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Friday, 28 April, 2006

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

**Although shouting for Shan State liberation, Ywet Sit and cohorts are like mafia drug criminals trafficking narcotic drugs, smuggling arms
Ywet Sit's group sitting on fence at border torching villages, massacring national people, raping national race women, blowing up bombs at crowded places to kill people**

**Demand of 87 NLD representatives-elect to summon Hluttaw against international norms
National Convention with over 1000 delegates of national races, representatives-elect, people from all walks of life wider in scope than NLD's dialogue
No dialogue possible with NLD not winning public support nor representing people**

YANGON, 27 April— *The following is a translation of clarifications made by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the Press Conference No 4/2006 held at the Ministry of Information here today.*

At this press conference today, the Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force has clarified in detail how narcotic drug eradication activities have been carried out in Myanmar successfully as a national duty in cooperation with internal and external sources.

I would also wish to make clarifications on how internal and external terrorist groups are unscrupulously and cruelly committing drug trafficking, sabotage acts, ethnic cleansing, rapes, collecting extortion money, setting villages on fire and recruiting child soldiers while preaching political issues.

In this context, I would like to recount the historical background briefly. Myanmar regained independence from the colonial rule in 1948. Myanmar started to stand as a sovereign state practising parliamentary democracy and capitalist eco-

nomics system. At that time the national unity was very weak due to discord sown by the colonialists. The splits among the political parties led to disunity among the people. Sectarianism led to armed insurrections and peace and tranquillity did not prevail in the nation. The lives of the people were not safe.

As a result, the political, economic and social conditions of the nation deteriorated. The socio-economic lives of the people were in poor condition. Moreover, due to the weaknesses of the 1947 Constitution which was hastily drafted in line with the

consent of colonialists, the Union was on the verge of disintegration. To save the nation from the general deterioration, the Tatmadaw had to take over State responsibilities in 1962.

According to the actual conditions of the nation at that time, the unsuccessful parliamentary democracy and capitalist economy were substituted with Myanmar socialist programme and socialist economic system. In the year 1974, a new Constitution was adopted.

(See page 8)

NLD and its cohort parties as well as so-called veteran and new generation politicians shouting at the top of their voice that they aspire for democracy have been making confrontation to sabotage Myanmar's transition to democracy. They made various kinds of demands and attacks. They made instigation and fabrications to mislead the people and create anarchy.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 April, 2006

Actively participate in environmental conservation work

The world today is experiencing environmental deterioration. In some parts of the world, soil conditions have become worse, deforestation and desertification have occurred and there have been fall of acid rain and air and water pollution. Therefore, every nation in the world has paid serious attention to protection of environment. Efforts are being made at the national and international levels to prevent the dangers resulting from environmental deterioration.

Population growth and urbanization have great impact on the environment. In developing countries, due to the rapid growth of urban population, trees have been cut down and area of grassland and green belt shrunken.

As in other developing nations, there has been a steady population growth also in Myanmar. This being the case, housing complexes are being built in towns and cities all over the nation. Sanitation and greening projects are being carried out on a wider scale. The plan to develop the agricultural industry and green the area around 30-mile radius of Yangon is also being implemented.

To support that plan, eight river water pumping stations, 11 dams and six sluice gates have been built in Yangon Division. These irrigation facilities contribute not only to the cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and double and mixed crops but also to the greening of the environment.

Being a port city, Yangon is the commercial hub of the nation. Steps are being taken to modernize Yangon and turn it into the garden city of Southeast Asia by improving its environs and landscape. At the same time, the Yangon City Development Committee, with the cooperation of people, is constantly carrying out sanitation work and road works.

At a time when environmental conservation work is being carried out all over the nation, we would like to call on responsible personnel, farmers and people to take part in this work and always to keep their towns and cities lush, green and clean.

People's Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Russian Supreme Court President leaves

YANGON, 27 April — At the invitation of Chief Justice U Aung Toe, visiting President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party left by air this morning.

The Russian President and party was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Russian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Oleg V Kabanov, Judges of Supreme Court U Khin Myint and Dr Tin Aung Aye, Director-General of Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt, directors and officials concerned. — MNA

President of Supreme Court of Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav M Lebedev and party seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for home. — MNA

**Myanmar Sea Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association to be set up**

YANGON, 27 April — A ceremony to set up Myanmar Sea Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association, organized by Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock

and Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, was held at Thiri Annawra Hall of MFF, Insein

Township on 29 April. A ceremony of presentation of cash donation was held. The related persons have been invited to attend the ceremony without fail. — MNA

5th IT Week on 29 April

YANGON, 27 April— The Fifth Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Week 2006 will be held at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on 29 April instead of 28 and everyone may visit there free of charge.

MNA

US Embassy in Albania capital receives false bomb threat

TIRANA, 26 April — The US Embassy in Tirana received a bomb threat on Tuesday which turned out to be a false alarm, police said. According to the police sources, the local TV Channel Klan received an anonymous call at

about 13:00 o'clock local time, saying that a bomb had been planted inside the US Embassy.

Special police squads rushed to the scene. They closed and evacuated the embassy, conducted a thorough search inside

out, but found no explosive device, police said. — MNA/Xinhua

Republicans urge Bush to probe high gasoline costs

WASHINGTON, 26 April — Republican congressional leaders on Monday urged the Bush Administration to investigate whether oil companies are overcharging consumers at the gasoline pump and if speculators are pushing up fuel prices.

The retail price for gasoline soared 13.1 cents in the last week to a national average of 2.91 US dollars a gallon, the fourth highest price ever recorded by the government, and pump costs are forecast to keep rising. Republicans fear they could lose the Senate and House of Representatives in this November's congressional elections if voters retaliate against them for the high fuel prices.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and House Speaker Dennis Hastert wrote President George

W Bush and asked him to direct the US Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission to crack down on any potential profiteering.

"Anyone who is trying to take advantage of this situation while American families are forced into making tough choices over whether to fill up their cars or severely cut back their budgets should be investigated and prosecuted," the lawmakers said in their joint letter to Bush.

The lawmakers also want the Justice Department and the FTC to look into oil refining operations, transporting fuel by pipelines, Marine vessels and trucks, storing and marketing fuel, and spot shortages of gasoline to determine if there is any manipulation of gasoline prices. — MNA/Reuters



The first Chinese Chery automobile assembled by Avtotor of Russia is unveiled in Kaliningrad, Russia, on 24 April, 2006. — INTERNET

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

လံစဉ် လမ်းပေါ်ပေါ် (တရားရုံးများနှင့်ဆက်ဆံရန်) ဝယ် (တရားရုံးများ) ဝယ်ရန် နှင့်သတ်မှတ်ထားသော မြေပုံ မဲနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စများအပေါ် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

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Information Committee of...

(from page 16)

It was attended by Chairman of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo,

(FANC) members the United States, France, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Belgium, representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the People's Republic of China that had signed the MoU with the Union of Myanmar for narcotic drug eradication, senior military officers, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, members of CCDAC, departmental heads, leaders and members of Shan State (East) Special Region-2 and Special Region-4, members of the Union Solidarity and



Ministers and guests destroy the seized narcotic drugs in Shan State (East). — MNA



Ambassadors and diplomats present at No 4/2006 Press Conference. — MNA



The representatives of UN agencies being seen at No 4/2006 Press Conference. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippines Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez and Ambassadors of the foreign missions, Charges d'Affaires and diplomats of the embassies, officials of UN agencies, Foreign Anti-Narcotics and representatives from Crime Community

Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and social organizations, representatives of local national races, media persons, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, editorial staff of local periodicals, reporters of newspapers and TV stations of Thailand, guests and those from SSA-S Ywet Sit Group

who had returned to the legal fold.

Member of the Information Committee Secretary of CCDAC Secretary Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi clarified achievements of the Union of Myanmar in narcotic drug eradication.

(The full text of clarification of MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi is reported separately.)

Next, Chairman of the Information



Foreign guests destroy the seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified matters relating to terrorist acts including drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing and rapes under guises of political ground committed by internal and external destructionists.

(The full text of clarification of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan is reported separately.)

Afterwards, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of CCDAC Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Aik In who had returned to the legal fold after being forcibly recruited by SSA-S Ywet Sit Group, Pa-O national U Kyaw from Htitaikhu Village of Mawmon Village-tract that was set on fire by SSA-S Ywet Sit Group, Chairman U Kyaw of Naungtay Village-tract,

Lahu national Ko Shay La who returned to legal fold from SSA-S Ywet Sit Group, and Lahu national Ko Mar Ku who was forcibly recruited by SSA-S Ywet Sit Group answered the queries raised by local and foreign journalists and correspondents.

After the press conference, diplomats from foreign countries, guests and journalists viewed documentary photos on collusion and formation of NCUB, DAB, NDF, NLD-LA and ABSDF, acts of NCUB, FTUB, NDD and NLD-LA in an attempt to incite unrest in the State, destruction of villages by fire set by SSA-S led by Ywet Sit, recruiting of child soldiers by SSA-S, atrocities of expatriate groups NCUB, FTUB, ABSDF, NLD-LA and NDD and May-7 triple bomb blasts in Yangon. They also viewed documentary photos on endeavours for elimination of narcotic drug, 15-year plan for drug elimination, joint efforts of Myanmar and US to measure poppy plantation and destruction

of narcotic drug and lists of seized narcotic drug in Myanmar. At the press conference, 196 different sorts of arms and ammunition seized in drug cases from 26 December 2005 to 19 April 2006 were shown.

Before the burning of seized narcotic drugs, Brig-Gen Khin Yi delivered an address and diplomats tested authenticity of drugs.

Afterwards, Minister Col Thein Nyunt, Head of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Lao PDR Minister at the President Office Lao PDR Mr Soubanh Srithirath and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Madame Phoebe A Gomez pressed the button to incinerate the drugs.

The seized narcotic drugs included over 73 kilos of opium, over 53 kilos of heroin, 1 litre of opium oil, over 3 kilos of low grade opium, 1000 kilos of morphine, over 1523 kilos of stimulant tablets, 0.355 kilo of marijuana, 0.0151 kilo of ice and precursors worth over US \$ 1411 million were incinerated at the ceremony. — MNA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 16)
people had to bear and live with since colonial days. If we look back into history, since the 15th century, the Indochina peninsular and India were colonized by the British, Dutch, French and Portuguese with their superior military might. India and Myanmar became British colonies in 1852 and 1885 respectively, Myanmar being governed by the

legally allowed to be cultivated and tax was levied in the Kachin State and eastern side of the Thanlwin River, Opium addicts were registered and licensed opium dens operated openly throughout the country.

The increasing complexity of the situation in the Golden Triangle was aggravated by the incursion of US CIA supported Kuo Ming Tan (KMT) troops into

to be infamously known as the Golden Triangle. Thus, if we look back into history on how the opium and drug trade took root in this region, it is quite obvious that this was result of colonialism, adopted and implemented by the western countries in Myanmar as an excuse in those times.

Let me continue with the efforts of the successive governments of the Union of Myanmar in the fight against drugs.

As you are aware,

In addition, between 1976 and 1988, the Myanmar Armed Forces staged Moe Hein Operations, Nga Ye Pan Operations, Taung Yan Shin Operations, Taung Hteik Pan Operations, and Aung Moe Hein Operations. These campaigns targeted clandestine heroin refineries run by insurgents and also eradicated poppy fields. I wish to draw your attention that altogether 93 officers and enlisted men sacrificed their lives while 531 got wounded during the campaigns. In addition, after 1988 the Armed Forces launched 2 major operations "Mong Kyut" and "Bar Gyan" Operations against drug traffickers in the eastern Shan State. During the period of September 1988 and 1998, 259 military personnel sacrificed their lives while 937 got wounded. This is a clear testimony of the commitment of the government in the fight against drugs.



Cough syrup with codeine. — MNA

Governor of India. Meanwhile, with the intention of sustaining long-term enslavement of China, opium was imported affecting addiction among the large Chinese communities. Consequently, this led to the Opium Wars, when China fought back the British. Under British rule after the Three Opium Wars, opium poppy was legally cultivated in the highlands of Yunnan Province bordering Kachin and Shan States of Myanmar. Thus, over the years, the custom of poppy cultivation spilled over into the Kachin and Shan States. Evidence shows that after the British colonized Myanmar in 1885, opium poppy was

the Kyaing Tong area in 1949-50, driven out of China by the Communist Party led by Mao Tse Tung. The KMT entrenched in this region and quickly got into the lucrative drug business. The government launched Naga-naing Operations against the intruding KMT and drove them out. However, remnants of KMT are still active in this very Kyaing Tong region where you are visiting and the Custom of poppy cultivation spread to northern Shan and Kachin State. Poppy was cultivated extensively in the remote mountainous border areas and widely trafficked in the border areas of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, later came

Myanmar is a country where Theravada Buddhism is predominant and thus the abstinence of



Documentary photos on drug elimination activities of CCDAC in cooperation with international organizations. — MNA



Ephedrine and bone charcoal bags seen before destruction. — MNA

drugs and alcohol is prevalent due to the influence of religion, culture, social traditions and customs. During the reign of King Badon (1782-1829), he decreed a ban on drugs and alcohol. Similarly, King Thibaw decreed a ban on drugs and alcohol. (See page 5)



196 assorted arms and weapons seized in drug trafficking cases in Tachilek region. — MNA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 4)
alcohol in addition to eating beef and entrusted strict governance to town mayors.

After independence, the Anti-Fascist People's Liberation Party government launched major offensives against the intruding KMT as already stated above. The government also formed an "Opium Inquiry Commission" in 1951 and acted against opium addiction, crop substitu-

resolution in the Parliament that called for the entire people of Myanmar to actively participate in the fight against drugs as a national concern. The Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs by law formed the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control on 3 February 1976 with nine sub-committees. The State and Division Drug Abuse Control Committees were also formed.

In addition, between

against drugs. These insurgent groups, who initially gave political and ethnic issues as the causes behind their insurgency, gradually become involved in the drug business themselves to support their movements.

The government profoundly believes that national reconciliation plays an essential role in bringing peace and stability to the country which in turn enable all round development



Local nationals attend the press conference No 4/2006. — MNA

The Special Region (4) of the Eastern Shan State launched a 6-year project in 1991 and became free of opium poppy in 1997 April 22. A museum was built to commemorate the success of establishing an opium free region. Kokang Special region (1) followed suit by successfully banning and announcing opium poppy free in 2003. A Drug Museum was built in 2000 December 27. You will be aware that the Wa Special Region (2) had also totally banned poppy cultivation since the poppy season of 2005.



Diplomats seen at the press conference. — MNA



Diplomats and guests test authenticity of narcotic drugs before destruction. — MNA

tion, rehabilitation of drug addicts and supervised strict compliance of the Opium Act in the Shan State. It also enacted compulsory registration Act of opium addicts in 1955.

The Caretaker Military Government in 1959 strongly supported crop substitution programmes in the eastern regions of Thanlwin River.

In 1962, the Revolutionary Council Government's first undertaking in the international forum was to sign the 1961 UN Convention and ratified it in 1963. The government followed the provisions of the UN conventions.

In 1974, the Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Law was promulgated. The Law comprised prohibitions on cultivation, production, processing, possession, transportation, transfer and sales of narcotic drugs with strict penalties. The Burma Socialist Programmes Party in 1975 passed a

1976 and 1988, the Myanmar Armed Forces staged Moe Hein Operations, Nga Ye Pan Operations, Taung Yan Shin Operations, Taung Hteik Pan Operations, and Aung Moe Hein Operations.

These campaigns targeted clandestine heroin refineries run by insurgents and also eradicated poppy fields. I wish to draw your attention that altogether 93 officers and enlisted men sacrificed their lives while 531 got wounded during the campaigns. In addition, after 1988 the Armed Forces launched two major operations "Mong Kyur" and "Bar Gyan" Operations against drug traffickers in the eastern Shan State. During the period of September 1988 and 1998, 259 military personnel sacrificed their lives while 937 got wounded. This is a clear testimony of the commitment of the government in the fight

programmes in the border regions lagging behind the mainstream of the country. In this context, in 1989 the Central Committee and Work Committees were formed for the development of the border areas and upgrading the living standards of the national

minorities to gradually eliminate reliance on poppy cultivation as a livelihood. Due to the sincere intentions and programmes of the government, 17 insurgent groups came back into the legal fold and engaged themselves in the development of their own

special regions.

With a view to effectively implementing the border area development programmes, the government laid down the following two strategies;

- To accelerate preventive works on drug menace in all

aspects as a national concern.

- To gradually liquidate the habit of poppy cultivation in border areas while raising the social and economic lives of indigenous minorities living there.

(See page 6)



A pile of narcotic drugs seen before being incinerated. — MNA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 5)

Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction and Law Enforcement measures were taken as tactics while applying the three methods of convincing the poppy farmers, drug producers and users of their wrongful way of thinking, facilitating the establishment of communication links between brethrens national races residing in hilly regions and low lands, and raising the social and economic status of national races residing in the border areas.

In order to gain momentum of the implementation programmes, the Central Committee and Work Committees were formed in 1989 and short term, medium term and long-term projects were laid down. Also, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races

Drug Museum was built in 2000 December 27. You will be aware that the Wa Special Region (2) had also totally banned poppy cultivation since the poppy season of 2005.

With the intention of establishing a drug free-country by 2014, the government launched a 15-year Drug Elimination Plan in 1999 with three 5-year phases. This is in tandem with the ASEAN vision of Drug Free ASEAN-2015, but our objective is 2014 which is one year ahead.

The first 5-year phase was from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 covering 22 townships in the Shan State. The second 5-year phase started in 2004-5 to 2008-9 comprising 20 townships from Shan and Kachin States while the third phase will com-

mence from 2009-10 to 2013-14 covering 9 townships from Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Chin States. We have now reached the second year of the second 5-year phase. The total budget is estimated to be

33,588 million kyat and 150 million US dollars. Let me take this opportunity to state that for this undertaking, we do not have any international assistance whatsoever but the government is committed to use its own resources to fulfil this commitment.

During the first 5-year phase, a total budget of 676 million kyat were spent in agriculture, livestock breeding, health, education, communication, transportation, energy, commerce, international cooperation and religious sectors to realize the objectives.

To support and complement the 15-year plan, a pilot project called "New Destiny" was also embarked in 2002 April to assist the poppy farmers by providing them

alternative crop seedlings. Four Deputy Ministers from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Border Areas Development, Agriculture and Irrigation and Livestock and Fisheries respectively who are also CCDAC members were tasked for the supervision and success of this pilot project in 5 regions. The Ministers made frequent field visits to provide free seedlings for viable crop substitution, livestock for breeding and rice and salt for farmers who have stopped poppy cultivation. They also give guidance and advice to the local authorities. Within 2002 and May 2003, farmers voluntarily surrendered poppy seeds to the authorities which were burnt 13 times in front of the public (See page 7)



Owner Kyaw Soe and crew members of Soe San Zone Boat that carried heroin blocks. — MNA



Documentary photos displayed at press conference No 4/2006. —MNA

and Development Affairs was established in 1992. In 1993 August 13, the Border Area and National Races Development Law was enacted. Realizing the sincere intention of the Government, the ethnic groups fully cooperated with the government and embarked on their own programmes to develop their respective regions.

The Special Region (4) of the Eastern Shan State launched a 6-year project in 1991 and became free of opium poppy in 1997 April 22. A museum was built to commemorate the success of establishing an opium free region Kokant Special region (1) followed suit by successfully banning and announcing opium poppy free in 2003. A





Those attending the press conference No 4/2006.—MAA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 6)

in various border regions. Altogether, 163,720.61 kg of poppy seeds were destroyed. If cultivated on 40,573.68 hectares it had a potential production of 441133.308 tons of opium. In other words, we have been able to prevent over 400 tons of opium.

Since 1988 up to 2006 March, the Law Enforcement Agencies in Myanmar have seized the following drugs;

Opium	9345 cases	37965 kg
Heroin	26555 cases	7407 kg
ATS tabs	4312 cases	155 million
Ephedrine tabs	185 cases	223.6 (Kg)
Marijuana	8429 cases	847.3 (kg)
Phensedyl	2510 cases	35515 litiesAcetic
Anhydride	58 cases	86562 litres
Chemicals	131 cases	61196.1(litres)
Opium (liquid)	832 cases	822 litres
Morphine	31 cases	1931 kg
Mitrigyna speciosa	248 cases	901 kg
Cough Syrup with codeine	211 cases	2019 litres
Morphine (ampoules)	46 cases	6912 amps
Pethadine	4 cases	609 amps
Opium (low grade)	1511 cases	7672 kg
Caffeine	4 cases	4793 kg
ICE	12 cases	1315 kg
Failure to register	20030 cases	
Others	3155 cases	
Total cases	77640 cases	

Altogether 87,424 males and 17,993 females totaling 105,417 prosecuted while the estimated street price of the drugs seized would million US dollars.

Likewise, seized narcotic drugs have been torched 19 times in Yangon and 38 times in the towns and

Myanmar fully realized that one country alone cannot fight and win the drug menace and thus have been taking cooperative measures at international, regional and sub-regional levels. Myanmar is actively engaged in sub-regional cooperation in drug abuse control with China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam with technical and financial assistance from UNODC signing Memorandum of Understanding in 1993 which later expanded to 6 countries in 1995 including Cambodia and Vietnam. On precursor control efforts, Myanmar is active in the Penta-lateral grouping of China, Laos, Thailand and India.

districts of the following figures:-

Opium	29680.63 kg
Heroin	5643.83 kg
Heroin No 3	480.73 kg
Opium (Oil)	225.48 kg
Opium (liquid)	549.58 kg
Opium (low grade)	338.31 kg
Marijuana	6369.63 kg
Phensedyl	31085.95 litres
Methamphetamine	137483963 tablets
Ephedrine	16066.17 kg
Methamphetamine (powder form)	178.04 kg
Cough syrup with codeine	1821 litres
Mitrigyna Speciosa	204.66 kg
Diazepam	658121 tabs
Diazepam ampoules	135 ampoules
Buphrenorphine	474 ampoules
Morphine	135 ampoules
Ecstasy	280 tabs
Caffeine	3089.24 kg
ICE	802.736 kg
Methaqualone	7311 tabs
Phenylacetic acid	2143.47 kg
Phenobarbital	8028 tabs
Phenobarbital injections	23 vials
Ephedrine (injection)	33 vials
Ephedrine	4105441 tabs
Diphenol Oxylate	72232 tabs
Cough syrup with codeine	1489 vials
Cough tablets	39177 tabs
Pentazolin	25 tabs
Morphine Sulphate	10 tabs
Litotum	150,000 tabs
Codeine	8 tabs
Pethadine	0.0072 litre
Methadone	10.96 litre
Lorazepam	0.001 kg
Acetic An hydride	1234.02 litres
Precursor Chemical	11048.01 litres
Poppy Seeds	554.81 kg

The total street price for all the drugs destroyed would amount to 15495 million US dollars.

The 2005 Annual World Drug Report based on the surveys undertaken by the Joint Myanmar-UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme indicated a declining trend both in cultivation and production due to these measures. For instance; in 2002 cultivation dropped from an estimate of 105,000 hectares in 2001 to 77,700 hectares, while potential production fell from 1097 tons to 828 tons, a decline of 28%. The survey results of 2003 indicated 62,200 hectares of cultivation with an estimate production of 810 tons of opium resulting in another 24% decline. 2004 surveys showed further decline both in cultivation and potential production of 44,200 hectares and 370 tons, 29 % and 54% reduction respectively. 2005 also saw a decline to 32770 hectares and 319 tons, a reduction of

59% in cultivation. Within a 5-year period, production dropped 61%.

The US-Myanmar Joint Opium Yield Surveys conducted with Counter Narcotics and Crime (CNC), which have been conducted annually in the past decade, reported overall opium production in Myanmar in 2004 declined substantially for the eight straight year. Cultivation was estimated at 3088 hectares with a potential production totaling no more than 292 metric tons in 2004, a decline of 88% from the estimated 2650 metric tons produced in Myanmar in 1996. This is a clear testimony of the success of the 15-year plan.

On the law enforcement sector, although there has been a marked decline in opium and heroin seizures within the country in recent years, we are also witnessing the escalating problems of synthetic drugs like amphetamine type stimulants. Myanmar did not have this problem before the 1990s but faced this menace since 1996 although the problem has been in the region for over a decade. Ephedrine, the precursor chemical for methamphetamine production had been trafficked in the region since the early 90s, and seizures of methamphetamines increased along the border areas.

This methamphetamine is produced from chemicals and is entirely different from the opium-based drugs. Myanmar does not have a chemical industry and does not manufacture precursor chemicals to produce these synthetic drugs. Due to the fact that all these precursor chemicals are illicitly trafficked from foreign countries, I am pleased to report that Myanmar is addressing this problem with the full cooperation of neighboring countries as well as international organizations.

Myanmar fully realized that one country alone cannot fight and win the drug menace and thus have been taking cooperative measures at international, regional and sub-regional levels. Myanmar is actively engaged in sub-regional cooperation in drug abuse control with China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam with technical and financial assistance from UNODC signing Memorandum of Understanding in 1993 which later expanded to 6 countries in 1995 including Cambodia and Vietnam. On precursor control efforts, Myanmar is active in the Penta-lateral grouping of China, Laos, Thailand and India.

Furthermore, Myanmar signed bilateral agreements for cooperation with India in 1993, with Bangladesh in 1994, with Vietnam in 1995, with the Russian Federation, Laos and the Philippines in 1997, with the People's Republic of China and Thailand in 2001 to control drug trafficking and abuse. Cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries China, Laos, Thailand and India have resulted in successful law enforcement cases in investigating drug traffickers hiding along the common borders.

Due to time constraints, allow me to brief you on some cases during the past 2 years from among many successful cases smashing drug syndicates with international connections. The first one is Operations Soe San Zone. The case occurred at Hnit Kayin village of Ye Township, Mon State on 7 July 2004.

847 blocks of heroin weighing 592.5 kg worth 47400 million kyat (74 million US dollars) destined for the South China Sea by a fishing trawler "Soe San Zone" was seized by the local police while on its way to the Bay of Bengal. Investigations revealed that 3 men who were caretakers of the 847 blocks of heroin were murdered at sea by the 17-member crew, their bodies thrown overboard. The crew then sank the Soe San Zone and hid the drugs in a nearby fishing village called Hnit Kayin. Local Police somehow got information on this and seized the 592.5 kg of heroin. However, because of the nature of this big case, it took 2 years of investigations to finally smash the whole syndicate.

Teranai Vrantrakul (a) Ah Yang, a Thai citizen who managed the shipment of the drugs, Captain Ne Lin, a Myanmar, who was going to transship the drugs from Soe San Zone in the international waters to the China Sea and Sai Lone (a) Ah Ti, another Myanmar, who trafficked the drugs from Taunggyi area to Yangon,

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Although shouting for...

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However, the new conditions were not in harmony with the global political and economic trends and there were weaknesses in discharging of duties of responsible personnel at different levels. Thus the socialist system failed to satisfy the needs of the entire people and the nation had to encounter crisis and difficulties in various spheres. At the same time, internal insurgencies reached the climax. The people aspired to the stability and development of the nation and thus they demanded reforms.

Taking advantage of these situations, internal and external destructive elements created the 1988 disturbances in order to grab power through short-cut means. The nation was on the verge of collapse and no person nor organization was able to arrest the worsening situation. The Tatmadaw therefore had to take over State responsibilities again. After taking State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw gave priority to the prevalence of peace and tranquillity as well as the rule of law and order. At the same time, it had to crush the danger of internal insurgents who attempted to take advantage of the situation. In addition,



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greets diplomats who attended the Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA

NCGUB, FTUB, NLD (LA), ABSDF and NDD terrorists provided some UG hardcores within the country with funds and illegal satellite phones



Those forcibly recruited by SSA-S Ywet Sit Group who returned to the legal fold and leaders and locals from the torched villages. — MNA

tion, the Tatmadaw had to endure and overcome the danger of external elements who tried to interfere in the internal affairs of our country.

Consequently, the single party system was abolished and steps were taken to practise the multiparty democracy system. The socialist economic system was substituted with market oriented economy.

The Government realizes that only when there are stability, peace and tranquillity and the rule of law and order, democracy can be practised with full essence and economic, education, health, transportation and social lives of the people can be developed. With this concept, emphasis was placed on national reconsolidation. As a result, 17 out of 18 major armed groups which had launched armed insurrection for over 40 years were convinced; they returned to the legal fold. Peace and tranquillity as well as the rule of law and order prevail throughout the country including border areas. Accordingly, border areas and national races development programmes have been carried out consistently.

At the same time, in order to build up necessary infrastructures for bringing about development

and modernization of the Union, the special development projects, the 24 special region development projects and rural development tasks as well as human resources development works are being implemented with own strength.

Meanwhile, in order to bring about multiparty democracy which is aspired by the people, the National Convention was convened in 1993 to get principles for drafting a new constitution which can guarantee the practise of multiparty democracy and market economy. Before convening the National Convention, a consensus was obtained after coordinating with political parties and independent representatives-elect. In fact, it was the cooperative step taken for smooth political transition to democracy.

The National Convention continued till 1995 and altogether 104 fundamental principles and some detailed basic principles for drafting a new enduring Constitution have been adopted. However, due to the manipulation of a big neo-colonialist nation wishing to give a limelight to an individual and putting our nation under its influence, NLD delegates deviated from the original trend and walked out of the (See page 9)



Although shouting for...

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National Convention. Although the National Convention was adjourned, continued efforts were made by the Government for ensuring peace and stability of the nation, economic development of the people and development of human resources which are essential for marching towards democracy. When good foundations for modernizing and developing the Union have been laid, the seven-step Road Map was declared. The National Convention was reconvened in May 2004.

At that time, invitations were sent to all political parties numbering 10 including NLD. NLD replied that it would attend the National Convention and made some demands. The Government complied with certain demands. However, NLD, finally did not attend the National Convention. Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and Kokang Democratic Party which were under NLD's influence also failed to attend the National Convention. The remaining delegates from other political parties, representatives-elect and various delegate groups attended the National Convention. Giving priority to the interest of the nation and the entire people instead of the interest of a single party or a race, discussions and coordinations were made at the National Convention. Therefore, three sessions of National Con-



Documentary photos related to arrest of Ne Lin in Soe San Zone Operations. — MNA

tions. They raise minions and exaggerate the fabricated reports. In order to put puppet government in power, they confer various titles and medals on party politicians. Those foreign masters also make use of some international organizations to put pres-

remove the Tatmadaw Government from power which is practically bringing about democracy, and replace it with the puppet government. In this connection, three-pronged attack namely above-ground, underground and external attacks are being launched simultaneously.

One of the attacks of neo-colonialist foreign masters and their cohorts against our country was false accusation to the effect that Myanmar Government was ignoring narcotic drug problem, involved in drug trafficking and the earnings from drug trafficking were used in purchasing arms and ammunition.

Actually, Myanmar's involvement in the narcotic drugs problem was caused by colonialism. In ancient times in Myanmar, there were no drug problem. Traditionally Myanmar people avoided the production and consumption of narcotic drugs from generation to generation. Narcotic drug abuse has traditionally regarded as an evil deed. However, the colonialists introduced poppy cultivation and opium production to Asia including our country. To prolong the enslavement of the national people, the colonialists intentionally permitted poppy cultivation and opium production in Shan State of our country. In addition, with the assistance from a big western power, nationalist Chinese Kuomintang troops intruded into Myanmar and extensively carried out narcotic drug cultivation and production as their main business. Later, insurgents including SSA carried on the drug production and trafficking. So, it can vividly be seen that the main culprit of Myanmar's narcotic drug problem was the colonialists, neo-colonialists and their cohorts. Those who are really

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Documentary photos being displayed at Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA

vention had been held successfully till 31-1-2006 and so far, 70 per cent of fundamental principles and detailed basic principles have been adopted.

By observing the above-mentioned points, one can see clearly that Myanmar is marching towards market economy and discipline-flourishing democracy. If the National Convention could have been held continuously without obstacles in 1996, Myanmar might have been practising multiparty democracy now. Due to self-seeking acts of the NLD, the democratization process has been delayed.

Later, NLD and its cohort parties as well as so-called veteran and new generation politicians shouting at the top of their voice that they aspire for democracy have been making confrontation to sabotage Myanmar's transition to democracy. They made various kinds of demands and attacks. They made instigation and fabrications to mislead the people and create anarchy.

Likewise, expatriate destructive elements and terrorist insurgents gathered false information and made complaints to their foreign masters. By using democracy cause as a ploy, they are receiving funds from international organizations and using them for their own interests. By using some foreign assistance they secretly make use of saboteurs and UG hardcores to commit destructive acts within the country.

Similarly, their foreign masters are putting pressure on Myanmar by imposing various sanc-

sure on Myanmar. They are also demanding Myanmar's neighbours as well as other countries in the region to isolate Myanmar. They exaggerated that Myanmar had become a threat to the region and demanded UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar. Their ultimate aim is to



102.05 kilos of Ice seized in Yangon on 24-5-2005 prior to sending them to Malaysia. — MNA

Although shouting for...

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responsible for the drug problem are the foreign masters who are putting all the blame on Myanmar Government.

Nowadays, those who are actually committing drug trafficking are SSA (South) Ywet Sit group and their accomplices, internal and external terrorist destructive elements and criminals. They are trafficking in narcotic drugs in collusion. It is quite clear that those terrorist drug traffickers are committing terrorist acts and arms smuggling. Ywet Sit participated in the unconditional surrender of entire MTA. However, he did not give up drug trafficking and went underground again. While the former armed groups which have returned to

poppy and collected taxes on opium. The opium produced were to be sold to SSA (South) only. The Ywet Sit group which was producing and trafficking in narcotic drugs at far-flung border areas are shouting at the top of their voice before the world's media that they are eradicating the drug menace and receiving foreign aids and funds. They are actually engaged in drug trafficking and putting the blame on the Government.

According to the clarifications made by the Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force and evidences given, it can be seen that SSA (South) Ywet Sit and former MTA member Naw Kham had joined hands as a drug ring and together with internal and

SSA (South) insurgents and terrorists are distributing the arms smuggled into the country to other insurgent groups. With these arms, the insurgent terrorists are killing the people in groups, collecting extortion money, committing robberies and kidnappings. Although shouting for liberation of Shan State, Ywet Sit and cohorts are actually narcotic drug traffickers who are smuggling arms like mafia gangsters.

While insurgent drug lords are committing drug trafficking in disguise, the Tatmadaw has been wiping out drug menace since 1960s through launching various operations. It has been recorded in the history that in launching various anti-narcotic drug operations, the Tatmadaw had to sacrifice many



Photo journalists seen at Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA



Journalists view documents displayed at Press Conference No 4/2006. MNA

the legal fold are joining hands with the Government in eradicating the drug menace in respective regions, Ywet Sit's SSA group and internal and external criminals are committing drug trafficking in gang in the far-flung border areas.

At the press conference No 2/2005 held on 5 March 2005, it was clarified that Ywet Sit's bodyguard Sai Tun (alias) Nai Tun Wiwutarun was arrested with 172 packets of heroin weighing 82 kilograms near Mae Hon Son of Thailand. Likewise, at the press conference No 1/2006, those from SSA (South) brigade-241 who were arrested and those who surrendered confessed that there was narcotic drug production near Ywet Sit's headquarters Loitainglian and Ywet Sit's group forced the local people at some far-flung areas to grow

external destructionists, they are trafficking in drugs in huge volumes; and money earned from drug trafficking are spent on smuggling arms and ammunition.

lives, blood and sweat. For instance, during the period from 1988 September to 1998, altogether 259 Tatmadaw members have sacrificed their lives and 937

Tatmadaw members were wounded.

As 17 former armed groups have returned to the legal fold, there prevails regional peace and tranquillity. Border areas development works are carried out on a large scale. In addition, narcotic drug production and trafficking are effectively eradicated at the border areas. Similarly, arms smuggling in some unstable areas at the border has now been wiped out.

The regional national race leaders with the assistance provided by the Government and participation of the local people are now implementing the border areas development projects. The national people of respective regions who lived in anxiety and lagged behind in development are now enjoying basic human rights and equal opportunities for development. They are enjoying the fruitful results of development. It is the truth.

Internal and exter-

nal destructive elements are not only accusing the Tatmadaw Government of drug trafficking. They are also making false accusations that the Tatmadaw is committing ethnic cleansing and rapes.

Actually, it is SSA (South) Ywet Sit's group that is sitting on the fence at the border area and committing atrocities. The SSA (South) terrorists are setting villages on fire and committing ethnic cleansing. The SSA (South) insurgent terrorists raped women of national races and planted bombs at crowded places to kill the people en masse. Some of their atrocities were as follows.

— On 9-2-1993 morning, some 300 SSA (South) insurgents failed in attacking the Tatmadaw camp at Pantawi and they set Pantawi village of Pa-O nationals on fire. They also made random shooting and as a result, 60 villagers were killed and 30

others wounded. They set some 150 houses on fire and a large number of villagers were left homeless.

— On 18-1-1997 night, Ywet Sit's group set 5 houses on fire at Meethwaygon (Bamar) village in Namhsan Township. Altogether 13 persons were killed and 8 others wounded. The insurgent terrorists also raped village girls.

— On 28-1-1997, Ywet Sit's group killed 21 charcoal makers from ward 6 of Namhsan.

— On 13-6-1997, some drug trafficking insurgents of Ywet Sit's SSA (South) group halted 30 passenger buses and demanded extortion money from the passengers. The insurgent terrorists also abducted women passengers into the jungle and raped them. In addition, they sorted out Bamar passengers and killed them en masse. Altogether 25 persons

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Although shouting for...

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were killed and 5 others wounded.

— On 21-5-1998, Ywet Sit's terrorists planted bomb at Myoma cinema hall in Mandalay. One person was killed and 11 others wounded in the incident.

— On 18-10-1998, Ywet Sit's terrorist insurgents beat six quarry workers near Kyauktaw village on Panglon-Leikha road.

— On 3-1-2000 night, SSA (South) insurgents blasted explosions at two plots of Mongshu gemland. Over 120 workers were killed and over 50 workers were wounded. Over 250 million kyats worth of property was lost. According to the confession of platoon commander Aik Maung of SSA (South) group who surrendered in 2002, it is learnt that the cruel and loathsome bomb blasts at Mongshu gemland were caused by Ywet Sit's SSA (South) group.

— On 4-5-2001, in clearing a time bomb planted by Ywet Sit's terrorists near G-shed of Mandalay Zaygyo market, 34 persons were wounded.

— On 26-3-2005, a Tatmadaw column clashed with some 60 insurgents of Ywet Sit's group. On its retreat, Ywet Sit's group set villages of Pa-O national race on fire. At Htiakhu village, 32 houses and a primary school were destroyed by fire and 249 persons were left homeless. At Moneloot

village, 14 houses were burnt down and 27 persons were left homeless.

At Nawngtay village, 38 houses were burnt down and 116 persons were left homeless. At Parmaing village, 14 houses were burnt down and 89 persons were left homeless.

At the press conference No 2/2006, sergeant Sai Tun Kyaw SA (South) brigade-241 who surrendered had confessed that

Ywet Sit has two wives and many mistresses; Ywet Sit is a womanizer and he spent a large sum of money for pleasure; Ywet Sit raped Nan Mu Kyauk, a vendor girl who was only 14 years old at Loitainglian market; commanding officer of SSA (South) brigade-758 Mein Hsin has 40 wives; and commanding officer of SSA (South) brigade-756 Khay Lawng has 20 wives.

While Ywet Sit's group is committing terrorist acts intentionally and unscrupulously, NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF, NLD (LA) and NDD expatriate groups are launching sabotage acts to frighten and make troubles to the people so as to disintegrate national unity. False accusations and fabrications are made to discredit and harm the prestige of the Government. They are committing such terrorist acts as above-ground attack and expatriate attack against the Government.

Some glaring atrocities of terrorist insurgents were as follows.

— During 1991 and 1992, ABSDF (North) group

seized and tortured some 100 persons in Kachin State and cruelly beat and shot over 40 people to death. That group led by Thangyaung (alias) Sao Khun Kyaw joined the SSA (South) Ywet Sit's group in 1997 and committed atrocities such as robberies, collecting extortion money, mobilizing new recruits forcibly, etc. When SSA (South) brigade-241 entered Namkham region in January 2006, the Tatmadaw and the people jointly launched operation and 39 insurgents were captured and 11 insurgents surrendered.

— On 25-12-1996, Buddha's Tooth Relic was conveyed from China under the friendship programme between the two countries and kept in Maha Pasana Cave of Kaba Aye Hillock for public homage. On that religious occasion, ABSDF terrorists and cohorts blasted bombs. Five innocent persons were killed and 17 others injured.

— On 7-5-2005 afternoon, time bombs were blasted at three places

namely Yangon Trade Centre where Thailand Trade Fair was being held, Junction-8 Shopping Centre and Dagon Centre in Yangon by Aung Min of NDD and Zaw Win Lwin, Nair Palair Do and Ko Pauk of ABSDF. Altogether 23 innocent people died and 150 others were injured. Those bomb blasts were

masterminded by NCGUB of expatriate Sein Win, FTUB of Pyithit Nyunt Wai and they provided funds to terrorists to commit such atrocities.

— On 8-1-2006 morning, a time bomb was exploded at two shops in Namphalon market in Tamu Township of Sagaing Division by ABSDF (West) group. As a result, two persons were killed by the bomb blast.

There were also many incidents in which the combined force of the people, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force prevented incidents that might have killed or injured many people. Some incidents were as follows.

— On 1-1-2000, a time bomb was defused

in time by security members at Independence celebrations near Maha Bandoola Park in front of Yangon City Hall. Soe Thiha (alias) Thura Kyaw Zin who planted the time bomb was arrested. He confessed that he conspired with PP-21 members Ye Kyaw Swa, Naing Naing and Min Min to commit such terrorist act.

— On 5-2-2005 evening, ABSDF member Win Aung who infiltrated together with explosives to blast bomb at Taninthayi bridge was arrested in Chaunggyi ward of Taninthayi Township.

— On 7-2-2006, security members exposed in time two highly-explosive mines and 3.5mm rocket launcher planted by San Gyi and team of NLD (LA) near Kwinchaung bridge on Yangon-Mandalay railroad. The two mines included about 10 pounds of TNT and if they were not exposed and removed in time, they would surely derail the train causing death and injury to a large number of passengers.

— On 26-2-2006 morning, acting on a tip-off of a duty conscious citizen, security members exposed in time a highly-explosive mine planted by San Gyi and team of NLD (LA) at the rail track near 176/21 milepost of Yangon-Mandalay railroad in Toungoo Township. The mine contained 7 pounds of TNT and one pound of gelignite.

To send false information and fabrications, NCGUB, FTUB, NLD (LA), ABSDF and NDD

terrorists provided some UG hardcores within the country with funds and illegal satellite phones. The UG hardcores also distributed instigative pamphlets to destabilize the nation. Their destructive acts were exposed by security members. By seeing the above-mentioned points, it is obvious that terrorist expatriate groups and terrorist insurgent groups are committing atrocities and sabotage acts to harm the lives and property of the people; committing ethnic cleansing, murdering innocent people en masse and raping national race girls. The people suffering from the troubles and hardships are ready to tell the world of their grievances.

Another false accusation against Myanmar was that Myanmar was recruiting child soldiers. In Myanmar, conscription is not compulsory. For national defence duty, those between the age limit of 18 and 25 are accepted to discharge military duty of their own volition. The Adjutant-General's Office of the Ministry of Defence has issued directives and orders not to recruit minors as soldiers.

The real culprits who are recruiting minors as child soldiers actually are insurgent terrorist groups including Ywet Sit's SSA (South) group. It has been clarified at the previous press conferences. In this context, I would like to recount some terrorist acts of them as follows.

— On 2-7-2004, SSA (South) Ywet Sit's group forcibly recruited 5 villagers each from Hwaykhan, Narlaw and Naintein villages.

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Documentary photos displayed at Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA



Documentary photos and a map displayed at Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA

Although shouting for...

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— During May and September 2005, SSA (South) Ywet Sit group forcibly recruited 8 villagers from Wanlawt village of Kunhein Township, 10 from Saikkhaung village, 6 from Kyaingtaung Township, 55 from Maukmai Township and 25 from Langhke Township.

— In October 2005, SSA (South) Ywet Sit's group abducted and recruited Aik Pee (16), Aik Lu (10), Aik Sai (13) and Kham Om (13) of Wanlawt village of Kunhein Township as child soldiers.

— In January 2006, SSA (South) brigade-241 infiltrated into Namkham region and along the route the insurgents forcibly mobilized 15 new recruits including a 13 years old boy named Maung Soe Naing. It has been clarified and you excellencies and journalists have seen him at the previous press conference.

SSA (South) Ywet Sit's group forcibly recruited members from surrounding villages. If the villages could not provide new recruits they had to give extortion money of 500,000 kyats per recruit. Due to forceful recruitment by Ywet Sit's group, the local people sent their children to nearby towns and put them into novicehood. Those new recruits who fled were killed in public. In some cases, the SSA (South) insurgents murdered the parents of some new recruits in order to cut off the family links. These facts were confessed by those who fled from Ywet Sit's group and those insurgents who surrendered.

The above-mentioned points show that who are the real culprits committing drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing, rapes, sabotage acts and recruiting child soldiers actually. They are none other than SSA (South) Ywet Sit group, NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF. Hence, the Government has officially declared these four groups as unlawful associations. NCGUB, FTUB, ABSDF and NLD (LA) and their members have also been officially declared as terrorist groups.

Although there are sound evidences of atrocities committed by terrorist insurgents and expatriate groups, their foreign masters are neglecting the terrorist acts and putting all the blame on the Government. According to their scheme, internal and external destructive elements are launching above-ground, underground and expatriate attacks simultaneously.

One of the above-ground attacks was the announcement No 1/2006 of NLD dated 12-2-2006. The announcement contained demands for summoning Hluttaw not later than 17-4-2006; for releasing the restricted leaders of NLD; and for dialogue with NLD.

In addition, the announcement contained the point for making the existing Government to be dejure government. Indeed, it is not logical and far from reality. It is a trick to serve their own interest. In fact, the Tatmadaw Government took over State responsibilities unavoidably as the nation was on the verge of disintegration during the 1988 disturbances. Since then, it has been an official government recognized by the world's nations including neighbours. The Government has been sending delegates to UN and international meetings. Myanmar is also participating as a member in regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMST-EC, GMS, etc.

Another demand of NLD was to summon



Bottles of Chloroform and others seen at the ceremony to incinerate narcotic drugs. — MNA

Hluttaw. In this context, it is to be considered whether NLD can make such demand or not. In the 1990 elections, NLD won in 392 out of 485 constituencies.

However, altogether 105 representatives-elect had been cancelled as they were convicted for violating existing laws. Altogether 79 representatives-elect resigned of their own volition and 73 representatives-elect passed away. Thus, 305 representatives-elect are void due to various reasons and there remain only 131 representatives-elect altogether. Of them, only 87 representatives-elect are from NLD. So, Hluttaw cannot be summoned. By reviewing constitutions of the world nations, it can be found that Hluttaw can be summoned only when at least one-third of representatives make demand for it. The 1974 Constitution stated that when 34 per cent of representatives-elect demand, the State Council shall summon Hluttaw immediately. Thus, NLD's 87 representatives-elect can in no way demand for summoning Hluttaw. It is not in accordance with the international norms. Even if the Government summons the Hluttaw, it would be void.

Moreover, the national people no longer trust NLD. Since 1998, mass rallies were held in cities of States and Divisions to express the people's desire. At the mass rallies, the people expressed their view that NLD should be dissolved as it is making obstacles and hardships for the people in various ways and means in collusion with foreign masters. With foreign interference, NLD is posing danger to the country and it should be dissolved in accordance with the people's desire. The mass rallies also demanded to take action against illegal CRPP (Committee Representing People's Parliament) in accordance with law.

In addition, many representatives-elect of NLD resigned in the year 1999 as they no longer trusted activities of NLD which was betraying the national cause. Many township NLDs were dissolved

with the consent of executive committees. A larger number of people than those who had voted for NLD candidates signed their statement of disapproving them and recalled the NLD representatives-elect. So, it can be seen that NLD is no longer supported by the people.

Another demand of NLD is dialogue. The National Convention being attended by over 1,000 delegates representing national races, representatives-elect and people from all walks of life is wider in scope than NLD's dialogue. The NLD walked out of the National Convention in 1995. It also failed to attend the National Convention in 2004.

It had been many times NLD neglected the national interests. So, no dialogue is possible with NLD which is no longer winning the public trust and not representing the people.

NLD issued another announcement on 21-4-2006 making accusations which are far from actual conditions of the country. These accusations are quite similar to those of their foreign masters. For NLD to make accusations and attacks, foreign masters have been masterminding constantly.

The NLD headquarters in Yangon is being frequented by diplomats from embassies of foreign masters. For instance, some diplomats of those embassies visited the NLD headquarters for 51 times during March and exchanged documents. The diplomats also discussed with CEC members of NLD. If NLD which is dancing to the tunes of foreign masters come into power, Myanmar will fall under the influence and servitude of the neo-colonialists.

NLD's announcement also made groundless accusations that the national economy was declining and the Government could not prevent drug trafficking as well as trafficking in person and it had difficulties in controlling and preventing infectious diseases; to solve these problems the nation would need foreign aids; and only when the Government is dejure one, foreign aids and loans can be obtained, it said.

If NLD has the true goodwill for the nation to have greater development, it should demand its foreign masters to revoke sanctions against Myanmar. Prompted by NLD, foreign masters have imposed economic and trade sanctions. Foreign investments and tourism are also discouraged. Otherwise, the Tatmadaw Government would be able to bring about development of the nation with higher speed. Our nation might have been developed much more than the present.

Hence, instead of demanding for a dialogue, NLD should make demands to its foreign masters for revoking sanctions. Instead of putting pressure on Myanmar, the foreign masters should render a helpful hand to the Government in order to accelerate the pace of transition to democracy.

It was illogical that such lop-sided accusations and fabrications occurred at a time when the Tatmadaw Government is taking relentless steps to transform the country into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. It is far from truth and it is unjust. It is surprising that these accusations are contrary to cultural development of human society. — MNA



Machine parts displayed at Press Conference No 4/2006. — MNA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 7)

fled after hearing the incident and seizure. The investigation resulted in the arrest of 25 offenders inside Myanmar while 18 are still on the run with arrest warrants. Based on the evidence from the seized drugs, Operation Soe San Zone investigations widened involving several international law enforcement agencies like the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand, China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Hong Kong Police, Australian Federal Police (AFP), DEA, Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) of Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines.

CCDAC, ONCB and DEA joint investigations traced Ms Thuza Myintzu, ex-wife of Captain Nay Lin, a naturalized citizen of the United States living in Seattle and revealed she was visiting Bangkok to meet Nay Lin. The moment she left the United States, DEA monitored her movements all along the route and provided us detailed information. On 28 January 2005, DEA, ONCB and CCDAC collaboration finally resulted in the arrest of Captain Ne Lin at Don Muang Airport, Bangkok by ONCB (a) CCDAC officers when Thuza Myintzu flew in from Seattle to meet him. The next day on 29 January 2005, Thai authorities repatriated Ne Lin to Yangon, Myanmar.

Information from Ne Lin was relayed to National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China that key traffickers Teranai Vrantrakul (a) Ah Yang and Sai Lon (a) Ah Ti were hiding in Yunnan Province of China. The Yunnan Provincial Narcotics Control Committee (YPNCC) managed to trace both of them in Kunming and arrested them. Both of them were handed over back to



Photo shows the opium yield surveys jointly conducted with US from 1993 to 2004.

MNA

threatening the international community. This is why we had to take time to investigate this case.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the DEA, ONCB, NNCC and other law enforcement agencies for their cooperation and assistance in this very successful dismantling of an international drug syndicate.

million kyat. Again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank NNCC and YPNCC for their cooperation and assistance in this very successful drug case.

The next case I would like briefly present is the 496 case, another successful operation netting 496 kg of heroin in September last year. Intelligence sharing between



Ah Yang (a) Teranai Vrantrakul, the main culprit arrested in Operation Soe San Zone. was extradicted to Yangon on 3-3-2005. — MNA



Sai Lon (a) Ah Ti was transferred to Myanmar on 3-3-2005.

MNA

Myanmar on 3 March 2005.

It took us over 2 years since the initiation of the case to reach this stage because this is a very big and complex case involving international syndicates. Even up to this day, we cannot say the case is closed, because with the cooperation of concerned countries, we are still in the process of investigating the financial proceeds of crime in millions of dollars stashed and laundered in banks of some countries. This is not an ordinary drug case but a very complex and difficult case with transnational organized crime nature involving money laundering

Similarly, information sharing led to another Joint operation between Myanmar and China resulting in the seizure of 102.05 kg of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (ICE) on 24 May 2005 in Yangon. The ICE shipment was destined for Malaysia in a container. The street price of the drugs was worth 306 million kyat. One Malaysian and one Thai were arrested and prosecuted with three Myanmar. All assets were also confiscated. Similarly, in 2005 February, 178 kg of ICE was seized concealed in hollowed out teak banisters destined for Malaysia. The street price of the two cases of ICE amounted to 740

Myanmar and China indicated a big shipment of drugs was going to take place from northeast Shan State to the Thai border and after months of joint investigations, a drug convoy of 7 vehicles transporting 496 kg of heroin was interdicted by local authorities and CCDAC on 10 September 2005 between Naung Cho and Mong Pyin villages of eastern Shan State. 4.1 million Thai baht and assorted arms and ammunition were also seized. Street price of the drugs were worth 39,680 million kyat or 62 million US dollars. The main drug trafficker in this case is Han Yu Won, a Chinese citizen and also a drug fugitive wanted by the Chinese authorities.

Han Yu Won and his aide Ah Su, were waiting for the drugs at the border and as soon as they got news of the seizure, they fled across the border to Laos. Information exchange and joint investigations among Myanmar, China and Laos law enforcement agencies traced Han Yu Won and Ah Su at San Nae village and Laos police arrested them on 22 September 2005. Both of them were handed over back to Myanmar on 28 September by the Laos authorities. For the need on follow-up investigations in China, CCDAC rendered both traffickers to YPNCC, China on 2 October 2005 at the Seasons Hotel, Yangon. Let me extend our gratitude to NNCC, YPNCC, ONCB and LCDC of Laos for their cooperation and assistance in this very successful case.

Another case is an Ecstasy case, Ecstasy is a very expensive drug fetching 50,000 to 70,000 kyat per tablet. Ecstasy is a synthetic stimulant drug with psychotropic effects. It affects and distorts the visual, audio and odor sensations of the user. Mostly the user would experience the feeling of euphoria as if gliding in the air.

Rich young people would use it in the nightclubs and dance away in the night non-stop shaking their heads. We had information on an Ecstasy deal at K' Paradise Hotel in Yangon in February 2005. Drug officers working on information from confidential informers

(See page 14)



Soe San Zone boat used to traffick heroin. — MNA

With intention of establishing...

(from page 13)

set up an entrapment operation and arrested Ye Kyaw (a) Kyaw Kyaw Win with 6 Ecstasy tablets which he was trying to sell to the undercover agent. A search at his apartment on Pansodan Street of Kyautada Township found another 292 tablets of Ecstasy. Street price of the drugs were worth 24.2 million. Ye Kyaw (a) Kyaw Kyaw Win is an American citizen who frequently visited Yangon and had been trafficking Ecstasy on these trips. One of the main traffickers who had been distributing Ecstasy in Myanmar fled abroad and we are also working closely with the DEA to investigate the suppliers in the United States. I extend our thanks to the DEA for their cooperation and assistance in this case.

Finally, I am going to brief you on a very recent successful case, which is also a milestone in the seizure records of Myanmar law enforcement.

The case covers the period from 26 December 2005 to 19 April 2006. In this case, we seized 14.9 million methamphetamine tablets, 50 kg of heroin, 1000 kg of No. 3 heroin, 28 kg of opium, 721.24 kg of ephedrine, 1706 kg of caffeine, 876.6 litres of Lysol, 1727 litres of acetic anhydride, 196 assorted firearms, 27008 rounds of assorted ammunition, 48 hand grenades, 57 vehicles and arrested 33 suspects. The street price of the drugs alone was estimated to be 125.43 billion kyat while the US street price would amount to 1.4 billion dollars.

This successful case illustrates the close coordination and cooperation among CCDAC, local Police Force and the local militant forces.

The case started sometime back when Tachileik Drug Unit targeted Yang Ah Hong, a Myanmar-Chinese under

surveillance on information that he was involved in drug trafficking. Coincidentally, we received information from Thai ONCB that a large consignment of small blue plastic bags was transported from Mae Sai to Tachileik arousing suspicion of a possible drug shipment. These blue plastic bags although commonly used for other purposes are also found to be used for packing ATS tablets. Surveillance indicated suspicious movements of Sai Pan Maung, an ex-MTA to be somewhat connected to the plastic bags shipment. On 26 December 2005, Tachileik Drug Unit simultaneously searched Sai Pan Maung and Yang Ah Hong's houses. 165 tablets of methamphetamine were found in Sai Pan Maung's house and he was arrested with 3 of his men. The search of Yang Ah Hong's farm house netted 1.38 million methamphetamine tablets, 8 assorted firearms, 1575 rounds of assorted ammunition, 1 hand grenades, 213 kg of ephedrine, 16 kg of caffeine, 876.6 litres of Lysol, 360 gallons of acetic anhydride, 22.25 litres of sulphuric acid, 23.5 kg of opium, 1 tabulating punch machine and 3 vehicles. Yang Ah Hong was traveling at the time and his caretaker Kyaw Swe was arrested. Interrogation revealed that ATS tablets were hidden around San Lu village of Loi Taw Kham village tract. Authorities then visited the village and persuaded the village headman and villagers to provide information so that nobody will be affected with the case. Searching around the area based on information from the villagers, 312,000 methamphetamine tablets were found from a gully near Ho Ye village on 9 January 2005, 444,400 methamphetamine tablets were discovered from the roadside ditch of Tachileik-Mong Sat road and 800,000

tablets in a ravine near the road on 12 January 2005, totalling 1 million and 556,400 methamphetamine tablets.

Arrested suspects revealed more information on drugs stashed in the ranch and fishponds of Naw Kham at Wan Kyauk Lone Village. Search and raid of the compound on 8 January found 41 blocks of heroin, 1.3698 million of methamphetamine, 1246 kg of caffeine, 462 kg of ephedrine, 37 assorted firearms, 4957 rounds of assorted ammunition and 4 hand grenades. Naw Kham fled but 3 of his men were arrested in the ranch. Again on 10 January, another search in the ranch and fishponds resulted in discovering 50,000

methamphetamine tablets, 20.1 kg of caffeine, 1000 kg of No 3 heroin, 0.4 kg of crushed methamphetamine, 0.1 kg of heroin, one 9 mm pistol, 1178 rounds of assorted ammunition, 14 landmines and 27 detonators and 15 vehicles.

Based on information from suspects, on 14 January a search in Pan Ku village of lower Mong Haire tract resulted with 42 assorted firearms, 24 assorted rounds of ammunition, 1 tablet punching machine. Then on 4 February, a stash of 800,000 methamphetamine tablets was found after a search in a cave near Pan Ku village and 1.3 million tablets were found hidden underground near Pansali village. Continued searches at Naw Kham's farms at Wan Kyauk Lone village were conducted daily and on 9 March 14 assorted firearms, 1,580 assorted ammo, 15 bombs, 16 hand grenades, 1 heroin block (0.35 kg) and a WY punching mould were found.

It was assessed that Sai Pan Maung, Yang Ah Hong and Naw Kham were key players of this drug case. Both Sai Pan Maung and Yang Ah Hong served in the MTA together and after surfacing in 1996, they started an agriculture farm at Par Sho Kyaing Latt,



Residence of culprit Naw Kham in Tachileik and fish farm at Wein Kyauk Village. — MNA

north of Tachileik as a front, while setting up a clandestine heroin refinery on the Laos side of the Mekong River bank at a place called Kyauk Gu (Rock Cave) near Kyaing Kok. The location was ideal and unique; very remote with a dense forest but raw opium was easily available. Access to the refinery however was very difficult if not impossible providing them with an early warning system if Myanmar or Laos forces approached the refinery. Moving out anytime was easy by boats in the Mekong if necessary. All the essential precursor chemicals were shipped in from China and Thailand at that time. Altogether 98.7 kg of 141 heroin blocks were refined at the clandestine lab in 2001. Naw Kham refined heroin and produced methamphetamine tablets at Kaw Phu village near the Hot Springs village and bartered the drugs with firearms with a Laos national. Also, he trafficked the firearms along the Tachileik-Kyaing Tong-Tarpin - Mong La - Mong Pauk - Pang Kham route bartering them with heroin blocks again. In fact, Naw Kham became a drug kingpin producing,

trafficking heroin as well

as a firearms smuggler.

In this connection, I wish to add some background information on Naw Kham. Naw Kham happened to be an aid to Ywet Sid when both of them were in the MTA. He came back into the legal fold along with Ywet Sit when MTA surrendered unconditionally. However, when Ywet Sit split with the MTA and took arms again to fight the government, Naw Kham stayed behind with the pretense of felling apart with Ywet Sit.

It became obvious now according to the recent investigations of this case that this was pre-planned so that Naw Kham would be in a position to provide and support drugs and firearms. As the operations extended with more traffickers arrested and additional drugs and firearms seized, Naw Kham realized his cover would be soon blown he fled and joined his old master Ywet Sit.

In other words, Ywet Sit himself is a drug kingpin, a firearms smuggler who accumulated and stashed the 196 firearms with an intention to use it at a later date.

I wish to stress that international cooperation played a crucial role in the case that I have just explained. To investigate and arrest the main suspect Yang Ah Hong who fled abroad, CCDAC enjoyed close cooperation and coordination with NNCC of China, ONCB of Thailand and DEA Yangon exchanging information without any reservations. On 5 January 2006, NNCC informed us that they have spotted Yang Ah Hong in Shanghai but wished to confirm his identity before moving in to arrest him. CCDAC promptly sent old and recent pictures of Yang Ah Hong to NNCC for identification and

confirmation and on 6 January 2006, he was arrested by NNCC officials in Shanghai in his house at

120, Bow Street, Futon Township. Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Director General of Myanmar Police Force led a 5 member delegation to Kunming, China and officially received Yang Ah Hong from NNCC on 24 February 2006. Investigations with DEA, AFP, ONCB, AEP and NNCC are still ongoing for the offenders who are on the run.

And I wish to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished guests from NNCC, ONCB, DEA who are here with us today for the close cooperation with us in this successful operation and for personally attending this press briefing giving time from their busy schedules.

The four cases that I have briefed this morning would not have achieved success without the mutual understanding, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation and colla-boration of international law enforcement agencies and neighboring countries like China, Thailand and Laos in the region. reports. Particularly, there have been reports, allegations and criticism in some countries' media and the internet that the Myanmar government is involved in drug production, traffick-ing and has not demonstrated satisfactorily to combat drugs.

In reality, Myanmar has been carrying out the enormous task of eliminating the scourge of narcotic drugs with serious commitment not only as a national concern, but also as a threat to mankind, which I have made it very obvious in my presentation today. In other words, I wish to state that with unwavering commitment and based on our own resources, Myanmar will continue to do our utmost with or without external assistance to overcome the threat posed by drugs to the country and the international community at large. — MNA



Seized 108 heroin blocks, drugs and precursors seen before destruction.

MNA

Information Committee of State Peace and Development Council holds Press Conference No 4/2006

YANGON, 27 April — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the Press Conference No 4/2006 on achievements of Myanmar in narcotic drug eradication, and matters relating to terrorist acts including drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing and rapes under guises of political ground committed by internal and external destructionists, at the city hall in Kengtung, Shan State (East), yesterday morning.

(See page 3)



CCDAC Vice-Chairman Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Laotian Minister at the President Office Mr Soubanh Srithirath and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador Madame Phoebe A Gomez press the button to incinerate the seized narcotic drugs. — MNA



With intention of establishing drug free-country by 2014, government launched 15-year Drug Elimination Plan

Ywet Sit is drug kingpin, firearms smuggler



MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi. — MNA

YANGON, 27 April — The underlying root causes of following is the translation the problem that we face. In this connection, I CCDAC Secretary Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi would like to take this opportunity to explain the efforts that the Government of Myanmar has made to eliminate the drug scourge as a national duty. This calls for a brief explanation on the background scenario of how opium poppy cultivation and illicit drugs production came into Myanmar in the first place. So allow me to touch briefly on the background history. Poppy cultivation started to take a firm root in northeastern regions of Myanmar during the colonial period in the late 19th century and early 20th century, consequently making the ethnic races living in the northeastern part of our country relying on poppy cultivation as livelihood. In other words, this is an evil inheritance that our

ground scenario of how opium poppy cultivation and illicit drugs production came into Myanmar in the first place. So allow me to touch briefly on the background history. Poppy cultivation started to take a firm root in northeastern regions of Myanmar during the colonial period in the late 19th century and early 20th century, consequently making the ethnic races living in the northeastern part of our country relying on poppy cultivation as livelihood. In other words, this is an evil inheritance that our

colonial period in the late 19th century and early 20th century, consequently making the ethnic races living in the northeastern part of our country relying on poppy cultivation as livelihood. In other words, this is an evil inheritance that our

Although Myanmar is generally known in connection with the infamous "Golden Triangle", few people know or try to understand the real situation as well as the

WITH SUPPLEMENT ATTACHED

Twenty-nine members of Kyaukse Township National League for Democracy of Mandalay Division resign from NLD

YANGON, 27 April — Twenty-nine members of Kyaukse Township National League for Democracy of Mandalay Division collectively resigned from the party at 9 am on 21 April at Kyaukse District General Administration Department.

Member of ward/village NLD U Hla Htay acted as MC at the resignation ceremony.

U Aung Khin, Ward/Village NLD Chairman of Pattaing Village, Kyaukse Township, on behalf of all the 29 persons, explained the purpose of leaving the party.

Next, two of them, on behalf of all the 29, presented all the materials they had used in doing the party functions to the chairman of Kyaukse District Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission.

Also present on the occasion were Kyaukse District MPDGE Sub-Commission, chairmen of four township MPDGE Sub-Commissions, the township law officer, the township judge, the head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department, the manager of Kyaukse Cement Factory, the 29 persons and others, totalling 40.

The ceremony ended at 9.40 am. — MNA

U San Hla Baw resigns from National League for Democracy, political duties

YANGON, 27 April — U San Hla Baw, a member of the National League for Democracy, resigned from the party today, discarding all his duties as a politician once and for all.

His resignation in the presence of the officials of Mandalay Division, Mandalay District and Patheingyi Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commissions covers all his political duties — Honorary Chairman of Mandalay Division NLD, NLD Central Committee member, representative-elect of Patheingyi Township constituency, National Convention delegate, Chairman of Upper Myanmar Old Patriotic Soldiers, Chairman of Division Social Affairs Committee and NLD member.

U San Hla Baw, National Registration Card No MBU 107822, son of U Kyaw Shein, submitted the resignation in person at Mandalay Division Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, located at the corner of 30th and 68th streets, at 10 am today, in the presence of Chairman of the Division MPDGE Sub-Commission U Kyin Lin and seven members, Chairman of Mandalay District MPGE Sub-commission U Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Patheingyi Township MPGE Sub-Commission U Aung Min. — MNA

Questions and answers at the Press Conference 4/2006

YANGON, 27 April—The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held its press conference 4/2006 at City Hall in Kengtung, Shan State (East), yesterday morning.

Officials from the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the president and members of the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, members of editorial divisions of local journals and magazines, and correspondents from the Newspaper and TV Division from Thailand covered the news.

At the press meet, local and foreign journalists and officials from local magazines and journals raised questions regarding the clarification and other matters. Officials concerned, those from SSA-S Ywet Sit group who returned to the legal fold, and villagers from the villages that were burnt down by SSA-S Ywet Sit group replied to the queries. Their clarifications were as follows: —

U Myat Khaing (Good News and Great News Journal)

I have learnt that the special announcement NLD issued on 21 April said that the people were in poverty, and poppy growing and production was uncontrollable. So, I would like to know what the government is doing now including the tasks for the development of border areas including the regions on the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River, raising the social life of the people and poppy-substitute crops projects for elimination of narcotic drugs. Can these tasks be said to be effective? Another question is that the minister said that the government is taking measures for enhancing the intellectual power of the people and the development of human resources for the emergence of a democratic nation. I would like to know the previous situations in the education sector of Shan State (East) and what are changes in its education sector.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt

Regarding the first question, I would like to present the undertakings for the development of border areas, and the fruitful results of development of the regions on the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River have enjoyed.

The border areas development projects have been implemented with increased efforts and have come to fruition since the Tatmadaw assumed State duties. The social and economic sectors of local people in border areas have made considerable progress more than expected if compared with those before the projects.

As a matter of fact, Myanmar's border areas lagged behind in development due to geographical barriers and poor transport. To make circumstances



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan answers the queries raised by journalists. — MNA

worse, the areas suffered multi-coloured insurgency for more than four decades. So, the magnitude of backwardness of rural areas was very huge.

Since its assumption of State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has given priority to national

25 May 1989 and the development project was launched.

In implementing the policies the Central Committee laid down, the Work Committee chaired by the Secretary-1 has undertaken the projects,



*Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt.
MNA*

reconsolidation. As a result, Kokang Region returned to the legal fold on 31 March 1989, and "Wa Region" national race insurgent group, on 9 May.

So, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe was formed on



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — MNA

enlisting the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs separately established for the development of border areas, 11 regional work committees chaired by chairmen of respective states and divisions, and 18 subcommittees chaired by deputy ministers of respective ministries. Therefore, the projects have yielded remarkable results.

In the process, a major aim was set up to put an end to narcotic drugs, evil legacy the colonialists intentionally left in border areas. One of the five major aims enumerated in Border Areas Development Law (1993) is to eradicate poppy growing and production by establishing business enterprises in border areas.

That is why the Tatmadaw Government has been constructing social economic infrastructures such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, agricultural farms, livestock farms, TV retransmission stations and communication systems since 1989 to create social and economic opportunities for local people in the border areas. From 1989 to date, the government has spent more than 81,837 million kyats from the State funds, and 79.5 per cent of the investments has gone (See page B)



*Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt.
MNA*



*Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.
MNA*

Questions and answers at...

(from page A)

to the regions where poppy is grown mainly. In 1999, ten years after the start of the Border Areas Development Project, the 15-year Narcotic Drugs Elimination Plan was launched, and then success has been achieved successively.

For instance, Mongla Region was declared as poppy free zone in 1997, and it has never relapsed into poppy growing, and so has Kokang Region since 2003. That shows that ex-poppy growers have been able to earn their living by means of other businesses.

Similarly, Wa Region was also declared as narcotic drugs free zone on 26 July, 2005 and poppy cultivation has been banned since then. The previous poppy growing season did not see at all the growing of poppy in the region.

In the drive for the development of the border areas, the government has given priority to road and bridge projects in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State. From 1989 to date, in border areas, 3,181 miles of earth roads, 1,995 miles of gravel roads and 351 miles of tarred roads have been constructed, 3,295 miles of old roads reconstructed, and 51 above-100-foot bridges, 725 under-100-foot bridges, and 26 suspension bridges, constructed.

Regarding the education sector, from 1989 to date, the government has opened 1,034 schools. It is amazing the number of students in border areas has increased sharply to 170,920 from just more than 1,000 in 1988.

Concerning the health sector, it has established 79 hospitals, 105 dispensaries, 58 rural health care centres and 140 sub-rural health care centres.

It has established 108 TV retransmission stations in border areas, and so the progress has enhanced the knowledge of local people.

With regard to the agriculture and livestock breeding sector, it has opened 31 agricultural offices, 117 agricultural farms, 11 tractor stations, and 41 livestock breeding and veterinary camps. So, there have been plantations of suitable crops, poppy-substitute crops fields and agriculture and livestock farms. The fields where poppy was grown have become fields of paddy and corn. The cultivation of paddy and corn has been extended to fulfil basic needs of local people, and perennial crops and raw industrial crops are cultivated to create long-term job opportunities and raise income. Apart from the agriculture and livestock farms established by the government, local national people are running large crop plantations that create long-term job opportunities and raise income. Panhsan, Mongmao and Namtit in Wa Region have seen rubber farms along with finished rubber products factories. Wulon tea produced in Mongmao Region is high in quality and gets high price in foreign market, and so plans are under way to extend growing such species of tea. The tea farms in Kokang Region thrives again and local farmers are earning high income through sugarcane cultivation.

Orange and lychee Wa national people grow in Wanhone and Namtit have a stronghold in the market. Mango and lychee cultivated in poppy-substitute crop



Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint. — MNA

plantations in Mongma in Mongla Region have had their market.

Thriving 20,000 acres of rubber and over 40,000 acres of orange, tea and lychee grown by local farmers in Kokang, Wa and Mongla regions on the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River have indicated sustainable progress of the poppy eradication campaign.

Therefore, it is vivid that the border areas development project the Head of State supervises has been an engine for peace and stability of the nation, social and economic development of local people in the border areas, the narcotic drugs eradication plan and the programme for reducing cultivation of poppy.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt: He explained development of the education sector in the whole country. He said that not only the Ministry of Education but also other ministries concerned are implementing short-term and long-term plans for development of the education sector. The Ministry of Education has been carrying out development tasks of the basic education sector since 1998 and the higher education sector since 1996. In so doing, tasks of region-wise human resources development were undertaken in line with short-term and long-term plans. In the basic education sector, opening of new schools, upgrading of school buildings, enrolment of school going age children and opening of post-primary schools were included in the plans. At the same time, ministries concerned performed opening and upgrading new universities and colleges and created an ICT arena through Intranet and Internet systems in the higher and basic education sectors.

There were 338 schools in 1988 in Shan State (East), and now there are 594 schools. Hence, the number of schools rose by 256. Likewise, strength of teachers in the basic education sector were 858 in Shan State (East) in 1988. At present, 2,573 teachers have been appointed there. So far, over 1,700 teachers have increased. Though a total of 28,605 students attended the schools in Shan State (East) in 1988, now 76,625 students are attending the schools. The number of students in Shan State (East) has increased from 28,605 in 1988 to 76625 up to now. Out of



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe. — MNA

basic education schools in Shan State (East), 33 schools have been facilitated with multimedia classrooms.

Enrolment rate of school going age children reached 51 per cent in 1988. Now, today's school going age enrolment rate increased to 95.98 per cent. Therefore, the remarkable enrolment had risen up to 44 per cent. Though adult literacy rate was 32 per cent in 1988, it is 49 per cent at present. Hence, there is 17 per cent adult literacy rate increase. In reviewing the facts and figures, success of the education sector can be witnessed in Shan State (East).

With regard to the higher education sector, there was no university and college in Shan State in 1988. At present, the state has been equipped with two degree colleges of the Ministry of Education and one of the Ministry of Science and Technology. In the entire nation, there were 33,747 basic education schools in 1988, compared with 40,525 at present. Hence, the growth in the number of schools is over 6,000. Likewise, today's strength of teachers is 240,000: it is 70,000 more than 170,000 teachers in 1988. There are 7.8 million basic education students at present. It is 2.5 million more than 5.2 million students in 1988. Nowadays, 156 universities are opened in the entire nation. However, the nation had 32 universities in 1988. Therefore, 124 universities had risen. Nowadays, the Government has designated 24 special development zones in all states and divisions for carrying out equitable development tasks. Therefore, progress can be witnessed in the basic and higher education sectors.

U Aung Khine (Yonkyihmu News Journal): I would like to ask two questions. The first— Is it true that Ywe Sit group committed to violent behaviour towards Pa-O race? The second— Is it true that someone who was a novice joined with SSA (South)?

U Kyaw (Chairman of Naungtae Village-Tract PDC): Ywet Sit group came to oppress our national Pa-O. Both Pa-O and Shan races were residing in our village. But Ywet Sit group released an order to burn all the houses in Pa-O village and not to do in Shan village during the clashes. There were two villages of Pa-O and five of Shan in our area. Whenever they burnt the villages, they told us to return to Thaton. If not, they would drive us away from there. I had been living in the hills since my childhood and both my parents were also dead on that hill. I turned over 60 now. They wanted me to return to Thaton and I had never been there. That was racial discrimination towards me. I am a Pa-O national Buddhist.

Aik In (He exchanged arms for peace from SSA-S Ywet Sit Group): I am Aik In and live in Nannwe village, Mongpa village-tract, Kengtung. As a novice, I was attending school at the same time. At the age of 15, I went to Thailand and over one year later I was arrested by Thai police. They disrobed me and sent me to Ywet Sit group after I was told that I would be sent back to Myanmar. I attended a six-month military course and then two months later I came to surrender arms in Mongphyat.

(See page C)



U Kyaw of Htitaku village replies queries. MNA



Chairman of Naungtae Village-tract U Kyaw. — MNA



Aik In replies to the queries. — MNA

Questions and answers at...

(from page B)

Dr Tin Tun Oo (Pyi Myanmar Journal): NLD released a special announcement on 21st April and it said that Myanmar faced difficulties in preventing and fighting AIDS, Malaria, TB and Bird Flu and that I would like to know how Myanmar world is solving these health problems.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo: The first thing I want to tell was that accusations made by NLD and foreign news agencies towards efforts of the Ministry of Health were not new ones. They were constantly making the public misunderstand about the endeavors of the State. National Health Committee was dealing with the health problems in our country. The committee was steered by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Our health minister joining hands with other related ministries laid down health policies and have been implementing them. Other ministries, private departments, Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, War Veterans Organization, doctors, nurses as well as WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and NGOs participated in solving these health problems. Regarding HIV/AIDS, Myanmar laid down National Aid Program (NAP) and was performing it in combination with above organizations. According to data collected by UN Expanded Theme Group during 2003-2004 and Technical World Theme Committee during 2005 September, HIV cases dropped to nearly half if compared with 1990 in the statement and sharply late 2000. It was because of stability in the State showed in the another statement. But it still needs to fight this disease. Condoms for safe sex were being distributed to young groups, high risk behaviour groups, drug groups (Target Population) in 154 townships. The distribution of condoms amounted to 35 million. This amount was three times more than the previous. The use of condoms was up 76 per cent in 2005 from 49 per cent in 2003. With the leadership of CCDAC, the Ministry of Health was carrying out HIV prevention and treatment services the whole country and moreover, specialists cured HIV patients in 26 major treatment centres as well as minor clinics. CCDAC, UNODC, social organizations including the Ministry of Health were successfully taking measures on harm reduction in

16 out of designated 20 townships. The next thing was that prevention of HIV infection from mother to child (PMCT) was carried out in 68 townships and 17 hospitals. Arrangement would be made for extension of HIV prevention and treatment in next five years. In connection with the treatment, it was initiated in 2000. UN Agency, local NGOs and international NGOs plus the Ministry of Health were

treating 1000 HIV patients. They would extend up to 10,000 during 2005-2006. The public lacked HIV knowledge. Now salient points of HIV knowledge were aired on TV and moreover printed media also expressed these for the public to be aware. With the help of UNICEF, school health tasks and HIV preventive measures were being taken among school youths for healthy lifestyle by the ministry, national NGOs and international NGOs. A national level HIV exhibition was held for the first time in Yangon Division during November, 2003 and for the second time in Mandalay Division during October, 2004. Therefore, NLD's accusations were ridiculous and far from objective reality.

Malaria cases dropped to 11.1 in every 1000 people during 2004 if compared with 24.3 in 1990. Malaria death cases were down to 3.7 per cent in every 100000 people during 2004 compared with 12.6 during 1990. Educative talks on the disease were given to the public. Moreover, treated mosquito-nets, and medicines were distributed in rural areas.

DOTS medicines were distributed and free treatment was given throughout the country. There were enough medicines for two years in the country. WHO showed Myanmar was successful with 80 per cent performance in treatment. Diagnosis rates were 81 per cent in 2004 from 32 per cent in 1994 and that exceeded designated target. So this



Lahu national Ko Shay La. — MNA

accusation was not true.

Bird flu occurred in neighbouring Asian countries in early 2004. Since that time, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries planned a programme of Human Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response. H5N1 broke out in 13 townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions at the beginning of 2006 March. The ministries and local authorities took necessary measures and could well control over this disease in the first week of 2006 April. There were no casualties in this disease. These were real facts according to data collected by UN Expanded Theme Group during 2003-2004 and Technical World Theme Committee during 2005 September.

U Myo Min Min of Shwe Mandalay Journal asked: I know that there are some Lahu nationals among those who surrendered and returned to the legal fold. What I would like to know is whether there is racial discrimination in SSA-S led by Ywet Sit and how they became members of the insurgent group.

On behalf of Lahu nationals, **Ko Shay La** said : I was born in Myanmar but grew up in Thailand. I was forcibly recruited by SSA-S, forced to attend the military training and assigned to Battalion 815 of Brigade 811. We returned to the legal fold because they discriminated against us as well as other national races. The top positions were occupied by Shan nationals and the highest rank given to other national races was the post of platoon commander. We had to have extortion money collected. When they captured one or two smugglers together with some stimulant

tablets called 'yaba', they added their own to the seized tablets to make the seizure seem larger. Then they took a photograph of tablets. I don't know why. No longer tolerant towards what they did, we fled to Thailand, hid the arms on farmland and lived there, doing work that came our way. Hearing that the Tatmadaw Government always welcomed those who returned to the legal fold, we contacted people's militia leader U Pi Ngaw to do so.

Ko Mar Ku, also a Lahu national who was forced into SSA-S, said : I was recruited against my will. They promised to pay me 100 baht a month but they did not. They discriminated against us. We wanted to die rather than stay on with them. Therefore, we fled to Thailand. We brought the arms back from a deserted farm only after we had returned to the legal fold.

U Hein Latt of Popular Journal asked : I often hear Myanmar accused of being unable to prevent human trafficking. Therefore, I would like to ask two questions. The first question is what measures the government is taking for prevention of human trafficking and the second question is about rehabilitation of drug addicts.

In his reply to these questions, **Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe** said : Regarding human trafficking, we took action against traffickers according to the existing law at first. It was before the promulgation of human trafficking law. Human trafficking law was enacted on 13 September, 2005. Since 2002, action has been taken against 1421 people in 703 cases. This shows that we are really serious and taking effective steps about the prevention of human trafficking. We are preventing human trafficking on our own as well as in cooperation with other nations in Mekong Region, namely, China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Myanmar hosted minister-level meetings of the six nations in the region in October, 2004. This indicates that we are offering full cooperation to the regional endeavour to curb on human trafficking. A national seminar was held from 28 February to 1 March, 2006, and responsible personnel from Myanmar Police Force, the Office of Attorney-General and the Supreme Court participated in it. Moreover, such NGOs as Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association are holding educative talks among the grass roots. Turning a blind eye to our constant efforts to fight human trafficking amounts to an insult to the integrity of our nation and people.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint answered in brief the question of how to comfort and prevent the victims. The victims suffered from social troubles abroad, were looked after by Social Welfare and Resettlement Department with the ways of social welfare giving the consultation, training and the additional services to them.

(See page D)



Lahu national Ko Mar Ku. — MNA

Questions and answers at

(from page C)

The SWRR Ministry accepted the victims systematically from Myanmar embassies abroad and in other ways and they were temporarily accommodated at the women's vocational training schools under the ministry and had them undergone medical check-up. Then, the case study on their biographies was compiled.

Arrangements were made to send them back home only after giving the training and the educative lectures on the salient points of the human trafficking and getting used to their

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation are providing training to them.

Concerning the vocational training schools, the tailoring and knitting courses are given to them for making own living. Besides, the basic requirements for social and economic assistance were fulfilled appropriately in order to make their living after going back. After all, they were sent to their respective parents systematically. Moreover, through the cooperation of local authorities, the MWAF, departments concerned, the Social Welfare Department and other international or-

the camps for rehabilitation based on the hospitals and the Social Welfare Department. On the other hand, under the leadership of the CCDAC, the rehabilitation camp for the youths was also opened and measures on the community base rehabilitation are being taken.

To gain physical progress, the vocational training courses were given to them for earning their own living. For their mental progress, the measures were taken for rehabilitation after consultations with them individually and in group. Besides, they were trained for their relaxation by enabling them to enjoy the songs and



Dr Tin Tun Oo of Pyi Myanmar Journal. — MNA



U Hein Latt of Popular Journal. MNA

them. What would be the government attitude towards this?

U Kyaw of Hti Ta Khu village of Maw Mun village-tract said that I live in Hti Ta Khu village in Hopone Township. A total of 98 houses and the schools including 32 houses of Hti Ta Khu, 14 of Ban Mong village, 14 of Maun Lut and 38 of Naung Tae village were damaged by fire. The SSA had set fire on our village three times.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that I had made clarifications on the announcements of NLD. The NLD is dedicated to the wrong commitment through incorrect policy such as confrontation, defiance of authority, utter devastation, blocking the nation and relying on the external elements. And their western masters go and see them, and are

resigning from the party as yet. In addition, the NLD party had the chances to have a talk with the government.

The National Convention was held in 1993. The NLD party was invited to make political discussions in the National Convention. The party attended the NC from 1993 to 1995. And then the party walked out the NC in 1995. However, the party was invited again to attend the National Convention held in 2004. They said they would attend the National Convention but they, of course, did not attend the National Convention.

Now, the National Convention, the first phase of Seven-Step Road Map is being held. A total of 1000 delegates from eight groups including national race armed groups are attending the NC. As a matter of fact, it is more

officials said that the government has no plans to hold a dialogue with the NLD concerning the party's special announcements issued on 12 February and 21 April. The minister also explained the NLD's connections with foreign organizations. Recently the government also announced the three organizations including the NLD (LA) as terrorist groups. Has the government any plans to take further actions against the NLD?

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said I have already explained that the NLD has been continuously following the wrong policy of defiance of authority, confrontation, utter devastation, sanctions, and relying on aliens that never benefits the nation. NLD has connections with expatriate groups, terrorists and destructive groups. The government has firm evidence to declare



U Myat Khaing of Maha and Kaungthadin Journal. — MNA



U Myo Min of Shwemandalay Journal. — MNA

social surroundings again.

In doing so, there are mental and vocational training. Mentally, the Social Welfare Department, the Health Department, the Education Department, the Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau, the Religious Affairs Department, the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, Yangon University (Psychology Department) and the

ganizations such as UNIAP, World Vision Myanmar, Save the Children UK, the efforts are also being made not to be the victims of human trafficking again.

Regarding the second question of drug addicts and activities for rehabilitation, the Ministry of Health gave medical treatment to them in order that they stop narcotic drugs absolutely. Later, the rehabilitation tasks were being carried out opening

TV and video.

Persuading them with the preaching of Sayadaws and elder persons, the opportunities are also created to describe their past experiences and feelings through the discussions with families. Moreover, the lecture on the disadvantages of using narcotic drugs were given. Next, after care services are being provided with the assistance of volunteers and the drug abuse supervisory committee.

U Zan Zan of Morning Post said that in the clarification of the Information Minister, SSA-S of Ywet Sit set fire to a Pa-O village on 26 March 2005, killed the villagers and left them homeless. So, he would like to know why they set fire to the village.

Some of the diplomats had contacts with NLD headquarters and gave guidance to



Zan Zan of Morning Post MNA



U Aung Naing of Yonkyihmu Journal. — MNA

also giving instructions. Their incorrect commitment and policy are a big loss to the State and the people. So, the people do not support the NLD. Some party members of NLD resigned as party members and have kept

politically extensive than the discussion with a handful group. Due to those reasons, the government has no reason to talk with the NLD.

U Ko Ko of Yumiyuri Shinbum said

the NLD unlawful. But the government assessing the situation from all view points and exercising tolerance and patience and farsightedness still permits the NLD to stand as a legal political party. — MNA

