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

Systematic documentation of construction of bridges stressed to hand down bridge construction technologies and experiences to new generation engineers

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 Project

NAV PYI TAW, 29 Nov — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers and officials of the SPDC Office, left Pathein for Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 being built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group-1 of Public Works, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on implementation of the bridge, progress of approach bridges and the main section, use of construction materials.

Superintending Engineer (Bridge) U Sein Maung submitted reports on construction of the main bridge, approach bridge and roads of the bridge and progress of tasks with the use of documentary photos and charts.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hlay Win reported that Yangon-Thanlyin bridge No 1 is a rail-cum-road one and its motor road is narrow and it has limits to heavy-load vehicles. On completion, Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 can contribute to smooth and speedy flow of commodities. Yangon Division is providing necessary assistance for bridge construction project.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence reported on arrangements for progress of Thilawa Port, regional development (See page 4).

The development of Thilawa Port had been undertaken to enable ocean-going vessels to berth.
Build dams meeting the set standards

As Myanmar is an agricultural country, the agriculture sector plays a fundamental role in its food production. Therefore, the government is implementing water supply projects for the agricultural purpose.

Since its assumption of State responsibilities, the present government has built 190 new dams, 298 river water pumping stations and 999 village dams. Moreover, it is building artesian wells and embankments.

At present, Ma Mya dam is being built across Ma Mya Creek in Myanmar Township. It is an earthen dam and going to be 150 feet high and 11,800 feet long. On completion, it will be able to store 70,000 acre feet of water. Up to now, the concrete wall, the main embankment, the conduit, the control tower and the spillway have been completed.

On completion, the dam will have the capacity of supplying water to 10,000 acres of farmland and generating 500 kilowatt hours. Even before the completion, water has been stored as much as possible in the facility. Therefore, it can irrigate the farmland. Last year, it irrigated 300 acres of farmland for the cultivation of summer paddy. This year, it will irrigate 2,000 acres.

We would like to call on all those responsible of the project to work to the best of their ability for speedy completion of the dam and meeting the standards set. Only then will it benefit the local people sooner. Moreover, the hydropower station being constructed together with the dam will contribute to the development of the region.

Second Endurance Equestrian Contest on schedule

YANGON, 29 Nov — The Second Endurance Equestrian Contest, to be organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation, will be held at Bagan Archaeological Region in NyaungU Township on 20 and 21 January.

On 20 January, the opening ceremony and the junior endurance equestrian contest will be held. The route of the junior event will be 30 miles long. Male or female rider may be over 14 years old for the junior event, and the horse must be over three years old.

On 21 January, the 50-mile senior endurance equestrian contest will be held. The riders will start their competitions at YKKO equestrian club in NyaungU Township at 4 am to ride round Bagan pagodas and they will finish their route at the equestrian club.

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Corrigendum

Please read “Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)” instead of “International Confidence Building Association of China” in the headline, news and caption of the news “USDA Secretary-General receives International Confidence Building Association of China” reported on page-9 of this paper published on 29-11-2006. Ed
Annan says Iraq near civil war

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Nov—Iraq is nearly in civil war and could fall into civil war unless urgent steps are taken to prevent this, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday in a rare comment on the situation in Iraq. “Given the developments on the ground, unless something is done drastically and urgently to arrest the deteriorating situation, we could be there. In fact we are almost there,” Annan told reporters in response to a question.

He made the comment days before a planned conversation with the Iraq Study Group, a US panel co-chaired by former secretary of state James Baker that is preparing proposed new policy options on Iraq for the George W. Bush Administration.

The group has previously conferred with Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown and Ashraf Qazi, Annan’s special representative for Iraq, UN chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. “They are asking to talk to him and he’s talking to them,” Dujarric said, adding they would confer by telephone.

The United Nations has been playing only a minor role in Iraq since the truck-bombing of its Baghdad headquarters in August 2003 in an attack that killed 22 people including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN mission chief in the country.

Annan, whose second five-year term as Secretary-General runs out at the end of the year, has previously made waves by stating in December 2004 that the US-led invasion of Iraq was illegal as it was not approved by the UN Security Council.

Malay contractors urged to go global

PUTRAJAYA, 28 Nov—The construction industry is being monitored with a view to fine-tuning it.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said weaknesses would be rectified and leaks plugged so that no one would be burdened by the shortcomings.

“The government is observing the problems in the sector and we want to overcome them quickly for the good of the industry and for the people who stand to benefit from these projects. The government doesn’t want to be burdened by delayed or abandoned projects, which become liabilities for us,” Abdullah said when opening the Malay Contractors’ Association (PKMM) 27th annual general meeting yesterday.

He said the government was on the losing end every time a project was abandoned or delayed, as more money had to be forked out to revive it.

“We could be spending the money on other new projects,” he added. Delayed or abandoned projects also made the public angry as they were a waste of funds, and spoilt the reputation of the contractors.

“You should strive to be contractors who are respected,” Abdullah told the gathering of about 200 contractors.—Internet

22 killed in truck crash in China

BEIJING, 28 Nov—A truck turned over on a mountain road in China’s remote northwest region of Xinjiang, killing 22 people, Xinhua news agency said on Monday.

The truck with 25 people on board flipped over in the Altun Mountain area before dawn on Friday, Xinhua said. “Twenty-two people, including the driver, were killed instantly,” the agency said, adding that 20 of the dead had been riding in the back of the truck.

Xinjiang is home to eight million Uighurs, a largely Islamic people who share linguistic and cultural bonds with neighbouring Central Asia.—MNA/Reuters

US scientists say trained bees can sniff bombs

PHOENIX, 28 Nov—Scientists at a US weapons laboratory say they have trained bees to sniff out explosives in a project they say could have far-reaching applications for US homeland security and the Iraq war.

Researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said they trained honeybees to stick out their proboscis — the tube they use to feed on nectar — when they smell explosives in anything from cars and roadside bombs to belts similar to those used by suicide bombers.

Researchers in the programme, dubbed the Stealthy Insect Sensor Project, published their findings on Monday.

By exposing the insects to the odor of explosives followed by a sugar water reward, researchers said they trained bees to recognize substances ranging from dynamite and C-4 plastic explosives to the Howitzer propellant grains used in improvised explosive devices in Iraq. “When bees detect the presence of explosives, they simply stick their proboscis out,” research scientist Tim Haarmann told Reuters in a telephone interview. “You don’t have to be an expert in animal behaviour to understand it as there is no ambiguity.”

The findings followed 18 months of research at the US Energy Department’s Los Alamos facility, the nation’s leading nuclear weapons laboratory.

“We are very excited at the success of our research as it could have far-reaching implications for both defence and homeland security,” Haarmann said.

While scientists have trained wasps to respond to the trace of explosives, Haarmann said research with bees appeared to show more promise.

Haarmann said the bees could be carried in handheld detectors the size of a shoe box, and could be used to sniff out explosives in airports, roadside security checks, or even placed in robot bomb disposal equipment.

He said the next step would be to manufacture the bee boxes and train security guards in their use.

“It would be great to start saving some lives with this,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

Performers march during the 75th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade in Hollywood city, California, the United States on 26 Nov, 2006.—Xinhua

An 18th Century Chinese famille rose “swallows’ bowl has broken the world record for a Qing Dynasty porcelain piece, selling for 151.3 million HK dollars (19.5 million US dollars) at a Christie’s auction in Hong Kong on 28 Nov, 2006.—Xinhua

People leave after watching Europe’s tallest Christmas tree structure being lit for the first time on 25 Nov, 2006, at Comercio Square in downtown Lisbon, Portugal. The tree is 75 metres tall (246 feet).—INTERNET
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on construction tasks of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 Project by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun. — MNA

Systematic documentation of construction ...

and matters related to construction of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that it is a heavy task to build the bridge with a six-lane motor road. The development of Thilawa Port had been undertaken to enable ocean-going vessels to berth. Likewise, the bridge is being built for ensuring better transport of loaded vehicles. It is necessary not only to systematically build the new bridge but also to use the old bridge observing the disciplines.

He stressed the need to keep systematic documentation of construction of the bridges to hand down bridge construction technologies and experiences to new generation engineers. All are to always make inspections on bank erosion and changes of water ways near the bridge.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on all employees to make utmost efforts for completion of the construction tasks earlier than scheduled to be able to serve the interests of the State and the local people.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected completion of the approach bridge on Yangon bank, progress of the main bridge section and installation of pre-stressed reinforced concrete beams between pier No 7 and pier No 8 of the main bridge.

Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 will have a 72-foot six-lane motor road. The upper structure of the bridge is being built with pre-stressed reinforced concrete and the lower structure is reinforced concrete type.

The total length of the bridge will be 4,540 feet, and its clearance will be 130 feet wide and 18 feet high. The bridge will withstand 75-ton loads.

So far, the bridge is under construction with 90 per cent completion of the approach bridge on Yangon bank and 85 per cent of another one on Thanlyin bank. The main section of the bridge has been completed by 70 per cent, and the whole project, 82 per cent.

After inspecting construction tasks in Ayeyawady Division and progress of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 Project, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back here by air this morning. — MNA

Delegates of Delegate Group of Representative-elect...

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 subcommittees, delegates of political parties of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Kokang 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) Khumi National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President 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 Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited persons, delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5, Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayin National Democratic Party (KNDP) (Dragon) Group, Kayinn National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayinn National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBO) and Haungthawaw Special Region Group, Nyeinchaung Myothith Group from Hpa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine State Group), Arakan Army (AA), Homein Region Development and Welfare Group, Shwepyiayie (MTA), Manpan People’s Militia Group, Mon Peace Group (Chaungchi Region) and Mon Nai Seik Chan Group that had returned to the legal fold.

Before the Plenary Session of the National Convention, Chairman of the NCCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of the National Races, Peasants, Workers, Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, State Service Personnel, and Other Invited Persons, signed attendance books at Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall.

(See page 5)
Delegates of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect…

(from page 4)

U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect presided over the Plenary Session of National Convention together with, Member of NCCCWC U Moe Than (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of National Races, U Kan Nyunt of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, Dr Maung Maung Wint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, U Tin Kha of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of NCCCWC Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

The MC declared the start of meeting at 11.06 am, in attendance, accounting for 98.7 per cent, and the plenary session commenced with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Concerning the proposals of delegates of National Unity Party of the Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Thein Tun, Representative-elect of Ayeyawady Division Ingapu Township Constituency-2 from the National Unity Party, said that the proposals to be submitted to the Plenary Session is the same as the proposals submitted by U Tun Yi of NUP on 27 November and to save the time, he would not present it to the Plenary Session and handed it to the Chairman.

Concerning the proposals of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, U San Tha Aung, Representative-elect of Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township Constituency-2 from Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, said that the proposals to be submitted to the Plenary Session is the same as the proposals submitted by U Sein Tun of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization on 27 November and thus to save the time, he would not present it to the Plenary Session and handed it to the Chairman.

Afterwards, Independent Representative-elect Dr Hmawby Township Constituency presented proposals made by three independent representatives-elect from Chin State Thantlang Township Constituency, Shan State (North) Ywangan Township Constituency and Shan State (North) Namsam Township Constituency. The Plenary Session took a break at 9.50 am.

When the Plenary Session resumed at 10.05 am, Independent Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Shan State (South) Ywangan Township Constituency and Independent Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Shan State (North) Namsam Township Constituency presented proposals on detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the chapters “Election”, “Political Parties” and “Provisions on State of Emergency” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made by three independent representatives-elect from Chin State Thantlang Township Constituency, Shan State (South) Ywangan Township Constituency and Shan State (North) Namsam Township Constituency.

(The proposals will be reported.)

The Plenary Session went into recess at 11 am. The Plenary Session of the National Convention continues tomorrow.

MNA

Prisoners at Mapolin Quarry benefit from donations

YANGON, 29 Nov — A 12-member group of a social organization went to Mapolin Quarry on 22 November and provided provisions to prisoners.

The group donated 705 packages of chicken noodles, 750 cakes of Carbolic Soap and 240 assorted magazines worth K 104,175 to male prisoner workers and chicken noodles, soap, sweets and shampoo worth K 100,445 to female prisoners.

MNA

MDA conference on 24-26 January

YANGON, 29 Nov — Myanmar Dental Association (MDA) will hold its 27th conference and 8th FDI-MDA Joint Educational Meeting at Traders Hotel here, from 24 to 26 January, 2007.

Those who want to participate in the conference and meeting may enrol on 22 to 23 January at the hotel.

Booth of dental medicine and medical equipment will be staged at the conference.

MNA

Press conference on undertakings carried out …

(from page 16)

(The clarification is reported separately.)

Finally, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force clarified matters on drug control, anti-human trafficking and situation in the prisons. (The clarification is reported separately.)

The press conference concluded in the afternoon after Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Minister Dr Chan Nyein replied to the queries raised by journalists. — MNA

MNA

Proposals of Representatives-elect to be published

YANGON, 29 Nov — Proposals of Independent Representatives-elect Dr Hmawby Township Constituency, U Aung Thein of Shan State (South) Ywangan Township Constituency and U Tun Kyaw of Shan State (North) Namsam Township Constituency on detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the chapters “Election”, “Political Parties” and “Provisions on State of Emergency” to be included in drafting the State Constitution made at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, will be published in dailies.

MNA

Photographers of IPRD receive digital photographic skills

YANGON, 29 Nov — Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information conducted the digital photography course No 1/2006 at its office here, on 27 November. A total of 10 photographers from district/township IPRDs in Yangon Division are attending the four-week course. The senior photographers of Myanmar Photographic Society will give lectures at the course.

The course was opened with an address by Director-General of IPRD U Chit Naing.

MNA

Donate blood
The Ministry of Health aims to uplift health status of the people

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—The following is the clarification made by Minister for Health Dr. Kyaw Myint at the press conference on undertakings carried out in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State held here today.

First and foremost I would like to welcome you to the press conference of the Government of the Union of Myanmar on Education, Health and Social Sectors Development Activities in Nay Pyi Taw and wish you good health and happiness.

As you are aware, western countries have indicated that Myanmar is a potential threat to peace and security of the region due to drug-related problems, HIV/AIDS and other diseases and had been listed in the agenda for discussion at the UN Security Council. The internal and external destructive opponents accused Myanmar with allegations that lack edewnce which I would like to respond by presenting you the real situation of health development in Myanmar.

First and foremost I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Health is implementing all-round development of the health sector to uplift the health standards of the people according to the National Health Plan. According to the social objective which states “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation” development and upgrading of the health care services are implemented in line with the National Health Policy. The Ministry of Health has two main objectives — to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen has freedom from disease. These objectives are being fulfilled by three strategies — widespread dissemination of health and information education to reach the rural areas, enhancing disease prevention activities and providing effective treatment of prevailing diseases.

Myanmar being one of the member states of the ASEAN developed and is implementing the thirty-year long-term plan, Myanmar Vision 2030, according to guidelines of the ASEAN Vision 2020.

In line with the objectives of the thirty-year long-term plan the Ministry of Health aims to uplift the health status of the people, to render communicable diseases no longer public health problems, aiming towards total eradication or elimination of diseases and also to reduce the magnitude of other health problems, to foresee emerging diseases and potential health problems and make necessary arrangements for the control.

Currently, the fourth five-year-year long-term National Health Plan (1996-2011) is being implemented with 12 major programme areas which encompass 66 projects.

As part of the National Health Plan interventions to improve the health are coverage and provision of quality health care to the entire nation inclusive of the rural areas is being implemented.

The Special Four Year Plan for Promoting National Education (Health Sector) is to upgrade the level of medical and health professional education was implemented in 2000-2004. The Ministry of Health carried out faculty development programmes, public health initiative programmes, expansion of teaching hospitals, upgrading and expansion of universities, upgrading of Universities of Traditional Medicine and upgrading Medical Research and Development programmes.

As majority of the total population reside in the rural areas in Myanmar the Rural Health Development Plan (2001-2006) was developed and implemented. As this plan is one of the five components of the National Rural Development Plan the Ministry of Health works in collaboration with other related ministries. As in other countries, AIDS, TB and malaria primarily also affect the working group in Myanmar. As these diseases can result in negative impact on economic, social and development of the country, these three diseases are considered as diseases of national concern and treated as priority. It is determined to tackle these diseases with the main objectives of reducing the morbidity and mortality related to them, to become no longer a public health problem, and to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Milestones in HIV/AIDS:

- Study on prevention and control activities on HIV and AIDS was initiated in 1985 in Myanmar.
- National AIDS Committee was established in 1989.
- National AIDS Control Programme was formed in 1989.
- Working Committee, state/division/district and township level committees were also formed in the same year.
- Short-term plan systematic technical efforts were started in 1989.
- HIV sentinel surveillance was started in 1992.
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme was initiated in 2000.
- 100% condom use programme started in 2003.
- Public sector anti-retroviral therapy for people living with AIDS started in 2005.
- Nationwide coverage for blood safety achieved in 2004.
- External review on health sector response to HIV and AIDS conducted in 2006.

- The first AIDS case, in Myanmar, is a sailor who came back from abroad in 1991.
- The Ministry of Health, Myanmar, WHO, UNAIDS Headquarters, Geneva, jointly held an estimation workshop in 2004 to eliminate number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the country.
- The workshop has estimated that there were a total of 338,911 people living with HIV/AIDS in 2004. In addition, a workshop on HIV/AIDS projection and demographic impact analysis conducted in September 2005, it was noted that HIV prevalence in Myanmar has reduced from 1.5% in 2000 to 1.3% in 2005. HIV is a virus that can cause AIDS. After being infected with HIV, a person will develop signs and symptoms and become an AIDS patient on the average of 7 to 10 years. Based on the HIV prevalence study among different population groups, it was found that there is an East-West gradient; HIV prevalence greater in the eastern part than the western part of the country.
- The National HIV/AIDS programme has been implementing with 10 major activities.

- Educational activities are being carried out in two approaches: general population approach and targeted population approaches. Workplace education, women and youth peer education programme, and youth peer education programme are also conducted through the health workers in collaboration with Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, and International NGOs and local NGOs, to reach the rural population. In 2005, education on HIV and AIDS has reached a total of 550,000 people.
- In addition, education messages are being expressed in jingles and magazines on the average of 30 published articles per month.

For school health education programme, with the collaboration of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and UNICEF, SHAPE (School based Health Living HIV/AIDS Prevention Education) programme is implemented a part of the core curriculum in (134) townships since 1998 and 2.4 millions of students had been educated in schools during 2005. Currently, national life skill curriculum containing HIV and AIDS messages are conducted in all schools.

The remarkable achievements in health education activity is the outstanding success achieved in National Level HIV and AIDS Exhibitions that were conducted in 2003 and 2004. These are one of a kind among the ASEAN countries. “World AIDS Day” activities were yearly conducted and 15th annual activities will be held in Myanmar this year. Chairman of the National Health Committee, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, will deliver the opening address on World AIDS Day.

Before 1988 there were only 36 STD teams that carried out the STD prevention and treatment but currently there are 45 AIDS/STD teams in the country.

Today, 100% TCP is being implemented in 165 townships in partnership with 4 UN agencies and 15 International NGOs. Although only about 11 million condoms were being distributed in 1999, 40 million condoms were distributed in 2005.

National AIDS Committee and National AIDS Programme have technical and administrative linkages with Cenral Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association and UNODC.

Harm Reduction Activities for Intravenous Drug Users- With the support of WHO, the Ministry of Health has launched methadone (See page 7)

Documentary photos showing progress and endeavours undertaken by Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs in education, health and social affairs sectors. — MNA
Ministry of Health aims to...

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maintenance therapy as a long-term reduction project in pilot areas such as Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina and Lasio since February 2006. These activities are carried out in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Committee on Control of Leprosy (CCCL), and WHO. This work has been recognized by AusAid. In 2005, a total of 10,000 injecting drug users were educated and 1.1 million of disposable syringes and needles were distributed.

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) was launched in 2000-2001, and as of November 2006, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO and local and international NGOs the community-based PMCT has been implemented in (98) townships, and hospital base and these activities throughout the country. Strатегie of NTP

1. Intensification of health education
2. BCG immunization to all children under one year.
3. Early case detection through direct sputum microscopy of chest symptomatic patients attending health services and also contact tracing
4. Implementing Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) up to the grass root level.
5. Regular supervision and monitoring of NTP activities at all levels.
6. Strengthening partnership
7. Capacity building
8. Promotion of operational research

The DOTS program coverage in 2002 was for 300 townships but with DOTS expansion it now covers the whole country (324 townships) by end of 2003.

National TB Reference Laboratory was established in 2001. Case detection has been strengthened by replacing monoclonal microscopes with binocular microscopes at the township level since 2000. Only 6 State/Divisional TB centers were equipped with X-ray machines before 1988. Now all 117 in 17 States/Divisions are equipped with X-ray machines.

Community home based care services are provided in collaboration with MWAH and MMCAWA. Health education on TB, TB contact tracing, referral of TB suspects for diagnosis and treatment (Directly Observed Treatment) by members of local NGOs. NTP aims to improve the case detection in the community and factories by using mobile teams, equipped with X-ray and laboratory facilities in 2006. Free diagnosis and treatment is provided. In 2005, TB and HIV collaborative prevention and control activities were started in Mandalay. In 5 townships, Dawei District, HIV co-infected TB patients have been assessed and put on Anti-retro viral therapy (ART) since May, 2005. Two hundred and fifty TB/HIV co-infected patients are currently on ART. The WHO recommends that tuberculosis cases will be expanded to the areas of mutual concern of NTP and National AIDS Programme (NAP).

TB case detection—Myanmar achieved 95% case detection rate and 84% treatment success rate in 2005.

Malaria—The Global Malaria Programme is a global response to re-emergence of Malaria and in Myanmar is still a disease of national concern. Thus, the following are the strategies for National Malaria programme.

a. Prevention and control of malaria by providing information, education and communication up to the grass root level.

b. Prevention and control of malaria by promoting personal protective measures

c. Provision of early detection and containment of epidemics

d. Provision of early diagnosis and appropriate treatment

e. To promote capacity building of malaria control programme (human, financial and technical)

f. To strengthen the partnership

g. To intensify community participation, involvement and empowerment

h. To promote basic and applied field research

Malaria epidemic prevention and control activities such as distribution of LLIN, insecticide spray, smear examination and provision of appropriate treatment with mobile teams were carried out in border areas, including Wa and Kung Special Regions during 2000 and 2006.

Due to these efforts trend of malaria morbidity and mortality has been decreasing at present time. Malaria morbidity per 1,000 population was reduced from 24.5 in 1988-1989, 14 in 2002-2003, 11 in 2004-2005 to 9.3 in 2005-2006. Malaria mortality also decreased from 10.4 per 100,000 population in 2001 to 3.6 in 2004-2005 to 3.1 per 100,000 population in 2005-2006.

Malaria epidemics were reported 12 times in 1990s and 23 times of the survey period of preventing and eliminating malaria by insecticide spray in epidemic prone areas, impregnation of existing bed nets and early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of malaria cases, number of reported malaria epidemics also decreased and only one malaria epidemic occurred in 2005.

The success of malaria control programme in Myanmar is due to the concerted efforts of UN agencies, bilateral partners, national and international NGOs and local communities.

To enhance Myanmar’s response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Global Fund Against HIV, TB and Malaria granted 98.4 million US$ for a period of five years.

However, due to allegations made by internal and external opposing forces the Global Fund had unilaterally terminated without strong grounds or evidence on the 18th August 2005. Termination of the Global Fund to Myanmar has negative impact on the people in need, and the Ministry of Health refutes the reasons for termination. Myanmar concludes that this termination is against the principles and practices embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.Human rights and the Ministry of Health continue to work in collaboration with the UN systems, national and international NGOs, fund manager was signed on the 12th October 2006 for the joint efforts of the Ministry of Health, related Ministries, UN organization and NGO partners and the Ministry of Health would like to stress that opposing political party and organizations in no way were contributory towards the success of the three diseases fund.

Leprosy—Myanmar was one of the countries with high endemicity of leprosy and was a public health problem for many years. The leprosy patient suffers physical deformity which renders the patients to face socio-economic problems. Thus, the National Leprosy Control Programme was started by the in 2002 and the activities nationwide. The effectiveness of concerted efforts is evidenced by successful prevention and control programmes in all three diseases.

Ministry of Health would like to stress opposing political party and organizations in no way were contributory towards the success of the three diseases fund.

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News from the latest AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2006 issue published jointly by UNAIDS and WHO.—In Myanmar there are early indications that the epidemic might be diminishing (Wotaw, Brown, Calleja-Garré, 2005). HIV levels have declined among pregnant women (1.3% from 2.2% in 2000, NAP 2005) and among men seeking treatment for other sexually transmitted infections (from 8% in 2001 to 4% in 2005, NAP 2005).

Tuberculosis remains one of the major public health problems in Myanmar and ranks as a major priority disease to SMOH. It is estimated that about 100,000 new TB patients develop annually and about half of them are infectious cases.

Although TB used to be treated as a long term chronic disease, the World Health Organization introduced Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) strategy was introduced in 1997 requires short term treatment for TB. DOTS expansion could cover the whole country (324 townships) by end of 2003.

Malaria epidemic prevention and control activities such as distribution of LLIN, insecticide spray, smear examination and provision of appropriate treatment with mobile teams were carried out in border areas, including Wa and Kung Special Regions during 2000 and 2006.

Due to these efforts trend of malaria morbidity and mortality has been decreasing at present time. Malaria morbidity per 1,000 population was reduced from 24.5 in 1988-1989, 14 in 2002-2003, 11 in 2004-2005 to 9.3 in 2005-2006. Malaria mortality also decreased from 10.4 per 100,000 population in 2001 to 3.6 in 2004-2005 to 3.1 per 100,000 population in 2005-2006.

Malaria epidemics were reported 12 times in 1990s and 23 times of the survey period of preventing and eliminating malaria by insecticide spray in epidemic prone areas, impregnation of existing bed nets and early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of malaria cases, number of reported malaria epidemics also decreased and only one malaria epidemic occurred in 2005.

The success of malaria control programme in Myanmar is due to the concerted efforts of UN agencies, bilateral partners, national and international NGOs and local communities.

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Ministry of Health aims to...
Ministry of Health aims to ... (from page 7)

27.6 in 1990, 1.04 in 2002, 0.51 in 2003, 0.49 in 2004, 0.48 in 2005.

In Yangon on the 6th February 2003, at the 3rd Meeting of the Global Alliance for Elimination Leprosy (GAELEP) Regional Coordination. In the "Yangon Declaration" issued at this meeting, the Government of the Union of Myanmar was congratulated for setting a shining example by effectively applying the global principles retaining the national goal of elimination in a most cost-effective manner. After leprosy elimination we are now working to sustain the leprosy eliminated countries and physical disability not to be affected by leprosy, and incorporation of rehabilitation programmes.

Communicable diseases are more common in developing countries and cause high rate of mortality among young children. Prevention of vaccine preventable diseases has been carried out by expanded immunization programme. The expanded immunization programme is given to children all over the nation with a coverage of more than 90% and the programme includes 7 vaccines against Diptheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, TB and Hepatitis B.

In Myanmar Poliomyelitis eradication activities were started using the following 4 strategies simultaneously. They are Routine immunization, National Immunization Days, Mopping up immunization and Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance.

National Immunization Days strategy, it was started in 1996 and targeting about 6 million of under 5 years old children including border areas given two times of oral polio vaccine. By 2002, eight years of NIDs have been successfully completed with reported national coverage exceeding 95% in all the years with two doses of polio oral vaccine.

The mopping up immunization strategy was conducted in the remote areas and border areas, due to the reported case of polio infection in border townships in Myanmar especially in risk of importation of wild polio virus from polio endemic countries and focus is given to Myanmar-China border, Myanmar Bangladesh border and Myanmar-India border townships. These mopping up immunization days were conducted for 6 times and achieved more than 95% coverage.

With reinforcement of the above strategy to routine immunization programme such that 8 years of National Immunization Days and 6 rounds of mopping up immunization with sensitive Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance, Strengthening of AFP Surveillance by active Hospital Surveillance and in 29 sentinel sites activities carried out in Myanmar this strategy had declared as polio free status since 13th February 2003.

For the National Immunization Days, every year support from WHO regional office in Bangkok is provided to the affected areas from the government sector. The Ministry of Defence arranged helicopter for transport of vaccines and cold chain equipment and try to access areas such as Kachin State, Patoa District and Sagaing Division, hilly Naga area.

Preparedness plan was initiated in Myanmar by Ministry of Health on the 20th January 2004. Joint meetings for detailed Plan of Action of MOH and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries were conducted and steering committee, work committees and subcommittees were formed and tasks delegated.

From early March to mid-April 2006, the outbreaks of H5N1 bird influenza occurred in 545 chicken and quail farms in 13 townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. In places of H5N1 bird influenza occurred in 545 chicken and quail farms in 13 townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions.

In 1988-89, there are 1337 Rural Health Care Centres which increased in 2005-2006 to 1,456, and the Secondary Health Centres expanded from 64 in 1988-89 to 86 in 2005-06.

The nationwide movement for Iodine Deficiency Disorder Elimination included advocacy for adding iodine into salt was started in 1996. The Ministry of Health working in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines has attained considerable level of success. Visible goitre rate among 11-year old school children before 1988 is 33% and in 1997 was 25%, and dropped from 12% in 2000 to 5.5% in 2003-04. The target is less than 5%. Propedeutic iodo salt consumption of iodated salt was 73% in 2003, target is more than 90%. Median urinary iodine excretion for the whole country was 236ug in 2003-4. The target is more than 100ug.

The Ministry of Health working in collaboration with local authorities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Information, and other organizations for a state of Iodine Deficiency Elimination is hoped to be announced in the near future.

Elimination of Drug Abuse Programme - The Communicable diseases are more common in developing countries and cause high rate of mortality among young children. Prevention of vaccine preventable diseases has been carried out by expanded immunization programme. The expanded immunization programme is given to children all over the nation with a coverage of more than 90% and the programme includes 7 vaccines against Diptheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, TB and Hepatitis B.

Vaccine Covered Diseases

- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Measles
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis B

Ministry of Health has a 15 years long term (1999-2013) programme for drug treatment and rehabilitation programme. According to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances law there are 26 major Narcotic Drug Treatment Centres and 40 minor Drug Treatment Centres and two Rehabilitation Centres in Myanmar. Treatment, care, training and research are being carried out in the major DTC in Yangon, Myitkyina, Mandalay, Lashio, Taunggyi, and Kengtung. In places where is no drug treatment centres the township health centres take care of the treatment.

Within the 15 years drug abuse elimination project period, (1999-2003) four major drug treatment centres and 26 minor drug treatment centres were expanded and 30 Township Hospitals were able to provide drug treatment and rehabilitative services to the patients.

Life expectancy for males is 66.2 years, female 63.2 years. In 2003, the life expectancy for rural males is 67.0, urban males 62.1, and female 66.2 years.

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Building a modern and developed nation through education

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—The following is the clarification made by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein on progress of education sector at the press conference on undertakings carried out in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State held here today.

It is my pleasure to present to you the progress made by the government and the people for the development of Education sector. Purposely neglecting the real progress and good endeavours made by Myanmar Government and the people, a western nation raised at the UN Security Council that Myanmar Agenda should be discussed. In fact Myanmar is making unprecedented progress in socio-economic sector as well as helping maintain regional peace and stability. This briefing is to present the real social sector progress made by Myanmar Government and the people from education viewpoint.

Let me state with the vision of Myanmar Education, which is “To create Education System that will generate a Learning Society capable of facing the challenges of Knowledge Age”. Our Motto is “Building a modern and developed nation through education”. Let me introduce to you the guidance made by the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe:

1. To upgrade syllabuses and curricula to international level.
2. To upgrade syllabuses.
3. To use modern teaching aids effectively.
4. To respect and abide by rules, regulations, disciplines and laws.
5. To nurture and strengthen patriotism and Union Spirit.

Next I will introduce to you, opening of new basic education schools in Myanmar for increase in accessibility of basic education.

To give easy access of basic education to every school-age children, irrespective of where they live, many new basic education schools are opened all over Myanmar. Increase in number of basic education schools compared to the number in 1988, that is before this Government, is as follows:

From Primary to Secondary level, Post-Primary Schools are opened. Primary schools are upgraded to Post-Primary Schools in areas wherever necessary. After opening the post-primary schools the transition rate from primary to secondary level increases from 68.5% in 2000 to 78.3% in 2006.

Affiliated Schools and Branch Schools are allowed to open so that students who have handicapped or blind or deaf and dumb get special care and attention for education under Inclusive Education Programme. Also for children who, for various reasons, cannot attend formal schools are accepted in learning circles under non-formal education programmes. Under inclusive education programme, there are 2,520 students who are studying under special programmes.

Some workers, such as forest workers, move from one place to another with the family frequently, due to the nature of work. Mobile schools are opened to give the opportunity, learning for children of mobile workers. There are 43 mobile schools with 58 teachers and 1,603 students in 15 townships.

The Government and Ministry of Education are paying attention not only to the formal education, emphasis is equally placed on Education for All Programmes. This includes literacy campaigns which have been carried out successfully for decades to raise the literacy rate of the nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the progress and decline of literacy rates in Myanmar from the previous century. During the period of Myanmar Kings, as quoted in 1886 literacy rate was 85% before 1886. After that the literacy rate drastically fell to around 35% during the colonial period. After independence the literacy rate rose again to around 63%. Due to continued efforts of successive Governments after independence the adult literacy rate was gradually on the rise year by year, and it now stands at 94.35%. Now it is clearly seen who has done for the Myanmar education and who has degraded or neglected Myanmar education. With the effort of the Government, and the participation of the people and NGOs, Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, literacy campaigns are carried out in every year where thousands of volunteers serve as teachers. Due to its very successful literacy campaigns, Myanmar won the Mohammad Reza Palavi Palavi Prize in 1973 and Noma Prize in 1983.

In terms of quality of education, every effort is made by the Government and by the Ministry of Education to ensure that quality education is delivered to the students both at basic and higher education levels. These efforts include teachers’ training, teachers’ refresher courses, upgrading and updating of curricula and syllabuses, use of modern teaching aids, teaching and assessment methods.

There are 2 education Universities and 20 Education Colleges for teachers’ training. Education Universities are offering graduate degrees in Education from Bachelor Degree in Education to Masters levels who are serving as qualified teachers at secondary and tertiary levels in Basic Education Schools. At the same time, 20 Education Colleges confer Diploma of Education and these Diploma holders are serving as Primary Teachers.

In addition Masters degree holders in other disciplines are recruited and are trained in Education Technology Certificate.

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Building a modern and developed...

Courses at Education Universities to serve at secondary levels. Moreover refresher courses are opened for basic education teachers during summer time to upgrade teaching and learning quality. These proper training and retraining programmes enhance teachers' quality.

To have effective education system, international level curricula and syllabuses must be in place in line with modern developments and national requirements. Education curricula and syllabuses are reviewed every year and updating and upgrading are made where and whenever necessary. I would like to take this opportunity to say that our basic education curricula and syllabuses are at least in par with “GCE” curricula and Syllabuses, which are widely accepted internationally. In some science subjects our curricula and syllabuses cover more than “GCE” O Level.

In addition to academic subjects, physical education, sports, aesthetics (Art and Music), Moral and Ethics, Union Spirit, Life Skills (that is health education/ HIV/AIDS), and pre-vocational subjects are also taught and emphasized. This clearly shows that Myanmar Education system is in par with regional and international level. Myanmar education emphasizes not only on academics but also on healthy living, morals, ethics, union spirit and life skills.

In addition to promoting teachers’ quality, every effort is being taken by the Government and the Ministry of Education to upgrade teaching and learning quality. Modern teaching aids are provided at basic education schools starting from primary levels. Almost all of the primary schools have been equipped with audio, video, computer and multimedia teaching aids. Almost all of the secondary schools have been equipped with audio, video, computer and multimedia teaching aids. All high schools have been equipped with science laboratories to have experience with science experiments in science teachings.

In line with modern teaching methods and to promote child’s creativity, analytical skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, child-centered approach was introduced beginning from 2004-05 academic year.

Assessment methods also play an important factor in determining the quality of education. Continuous Assessment and Progression System (CAPS) was introduced in Myanmar Education System in 1991 with the collaboration of UNICEF. This system is used up to lower secondary level. Under Continuous Assessment and Progression System, if the students do not progress as they should, immediate remedial measures can be taken and learning be made more effective.

In addition to accessibility and quality, diversity is also an important factor in education sector. In basic education sector, beginning from academic year 2001-02 choice in combination of subjects is offered. High schools students can choose three subject combination from the following subjects:

- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, Economics and Optional Myanmar.
- Arts and Music, Economics and Optional Myanmar.

As you see, the government is making all-out efforts successfully for it’s citizens to have universal basic education by opening schools everywhere with qualified teachers, with modern teaching aids and using modern teaching methods. This proves that the accusations made by opposing groups are pure fabrications.

To ensure quality and international standards for PhD Programmes, experts from international institutions are invited to act as co-supervisors or external examiners. Twenty-eight professors from India, 8 professors from Germany, 6 professors from Japan, 2 professors from Korea, and 1 professor from USA have visited Myanmar for PhD Programmes. Up to this year 706 students have been awarded PhD Degrees while 2,942 students are pursuing PhD degree.

In conclusion, under the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Education has extended accessibility of Education by opening new schools, universities and colleges in quantity and quality so that Myanmar citizens, irrespective of where they live, can have easy access to quality basic and higher education. Life-long learning opportunities have been created to enable each and every citizen to continue learning and to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thus the accusations by opposing groups that Myanmar Education System has limited accessibility, quality and diversity are totally wrong. Their allegations are without roots and without proofs, just the shear cheap fabrications aiming to discredit the government and trying to undermine the sincere efforts of the Myanmar people. Their lies and fabrications will not hinder the significant endeavours for development of Myanmar Education nor reduce the momentum for the development of Myanmar socio-economic sector.

The documentary photos show newly established higher education institutions. — MNA

Mawlamine University to promote research in Aquaculture.

Biotechnology Research Center was established in 2000 at Pathein University for biotechnology researches focusing on production of bio-fertilizers and on medicinal plants.

International cooperation and collaboration are important for regional and international developments. Here are some of the international and regional activities:

- Yangon University and Yangon Institute of Economics are members of ASEAN University Network and are cooperating in regional Higher educational activities.
- Center for History and Traditional Culture of South East Asian Ministers of Education was established at Yangon in the year 2000, and is the focal center for research and training programmes in history and traditional culture of ASEAN nations.

Recently held international seminars, conferences and workshops are as follows:

(i) Winter School in Physics,
(ii) Myanmar German Conference on Scientific Computing,
(iii) International Workshop on Nuclear Physics,
(iv) Conference on Environment Impact on Human Kinds,
(v) Conference on Continuous Assessment on Environmental Development.

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Mawlamine University to promote research in Aquaculture.
Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe. — MNA

The following is the clarification made by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe on the present status on undertaking carried out in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State held here today.

The Deputy Minister for Science and Technology presented the present status on the human resources development programmes and activities under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

He said that, the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Science and Technology has been implementing human resources development programmes for Science and Technology since its establishment on 2nd October, 1996, in order to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has been making efforts to carry out research and development programmes for the national economic development to strengthen the national economy utilizing the national resources and to raise the living standard of the people; to enhance production in agricultural and industrial sector through technology transfer and distribution of knowledge gained from research and development work; to plan and carry out human resources development so as to get specialists and professionals in science and technology; to carry out tasks such as laboratory analysis, quality control and standardization of industrial raw materials and finished products; and to conduct applied research on the utilization of atomic energy.

The Ministry of Science and Technology comprises six main Departments. Among them, Department of Advanced Science and Technology, Department of Technical and Vocational Education are conducting undergraduate and graduate courses on various fields in technology and computer studies.

Department of Advanced Science and Technology comprises four Technological Universities, two Universities of Computer Studies, one Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, and 24 Government Computing Colleges.

Department of Technical and Vocational Education comprises 26 Government Technological Colleges, and 11 Government Technical Institutes.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, in order for every qualified citizen to be able to learn and study the advanced sciences and technologies, the Ministry of Science and Technology, until March 2006, has established new universities, colleges and institutes, which include Mandalay Technological University, University of Computer Studies (Mandalay), Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, 26 Government Technological Colleges, 24 Government Computing Colleges, and one Government Technical Institute. There are currently 68 Universities, Colleges and Institutes altogether under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Not only the regular courses that have been available before the establishment of Ministry of Science and Technology, but also new advanced undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including doctoral courses in Engineering, Applied Science, Bio Technology and Computer Studies, become available now at the Technological Universities, Colleges, Institutes and Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The Ministry has been making efforts to provide the qualified scientists, engineers and technicians required for the nation in a short time as much as possible. Altogether 149,651 persons have been trained and offered degrees or certificates by the Universities, Colleges and Institutes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The qualified and competent teachers are appointed to fulfill the required teaching staff at the Universities, Colleges and Institutes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The number of teaching staff has been increased from 269 staff in 1988 to 4,682 staff in 2006. Among them, 361 teaching staff are the holders of doctoral degrees.

The Universities, Colleges and Institutes newly established are providing increased capacity of accepting and training more students and trainees. The number of students attending at these Universities, Colleges and Institutes has become 59,215 in 2006, compared with 5,156 in 1988.

In addition, the Ministry of Science and Technology has sent its qualified students during the period from 2000 up to the present.

Altogether 491 technical papers have been published in the international technical journals, or presented orally in the international Conferences and Seminars, by the staff from Engineering and Computer Studies Departments of Technological Universities, Government Computing Colleges, Universities of Computer studies, and Government Computer Colleges during the period from 2000 up to the present.

Altogether five international Conferences have been held in Myanmar since the establishment of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Four of these International Conferences were organized by the University of Technology (Yangon) and the other was sponsored by Japan. In these Conferences, (351) technical papers from Myanmar, and (137) international papers including those from India, Japan, China, Korea, Australia, were presented.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Science and Technology has constructed the new multi-storey buildings for Universities, Colleges, and Institutes.

The total project cost for constructing the main school buildings of 23 Universities of Institutes, amounts to about 45.875 million Kyats. In order to modernize the Technological Universities, Technological Colleges, and Institutes of University of Computer Studies, and Computer Colleges in Myanmar so that they will be of international standard, modern advanced laboratory equipment for research work and materials for teaching aids have been imported and supplied to them.

A total of about 19 million US dollars and 4 million Euros has been spent on advanced laboratory equipment, teaching aids, and machines for research during the period (1999-2006). Moreover, an average of 1,400 million kyats per year has been spent on domestically-produced advanced laboratory equipment, teaching aids, and machines.

For the practical works of the technological students, modern advanced workshop machines including the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines, such as CNC Lathe, CNC Milling Machine, and CNC Machining Center, have also been bought and installed. By using these CNC machines, courses that combine theoretical knowledge with practical applications have been successfully taught and the required equipment for laboratories has also been produced. About 859 trainees have been trained in the projects Auto CAD and CNC Applications from 2002 up to the present.

As Master’s and Doctoral Research Programmes, emphasis is given to the training of professionals who will be useful in rural area development and industrial development of the nation.

For the development of rural areas, under the close supervision of the Minister for Science and Technology, research works are being carried out on the production of natural fertilizers, liquid fish fertilizers, and biofertilizers; Tissue Culture; supplying power to households in the Country side by using biogas; construction of Computers utilizing ricehusk and woodchips; production of Biodiesel; the manufacture of 22 HE engine for general applications in Agriculture, etc.

For industrial development, research activities are being carried out on modeling and construction of Computer Numerical Control Machine; modeling and construction of medium-sized Engines and Gear Box; modeling and construction of Electronic devices used in industry; modeling and construction of induction Furnace and Hardening Machine, etc.

The research and development activities being carried out at the Universities of Computer Studies include translation (See page 12)
Ministry of Science and Technology... 
(from page 11)

from English to Myanmar language using Myanmar Unicode by Natural Language Processing (NLP) Project, setting up e-Learning Centres, e-Resource Centres, e-Library and Computer Training Centres at universities and colleges under the Ministry; Electronic Data Broadcasting System; and Video-conferencing System. and colleges under the Ministry; Electronic Data Library and Computer Training Centres at universities and competent teachers; making the technical education in Technology and Computer Studies by nurturing qualified graduates nation and has been able to provide highly-qualified graduates

We firmly believe that the problem of drug abuse is a grave threat to our entire population of Myanmar. In this context, since 1999 we have embarked upon a 15-year drug eradication program to be totally free of poppy cultivation and drug abuse by 2014. Similarly, within the ASEAN region, our common objective is to establish a Drug Free ASEAN by 2015. We in Myanmar are determined to make our country free from illicit drug cultivation by 2014 and will be mobilizing the strength of our fellow countrymen to work towards this end through our 15-year program.

Our 15-year program comprises three 5-year phases as follows:

- the first 5-year phase is from 1999/2000 to 2003-2004;
- the second 5-year phase is from 2004/2005 to 2008/2009; and
- the third is from 2009/2010 to 2013/2014.

The first phase covered 22 townships within the northern, eastern and southern Shan States and the second phase 20 townships within the Shan and Kachin States. With another 9 townships within the Southern Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Chin States to be covered in the third phase; there are a total of 51 townships that are earmarked as priority areas for interventions. Today, we are in the second year of the second 5-year phase of our 15-year program.

The estimated cost for the entire 15-year program is around 33588.14 million kyat and 150 million US dollars. We have yet to receive any concrete commitments to support this program from any foreign countries and would like to take this opportunity to inform you all that Myanmar (See page 13)
Myanmar believes peril... (from page 12)

will nevertheless, relly on our own natural as well as human resources to make this program a success as part of our effort to realize our national cause.

And so in our first 5-year phase of this drug elimination program, we have spent a total of 676 million kyat for developing the agriculture, livestock breeding, transport, communication, energy, trade, religion, health, education, knowledge dissemination, rehabilitation, law enforcement and international relations sectors.

To implement our 15 year drug elimination program, we have also launched the New Destiny Project. This pilot project aims to introduce crop substitution programs to replace poppy, and to eventually eradicate poppy cultivation.

Four Deputy Ministers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation; Livestock Breeding and Fisheries; Home Affairs and; Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are being entrusted with the task of making this New Destiny Project a success.

These four Deputy Ministers who are also members of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control are making rounds within the five States that form an integral part of the project to meet with States' authorities at different levels, leaders of national races and native farmers to distribute: seedling free of charge on crops to be substituted; animal stocks for livestock breeding that would strive well in respective regions; and basic commodities such as rice and salt of farmers who have stopped cultivating poppy.

Myanmar’s coordinated efforts to eliminate illicit drugs are being acknowledged and this has been seen in the annual World Drug Report. The 2005 United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) which explicitly stated that:

A potential of 1079 tons of opium was produced from an estimated 105,000 hectares of poppy cultivated in 2001; A potential of 828 tons of opium was produced from a estimated 81,410 hectares of poppy cultivated in 2002 resulting in reduction 23,600 hectares of cultivation i.e 28% decrease in cultivated area.

- in 2003, a further decrease of 24% in total cultivated areas through a potential production of 810 tons of opium from 62,280 hectares of poppy cultivation;

- Four tons of opium was recorded from the total estimated 44,200 hectares of poppy cultivated areas in 2004 i.e 29% reduction in cultivated area and 54% reduction in production;

- in 2005, only 312 tons of opium was potentially produced from a total estimated 32,800 hectares of poppy cultivated areas which is a reduction of 59%. In total there is a decrease of 61% in poppy cultivated areas within a five-year period.

UNODC, together with CCDAC reported the results of their 2006 yield surveys within the Golden Triangle region that encompasses Myanmar, Thailand and Laos during the press briefing held at the Sedana Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar on 13 October 2006. Production of opium stands at 315 tons from an estimated 21,500 hectares of cultivated areas indicating a decrease 34% compared to last year.

- compared to the total cultivated areas of 130,000 hectares in 1998, the decrease is 83% in total cultivated area in Myanmar.

In addition, the report of Counter Narcotic and Crime (CNC) from the United States officially stated that, compared to the 1996 figures, Myanmar produced only 292 tons of opium from its 3,888 hectares of poppy cultivation during 2004 indicating a decrease of 88% in heroin production. From all these reports, we can fairly access the high level of success Myanmar is enjoying through our drug elimination programme.

I would like to express the efforts between Myanmar and China, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong to monitor opium production in northern parts of Myanmar through satellite remote sensing. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Narcotics Control Council (CCDAC) in Myanmar, and the Vice Minister of Public Security, National Narcotic Control Commission (NNCC) of China, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Satellite Remote Sensing and Narcotics Control Survey in the Golden Triangle Area of Myanmar on 27 May 2006. This MoU will strengthen the in- cumbent bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and China and result in extending technological assistance to work towards a gradual decrease in poppy cultivated areas. As part of the program, representatives from CCDAC and NNCC held discussions on 28th June 2006 and attended the joint survey and verify poppy cultivation areas in Kachin and Shan States starting end of December 2006.

Though there is a marked decrease in illicit poppy culti- vation, Myanmar is facing an emerging problem of ampha- tine type substances (ATS) like all other countries. Myanmar had never encountered the use of ATS. Some reports issue became a cause for concern within the region since early 1990s. As early as in 1999, there were reports on illicit traf- ficking of ephedrine, a type of chemical used for manufacturing ATS and these reports were supported by seizures of large amount of ATS tablets.

ATS exploits the aid of precursor chemicals and Myanmar is no where close to the level of development produce such chemicals. Only with the chemi- cals that are currently produced in small quantities and smuggled illegally into Myanmar by various modes and means that ATS were manufactured along its borders. Since it is al- most impossible to monitor the large numbers of ATS single handedly, Myanmar opted for international coop- eration in this area.

I would now like to continue with international coop- eration.

Myanmar realized that the problem of narcotic drugs cannot be effectively tackled or solved unilaterally and have thus cooperated with neighbouring countries as well as with countries within the region. A Memorandum of Understand- ing (MoU) or cooperation was signed among China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand as early as in 1993 which later expanded to include Cambodia and Vietnam in 1995 making the MoU’s countries within the Mekong Sub-region.

Additionally, Minister and Senior Officials Meetings are being held regularly between China, India, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand to discuss ways and means to control precursor chemicals and opium poppy cultivation.

Bilateral agreements for cooperation also exist between Myanmar and India (signed in 1993), with Bangladesh (signed in 1994), with Pakistan (signed in 1995), with Russia, Italy and the Philippines (signed in 1997) and with China and Thai- land (signed in 2001).

Similarly, I am sure all the members of press agencies and distinguished guests present here are aware of the fact that we have been enjoying close and friendly cooperation with Thailand, China and India based on the MoUs on matters relating to cross-border cooperation such as cooperation and exchange of information and techniques in the anti-drug field.

Culturing illicit drugs is perceived to be a national re- sponsibility by Myanmar and our relentless efforts in manag- ing the problem coupled with our cooperative efforts within the region has led to successive achievements in the enforce- ment sector. To cite some of our successful operations, there is Sae San operation that took place in 2004 resulting in the seizure of 592.5 kilos of heroin blocks in Ye Township, Mon Zone; the seizure of 102.05 kilos of ICE on 24 May 2005 resulting from cooperation between CCDAC, the Na- tional Narcotic Control Commission of China (NNCC) and Yunnan Provincial Narcotic Control Committee and the sei- zure of 496 kilos of heroin on 12th May 2006.

In addition, exchange of information between CCDAC of Myanmar and ONCB of Thailand resulted in a record sei- zure of 14.9 kilos of heroin at the Chalermphrakiat border on 5 August 2006.

Furthermore, following the lead from 0.609 kilos heroin found on a Chinese (Taipei) at the Yangon Interna- tional Airport in January 2005, the authorities were able to seize additional 176 kilos of ICE and managed to obtain the address of its recipient in Malaysia which was subsequently forwarded to the police authorities in Malaysia. This exchange of information led the Malaysian police to seize a mega lab or the biggest clandestine lab in the world so far in July 2006 together with 112 kilos of methamphetamine and 484 kilos of liquid methamphetamine. Regular exchange of informa- tion between Myanmar and countries within the region and neighbours on gangs involved in narcotic drugs led to the discovery of larger organized syndicates operating within the region.

I would also like to brief on some recent successful cases on drug seizures in the last three years. 1. On 20th September 2005, 112 kilos of ATS was seized from the owner of a hotel at Tachileik. On the same day, 175 cases of ICE were seized from foreign boarding at Nay Pyi Chaung Hotel in Tachileik. On 13 November 2005, 0.65 kilos of ICE was seized together with 1,532 cases of ATS from the owner of a hotel in Tachileik. On 30 October 2005, 0.65 kilos of ICE was seized together with 1,532 cases of ATS from a foreign boarding at the old Kengtung hotel in Kengtung. This foreign drug gang has been trafficking heroin and ICE from寮 and Thailand since 1996 by ingesting and spitting the drugs to avoid detection. We are working closely with Thai- land in the ongoing investigation to arrest the leader hiding in Thailand.

On another case, on 18 November 2006, 2 suspects were arrested on a passenger car travelling from Lashio to Man- dalay, with 6 boxes of heroin weighing 63 grams hidden in the hollowed out sandals they were wearing and another 600 grams of heroin concealed in the oil tank. Subsequent investiga- tions by the drug units of Taunggyi, Mandalay and Yangon resulted in the arrest of 12 members of the gang with a total of 644.24 kilos of ATS from Ruili, China just across the border at Muse and it was destined to be trafficked to Shanghia and Guangzhou of China. Another drug gang has been using a private vehicle from Ruili, China just across the border at Muse and it was destined to be trafficked to Shanghai and Guangzhou of China. In 2006, we have been using a multi-sectoral team to combat the drugs by ingestion and concealment in the anus methods. From the interviews from this case, it was found out that due to stringent interdiction by law enforcement agencies in Myanmar since successful cases like Soe San Case, 96 case, 102 case, the traffickers have to resort to recruiting a number of pawns in the bar to distract the big/small immigration officers to avoid suspicion and detection and using new trafficking routes. We are now working in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies to smash this international drug syndi- card.
Myanmar believes peril of... (from page 13)

Frankly, a friendly atmosphere throughout the visits provided opportunities for Myanmar to work harder to eliminate narcotic drugs and the mission acknowledged the country’s concern, commitment and claimed national cause. The INCB mission later expressed readiness to extend assistance in providing training and supporting Myanmar’s efforts to strengthen its combating drug trafficking.

The fact that Myanmar’s adherence to international conventions and the provisions in the protocol attached thereto and the achievements made in eliminating narcotic drugs is being recognized and appreciated by the INCB mission who officially visited Myanmar again verifies that the present allegations are nothing but wrong interpretations and a damaging element to Myanmar’s noble efforts to eliminate drugs.

In the 20th Special Session on Narcotic Drugs under the UN General Assembly in April 2004, the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on Narcotic Drugs,鲂lited the following “Political Declaration” for member States to comply by and abide by in connection with narcotic drugs for the coming years:

To devote particular attention to the new trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking in an abuse of synthetic drugs, and related crime, to examine and monitor developments and programmes by the year 2003 giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
To adopt the 2003 national money-laundering and terrorism financing programmes and in accordance with the 1998 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

To adopt the year 2003 multilateral regional sub-regional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement agencies, both in relation to activities of the organizations involved in drug offenses and related criminal activities.

To develop new and enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes in collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities by the year 2003 and to achieve significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008.
To develop strategies in cooperation with UNDP with a view to eliminating or significantly reducing the illicit cultivation of coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy by the year 2008.

Myanmar has adhered to all the recommendations and accomplished the objectives set in the Political Declaration. For instance, suppression of the illicit cultivation and production of precursor chemicals. Precursor Control Rules had been enacted in 2003 and several programmes have been undertaken with the chemical industry to prevent illicit diversion. Myanmar has been training and equipping law enforcement officers to tackle the trafficking of synthetic drugs like ecstasy and ketamine monitoring the trafficking routes, mode of transportation, and the use of encryption and thus we are in the process of putting into effect the rules and regulations. This shows that the scarcity of opium and heroin to a total of twenty nine machines all together.

In addition, the number of table top pressing machines from clandestine labs were seized during the period from 1998 to 2006 amounted to four in 1998, three in 1999, two in 2000, five in 2001, four in 2002, three in 2003, another one in 2004 and 2006 adding to a total of twenty nine machines all together.

The third allegation is that we are not controlling the increased ATS production due to the threat of being fumigated in the last 149.54 million tablets to ATS were seized during this one decade time frame and to allege that Myanmar is not controlling ATS effectively is totally unrealistic.

Instead of pounding on their confessed wrong doings in the past, Wa leaders have made public statements about the need to enhance international cooperation, held, round table meetings between Myanmar and ASEAN in 2005 to enhance international cooperation, held, round table meetings between Myanmar and ASEAN in 2005, and here I would like to clarify that ATS has its roots in Thailand, Singapore, Japan. This problem actually flowed in from the neighbouring countries to Myanmar only in later years. Unlike any other narcotic drugs derived from plant-based opium, coca bush and poppy, ATS is synthetically produced from precursor chemicals. Myanmar is not an anthropological ashamed of the use of ATS and here I would like to clarify that ATS has its roots in Myanmar is a wrongful conclusion.

Myanmar has developed various mechanisms to systematically control precursor chemicals by enacting the precursor control law and making a close scrutiny on the chemicals imported from foreign sources. Memorandums of Understanding exist between Myanmar and its neighbours for precursor control and are being implemented in close collaboration with UNODC projects. In addition, Myanmar has been actively conducting awareness programs to educate the public on precursor chemicals and how they are being used for ATS. This notion of being a chemical industrial as well as to those living in high risk and along the border areas via a Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system is in place for effective control.

The volume of ATS tablets seized in Myanmar annually has increased from the illegal influx through its neighbouring countries amounting to 5.9 million in 1996, 5.04 million in 1997, 16.05 million in 1998, 28.89 million in 1999, 26.76 million in the year 2000, 32.13 million in 2001, 42.88 million in 2002, 4.01 million in 2003, 8.4 million in 2004, 3.6 million in 2005 and in 2006 total of 15 million in 2006. This menace was largely reduced with heroin, raw opium, affiliated equipment and arms and ammunition were seized in Tachileik District. From the time ATS problem started in Myanmar in 1996 up to this day in 2006, a total of 149.54 million tablets to ATS were seized during this one decade time frame and to allege that Myanmar is not controlling ATS effectively is totally unrealistic.

Myanmar has already formed the Central Control Board and Financial Investigation Unit in compliance with the Control of Money Laundering Law. The Board in turn have issued necessary directives, took steps to amend the Law and By-law as required, established investigation teams to commence preliminary investigations, initiated international cooperation, held, round table meetings between Myanmar and Asia Pacific Review Group of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for closer cooperation, conducted capacity building workshops and training sessions and have established systems to exchange data and information of doubtful nature which are now operational.

Myanmar is also actively receiving training from the Asian Center for Military Law and Property (ACMLP) on various aspects of property law, the Attorney General’s Department in India provides information on money transactions of suspicious nature and has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Financial Transactions Reports and Analysis Centre (PAAK) in Jakarta to exchange information on money laundering and to measure to combat financial assistance towards terrorism. The Financial Action Task Force included Myanmar in the list of Non Co-operative Countries and Territories (NCCT) on 21 June 2000 and further countries implementing the anti-money laundering and fight against terrorism.

Starting from May 2004 to May 2006, seven round table meetings were held between Myanmar and the Asia Pacific Financial Action Task Force to discuss developments in Myanmar and the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the field of money laundering and related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force included Myanmar in the list of Non Co-operative Countries and Territories (NCCT) list recently in October.

The United Nations have been made by the United States Department of Finance, an investigation committee comprising of 8 Myanmar members was formed and launched a 14893 $456 million worth of 1.72 kilogram methamphetamine and US $500 million worth of 2.63 thousand kilograms of heroin. Another Joint Investigation Committee to look into the activities of the Wa leader and the closure of the banks on 31 March 2005 and were subsequently dismantled (See page 15)
Asleep in Jesus
Daw Marla Nwe (a) Mary Angela Abreu,
Teacher (Retd), No-2 BEHS, Sangyong
Daughter of (U Masiah-Daw Nan Tin
Asleep in Jesus
Aged 70 Years
缅甸相信反洗钱...
Delegates of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect submit proposals on chapters “Elections”, “Political Parties” and “Provisions on State of Emergency” to Plenary Session of National Convention

Plenary session of National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmaubby Township. — MNA

Press conference on undertakings carried out in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State held

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov — A press conference on undertakings carried out in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State was held at the Ministry of Health, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Ministers for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, diplomats led by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Philippines to the Union of Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez, charges de affaires ai, resident representatives of UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and UNODC, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads of ministries, news and information officials, the president, secretary and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, editors of local magazines and journals and invited guests.

First, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint clarified matters on undertakings carried out in the health sector of the State.

(See page 4)