

Khanti ca, patience; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 32

15th Waning of Kason 1366 ME

*** Tuesday, 18 May, 2004

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

National Convention reconvenes in Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 17 May — With six objectives: Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity; Perpetuation of sovereignty; Flourishing of genuine multi-party democracy system; Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State; and For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State, the National Convention reconvened at Pyidaungsu Hall of

Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were National Convention Convening Commission Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, National Convention Convening Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members,

chairmen and officials of sub-committees, ambassadors of Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Russia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Egypt, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and Pakistan, charges d'affaires of Serbia and Montenegro, Nepal and the People's Republic of China, the resident representative of UNHCR, the counsellor of the Japanese Embassy, the patron, the chairman and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club,

officials of information and periodicals, observers, delegates of political parties (-) Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election

Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election

Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA), Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Shan State (North) Special Region-7, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Progressive Party (See page 8)

Delegates are to co-ordinate, discuss and forward suggestions without bias as regards person, ism, region or race National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers opening address at the National Convention

YANGON, 17 May— Following is the opening speech delivered by National Convention Convening Commission Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2

Lt-Gen Thein Sein at the National Convention today. **Distinguished National Convention delegates, observers and guests,**

I wish the well-being of mind and body of all of you

and the success of the National Convention for formulating fundamental principles for the State Constitution for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy which is being desired by the people.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt declared the seven-step Road Map on 30 August 2003. Of these, the National Convention which had been adjourned temporarily since 1996 is now being reconvened as the first step. (See page 8)

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22,366



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers opening address. — MNA



Welcome the National Convention.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 May, 2004

Strive for development of architecture parallel to other sciences and technologies

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is endeavouring for the development of the nation, relying on the knowledge and skills of her own people, especially the intellectuals and intelligentsia. At such a time like this, it is heartening to see the tangible results of the efforts made by various groups of technicians working together in their respective fields.

The Seminar on Tall Buildings sponsored by the Myanmar Architects Association was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park on 16 May and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who is also Chairman of the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee, attended it and delivered an address. The Prime Minister said that it was very appropriate to be able to hold the seminar as a gesture of hailing the golden jubilee of the Myanmar Architects Association and it was true that the seminar would be useful for the nation and for the development of architecture and construction.

The Government is making all-out efforts on all fronts for the development of the Union and for strengthening the socio-economic life of the entire national people and raising their living standard. For this, dams, hydroelectric power stations, roads and bridges, international ports and airports and other development infrastructures are being built the length and breadth of the nation.

Moreover, measures are being taken to develop Yangon City and other major cities to possess international characteristics to build modern buildings, housing estates, parks, department stores and management and service infrastructures. In striving for development of the nation and for improved living standard of the people, architects and engineers play a vital role as urban development tasks and construction of modern buildings are essential for national development and enhancement of the living standard of the people.

We would like to call on the architects to strive harder for urban development and at the same time for the development of architecture parallel to other sciences and technologies.

Rural road construction inspected

YANGON, 17 May — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint on 14 May inspected the construction of Yoma west road being undertaken by the Mandalay Division Development Affairs Department.

The Yoma west road passing through five townships in Mandalay Division is now under construction. So far, 44 miles 5 furlongs of earth road, 26 miles 4 furlongs of gravel road and 1 mile of tarred road together with 11 overpasses, 3 bridges and 54 conduits have been built spending over K 970 million. — MNA



Col Myo Myint inspects road construction in Mahlaing Township. — PBANRDA

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

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Kengtawng hydel project, meets departmental staff

YANGON, 17 May — State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence on 13 May morning visited Kengtawng and met with Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and family members at the hall of the regional battalion in Kengtawng in southern Shan State.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, together with Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials went to Kengtawng waterfall. At the briefing hall there, Assistant Director U Tha Aung of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise reported progress of work in implementing the project. Col Tint Lwin of local station also reported on progress. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint also submitted supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions. He urged personnel concerned to complete the project on schedule. He also fulfilled requirements.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party went to Kengtawng General Administration Department and met with departmental personnel and those of social organizations. The Kholan-Kengtawng road is being built there as a gravel road. The Kengtawng-Kunhein road and the Kengtawng-Mongpan road will be upgraded into tarred roads. In delivering an address at the meeting, Lt-gen Aung Htwe said that efforts are being made by the State to ensure better transportation in respective regions and now the Kholan-Wansin-Mongnawng-Mongshu road, the Kholan-Kengtawng road, the Kengtawng-Mongpan road have been built. Energetic efforts are also being made for generating more electric power. After completion, the Kengtawng hydro-electric power project will supply electricity round the clock to the region.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the construction of road at the entrance of Kengtawng town and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Commander, Minister meet WVO members in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 17 May — Patron of the Sagaing Division Supervisory Committee for War Veterans Organization Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and member of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe met the chairman and members of Sagaing Division, Monywa and Sagaing District Supervisory Committee for WVOs at Mya Thalla Hall in Monywa on 15 May morning. Chairman of Sagaing Division Supervisory Committee for WVO Lt-Col Myo Myint and chairmen of district supervisory committees reported on organizational and welfare works.

After giving necessary instructions, Minister Maj-

Gen Hla Myint Swe fulfilled the requirements. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye also spoke on the occasion. Later, the minister handed over longyis for WVO members of two districts to officials.

On 16 May, they met Shwebo District WVO Supervisory Committee and members of Township WVO at the town hall in Shwebo. The minister handed over longyis for the members of Shwebo District.

In the afternoon, the commander and the minister met entrepreneurs from Shwebo and heard reports on progress of Monywa Industrial Zone Branch (Shwebo), strength of entrepreneurs and work done. Later, the commander and the minister inspected the site for establishment of Shwebo Industrial Zone.

MNA

Minister attends opening of GDP Accounting Course

YANGON, 17 May — Organized by Planning Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the opening ceremony of Gross Domestic Product Accounting Course No 1/ 2004-05 was held at the training centre of the Planning Department at the Ministers' Office here this morning with a speech by NPED Minister U Soe Tha.

Present on the occasion were heads of departments under the ministry, departmental officials, instructors and 44 trainees. — MNA

POEM:

Patriots get together

* Existing situation, no wavering
Exercise caution, do assessment
Our land, our nation, land we own
Long-term interest, plan with it in mind
On the job, happily together
Consider the points, for pleasant homestead
Great Myanmar, future destiny
On lonesome path, not existing
Peaceful, prosperous, without danger
Uplift standard, Democratic State
To emerge, fresh and vibrant
Coming with wishes, patriots all
Have assembled, are meeting
Meet and discuss, get going
In the air, poisoned contents
If viruses should arrive
With existing real strength
Patriotic arms that are potent
Will off surely
We know that truly well.

Po Wa (Trs)

Commander attends opening of rural tubewell in Monywa

YANGON, 17 May — Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended the opening ceremony of a tubewell in Kawlapya village of Monywa Township on 11 May. The villagers and local people can now have sufficient clean water by having the new tubewell. — MNA

Commerce Minister receives guests

YANGON, 17 May — Managing Director of Pacific Food Industries Ltd of UK Mr Christopher Quie and party called on Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone at the latter's office on Strand Road here at 2 pm today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of Trade Department U Nyunt Aye, Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading Managing Director U Min Hla Aung and officials of Border Trade Department. — MNA

Measures for holding four nations' Trade Fair coordinated

YANGON, 17 May — A meeting to coordinate measures for holding four nations' Trade Fair 2004 was held at the Ministry of Commerce on Strand Road here at 3 pm today. It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, officials concerned and work committees from various ministries. — MNA

Prawn breeding ponds inspected in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 17 May — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by Director U Tin Win of Fisheries Department, Chairman of Myanmar Prawn Breeders Association U Hla Maung Shwe, Secretary U Than Win Aung and members, met prawn breeding entrepreneurs at the site of Tha Htoo Aung Sea Prawn Breeding Project in Lawlawt Village in Myeik District on 14 May. Officials briefed them on prawn breeding tasks. Next, the minister inspected completion of digging of ponds.

In the evening, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command

Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met the Chairman of Myanmar Prawn Breeders Association, members and entrepreneurs at the hall in Myeik and instructed them to implement digging of 15,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds within three years and assistance to be provided by divisional authorities and the ministry.

On 15 May, the minister and party went to Daungkumaw Crab Breeding Camp of Ahsaungkaung Co Ltd in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District and inspected works in progress.

Officials of the association and entrepreneurs also visited sea prawn breeding in 219 acres of ponds in Palaw Township. — MNA

Blair deserted by voters over Iraq

LONDON, 17 May—Tony Blair is fighting to keep his job amid reports that British troops face charges for abusing prisoners in Iraq. Stories about possible successors dominated the British media yesterday as a new poll found 46 per cent of voters believe the Prime Minister should stand down before the next election.

Mr Blair appeared to win little relief from the sacking of Daily Mirror editor Piers Morgan after the tabloid newspaper admitted photographs it published purporting to show British troops abusing Iraqi prisoners were fakes.

The Mirror apologised and said all proceeds from the sale of the pictures would be donated to charity.

But a defiant Morgan said that while the photos might have been faked, the abuse in Iraq was real, and rival paper The Independent appeared to back him up, reporting that six British soldiers would be charged

“within days”.

The soldiers to be charged were from the Queen’s Lancashire Regiment, which is at the centre of the row over pictures purportedly showing British troops beating and urinating on an Iraqi prisoner.

At least one soldier would be charged in connection with the death of hotel receptionist Baha Moussa, 28, who died after being severely beaten by British troops while in custody, the Independent reported. The nature of the other charges was not known.

The British Defence

Ministry admitted four soldiers had been arrested as part of investigations into the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, but said they were later released and no charges had been laid.

Speculation over Mr Blair’s future intensified on Friday when his deputy, John Prescott, talked openly about the prospect of a leadership change in the Labour Party.

Asked in a newspaper interview whether senior ministers were preparing themselves for life post-Blair, Mr Prescott said: “Yes, people do talk about it and you get that discussion ... every British Prime Minister goes eventually.”

One report yesterday said Mr Prescott and Chancellor Gordon Brown, the odds-on favourite to succeed Mr Blair, discussed a “peaceful” leadership succession while in Scotland last week.

The Sunday Times reported that Mr Brown’s allies had drawn up “detailed plans” for a Brown government following a handover of power at the Labour Party conference later this year.

The YouGov poll found 46 per cent of voters wanted Mr Blair to stand down before the next election, and 22 per cent wanted him to go after the ballot. Only 20 per cent said he should stay on as prime minister if re-elected.

An overwhelming 93 per cent said the Iraq war had damaged Mr Blair politically. —*Internet*



Armed militiamen patrol the centre of the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, on 15 May, 2004 after American tanks charged into the centre of this holy city. —INTERNET

Senator Hillary Clinton says Bush administration on wrong track in Iraq

NEW YORK, 17 May—Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said she would “perhaps” support the resignation of Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld if his stepping down marked a change in the Bush administration’s approach to the war in Iraq.

“I have a problem that goes far beyond” the US military’s abuse of Iraqi prisoners, Clinton said in an interview broadcast Sunday on NewsChannel 4’s “News Forum.”

“I think that this leadership team in the Bush administration ... has made a pattern and practice of misjudgments that add up to incompetence and lack of credibility,” she said. “If I thought that removing Rumsfeld would change the direction of this administration, perhaps I would be for it.”

Rumsfeld himself would have to decide whether he should step down, because “clearly the President is not going to hold him or anybody else accountable for

anything,” Clinton said.

Congress, too, deserved blame for not doing enough to question President Bush’s campaign in Iraq, she said. Lawmakers had long given the president “power of attorney” in responding to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, she said.

“The problem is that that trust, that willingness to suspend judgment for a period of time ... was not returned with the kind of good judgment and honest disclosures that one would hope for from the administration,” she said.

Clinton declined to discuss her career ambitions, including whether she would run for President. —*Internet*

Malaysian PM urges youth to acquire skills

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 May — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Saturday urged youth to acquire skills in various fields and excel in whatever they do. “If we are not competitive and not in the forefront of economic development then we will be left behind while other countries forge ahead,” the Prime Minister

said at the National Youth Day rally at Stadium Putra here. “See, India has developed by leaps and bounds and Thailand is coming up while Singapore has long been our competitor,” he said.

The theme of this year’s celebration is “Excellent Youth, Glorious Nation, Country of Distinction”.

The youths should help develop the national economy by venturing into business and setting up their own viable companies, he said.

Malaysia needs a progressive and resilient youth to take on the challenges of a knowledge-economy era and a transforming world, Abdullah said. —*MNA/Xinhua*

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Iraq guerillas drive Italians from base

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Fighters loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr drove Italian forces from a base in the southern city of Nasiriyah on Sunday and attacked coalition headquarters there with grenade and mortar fire as tensions in the Shiite region escalated. Two US soldiers died elsewhere. Gunmen also killed three Iraqi women working for the US-led coalition.

Two Iraqi fighters were killed and 20 were wounded in battles in Nasiriyah, mostly at two bridges crossing the Euphrates River, residents said.

The Italian troops evacuated as their base came under repeated attack. Portuguese police were called out to support the Italians, seeing action for the first time since the force of 128 deployed to Nasiriyah in November, a Portuguese duty officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At least 10 Italians were wounded, one of the critically, contingent spokesman Lt Col Giuseppe Perrone told The Associated Press by phone. He said the Italians relocated to the nearby Tallil air base.

Elsewhere in Nasiriyah, a convoy transporting the Italian official in charge of the city, Barbara Contini, came under attack as it neared the headquarters of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, Perrone said. Two Italian paramilitary police were wounded.

Internet

US takes over Spanish base in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May—US troops have taken over operations at the Spanish military base in south-central Iraq as Spanish troops continue with their withdrawal from the country, the Defence Ministry in Madrid said today.

The transfer ceremony was made in Diwaniyah, 100 miles south of Baghdad.

At the ceremony, Spanish General Jose Manuel Munoz thanked Spain’s coalition partners and the population of Diwaniyah for their affection, the Defence Ministry said.

The Spanish flag will fly over the base until the departure of the last convoy, with Gen Munoz remaining its commander until then, the Ministry added.

Some 1,000 logistic experts and other troops are still in Diwaniyah to ship material

home, and are expected to leave Iraq by May 27. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose Socialist party won general elections in March, ordered the troops home saying he saw no sign that his terms for keeping them there beyond June 30 would be met.

Those conditions were that the United Nations assume military and political control of the occupation.

Some 1,300 troops were sent to Iraq by former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar to support the US-led occupation. —*Internet*



US Army soldiers move into position after gunfire was heard in the centre of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 May, 2004. —INTERNET

China leads world in motor vehicle production

BEIJING, 17 May—China has become one of the world’s largest producers of motor vehicles, according to Duan Liren, a member of the professional panel for the “through transport scheme” launched by the Chinese ministries of Public Security and Construction.

The country turned out

19.95 million motor vehicles last year, including 4.45 million automobiles, 13 million motorcycles and 2.5 million vehicles for agricultural use, said Duan at the five-day second Sino-Spanish Forum for Urban Transport that closed here on Friday.

According to Duan,

China has been producing 10 million motorcycles annually since 1997, accounting for half of the world’s total production, and the country’s annual production of vehicles for agricultural use has been stabilized around two million to three million since 1995.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush vows to prevent further prison abuses in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 May — US President George W Bush said on Saturday he was determined that Iraqi prison abuses will never happen again, as he took stock of a difficult week in Iraq.

In his weekly radio address, Bush again suggested the abuse scandal was limited to those directly involved at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib Prison. He pointed out that charges have been filed against seven soldiers and the first trial is set to begin next week.

"My administration and our military are determined that such abuses never happen again," Bush said. "All

Americans know that the actions of a few do not reflect the true character of the United States Armed Forces."

US military interrogation techniques have come under scrutiny following revelations of abuse at Abu Ghraib, which had been a torture centre under ousted president Saddam Hussein.

Prisoners were kept na-

ked, stacked on top of each other, compelled to wear hoods over their heads, forced to engage in sex acts, struck by American jailers, and photographed in humiliating poses.

Defence officials said on Friday that the US military had prohibited several interrogation methods from being used in Iraq, including sleep and sensory depriva-

tion and body "stress positions". The abuse scandal, coupled with other bad news from Iraq, has been a factor in a drop in Bush's approval rating.

A *Newsweek* poll released on Saturday showed the President's approval rating sliding to 42 per cent, a new low for his presidency.

Bush has stood by Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld amid calls by Democrats for him to resign over the abuse scandal.

Bush said in his radio address that the United States was working with Iraqi leaders on an interim Iraqi government to take power on June 30. US troops will stay in Iraq after that for security, he said.

"America will keep its commitment to the independence and national dignity of the Iraqi people," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Powell apologizes to Iraqis abused at Abu Ghraib

DEAD SEA COAST, 17 May — Secretary of State Colin Powell apologized Sunday to Iraqi prisoners abused by US soldiers, one day after he gave a speech in which he promised justice but left many Arabs angry and distrustful.

President Bush on May 6 said he was "sorry for the humiliation" of Iraqis who were kept naked, stacked on top of each other, forced to engage in sex acts, struck by American jailers and photographed at the Abu Ghraib prison.

"The president has expressed an apology on behalf of the nation. (I will) reinforce that apology. We are devastated by what

happened at Abu Ghraib. We apologize to those who were abused in such an awful manner," Powell told reporters.

Powell spoke in Jordan one day after he gave a speech designed to blunt Arab anger at the abuse of prisoners but in which he failed to offer an explicit apology.

Arab businessmen and politicians who heard the speech on Saturday at a World

Economic Forum meeting in Jordan questioned his sincerity and doubted his promise that the United States would investigate and prosecute those accused of abuses.

US credibility in the Arab world has been shredded by the prisoner abuses in Iraq, which remains a caldron of violence since the US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein a year ago.—Internet

World donors inject \$1b into Iraq fund

DEAD SEA COAST (Jordan), 17 May — World donors have made good on pledges to inject about one billion US dollars of the 33 billion US dollars of aid earmarked for Iraq's rebuilding into trust funds run by the United Nations and World Bank, the country's Planning Minister said on Saturday.

Mehdi al-Hafedh told reporters ahead of a World Economic Forum meeting in Jordan that donors would assess the flow of aid and make more pledges at a May 25-26 meeting in Doha.

"We now have in the range of more than one billion US dollars now and I expect more to come," Hafedh said. "This is money deposited in the (trust) funds."

The funds have come in despite escalating violence in Iraq that has seen scores of foreign civilian contractors involved in the reconstruction process slain or kidnapped, Hafedh said.

"There are problems, no doubt, and this will continue as a concern to us. Without security and stability in the country it will be difficult for us to proceed," said Hafedh, charged with overseeing relations with donors.

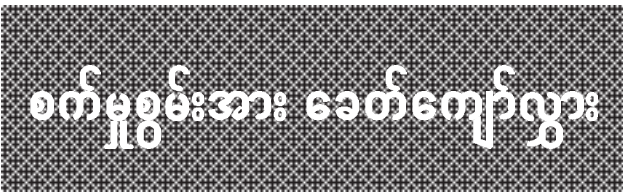
Several countries that opposed the US-led war to oust president Saddam Hussein, including France and Germany, refused to contribute any aid to Baghdad if the United States and Britain — who currently occupy Iraq — control the funds.

They said they preferred

to give aid directly to Iraq or contribute to trust funds run and audited independently, while Washington has been injecting its billions of reconstruction money directly into Iraqi projects.

Hafedh had outlined four billion US dollars of projects for donor consideration at a February meeting in Abu Dhabi to activate aid pledges made at a September donors' summit in Madrid.

At the time, the United States said it would have committed 10 billion US dollars of the 18.6 billion US dollars it has earmarked for Iraqi reconstruction by mid-year. Other donors said they would funnel one billion US dollars of the aid they had pledged in Madrid to the trust funds.—MNA/Reuters



Report says first British soldiers to be charged over Iraq torture

LONDON, 17 May — Some six British soldiers will be charged "within days" over torture in Iraq and the death of an Iraqi in military custody, a London-based newspaper said.

The soldiers to be charged are from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment — at the centre of the row over hoax pictures of supposed torture in the *Daily Mirror* newspaper — said *The Independent* on Sunday.

The charges would be the first levelled against British soldiers since the war in Iraq began. At least one soldier will be charged in connection with the death of 28-year-old hotel receptionist Baha Moussa, who allegedly died after being severely beaten by British troops while in custody, the newspaper said. The nature of the other charges are not known, it added. Britain's Defence Ministry said Saturday it had arrested four British soldiers as part of investigations into the abuse of prisoners in Iraq, but they were later released and no charges have been filed.

The spokeswoman did not say whether the arrests were linked to the probe into the faked photographs of British troops torturing Iraqis published by the *Daily Mirror*, which on Friday issued a humbling apology for running them and sacked its editor.

The pictures, first printed on 1 May, appeared to show British troops beating and urinating on an Iraqi.—Internet



US Marines from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment patrol in Nasar Wa Salam, Iraq, on 15 May, 2004, as smoke rises in the distance from a mortar attack at a fuel depot in Abu Ghraib. —INTERNET

Two Iraqi women killed in bus attack

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Gunmen fired on a minibus Sunday, killing two Iraqi women who worked for the US-led coalition, and assailants in a southern city killed a coalition translator and critically injured another, police and witnesses said.

A US soldier, meanwhile, was killed and another was wounded in a roadside bombing Saturday night, the military said.

The attackers who fired on the bus in Baghdad also detonated explosives in it, killing the driver and injuring another woman. Lt Ali Omran of al-Dora police station said the women were working for the Americans, but he did not specify their jobs.

Early Sunday, an Iraqi woman working with US troops as a translator was killed and another was critically injured when gunmen broke into their houses in Mahmoudiyah, said Dawood al-Taee, director of the city's hospital.

In the southern city of Nasiriyah, forces loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's

fought Italian troops at two bridges across the Euphrates river on Sunday. Two al-Sadr militiamen were killed and 20 were injured, residents said.

Six Italian soldiers were slightly wounded, said Maj Antonio Sottile, spokesman for Italian troops in Iraq. Militiamen were shooting from a civilian hospital, but Italian troops did not fire toward the facility to avoid

civilian deaths, he said.

The ANSA news agency said a convoy transporting the Italian official in charge of Nasiriyah, Barbara Contini, came under attack as it neared coalition headquarters, but that she was uninjured. Two carabinieri paramilitary police were injured, the agency said, citing military sources.

Internet

Strong explosion heard in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A strong explosion was heard in central Baghdad on Sunday, and large pillar of smoke rose near the Green Zone headquarters of the US-run occupation.

It was unclear what caused the blast, which was heard about 2:40 pm or whether it was in the controlled zone. The smoke could be seen rising from the west side of the Tigris River. A rocket struck the Green Zone on Saturday, wounding one US soldier and one civilian, the US military said.

Internet



US Marines detain two Iraqi men in Nasar Wa Salam, Iraq, on 15 May, 2004. —INTERNET

US military hit by another Afghan abuse charge

KABUL, 17 May— The US military in Afghanistan has launched its second investigation into prisoner abuse in a week, as the scandal over the treatment of Iraqi detainees threatens to spread.

US spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker Mansager told reporters on Saturday that fresh allegations of mistreatment were relayed to the military on Thursday, days after a former detainee said he had been sexually abused in 2003.

“Upon notification, coalition forces launched an immediate investigation into this matter,” he said. “Coalition forces are committed to ensuring that all detainees

are treated humanely and consistent with International Law.”

He added that such allegations threatened the military’s interests in Afghanistan.

“Our investigation is proof that we are concerned about these things,” he said. “Our centre of gravity is the Afghan people. When allegations like this come to light, that can affect that centre of gravity and we take

that very seriously.”

There were few details of the latest complaint, except that it was made to the US military via a third party.

On Wednesday, the Americans launched an investigation into allegations made by a former police officer, Sayed Nabi Siddiqui, that he had been subjected to beating, sleep deprivation, taunts and sexual abuse during about 40 days in US custody last year.

Human Rights Watch has complained of prisoner abuse in Afghanistan before, and this week called the problem “systemic”.

Hundreds of Islamic militant suspects are in detention centres around the country, including to the main one at Bagram air base north of Kabul. Some are sent on to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, where many are kept incommunicado for months.

A division of the US military is still investigating the deaths of two Afghans at Bagram in December, 2002. A third Afghan died in Asadabad, near the Pakistani border, in June, 2003.

The US military leads a force of around 20,000 soldiers in Afghanistan hunting down militants from the al-Qaeda network and the ousted Taliban regime.

MNA/Reuters

သားငယ်များ ပြည်အကျိုး



Iraqi Shiite youths throw stones at a US military convoy in the centre of the most populated Shiite district of Al-Sadr city in Baghdad, on 15 May 15, 2004.—INTERNET



US soldiers stand guard while Iraqi men wave to a bus load of prisoners leaving the Abu Ghraib prison compound in route to an undisclosed location where they were later released on 15 May, 2004.—INTERNET.

Two Sadr fighters killed in Kerbala clash

KERBALA (Iraq), 17 May — US forces clashed with fighters loyal to Iraq’s rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr early on Saturday, killing at least two guerillas and wounding seven others, witnesses said.

It was the latest round in more than a month of fighting that has turned the Shiite shrine cities of Iraq into battlefields, with US forces trying to crush an uprising by Sadr’s forces across southern Iraq and in the capital Baghdad.

Witnesses said occupying troops destroyed Sadr’s office in Kerbala, where his fighters had been set up, while helicopters blasted positions of the firebrand cleric’s Mehdi Army with cannon fire.

US snipers perched on the roofs of buildings surrounding the shrines of Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas, an area that is among the most sacred ground in Shiite

Islam and which has witnessed fierce firefights in recent days.

Sadr’s men have seized police stations and government buildings in southern cities during the fighting. Kerbala police denied reports they had lost control of a station on the fringes of the city along with its store of weapons. It could not immediately be verified whether the station had been seized.

The shrine area, normally packed with Shiite Muslim pilgrims from Iran and other countries, was deserted, and stores at its edges were closed, some having had their windows smashed and their merchandise looted in the wake of the fighting. —MNA/Reuters

Major Iraqi newspaper demands Rumsfeld quit

BAGHDAD, 17 May — One of Iraq’s most widely read newspapers called on US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to quit on Saturday over American abuse of Iraqi detainees.

Two days after Rumsfeld visited Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison, *Azzaman* printed a rare front-page editorial that recalled his role in negotiating with Saddam Hussein in the 1980s and said he should have used the trip to resign and free Iraqi prisoners.

“Rumsfeld, who humiliated the Iraqi Army and undermined the history and dignity of the Iraqi people, forgot the unforgettable offence his soldiers meted out to the sons of Iraq in Abu

Ghraib,” the paper said.

“Rumsfeld, who is known for his history of collaboration with Saddam, should have announced his resignation from Baghdad to satisfy the oppressed Iraqi people,” it added, describing his visit to Abu Ghraib as “choreographed show-business”.

Rumsfeld has resisted calls at home for him to resign over the conduct of US troops, seven of whom have been charged with maltreating and sexually humiliating detainees in Abu Ghraib.

President George W. Bush, fighting for re-election, has stood by Rumsfeld despite outrage in Iraq and abroad provoked by the publication of lurid photographs of the

abuse.

Many Iraqis, backed up by reports from the Red Cross of systematic torture, believe beatings and even killings by US soldiers are commonplace. That is undermining US authority in the country as Washington prepares to hand back power to an Iraqi interim government on June 30. US officials, including Secretary of State Colin Powell and Bush’s spokesman Scott McClellan, said on Friday that US troops would not stay where they were not welcome but voiced confidence that an Iraqi government would ask them to stay on. Many Iraqis fear a hurried US departure would create anarchy.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows almost half British voters say Blair should go

LONDON, 17 May — Speculation about the future of Prime Minister Tony Blair intensified on Sunday, with an opinion poll showing nearly half of British voters think he should step down before the next general election.

Blair’s public ratings have plummeted since the Iraq war, and growing numbers of Labour members of Parliament are openly wondering whether he has become an electoral liability.

A YouGov poll for *The Sunday Times* found 46 per cent of those surveyed said Blair should quit before the next election, expected in about a year’s time.

Another 22 per cent want

him to go soon after an election, while just 20 per cent say he should stay, according to the poll.

Asked whether they trust Blair, 61 per cent said “no” and 36 per cent “yes”.

Blair has vowed to fight the next election and on Friday called speculation about his future “froth”.

But the following day the Times ran an interview with Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott on its front page under the headline “Race to seize Blair’s crown is under way”.

Prescott’s office later issued a statement saying the headline was “untrue”.

In the interview, Prescott was quoted as saying senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair and were suggesting they were preparing for a seismic shift in government.

“I think it is true that, when plates appear to be moving, everyone positions themselves for it,” Prescott said.

Asked whether senior ministers were preparing for a new leader or had discussed it, Prescott said: “Yes, people do talk about it and you get that discussion...every British prime minister goes eventually.”

Sunday’s YouGov poll confirmed the widely held view that the favourite to succeed Blair is Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.

It surveyed 2,014 voters online between May 13 and May 15. — MNA/Reuters

Detained Briton says US guards videotaped Guantanamo abuse

LONDON, 17 May — A third Briton detained at Guantanamo Bay told a newspaper he was mistreated by his US captors and said guards at the camp in Cuba filmed his beatings.

Tarek Dergoul, 26, from London, was one of five Britons released from the camp in March. Four others, said by Washington to be more dangerous, remain captive.

He told *The Observer* newspaper on Sunday he had been repeatedly assaulted by Camp Delta’s punishment squad, the Extreme Reaction Force, during his 22-month imprisonment.

“They pepper-sprayed me in the face and I started vomiting,” he was quoted as saying. “They pinned me down and attacked me, poking their fingers in my eyes, and forced my head into the toilet and flushed.

“They tied me up like a beast and then they were kneeling on me, kicking and punching.

“Finally they dragged me out of the cell in chains...and shaved my beard, my hair and my eyebrows,” he said.

“There was always this guy behind the squad, film-

ing everything that happened,” he added.

Last week, two other British inmates wrote an open letter to President George W Bush, saying they were beaten and accusing US military officials of deliberately misleading the public about interrogation techniques used at Guantanamo.

The US military, whose interrogation techniques have come under fire amid revelations of abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Jail near Baghdad, has denied allegations of abuse at Guantanamo, where more than 600 people are being held without charge or access to lawyers.

Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal said in their letter to Bush that they were forced to squat with their hands shackled to the floor for hours during questioning, and that dogs, strobe lights and loud music were used to disorientate them.

MNA/Reuters

British troops fight off Iraq, killing 20

BAGHDAD, 17 May— British troops killed up to 20 Iraqis as the soldiers fought their way out of a series of three roadside ambushes in southern Iraq, a British military spokesman in Iraq said on Saturday.

Two British soldiers were wounded when a convoy headed north on Friday toward the city of Amara from their main base at Basra came under attack. Troops returned fire “to save their lives”.

A second patrol which came to the rescue was ambushed by guerillas who detonated a roadside bomb and opened fire with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns, the spokesman said. In all, there were three attacks, he added.

“About 20 were killed and 13 captured,” the spokesman said, adding that some Iraqis were being treated for wounds.

“We regret they were forced to respond but we will

protect our lives,” he said.

The British took no further casualties and the two initially wounded were being treated. A Defence Ministry spokesman in London, who declined to identify the regiment involved, added that the wounded were expected to survive.

The spokesman in Iraq said it was not yet clear who the attackers were. The prisoners were being questioned.

The ambushes came on a day of widespread violence across southern Iraq, as fighters from Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia struck back at US-led coalition forces.

In Samawa, at the northern end of the British-run area of operations, troops clashed with Sadr’s militiamen over-

night, the British spokesman in Iraq said, but sustained no casualties. Fighters had set up roadblocks in the town and resisted attempts by Iraqi police to remove them, he said.

Dutch and Japanese troops are based in Samawa.

In Nassiriya, controlled by Italian forces, militiamen besieged the offices of the occupation authority, firing rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, the British spokesman said. “A number of militia are believed to have been killed,” he added.

An Italian spokesman in the building said fighting had died down after dawn but it was still unclear whether the guerillas were in control of the town centre.

MNA/Reuters



US Marines detain a blindfolded Iraqi man in Nasar Wa Salam, Iraq, on 15 May, 2004. INTERNET

Chavez tells Bush to ask Pope’s pardon for Iraq war

CARACAS (Venezuela), 17 May — US President George W Bush should kneel before Pope John Paul and ask for forgiveness for abuses committed by US soldiers in Iraq, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday.

In his latest jibe against the US leader, the outspoken left-wing Venezuelan President urged Bush to use his planned visit to the Vatican on June 4 to announce the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

“Even though he’s not a Catholi... he should ask God’s forgiveness at the Vatican... go down on his knees in front of the Pope and ask for the forgiveness of the world, not just the Iraqi people,” Chavez told a news conference in Caracas.

While he criticized the actions of US troops, the Venezuelan leader also condemned as “a horror” the decapitation of US businessman Nick Berg by Islamic militants in Iraq.

He made the comments

after noting that senior Vatican officials had criticized the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers which has caused an international scandal.

Over the last few months, Chavez has repeatedly con-

demned Bush for waging the war in Iraq. He called the US President a “jerk” earlier this year and accuses his administration of seeking to topple him, a charge denied by Washington.

MNA/Reuters

Two US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Two US soldiers were killed by guerillas in two separate attacks south of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement on Saturday. One soldier died at 3 pm Friday from wounds sustained during a mortar bombing and a second was killed by sniper gunshots, said the statement.

The military said two more soldiers also died in non-combat incidents: One was killed when his vehicle overturned early Saturday and another died of natural causes on Friday. Three of the four soldiers were from the 1st Armoured Division and all the names were withheld pending notification of their families.

The latest deaths brought to 781 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion started March last year, and 568 of them were killed by hostile fire.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့စွေ့တာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်



An elderly Iraqi man sits outside Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, while he waits to get information about a relative being held inside the jail, on 15 May, 2004. —INTERNET

Deputy PM stirs speculation about Blair’s future

LONDON, 17 May— His popularity flagging since the Iraq war, British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced renewed speculation on Saturday that he may resign after his deputy said senior ministers had discussed who might take his place.

The Times ran an interview with Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott on its front page under the headline “Race to seize Blair’s crown is under way”.

Prescott’s office issued a statement on Saturday saying the Times headline was “untrue”.

In the interview, Prescott was quoted as saying senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair and suggesting they were preparing for a seismic shift in government.

“I think it is true that, when plates appear to be moving, everyone positions themselves for it,” Prescott said in the interview with the Times.

Asked if senior ministers were preparing for a new leader or had discussed it, Prescott said: “Yes, people do talk about it and you get that discussion... every British Prime Minister goes eventually.”

But in the statement issued on Saturday Prescott played down the significance of his comments. “Of course there has been speculation over the leadership, but the reality is there is no race for the prime minister’s position,” he said.

Blair’s office declined to comment. His spokesmen have repeatedly denied rumours he is planning to resign ahead of an election expected next year.

Blair’s trust ratings plummeted after the Iraq war and his government has been hit by negative headlines on issues from Europe and the Middle East to health and public services.

Blair, who swept to power with a landslide elec-

tion win in 1997, dismissed talk of his resignation as “froth” on Friday.

But newspapers have speculated there is growing support within the government for Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, Blair’s key ally and main rival for the leadership.

Prescott confirmed in the Times interview that Blair and Brown had a “pretty serious breakdown in relations” soon after Labour came to power, but said they

had been working “extremely well” together more recently.

Political folklore says the pair made a pact in 1994 that if Blair became prime minister he would one day step aside to allow Brown to take over.

Prescott admitted that Labour had been “rather dampened by the whole business of Iraq”. “We understand that it has been difficult,” he told the paper.

MNA/Reuters

Four British soldiers questioned over abuse claims

LONDON, 17 May — Four British soldiers have been quizzed over alleged mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners, Britain’s Defence Ministry said on Saturday, a day after a newspaper editor was sacked for printing hoax pictures of such abuse.

The questioning of the soldiers about abuse cases unrelated to the hoax pictures showed that pressure was still on the government despite the backtracking by The Daily Mirror.

The ministry said the four had been arrested and released without charge by military police probing some of the alleged cases against British troops.

“The interviews were standard practice in an investigation of this nature,” an MoD spokeswoman said, adding the arrests were unrelated to the fake photos.

“No charges have been made against any individual and no individuals are currently in custody.”—MNA/Reuters

Chavez suspects US lying like “Pinocchio”

CARACAS (Venezuela), 17 May — Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez said he suspected the US was lying “like Pinocchio” when it denied any involvement in what he has called a plot by his enemies to topple him.

Chavez’ government said on Sunday it had captured a force of Colombian paramilitaries near Caracas that were part of a plan to kill him, attack the presidential palace and take over military and oil plants in the world’s No 5 crude exporter.

“We have serious doubts about the US Government. I’d like to believe them, but the US Government is like Pinocchio, its nose is longer than the earth’s diameter,” Chavez told foreign correspondents.

MNA/Reuters

From National Convention to a new nation

Aung Si Hein

The National Convention which has been adjourned since 1996 was reconvened on 17 May 2004. Eight delegate groups —the political parties' delegate group; the representatives-elect group, the nationalities delegate group; the peasants delegate group; the workers delegate group; the State service personnel delegate group; the intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group; and other invited delegate group — have thoroughly discussed points on formation of the State, legislation, judiciary and administration and laid down fundamental principles and details for the new Constitution.

The local and international experiences encountered by the people during the period of eight years when the National Convention was adjourned will be the vigorizer for the National Convention being reconvened. Such experiences will add more strength to the fundamental principles and details. Sayings in political science said that **without a Constitution, a nation cannot exist properly and without the nation, systematic and progressive society cannot be in existence.** It shows that the Constitution is of utmost importance for the emergence of a new nation. In fact, a nation means the combination of four characteristics such as population, territory, Government and sovereignty.

This article is aimed at presenting points to be pondered by providing examples of some nations in view of building up a new nation possessing the above-mentioned four characteristics and practising multi-party system and market oriented economy.

First, we have to study the points regarding to population. Greek philosopher Aristotle (BC 384-322) said that for a nation, population should not be too much to have difficulty in administration as well as too few to have difficulty in ensuring secure and peaceful social life of the people. Population should be the amount adequate to bring about prosperous life. Nowadays, China with about 1,300 million people has the largest population. Nauru with 13,000 population is the least populated republic. French philosopher Ruseau (AD 1712-1778) said that **population should not be less than 10,000 to build up a democratic nation.** His expression is noteworthy.

Secondly, we have to study the characteristics of territory. There must be precisely designated land territory, water territory and air territory. It must be drawn vividly on the map. Generally, the territory is designated by natural marks such as sea, river, mountain and forest. Wall, barbed wire and trench when necessary can be used, it is learnt. The population should be in good harmony with the territory of the nation. Too small territory renders narrow outlook and slows down the development pace. At present, Nauru with 21 square kilometres is the smallest republic in the world. Canada with 9,970,610 square kilometres has the largest territory.

There is a saying which goes "Government is the soul of the State". The Government is held responsible for carrying out the tasks without fail for the rule of law and order and the prevalence of peace and tranquillity; establishment of administrative machinery; safeguarding lives and property of the people; preventing anarchy; uplift of cultural standard of the people; and formation of social organizations.

The term "sovereignty" is defined as Attribute of State. The three branches of State power — legislative, judicial and administrative powers — are the concern of the entire people. The sovereignty should be in consonance with the laws promulgated. As regards internal affairs, there must be no parallel government or rival government. As regards external affairs, it should be safeguarded to be free from alien control or external domination.

It is also required to review the forms of governments in those nations possessing the above-mentioned four characteristics. In ancient times, there flourished absolute monarchy. Along with the civilization, there emerged constitutional monarchy with monarchs and parliaments jointly keeping the balance. Based on diversities in political outlook, there emerged multi-party system.

With the emergence of political parties, there were revolutions against monarchism. There emerged republics throughout the world. All over the world, there emerged some nations practising federal system such as USA,

Canada, Switzerland, Germany and India; those practising unitary system such as Britain, France and China; those practising uni-cameralism such as China and Bangladesh; those practising bi-cameralism such as Britain, USA, Canada, Japan, France and Australia; those practicing one-party system and those practising multi-party democracy system.

Administrative mechanism of governments in the world can also be seen in three categories. The first one is with King or President as National Head and with Prime Minister providing close supervision over the government. In this category, the Prime Minister handles administrative power and legislative power. Such parliamentary governments can be seen in Britain, Japan and Thailand. Another category is presidential government and the president provides close supervision to the government. In such category, the President handles administrative power. Judicial and legislative bodies are not under the control of the President and they exist as separate organs. Such governments can be seen in USA; South Korea and the Philippines. The remaining category is quasi-presidential model of government. Such governments can be seen in France and Sri Lanka.

There are various State formation, administration and democratic practise. There can be found advantages and disadvantages in every State formation, administration and democratic practice. Therefore, for development of a nation it will not be reasonable to copy a certain nation. Advantages of developed nations must be studied and applied in harmony with the conditions of one's nation. Lessons should also be drawn from the world's political incidents and assessments should be made for long-term interests and avoiding any mistake.

In this connection, I would like to mention some nations which practise the federal system. Normally, having a vast geographical area and diversities of national races, languages and cultures lead to establishment of a multi-national state. With this as the base, the Soviet Union was established and finally it collapsed and disintegrated. It shows that it was not caused by Constitution but caused by other reasons. USA was also established with the same base and now it is popular as a Union practising the federal system. However, in the book entitled "Principles of Modern Political Science" by Johari, political science expert, it is criticized that "In the rich countries like the USA democracy is degenerated into plutocracy or the perverted rule of the wealthy persons". A lesson should be drawn from it.

Switzerland, a small nation, is a model in practising the federal system and genuine democracy. Switzerland is a little bit smaller than Taninthayi Division of Myanmar. It has 26 states of big and small sizes. Of them, some states are still practising the Open-air parliament system. Under this system, voters congregated at a designated square and cast votes openly without using ballot boxes in choosing the most suitable candidates and in approving the tax rate.

Myanmar has experienced parliamentary democracy and multi-party system, a single-party system of socialist party, and the current Tatmadaw Government period in which the genuine national politics is focused without any political colours. Socio-economic infrastructures regarding education, health, transport, irrigation, agriculture, border and rural development have emerged in various States and Divisions. Hence, it can be said that to build up a modern Union, the national people have profound experiences.

In short, the delegates are the ones who can make collective and beneficial suggestions by utilizing the time most beneficially at the National Convention which has reconvened. It is incumbent upon the entire national people to prepare and polish the Constitution (draft) as much as possible. In hailing the National Convention being held, I wish the entire national people to join hands with the Tatmadaw and conveniently and smoothly march from the National Convention to a new, modern and developed nation.

(Translation: T.Htut + NY + TS)

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစွာနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အရံကြောတိရိစ္ဆာန်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗဟုများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ဝိုးမွှားများခန္ဓာကိုယ်ပေါ် ချစ်စွာသွားသလိုခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိဘဲ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)။

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရူးပြန်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက် ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန် တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေး ဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

National Convention reconvenes ...

(from page 1)
(KNPP) Dragon Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Splinter, Hoya), Kayinni National Unity and Solidarity and Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization (Ya La La Pha), New Mon State Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Phayagon Special Region Group, Shan

State National Army, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Homein Region Welfare and Development Group, Shwepyiaye (MTA) Group, Manpan Regional Militia Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon Splinter Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) who exchanged arms for peace.
At 7.20 am before the plenary session of the National Convention, Chairman of National Convention

Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen of the respective subcommittees and members, delegates of po-



Delegates arrive to attend National Convention.— MNA



Delegates arrive National Convention.— MNA

litical parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia delegates of workers, delegates of service personnel and other invited delegates signed in the attendance registers at Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for National Convention delegates. Besides, delegate U Mahn Tin Aung Than of Union Kayin League, who is receiving medical treatment at the hospital on account of his ill health, enthusiastically signed in the register and attended the convention.
Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the ple-

nary session and Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as master of ceremonies.
First, the secretary of NCCC announced the start of the meeting as there were 1,076 delegates attending out of 1,088 listed accounting for 98.9 per cent.
Next, Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signed in the record book of the Plenary Session of the National Convention and delivered an opening speech. Then, the plenary meeting went into recess.
During the recess, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Secretary Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members cordially

greeted the ambassadors, charges d'affaires and other diplomats. Then, the plenary session resumed, and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained the procedures of the National Convention.
Next, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe clarified the formation of legislative bodies at all levels among the basic detailed principles laid down by the National Convention. NCCC Secretary Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified the election of chairmen of the delegate groups. The today's session came to a close at 10.15 am.
The Plenary Session of the National Convention continues tomorrow.
MNA

Delegates are to co-ordinate, discuss...

(from page 1)
The State Peace and Development Council formed the National Convention Convening Commission on 6 September 2003 under Notification No 10/2003 changing the assignment of duties of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary and the Joint Secretary including myself with a view to continuing the National Convention systematically and smoothly. Similarly, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee were also reformed. Our committees, in keeping with duties assigned to us, will do our utmost to successfully reconvene the National Convention.

Esteemed delegates,
The emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of our country. We are now in this meeting hall to discharge this duty which is of utmost importance. In fact, it is very important to formulate strong fundamental principles for drawing up an enduring Constitution. At the National Convention held during the period from 1993 to 1996, altogether 104 fundamental principles and details to form the basis in drafting the State Constitution have been formulated by the delegates.
Now, we are to continue to co-ordinate, discuss and approve detailed principles to form the basis in formulating the remaining State fundamental principles. The

delegate groups like previous ones are the political parties' delegate group, the representatives-elect group, the nationalities delegate group, the peasants delegate group, the workers delegate group, the intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group, the State service personnel delegate group, and the other invited delegate group. Except those who passed away and who are not in sound health, all the members of these groups are now here. As the nationalities are residing all over the country in amity, the delegates representing the nationalities are also accounted for. Arrangements have been made for accommodation, food, health care and entertainment of the delegates during the Con-



Diplomats and UN agency officials seen at National Convention.— MNA

vention. Necessary assistance will be provided to the delegates by over 1,000 staff. Weaknesses, loopholes and requirements can be pointed out without hesitation.
Esteemed delegates,
The National Convention is to formulate fundamental principles for draft-

ing the State Constitution which is the base for a discipline-flourishing democracy.
For the emergence of an enduring Constitution, strong fundamental principles are required.
I would like to urge the delegates to co-ordinate, discuss and forward sugges-

tions in line with the procedures prescribed by the National Convention Convening Commission and in accordance with the six objectives of the National Convention, without bias as regards person, ism, region or race, in the interests of the nation and the people.
MNA



Local and foreign journalists arrive to cover news at National Convention.— MNA



The meeting of delegates of workers group in progress.— MNA



Delegates of political parties holding the meeting.—MNA



Delegates of peasants meet to elect members of panel of chairmen.—MNA



The meeting of delegates of State service personnel in progress.—MNA



The meeting of other invited delegates in progress.—MNA



The meeting of delegates of national races in progress.—MNA



Intellectuals and intelligentsia meet to elect members of panel of chairmen.—MNA



Representatives-elect discuss to elect members of panel of chairmen.—MNA

Meetings to elect vacant...

(from page 16)

Then, U Law Hsin Kwan of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party was elected as member.

The meeting to elect three members of panel of chairmen out of the five members in the delegate group of national races was held at Pyidaungsu hall at 2 pm. Original members of the panel of chairmen, U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division and U Mahn Ohn Maung of Kayin State presided over the meeting. First, the master of ceremonies announced the attendance of 627 out of 633 delegates and the start of the meeting. U Mya Sein clarified the procedures for electing three vacant members of panel of chairmen for the delegate group to the National Convention. Next, those present at the meeting tabled the motion for seven

persons. Then, Duwa Zoke Daung of Lashio Township, Shan State (North), U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yal of Loikaw Township, Kayah state, and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Pulaw Township, Taninthayi Division, were elected as members.

The meeting to elect one member of panel of chairmen out of the five members in the delegate group of peasants was held at meeting hall-4 at 2 pm. Original members of the panel of chairmen, U Thein Lwin of Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Division, U Sai Tint Aung of Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North) and U Tin Maung Kyaw of Yesagyo Township, Magway Division presided over the meeting. First, the master of ceremonies announced the full attendance of 93 delegates and the start of the meeting. U Thein Lwin clarified the

procedures for electing one vacant member of panel of chairmen for the delegate group to the National Convention. Next, those present at the meeting tabled the motion. Then, U Mya Aye of Kayan Township, Yangon Division, was elected as member.

The meeting to elect five members of panel of chairmen in the delegate group of workers was held at meeting hall-5 at 2 pm. Members of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, Brig-Gen Than Tun and U Kyaw Win presided over the meeting. First, the master of ceremonies announced the full attendance of 48 delegates and the start of the meeting. Brig-Gen Than Tun clarified the procedures for electing five vacant members of panel of chairmen for the delegate group to the National Convention. Next, those present at the meeting

tabled the motion for five members. Then, Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division, U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division, U Bo Thein of Shan State (East), U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division and U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division were elected as members.

A meeting to elect three members of the panel of chairmen out of five in delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia was held at meeting hall No 6 at 2 pm.

At the meeting, former member of the panel of chairmen U Hla Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and Film Director U Khin Zaw presided over the meeting.

First, the emcee announced the start of the meeting as there were 55 delegates attending out of 56 listed. Member of the panel of chairmen U Hla Myint of intellectuals and intelligentsia group clarified procedures of the National Convention for reelecting three members of the panel of chairmen.

Those present at the meeting seconded the motion for the approval of three members of the panel of chairmen.

Next, member of the panel of chairmen U Hla Myint announced Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha),

President of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries U Tin Hlaing and Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of the Ministry of Science and Technology were selected and the meeting recessed.

A meeting to elect four members of the panel of chairmen out of five in delegates of State service personnel was held at meeting hall No 7 at 2 pm.

During the meeting, former member of the panel of chairmen U Arnt Maung (Adviser) presided over the meeting. First, the emcee announced the start of the meeting as there were attendance of 109 delegates. Member of the panel of chairman of delegate group of service personnel U Arnt Maung clarified procedures of the National Convention for reelecting four members of panels of chairmen.

Those present at the meeting seconded the motion for the approval of four members of panels of chairmen.

Next, member of the panel of chairmen U Arnt Maung announced U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs were selected as members of the panel of chairmen.

A meeting to elect four members of the panel of chairmen out of five in group of other invited delegates was held at meeting hall No 8 at 2 pm.

During the meeting, former member of the panel of chairmen U Sai Aung Tun presided over the meeting.

First, emcee announced the start of the meeting as there were 104 delegates attending out of 105 listed.

Member of the panel of chairmen of delegate group of other invited delegates U Sai Aung Tun clarified procedures of the National Convention for re-electing four members of panels of chairmen.

Those present at the meeting seconded the motion for the approval of four members of the panel of chairmen.

Next, member of the panel of chairmen U Sai Aung Tun announced U Aung Khan Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Dr Ma Nan Tu Jar of Kachin State Special Region-2, U Tun Aung Chein and U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 were selected and the meeting recessed.

MNA



Delegates seen at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates attend the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates seen at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates attending the National Convention.— MNA

Regulations are prescribed...

(from page 16)

Some of the most important ethics and rules are as follows:

1. To be loyal to the Union of Myanmar and not to accept any other country's patronage
2. To follow instructions given by the chairman of group and Panel of Chairmen of the National Convention
3. To comport according to the dignity of a delegate and not to disturb and hinder the functions of the National Convention
4. Not to seek self-interest misusing the responsibilities of a delegate
5. To discuss at the meeting objectively and to avoid speaking ill of others personally or of a certain organization
6. Whenever entering or going out of the meeting hall, all are to bow to the State flag
7. Before releasing the news about the National Convention officially, delegates are to keep it secret

In holding the sessions, panel of chairmen is necessary to supervise the session and thus, it is designated to form the panel of chairmen with five representatives from the National Convention Convening Work Committee, ten from delegates of political parties and delegates of representatives-elect, five each from delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates and in doing so, the representatives of the respective groups are to select on their own.

For various reasons, there are vacancies in the panel of chairmen and thus substitutions are to be made.

The Chapter (3) touches upon accounting the number of the delegates attending a meeting and validity of the meeting. National Convention meetings are valid if 50 per cent of the delegates attend the meeting.

The Chapter (4) of the National Convention Procedures deals with the procedures to be followed in discussing matters and making suggestions. He first presented procedures to be followed at the group-wise meetings as follow:

(1) Delegates are to submit their proposals and make suggestions to the Panel of Chairmen only after making discussions in respective delegate groups. The Panel of Chairmen is to collect same proposals and submit them to the National Convention Plenary Meeting.

(2) In addition to proposals agreed by the majority of respective groups, individual proposals or proposals agreed by two or three delegates are to be submitted to the National Convention Plenary Meeting only after making group-wise discussions.

(3) Delegates of political parties and representatives-elect are to submit proposals and suggestions to the National Convention Plenary Meeting through the Panel of Chairmen only after making discussions in respective groups.

(4) Along with proposals agreed by the majority of

respective political parties, proposals of delegates representing political parties, independent representatives-elect and proposals agreed by two or three delegates are to be submitted to the National Convention Plenary Meeting with permission of the Panel of Chairmen only after making discussions in respective groups.

(5) If there is a disagreement over the proposals among political parties, respective delegate groups and independent representatives-elect, the National Convention Convening Work Committee will have to make adjustments as far as it can in order to settle down the disagreement.

Next, he presented the procedures of the National Convention as follows:

(1) Proposals and suggestions to be submitted to the National Convention Plenary Meeting are to be stated exactly and clearly.

(2) The proposals and suggestions papers are to be attached with the list of delegate or delegates who will read out them at the meeting and to submit them to respective chairman at the designated time.

(3) With complete lists of delegates and papers to be discussed, the National Convention Convening Work Committee will begin the Plenary Meeting.

(4) In reading out the proposals and suggestions at the Plenary Meeting, the papers must be the ones that have been already submitted in advance to be confirmed. Besides, the papers are to be read out by the one whose name has been already enlisted, and he has to read out only suggestions in the confirmed papers.

(5) At group-wise meeting or Plenary Meetings, proposals and suggestions are to be submitted in the frame of the six objectives of the National Convention.

If there are differences in the suggestions presented at the meeting, the National Convention Convening Work Committee is to make necessary arrangements for making suggestions included again to settle them amicably.

There are also prescribed rules and regulations to be followed in holding discussions at the plenary meeting and the group-wise meeting to be in conformity with the dignity of the Convention and to ensure the successful holding of the Convention. They are:

1. do not express disloyalty to the State
2. do not talk about something that is detrimental to non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
3. do not talk about the interest of organizations and persons that are not in the framework of law
4. do not talk about something that is detrimental to national solidarity, mutual help and respect
5. do not talk ill of any language and religion
6. do not talk about topics that are not related to the matters being discussed
7. do not accuse and talk ill of a certain delegate subjectively
8. do not abuse the meeting by discrediting other organizations and persons and crediting own attributes
9. a delegate is to discuss the topics in line with the proposal paper sent in advance and not to discuss the topics that are not included in the paper. If a delegate

reads out some topics that are not included in the proposal paper, only the original paper will be put on record.

When the plenary meeting or the meeting of the delegate groups are in progress, the delegates are not allowed to walk out individually or in group and to mock others. It is important for the delegates to follow the regulations for success of the National Convention. There are some don'ts for the delegates for successful holding of the National Convention.

These regulations are prescribed not for repression but for the interest of the national races and the delegates. Some important points in the don'ts are — not to distribute documents which are not permitted by the National Convention Work Committee, not to talk about the documents nor publish them outside and not to bring arms and ammunition into the hostels and meeting hall when the meeting is in progress. He said these are some points of procedure on the National Convention and they aim at successful holding of the National Convention. I would also like to present the fulfilment regarding management for enabling the delegates to attend the Convention with peace of mind, he said.

New hostels were built along with mass halls and kitchens and meals are being served with daily menu. Arrangements have been made for vegetarians to enjoyed meals in line with religion. In the meantime, TV, Karaoke, newspapers, movies, stage show, gymnasium, golf course are being provided for health and recreation of the delegates. A hospital complete with specialists, modern medicines and medical equipment is being opened in the camp while restaurants, beauty parlour, barber shop, optical shop and grocery shop are being opened for the delegates. In addition, telephones, faxes, ferries are also facilitated. All the necessary requirements have been fulfilled by the committees under the leadership of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

In accord with the instructions which call for paying special attention to the health of the delegates the health group including medical specialists are checking and supervising meals for delegates daily. Only wholesome meals that are conducive to the rainy season are served to the delegates. The delegates are advised to put on suitable clothes, to avoid having bath at a unreasonable time and eat junk food and are advised to go hospital even they catch cold. I would like to explain matters related to security to the delegates. Discipline on security have been prescribed as necessary requirements for the Convention and the delegates. In this regard, the delegates should not regard them as strict discipline and are to make concerted efforts for successful holding of the Convention, realizing that these measures are taken for their security, he added.

In conclusion, the minister wished the delegates to make earnest efforts in drafting an enduring Constitution in the interest of the State and the people, enjoying their physical and spiritual well-being. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends opening of Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate in Paung Township

YANGON, 17 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to open Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate in Paung Township, Mon State, this morning and formally unveiled its stone inscription.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, local authorities and people, totalling over 4,000.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the State Peace and Development Council laid down political, economic and social objectives and is striving day and night for all-round development of the State. It is known to all that plans were laid down systematically for development of the entire nation with a view to ensuring uplift of socio-living standard of the people. In addition, the government, overcoming disturbances and obstacles of local and abroad, is firmly establishing economic and social infrastructures such as agriculture, production, industrial development, education and health sectors of the State.

In this regard, schools, hospitals, dams, sluice gates, airports and bridges including Union Highways and village-to-village roads have been built for equitable development of all the regions of the country. Moreover, universities and colleges have also been built to be able to develop human resource in respective regions.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on wetlands being precious land of the nation are to be utilized for enabling it to benefit the State.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate was built on Kyonhtaw Creek in order to prevent flooding of the region in rainy season and entering of salty water in summer. The sluice gate will contribute toward cultivation of paddy on time, increase of farmland areas and thriving of crops in the



Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveils the stone inscription of the Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate. — MNA

wetlands on both sides of the creek. So, the sluice gate can benefit over 20,000 acres of farmland.

At present the government has built five dams and diversion weirs in Mon State plus two sluice gates— Zaikkaye and Kyonhtaw. And then, plans are underway to build more dams and sluice gates in necessary regions. In the entire nation, there are 160 dams including Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate benefiting over 2 million acres of farmlands. Over K 70,000 million of the State funds have been spent on building 160 dams.

The government is spending a large sum of money and making efforts with genuine goodwill for ensuring uplift of living standard of the people, narrowing gap among rural regions and developing the agriculture sector. Realizing goodwill and noble aims of the State, local farmers and people using better development effectively are to join hands with the government to enable the country and the people to stand tall in the world.

Mon State yielded over 50 million baskets of paddy. It contributes not only to local food sufficiency but also over 9 million baskets of surplus paddy. Thanks to efforts

of the local farmers and full utilization of cultivable lands, it can be expected to yield over 10 million baskets of paddy next year.

In the period of the State Peace and Development Council, dams, sluice gates and canals could be built because of correct policies of the government and active participation of the people. In other words, these are fruits of harmonious cooperation of the government and the people.

Furthermore, under the correct leadership of the government, local people are to unitedly participate with nationalism and Union Spirit to reach modern, developed and democratic nation.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin delivered an address in which he said that 160 dams implemented by the State has benefited 2,200,000 acres of farmland during ten years. The areas of cultivable land increased from 119 per cent in 1988 to nearly 150 per cent to date.

Rice, cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses, rubber and oil palm are mainly cultivated in Mon State. Therefore, the local farmers are to make efforts for increased production of crops, he urged. For boosting production of crops, irrigation projects including sluice gates are being implemented. Twenty-one projects of dams and sluice gates are going to be implemented in Mon State, he said.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung also delivered a speech.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard of the sluice gate and Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin formally opened the sluice gate.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party had documentary photos taken together with the local people and inspected the sluice gate.

Construction group-6 of the Irrigation Department built the Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate at a cost of K 535.15 million. The sluice gate is located near Kyonhtaw Creek in Paung Township. It was built of 27 six-foot-wide and 12-foot-high gates and it benefits 22,000 acres of wetland. The two canals of the sluice gate are 700 feet and 500 feet long respectively.

MNA



The Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate in Paung Township, Mon State. — MNA

National Convention Convening...

(from page 16)

communities on the same common stretches of land in appropriate sizes of population, other than national races who have already got regions or states. There have already been designated that the President of the Union is the national leader of all the citizenry; the President of the Union represents the nation; and the President of the Union occupies a position of the highest honour in the whole of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Chairman,

The National Convention laid down the detailed fundamental principles on legislation, administration and judiciary to be included in drafting the State Constitution. In connection with legislation, in the State there is Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the highest legislative body, which consists of two Hluttaws — the Pyithu Hluttaw and the National Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will be formed with 440 Hluttaw representatives and the National Hluttaw with 224. There will be region or state Hluttaws.

Hluttaw representatives are to be elected by eligible voters in the entire nation in accord with the regulations. In that election, there include Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who represent the entire national races. Moreover, in the National Hluttaw, there will include 12 National Hluttaw representatives elected in the Region or

State each. In the election of 12 National Hluttaw representatives there include National Hluttaw representatives elected from each self-administered division or self-administered region.

In the form of the two Hluttaws, the Hluttaw representatives representing the majority of national races can be found.

Mr Chairman,

In connection with the formation of Region and State Hluttaw, the Hluttaws include two Region / State Hluttaw representatives each elected by every township in the respective Region or State.

Moreover, apart from the voters of respective Regions or States or self-administered zones, the national races who are officially recognized as making up 0.1 per cent of total population are to elect one representative for the Region or State or self-administered zone.

Mr Chairman,

In other words, apart from the national races who have obtained Region or State, the national races who are residing widespread in the Region or State and they are making up 0.1 per cent of total population of the Union will get the chance to elect one representative.

Regarding the fact that 0.1 per cent of the population of the country, the population of our country stands at over 53 million and thus, 0.1 per cent of the population or over 53,000 people of the respective national races can elect a representative of Region or State.

Except from the national races that have gained Self-administered Division or Self-administered Region, a

representative of the rest national race will be eligible to take part in the leading committee of the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Region if its population will stand at over 10,000.

If we assess the formation of these legislative bodies, we can find that our national brethren will be able to take part in the respective legislative bodies.

Mr Chairman and esteemed delegates,

My clarification are summary of the detailed basic principles that have been laid down by the National Convention.

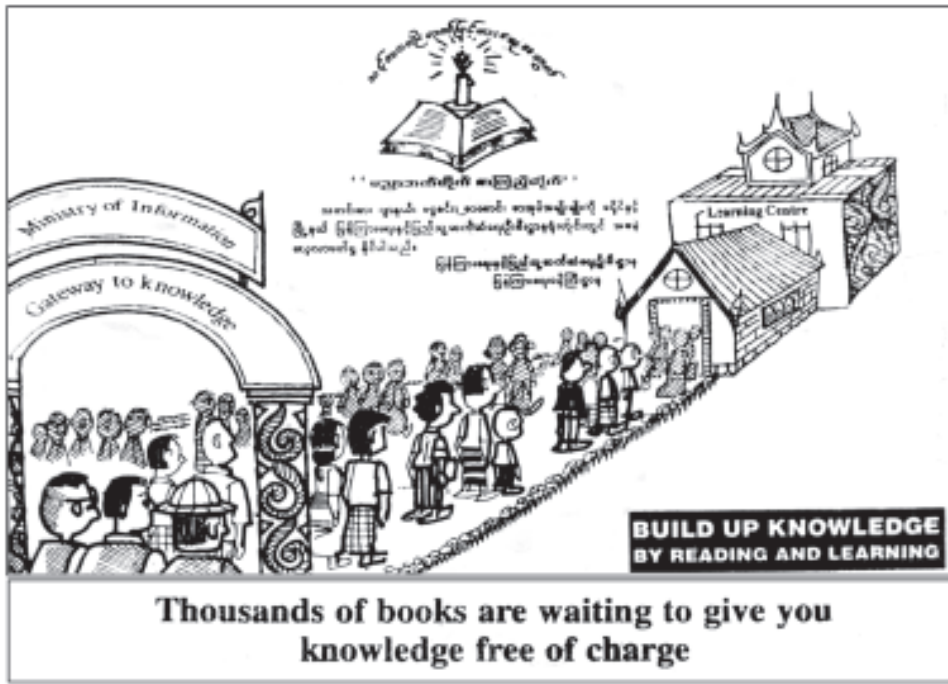
The details include in the book “ Basic Principles and Detailed Basic Principles laid down by National Convention Plenary Meetings up to 30-3-96” which have been distributed to the delegates to the National Convention.

If you are unclear about my clarification, you may be able to raise a question at the group discussions and to the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

At the plenary session, the National Convention Convening Work Committee will present Union legislative list and Region or State legislative list to be legitimized by the respective legislative bodies if necessary and matters that can be legitimized by leading committees of Self-administered Zone.

After the clarifications, the delegates to the National Convention are requested to discuss the matters thoroughly at the respective groups and prepare papers to be submitted.

MNA



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JUNIOR LEADER

VOL. 4 NUMBER 4 18 MAY 2004

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The New Light of Myanmar

အတွဲ (၆) အမှတ် (၈) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ငှားရန်

အလှူ၊ ထိမ်းမြားမင်္ဂလာ၊ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ ပလတ်စတစ်စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ရှေ့နန်းသက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနေပါသည်။

နံနက် ၉း၃၀ မှ ည ၉း၃၀ နာရီအတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

အမှတ် ၂၂၀-သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ မိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊
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Three killed in fireworks factory explosion in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 17 May — Three people were killed in a fireworks factory blast Thursday afternoon in Songxian County, central China's Henan Province, the local government said Friday.

Another three people were injured and are receiving treatment in a local hospital.

The blast occurred at 2:30 pm in an unlicensed fireworks factory in Yaoshang

Village of Tianhu Town. The blast tore down a dozen mostly single-storey rooms used as workshops and warehouses, killing three immediately at the scene.

The factory's bosses, two locals who are brothers surnamed Ni, have fled and police are tracking them down, according to the police.

The cause of the explosion was under investigation, government officials said.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany's trade with China grows rapidly

BERLIN, 17 May — Germany had the fastest growing trade with China last year than with other countries, the Federal Statistics Office reported Friday.

In 2003, Germany exports to China were worth 18.2 billion euros (21.5 billion US dollars) or a 24.9-per-cent rise over the year before, while its imports from China were worth 25 billion euros (29.5 billion US dollars), a 17.3-per-cent increase, the statistics office said.

China's place among Germany's largest 15 exporting markets moved from 12th to 10th last year, it said.

Overall, German exports last year rose 1.6 per cent to 661.6 billion euros (780.6 billion US dollars), while imports gained by 2.6 per cent to 532 billion euros (627.7 billion US dollars).

The top three countries for German exports were still France, the United States and Britain, while France, the Netherlands and the United States were largest sellers for Germany.

MNA/Xinhua

International Museum Day 2004 opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 17 May — The two-day International Museum Day 2004 organized by Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department was kicked off here Saturday.

Under the theme of Enjoying, Learning and Exploring at Museums, 23 museums and cultural institutions from Guangdong Province, Macao and Hong Kong participate in the event, and the highlight programme — Museum Exposition is also being held.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Director of Lei-

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MAWLAMYINE VOY NO (3) TC-06

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAWLAMYINE Voy No (3) arrived on 17-5-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone : 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SITTWE VOY NO (5)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SITTWE Voy No (5) which arrives on 18-5-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone : 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (105)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (105) are hereby notified that the vessel which arrives on 18-5-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Three officials prosecuted for deadly coal mine flooding

JINAN, 17 May — Three officials were prosecuted for accident due to dereliction of duty in a fatal coal mine flooding in which 22 miners had been trapped, with one dead, according to People's Procuratorate of Zichuan District of Zibo City in Shangdong Province.

The procuratorate gave only surnames of the three defendants: Yang, Sun and Wang who were responsible for the production and technical affairs of the coal mine, situated in Kunlun Township, Zichuan District of Zibo City, east China's Shandong Province. The flooding happened on November 14, 2003, in one of the coal mine's shafts. The officials were charged not to follow a government order to close the unsafe shaft and illegally run it without special flooding control and prevention equipment.

After the accident occurred, the officials did not immediately report to the authorities and therefore delayed the best time for rescue operation, leading one miner's death because of suffering long-time anoxia and causing a total economic loss of 670,000 yuan (81,000 US dollars), according to the procuratorate.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda's GDP to up 6% in 2003/04 financial year

KAMPALA, 17 May — Uganda's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise 6 per cent in the financial year 2003/04 which will end on 30 June, 2004.

Olive Kigongo, President of Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI), was quoted on Friday by local media as saying that Uganda is expected to return to 6-per-cent increase for the current financial year.

Uganda attained 4.9-per-cent increase in GDP for 2002/03 financial year.

"Uganda has a stable economic environment typified by single digit inflation rates. In 2004, it was 5.2 per cent. This has encouraged private investment both foreign and local," Kigongo told a seminar jointly organized by the International Council of Swedish Industry, East African Business Council and UNCCI recently.

MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒုံးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Indonesia, Germany agree on debt swap deal

JAKARTA, 17 May — Acknowledging the success of two earlier debt swap deals, the German Government has announced that it will enter into a third deal with Indonesia worth 25 million euros (29.25 million US dollars) for environmental projects.

German Deputy Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Uschi Eid, said that the German Government was pleased with the ongoing projects being implemented under the first two debt swap deals. "Our government is also interested in stronger and more effective cooperation to protect the natural resources of Indonesia. That's why the third deal is dedicated to the environmental field," she was quoted Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Eid was on a five-day visit to Indonesia. She met with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Cabinet ministers, and also visited a number of Indonesian-German projects. The third deal has yet to be officially signed, but discussions about what type of environmental projects are currently underway with the Ministry of Forestry and the Office of the State Minister for the Environment.

Debt swaps are usually carried out to re-

duce a country's debt by requiring the debtor to spend a specified amount of the original debt on financing certain programmes that are of concern to the donors. As a consequence, the borrowing country does not have to repay the amount of the debt that is used for these programmes. Under the Indonesian-German debt swap scheme, Germany will write off a certain amount of debt after Indonesia spends 50 per cent of the renounced amount in rupiah on projects that have been agreed by both governments. Indonesia owes up to one billion euros to Germany. The two countries signed the first debt swap deal worth 25.6 million euros in December 2000 for education projects.

As a consequence, Indonesia must spend 12.8 million euros to build and equip 511 learning resource centres in 17 provinces to enhance the quality of teacher training in the basic sciences. These projects are nearing completion. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore expresses admiration for Shanghai's development

SHANGHAI, 17 May — Visiting Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong expressed admiration for Shanghai's rapid development here Saturday evening at his meeting with Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng.

Lee said that Shanghai's rapid development inspired Singapore to learn more from others in the economic globalization era.

Lee arrived in Shanghai Saturday noon for his two-day visit to Shanghai - and Suzhou, a scenic city in east China's Jiangsu Province.

Lee told the Shanghai mayor that he has come here to know how Shanghai to deal with problems it encountered in the time full of chal-

lenges.

Han Zheng said that Shanghai also had learned a lot from Singapore thanks to its special and close ties with Singapore, adding that Shanghai is China's first city to implement the housing accumulation fund system which was introduced from Singapore.

Currently, about 5,000 Shanghai people are studying or working in Singapore while enterprises of both sides participate increasingly

more in each other's economic and social development, Han said.

Trade between Shanghai and Singapore reached three billion US dollars in 2003, a sharp rise of 60 per cent over the previous year.

"It is a wonder," Han said, "showing the great cooperative potential between the two sides."

Lee is on a six-day China visit at the invitation of Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA's finances in disarray

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, 17 May — As NASA sets course for the moon and Mars, the space agency's finances are in disarray, with significant errors in its last financial statements and inadequate documentation for 565 billion US dollars posted to its accounts, its former auditor reported.

NASA's chief for internal financial management said the problem stemmed from a rough transition from 10 different internal accounting programmes to a new integrated one, but audit firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers noted basic accounting errors and a breakdown in NASA's financial controls.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers and NASA parted ways earlier this year, according to the space agency's inspector-general, Robert Cobb. PriceWaterhouseCoopers declined to comment, but a source familiar with the situation said the audit firm opted

out of the contract because it was unhappy with the relationship.

In a scathing report on NASA's September 30, 2003, financial statement — which got scant attention at its release but was detailed in a cover story in the May issue of *CFO Magazine* — the audit firm accused the space agency of one of the cardinal sins of the accounting world: failing to record its own costs properly.

The same report said the transition to the new accounting programme triggered a series of blunders that made completing the NASA audit impossible. — *MNA/Reuters*

Forest fires kill seven in southeastern Russia

MOSCOW, 17 May — Forest fires in southeastern Russia have killed seven people, including a child, with officials evacuating hundreds of residents from stricken areas, Russian media reported on Saturday.

News agencies quoted the Emergency Ministry as saying an *IL-76* water bomber aircraft had dumped more than 160 tons on 5,000 hectares of fires fanned by high temperatures and winds.

Oleg Bogomolov, governor of Kurgan Region, told NTV television that firefighters had been battling the blaze in four villages only to find that a fifth had been razed.

One elderly woman told NTV rescuers came too late to her village to evacuate residents. Pelageya Germanova, a woman in her fifties, said her husband had died as he

could not walk. "I felt my feet were already on fire and my eyes felt like they were full of sand," she said, hunched on her hospital bed.

"I left him and said goodbye. But he told me: 'Polya, don't leave me.'"

Officials, joined at the scene by Emergency Minister Sergei Shoigu, said the fires were being brought under control.

Interfax news agency quoted an Emergency Ministry official as saying that more than 400 hectares of forest fires were raging in neighbouring Chelyabinsk Region. — *MNA/Reuters*



A groom lifts a cloth covering his bride's face during their traditional Chinese wedding ceremony, in Beijing, on 15 May, 2004. Some young people in China are going back to their roots for more traditional weddings, and tiring away from Western-style ceremonies, that had gained popularity. — INTERNET

Singaporean Deputy PM encourages cooperation with China

SHANGHAI, 17 May — Singapore has encouraged its people to get along well with and learn from China's fast growth, visiting Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said here Sunday.

Lee made the remark at a ribbon-cutting ceremony of Raffles City, a 350-million-US-dollar complex invested by some Singaporean companies, which has become Shanghai's new landmark building.

Singapore should, on one hand, lower its production cost and give up disadvantaged industries in the competition with China. On the other hand, Singaporean businesses are advised to invest in this Asia's fastest-growing economy, said Lee in Chinese.

He said China's more explicit legal documents and simplified administrative procedures after its accession to the World Trade Organization have created an environment more favourable to business activities.

The Deputy Prime Minister's message means that the government supports Singaporean business people's expanding markets in China, said Liew Mun Leong, president of Capitaland Limited, one investor of the Raffles City. Liew said his company will double investment in China in the coming five years to bring the total sum to 24 billion yuan (2.9 billion US dollars).

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce show that accumulated investment from Singapore in China is 40 billion US dollars, and the figures in 1993 and 1998 were 5 billion and 30 billion dollars, respectively.

The investment mainly went to industrial zones, real estate, hi-tech industry and education. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China to host 27th FAO Regional Conference for Asia, Pacific

BEIJING, 17 May — The 27th Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific will be held in Beijing, capital of China, from 17 to 21 May.

More than 200 representatives from 43 countries across the Asia and Pacific Region will attend the conference. At the conference, representatives will discuss issues of great importance to the regional agricultural development, including institution building to strengthen agriculture extension, the role of rice in sustainable agriculture and rural development in Asia and the Pacific, and the subregional strategy for food security. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Tatqiq, the three-year-old polar bear cools off by rolling in an icy treat at the San Diego Zoo's Polar Bear Plunge, on 14 May, 2004. The Zoo's keepers created a winter wonderland when they blew 18 tons of shaved ice as enrichment for the polar bears. The simulated snow lead to a fun-filled morning of rolling, sliding and digging for Tatqiq and the Zoo's three other polar bears. — INTERNET

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Olympique Lyon wrap up another title

PARIS, 17 May— Olympique Lyon effectively wrapped up their third Ligue 1 title in succession despite a 1-0 defeat at Paris St. Germain as Monaco slumped to a 4-1 home loss to Stade Rennes on Saturday.

With one game left, Lyon have 76 points from 37 games with a goal difference of plus 35. PSG, who won thanks to a Pedro Pauleta early goal, are three points off the pace with a goal difference of only plus 21.

Monaco are third with 72 points after they were beaten by mid-table Stade Rennes in their stade Louis-II. Fernando Morientes left the pitch on the stroke of halftime after sustaining an ankle sprain.

Monaco, who will try to clinch a direct Champions League qualifying spot at Girondins Bordeaux next Friday, play the competition's final against Porto on May 26 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Striker Djibril Cisse, who is to join Liverpool during the close season, bid a tearful farewell to the fans when he hit a double as AJ Auxerre secured an UEFA Cup spot for next season with a 2-0 win over Nantes.

Ten-man Olympique Marseille, who will play the UEFA Cup final next Wednesday against Valencia in Gothenburg, lost 2-1 at Toulouse.

Montpellier are relegated in the Ligue 2 after losing 2-1 at home to Racing Strasbourg.— MNA/Reuters



Colombian midfielder John Restrepo (L) fights for the ball with Tecos striker Juan Pablo Rodriguez during the second half of their Mexican league championship soccer match at the Azul stadium in Mexico City, on 15 May, 2004. The match ended in a 2-2 tie.—INTERNET

Celta, Valladolid on the brink of relegation

MADRID, 17 May— Celta Vigo and Valladolid were left teetering on the brink of relegation after they were both defeated in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Ten-man Celta slumped to a comprehensive 3-0 defeat against Galician rivals Deportivo Coruna, while Valladolid went down 1-0 at Real Betis.

With most of their immediate rivals yet to play this weekend, both sides could now find themselves relegated if results go against them on Sunday.

Already-relegated Murcia prop up the table on 23 points, Valladolid have 38 and Celta have 39, a point adrift of Espanyol who travel to Real Mallorca on Sunday in the knowledge that a win will ensure they retain their top-flight status.

At the other end of the table newly crowned champions Valencia, who clearly had their minds on next week's UEFA Cup final against Olympique Marseille, slipped to their first defeat in 11 games on Friday when they lost 2-1 to regional rivals Villarreal.

Valencia have an unsailable 77 points from 37 games, Real Madrid are seven back on 70, one ahead of Barcelona and two clear of Deportivo.

Real play Murcia on Sunday while Barcelona host

Racing Santander as they fight it out with Deportivo for the runners-up spot and an automatic place in next season's Champions League.

Celta, desperately needing a win to climb out of the bottom three, made an ambitious start against Depor but a stroke of bad luck put them a goal behind after 14 minutes.

Depor midfielder Fran

swung a dangerous cross in from the left, striker Walter Pandiani failed to connect but the ball ricocheted off Celta defender Silvinho's foot and into the net.

Ten minutes later Depor struck again, this time Pandiani cracked in from the edge of the box with a perfect first-time finish after another fine cross from Fran.

MNA/Reuters

China lift Uber Cup for fourth in a row

JAKARTA, 17 May— China women's team was crowned again at the Uber Cup badminton tournament here on Saturday with an arduous 3-1 win of South Korea in the final. It is the ninth time and fourth in a row for Chinese girl shuttlers to wrap up the Uber title.

World number one Gong Ruina came through a tough opening game to beat top Korean Jun Jae Yun 7-11, 11-5, 11-7. Seven-ranked Jun, who had five losses to Gong before the match, played a much more authoritative game than her top-ranked opponent, leading 9-0 in the first set with Gong's several unforced errors.

Gong reacted immediately, however, driving back to 7-9. But Jun served the match and wrapped up the first set with a backhand drop shot on set point.

Yang Wei and Zhang Jiewen, the world's top-ranked doubles pair, lost 15-7, 15-10 to Lee Hyon Jung and Hwang Yu Mi, before Zhang Ning eased past Seo Yoon Hee 11-1, 13-10.

Gao Ling/Huang Sui then triumphed 15-6, 15-2 against Lee Kyung Won/Lee Yun Hwa, securing the win for China and turning away a third single clash by third-ranked Chinese Zhou Mi. — MNA/Xinhua

Gerrard on verge of world class, says Houllier

LIVERPOOL (England), 17 May— Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier believes his team's captain Steven Gerrard is the man France must beware when they face England in their opening Euro 2004 match next month.

"He will be England's dangerman when they play France in the European Championship," the Frenchman, a former coach of his country's national team, said. England meet title holders France on June 13 in Group B of the tournament in Portugal.

"Steven Gerrard is an awesome footballer," Houllier said after Liverpool's 1-1 draw with Newcastle United at Anfield in their final Premier League match on Saturday. "He did everything today and showed that he is becoming a world-class player. He can do anything and has pulled his teammates forward," Houllier told reporters.

"Steven has really stepped up his game and has been leading by example recently and has lifted all his teammates today and also against Birmingham last weekend when we won 3-0. They followed him."

Liverpool secured fourth place in the Premier League and a berth in the third qualifying round for the Champions League next season.

"Steven started at academy level here at Liverpool and then progressed into Premier League level and also international level," Houllier said.

"Now he must aim to be a truly world-class player of which there are only 10 and I think that could happen in the next two or three years."

Shola Ameobi put Newcastle ahead in the 25th minute before Liverpool equalized in the 67th through Michael Owen, who scored after an exquisite through ball from Gerrard. "Steven never gives up and I feel that is the mark of a very good captain. He did it today against Newcastle with what I think his most dominant personal display I've ever seen from him," Houllier said.

"He works extremely hard in training and is fired by a real passion for the game which you can see every day when he is practising. Steven can pass, score and assist the goalscorers and he is also very fast.

MNA/Reuters

Champions Yokohama close gap in J-League

TOKYO, 17 May— Defender Daisuke Nasu powered home a 65th-minute winner as champions Yokohama F-Marinus beat leaders Jubilo Iwata 2-1 away on Saturday to throw the title race wide open in the J-League first stage.

Second-placed Yokohama improved to 21 points from 10 matches, three behind Jubilo, who had been looking to hit back after being knocked out of the Asian Champions League in midweek.

Japan midfielder Daisuke Oku opened the scoring against his old club after 15 minutes, curling in a superb free-kick from 30 metres to silence the 30,000 crowd at Ecopa World Cup Stadium.

Jubilo equalized through Toshiya Fujita two minutes later, but Nasu gave Yokohama a deserved victory when he headed in a corner from Oku, keeping the pressure on Iwata with five matches left in the first stage.

Urawa Reds held on to third place but failed to take all three points as they were held to a 3-3 draw at home by JEF United Ichihara.

United playmaker Yuki Abe converted a last-minute penalty to give the visitors a share of the spoils in front of 20,000 in Saitama.—MNA/Reuters

Bayern lose again, Stuttgart close the gap

BERLIN, 17 May— VfB Stuttgart beat Bayern Munich 3-1 on Saturday to send the outgoing champions to their second defeat in a week and keep alive their hopes of qualifying directly for the Champions League.

At the top, there was a surprise loss for new titleholders Werder Bremen who were thrashed 6-2 at home to Bayer Leverkusen.

Hungary striker Imre Szabics scored twice for VfB against Bayern's wobbly defence and Kevin Kuranyi beat Oliver Kahn with a poorly hit shot to make it 3-0, prompting the Germany goalkeeper to throw away his gloves in disgust.

Peru forward Claudio Pizarro scored a consolation goal for Bayern with 13 minutes left.

Bayern, beaten by Werder Bremen 3-1 at home last week, have 65 points with one match left and remain in second place but are just one point ahead of Stuttgart.

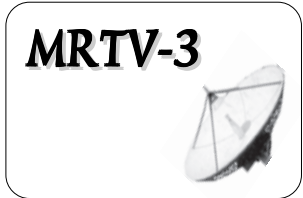
"It was a black day for our defence," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "We let Stuttgart keep coming through and positioned ourselves poorly. It's disappointing that some (of them) let their nervousness show."

The two top clubs go straight into the Champions League while the third-placed team have to qualify.

MNA/Reuters



Argentine striker Bruno Marioni of Pumas (R) battles for the ball with Monterrey's defender Guillermo Franco, during the second half of their Mexican league championship soccer match at the University stadium in Mexico City, on 15 May, 2004. Pumas won the game, 3-2. —INTERNET



18-5-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
9:06 Historical Shwe
Inpin Monastery
9:10 National News
9:12 Prospective Ostrich
Farming
9:15 National News
9:20 The beautiful green
ice
9:25 Taung-Zabu-Paing
Royal Group Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
9:40 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
9:45 National News
9:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

18-5-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Historical Shwe
Inpin Monastery
15:40 National News
15:42 Prospective Ostrich
Farming
15:45 National News
15:50 The beautiful green
ice
15:55 Taung-Zabu-Paing
Royal Group Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
16:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"

16:15 National News
16:20 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
16:30 National News
16:35 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
16:40 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part -II)
16:45 National News
16:50 The Pindaya Natural
Cave
16:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
17:00 National News
17:05 Unforgettable Cus-
toms of the Chins
17:10 Song "Shadow of
Love"
17:12 Glazed Earthen Pot
17:15 National News
17:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Let's Play
"Chinlone"
19:40 National News
19:42 Palm Leaf Inscrip-
tion
19:45 National News
19:50 Beautiful Taninthayi
Wararya' Dance
19:58 Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
20:00 National News
20:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
20:10 Song "The Outstand-
ing Ones"
20:15 National News
20:20 Mong La Says, "Bye
Bye Opium!"
20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Hmoneshwe-
yee"
20:30 National News
20:35 Greem Turtle
20:40 Poppy Farmers Hand
Over Poppy Seeds
20:45 National News
20:50 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part - I)

20:55 Sagaing Hill
21:00 National News
21:05 Current Affairs
"Supermarkets"
21:10 Song "Speaking
through our eyes"
21:12 Thin Straw Pulp Pa-
per
21:15 National News
21:20 Kambozathadi: Pal-
ace of Conquerors
21:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:36 Historical Shwe
Inpin Monastery
21:40 National News
21:42 Prospective Ostrich
Farming
21:45 National News
21:50 The beautiful green
ice
21:55 Taung-Zabu-Paing
Royal Group Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
22:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
22:15 National News
22:20 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
22:25 Song "The Smooth
Way with beautiful
White Flowers"
22:30 National News
22:35 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
22:40 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part -II)
22:45 National News
22:50 The Pindaya Natural
Cave
22:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
23:00 National News
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toms of the Chins
23:10 Song "Shadow of
Love"
23:12 Glazed Earthen Pot
23:15 National News
23:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

18-5-2004 (Tuesday) &
19-5-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission &
Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)

5:55 pm
9. Sing And Enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening news

7:00 pm
11. Weather report

7:05 pm
12. အေးချမ်းစေမည့် ရှမ်းတို့ ဌာနီ
(မြောက်ပိုင်း)

7:20 pm
13. ရန်ပုံစံရပ်စဲစားဆင်ယင်မှု

7:35 pm
14. ကျေးလက်ဒေသတစ်ခွင်အလှဆင်

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ
"အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၆)
19. Calcio Serie A Highlight
20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊
ဦးစိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်
ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာ
ပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်
21. The next day's
programme

23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Historical Shwe
Inpin Monastery
23:40 National News
23:42 Prospective Ostrich
Farming
23:45 National News
23:50 The beautiful green
ice
23:55 Taung-Zabu-Paing
Royal Group Dance
24:00 National News
00:05 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
00:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
00:15 National News
00:20 Travel & Description
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toms of the Chins
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Love"
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01:15 National News
01:20 Talent Show on a
Maze of Xylophones
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

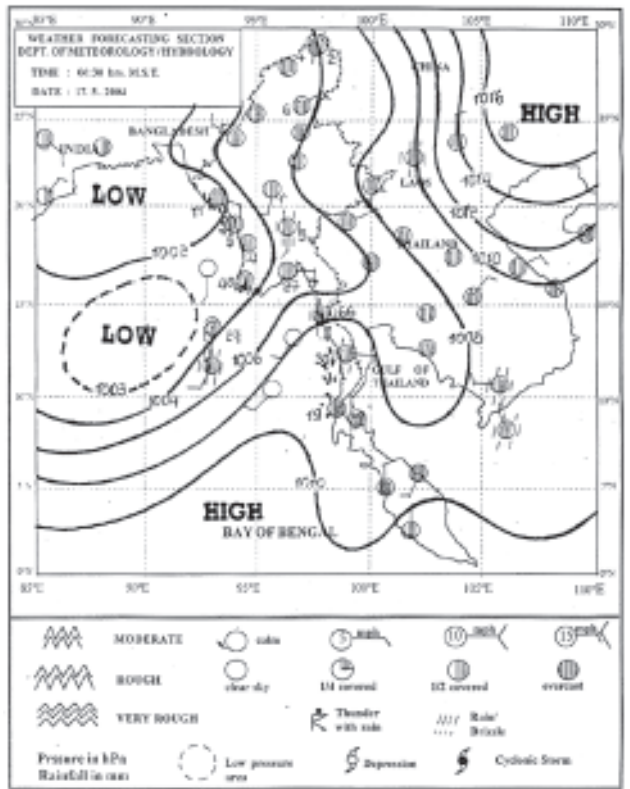
19-5-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)

03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Let's Play
"Chinlone"
03:40 National News
03:42 Tasty fried Nga-Poe
from Padu Village
03:45 National News
03:50 Beautiful Taninthayi

03:55 Wararya' Dance
03:58 Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
04:00 National News
04:05 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
04:10 Song "The Outstand-
ing Ones"
04:15 National News
04:20 Mong La Says, "Bye
Bye Opium!"
04:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Hmoneshwe-
yee"
04:30 National News
04:35 Greem Turtle
04:40 Poppy Farmers Hand
Over Poppy Seeds
04:45 National News
04:50 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part - I)
04:55 Sagaing Hill
05:00 National News
05:05 Current Affairs
"Supermarkets"
05:10 Song "Speaking
through our eyes"
05:12 Thin Straw Pulp Pa-
per
05:15 National News
05:20 Kambozathadi: Pal-
ace of Conquerors
05:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

05:35 Historical Shwe
Inpin Monastery
05:40 National News
05:42 Prospective Ostrich
Farming
05:45 National News
05:50 The beautiful green
ice
05:55 Taung-Zabu-Paing
Royal Group Dance
06:00 National News
06:05 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
06:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
06:15 National News
06:20 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
06:25 Song "The Smooth
Way with beautiful
White Flowers"
06:30 National News
06:35 The Royal Animal
Weights of the
Myanmar Empires
06:40 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part -II)
06:45 National News
06:50 The Pindaya Natural
Cave
06:55 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
07:00 National News
07:05 Unforgettable Cus-
toms of the Chins
07:10 Song "Shadow of

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 17 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Magway and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Dawei (3.03) inches, Myeik (2.76) inches, Zaungtu (2.60) inches, Chauk (2.36) inches and Hmawbi (2.20) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-5-2004 was 30.0°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 17-5-2004 was 20.5°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-5-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 16-5-2004 was (2.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-5-2004 was 34mm (1.35 inches) at Yangon Airport, 27 mm (1.07 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 32 mm (1.27 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 168 mm (6.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 183 mm (7.21 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 198 mm (7.80 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from East at (09:30) hours MST on 17-5-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andamnan Sea, Central and south Bay and weather in partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-5-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of thundery conditions in central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-5-2004: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-5-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Tuesday, May 18

View today:

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊
အဘိဓမ္မဗျာဓိ၊ အဘိဓမ္မဗျာ
သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတာ
ဂါရိယ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ
ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
7. Songs of yesteryear

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy

4:00 am
1. Martial song

4:15 am
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 am
3. English For Everyday Use

4:45 am
4. Musical programme

5:00 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
- တတိယနှစ်
(ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)

5:15 pm
6. Dance of national race

5:30 pm
7. မိမိတို့အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်း

5:45 pm
8. တချစ်ပြည်နယ် မိုးကောင်းတံတား



Tuesday, May 18
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: What's your
flava (Carig David)
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Time for love
(Ronan Keating)
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music: Left to right
(Natural)
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: Good feeling
(DJ Flex)
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Luch Time Music:
-Down town train
(Rod Stewart)
-Now & Forever
(Richard Marx)
9.00 pm English speaking
course (13)
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
9.35 pm Music for your
listening pleasure
-Careless whisper
(George Michael)
-Anything for you
(Gloria Estafan)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Meetings to elect vacant members of panels of chairmen of delegate groups to the National Convention held

YANGON, 17 May — The meetings to elect vacant members of panels of chairmen of delegate groups to the National Convention were held this afternoon at the designated places on Nyaungnapin Camp where the National Convention is being held, attended by members of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and group-wise delegates.

The meeting to elect three members of panel of chairmen out of the five members in the delegate group of political parties was held at the meeting hall-1 at 2 pm. Original members of the panel of chairmen, U Tun Yin Law of Wa National Unity Party and U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Wa National Development Party presided over the meeting. First, the master of ceremonies announced the attendance of 25 out of 29 delegates and the start of the meeting. Then, U Tun Yin Law delivered an opening speech. The delegates passed the resolutions not to elect next three members and to carry out the work with current two members, U Tun Yin Law and U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam only.

The meeting to elect one member of panel of chairmen out of the five members in the delegate group of representatives-elect was held at the meeting hall-2 at 2 pm. Members of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, U Maung Aung and U Nay Win presided over the meeting. First, the master of ceremonies announced the attendance of 12 out of 15 delegates and the start of the meeting. U Maung Aung clarified the procedures for electing one vacant member of panel of chairmen for the delegate group to the National Convention. Next, those present at the meeting tabled the motion for electing one member.

(See page 9)

National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe's clarifications

YANGON, 17 May — The following is a translation of the clarifications of Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe at the plenary session of the National Convention in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby, today.

Esteemed Chairman and delegates to the National Convention,

I extend my greetings to the National Convention delegates with best wishes for your well-being both in mind and body and all auspiciousness.

As you know, the National Convention is discussing and laying down

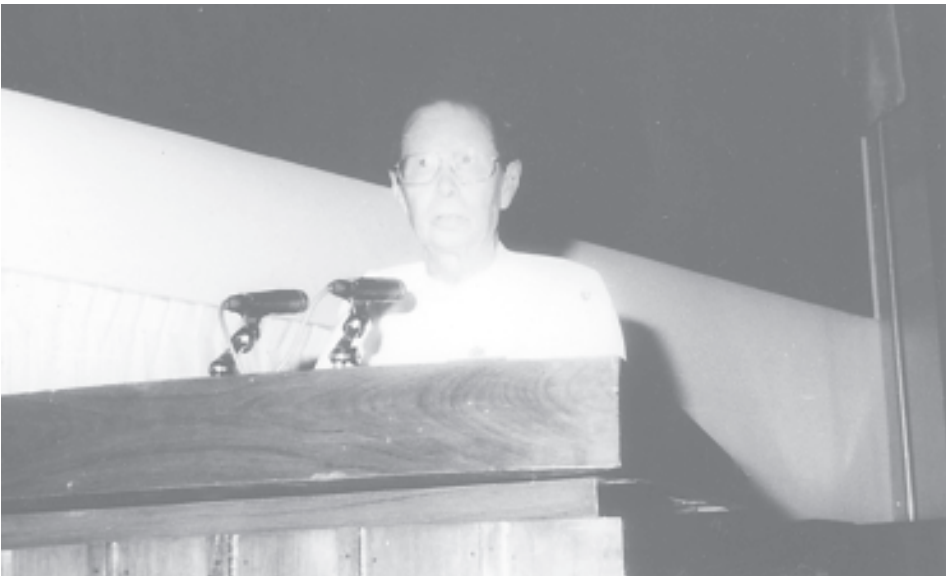
fundamental and detailed principles for writing a State Constitution in order to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the prevailing views, geographical conditions, background history, politics, economy, social affairs and culture of the nation.

Copies of the book featuring the fundamental and detailed principles adopted by the National Convention have been distributed to you in advance for your study. I would like to brief you on the fundamental and detailed principles adopted by the National Convention. The 15 headings that should

be included in the State Constitution have been placed in order in respective chapters. According to this order, the detailed principles were laid down for the chapter on the State Constitution.

With respect to the State Constitution, the State is constituted with Pyidaungsu (Union) system. And the State is delineated and constituted with seven regions, seven states and Union territories. These regions, states and Union territories are of equal status and authority. In regions or states, self-administered areas are to be prescribed for national races who reside together with

(See page 11)



National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe speaking at National Convention.— MNA



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially meets diplomats and UN agency officials at National Convention.— MNA

Regulations are prescribed in the interest of the national races and the delegates

YANGON, 17 May—The following is translation of clarification on procedures for convening the National Convention made by Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan:

National races and people

of all walks of life living in the country are now gathered in this hall to lay down detailed basic principles for legislation, administration, judiciary and sharing of power that should be included in drafting the new Constitution for the new

Convention.

Introduction and seven chapters are included in the book "Procedures for Convening the National Convention". The six objectives of the National Convention namely:

- 1.Non-disintegration of

In Chapter 2, representatives who should be invited to attend the National Convention are described as:

- 1.delegates of political parties
- 2.delegates of representatives-elect
- 3.delegates of national



Secretary of National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explains procedures of National Convention.— MNA

nation.

Whenever meetings, seminars and conference are held, ways to be discussed, forms to be presented and rules to be coordinated are to be laid down for the successful holding of these meetings. If there are no rules and regulations and there is discordance, there may be delay and we will not be able to reach the goal.

Therefore, according to the changed conditions, the National Convention Convening Commission has rewritten the procedures for convening the National Convention adopted at the previous National Convention.

Here, I am going to present briefly procedures for convening the National

- the Union,
- 2.Non-disintegration of national solidarity,
- 3.Perpetuation of sovereignty,
- 4.Flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system,
- 5.Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values, namely justice, liberty and equality in the State and
- 6. For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State are described in Chapter 1. Delegates are to discuss matters relating to laying down detailed principles for drafting the enduring State Constitution within the framework of these six objectives.

- races
- 4.delegates of peasants
- 5.delegates of workers
- 6.delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia
- 7. delegates of State service personnel and
- 8.other invited delegates

In performing the duties of the National Convention, seven duties and three rights are being designated. All are to enjoy the rights and subject to the duties. Moreover, code of ethics and discipline to be abided by delegates are also drawn. Delegates should realize and abide by these rules which are laid down with the aim of holding the National Convention successfully which is the most important for the State and the people.

(See page 10)

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.