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

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives new Military Attaché of Lao PDR

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Military Attaché Colonel Khamsy Vongkhamsao of LPDR.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye congratulates Mexican President

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

Friday, 1 December, 2006

Eliminating drugs, national duty

The government of Myanmar formed the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races in 1989 with the object of bringing development to border areas that lagged behind development in other regions of the nation.

Realizing the good intentions and work of the government, 17 armed groups of national races have returned to the legal fold and are now actively carrying out regional development tasks hand in hand with the government.

The government regards elimination of drugs as a national duty and is making efforts on all fronts to root out the danger of narcotics once and for all. At the same time, it is trying to raise the living standard of national races and to put an end to poppy cultivation completely.

On 22 April, 1997, Mongla Special Region (4) in Shan State (East) was declared drug-free zone and a museum was built to mark the elimination of drugs. On 27 December, 2000, a drug elimination museum was opened also in Laukkai, Kokang Special Region (1) in Shan State (North). The cultivation of poppy has been totally stopped in Kokang Special Region (1) since 2003. To substitute the income from poppy cultivation, leaders of the national races have been engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding and carrying out regional development work together with the government.

Myanmar regards the danger of narcotic drugs as a grave threat to the entire mankind. With this conviction, it has been implementing the 15-year plan for the elimination of narcotic drugs since 1999.

The government is going to spend more than 33,588 million kyats plus 150 million US dollars on the plan. With or without outside help, Myanmar is determined to wipe out the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty and is making efforts on other regions of the nation.

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**Stakes driven for construction of Water Purifying Plant at Mandalay Central Jail**

YANGON, 30 Nov — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the water purifying plant worth K 43.7 million at Insein Central Jail and he also donated a water purifying plant and toilet worth K 60 million at Mandalay Central Jail.

Those wishing to donate water purifying plants and toilets at jails under the Prisons Department may contact the Director-General’s Office. — MNA

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**YCDC strives to offer correct and efficient services to the public, welcomes complaints about malpractice**

YANGON, 30 Nov — As the Government has been in a drive to serve the interests of the State and the people for giving genuine services in accord with the instructions of the State leaders, Yangon City Development Committee is also striving to offer correct and efficient services to the public through correct supervision.

The YCDC issued a statement that the public if they face any of personnel misconduct such as malpractice of bribery and corruption, breaking of rules and regulations or abuse of power and position for self-interest and official harassment may file complaints about them to the YCDC on telephone or in person, that official inquiry concerning the cases will be swift and effective.

For any complaint the public may dial 01-371950 and 01-249045 of the YCDC. — MNA

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**Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects agriculture, livestock breeding tasks in Bago Station**

Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address in meeting with officers and other ranks of Bago Station. — MNA
Malaysia, Indonesia to sign MoU on open burning control

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Nov—Malaysia and Indonesia will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the control of open burning in the plantation industry to tackle the haze problem next week, local media reported Monday.

Malaysian Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Peter Chin Fah Kui said the MoU will be signed by his ministry and the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry.

The MoU is long-term commitment from both countries on the issue, Chin told reporters Sunday night in Kuching, capital of Sarawak state in eastern Malaysia.

When asked to comment on allegations that Malaysian companies were involved in open burning in south Kalimantan and Sumatra in Indonesia, Chin said that so far there had been no official reply from the Indonesian Government.

Chin said he believed the allegations were made by some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) there.

The minister added he himself also wanted to know which plantation companies were allegedly involved.—MNA/Kinhu

Iran military plane crashes, 38 killed

TEHERAN, 28 Nov—An Iranian military aircraft crashed at an airport in Teheran on Monday, killing 38 people on board, state-run Iranian television reported.

It said the Russian-designed Antonov-74 belonged to Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, the ideological wing of the Islamic Republic’s military.

The television said in written captions on screen 35 guards and three crew were killed.

A television reporter quoted a Revolutionary Guards official as saying 32 guards and six crew had been killed.

A civil aviation official told state radio all those on board had been killed.

“A few minutes ago an Antonov-74 plane that belonged to the Revolutionary Guards crashed after taking off from Mehrabad Airport,” the television said, adding the plane had been due to fly to Shiraz south of the capital. Teheran’s Mehrabad Airport is used for civilian and military flights.

—MNA/Reuters

United Nations Secretary-General’s Message on World AIDS Day

1 December 2006

YANGON, 1 DEC—The following is the message sent by UN Secretary-General on the occasion of World AIDS Day which falls today.

In the 25 years since the first case was reported, AIDS has changed the world. It has killed 25 million people, and infected 40 million more. It has become the world’s leading cause of death among both women and men aged 15 to 59.

It has inflicted the single greatest reversal in the history of human development.

In other words, it has become the greatest challenge of our generation.

For far too long, the world was in denial. But over the past 10 years, attitudes have changed. The world has started to take the fight against AIDS as seriously as it deserves.

Financial resources are being committed like never before, people have access to antiretroviral treatment like never before, and several countries are managing to fight the spread like never before. Now, as the number of infections continues unabated, we need to mobilize political will like never before.

The creation of UNAIDS a decade ago, bringing together the strengths and resources of many different parts of the United Nations family, was a milestone in transforming the way the world responds to AIDS.

And five years ago, all UN Member States reached a new milestone by adopting the Declaration of Commitment—containing a number of specific, far-reaching and time-bound targets for fighting the epidemic.

That same year, as I made HIV/AIDS a personal priority in my work as Secretary-General, I called for the creation of a “war-chest” of an additional seven to ten billion dollars a year. Today, I am deeply proud to be Patron of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, which has channelled almost three billion dollars to programmes across the globe.

Recently, we have seen significant additional funding from bilateral donors, national treasuries, civil society and other sources. Annual investments in the response to AIDS in low- and middle-income countries now stand at more than eight billion dollars. Of course, much more is needed; by 2010 total needs for a comprehensive AIDS response will exceed 20 billion dollars a year. But we have at least made a start on getting the resources and strategies in place.

Because the response has started to gain real momentum, the stakes are higher now than ever before. We cannot risk letting the advances that have been achieved unravel; we must not jeopardize the heroic efforts of so many.

The challenge now is to deliver on all the promises that have been made—including the Millennium Development Goal, agreed by all the world’s Governments, of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV by 2015. Leaders at every level must recognize that halting the spread of AIDS is also a prerequisite for reaching most of the other Goals, which together form the international community’s agreed blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century.

Leaders must hold themselves accountable—and be held accountable by all of us.

Accountability—the theme of this World AIDS Day—requires every President and Prime Minister, every parliamentarian and politician, to decide and declare that “AIDS stops with me”. It requires them to strengthen protection for all vulnerable groups—whoever living with HIV, young people, sex workers, injecting drug users, or men who have sex with men. It requires them to work hand in hand with civil society groups, who are so crucial to the struggle. It requires them to work for real, positive change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls, ad transform relations between women and men at all levels of society.

But accountability applies not only to those who hold positions of power. It also applies to all of us. It requires business leaders to work for HIV prevention in the workplace and in the wider community, and to care for affected workers and their families. It requires health workers, community leaders and faith-based groups to listen and care, without passing judgement. It requires fathers, husbands, sons and brothers to support and affirm the rights of women. It requires teachers to nurture the dreams and aspirations of girls. It requires men to help ensure that other men assume their responsibility—and understand that real manhood means protecting others from risk. And it requires every one of us help bring AIDS out of the shadows, and spread the message that silence is death.

I will soon be stepping down as Secretary-General of the United Nations. But as long as I have strength, I will keep spreading that message. That is why World AIDS Day will always be special to me. On this World AIDS Day, let us vow to keep the promise — not only this day, or this year, or next year—but every day, until the epidemic is conquered.—UNICEF

Workers examine wreckage of the plane that crashed at Teheran’s Mehrabad Airport on 27 Nov, 2006.—Xinhua

A saleswoman displays a 26.62 carat diamond at a shopping centre in Nanning, south China’s Guangxi Province on 27 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET
All citizens should always keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, with political awareness

Mr Chairman,

The Work Committee Chairman explained the detailed basic principles for the chapter at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 30 October 2006. They are in conformity with the stipulations stated in the constitutions of world nations from the 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution. Hence, we find that the following points should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the chapter.

“Every citizen who has turned 18 on the date on which elections commence, who is not disqualified by law, who is eligible to vote, and who has the right to vote under the law, shall have the right to vote.”

“Every citizen who is eligible to vote and who has the right to vote by the law shall cast only a vote for a Hluttaw each at a constituency.”

“In addition, people of national races concerned who are eligible to vote in accordance with the provisions of the State Constitution shall have the right to vote in electing representatives of national races to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned.”

“Ballot shall be exercised.”

“The following persons shall have no right to vote—
(a) members of the Religious Order;
(b) persons serving prison terms;
(c) persons adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law;
(d) persons who have not yet been cleared from being declared destitute; and
(e) persons who are banned from voting under the election law.”

“At an election, a candidate—
(a) shall be elected to one Hluttaw only;
(b) shall stand for election at one constituency only.”

“(a) electorates living in the Union territories or the Union territories designated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the law, shall elect members of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw only.
(b) Save as otherwise prescribed by the Constitution, a Region or State Hluttaw member elected in a constituency that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has designated as a Union territory shall no longer stand as a Hluttaw member”

“Every citizen who is not disqualified by the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the law regulating elections shall have the right to stand for election to a Hluttaw”

Mr Chairman,

The Work Committee Chairman presented in detail the matter concerning the recall of an MP citing the respective sections and articles of the 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution as examples. Hence the para 6 and subparas (a) to (e) should be adopted. The point “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall prescribe necessary laws on election and recall” is also appropriate.

Now I will discuss the formation of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission. The National Convention laid down a fundamental principle to enact necessary laws for the formation of political parties for the flourishing of genuine disciplines-flourishing democracy. There should be a body to realize the law concerning the parties. Hence the Pyidaungsu Election Commission should be formed. Concerning the matter, the Work Committee Chairman made a thorough explanation which includes 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution and the constitutions of some nations. Hence, the paras 8 (a) and (b) and 9 (a) to (h) should be adopted.

The point “If the President has to blame or charge the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, he shall do so in accord with the provision prescribed in this Constitution on blaming the Union Chief Justice or any of Union Supreme Court Judges.” is comprehensive enough to be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

The chairman and members of the commission should be permitted to resign from it due to health grounds or other reasons. The points “If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in service wishes to resign from his own accord due to his health condition or any of other reasons, he may submit his resignation to the President.” “If the seat of the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is vacant due to resignation, termination of responsibilities, death, or any of other reasons, the President may appoint a new chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in accord with the provisions on appointment of a Union minister enumerated in the State Constitution.” and “If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is a government employee, he shall be deemed to have resigned from civil service in accord with the existing civil service rules and regulations from the date he is appointed as the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.” should be adopted as the detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

We would like to suggest that the following point should be adopted:

“The Pyidaungsu Election Commission’s action and measures over the following matters shall be final:
(a) electoral procedures;
(b) appeals and amendments on electoral benches’ decisions and orders;
(c) matters taken under political party law.”

We also agree to the points “Responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall be prescribed by law.” and “The role of the chairman of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is designated to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member, to the position of a Union minister in order to make reference to responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in prescribing laws.”

Disputes may arise in future if there is no explanation about the stay of national people who went abroad for further study under the permission of the government, on business or on personal affairs. Now, the nation has launched the market-oriented economic system. Therefore, many nationals are staying in foreign countries on duty with the permission of the government, or on business, or on personal affairs. Such stay in foreign countries should be deemed to have settled in the Union.

We would like to suggest that expression “the period of staying in foreign countries under State permission should be deemed to have settled in the Union” should be added to the point “having settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected as Pyithu Hluttaw representative”.

Mr Chairman,

I will now discuss the detailed basic principles for the chapter “Political Parties”. The National Convention has already adopted the fundamental principle “the State shall enact necessary law for systematic formation of political parties for flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system”. There should be a law to systematically establish political parties for flourishing of discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy system and emergence of political parties that will correctly lead the citizens. The Union of Myanmar that has been under the rule of her own monarchs became a colony after three wars, the first one in 1824, the second in 1852, and the third in 1885, with the colonialists. The nation regained independence on 4 January 1948. But she faced many dangers of insurgency resulting from colonialist instigation. (See page 5)
It is also necessary for political parties to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty

(from page 4)

Hence, the Tatmadaw had to safeguard the nation. Every time the Union faced disintegration, the Tatmadaw had to safeguard it. Time and again, the Tatmadaw has safeguarded the nation. The neo-colonialists begrudging the unity of the national races of the Union have been making attempts to break up the national unity and the Union through various means to make Myanmar their minion. All the citizens should always keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, with political awareness. It is also necessary for political parties to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty.

Hence, the point “Political parties set the objective—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

It is found that it is required to lay down detailed basic principles concerning the qualifications of political parties as necessary, after taking the experiences Myanmar had faced as lessons, for the flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy in the nation. A political party must abide by the Constitution and the existing laws in addition to accepting and exercising a genuine multiparty democracy system. Moreover, it must be legally registered.

A political party shall:

(a) accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy,
(b) abide by the Constitution and the existing law,
(c) be legally registered as a political party.

A systematically formed political party can exist as a political party and carry out organizational work in the nation in accord with the law. In addition, it will have the permission to stand for elections held in the nation.

We suggest that the following detailed basic principle should be adopted:

In accordance with the law, a political party shall have the right to:

(a) organize freely;
(b) to stand for elections.

In addition, the following point should be adopted as detailed basic principle:

“1. The continued existence of a political party shall not be permitted if
(a) it has been declared as an unlawful association in accord with the existing law,
(b) it contacts or abets the insurgent group waging the armed rebellion against the State or the association or persons determined by the State to have committed terrorist acts or the association declared to be unlawful association directly or indirectly,
(c) it directly or indirectly receives financial, material and other assistance from the government or a religious association, or any other association or an individual person of a foreign country.
(d) it abuses religion for political purpose.

2. If the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party is connected with anyone of the points stated in the above-mentioned subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d), the party’s registration shall be revoked.

Mr Chairman,

Political parties should be the organizations capable of heading towards flourishing of discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy in the entire Union and in the respective Regions and States in accord with the nation’s political, security, economic and social conditions and traditions and customs. It is opined that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws for the political parties to prevent differences when they carry out the leadership role.

Hence the point “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties.” should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

I will now present the chapter on the "Provisions on State of Emergency". After studying the 1947 Constitution and the constitutions of some nations, it is found that the power to declare a state of emergency is vested in the President. But the power is not totally and independently vested in the President. The President has to submit the measures he has taken to the legislative bodies for approval. The study also shows that a state of emergency can be declared because of war, foreign invasion, armed insurgency, natural disasters, economic failures and the President’s assumption that a grave situation is endangering the security of the entire nation or any part of the nation. The President shall declare a state of emergency only after making consultation with the National Defence and Security Council. It will be more effective if the President declares a state of emergency only after issuing an ordinance having the force of law.

The clarification of the Work Committee Chairman concerning the declaration of a state of emergency if the administrative functions cannot be carried out in accord with the Constitution in a Region or a State or a Union territory or a Self-Administered Area is reasonable and comprehensive to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mr Chairman,

The President will have to exercise the executive power to restore the administrative machinery back to normal when the community peace and the rule of law are in a state of deterioration. If the President entrust the power to suitable persons, the administrative machinery will run as normal.

The points concerning the declaration of a state of emergency by the President when there arises or there is sufficient reason to occur a state of emergency endangering life and property of the people in a Region or a State or a Self-Administered Area or in any part of them in conformity with the provisions of some other nations and the national conditions should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

Martial law should be declared, if the measures being taken by the local administrative and civil bodies with the help of the Tatmadaw are ineffective, and the danger is not dying down as it should be. It is believed that the detailed basic principle concerning the declaration of martial law is appropriate.

In our view, matters in connection with the taking of Tatmadaw’s declaration, the issuance of martial law if necessary, the declaration of ordinance having the force of law in declaring a state of emergency, the area covered by the ordinance and the duration of ordinance, the restriction and revocation of the fundamental rights of citizens if necessary, and the submission of the ordinance to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval are in conformity with the future situation of the nation as they are extracted from 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution, and constitutions of world nations. In our view detailed basic principles concerning the matters should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention has already adopted the detailed basic principles saying that the ordinance will cease to have effect from the date on which it is disapproved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; and that the power will be in force till the end of a required period.

Hence we agree to the points concerning the duration, termination and cessation of the ordinance, measures to be taken in cause of the occurrence of attempts to grab State power through unrest, violence and insurgency, and the declaration of a state of emergency in a situation the nation is going to lose independence and sovereignty.

The President shall transfer the State power to the Commander-in-Chief to save sovereignty in time. By doing so, unrest and terrorism can be crushed in time, peace and stability can be restored and loss of independence and sovereignty can be prevented. Hence, the detailed basic principles concerning the transfer of State power to the Commander-in-Chief after declaring a state of emergency are appropriate.

Mr Chairman,

In Myanmar history, every time Myanmar faced disintegration and loss of independence, the Tatmadaw stood by the people and assumed the State duties. Hence the National Convention has already adopted a fundamental principle, saying, "when there arises a state of emergency that could cause disintegration of the Union, disintegration of national solidarity and loss of national sovereignty, due to take over of sovereign State power or attempts therefore by wrongful forcible means such as insurgency or violence, the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief has the right to take over and exercise State power in accord with provisions of the State Constitution.” the points concerning the empowerment of the legislative, executive and judicial powers to the Commander-in-Chief after transferring the State power to him are appropriate.

The point “The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services during the declaration of a state of emergency shall restrict or terminate a provision or more than one provision of the fundamental rights of citizens, as necessary— should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Mr Chairman,

We find that the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman on 31 October 2006 concerning the points in the Provision on the Provation that the provisions of the Ordinance are in conformity with the 1947 and 1974 constitutions of Myanmar, constitutions of some world nations and the country’s situation. Hence we agree that all the 23 points of the chapter should be adopted.
Questions and answers made at the press conference on undertakings in education, health and social affairs sectors of the State

Regarding the problem of human trafficking, especially child sex abuse, that problem emerged in the country in 2001. But the world had seen the problem earlier. It’s very common on the Internet. It is very common in places like beach resorts and hotels. Each year, some 50 million tourists come to this country to the other

U Myat Khaiung (Snap Shot Journal).— MNA

U Ko Ko (Flower News Journal).— MNA

In those cases, some of them were rescued. What I also heard is that foreigners are using the children for sexual abuses. How long has it happened so? Are there any other persons to be arrested? MPF Director General: In connection with the smuggling of narcotics in our country, already processed drugs such as heroin, ice and methamphetamine tablets cannot be produced in our country alone. I have mentioned about it repeatedly. I think to produce such kinds of drugs we need precursor chemicals. Myanmar as a developing nation cannot produce precursor chemicals. So, we cannot say that narcotic drugs are produced by our country alone. Precursor chemicals can be smuggled into the country via the other country. In this way narcotic drugs are there in our country. To solve this problem the State has laid down a 15-year project from 1999 to 2014.

Regarding the problem of human trafficking, especially child sex abuse, that problem emerged in the country in 2001. But the world had seen the problem earlier. It’s very common on the Internet. During the year of 2003, MPF Headquarters in collaboration with Australian Federal Police (AFP) arrested a German on charges of child sex abuse in places like beach resorts and hotels. Each year, some 50 million tourists come to this country to the other

U Hein Latt of Popular Journal. — MNA

However, he was deported as he was implicated in HIV. Again, we were able to arrest Myat Ko’s gang including the leader. The gang is made up of 21 brokers and 11 foreigners. We got the name list of some of the foreigners. Action has been taken against the brokers. Human trafficking, in other words, exploitation. It also connects with sexual exploitation and labour exploitation. Human smuggling and human trafficking are different. Human smuggling means sending one illegally to another country by charging money in violation of the existing law of that country. There is no exploitation in this case. But there is exploitation in human trafficking. Now those children are sexually exploited. So, this case is described as human trafficking. According to the confession of the arrested brokers, there are more persons to be arrested and interrogated. Trafficking in persons has links with global tourism. It is mostly common in places like beach resorts and hotels. Each year, some 50 million tourists come to this country to the other

U Aung Thu Myaing (Ji Ji News Agency).— MNA

and hotels. Each year, some 50 million tourists come to Asia. Myanmar started to experience this problem via the Internet used by some unscrupulous tourists making full use of advancing information technology. This year, the government has prosecuted a person who persuaded tourists coming to the country to abuse children in Myanmar and sent them to prison terms they can carry. It is said that, in Myanmar, human trafficking is so rampant that it causes anxiety among the public and it has reached a critical point. I would like to know what steps are being taken to control these crimes.

U Yin Kyaw (Crime Journal). — MNA

Nowadays, video houses are everywhere in villages and towns and cities. These videos have bad effects on children and youths. As I am in charge of crime news, I see that there are about seven or eight reports on

(See page 7)
Questions and answers made...

(from page 6)

sexural crimes in which children and youths are involved. How should they be educated about sex? Which departments are responsible for controlling these crimes? Is it only the duty of Myanmar Police Force?

Brig-Gen Khin Yi: As I have already explained, the main difference between human trafficking and human smuggling is exploitation. Human trafficking is selling, buying and handing over people by persuasion with the intention of exploitation. In the case of human trafficking, the

have come to our country with this alter i

Regarding human trafficking. The human trafficking law was enacted in Myanmar on 13 September, 2005. Before that, a person who committed human trafficking had to face a charge of persuasion under Section 366 and the maximum penalty carried from five years in prison or transportation. Since 13 September, 2005, human trafficking can carry life imprisonment. At present, 44 offenders in 36 cases are being tried in accord with the new law. One of them has been sentenced. According to the new law, an offender can be given life imprisonment. In addition, his property and asset can be confiscated if they are related with human trafficking. Regarding the dimensions of human trafficking in

international community in accordance with the policy and international cooperation strategy. The human trafficking is a kind of transnational crime, it is the concern of all nations in the world. Therefore, it cannot be handled by any individual country alone. Even in a country, it is the concern of all the people, all NGOs and all UN agencies here. It can be regarded as an international organized crime and must be tackled accordingly.

In connection with human trafficking, the government is cooperating with related organizations especially ARCPPT in Asian region under the four strategies. We handle the matter under the four非物质 strategy. The four Ps are Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Policy and International Cooperation. Awareness system is being launched in the country.

In connection with human trafficking, the government is cooperating with related organizations especially ARCPPT in Asian region under the four strategies. We handle the matter under the four非物质 strategy. The four Ps are Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Policy and International Cooperation. Awareness system is being launched in the country.

U Myo Thu (Hmukhin Shudan Journal): I'd like to ask Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi whether ICRC would be allowed to visit prisons or not in future. I heard that ICRC has not been allowed to visit the prisons. There are accusations against the prison system of Myanmar. So, I'd like to know how about the prison system of Myanmar.

U Kyaw Soe of Live News Journal: I would like to know matters related to health sector. I heard a foreign radio had broadcast that Japan will donate US$ 2.6 million to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases of Myanmar through UNICEF. Please tell me about it.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint: Japanese Government hadn't provided such assistance for HIV/AIDS to Myanmar. However, UNICEF and the Japanese

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

Ambassador signed an agreement recently. Japan will donate cash to the fund of UNICEF, and then UNICEF will manage the fund on health matters of Myanmar.

Daw Aye Aye Win (AP News Agency): I would like to know the reasons why the government has ordered to close down the five field offices of ICRC.

Director-General of MFP Brig-Gen Khin Yi: Currently, there are changes in focal point as to contacting the five field offices of ICRC in the country. We are considering new rules and regulations for foreign organizations. So, their functions are just temporarily suspended.

Daw Aye Aye Win (AP News Agency): Is it so? But what I learnt is that they were ordered to close down. Why? What I understand is that their operations were suspended because of the new regulation.

Director-General of MFP Brig-Gen Khin Yi: The new regulation is under consideration. We have not ordered them to close down. It is just a short period of time in order to avoid complications to their obligations before the new regulation is promulgated.

Daw Aye Aye Win (AP News Agency): Is it possible to reopen their offices?

(See page 8)
Questions and answers made... (from page 7)

Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi: I will tell you at opportune time.

Daw Aye Aye Win (AP News Agency): I would like to know the government’s opinion about the forced labour in Myanmar accused by ILO in International Criminal Court.

Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi: General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs plus the Ministry of Labour are now trying to settle the matters of forced labour. We are tackling this problem in accord with the rules and regulations and directives of our country.

U Hein Latt of Popular Journal: Let me ask you about trafficking in persons. I understand if anyone trafficks in women, children and youths, the person will be sentenced to 10 years’ or life imprisonment. I think there will be some difference in imprisonment if somebody trafficks other persons except women, youths and children. Please tell me the differences of imprisonment.

MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi: The imprisonment for trafficking in women, children and youth is similar to that of other persons. In reviewing facts and figures for three years, I counted equal number of men and women under trafficking and sentence of

NGOs donate food and necessities to prisoners. —MNA
Independent Representatives-elect submit...  

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of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairperson of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of sub-committees, delegates of political parties of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, 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, 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 Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, 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, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayin National Democratic Party (KNDP) (Dragon) Group, Kayin National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayin National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ku Ma Sa Nya), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBA) and Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Nyeinchanyay Myoith Group from Hpa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Commu-

Proposals of Representatives-elect to be published  

YANGON, 30 Nov—Proposals of Independent Representatives-elect of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect U Tin Win of Ayeyawady Division Kayaklat Township Constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Magway Division Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Magway Division Minbu Township Constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Yangon Division Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township Constituency-2 were presented to the Plenary Session. First, Independent Representative-elect U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 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 National Convention together with, Member of NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsein), U Saw Philip (a) Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Kan Nyein of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, Dr Maung Maung Win 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.

Proposal 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 National Convention together with, Member of NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsein), U Saw Philip (a) Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, U Kan Nyein of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, Dr Maung Maung Win 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 NCCWC Office acted as Master of Ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

The MC declared the start of meeting as 1,066 out of 1,080 delegates were in attendance, accounting for 98.7 per cent, and the plenary session commenced with the permission of the meeting chairman.

Proposal 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 Independent Representatives-elect of Delegate Group of Independent Representatives-elect U Tin Win of Ayeyawady Division Kayaklat Township Constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Magway Division Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Magway Division Minbu Township Constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Yangon Division Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township Constituency-2 were presented to the Plenary Session. First, Independent Representative-elect U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 presented proposals on the Chapter “Election” and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township Constituency-2 on the Chapter “Political Parties” and the Plenary Session took a break at 10.05 am.

In the Plenary Session resumed at 10.25 am, Independent Representatives-elect U Tin Win of Ayeyawady Division Kayaklat Township Constituency-2, U Hla Soe of Magway Division Minbu Township Constituency-2 and U Thein Kyi of Magway Division Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1 presented proposals on the 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.

(The presentation will be reported.)

The Plenary Session went into recess at 11.25 am. The Plenary Session of the National Convention continues tomorrow.
 Allegations contrary to the... 

(from page 16) 

- DVB broadcast on 4 September 2006 on the absence of proper medical care in prisons and refusal to refer to outside specialists and hospitals; 
- DVB broadcast on 6 November 2006 quoting the declaration of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) that state that the prisoners are not receiving their fully receiving their share of food, living conditions, medical care, that prison authorities are reluctant to provide protection to prisoners and that there are no medical doctors in most prisons; 
- Myitizma station broadcast on 8 November 2006 on severe beatings of prisoners on arrival at Thayawady and Thayet prisons, finding faults to put into solitary confinement, to beat up, to bar from bathing and to give punishments, torturing physically and mentally and, finding fault and punishing for unwrapping cheapooti belts to read are the allegations that exist.

There was even an open letter sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 15 November 2006 by AAPP requesting to take action against the increasing death tolls due to sub standard medical facilities within prisons.

If we are to examine the allegations I have just reported, we will find that most of them are premised on the absence of medical care, poor quality food, illegal punishments and uncaring attitudes towards prisoners. All these allegations are negating the reality and would like to take this opportunity to clarify the actual situation of our prisons to members of the press and to distinguished guests present here.

Our Head of State, when visiting No (2) new life agriculture camp under the Prisons Department on 22 January 1999, laid down the following directives for a change in the management system of Prisons Department:

- attempts should be made to turn prisoners into productive people once they are released, to be able to support the country in one way or another, to strive towards increasing productivity, to try and enhance their status from lowly prisoners to good and useful people, to establish rehabilitation centres and to enable to dismiss prisoners mentality;
- as labour camp prisoners, to provide newspapers, journals, TV and radios so that they will constantly be in touch with the outside world;
- for those labourers who are not accompanied by their family, leaves should be granted for them to go and meet their families during slack seasons with warrants and some travelling allowance provided so that they will not breed evil thoughts from long separations from their spouses and families and;
- the new life agriculture production camp should join hands with neighbouring villages, teach them cultivation methods and to extend help and assistance to poor and elderly people. Distinguished guests will understand that such directives stem from compassion and goodwill towards the prisoners.

In line with the directives laid down by the Head of State, the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs is making resolute efforts, through multi dimensional approach, towards a change in the religious, health, social, education, welfare, food consumption and living environment of the prisoners so that they will become productive people once released from prisons. These efforts have resulted in noticeable changes between prisons in the past and the present ones. I would like to highlight some of the changes made through the process.

In the religious environment:

- for prisoners’ labour camps that do not have Buddha statues, the Director-General or the Deputy Director-General, during their tours to these camps will carry a Buddha statue for Buddhist prisoners and have it enshrined, together with prisoners for them to earn good deeds;
- morning and evening praying sessions are organized daily for Buddhist prisoners as part of an effort to ease their state of mind; meditation sessions are also organized occasionally and every fortnight, monks are brought to the prisoners’ living quarters in turn to preach, inscriptions of Buddha teachings are hung on the walls of every sleeping quarters, prayer recital competitions are held between different quarters and arrangements are made for prisoners, both males and females, to participate in religious events like Wabo robe offerings, Kathina robe offerings and to other good deeds like contributing to monastery constructions, listening to preachings, etc.

If we look into the health care facilities that are being provided to prisoners, you will see that:

- prisoners of both sexes are urged to take morning and evening prayers every day for 30 minutes as soon as their living quarters are opened;
- on Independence Day every year, sport competitions are held within the prison compound such as hiking around the prison as well as volleyball and table tennis matches;
- medication for prisons and labour camps are issued free of charge on a biannual basis from the medical depot of the Department of Health and the need for additional medicines and hospital equipment are supplement form the Government budget. From officially published records, we can see that the Government had supplemented a total of 2,035,010 kyats for 2004-05 fiscal year and 2,470,887 kyats for 2005-06 fiscal year. Likewise, the Ministry of Home Affairs supplemented a total of 6,598,870 kyats for 2004-05 fiscal year and 9,843,964 kyats for 2005-06 fiscal year from funds accumulated either from the fees generated by prisoners working in production camps or from their welfare funds;
- for almost every prisons with hospitals, doctors and nurses are especially assigned and for smaller prisons and labour camps without hospitals, outside township medical officers visited these places every week with health assistants and medical orderlies providing additional medical care and medical records are filed systematically;
- for cases that are difficult to manage at smaller prisons and labour camps, patients are referred to respective general hospitals or to specialists and occasional, even let them treated through cost sharing basis and;
- from daily records kept by prison authorities, we learn that sleeping quarters are regularly inspected by the authorities to ensure proper lighting and ventilation and insecticides are sprayed on a regular basis to keep away mosquitoes, flies, ticks and mites. This verifies that the authorities have not neglected the health and hygiene of both male and female prisoners.

We find that the labour camp authorities see to it that the visiting family members have access to food and sleeping facilities, that responsible officials and members of NGOs visit prisoners to provide required counselling and educational information, that round discussion sessions are held for prisoners to share their personal experiences with their peers so that they have no regrets and that plans are in place for prisoners to enable them to tend their life with dignity in future as reformed persons.

For the same time education and trainings are provided to foreigners to enable them to lead a honest life and make a decent living once they are released from prison setting which include:

- as part of vocational programs, training sessions on weaving, cane crafts, auto and machine mechanics, knitting, painting, sculpture, sewing, photo mechanics, foot wear manufacturing, furniture, agriculture and livestock breeding are held for prisoners. In Insein prison, workshops outside the prison settings are established to engage prisoners in agriculture, livestock breeding and rock excavation works and for young prisoners who are involved in establishing prisoners’ funds, vocational as well as academic trainings are provided. To cite an example, in the academic year 2005-06, 35 young prisoners from Central Insein Prison were provided with school education starting from kindergarten to fourth standard and passed the final exams with first, second and third positions;
- during 2006-07 academic year 170 prisoners, both males and females, were provided with school education from kindergarten to tenth standard;
- arrangements are made to enable prisoner to read newspapers, journals and magazines and to watch and listen to radio and TV so that they will...
The Prisons Department is obliging and catering to the food requirements of prisoners and my observations on this aspect are:
- with the arrangement of prisons and camps, freshly cooked meals are served everyday to prisoners for their health with meat, fish and special vegetable dishes served at least once a week from farm produce for prisoners;
- reverse osmosis system water purifying plant worth 43 million kyats is being installed at Insein prison with funds donated from outside sources and the prisoners are getting 3 litres of purified water for their daily consumption. An other water purifying plant worth 1.5 million kyats had also been installed within the female quarter of Lashio prison from funds generated through fund raising activities spearheaded by the Commander of North East Command. Another plant donated for Thayawady prison is now in the process of constructing the building to house the plant and an accompanying tank which should become operational soon;
- Donations for installing water purifying plants at Mandalay, Myingyan, Mawlamyne, Myaungmya, Buthidaung, Loikaw and Taunggyi prisons are in receipt now and installation process will commence soon;
- Although there are unfounded allegations on prisoners having to sleep on concrete floors, we find that all prison sleeping quarters are inlaid with wooden coverings and for prisons at cooler regions, adequate blankets are being issued to prisoners and facilities with ample water supplies exist for bathing and washing. And prisoners are provided with soap for bathing and washing on a weekly basis.

In reality, as I have explained earlier, the cost of maintaining the prisons under the Prisons Department and the cost of providing adequate food and supplies to prisoners are borne through the allocated Government budget with the Ministry of Home Affairs, under the arrangement of Prisons Department, supplementing through the funds generated by the prisoners themselves through their labour. In addition, we have witnessed local non-governmental organizations such as Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Fire Brigades together with outside donors joining hands, as part of our inherent good nature and enthusiasm, contracting the authorities to visit prisons and camps to extend help and assistance enthusiastically in every possible way they can.

Through these help and assistance, prisoners today are enjoying privileges such as basic nutritional diet, adequate health care, rest and recreation during free time, books and literature to read, engage in physical fitness activities and keeping in close contact with their family members.

Both the humanitarian organization and individuals who have lend assistance to prisoners and detainees, like typical Myanmar nationals, are most gratified to be able to contribute to this noble exercise. The individual, who financed the installation of water purifying plant at Insein Prison, also financed the installation of a similar plant at Thayawady prison out of pure compassion. Here, I would like to emphasize the fact that a similar donor, with an aim to purify the lives of people under imprisonment, donated a water purifying plant for the female quarter of Lashio is nothing but a gesture of the inborn nature of Myanmar people not to discriminate its own kind.

There are a total of 42 prisons and 91 labour camps under the management of the Prisons Department, Ministry of Home Affairs of which all 42 prisons and 7 labour camps are being visited by representatives from humanitarian organizations in Myanmar between October 2005 and November 2006 and met with prisoners and detainees to extend necessary assistance and donate goods of their needs. Their total donations in terms of food stuff, basic necessities, medicines, novels, journals and magazines amounting more than 75 million kyats (750,000 US dollars) and the lists are being displayed on board for your review.

As I have explained earlier, external news media, broadcasting stations and destructive elements including AAPP are alleging that:
- Myanmar prisons are not providing nutritional food to prisoners, there are outbreaks of contagious diseases in the prisons and safe and adequate drinking water is not available therein;
- there are not enough prison doctors;
- prisoners have to sleep on concrete floors and inhuman torture and treatment exist in prisons.
- no opportunities exist to read and study in prisons and which are all generalized. As I have explained earlier, members of press and distinguished guests will be in a position to gauge whether these allegations actually reflect the prevailing reality. Specific directives laid down by the Government coupled with close scrutiny at all levels by responsible persons have now changed the present day prison management scenarios in Myanmar.

In other words, the goodwill and concerted efforts of the Government, responsible officials, individual donors and NGOs have led the relationships between prisoners and staff members to evolved into a friendly like structure where all inherent rights in the fields of health care, social needs, freedom to worship, food requirements, living conditions and welfare facilities call all be enjoyed within the prescribed legal framework. This clearly demonstrates that the unfounded allegations disseminated through external media sources are fabrications directed at discrediting the solidarity of our country.

The Prisons Department, in line with the motto of the Ministry of Home Affairs “Eradicate colonial characteristici, safeguard the interest of the people and the State” is an institute that is extending deserved rights to prisoners in accordance with laid down orders, directives and prescribed jail manuals that are in conformity with prevailing time and circumstances. We have officially announced in various local newspapers that any evidence on individuals who have interacted harshly, suppressed rudely and engaged in acts of torture against prisoners, in defiance to the above mentioned policy, can be reported to responsible authorities including the Ministry of Home Affairs. Actually, this is a formal interpretation of the policy laid down by our Head of State that clearly defines that nobody is above the law. In other words, it means that this is part of the process to establish an orderly democratic system where the prevalence of clean governance is a prerequisite. All I can say at this juncture is that the shameless allegations put forward by internal and external destructive elements together with some international news media runs contrary to the prevailing reality and it had been exercising with goodwill for future prosperity of Myanmar.
Myanmar can never condone human trafficking and will continue to cooperate with neighbours, other humanitarian organizations, in combating the threat

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 November** — The following is the clarification on anti-human trafficking made by Director General of Myanmar Police Force at the press conference on undertakings carried out in the education, health and social affairs sectors of the State, here, yesterday.

I would like to further clarify, citing actual incidence, to the prevailing allegations against Myanmar’s efforts in combating human trafficking together with actual facts and figures.

In the present days, the problem of human trafficking has become widespread all around the world. Internationally, this problem is regarded as “slavery” that has vanished 200 years ago and re-emerged in a form of modern day slavery in the 1990s. Researchers viewed the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the rapid advancement of information technology to be the major factors that led to re-emergence of modern day slavery commonly known as human trafficking. The worldwide spread of this problem emanated particularly from increased trafficking of females from Eastern European to Western European countries.

Human trafficking is as a lucrative business that yield high returns from drug trafficking that is threatening the entire humanity. According to the year 2000, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons was drafted and adopted unanimously with a pledge for international cooperation in combating the threat.

Human trafficking is clandestine crime and therefore, hard to find out the exact people who have been trafficked. It is however estimated that, more than 27 million people have become victims worldwide with an additional of one to two million annually from which there is a profit of more than 1.5 trillion US dollars every year from this trade.

From observations we know that: in Asia, this issue is prevalent in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; people from this region are mostly trafficked to Britain, Japan and the United States; at least three hundred thousand women and children from Mekong Sub Region including Myanmar are being trafficked annually and, South East Asia is ranked amongst regions with high human trafficking incidence with a share of 54% of the whole of Asia.

As we all know, the world began to take notice of the human trafficking problem in 1990s and this evolved into a major issue around the year 2000. Myanmar became aware of the problem since then and after the 29th UN Commission held in Beijing in 1995, we started to initiate measures to address this issue that impinges on the personnel well being of women. As part of the process, the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs chaired by the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was formed on 3 July 1995 and through its newly established working committees, measures were taken, as a priority, to protect women and children from being trafficked. The establishments of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs chaired by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Working Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons chaired by the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and followed on 7 October 1996 and 17 July 2002 respectively.

In this connection, I would like to present that Myanmar adopted the National Plan of Action in 1997 to suppress human trafficking and consist of measures to prevent, prosecute, protect, rehabilitate and reintegrate. The plan is based on Multi-Sectoral Approach in line with internationally recognized strategy and is being implemented since.

Moreover, the National Task Force was also formed in 1997 with members representing both governmental and non-governmental agencies and is holding mass media campaigns through educational sessions, pamphlets and video plays. They are being presented not only through Myanmar Radio and Television stations but committees at various levels assisted in presenting them through video plays, posters based in wards and villages. Ten video plays depicting true trafficking incidences are being produced in both Myanmar and Shan dialects and are being staged along the Shan States including border areas.

As a joint endeavour between Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and UN Inter Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub Region (UNIAP), a Mobile Training Team was formed in the year 2000 with representatives from various Government Departments and has trained 500 officials from State and Divisional level Government Departments that deal with human trafficking problem. As one of the measures to deter women from making a living across border, micro credit loan is being introduced to start a local vocational education. Financial assistance is being provided to poor children to further their education.

In addition, 2001 a Central Supervision Committee led by the Director General of Myanmar Police Force is being formed with subsequent sub-committees, measures at state, district, township and village levels to prevent people from leaving the country illegally which serves as a main cause for trafficking people. Since its formation on 23 September 2001, the committee was able to prevent 868,995 persons from illegal migration and took action against 1,638 brokers. The Government of Myanmar opened a receiving centre in Myawady on 18 February 2002 to receive, without taking action, and extend necessary assistance to those who left the country illegally and returned home after getting into trouble outside. From the date the camp opened on 18 February up to 30 October 2006, it received 20,883 returnees and sent them back to their families. A total of 303 trafficked victims who were repatriated from foreign countries were received and returned to their respective parents or guardians.

With a resolve to suppress human trafficking, Myanmar held its First ever National Seminar on Human Trafficking in May 2003 in Yangon successfully. The Ministers for Home Affairs and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement together with Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, UNIFAP, UNICEF and Save the Children (UK) coordinated to hold the Seminar that served as a milestone.

**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**

**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**

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Myanmar can never condone...

In order to emphasize matters relating to human trafficking, the Department against Transnational Crime (DTC) of Myanmar Police Force, in close cooperation with ARCPPT Project implemented under the agreement signed between the Governments of Australia and Myanmar and formed a 60-member strong Anti-Trafficking Unit in 2004 with police officials. Similarly, members of task forces trained by internationally recognized experts are assigned to nine major and border towns like Muse, Tachileik, Myawady, Mawlamyine, Kawthoung, Bhamo, Kalay, Mandalay and Yangon to suppress human trafficking.

Myanmar Police Force managed to take action against 786 cases involving 1,638 offenders — 887 males and 751 females — during the period 17 July 2002 to 30 October 2006. At the end of the trial of 308 cases, life sentences were imposed on 3 offenders, above 10 years imprisonment for 101 offenders, under 5 years for 350 offenders, below 5 years for the remaining 158 out of the total 612 offenders. A total of 3,875 victims — 1,978 males and 1,897 females — were rescued from the hands of traffickers and were returned to their respective families. Considering this, you all can see how the government is implementing in dealing with anti-trafficking in person.

As Myanmar do not have specific laws to take action against human trafficking, we have initiated, since January 2004, to develop drafting process that will conform to the international conventions and later in September 2004, international legal experts were invited to review the first draft. Taking into consideration of the advice given by international legal experts as well as the prevailing situation in Myanmar, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was promulgated on 13 September 2006. Since then, action was taken against 36 cases and 44 offenders were put on trial in line with the law which prescribed imprisonment for life (to serve in the prison until death) to guilty traffickers. There are also provisions that allow confiscation of traffickers’ properties (including land, vehicles and buildings) and prescribe imprisonment for life (to serve in the prison until death) to guilty traffickers. There are also provisions that allow confiscation of traffickers’ properties which makes the law a very powerful tool for suppressing human trafficking.

To effectively implement the provisions contained in the Anti-Trafficking in Person Law, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons was formed on 11 February 2006. The Working Group on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Trafficked Victims, the Working Group on Legal Framework and Prosecuting Measures and the Working Group on Rehabilitation of Trafficked Victims were also formed on 27 February 2006. Subsequent bodies for suppression of Trafficking in Persons at State and Division, District and Township levels have already been formed and anti-trafficking projects are now being implemented.

Myanmar had not only tackled this problem from all aspects within the country but is also placing emphasis on international cooperation by becoming a party to the following international conventions affiliated with human trafficking:

1. the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
2. the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,
3. the Forced Labour Convention No 29,
4. the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime,
5. the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children,
6. the Protocol to Combat Smuggling of Migrants in Land, Sea and Air,
7. the Convention Against Corruption and
8. Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and have been cooperating closely with members of ASEAN.

Myanmar together with Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 22 December to implement the ARCPPT Project. These project activities include training members of Myanmar Police Force, and accordingly 104 police officials have been trained and visited major towns within States and Divisions with high incidences of trafficking to impart knowledge and information. This is being undertaken in 9 States and Divisions for 14 times. The activities also include strengthening of Criminal Justice Systems by providing sound technical assistance and enhancing cooperation among countries where the project is being implemented.

Additionally, to initiate effective measures in combating human trafficking in the Mekong Sub-Region, Myanmar hosted the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) meeting in October 2004 with the participation of all six countries that form Mekong Sub-Region namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam where a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in combating human trafficking was successfully signed. In accordance with COMMIT MoU, a plan of action was developed and is now being implemented in all member countries. Representatives from six member countries occasionally meet in a form of meetings, seminars and workshops to discuss matters relating to exchange of information and experiences and to extend reciprocal assistance as part of cooperation and action plan implementing process.

On 15 January 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Myanmar and China who shared common borders, to combat transnational crimes and to maintain restore peace along the borders of the two countries. Singing another MoU between the two countries to combat human trafficking is another provision prescribed in the signed MoU and to realize this provision, the first meeting of senior officials from two countries was held in November 2005 in Bagan, Myanmar followed by a second meeting in November 2006 in Kunming, China.

In addition, as we are members of both ASEAN and BIMSTEC, we would like you all to know that the activities laid down by these organizations are also being implemented.

As I have stated earlier, Myanmar had earnestly striven to suppress human trafficking where the cooperation of our nationals have played an important role in gaining practical achievements. From these achievements, I would like to share some outstanding incidences.

On 20 July 2006, learning that two Myanmar girls were held in custody in a hotel room of a border town of a neighbouring country from a dutiful citizen, members of Muse district police force and special anti-human trafficking unit, with the aide of police from the neighbouring country, rescued the two trafficked Myanmar girls and arrested the two traffickers — Kyaw Myint and Soe Soe Mar — who held the girls in custody. They were taken action by Muse Police station in accordance with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

From investigations, we learnt that both Kyaw Myint and Soe Soe Mar were active traffickers that lured local girls to sell across the border. From this connection, we were able to expose a total of 64 traffickers-51 locals and 13 foreigners.

From the gang leader Kyaw Myint himself, we learnt that he had sold off more than 90 girls to a neighbouring country and with the cooperation of the police force from that country, we were able to arrest another 34 persons linked to the case and we are still in process of exposing additional 30 offenders.

From trafficker Kyaw Myint, we have confiscated a mobile phone, a million kyats deposited at Muse Yoma Bank by his wife, a raw jade weighing 24.8 kilos and another one weighing 11 kilos, from another trafficker Fatty @ Ye Myo, we confiscated two mobile phones, 5 sacks of gold, and a plot of land numbered (2207) at Bo Min Yawng Street, Ward No(71), South Dagon, Yangon, from a trafficker who aided in rounding up girls, we confiscated a house at Moe Hnun Kone Village, Pyaw Bwe Township which was bought from proceeds accrued through human trafficking. All apprehended traffickers will be put on trial in accordance with Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

I would further like to dwell on another case involving a girl from Myeik who used to work for Garman cold storage factory starting from April 2002.

After she had worked there for over a year, the factory closed down due to shortage of raw materials and at the invitation of her cousin aunt, she went to Ranong in May 2004 to work in a furniture factory where she got married to a rubber plantation worker named Nay Min Tun aged 22, son of U Tut from Ahnan Village, Thanbyuzayat. She later learnt that her husband was having an affair with the female owner of the plantation and when she confronted with her husband, she was threatened by the owner. On the night of 15 October 2005, while she was sleeping within the compound of the plantation, she felt burning sensations on her face and later weak up to learn that she was splashed with acid and had to be hospitalized for treatment at a nearby hospital.

After being treated in hospital six months, she went back to her hometown in April 2006. However, the burns were so severe that she had to undergo reconstructive surgery on 31 October 2006 at the Yangon General Hospital Surgical Department for Facial, Jaw and Throat Surgeries with the assistance of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and NGOs.
Myanmar can never condone…

(from page 13)

Shell shock over escape of her cousin aunt Daw Win who has exploited her salaries in accordance with the Myanmar Child Law. In Section 24.

The assistance provided by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and related NGOs during her repeated operations at Yangon General Hospital coupled with the humanitarian assistance she is receiving; we learnt that her physical conditions have improved. I would like to present that this is a classic example of the role taken by the same Women’s Affairs Federation, a local NGO, in caring for the trafficking victims.

In the same context, I would like to report on the actions taken against the newly discovered gang of brokers who exploit children in Yangon. Since 2001/2002 we came to learn the existence of foreign tourists using Myanmar as tourists to exploit children and through the information intercepted by the Myanmar Federal Police, we caught one German national by the name of Mr Räßler (aged 35) engaging in sexual abuse with two children at Ywama Hotel in Hlin township in December 2003 and took action against him.

Later in November 2006, we were able to interview 127 young girls, from two different sources—one from the Special Branch of Myanmar Police Force and another from the Yangon Division police forces—to become aware of the existence of brokerage age groups that are aiding foreigners who are visiting Myanmar as tourists to sexually abuse children here in Myanmar.

Based on this information, members of Yangon Division police force, in cooperation with the Ministry of Child, Women, and Family, formed a gang of around 20 brokers and cruised Mahabandoola Garden in order to lure young children to engage in sexual acts with foreigners and then sent them to hotels where police link-ups were shown to these children and then engage in unnatural sex acts on a reciprocal basis and earn around 5,000 to 7,000 kyats per session with brokers getting 5,000 to 10,000 kyats for each boy they brought. I am clarifying this incidence for people to understand how members of anti-trafficking units have exposed child sex abuse cases that have infiltrated from neighbouring countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain on Child Sex Tourism here. There are more than 800 million tourists visiting countries around the world annually out of which 156 million visited countries in Asia with more than 51 million to 10 ASEAN countries. Similarly, exploiting children sexually is also increasing in these countries and it is estimated that at least a million children are being abused annually. According to a study undertaken by “End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism (ECPAT)” INGO, this industry thrives in Viet nam, Sri Lanka, Cambo dia, Thailand, and in central America and more including Costa Rica, Mexico, Brazil and the United States and that more than 500 million women and girls are publicly sex acts are visiting countries around the world as tourists. It is further stated in the study report that the majorities of child sexual abusers are Americans and include Germans, French, Swedish, Danish and British people as well.

As the problem of exploiting children sexually is closely related with human trafficking, we are giving special attention to this is sue and since 1993, we have been taking measures to protect children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Myanmar Child Law, In June 2006, 40 members of MNA, MJA and Yangon Division police force are being trained by ARCPPT project and became members of Anti-trafficking Unit formed then. Similarly, anti-trafficking task forces were formed in nine border towns to undertake measures to protect children and suppress human trafficking. Between the periods 2001 to 2006, we have conducted 15 training sessions for 540 police officials who have been then assigned to different States and Divisions to protect tourists as well as to watch and observe their criminal behaviours. The problem of child exploitation is also linked to tourist industry and we learnt that the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, in cooperation with Australian based Child Wise Tourism Organization, have conducted 5 workshops to educate 280 of its staff members on this problem. Similarly, the Ministry of Home Affairs that spearheads the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, conducted 2 workshops in cooperation with the British Criminal Investigation Department for 70 participants and another 6 workshops in cooperation with UNICEF to enhance their knowledge and capabilities on suppressing trafficking for 408 participants.

Although Myanmar has successfully undertaken measures to combat human trafficking, as we have explained in length earlier, one powerful Western country, in line with its super-handed policies is attempting to get our country one sided without taking into consideration of our comprehensive efforts to develop our country and to suppress human trafficking. It had graded Myanmar, based on their prevailing internal standards and legal norms, at the lowest level (TIER-3) in combating human trafficking for the past six years since the 2000.

Additionally, it has extended the sanctions imposed unrealistically to deter our efforts in monitoring and Child Sex Tourism. We can fairly say that the emergence of human trafficking problems in small countries ema nated from the suppressed actions of a powerful country aimed at taking advantage of the smaller ones inequitably.

To cite an example, this particular powerful country, based on unfounded allegations, imposed economic sanctions against Myanmar leading to closure of 160 garment factories within Yangon Division and the reduction of workers from 40 such factories resulting in more than 10,000 job less workers with problems for daily survival. This jobless work force include more than seventy thousand female workers and by taking advantage of the problems they are fac ing to sustain the daily livelihood of their families, some younger ones were lured to become victims of this trafficking gambit. From these events, we can fairly conclude that the fault lies upon a powerful country whose upper handedness in interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar resulted in this state of affairs.

We would therefore like to refute the allegation that Myanmar is amongst the weakest countries that had not con formed to the measures prescribed in the lowest category of human trafficking grading of a powerful Western country. The practical measures undertaken by Myanmar clearly testify that Myanmar is one of the most effective countries that have effectively suppressed human traffick ing.

On one side, this powerful country, instead of showing good will towards our efforts in suppressing human trafficking and lending assistance, is imposing sanctions based on unfounded allegations which are direct ing young Myanmar girls to become victims of human trafficking trade. As you all are aware, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation (MWA) that has tirelessly assisted in measures to suppress human trafficking have been removed from such sanctions at the grading of Myanmar at TIER-3 category in the June 2006 report on human trafficking produced in June 2006 by a Depart ment of that powerful country.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that, although the neo-colonialist powerful country together with destructive elements have launched multi faceted moves to deter and disrupt our honest endeav ours, Myanmar can never condone human trafficking and will continue to cooperate with our neigh bour and other humanitarian organizations, relying on our own social environment and inter strength, in combating this threat.

MNA

The Philippine ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez greets Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyaw Win and wife at the reception to mark the 50th Friendship Tie between the Union of Myanmar and Republic of the Philippines Thursday—MNA
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FA VOY NO (6059)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FA VOY NO (6059) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 1.12.2006 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 up to 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

DONATE BLOOD

WEATHER

Thursday, 30 November, 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 (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kayah State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Pinyaung (1°C), Heho and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 29-11-2006 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 30-11-2006 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-11-2006 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 29-11-2006 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 30-11-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from North at 10:30 hours MST on 29-11-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-12-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-12-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-12-2006: Fair weather.
Independent Representatives-elect submit proposals on chapters “Election”, “Political Parties” and “Provisions on State of Emergency” to Plenary Session of National Convention

Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, commission members and delegates at Plenary Session of National Convention.— MNA

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman

(See page 9)

Allegations contrary to present endeavours exerted by Government with goodwill for prosperity of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov— The following is the clarification made by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi on situation in prisons in Myanmar at the press conference on undertakings in education, health and social sectors of the State here yesterday.

Whilst clarifying the unfounded allegations towards Myanmar, I would further like to report a summary of the situation in our prisons that have been wrongly accused in the news media.

Myanmar took a considerable length of time to uphold the Union as a united entity, forge national solidarity, work towards prevalence of law and order with peaceful and secure living condition and at the same time, managed to cultivate the basic prerequisites of building trust between ethnic nationals and have placed emphasis on the development of the country by laying down programs incomparable to any undertakings in past eras.

This scenario for peaceful development of a new country is something that the internal and external destructive elements, together with opposition groups should welcome warmly. Instead, they are now stirring the tranquillity of our country with an aim to totally destroy Myanmar by attacking from all possible fronts. Local stooges are particularly active in broadcasting propaganda and fabricated information liberally that can generate suspicion and insouciance against the Government by the people. This is done in collusion with external mass media organizations, TV and radio stations and through Internet. Disregarding the prescribed ethics for news media, codes of conduct and accepted norms, they are deliberately inflating the wrong and unfounded information to create misunderstanding among the people. I will elaborate on the situation in our prisons, citing actual happenings, which is one of the many fabricated tales the destructive elements have created through the media, for all of us to realize and understand.

From overabundant amorphous tell tales on prisons, I would like to highlight the propagations coming from Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) and some of the external broadcasting stations:
- DVB station broadcast on 23 June 2006 on a dysentery outbreak in Insein prison that is worrisome for prisoners;
- DVB station broadcast on 29 June 2006 on Government stopping food supplies to prisoners and the need for prison staff members to find its own ways to feed them, the absence of medical doctor in prisons creating health problems for long term prisoners and the development of gastric ulcers among prisoners from low quality rice they were fed;
- DVB station broadcast on 1 August 2006 on the absence of health care within prisons with prisoners having to depend on unsafe water and food with no nutritional values;
- Myitzima station broadcast on 15 August 2006 on prisoners suffering from malaria, diarrhoea and malnutrition from hard labor in Butidaung prison in Rakhine State;
- DVB station broadcast on 22 August 2006 on prisoners having to sleep on concrete floors causing hypertension and strokes without proper medical care in Toungoo prison;

(See page 10)