all other timber except teak and designated hard- wood;
  (bb) Taxes collected on firewood, charcoal, rattan, bamboo, birdnest, cutch, thanakha, turpentine, eaglewood, and honey-based products;
13. Registration fees;
14. Taxes on entertainment;
15. Salt tax;
16. Funds received from the Union Fund Account;
17. Contributions by organizations relevant to development affairs in the region or state;
18. Unclaimed cash and property;
19. Treasure trove;

Soe Mya Kyaw: There are a great number of taxes that the regions/states are allowed to collect, Kyee Kyee.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Right. It is more than that permit- ted in the 1947 Constitution. This is meant to enable the regions/states to raise more funds.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It is clear. The revenues thus collected are to be used for the development of the respective areas according to the law.

Bagyi Soe: That’s not all. If their funds are not sufficient for development projects imple- mented annually, the Union Fund Account will provide the funds. Even then if more funds are needed, the funds will be provided as special cases depending on the financial situation of the State. Moreover, if the regions/ states are in need of funds to carry out tasks in their respective areas, they can borrow the money in consultation with the Pyidaungsu.

Soe Mya Kyaw: There should be funds and alloca- tion of funds for the implementation of develop- ment projects in the regions/states annually. Similarly, the Union itself has to allocate funds from the Union Fund Account for the imple- mentation of various development projects throughout the Union.

Bagyi Soe: That is why the National Convention has laid down a detailed basic principle, the Union shall collect taxes other than those permitted to the regions and states accord- ing to law and deposit them in the Union Fund Account. The Union can spend the Union Fund Account according to the law.

Soe Mya Kyaw: How is collection of taxes of the Union territories, Bagyi?

Bagyi Soe: The Union territories are to collect funds permitted to the regions/states in their territories according to the Union law and submit them to the Union Fund Account.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Thank you, Bagyi. After the dis- cussions on the detailed basic principles on the distribution of the legislative power to be in- cluded in the State Constitution, the legislative structure and essence of the future State has taken shape well.

Bagyi Soe: You are right, Maung Kyaw. National races of the Union will find the legislative sector of the future State full of essence. We will also discuss the essence of the executive sector of the future State next week.

Kyee Kyee Mya: When you meet next week, I will treat you with pickled tea plus the dried samber.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Well, I look forward to the meet- ing.
Delegate Groups of Peasants, Workers and Intellectuals ...

The Mandalay City Development Committee, and ministries concerned, other invited delegates, delegates of national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and executive members, chairmen of sub-committees, officials, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates to the National Convention to- dally, 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw. It is a consolidated institution that cannot be divided by any outside force. Every commander has trained the troops under his command to be fully equipped with the 12 traditions and has striven to further enhance the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Obedience serves as a system to control the entire Tatmadaw. Obedience has been an essential requirement since the formation of the Tatmadaw. Because of the Tatmadaw’s total obedience to the commands, the Tatmadaw was able to regain independence and continue to safeguard the independence.

The nature of military duty to safeguard independence and sovereignty is a 24-hour service that requires launching of operations and missions and accomplishing them according to schedule or in time. The Tatmadaw will be able to dutifully perform its task only if it has the right to administer all affairs concerning the forces. — MNA


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

The MC announced the validity of the meet- ing as 1,068 delegates out of 1,079 were present, ac- counting 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.

First, U Kyaw Tint of Sagaing Division pre- sented the proposals of Delegate Group of Peas- ants. (The presentation will be reported.)

When the plenary session resumed, U Kyaw Mya Aung of Yangon Division presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.)

Afterwards, Daw Aye Aye Thaung of Ayeyawady Division presented the proposals of Delegate Group of Work- ers. (The presentation will be reported.)

Later, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentia presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.)

Finally, Rector of Mawlamyine University U San Tint presented the proposals. (The presentation will be reported.)

Plenary Session of the National Convention continued on 30 January (Monday) at 9 am. — MNA
MWAF Annual General Meeting …

(From page 16)

Under the micro credit scheme, President Daw Than Than Nwe handed over capital funds to patrons and chairpersons of State and Division Women’s Affairs Organizations. Next, Chairperson of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Than Than Nyunt, Yangon Division WAO Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Thu and Ayeyawady Division WAO Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Kyaw submitted reports on accomplishments of the respective organizations. Meeting chairperson Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint reviewed the reports of the Division WAOs. Those present took part in a general round discussions. In the afternoon, President Daw Than Than Nwe presided over the meeting. General Secretary Prof Dr Khin Mar Tun sought approval for laying down future tasks and decisions.

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe presents cash assistance under the micro credit scheme. — MNA

Daw Aye Aye Kyaw of Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

MWAF General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun. — MNA

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint. — MNA

Yangon Zoological Gardens centenary goes on

A large crowd of visitors lose themselves in the performance of a snake-charmer in the celebration of centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Yangon, 27 Jan — The celebration of the centenary of the Yangon Zoological Gardens continued for the third day today. The zoo was teeming with Yangonites, students and people. At the shops such as personal goods shops, traditional medicines stores, boutiques, toys shops, and stationery shops, visitors were jostling for the commemorative items.

Seeking relaxation and recreation, the visitors watched animal performance shows, animal costumes show, reggae music and dance performances, and singing contests, posed for photos together with tamed animals, and rode elephants, horses and boats in families or groups.

Tomorrow, apart from usual special programmes, a stage show will be performed with music stars including Ringo, Po Kar, Myaypeyo, Shwe Htaik, Theory, and Too Big.

A performance of a tamed dog. — MNA

Yangon Zoological Gardens is drawing the attention of a large number of visitors at the celebration of its centenary. — MNA

Zoo opening hours to be extended on weekends

Yangon, 27 Jan — The centenary of Yangon Zoological Gardens is being celebrated on a grand scale, drawing a great number of people. Opening hours on 28 and 29 January, public holidays, will be from 7 am to 7 pm instead of 7 am to 6 pm, it is learnt. — MNA

Nine future work programmes of MWAF’s 2006 Annual General Meeting

1. The Myanmar Women Affairs Federation members are to adopt and practise Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy.
2. To take part in successful realization of the 12 political, economic and social objectives for national development.
3. To take part in successful realization of the seven objectives with the rigid strengths of the members by extending member strengths.
4. To take part in development of education, economy and health care services with the strengths of entire women for national development.
5. To take part in the tasks for ensuring development and security of womenfolk with the strengths of women.
6. To cooperate with international and regional organizations and organizations at home and abroad in combating all forms of violence against women and trafficking in persons. — MNA

ANGON, MNA, 27 Jan — The centenary of Yangon Zoological Gardens is being celebrated on a grand scale, drawing a great number of people. Opening hours on 28 and 29 January, public holidays, will be from 7 am to 7 pm instead of 7 am to 6 pm, it is learnt. — MNA
The delegate group of national races support adoption of detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman

Yangon, 27 Jan—The following is a translation on the proposal of the delegate group of national races read out by U Thein Tun of Mandalay Division at the plenary session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, on 26 January 2006, regarding the detailed basic principles that are appropriate, for the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and the Chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” to be included in the State Constitution yesterday.

I would like to present a worldwide well-known event regarding the power of the Tatmadaw to decide warfare matters. It is a war that took place between two Korean nations.

Inchon amphibious battle that occurred in September 1950 was the largest of its kind after the World War II. Despite the objection of so many persons including the President, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the Army general, the Navy admiral, and high-ranking officials, General Mc Arthur made a sharp determination to launch such a decisive war. He said that if they were defeated in Asia, it would affect the fate of Europe. But, if they won the battle, it would save 100,000 lives. With the use of 260 warships, 500 tanks, and 180,000 troops, he managed to win the war, braving huge sea waves and swift tides. Defence and security matters concerning the Tatmadaw are to be kept secret and to be decided in a very short time to successfully complete a mission.

We the delegate group of national races believe that the national defence and security council will come into existence in the future and it will be capable of defending the motherland from dangers. A French general on 1 August 1906, regarding the detailed basic principles that are appropriate, for the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and the Chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” to be included in the State Constitution yesterday.

The Tatmadaw shall carry out tasks for stability of the State, security tasks, and relief services in times of natural disasters. Born of the people, the Tatmadaw has to carry out duties for security of the people, and to serve the interests of the people. Based on these points, I would like to present the points altogether:

1. The Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing brilliant and patriotic Tatmadaw.
2. The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution.
3. The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
4. The Tatmadaw must play a leading role in safeguarding the Union of Myanmar against all internal and external dangers. The Tatmadaw is the core armed forces for national defence.
5. The Tatmadaw 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.
6. All the armed forces in the nation shall be under the command of the Tatmadaw.
7. The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief is the Supreme Commander of all armed forces.
8. As a reference in designating the official position of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander-in-Chief is designated as the Vice-President level.
9. The President shall appoint the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with the proposal and approval of the National Defence Council.

We the delegate group of national races support adoption of detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman regarding the Chapter “Citizenship, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” and the Chapter “The Role of the Tatmadaw” to be included in the State Constitution yesterday.

However, in my opinion, the detailed basic principles explained by the Work Committee Chairman, I would also like to make a suggestion.

I would like to make a suggestion.

I would also like to make a suggestion.

Based on our findings, I would like to make a suggestion.

More than 70 per cent of National Convention proceedings have been successfully completed. We members of the delegate group of national races are very pleased with this, and we will discharge State duties and national duty with added momentum. — MNA

Social Welfare sector witnesses sustained progress

Development of social welfare in the time of the Tatmadaw Government

It is Myanmar custom to care about somebody’s problems, to feel sympathy for and to give support to other people and these good habits always flourish in the Myanmar society.

Myanmar has made progress in economic sector while social welfare activities are being carried out with added momentum. Regarding the social welfare activities, not only the Government but also well-wishers make valuable contribution to the success of the activities.

Thanks to the stability of the State, unity of all national races and high nationalistic spirit, national forces that will serve the interests of the State have emerged.

As part of national forces, social organizations are participating in social welfare activities in an attempt to improve the living standards of the people. Moreover, as well-wishers play an active part in social welfare activities joining hands with social organizations, and standards of the needy people have improved.

The table is the tangible proof of the progress of the social welfare works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Day care nursery</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Cetana nursery</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>156</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rehabilitation centre</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Domestic science school</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Cetana vocational school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Home for the aged</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Training school for the disabled</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
Saudi Arabia becomes China’s largest oil provider

BEIJING, 26 Jan—Saudi Arabia has become China’s largest crude oil provider, largest trade partner and second largest export market in the regions of West Asia and Africa, Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said here recently.

Bo made the remark at the third meeting of the China-Saudi Arabia economic and trade committee.

In 1999, when the second meeting of China-Saudi Arabia economic and trade committee was held, bilateral trade was below two billion US dollars. By 2005, the figure had risen to 15 billion dollars, with an annual average growth rate of 41 percent, the Chinese minister said.

In four or five years, the bilateral trade volume is expected to reach 40 billion dollars, he added.

China is willing to enhance economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia in areas of energy, mining, petrochemicals, investment, infrastructure construction, science and technology and human resources, he said.

The Chinese side will make concerted efforts with the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council including Saudi Arabia to push for the signing of a bilateral free-trade agreement as early as possible, he said.

The two countries should enhance coordination and cooperation under the framework of the World Trade Organization, he said, expressing the hope that Saudi Arabia will streamline visas issuance for Chinese business people and workers.

Saudi Arabia thanks China for supporting its entry to the World Trade Organization, said Minister of Finance Ibrahim Bin Abdel Aziz Al-Assaf of Saudi Arabia.

He expressed his wish that the two countries would enhance cooperation in energy, medical services, education and training as well as finance.—MNA/Xinhua

Six tons of ivory suspected from Zambia seized in Manila

LUSAKA, 26 Jan—A container laden with six tons of ivory suspected to come from Zambia has been intercepted in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, according to Zambia Daily Mail on Wednesday.

Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) public relations officer Maureen Mwape was quoted as saying here Tuesday that the ivory seized last week was alleged to have originated from illegal activities in Zambia.

She said “the authority is carrying out frantic investigations into the matter and the nation will be informated of the details at a later stage”.

The documents for shipment indicated that the container had personal effect.

“ But when it was opened, it was discovered that there was ivory inside,” she said.

The documents indicated that the container was hired from Zambia, but it might have been taken to another country for loading.

Mwape said “we are not hundred per cent sure that this came from Zambia because we do not know at which port the container was loaded on the ship”.—MNA/Xinhua

Model sues “Spamalot” producers over poster

NEW YORK, 26 Jan—A 23-year-old model has sued the producers of the hit Broadway musical “Spamalot” for using a picture of her without permission to promote the hit Monty Python show.

In a civil lawsuit filed on Tuesday in Manhattan Supreme Court, Carla Collins accused the producers of making a fool of her. “The likeness depicts Carla in a foolish, unnatural and undignified manner, and tends to hold her up to public ridicule and contempt,” the lawsuit says.

Collins’ lawyer Leroy Wilson Jr. said the offender showed his client “with falsely enhanced physical features”.

Wilson said Collins had finished a photo shoot in Capetown, South Africa, two years ago when she jokingly blew a kiss to a photographer who took her photo. “The suit says the model’s image was retouched ‘in the chest area’ and is prominently displayed on the facade of the Shubert Theatre in Manhattan, making her an object of ridicule. MNA/Reuters

Journalist arrested on suspicion of stealing official documents

LONDON, 26 Jan — A journalist who revealed the stumbled shooting dead of Jean Charles de Menezes has been arrested on suspicion of stealing official documents, a British newspaper said on Wednesday.

The leaked witness statements and photographs from the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) disclosed that the 27-year-old Brazilian electrician had been shot seven times in a train carriage at Stockwell tube station on 22 July last year, the Guardian said.

The newspaper said the journalist is believed to hold copies of the statements, which helped the broadcaster gain dazzling fame for one of the biggest scoops in the history of British television news.

Leicestershire police looking into the leaking of information arrested the journalist in October as well as a 43-year-old employee and a 30-year-old woman on suspicion of conspiracy to theft. All of them remain on police bail.

Police officials were investigating whether the journalist had bribed for the copies of information. But an anonymous insider from ITV News has denied it.—MNA/Xinhua

Local Chinese walk in the heavy snow in Altay, northwest of China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 26 Jan, 2006. MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RIA VOYNO (RAA) 003

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RIA VOYNO (RAA) 003 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and 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 and claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINERS Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 28 January, 2006

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Davenport, Williams pull out of Pan Pacific Open

Tokyo, 27 Jan — Four-time champion Lindsay Davenport has pulled out of next week’s Pan Pacific Open with an ankle problem, Tokyo organizers said on Thursday.

The American, who will lose her world number one ranking to Belgium’s Kim Clijsters after bowing out in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, joins Serena Williams on the sidelines.

Williams, a first-round loser at the year’s first Grand Slam, said in a WTA statement that she needs more time to recover before continuing her schedule, probably in Antwerp in mid-February.

Juventus suffer rare home defeat in Italian Cup

Rome, 27 Jan — AS Roma pulled off one of the surprise results of the Italian season so far when they beat Juventus 3-2 in the first leg of their Italian Cup quarterfinal on Thursday.

Juve’s defeat — played out on freezing night in Turin — was only their third of the season, after losses to Bayern Munich in the group stage of the Champions League and AC Milan in Serie A.

It also brought to an end the league leader’s unbeaten run at the Stadio delle Alpi this season.

Juventus, who started the match with just three days recovery time from their midweek defeat to Udinese, fell behind mid-way through the first half when they gave away a corner penalty.

But, just when the Catalans looked as though they might escape with a narrow defeat, Milito completed his double with an injury-time penalty for Zaragoza.

Barca had gone 24 matches since their only previous defeat this season, which was a 2-1 loss to Atletico Madrid on September 18.

Zaragoza stunned Barca in Cup to halt winning run

Madrid, 27 Jan — Barcelona’s 18-match winning run ended in stunning fashion on Thursday when Real Zaragoza exposed their defence with a devastating display of high-class finishing on their way to a 4-2 victory in the Spanish Cup.

Zaragoza hit the visitors with a three-goal salvo in the space of five first-half minutes to take a commanding lead in their quarter-final first leg before the half hour was up.

Argentine forward Di-ego Milito grabbed the first in the 22nd minute and Brazilian strike partner Ewerthon fired in two more before Barca had time to recover.

A Henrik Larsson header and a controversial penalty from Ronaldinho put Barca back in the game but, just when the Catalans looked as though they might escape with a narrow defeat, Milito completed his double with an injury-time penalty for Zaragoza.

Barca had gone 24 matches since their only previous defeat this season, which was a 2-1 loss to Atletico Madrid on September 18.

Zaragoza have already booked their places in the semis of the Cup, but the tie between Valencia and Deportivo Coruna has yet to be completed.

The second leg at the Mestalla was abandoned a minute before halftime after the linesman was hit on the head by an object thrown from the crowd with the aggregate score at 1-1.

The Spanish Football Federation has decided that the remaining 46 minutes will be played behind closed doors.

Baghdatis in dreamland, heartbreak for Clijsters

Melbourne, 27 Jan — Marcos Baghdatis extended his extraordinary Australian Open odyssey on Thursday when he became the first Cypriot to reach a Grand Slam final with a 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 defeat of fourth seed David Nalbandian.

“I’ll have to wake up and check if I’m dreaming,” the unseeded Baghdatis said in a courtside interview.

“I don’t know what to say — it’s amazing.”

In the women’s singles, a heart-breaking injury to newly-crowned world number one Kim Clijsters propelled Amelie Mauresmo into only her second Grand Slam final, against Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Henin-Hardenne, eighth seed and champion here in 2004, beat fourth-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Clijsters, plagued by injuries for the last two years, fell and hurt her right foot and was forced to quit with France’s Mauresmo leading 5-7, 2-3, 2-3.

Both women’s matches were played indoors because of the extreme temperatures.

A former junior world champion now ranked 54th in the world, Baghdatis looked down and out after conceding the first two sets to Nalbandian before scrambling madly throughout the third and fourth sets to push the match into a fifth set.

Tunisia, Guinea enjoy French connection

Alexandria (Egypt), 27 Jan — French coaches guided holders Tunisia and Guinea into the African Nations Cup quarterfinals on a grim Thursday night for South African football.

Roger Lemere’s Tunisia turned once again to the French connection, this time for the first time in their history.

With six points each, the Group C pair join Ivory Coast, coached by another Frenchman Henri Michel, and Artur Jorge’s Cameroon in the last eight.

Lemere’s team continue to reap the benefits of their decision just before the last Nations Cup on home soil to give dos Santos a Tunisian passport.

Having helped them win the title for the first time in 2004, he began their defence with a hat-trick against Zambia and the first goal against South Africa.

A fine shot by midfielder Slim Benachour ensured Lemere’s men were among the first, rather than last, to qualify.

“I was often bottom of the class at school and I don’t want to be that now,” the former France coach quipped.

Neveu was able to fire up a Guinea side who were a goal down at halftime against a feisty Zambia.

Two strikes from Pascal Feindounou, the first from the penalty spot and the second in stoppage time, turned around the match at the Harras El-Hedoud Stadium.

Real Madrid’s British David Beckham (L) tries to kick the ball past Real Betis’ Italian Castellini during their Spanish King’s Cup quarterfinal second leg soccer match at Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu stadium on 25 Jan, 2006. — INDIANET

Real Madrid’s British David Beckham (L) tries to kick the ball past Real Betis’ Italian Castellini during their Spanish King’s Cup quarterfinal second leg soccer match at Madrid’s Santiago Bernabeu stadium on 25 Jan, 2006. — INDIANET

Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium reaches for a backhand during her match against Maria Sharapova of Russia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2006. — INDIANET

Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium reaches for a backhand during her match against Maria Sharapova of Russia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 26 Jan, 2006. — INDIANET

The second leg of the French connection was completed with the 1-0 victory that put Les Aigles into the semi-finals of the African Nations Cup quarterfinals.

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Zaragoza stun Barca in Cup to halt winning run

Madrid, 27 Jan — Barcelona’s 18-match winning run ended in stunning fashion on Thursday when Real Zaragoza exposed their defence with a devastating display of high-class finishing on their way to a 4-2 victory in the King’s Cup.

There was little indication of the surprise in store for the Catalans as they enjoyed the best of the early possession and had several chances to take the lead in the opening minutes.

Just as Barca looked as though they might gain the upper hand, Zaragoza stunned the visitors.

Milito delivered the first blow when he darted out from between the Barca back four to meet a fine through ball from midfielder Cani and drilled a shot under reserve keeper Albert Jorquera.

MNA/Reuters
Four hostages seized in California bank heist

EXETER, 27 Jan — A man armed with a gun seized four women hostage at a branch of the Bank of America in a rural central Californian town after robbing it of about 100,000 US dollars, one of the hostages told Reuters by telephone.

Bank of America loan officer Rebecca Tejada said the incident began at 4:55 pm (0055 GMT) when the man entered the bank in Exeter, a small community near Fresno, California, and held it up at gunpoint.

After seizing the hostages, the robber released two customers and a bank teller but was still holding four women employees of the bank, she said.

“There are just four of us left here,” she said in a husked voice from inside the bank. “He wants all of us to leave with him in the car.”

Police at the scene said the gunman had requested only a getaway car. Authorities barricaded off the street in central Exeter and a SWAT team carried on negotiations.

Tejada said none had been hurt, and that the hostage-taker was taking them in a calm manner. The stolen funds were in a suitcase.

“He’s very calm and he’s just telling us about his life,” she said, describing their whereabouts as inside the bank’s automatic teller room. “He’s not rude.”

Tejada said the man identified himself as Jesse Martinez, 47, and said he was a local unemployed man. It was unclear if the man was directly monitoring the telephone conversation.

A ferry, carrying people from the city’s European side to the Asian side, sets sail in Istanbul’s Bosphorus, Turkey, on 26 Jan, 2006. Cold weather from Russia, with snow and sub-zero temperatures, hit Istanbul, causing difficulties in traffic and paralyzing daily life in the Turkish metropolis. — APIN

MNA/Reuters

Friday, 27 January, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayah State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah State and Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), and Pata-0 (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-1-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 27-1-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-1-2006 was (74%). Total sunshine hours on 26-1-2006 was (6.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 27-1-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (15:20) hours MST on 26-1-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-1-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-1-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-1-2006: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of February 2006: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
The second-day session of the Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation continued at the hall of the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning, and the annual general meeting successfully ended in the evening.

Present at the meeting were President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint and Central Executive Committee members, patrons, heads of department, leaders of working groups and members, regional organizers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, members of the supporting groups, chairperson of State and Division Women’s Affairs Organizations and guests. Vice-President of the federation Daw Khin Lay Myint presided over the meeting, and Secretary of Health Sub-Working Group Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin acted as master of ceremonies. (See page 11)

* The Financial Commission will have to submit to the President the bill stipulating distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special issue, and loans permission. Here, a salient point is that the Financial Commission can seek advice from finance experts when necessary.

* The Financial Commission will be able to fulfill financial requirements and hold discussions on financial matters for the development of the entire Union, and regions and states. That represents essence of democracy and ensures equal opportunities.

* The Union shall collect taxes other than those permitted to the regions and states according to law and deposit them in the Union Fund Account. The Union can spend the Union Fund Account according to law.