Onus is on new generation youths to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty

Today’s new generation youths are born as independent citizens and fully realize the value and essence of independence. The onus is on these new generation youths to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(Message sent on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day)

People with wider knowledge can distinguish difference between pessimists who speak ill of country and people with constructive views

In reality, Myanmar is totally free from poverty, malnutrition, lack of clean water, high rate of illiteracy, and discrimination against women which are regarded as major problems that cause social deterioration.

YANGON, 30 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein yesterday attended the conclusion ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 60 for Basic Education Teachers held at the Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division and made a speech on the occasion. Also present were the ministers, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor, the deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the Rectors of CICS and heads of department, course instructors and trainee teachers.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Myanmar Education (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
National Convention shaping better future

The objective of the Government is to build a peaceful modern developed democratic nation. Similarly, the desire of the citizens is peace and stability and development.

Now the government is making efforts for the introduction of an enduring democratic system and the National Convention is in progress for the emergence of a constitution that will safeguard the interests of the entire people.

At the National Convention, delegates of national races from all parts of the country discussed basic principles and detailed basic principles for the chapters, the State, State Structure and Head of State were laid down. Moreover, detailed basic principles on designating self-administered division and self-administered zone, legislative, executive and judicial affairs were laid down.

Out of the 15 chapters to be included in drafting the State constitution, detailed basic principles for the chapters, the State, State Structure and Head of State were laid down. Moreover, detailed basic principles on designating self-administered division and self-administered zone, legislative, executive and judicial affairs were laid down.

Discussions of delegates of national races from every township and region and all strata of life at the National Convention are the suggestions full of essence for the benefits of the State and the people. Therefore, it is believed that the enduring State Constitution for future democratic State will emerge soon.

Building new nation is duty to be handed down to new generations

YANGON, 29 Dec — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo delivered an address at ceremony to conclude the Basic Journalism Course No 7 organized by the USDA at its headquarters on New University Avenue in Bahan Township this morning.

In his address, Secretary-General U Htay Oo said that all the national people have a strong desire to establish a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Nowadays, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are shaping the future nation. Building a new nation is a duty to be handed down to new generations. Under the leadership of the USDA, members of the association are joining hands with the local people in carrying out the task to ensure regional stability and development tasks. So far, the number of the association member has reached about 2.4 million. They represent all walks of life.

The Basic Journalism Course was conducted with the aim of enabling the youth who are interested in media to have the opportunity to serve the interest of the local people. Senior instructors provided them with their expertise and valuable experiences on media and journalism. Hence, the trainees are to assist the people by applying experiences from the training courses in the practical field.

Today, the people realize destructive acts of internal and external elements. Therefore, the USDA members are to disseminate correct news and information to the people and to maintain peace and development of the State. They are to serve more interest of the people with genuine goodwill and correct endeavours.

Next, the Secretary-General awarded the first prize to U Win Ko Ko of Ayeyawady Division, the second prize to U Zaw Min Yin of Kachin State and the third prize to U Thet Oo of Bago Division (East) and presented completion certificates to the trainees through a trainer. He also gave gifts for the course instructors through Director U Tin Maung Soe of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Also present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members and officials of the USDA Headquarters. — MNA

Monitoring Committee for Working Groups of CCDAC holds meeting 1/2006

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec — The meeting (1/2006) between the Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and secretaries of the Monitoring Committee for Working Groups of the CCDAC was held at the hall of Myanmar Police Force, here, this afternoon.

Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi delivered an address.

Joint Secretary of CCDAC and Head of Drug Elimination Department Police Col Kham Aung reported on the minutes of the meeting 1/2006 of CCDAC and accomplishments.

Officials of the working groups submitted reports on their respective sectors. Departmental heads of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, the Supreme Court, the Foreign Economic Relations Department, the Deputy Director-General of MPF and officials took part in the discussions.

Later, the meeting ended with concluding remarks of the MPF Director-General. — MNA

Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi speaks at meeting (1/2006) between the Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and secretaries of the Monitoring Committee for Working Groups of the CCDAC. — MNA
This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.

YANGON, 30 Dec—The following is a translation of the proposals on laying down detailed basic principles for chapters “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” to be included in the draft Constitution presented by the Delegate Group of Farmers at the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungshapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 20-12-2006.

I wish you all Mr Chairman and members of the panel of chairmen, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee and members, the Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee and members and National Convention delegates health and happiness.

I am U In Shein of the delegate group of peasants of Kawthoung Township, Tanintharyi Division. We of the delegate group of peasants held a meeting on 23 November and formed a proposal-compilation group comprising one each from 14 states and divisions to give suggestions on the detailed basic principles for the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”, “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”, “Transitory Provisions” and “General Provisions” explained by the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention held from 10 to 13 November 2006. The proposal-compilation group compiled the paper after seeking sound suggestions from the delegates and holding coordination with members of the panel of chairman.

Amendment of the Constitution

Now, I will present the paper on the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”.

Mr Chairman,

When we study the constitutions of world nations we find that some constitutions are difficult to be amended and some easy to do so. The weak points of the adaptation-difficult constitutions are that the legislative body has to follow a special arrangement as it has no complete power to make constitutional amendments as easy as enacting an ordinary law needing just a self-interpretation for the purpose. Ours are such constitutions whose provisions are so easy to be amended.

Mr Chairman,

The coming Constitution of the nation represents the land, water and other natural conditions of the Union of Myanmar and objective conditions such as customs, traditions and culture. We are writing the constitution to be in harmony with the present political, administrative, and economic sectors while taking into account the changes that may occur in future. But according to the law of changes there may arise a situation which demands the amendment of the respective chapters and articles of the constitution.

Mr Chairman,

As I have suggested, our constitution should not be the one which is not so difficult nor too easy to be amended. We must avoid the two extremes and choose the middle way.

Mr Chairman,

We have studied explanations made by Work Committee Chairman concerning the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution” at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 10 November 2006. We found that the chapter is almost free from weaknesses in making amendment that can be found in the constitutions of some world nations. We agree that the explanations are comprehensive and in accord with democracy principles.

Concerning the chapter, we are in support of adopting the following detailed basic principles.

1. If there is wish to amend any of the provisions of this Constitution, the following methods shall be applied:
   (a) The proposal to amend the Constitution shall be submitted in the form of a Bill.
   (b) A Bill to amend the Constitution shall contain no other proposals.
   2. Such Bill to amend the Constitution shall be initiated in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
   3. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall accept the Bill to amend the Constitution for consideration, if 20 per cent of all the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw members submit it.
   4. (a) The adopted provisions of the State Fundamental Principles, the State Structure, the Formation of Legislature, the Formation of Executive, the Formation of Judiciary, and the State of Emergency shall be amended with the prior approval of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a national-wide referendum only with a majority vote of more than half of those who have the right to vote.
   (b) Provisions other than those mentioned in the paragraph (a) shall be amended only with a majority vote of more than 75 per cent of all the members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
   (c) Articles that are concerned with inclusive in Chapters stated in the paragraph (a) shall be prescribed when the Constitution is drafted.

State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital

Mr Chairman,

Suggestions will be made on the detailed basic principles to be adopted for the Chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital” to be included in formulating the Constitution.

Every independent and sovereign nation prescribes the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital in accord with its history, conviction and beliefs.

Mr Chairman,

The coming Constitution will prescribe the State Flag which is the pinnacle of all the citizens. The colour white representing the sincerity, purity of mind and nobility of the Myanmar people should be included in the State Flag.

The Union of Myanmar has been striving to develop her economy, with agriculture as the base. As Myanmar is an agrico-based nation, the colour green that stands for peace and tranquillity and lush and verdant environment should be used in the Flag.

Yellow that depicts solidarity, harmony, re-consolidation and love and unity of all the national races in addition to the nation’s rise above-ground and underground natural resources should be included in the Flag. Yellow is the auspicious colour of Myanmar renowned as the Golden Myanmar or Golden Land for her rich natural resources. Moreover, red, which means valour and decisiveness of the Myanmar people, should also be portrayed.

Mr Chairman,

The perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar can be ensured with strong protection of the people. The strength of the nation lies within. A large white star directing upwards and representing the nation whose virtue is the unity of her people and the ability to stand on her own feet should be a part of the State Seal.

The Flag is marked with green, yellow and red stripes in a proportionate ratio. The said three colours reflect the nation’s natural conditions and national unity. On the left end of the green stripe at the top of the Flag is a large white star directing upwards.

Mr Chairman,

For the national people to always uphold Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; perpetuity of sovereignty and for the nation to exist forever, the State Seal should include the map of Myanmar to represent the fundamental principle of the State Structure which says that no part of the territory of the Union shall ever secede from the Union.

In accord with the adopted fundamental principle “the State Seal shall include the Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw”, the words “Pyidaungsu Thamada Myanmar Naing-Ngan Daw” should be included in the State Seal.

As the strength of the nation lies within and in accord with the fine traditions of unity of the national races, a white star representing Myanmar’s ability to stand on her own feet should be included in the State Seal. The portrait of the lion is representing the people who are endowed with courage and physical and intellectual ability and who will safeguard the Union of Myanmar at the risk of their lives and...
The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened.

Moreover, Hluttaw members will be elected in accord with the State Constitution. In the process, the State Peace and Development Council will have to take necessary steps in accord with the State Constitution.

Power should be vested in the State Peace and Development Council to carry out legislative functions on behalf of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heretofore the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comes into existence. In this regard, it is required to lay down a principle to recognize that the work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with the Constitution.

There should be adopted detailed basic principles regarding the work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force till the date on which the State Constitution come into force.

Mr Chairman,

The State Peace and Development Council has built basic foundations to realize the State objectives, and issued policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, orders, and proclamations to expedite all-round work for building a modern developed democratic nation. Accordingly, a detailed basic principle “All measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall devolve on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that will come into being under the State Constitution” should be laid down.

Mr Chairman,

The Union of Myanmar has existing laws that have been practiced throughout the successive years. Before a new Constitution comes into operation, the existing laws continue to be in force in a nation. After the new Constitution comes into operation, without prejudice to the new Constitution, the existing laws are to remain in force. And any existing laws contrary to the Constitution are to be amended or repealed from time to time by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Similarly, before a new Constitution comes into force, there have been predominant rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures in a country. After the new Constitution comes into operation, all existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures are to remain in force if they are not contrary to the new Constitution, and to be annulled if they are contrary to the new Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

After a Constitution comes into force, it is needed to take steps such as judicial formation or establishment of courts at different levels, and devolving of jurisdiction and powers to courts at all levels in accord with the Constitution. Jurisdiction should devolve upon all courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of the Constitution until new courts have been established by the law in accord with the Constitution to ensure continuous exercise of jurisdiction during the transitional period.

Likewise, all functioning administrative bodies or governmental bodies and service personnel are to continue in their functions. It is also required to ensure regular attendance of the service personnel.

Mr Chairman,

The delegation group of peasants has studied explanations made by the Work Committee Chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 13 November 2006 concerning the chapter “Transitory Provisions.” We have found that the Work Committee Chairman has explained the most suitable programme to hand down the fine political traditions as the heritage to the new ear and ensure a smooth step-by-step transitory process. (See page 5)
The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution

(from page 4)

Thus, concerning the chapter “Transitory Provisions,” the following eight detailed basic principles should be adopted.

1. “This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a nationwide referendum by more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

2. “The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.”

3. “The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution”

4. “All policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall devolve on the Union of Myanmar.”

5. “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

6. “Existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Union Government.”

7. “All courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution. All cases, civil, criminal and revenue, pending in the said courts, shall be disposed of in accord with the laws exercised on the date on which the cases came up for trial.”

8. “All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.”

U Tun Oo a delegate of the peasants group of North Okkalapa, Yangon Division, will read the proposal paper on General Provisions.

Mr Chairman and National Convention delegates,

I am U Tun Oo a delegate of the peasants group of North Okkalapa, Yangon Division. I will present suggestions on the chapter “General Provisions.”

Ever country of the world writes the Constitution that is the main law that reflects a nation’s history and portrays the structure of that nation. Moreover, the Constitution is the main weapon that the people have to resist the imperialist and feudal power. Every country adopts a Constitution and makes the nation and the people with a long history. The Constitution is written in accord with the Constitution of the country and the laws of the country. The Constitution is written in accord with the political, economic and social system.

Mr Chairman,

Myanmar language is widely used in various parts of the nation. The fundamental principle has been laid down with the purpose of ensuring uniformity and clarity in communications between the people and the government institutions, and among the government institutions, without any controversy. The fundamental principles are the guidelines in interpreting laws. The fundamental principles were laid down and adopted in accord with the natural conditions, history and current situation of the nation after making considerations from various points of view for political stability and progress and prosperity of the future state. They are guidelines in interpreting provisions of the State Constitution and of other laws.

The following two fundamental principles should be transferred to the Chapter “General Provisions”.

“(1) Myanmar language is the official language.

“(2) The State fundamental principles are the guidelines to be followed by the legislative Hluttaws in enacting laws and interpreting provisions of the State Constitution and of other laws.”

Mr Chairman,

Only the Constitution written in Myanmar language will be adopted and promulgated. Afterwards, the Constitution may be translated into other languages as necessary. Although the Constitution may be translated into various languages, only the Constitution written in Myanmar language will be adopted and promulgated. And if there arises a matter to interpret a provision it will be based on Myanmar text not to cause wrong expressions, translations and disputes on interpreting the preamble and every single article and clause. Interpretation of the expressions of the Constitution should be referred to the existing Interpretation of Expressions Law.

Mr Chairman,

The Constitution of a nation is the milestone of that nation and it is written in harmony with the historical events. Hence, the Constitution is worthy of recording as a historic landmark. It is required to keep the manuscript of the Constitution safely for a long time. The country has the National Records and Archives Law. In accord with the law, the Myanmar manuscript of the Constitution, that has been adopted and promulgated through a referendum, should be enrolled for record in the National Archives. The manuscript is the conclusive evidence of the provisions contained in the Constitution.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention has already adopted a fundamental principle “The State permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint-venture organizations and private concerns, etc. to take part in economic activities for the development of the national economy.” Now, the nation has seen many economic enterprises that are jointly run with the government based on mutual interest, or external organizations or persons are running under the terms and conditions stipulated by the State. After the State Constitution comes into force, there will emerge economic enterprises that will have to be shared among the Union government, Region government or State government, cooperative and private companies sector-wise in accord with the situation under the respective rules and regulations. There may arise a situation for which a Region or State government is to be vested with the right to run one of the economic enterprises which the Union government has to run solely, in the interests of the State. Moreover, there may arise situations for which a cooperative or an economic organization or a person may enjoy the right to run such economic enterprises. And there may arise a situation for which a Region or State government is to be vested with the right to run one of the economic enterprises which the Union government has to run solely, in the interests of the State. Moreover, there may arise situations for which a cooperative or an economic organization or a person may enjoy the right to run such economic enterprises. And it is assumed that a detailed basic principle should be adopted that in such a situation, a Region or State government, a cooperative or an economic organization or a person may run such kinds of economic enterprises with the government through joint-venture system or under agreements.

Mr Chairman,

There have been many treaties and agreements the Government of the Union of Myanmar ratified after regaining independence in 1948 with the governments of other countries. The Union of Myanmar will have to honour the legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which have been in force before the commencement of this Constitution between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of any other State provided that these countries have been in accord with the Constitution. In this regard, the detailed basic principle “The Union of Myanmar shall honour all legitimate obligations arising out of any treaties or agreements which before the commencement of this Constitution were in force should have the right to sue and be sued by the Union of Myanmar or liabilities which might have been brought against the Government of the Union of Myanmar under the Constitution between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of any other State provided that these countries have been in accord with the Constitution.” should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

Any proceedings relating to contracts signed with the Government of the Union of Myanmar or liabilities which might have been brought against the Government of the Union of Myanmar before this Constitution comes into force, may be brought for losses against the Union Government to be formed under this Constitution. Similarly, if given the same right, the Government of the Union of Myanmar should also have the right to sue the bodies concerned. Likewise, the Union of Republic of Myanmar that will come into existence after this Constitution comes into force should have the right to sue and may be sued by the name of the Union of Republic of Myanmar. A detailed basic in connection with the said fact should be adopted.

The remaining part of our proposal paper concerning the chapter will be presented by U Sai Yi Mon, a National Convention delegate of Namhkam Township, Shan State. Mr Chairman and National Convention delegates,

I am U Sai Yi Mon, a National Convention delegate of the delegate group of peasants of Namhkam Township, Shan State.

Now, presentation will be made on the formation of the National Convention, the election of its members including the chairman and the terms of the National Convention, the functions of the National Convention are of great importance. Some of them are to define
Independence was lost due to the weaknesses. We should take lessons from the past. We regained the independence through national solidarity and the strong will to win back freedom. Upholding the fine traditions, we all have to safeguard the Union, unity and sovereignty and independence.

Myanmar is a country that can be proud of its national prestige and integrity. According to the evidences on ancient human beings on Myanma soil, primates that existed in Pontaung Ponnya region over 40 million years ago, we can be proud of the fact that human beings originated in Myanmar and Myanmar ancestors originated in Pontaung Ponnya. It is historical fact to be proud of that Myanmar people lived with their own monarchs for thousands of years and they possessed own culture, fine traditions and arts and crafts.

The Union of Myanmar has plenty of cultivable land and is rich in natural resources such as oil, natural gas and precious stones. The land is fertile. Precious vast forests cover about half of the country. Therefore, Myanmar people love and cherish sovereignty which they cannot afford to lose.

The Union of Myanmar has a fine history. It is blessed with valuable land and water resources and the unity of all the national people is exemplary. If all the people had been in unity like in the period of independence struggles without having alien instigation, extreme political ideologies, sectarianism and personality cult, the nation would have developed for sure. The people would have fully enjoyed the taste of independence.

(See page 7)
Enforcement Committee  Taw Traffic Rules

morning. Over 27,000 in Pyinmana Township, this Education High School in fourth day at No 1 Basic Knowledge about Traffic Dec — First Exhibition on independence, to transform the nation blessed with Myanmar are: to continue to safeguard lives. Today’s ultimate aims of an independent independence and safeguarded it at risk to their past, Myanmar people tried to regain its ability to protect both the Union and sovereignty. As a result, Myanmar has been holding its loss of independence.

However, patriotic national people were able to protect both the Union and sovereignty. As a result, Myanmar has been holding its independence day ceremonies every year. In the past, Myanmar people tried to regain its independence and safeguarded it at risk to their lives. Today’s ultimate aims of an independent Myanmar are: to continue to safeguard independence, to transform the nation blessed with

land and water resources into a modern developed one by making full use of already achieved progress, peace and stability and to shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the people's wishes. Duly media reports have shown that Myanmar has enjoyed peace and stability due to the return of 17 major national race armed groups and many other small armed groups to the legal fold, that it has built a lot of roads, bridges, dams and reservoirs, power generating plants and industrial zones, and that it is in the process of building a democratic State with active participation of national brethren. These are the reward of being able to safeguard independence.

Therefore, instigation and disturbances of the neo-colonialists are like soap bubbles which will disappear within a snap of time due to the unity of the people. Destructive acts of a handful of national traitors, internal axe-handles and expatriates will do no harm.

On the occasion of Independence Day, Myanmar people shall pledge to realize the goal of building a peaceful modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. All in all, to enjoy the taste of independence, let us strive with innate spirit.

Objectives of 59th Anniversary Independence Day

— All the national people to join hands forever for safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty of the State;
— All the national people to collectively safeguard non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
— All the national people to make concerted efforts for the emergence of an enduring constitution and building of a new, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; and
— All the national people to work in concert for the success of the seven-step Road Map of the State with Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit.

First Exhibition on Knowledge about Traffic Rules runs for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — First Exhibition on Knowledge about Traffic Rules continued for the fourth day at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana Township, this morning. Over 27,000 visitors observed the exhibition today.

Patron of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, committee chairman Col Yan Naing Oo and members visited the booths and observed vehicles developed by the industrial zones. The exhibition displays documentary photos on knowledge about traffic rules and also takes in a basic education level quiz on traffic rules. At the booth of Road Transport Administration Department, rules and regulations for the motorists and documentary photos on traffic accidents are displayed. Documentary photos on construction of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and Gangaw Market, highway bus terminal and restaurants, and hotels in Nay Pyi Taw HotelZone are shown at the booth of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee.

In addition, clothing, cosmetics and pharmaceutical booths totalling 80 ones are also staged at the exhibition, which runs till 31 December 2006.—MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Independence Alert Ever Present

— All Myanmars full of awareness Want each to be mindful Our territorial seas, our land Our motherland ever beautiful Of Seven-step Road Map To be nobly implemented Brethren continue joyous journey And continue their onward march.
— Destructionists However much they may try However much they may wedge in Will only do when duly alert All citizens must be ever ready.
— Today, what with neo-colonial ruses What with so much whimsical connivances Don’t ever mistake a tiger for a cat Will snap up with avarice Scrounging for any false move It lies in wait.
— Myanmars all Bear in bosom, unforgiving till earth’s end With due care ever ensconced Let’s maintain our stance.

Khun Ye Thway (Ayethayar) (Trs.)
People with wider knowledge can distinguish...

(From page 1)

Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that at present, development of science and technology is overwhelming all the spheres of national development. Therefore, responsibility of teachers in the education sector is not only to engage in teaching students but also to participate in building political, economic and social infrastructures for national development.

At such a time, all the teachers are to strive for the students to enjoy success in their future life through the education sector as responsibilities of the education sector have become wider and more profound, he added.

He said that for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation it is required for the nation to keep pace with changes and developments and for ensuring the emergence of human resources that are skilful in science and technology.

It is safe to say that there must be technologically high and competent in various sectors and be skilful in the use of technology for national development.

Systematic measures are being taken after laying down the education promotion programmes in the higher education sector for the emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

The successful realization of the objectives of the

duty of a teacher is no longer merely teaching students but helping them in choosing their career so that they can enjoy a peaceful life. According to Myanmar culture and traditions the duties of a teacher are to share what he had learnt with the students and to teach them to be polite and civilized. This tradition has been deeply rooted in Myanmar society since ancient times.

In today’s world, the duty of a teacher is no longer merely teaching students but helping them in choosing their career so that they can enjoy a peaceful life. According to Myanmar culture and traditions the duties of a teacher are to share what he had learnt with the students and to teach them to be polite and civilized. This tradition has been deeply rooted in Myanmar society since ancient times.

The conception of Myanmar traditional education which is still modern is to teach students to be civilized, to be morally upright and to be able to contribute their services in society. So also, the all-round education system being implemented in the education sector is to teach and nurture students to be equipped with five faculties.

This being so, teachers are to train their students to be outstanding in learning, to widen their scope of knowledge and to be mentally and physically strong.

the higher education sector relies solely on the prepa-
ration of the basic education sector to introduce students of basic education sector to the higher education sector.

The government is raising the standard of cur-
rricula and syllabus of basic education sector and facilitated basic education schools with IT based multimedia classrooms and laboratories for the students to be familiar with higher learning techniques.

That is why the teachers are to teach and train student youths of basic education level to be well qualified and to be able to join higher learning in an easiest way, making better use of infrastructures created by the government.

For the emergence of more and more intellectuals and intelligentsia, it is needed to create learning opportunities for student youths and to inculcate them with learning ability and a sense of learning.

The government opened more schools and created more learning opportunities in rural regions. At such a time, the teachers are to organize both students and teachers to ensure full enrolment of the school-age children and make them happy in learning.

At the same time, the teachers are to try their best to know weaknesses and strengths of each student in order to provide necessary assistance to the needy students in their pursuit of education after coordinating with social organizations.

Teachers are to nurture and train students to be outstanding and to be all-rounder according to their ability and natural bend. Only then, will they be brilliant in higher learning, thereby contributing to emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

In today’s world, the duty of a teacher is no longer merely teaching students but helping them in choosing their career so that they can enjoy a peaceful life. According to Myanmar culture and traditions the duties of a teacher are to share what he had learnt with the students and to teach them to be polite and civilized. This tradition has been deeply rooted in Myanmar society since ancient times.

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For the emergence of more and more intellectuals and intelligentsia, it is needed to create learning opportunities for student youths and to inculcate them with learning ability and a sense of learning.

The government opened more schools and created more learning opportunities in rural regions. At such a time, the teachers are to organize both students and teachers to ensure full enrolment of the school-age children and make them happy in learning.

At the same time, the teachers are to try their best to know weaknesses and strengths of each student in order to provide necessary assistance to the needy students in their pursuit of education after coordinating with social organizations.

Teachers are to nurture and train students to be outstanding and to be all-rounder according to their ability and natural bend. Only then, will they be brilliant in higher learning, thereby contributing to emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

In today’s world, the duty of a teacher is no longer merely teaching students but helping them in choosing their career so that they can enjoy a peaceful life. According to Myanmar culture and traditions the duties of a teacher are to share what he had learnt with the students and to teach them to be polite and civilized. This tradition has been deeply rooted in Myanmar society since ancient times.

The conception of Myanmar traditional education which is still modern is to teach students to be civilized, to be morally upright and to be able to contribute their services in society. So also, the all-round education system being implemented in the education sector is to teach and nurture students to be equipped with five faculties.

This being so, teachers are to train their students to be outstanding in learning, to widen their scope of knowledge and to be mentally and physically strong.

the higher education sector relies solely on the prepa-
ration of the basic education sector to introduce students of basic education sector to the higher education sector.

The government is raising the standard of cur-
rricula and syllabus of basic education sector and facilitated basic education schools with IT based multimedia classrooms and laboratories for the students to be familiar with higher learning techniques.

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ratio
Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys final match of 45th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Football Tournament (2006)

YANGON, 30 Dec — The final match of 45th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Football Tournament (2006) took place at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here, this evening. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoyed the final match.

Among the spectators were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and senior military officers, military attaches of foreign embassies, the officials of the Ministry of Sports and football fans.

In the final match, Tatmadaw (Air Force) team beat Southern Command team 2-0 and clinched the trophy.

At the prize-presentation ceremony, Mingaladon Air Base Headquarters Commander Brig-Gen Zin Yaw presented third prize to the Yangon Command Team, Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commander Commodore Win Shein second prize to the Southern Command team and Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win first prize to the Tatmadaw (Air Force) team.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented awards to the best players and fair play award to Yangon Command Team.

Tatmadaw car rally team back from India

YANGON, 30 Dec—Tatmadaw members of car rally team led by Lt-Col Sein Than of Ministry of Defence arrived back here this morning.

They participated in the goodwill car rally between Myanmar-India Tatmadaws held in New Delhi from 5 to 28 December.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers and families of Yangon and Mingaladon Stations.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe extended greetings to the members of the team at the airport. — MNA

Secretary-1 greets NC... (from page 16)

Later, the delegates left Nyaunghnapin Camp at 7 am.

Similarly, Vice-Chairman of NCCC Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Member of NCCC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Commission members yesterday afternoon bade farewell to the NC delegates before their departure. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe welcomes back the Tatmadaw car rally team. — MNA

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein awards the trophy to the Air Force team. — MNA
People with wider knowledge can distinguish...

(from page 8)
The government is implementing water supply projects. Since 1988, 192 dams have been constructed benefiting 2.6 million acres of arable lands. The 10-year project for supply of clean water has been launched since 2000. Until November 2006, 23,000 villages across the nation where water is scarce, 16,700 villages have been equipped with more than 24,000 water supply facilities. So, only about 6,500 villages are yet to enjoy clean water. That accounts for 72 per cent of work performance in proportion to the whole nation and between 95 and 99 per cent in proportion to areas in the arid zone.

Now, Myanmar’s population stands at 54.4 million, and the ratio of the population and the area of the territory is still in good condition. Regarding the food sufficiency of the nation, the nation has made a provision for food security for the growing population in future.

According to facts and data the nation has enjoyed significant progress in all aspects. So, at a time when the nation is enjoying all-round development, the strength of the nation is to be used most effectively and firmly to speed up the development momentum.

Therefore, it can be said that now is an opportune time to make increased endeavours to ensure greater progress of the nation and the people. Nonetheless, certain destructive elements are manufacturing made-up stories to make the people disillusioned such as the nation is deteriorating in all aspects, and the economic, social, education and health standards of the people are very low. Simultaneously, they are reinforcing their destructive acts and demands for outside pressure and sanction against the nation in collusion with the elements from abroad to disrupt the progress of the nation.

The teachers are to be must distinguish between constructive efforts and destructive attempts and they are to actively take part in the nation-building tasks being undertaken by the government that is also building political, economic and social foundations.

Only such kinds of citizens with high intellectual power, good ideas and vast knowledge will be able to serve the interests of the nation and people effectively.

New gas deposit discovered...

(from page 16)
The minister, the deputy minister and the officials of the company held discussions on follow-up programmes.

On the oil rig of Zawtika-1 (A) test well, the minister opened the valve to test-produce natural gas. The drilling of Zawtika-1 (A) test well was launched with the use of Doo Sung oil rig on 4 December 2006. On 23 December, the well was 11,703 feet deep. According to the tests, the gas deposit lies in the sand layer between death of 2,484 feet and 5,177 feet.

The gas deposit is estimated to hold 2.5 TCF, and Block M-9, above 8 TCF.

Like Yadana Project, Yedagun Project, and Shwe gas deposit off Rakhine coast, Zawtika-1 (A) test well of Block M-9 is an international level gas deposit.

Plans are under way to drill six more oil wells in Block M-9 in the dry season of 2007.

The nation will enjoy proportionate share from the profit, and it will also make an investment as a shareholder.

Genuine democracy is just an evolutionary process. So, the drive to ensure flourishing democracy calls for stability, peace, strong national economy, and high education, health and social standards of the people.

Perpetuation of destructive acts to hinder the political, economic and social foundations at a time when the government’s efforts are brought to fruition is the impediment to the prospects for the emergence of democracy in the nation.

Therefore, it is required to take necessary steps that strengthen the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit in the Union where various national races have been living in harmony, and that guarantee the perpetual existence of the Union.

Today, destructive elements are creating invented stories to undermine national unity and worsen racist, and spreading wrong ideas to cause the collapse of the Union. That can pose grave dangers to the nation and people till next generations.

The teachers are to be must distinguish between constructive efforts and destructive attempts and they are to actively take part in the nation-building tasks being undertaken by the government that is also building political, economic and social foundations.

Only such kinds of citizens with high intellectual power, good ideas and vast knowledge will be able to serve the interests of the nation and people effectively.

Therefore, only when the strength of high national education is built firmly, will good foundations be created to ensure emergence of the Union exercising genuine democracy.

He urged the teachers to try to enhance their knowledge and raise the education standard of the pupils and the people so that the latter will be able to differentiate between good and bad.

He said people with wider knowledge can distinguish the difference between pessimists who speak ill of the country and people with constructive views who are proud of development in the country.

Moreover, such knowledge can also distinguish correctly the destructive elements who make instigations and undermine stability, development and unity and national forces who participate in the nation-building tasks for stability and development of the country, he added.

He said the government is responsible for creating better political, economic and social foundations and bright future and it is accepted that the government is also responsible for nurturing younger generation to possess qualifications, skills and spirit that can uplift good legacy.

With this intention, the government is implementing the national education promotion programmes. He urged the teachers to make endeavours for successful implementation of the programmes after realizing the lofty aims of the State, and the objectives on the younger generation.

In conclusion, he urged them to make efforts for uplift of the national education to enable Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world, to ward off the destructive elements undermining peace and stability and progress of the country and perpetuation of the Union and to actively participate in the process for emergence of a new peaceful modern developed democratic nation.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented awards to the best trainees and certificates to trainee leaders. He also accepted K 588,780 for Lawkachantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, renovation of Koenawin Pagoda in CICS, renovation of pagodas in Bagan, the National Convention, the USDA fund and pre-primary and post-primary schools in CICS.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainee teachers. — MNA

Shar Nyo donates artistic works to Ministry of Culture

Film star Shar Nyo donates his stainless steel works through Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint. — ENERGY

YANGON, 30 Dec — Movie star Shar Nyo donated his artistic works made of stainless steel to the Ministry of Culture at the National Museum on Pyay Road here this morning.

First, Shar Nyo explained the purpose of the donations and handed over documents related to the artistic works to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, who then presented a certificate of honour and expressed thanks to him.

Next, the minister viewed the artistic works displayed at the project pre-show. The show continues tomorrow from 9 am to 4 pm and the artistic works will be conveyed around the city by car on 1 January. — MNA
provisions of the State Constitution if necessary, and resolve disputes on matters related to the State Constitution. So, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal should be the one who is at least 50 years of age with the qualifications set for a Union Chief Justice and a Union Chief Court Judge. In addition, he should be knowledgeable about political, administrative, economic and security affairs. We assume that it will be suitable if the membership of the Constitutional Tribunal is nine, including the chairman. The President, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw should choose three members each from the Hluttaw members or non-Hluttaw members with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It is assumed that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should not have the right to reject the members of the Constitutional Tribunal nominated by the President unless it can prove the members disqualified. In addition, the President should have the right to remove new members for the seats that are still vacant due to the failure to obtain the agreement of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Mr Chairman,

Now, explanation will be made on the term of the Constitutional Tribunal. A detailed basic principle has been adopted that the term of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be five years. The term of the Constitutional Tribunal should be the same as that of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. On expiry of its term, however, it should continue to carry out its functions till the President forms a new Constitutional Tribunal.

Mr Chairman,

If a member of the Constitutional Tribunal is a member of a Hluttaw, he shall resign from the Hluttaw concerned on the date he is appointed as a member of the Constitutional Tribunal. And if he is a government employee, he shall retire from civil service in accord with the civil service rules and regulations. The Constitutional Tribunal shall be free from political bias in settling disputes related to the State Constitution. So, if a member of the Constitutional Tribunal is also a member of a political party, during the tenure of membership he should have no right to participate in the activities of the political party concerned. If a member of the Constitutional Tribunal wishes to resign due to a reason before expiry of his tenure, he should have the right to submit his resignation to the President.

Mr Chairman,

A member of the Constitutional Tribunal should possess such qualifications as loyalty to the State, adherence to the provisions of the Constitution, and good character. If the fails to honour these requirements or violates any of these rules, he should be blamed or impeached under the provisions prescribed in this Constitution set to blame or impeach the Union Chief Justice or a Union Supreme Court Judge.

Mr Chairman,

The detailed basic principles on the Constitutional Tribunal have been laid down. It is said that a Constitutional Tribunal shall be set up to interpret provisions of the State Constitution, to scrutinize whether or not laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw and functions of executive authorities of the Union, Regions, States and Self-Administered Areas are in conformity with the State Constitution, to decide on disputes in connection with the State Constitution between the Union and Regions, between the Union and States, between Regions and States, among Regions, among States, and between Regions or States and Self-Administered Areas and among Self-Administered Areas themselves to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution. The tasks to be carried out by the Constitutional Tribunal are stated in these detailed basic principles.

As regards the matter, the following detailed basic principle should be adopted.

“The functions of the Constitutional Tribunal are as follows:

1. to interpret provisions of the State Constitution;
2. to scrutinize whether or not laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw and the State Hluttaw and functions of executive authorities of the Union, Regions, States and Self-Administered Areas are in conformity with the State Constitution;
3. to scrutinize functions of executive authorities of the Union, Regions, States and Self-Administered Areas in conformity with the State Constitution;
4. to decide on disputes in connection with the State Constitution between the Union and Regions, between the Union and States, between Regions and States, among Regions, among States, and between Regions or States and Self-Administered Areas and among Self-Administered Areas themselves to perform other duties prescribed in the State Constitution;
5. to decide on disputes in connection with the right and responsibilities of the Union and Regions; or States or Self-Administered Areas in implementing Union law by Regions, States or Self-Administered Areas;
6. to scrutinize and decide on matters relating to Union territories informed by the President, functions entrusted by laws prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw”.

Mr Chairman,

The courts have to hear criminal cases and civil law cases in accord with the existing laws. In the process, if there is a dispute as to whether a provision of a law is in conformity with the Constitution in a case being heard by a court, the Constitutional Tribunal is responsible for deciding on such a case. The court concerned should suspend the case it is hearing and submit its views to the Constitutional Tribunal in accord with the procedures for its decision. Regarding the dispute, the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal should apply all the cases, and the decision should be final. A detailed basic principle should be adopted in connection with the matter.

The Constitutional Tribunal is responsible for interpreting the provisions of the State Constitution. In the process, the President, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union Chief Justice and the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal should have the right to submit the cases directly to the Constitutional Tribunal. And in a case in which Region or State Chief Minister: the Speaker of the Region or State Hluttaw: the chairman of the Leading Body of the Self-Administered Areas and at least 10 percent of members of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw submit a case to interpret the Constitution, they should have the right to do so in accord with the procedures rather than submit directly. Concerning the matter there should be an adopted detailed basic principle.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to prescribe necessary laws for formation of the Constitutional Tribunal, relations with other organizations, and responsibilities, rights and privileges of the Constitutional Tribunal. In the process, the role of the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal should be designated to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, to the position of a Union minister in order to make reference in prescribing the laws. A detailed basic principle should be adopted in connection with the matter.

Mr Chairman,

The 26 detailed basic principles explained by the Working Committee Chairman concerning the chapter “General Provisions” should be adopted.

Mr Chairman,

We the delegate group of peasants agree that the four detailed basic principles concerning the chapter “Amendment of the Constitution”, the five detailed basic principles in connection with the chapter “State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, the Capital”, the eight detailed basic principles regarding the chapter “Transitory Provisions” and the 26 detailed basic principles in connection with the chapter “General Provisions” should be adopted.

Mr Chairman and National Convention delegates,

We have already made a resolve for the success of the National Convention for the emergence of a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, and to join hands firmly with all while having in mind the true patriotism till the seven-point Road Map has been successfully realized step by step.—MNA

U Sai Yi Mon of Shan State (North).—MNA

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Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 4th January (Thursday), 2007, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT
Su Su Mon (B.Phrarm)
daughter of U Chein Whet and Daw Kyin Lin of Yangon, Myanmar
and
Kyaw Naing Naing (M.S.)
son of U Win Myint and Daw Tin Thein of Yangon, Myanmar
have the pleasure of announcing their marriage which took place on Tuesday, 26th December 2006 at Sedona Hotel.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Sigma-Tau Industrie Farmaceutiche Riunite
S.p.A. of Viale Shakespeare, 47, 00144 Roma, Italy, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

EURARTESIM
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in respect of: "pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic substances adapted for medical use; food for babies; plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping, teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying, vermin, fungicides, herbicides".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Ma Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Sigma-Tau Industrie Farmaceutiche Riunite
S.p.A.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 21 December 2006

Myanmar Culture
(Second Edition)
By ‘K’ (1905-1989)
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“Post” reports Ford disagreed with Bush on Iraq
Ford, who died on Tuesday at the age of 93, said in an embargoed interview in July 2004 that the Iraq war was not justified, the newspaper said.
“I don’t think I would have gone to war,” Ford said a little more than a year after Bush launched the invasion.
Ford “very strongly” disagreed with the current president’s justifications for invading Iraq and said he would have pushed alternatives, such as sanctions, much more vigorously, the report said.

In the tape-recorded interview, Ford was critical not only of Bush but also of Vice-President Cheney, who once served as Ford’s White House chief of staff, and then Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who served as Ford’s chief of staff and then his Pentagon chief. — MNA/Xinhua

Attempted assault on Russian airliner forces emergency landing
PRAGUE, 29 Dec — An attempted assault on the crew of a Russian Aeroflot airliner forced the pilot to make an unscheduled emergency landing in Prague on Thursday, an airport spokeswoman said.

The perpetrator was “pacified” on board, airport spokeswoman Pavela Hajkova said.

The spokeswoman told media later that the man, a Russian citizen, was taken into custody by Czech police.

The Airbus A320 flying from Moscow to Geneva, made the emergency landing in Prague shortly before 11 am (1000 GMT), said Hajkova.

The passenger was drunk.

“A drunk person was on board. He provoked a brawl with passengers, threatened to damage the plane and demanded that it change the course,” ITAR-TASS news agency reported. — MNA/Xinhua
Peru launches first domestic-made space craft
LIMA, 29 Dec — Peru has launched its first space probe entirely designed and built by Peruvian scientists, an Air Force officer said on Wednesday. The Paulet I, named after Peruvian aviation pioneer Pedro Paulet, was launched on Tuesday at 3.30 pm from the Peruvian Air Force (FAP) base in Punta Lobos, 50 kilometres south of Peru’s capital Lima, said Air Force colonel Wolfgang Dupeyrat. The 2.72-metre long, 99 kilogramme craft was designed and built by 20 experts from the FAP and the National Aerospace Development and Investigation Commission (Conida), who worked on the project for two years.

Siemens, IBM to upgrade German defence communication system
BERLIN, 29 Dec — Siemens and International Business Machines Corp (IBM) has won a top contract to modernized Germany’s defence communications facilities, according to a joint Press release issued by both companies on Thursday. The 10-year project, named Herakles, is described by the German Defence Ministry as a key project in the modernization of the German Army”. The two companies will set up a joint company with the German Government, named BWI Informationstechnik GmbH based near Bonn, and will operate and modernize 140,000 personal computers, 7,000 servers, 300,000 fixed-line phones and 15,000 cell phones at more than 1,500 locations in Germany, said the Press release.

The new company will also upgrade the German Army’s data centre with the latest communication and management software, it said. Siemens and IBM, as equal partners, will hold 50.1 per cent of the shares and the government will hold the rest, it said. The agreement between the German Army, Siemens and IBM is the largest public-private partnership in Europe so far.

About 2,950 information-technology employees of the German Army will be working on the project, according to Siemens.

Construction of new seabed tunnel starts in E China
QINGDAO, 29 Dec — Construction began on Wednesday on a tunnel that will run under the seabed of Jiaozhou Bay between downtown Qingdao, a leading port city in east China’s Shandong Province, and Huangdao, on the other side of the bay.

It is the second such marine tunnel in the country. The first seabed tunnel in China was built near Xiamen, a port in east China’s Fujian Province. With a budget of 3.18 billion yuan (about 398 million US dollars), the seabed tunnel will also link in Tuandao Island and Xuejia Island, said local sources.

Nepal-China team to measure up Mt Everest again
KATHMANDU, 29 Dec — Is Mt Everest — the world’s stallest peak — still growing?
A group of Nepali and Chinese experts have teamed up to find out the exact height of the tallest summit, which currently stands at 8,848 metres. Some experts have claimed that it has gained two feet and currently stands at 8,850 metres.
The decision was taken by the Joint Inspection Committee (JIC) of Nepal-China borders Wednesday. The recently-concluded fourth session of the JIC of the Nepal-China borders have, besides other things, agreed to further work on addressing the incompatibility of the new data of boundary markers with data of the old map attached in the 1979 protocol, according to officials.
The incompatibility of data is due to the use of new technology in survey and mapping, said Bhamindra Aryal, undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. New technology of geographical information system should be used to find out accurate height, experts said.

Regarding the marked elevation, the two sides would carry out a study on whether there were new changes in the height of the highest peak in the world, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yadav Khanal.

During the three-day meeting that started 25 December, the two sides discussed improving geographical information system of Nepal-China boundary.

A sculpture commemorating the US space programme stands outside the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on 27 Dec, 2006. The oldest living president at 93, Ford died on 26 December of undisclosed causes at his home in California. President Ford requested a sculpture on the museum grounds because of his continued interest and support of the space programme as a Member of Congress and as the President.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Yorke praise for ‘mellow’ Keane

Roy Keane

LONDON, 29 Dec—Roy Keane is reaping the benefits of adopting a more mellow outlook according to Sunderland striker Dwight Yorke.

The Trinidad and Tobago star played alongside Keane when he cultivated a fearsome reputation during his reign as Manchester United captain.

Now the pair have linked up again at the Stadium of Light and Yorke has noticed a significant shift in his new manager’s mentality.

Whilst Keane has lost little of his intimidating facade, Yorke believes his former team-mate has found inner peace after more than a decade of conflict and controversy.

“He is calm, he has grown up,” Yorke told the Daily Express.

“We have all grown up and he is very much at peace with himself at the moment, which is a good thing.

“People might perceive the gaffer in a different light because he has that physical presence which means he looks as though he wants to fight people on the pitch and shout at them and rant and rave, but in the past five years he has changed.

“No-one knows for what reason. He has found himself and is very comfortable with himself.

“Frankly, in the time I have been here he has been phenomenal. He is far more mellow than he used to be during our days as team-mates.”

Moreover, Yorke has tipped Keane to emulate his former mentor Sir Alex Ferguson and become a top manager in the future.

“I would like him to be a success but time will tell,” Yorke added.

“Other people might think differently but so far from what I have seen he is capable of achieving great things and I’m sure that will be the case.”

Internet

Real consider buying Ribery

MADRID, 30 Dec—Spanish First Division club Real Madrid are considering signing France international Franck Ribery if David Beckham leaves at the end of the season, Marca newspaper reported on Friday.

If unsettled Beckham leaves, Real are thinking about signing the 23-year-old Marseille midfielder, the paper said.

Ribery shot to the top clubs’ eyes in France’s run to last summer’s World Cup final.—MNA/Xinhua

Cledence face surgery

LONDON, 29 Dec—Chelsea’s Joe Cole could face surgery in a bid to save his season after the injury he picked up last month failed to respond to treatment.

The England midfielder suffered a stress fracture of the foot against Manchester United last month and is still wearing a surgical boot to protect his foot. It was first thought that the Cole would be back in the New Year, but if the player goes under the knife then he could be out for up to two months, possibly longer.

Manager Jose Mourinho is now left with a difficult decision that could make or break Cole’s season.

The Chelsea boss told The Sun: “With this injury, sometimes the medical philosophy is for surgery, while some other medical philosophy is to wait for the bone to heal.

“But, at the moment, I don’t know how long Joe Cole will be out.”

Mourinho also declared his love for old team Porto in a statement proclaiming that Chelsea would not come close to the Portuguese side that won both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup.

“My team is undeniably the Porto side that won the UEFA Cup. It was a group of players that went from nothing to the moon,” he added.

“The Chelsea of today could be seen as superior because we have the better individual players but, in terms of playing as a team, Porto was second to none.

“That was the team I took more pleasure in building.”—Internet

Ronaldinho tops Uruguay’s king of Europe soccer poll

MONTEVIDEO, 30 Dec—Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho de Assis, better known as Ronaldinho, was named king of European soccer in the year-end survey conducted by Uruguay’s newspaper El Pais, published Friday.

Winning with 54 votes, the Barcelona forward became the first South American player to win the award three years in a row. The paper surveyed journalists from 26 European countries, El Pais said.

Ronaldinho beat his nearest rival, Italy’s Fabio Cannavaro, by 11 votes. France’s Thierry Henry came third. Brazil’s Kaká was fourth in the survey and Ivory Coast’s Didier Drogba came fifth.

MNA/Xinhua
US Embassy in Malaysia receives suspicious package

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Dec—The Embassy of the United States in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday called police to investigate a suspicious package, but it turned out to be just a hoax.

The US Embassy received a suspicious package by mail around 11:50 am local time Thursday, and the security staff called police to seek help, according to local TV reports.

Kuala Lumpur police and fire and rescue department personnel rushed to the site and closed two roads near it, Jalan Ampang and Jalan Tun Razak, resulting in traffic congestion for some time.

However, when explosion experts explored the package with a robot Thursday afternoon, it turned out to contain nothing harmful, only some clothes and a sheet. Mail address on the package showed it was sent from Penang in north-western Malaysia, and the sender’s motive is still under investigation, said the TV reports. –MNA/Xinhua

EARTHQUAKE REPORT

(Issued of 5:00 hours MST Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (255) miles North-East of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (03) hrs (15) min (05) sec MST on 30-12-2006.
Secretary-1 greets NC delegates before departure for home

YANGON, 30 Dec.—Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein greeted the delegates of states and divisions this morning before departure for home during the adjournment of the National Convention.

(See page 9)

New gas deposit discovered in Mottama

YANGON, 30 Dec.—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay together with President Mr Maroot Mrigadat of PTTEP Co of Thailand inspected Zawtika-1 (A) test well at Block M-9 off Mottama coast this morning.

Operation Manager Mr Pasook reported on the drilling of Zawtika-1 (A) test well, and General Manager Mr Prapat of PTTEP Co from Doo Sung, on prospects of Block M-9 and follow-up plans.

The minister called for completion of drilling wells at geographically favourable sites on schedule and soonest launch of commercial production of gas.

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