Junta and its New Constitution

The national convention convening commission claimed as far as late July that 75 percent of the new 15-chapters’ constitution had been drafted. Burma’s foreign minister said the “possible times” for accomplishing the National Convention would be announced in December. The program of Junta’s reform plan is transparent enough for anyone to conclude. That the motives of Junta are not honorable. It started in 1993 in the context of 1990 General Election. That context has changed. The momentum of mass upheaval and urgency for change are lost. Rule of Law has been buried substituted by rule of one man. Gen. Than Shwe, the opposition has been pushed with its back against the wall. Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi continues to be in house arrest. The recently released student hero Min KO Naing has again be arrested. Nobody hear any thing about dialogue or national reconciliation. International Community is frustrated and UN / Asean have become on lookers. Despite the fact that the Burma issue may be debated in the Security Council, there is no hope for the Burmese people. Burma’s profuse natural gas helps to keep the Junta in power by paying for weapons. Thailand, India and China are the biggest buyers.

The Asian Development Bank said gas was Burma’s biggest export - annual sales to Thailand alone are worth more than $ 1 billion. Thailand is currently importing about 1.13 billion Cubic feet a day. In view of all these, is it not naive to speculate that the Junta will undertake political reform and end this political Crisis? Ironically, a new situation has emerged in its neighboring Country, Thailand; a military Coup has ended the democratically elected Government. An interim Government, a new Prime Minister and a Cabinet with a new 272-member National Legislative Assembly. A new Constitution will be put in place and a one year time frame it has been set. The new Prime Minister has stated there will be “broad inclusive debate and include all voices in the debate. There are marked differences between the political processes of the two Juntas of the two Countries. Hopefully the Thai Junta will keep its promise and restore democracy in Thailand. That will not only be return of rule of law in Thailand it will be an exposure of the Burma’s Junta’s dilly dallying policy. It will have a great impact on the second generation of army officers of Burma Army and the people’s struggle for restoration of rule of law in Burma.