

President meets the Press Council (Interim)

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Sept— President U Thein Sein met the chairman and party of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) at the meeting hall of the 500-acre farmer educative mechanized farm, here, at 9 am today.

The Myanmar Press Council (Interim) reported on progress of work since its establishment, submission of the media bill, future plan for development of journalist ethics and journalism, assistant to be provided by the State for development of private media sector, their opinion on Public Service Media Bill, future plan of Myanmar Press Council and difficulties in gathering news from government departments.

In his address, the President expressed thanks for members of the Myanmar Press Council for their efforts to place emphasis on development of media despite their tight schedule and aged. He pledged that necessary assistance would be provided to the tasks of the council without interfering in its freedom. Again, he thanked them for their endeavours to protect rights and duty of media persons through the law for the first time in the nation. Although there would be differences in drawing the bills, coordination must be made in line with democratic practice, he said.

The President called for considering the historical background of the nation, customs and culture of Myanmar and teachings of religions in drawing the media laws meeting international standards. In media reform process, he stressed the need to observe the practice of mature democracies and experiences of neighbouring countries and infant democracies. The media world should be uplifted step by step to reach the goal, he said. In conclusion, the President pledged quick information from ministries.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister U Pike Htwe, Chairman of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) U Khin Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thauk Kyar) and Secretary U Kyaw Min Swe.

MNA.
