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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 Convening Work Committee clarifies matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution

YANGON, 18 May— The National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

The National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

Present at the National Convention were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and commission members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and committee members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and committee members, 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 delegates, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia 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 Development Party (KNDP) 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 Spliter Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) who exchanged arms for peace.

Before the plenary session of the National Convention, the delegates signed in the attendance registers. Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the plenary session of the Convention and Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as master of ceremonies. The Secretary of NCCC announced the start of the meeting as there were 1,075 out of 1,088 listed accounting for 98.81 per cent.

Next, the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution. First, National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung explained the defence and security sector.

Afterwards, Secretary of the Work Committee explained the foreign affairs sector and the plenary meeting went into recess. At 10.30 am, members of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin explained the financial and planning sector and the plenary session of the National Convention recessed. (*The clarifications of the National Convention Convening Work Committee for matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive sector is reported separately.*) The plenary session of the National Convention will continue tomorrow.— MNA



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presiding over the National Convention.— MNA



Welcome the National Convention.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 May, 2004

Discuss thoroughly in the interest of the nation and the people

The State Peace and Development Council is endeavouring for the emergence of a modern and developed democracy in accordance with the historical and cultural background of the nation and the traditions and customs of its people. The seven-point policy programme was laid down for the long-term interests of the nation and it is now being implemented stage by stage.

Now, the National Convention which was adjourned in 1996 has restarted at the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township on 17 May. Out of 1,088 delegates who are entitled to attend the National Convention, 1,076, that is, 98.9 per cent, attended it.

In his opening address on the first day of the National Convention, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission said that the National Convention was to formulate fundamental principles for drafting the State Constitution which would pave the way for a discipline-flourishing democracy and that, for the emergence of an enduring constitution, strong fundamental principles were required, urging the delegates to coordinate, discuss and forward suggestions 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 interest of the nation and the people.

An enduring constitution is essential for a nation and the emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens. The ongoing National Convention is to formulate fundamental and detailed principles for drafting the State Constitution. At the National Convention held from 1993 to 1996, the delegates had approved 104 fundamental principles to be the basis in drafting the State Constitution. The remaining fundamental principles and details will be thoroughly discussed and approved at the present National Convention.

We believe that the National Convention being held at present will be able to formulate strong principles for an enduring constitution necessary for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy and that the delegates will coordinate, discuss and forward suggestions 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 interest of the nation and the people.

Jade and gems special sale on 26 June

YANGON, 18 May—A special sale of jade and gems will be held at Myanma Gems Mart from 26 June to 3 July. Those citizens who are undertaking exploration and trading of gems under the Myanma Gems Law and Myanmar citizens who are engaged in sale of gems in foreign currency will be permitted to attend the emporium in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations.

During the special sale period, jewellery and gem sale counters will be allocated on ground floor of the Myanma Gem Emporium. Those wishing to attend the special sale and those wishing to open sale counters may contact the management sub-committee office and gem market supervisory committee beginning 25 May.

MNA

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 Saikkhaung-Namhsam railroad project

YANGON, 19 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of the Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than and officials, arrived Namhsit No 3 bridge construction site on Saikkhaung-Namhsam railroad on 14 May afternoon.

Manager-In-charge of the project U Toe Toe Tun reported on completion of the project. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions.

The bridge will be built of reinforced concrete and it will be 140 feet long.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected progress of building Saikkhaung Namhsam railroad and earthwork.

In the briefing hall of Pon Creek Bridge project, Col Thaung Aye of local station reported on sector-wise completion of Ponchaung-Namhsam railroad. Project Director U Tin Soe briefed them on progress of implementing the project and Deputy Minister U Pe Than on requirements of the project. Next, Taunggyi District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myint Tin and Loilem PDC Chairman Lt-Col Win Tint reported on building the bridges on the railroad. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on cooperation of Tatmadawmen and departmental personnel in building the railroad and bridges.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected completion of Pon Creek Bridge on Saikkhaung-Namhsam Railroad and laying of sleepers, rail tracks.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects repaving of Strand Road in Lanmadaw Township.— YANGON COMMAND

Commander inspects paving of roads

YANGON, 18 May—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected paving of streets and renovation of platforms in Yangon City and gave necessary instructions. The commander, the mayor and party inspected paving of the Strand Road in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon West District, where officials reported on progress of work and future tasks. The commander gave instructions on meeting the set standard, timely completion of work and making strenuous efforts.

Afterwards, the commander and party inspected renovation of platforms and drains at the junction of Strand Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Latha Township, renovation of platforms and drains at the junction of Shwelonbha Street and Anawratha Street in Pabedan Township and renovation of platforms and drains at the junction of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Botahtaung Pagoda Road in Botahtaung Township. Next, the commander and the mayor gave instructions on timely completion of the work, meeting the set standard and paving of the roads and streets and in carrying out renovation and beautifying tasks and attended to the needs.—MNA

Workshop on Monitoring and Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children on abuse

YANGON, 18 May — Workshop on Monitoring and Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Trafficking jointly sponsored by the Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, UNICEF, UNIAP and Japanese Government was held at Sedona Hotel here at 9 am today.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women Affairs Prof Dr Daw May

May Yi, General Secretary of MWAF Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, the UNICEF Resident Representative, departmental officials, representatives of international organizations, UN agencies and NGOs.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing delivered an opening address. Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto and UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C. Long spoke on the occasion.

Altogether over 60 representatives from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand are participating in the workshop which continues till 19 May. — MNA

Minister inspects Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field

YANGON, 18 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected new well No 22, five miles from Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field in Nyaungdon Township yesterday afternoon. In the briefing hall, Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Ye Khaung and Acting Managing Director U Myint Kyi reported on successful drilling of the well and production.

The minister presented cash prizes to employees who participated in drilling the well. Next, the minister inspected the well in progress. New well No 22 can produce 3.7 million cu-ft of natural gas per day.

Afterwards, the minister inspected connecting of 3.3-mile-long 6" diameter natural gas pipeline from well No 22 with Nyaungdon-Myochaung 10" diameter pipeline. The connection tasks will be completed in the last week of May. On completion, 3.7 million cu-ft of gas from well No 22 will be combined into the main pipeline. The Minister inspected test-running of the Liquefied Natural Gas Plant of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Nyaungdon Township.

At present, 17 wells in Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects production of natural gas at new well No 22 in Nyaungdon. — ENERGY
produce 96.9 million cu-ft of natural gas and 1,220 barrels of condensate daily and distribute them to natural gas power plants and factories in Yangon and central area of the country. — MNA

Bomb kills head of Iraq Governing Council

BAGHDAD, 18 May— The head of the Iraqi Governing Council was killed in a suicide car bombing near a checkpoint outside the coalition headquarters in central Baghdad on Monday, dealing a blow to US efforts to stabilize Iraq ahead of a handover of sovereignty on 30 June.

Abdel-Zahraa Othman, also known as Izzadine Saleem, was the second and highest-ranking member of the US-appointed council to be assassinated. He was among nine Iraqis, including the bomber, who were killed, Iraqi officials said.

L. Paul Bremer, the US administrator of Iraq, called the killing a “shocking and tragic loss.”

A previously unknown group, the Arab Resistance Movement, claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying in a Web site posting that two of its fighters carried out the operation against “the traitor and mercenary” Saleem.

The council president’s position rotates monthly. Saleem’s death occurred about six weeks before the

United States plans to transfer power to Iraqis and underscores the risks facing those perceived as owing their positions to the Americans.

Saleem, the name he went by most frequently, was a Shiite who led the Islamic Dawa Movement in the southern city of Basra. He was a writer, philosopher and political activist, and edited several newspapers and

magazines.

One Governing Council member, Salama al-Khafaji, said the bombing appeared to be an effort to foment sectarian divisions in Iraq and disrupt the transfer of political power.

Another member, Naseer Kamel al-Chaderchi, blamed the bombing on the same groups that have conducted other attacks, including the August bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed 22 people, including UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The council selected Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim civil engineer from the northern city of Mosul, to replace Saleem. Al-Yawer will lead the council until 30 June.

Internet

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Annan says violence may go on after Iraq hand-over

UNITED NATIONS, 18 May—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed shock on Monday at the murder of the head of the Iraqi Governing Council and said he expected violence to lessen but not disappear when Iraqis governed themselves.

He told reporters that some of those fighting the US-led occupation would have achieved their objective once sovereignty is formally handed to Iraqis on 30 June but others would fight until the last foreign soldier had left Iraq.

US forces will stay in the country to help maintain order after the June 30 hand-over.

Annan said some militants who opposed the entire political process might engage in a civil war even after all foreign troops have left.

“Obviously, there are elements on the ground who are against the process, who do not want it to succeed,” Annan said. Annan said it was not yet time to restore the permanent UN presence in Iraq, which was withdrawn after last year’s bombing of UN headquarters that killed 23 people.

“That is not something that is very much on the table today, so we will come back to that later,” he said.—*Internet*

Arab nations rule out sending peacekeepers to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 May— Sending Arab and Muslim peacekeepers to Iraq is one possible strategy to reduce violence there, but the head of the Arab League said Monday that’s not possible while Americans are in charge.

And Jordan’s King Abdullah II warned that neighboring nations would not be good peacekeepers for Iraq because they would be too tempted to meddle.

Others in the region either ruled out the proposal at least for now or said questions like who would pay for and who would oversee such a force should be answered before it can be seriously considered.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, whose country does not

border Iraq, said Egypt will not deploy its military there and hasn’t “heard that any Arab country has volunteered” to do so.

With mounting US casualties and the looming deadlines of US presidential elections in November and the June 30 transfer of sovereignty to Iraq, questions are increasingly being raised over how America will get out of Iraq. One scenario could involve the Arab League taking over the Sunni Triangle area, protecting the Sunnis from the Shiites, while US troops fade into the background.

It’s not clear whether the Americans would hand over to such a force. The Arab League’s chief, Amr

Moussa, dismissed that idea, telling The Associated Press it’s “stupid” to call on Arabs to separate Arabs and that Arab troops will never go to Iraq to “cover for the occupation.”

Moussa said it was out of the question for League nations to commit peacekeepers to Iraq while the country is under occupation, but the issue might be reconsidered after the planned June 30 restoration of sovereignty to Iraqis.

“The current situation is a situation of occupation, so is it conceivable or logical that Arab countries or Arab armies join in occupying an Arab country?” Moussa said.—*Internet*



Iraqi protection forces soldiers carry a dead body after the head of the Iraqi Governing Council was killed in a car bombing near a US checkpoint in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 May, 2004.—INTERNET

Powell says CIA wrong on Iraq “mobile labs”

WASHINGTON, 18 May — The US Central Intelligence Agency was wrong about Iraq’s purported pre-war mobile biological weapons laboratories, a key part of the case about suspected weapons of mass destruction, Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Sunday.

“I’m very concerned,” he said in reply to a question on the NBC programme “Meet the Press” about having used claims in a UN Security Council speech now known to have been “inaccurate and discredited”.

“When I made that presentation in February 2003, it was based on the best information that the Central Intelligence Agency made available to me,” he said.

Last month, Powell described the assertions he made about the purported labs as “the most dramatic” element of his February 5, 2003, speech. He acknowl-

edged on April 2 the information was suspect but stopped short of drawing any public conclusions.

In his comments on NBC, Powell went further.

“It turned out that the sourcing was inaccurate and wrong and, in some cases, deliberately misleading. And for that, I am disappointed, and I regret it,” he said.

As recently as January, Vice-President Dick Cheney cited the discovery of two trucks as “conclusive” evidence of the mobile labs described by Powell. But CIA Director George Tenet later told Con-

gress he had warned Cheney not to be so categorical about the discovery.

A CIA spokesman declined comment. *MNA/Reuters*

Kerry says US troops need clear mission, tactics

WASHINGTON, 18 May — US troops should be sent into battle with a clear mission and a specific idea of what they are — and are not — expected to do, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said on Saturday.

With the American military embroiled in a scandal over the abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, Kerry laid out his view of the obligations of US forces and the government in the Democrats’ weekly radio address.

The decorated Vietnam War veteran said when he joined the Navy almost four decades ago, he knew that “when you foul up in the military, you can get your buddies killed, make the job of our enemies easier and make it harder for America to succeed”.

US military interrogation techniques have come under fire following revelations of the treatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, which had been a torture centre under ousted president Saddam Hussein.

Detainees were forced to strip naked, stacked in pyramids, compelled to wear hoods, struck by jailers, and photographed in humiliating poses. Seven US soldiers face criminal charges.

After viewing unreleased images of the abuse, Kerry on Friday described them as “appalling, depraved and sad” but said only a few in the US military was responsible.

“My reaction was they are sickening,” he said. “I don’t believe they represent our country, they don’t represent our values, I know they don’t represent the vast majority, the 99.9 per cent of our courageous soldiers who are serving our nation with distinction.”

MNA/Reuters

Israel, Jordan sign new free trade agreement

DEAD SEA COAST (Jordan), 18 May — Israel and Jordan signed a trade accord on Sunday that will eliminate duties on thousands of goods passing between the two countries. The deal was sealed at the World Economic Forum.

Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Halaykeh told a news conference. “We were ready to do it because it was in the interest of Jordan.

“But it doesn’t downplay our concerns over Israel’s policies,” he said. “There are two tracks — politics and economics. We hope that economic relations will help ease political tensions.” Jordan is one of two Arab countries to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, in 1994. The other was Egypt in 1979.

While the agreement would help boost bilateral trade that is now very small, Israel and Jordan envision it also fostering trade with the EU and United States. Both countries have separate trade pacts with the EU and United States. — *MNA/Reuters*



US Marines patrol with an Iraqi Civil Defence Corps soldier, at rear, in Kharma, Iraq, near Fallujah, on 17 May, 2004. ICDC soldiers are training and patrolling with US Marines from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. —INTERNET

Jordan won't send peacekeepers to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 May—Jordan will not send peacekeeping troops to Iraq and neither should any other neighbouring nations because it could be too tempting to use them to improperly influence Iraqi society, King Abdullah II said Monday.

Jordan supports sending other Arab troops, and is willing to help in other ways, Abdullah told a small group of reporters, but he said it wouldn't be appropriate to send Jordanian forces to Iraq because, like any country bordering Iraq, "we have an agenda."

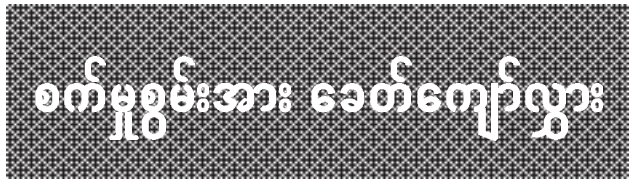
"It's too tempting to use the presence of your troops to have an impact on society inside Iraq," Abdullah said on the sidelines of a World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea.

"I've taken the decision, truly, from a moral point of view, that I don't think it's right for Jordan to send troops to Iraq. And I don't think it's right, at the same time, for anybody else (bordering Iraq). ... We have our special interests," he said. "It is right for Arab troops to be committed, but not those that surround Iraq it's better for us to sit this one out," he said.

He noted Jordan has sent troops elsewhere on peacekeeping missions, including Bosnia, Croatia and Afghanistan. Abdullah also noted his country has been training Iraqis in Jordan and has medical facilities inside Iraq.

"We're prepared to accept all sorts of support to Iraq, but as for the military presence, it may be questionable," he said. Abdullah has had to publicly quash such ideas in the past.

Earlier this month, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said Iraq wants other Arab nations but not its direct neighbors to send troops to patrol Iraq. But he said support for the idea was so sparse at an Arab foreign ministers meeting that Iraq wouldn't make a formal request through the 22-nation Arab League, which has a summit of heads of state scheduled for next week in Tunisia.—*Internet*



Italian soldier's death in Iraq rolls Rome

BAGHDAD, 18 May—The first combat death of an Italian soldier in Iraq on Monday led to new pressure on Premier Silvio Berlusconi to pull out troops and distance himself from the Bush administration.

The development came days before the Italian premier travels to Washington, where he is expected to meet with President Bush. Opposition leaders contended that after heavy fighting in the past three days and scattered clashes in the past weeks, the mission can no longer be described as humanitarian. "The context is one of war and the mission is not one of peace," opposition lawmaker Luciano Violante said Monday. "We want to know what Berlusconi will tell Bush in light of the recent events."

The Italian soldier, a 22-year-old volunteer from Venice, died Monday of wounds suffered during an attack a day earlier on an Italian military base in Nasiriyah, in southern Iraq. Nine other Italians have been slightly injured in three days of clashes with the attackers, who are believed to be supporters of the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Italian troops pulled out of the Libeccio base Sunday and relocated to a nearby air base. But by Monday, they regained control after militias abandoned the base—apparently after negotiations between the Italians and local Shiite leaders, military Chief of Staff Adm Giampaolo Di Paola said.—*Internet*

783 US service members killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 18 May—As of Monday, 17 May, 783 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 571 died as a result of hostile action and 212 died of non-hostile causes. The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Poland, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 645 US soldiers have died 462 as a result of hostile action and 183 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers.—*Internet*

Parents say soldier from Culpeper killed by Iraqi sniper

CULPEPER, 18 May — A US soldier from Culpeper was fatally shot Sunday by an Iraqi sniper during a raid of a building holding insurgents.

Second Lt Leonard Cowherd Jr, 23, was killed in Karbala, about 68 miles southwest of Baghdad, according to his parents, Leonard Cowherd Sr and Mary Ann Cowherd.

Details of the incident were unavailable, and it was not immediately determined whether other American soldiers were killed or injured. Cowherd was a platoon commander with the 1st Brigade 1st Armored Division. He was in charge of 16 men and four tanks. A 2003 graduate of the US Military Academy, Cowherd leaves a wife in Yorktown. He is Culpeper County's first casualty of the Iraq war.—*Internet*



A dog barks at a US Marine from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, on patrol in Kharma, Iraq, near Fallujah, on 17 May, 2004.—INTERNET

Three US soldiers in Iraq prison abuse case to be arraigned a day early

BAGHDAD, 18 May—Three American soldiers implicated in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse case will be arraigned Wednesday the same day that another military policeman goes on trial for his role in the scandal, the military announced.

The arraignments for Staff Sgt Ivan Fredericks, Sgt Javal Davis, and Spc Charles Graner had been set for Thursday but were advanced by one day, according to a statement from the military.

They will face a military judge flown to Iraq from a US base in Germany.

Another defendant, Spc Jeremy C Sivits, who took photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners in a pile on the prison floor in November 2003, goes on trial Wednesday before a special court martial.

Sivits could be sentenced to up to a year in prison, a two-thirds pay deduction for up to 12 months and receive a bad conduct discharge. The three others to be arraigned

ed face more serious charges in a general court martial.

The scandal over mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib has triggered international outrage and a review of detention facilities in other countries where the US military hold prisoners.

Despite huge global interest, Wednesday's hearings will not be broadcast on radio or television.

Internet



Iraqis pass by a shattered window of a car in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City, Iraq, on 16 May, 2004. US forces killed 18 fighters, many of them in the eastern Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, a stronghold of al-Sadr, in a dozen separate engagements of Friday and Saturday.—INTERNET

Iraqi FM affirms keenness on cooperation with neighbours

KUWAIT CITY, 18 May— Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiar Zibari affirmed Sunday his country's keenness on cooperation with its neighbouring counties.

In his speech at the third session of "The Region and the Future" Conference entitled "Iraq and the Future" Sunday, Zibari said "Iraq is in need for heavy political influence to support it domestically and internationally through a policy of respecting neighbours and abandoning any violent thoughts."

"A big responsibility lies on our shoulders. We have a country to build on the basis of justice and we have to provide good living for all citizens," he said.

"This needs opening all dialogue channels with the Iraqi people, to hear their voices and find the right track to solve Iraqi problems," he said.

Zibari also said, "full commitment to the international resolutions and their implementation" is required.

Referring to lack of security in Iraq, Zibari said that the taste of new freedom which the Iraqi people had not had in decades prompted such events after the fall of the former regime.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Al-Jazeera shows tape of two Russian hostages

DUBAI, 18 May — Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera aired a tape on Sunday showing what it said were two Russian hostages seized in Iraq last week and being held by an Iraqi Islamic group.

"A statement from a group calling itself the Army of the Victorious Sect (Jaish al-Ta'ifa al-Mansoura) called on countries taking part in the 'criminal project' to withdraw their citizens before it was too late," Jazeera said.

In the video footage the men look in good health, chatting with other men in a room. One is drinking out of a bowl.

"The kidnappers said they were the Russians who work in a power plant in al-Dora, south of Baghdad," Al Jazeera said.

Two Russians were seized on 10 May. Their employer, Interenergosservis, which is involved in a power plant project just outside Baghdad, was quoted on Wednesday as saying they are alive and well but their whereabouts unknown.

Iraq has been rocked by a series of foreigner kidnappings, as well as revelations of US abuse of Iraqi prisoners and persistent anti-coalition violence. — *MNA/Reuters*

Iranian leader condemns US forces in Iraq

TEHERAN, 18 May — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday called for US forces to leave Iraq and condemned the United States for their "shameful and stupid" actions in Shiite holy cities.

Iran's Shiite clerical leadership had until recently been relatively muted in its criticism of the US-led invasion and occupation of its western neighbour, while calling repeatedly for the occupying forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

But revelations about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US personnel and the incursion of US military forces close to some of the holiest Shiite shrines in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Kerbala this

week have stirred Iranian anger.

"The Americans' military aggression against holy Shiite sites is a rude, shameful and stupid measure," Khamenei said in a speech, extracts of which were reported by the official *IRNA* news agency. "Muslims and Shiite in Iraq and other places will not remain silent regarding this aggression and rudeness," he added.

"Today the Americans have become bogged down

in a quagmire in Iraq and the more they continue the more they will be sucked in," Khamenei said. "The seed of hatred the Americans have sown in Iraq will breed hatred for 10 years," he added.

Khamenei also called plans to hand over control to the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council on June 30 "deceitful".

"Iraqi politicians should know that any of them who come to power, if they are appointed by the Americans,

they will be just as hated as the Americans," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told a weekly news conference on Sunday US forces should leave Najaf and Kerbala as soon as possible.

"Otherwise the American Government will be responsible for the consequences of disrespecting holy places," he said.

Asefi said that while Iran would not mediate between the US-led forces and Iraqis it would use its influence in the Iraqi Shiite community "to try to lessen the differences between Iraqis".

MNA/Reuters



Turks hold demonstration against Iraqi prison scandal

ANKARA, 18 May — A group of members of the Human Rights Association in Turkey on Saturday held a demonstration in front of the Human Rights Monument on Yuksel Avenue in Ankara to protest against the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers.

Yuksel Mutlu, the group's provincial director in Ankara, claimed that the US soldiers had been torturing Iraqi prisoners systematically and that the US officials were aware of those events. Mutlu accused the US and British soldiers of committing war crimes, saying that "occupation, massacres and torture in Iraq and Afghanistan should come to an end immediately".

Leading newspapers and magazines across the world have published pictures of US soldiers abusing Iraqi detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, which caused outrage in the international community. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US Army soldiers secure the area after the head of the Iraqi Governing Council was killed in a car bombing near a US checkpoint in central Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 17 May, 2004. Izzadine Saleem was among four Iraqis killed in the blast. —INTERNET

Gulf Arab leaders condemn US abuses in Iraq

JADDAH (Saudi Arabia), 18 May — The leaders of six Gulf Arab states meeting in Saudi Arabia on Sunday condemned the treatment of prisoners by US-led occupation forces in Iraq.

A statement issued after a summit of the pro-US Gulf Cooperation Council states expressed their leaders' "forceful condemnation and rejection of the inhumane treatment and crimes practiced by the occupation troops against Iraqi prisoners".

It said the abuses violated

the fourth Geneva Convention for treatment of prisoners under occupation.

Pictures of US forces abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison has inflamed Arab anger against Washington, although condemnation has been more muted from Arab governments whose own human rights

records are subject to international criticism.

Britain says it is also investigating reports of abuse by its soldiers.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates also criticized Israel's policy of "state terrorism" including the assassination of leading Palestinian militants and destruction of Palestinian houses.

Israel's supreme court has approved demolitions in a flashpoint Israeli-held corridor on the Gaza-Egypt border.

The demolitions are likely to make thousands of Palestinians homeless. Dozens have already started to evacuate their homes in the camp after learning of the decision.

"The council called on the international community to make Israel stop immediately the destruction of Palestinian homes," the GCC statement said.

The leaders also expressed regret at Washington's decision to impose economic sanctions on Syria and said they hoped the United States would review its decision. — *MNA/Reuters*

Seven US guards charged in Iraq prison abuse cases

WASHINGTON, 18 May — Seven US military police reservists have been charged in connection with abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad. They are: Corporal Charles Graner, 35, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, faces a general court martial on charges of cruelty, maltreatment, adultery, dereliction of duty, assault, indecent acts and obstruction of justice.

Specialist Jeremy Sivits, 24, of Hyndman, Pennsylvania, faces a special court martial — less severe than a general court martial — on charges of conspiracy to maltreat detainees,

dereliction of duty and two counts of maltreatment of detainees. Sivits is accused of taking the photographs of laughing US troops humiliating naked Iraqi inmates. Staff Sergeant Ivan "Chip" Frederick, 37, of Buckingham, Virginia, is set for arraignment on Thursday, May 20 in a general court martial on charges of maltreatment of detainees, conspiracy to maltreat, dereliction of duty, assault and indecency. Sergeant Javal Davis, 26, of Maryland, faces a general court martial on charges of maltreatment of detainees, conspiracy to maltreat, dereliction of duty,

assault and lying in an official statement.

The Pentagon did not immediately release charge sheets for three others in the case. The cases of these three have not so far been referred for court martial. They are:

Private Lynndie England, 21, of Fort Ashby, West Virginia, faces criminal charges including one count of conspiring to maltreat prisoners, three counts of assaulting prisoners by battery and conduct discrediting the service.

Specialist Sabrina Harman, 26, of Alexandria, Virginia, faces criminal charges stemming from the taking of photographs, the filming of inmates who were ordered to strip in front of others, photographing a corpse and attaching wires to an inmate's hands while he stood on a box with his head covered. Specialist Megan Ambuhl, 29, Centreville, Virginia, faces criminal charges including maltreatment of prisoners and conspiracy.

MNA/Reuters

Spain hands operations in Iraqi base to US troops

MADRID, 18 May — US troops have taken over operations at the Spanish military base in south-central Iraq, allowing Madrid's forces to prepare their withdrawal from the country, Spain's Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

Some 1,100 Spanish logistic troops still in Iraq are due to return home before May 27 after Spain's new Socialist government announced last month it would pull its soldiers from the US-led occupation. Spanish forces still at the base in Diwaniya will concentrate on preparing their withdrawal, the Defence Ministry said in a statement, leaving US troops to carry out patrols.

"The Spanish flag will fly over Base Espana until the departure of the last convoy, with General (Jose Manuel) Munoz remaining its commander until that time," the statement said.

In a ceremony to commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives in operation "Iraqi Freedom", General Munoz on Sunday thanked Spain's coalition partners in Iraq and the population of Diwaniya for their displays of affection.

Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono has said the withdrawal could be com-

pleted before the May 27 deadline. The troops are due to leave by land via Kuwait, before flying back to Spain. — *MNA/Reuters*



US troops and Iraqi policemen survey the site where a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint at the entrance of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) headquarters in Baghdad killing the current head of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, Ezzedine Salim. —INTERNET

Protest against Blair's scheduled visit to Turkey held in Ankara

ANKARA, 18 May — Members of Turkish Scientific and Cultural Studies Foundation (ILKAV) held a demonstration Saturday in Ankara to protest British Prime Minister Tony Blair's scheduled visit to Turkey on 17 May.

A group of ILKAV members gathered in front of the Koprulu Business Centre on Ceyhun Atif Kansu Street, where the headquarters of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) is located, and chanted slogans.

They also unfurled banners which read "Go away Blair", "End friendship with murderers" and "You are involved in their crimes if you meet with invader Blair".

ILKAV Chairman Mehmet Pamak said that the United States and its allies were trying to use Turkey's power against the Middle East peoples.

"We are asking the AK Party: when will you give up supporting these torturer murderers and brutal and killer armies, and how and why do you remain silent while the most heinous and disgusting tortures in history of humankind have been committed and honour of humanity has been tested?"

"Save your dignity by at least preventing Bush's and Blair's visits to Turkey, halting your relations with these murderer and torturer countries and cancelling the NATO summit scheduled to be held in Istanbul in June," he demanded. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq torments Blair as political troubles deepen

LONDON, 18 May — Speculation about the future of Tony Blair intensified on Sunday with an opinion poll showing waning support for the British Prime Minister and a newspaper saying top members of his Cabinet had discussed his succession.

Mired in crisis over Iraq, Blair faces increasing calls to stand down, some from Labour Party members worried that their leader and one-time best electoral asset, who has led them to two election victories, is now a liability.

An opinion survey found nearly half of voters thought he should go before the next election, expected around next May.

And support from key allies — two senior ministers insisted on Sunday that Blair would stay put — and his own vow to fight on have done little to quell speculation he may quit.

The *Sunday Herald* reported that Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, who is favourite to succeed Blair, discussed the succession at length in a car in Scotland last weekend.

The Scottish paper cited sources close to Prescott as saying the two talked about prospects for a “peaceful succession” and how the Deputy Prime Minister could help to arrange a leadership contest that would unite rather than divide their party.

Prescott said in the *Times* newspaper on Saturday that

senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair, but he later played down the significance of his comments, saying there had been leadership speculation, but there was no race for the Prime Minister’s position.

The *Sunday Times*, whose YouGov poll published on Sunday showed nearly half of voters think Blair should step down before the next election, reported that senior party figures were positioning themselves ahead of a possible leadership change.

It said Brown’s allies had made detailed plans for a government led by him after

a handover by Blair at Labour’s Party conference in the autumn.

Suffering the mid-term blues after seven years in power, Labour is braced for a trouncing in municipal council and European Parliament elections on June 10 — hurt most by the crisis over Iraq.

While the party is still widely expected to win the next general election, commentators say the speculation swirling around Blair, which would have been unthinkable even a few months ago, makes him weaker than ever. —MNA/Reuters



Smoke billows over central Baghdad.—INTERNET

US should apologize for attacking holy sites in Iraq

TEHERAN, 18 May — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Sunday evening that the US government should apologize for the damage of holy Shiite Muslim sites in Iraq, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Monday.

“World Muslims, in particular Shiites, will not remain silent in the face of such aggression, and the US is currently pursuing dangerous policies that are threatening peace of the world more greatly than at any other time,” *IRNA* quoted Khatami as saying.

“Washington, on the pretext of anti-terrorism, is interfering in the domestic affairs of other states, and its discriminatory policies are fueling extremism and violence in the world,” Khatami added.

As to the escalating terrorism in the world, he said that Washington’s continued support to the Israeli Government and its occupation of Iraq are two of the biggest mistakes of the

US Administration.

The US, by invading and occupying Iraq, has not only insulted the Iraqi nation but also trampled on rights of other countries in the region as well as the United Nations, Khatami said.

On Monday, Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, a special armed force in charge of national security, encouraged Iranians to attend the demonstration scheduled

on Wednesday against US attacks on Shiite holy cities.

The battle between US troops and the local Armed Forces in Najaf on Friday damaged the golden dome of the holy shrine of Imam Ali, which touched off a storm of protests in Iran.

Iran, as a Shiite-dominated Islamic country, has been keeping a close eye on the turbulence in the Iraqi holy cities. —MNA/Xinhua

Anxious Italy urges US caution in Iraqi cities

ROME, 18 May— Italy has asked the United States to halt major assaults against Iraqi holy cities and mete out tough punishment on soldiers found guilty of torture, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said on Sunday.

Alarmed by escalating violence in Iraq and shocked by the prisoner abuse scandal, the Italian Government has found itself on the defensive at home over its decision to contribute some 2,700 troops to the US-led coalition.

The Italian forces in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya have come under constant attack by Shiite militia over the past three days, adding fuel to calls from some

centre-left opposition politicians for the withdrawal of the soldiers.

Frattini said in a letter published in *Corriere della Sera* newspaper that the government intended to keep the force in place, but urged the United States to temper its firepower. “We have asked the Americans to avoid frontal attacks on Iraqi holy cities and to hand over military control of these cities to Iraqi forces,” Frattini wrote.

Italian soldier seriously wounded in Iraq battles

ROME, 18 May — An Italian soldier was seriously wounded on Sunday during a third day of violent skirmishes with Shiite militia in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya.

Defence Ministry sources in Rome said the man was hit in the leg by shrapnel from a mortar round during the early evening. Two other Italians were slightly wounded in the attack.

Earlier, the head of the Italian taskforce in Iraq, General Gian Marco Chiarini, said militia were trying to take charge of the city but that the Italians were still in

control.

“This is not a war, but there is fighting going on and the situation is extremely tense and rather complex,” Chiarini told state Italian television, RAI.

The evening mortar fire was aimed at troops defending their old city barracks that were devastated by a suicide bombing last November in an attack that killed 19 Italians.

Soldiers no longer live there but had taken up positions around it to prevent militants loyal to Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr from using the building to fire at the nearby headquarters of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority.

“After the mortar attack, the decision was taken to evacuate the building,” the defence source said.

Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said in a statement late on Sunday he was “deeply worried” by what was happening in Nassiriya.

Earlier in the day, two Italian paramilitary police

were slightly injured when a convoy transporting the Italian official in charge of Nassiriya, Barbara Contini, came under attack as it neared the local authority headquarters.

Contini was unharmed, but her spokeswoman said the situation in the city, which is about 235 miles southeast of Baghdad, was becoming difficult.

“You can’t see big moves by the militia, at least not on the roads, but we know that they’re positioned on roof buildings,” Paola Della Casa told the *ANSA* news agency.

During morning fighting, the Defence Ministry in Rome said militia had used the cover of a Nassiriya hospital to fire at the Coalition headquarters.

Four Italian soldiers were slightly wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade, apparently fired from the hospital, hit their vehicle. A military spokesman said troops did not return fire for fear of hitting civilians.

MNA/Reuters



A US tank stands behind the burning wreckage in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 May, 2004, after a car bomb killed the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, in this image made from TV. An Iraqi official said three other people were also killed. —INTERNET

ADB, UNESCAP sign MoU on future cooperation

JEJU (South Korea), 18 May — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) signed here Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on future cooperation between the two organizations.

The MoU was signed by ADB President Tadao Chino and Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP at the 37th annual meeting of the ADB Board of Governors.

The MoU was a follow-up on commitments made by the two organizations at the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It reflects the commitment of each organization to support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, halving the absolute poverty by 2015.

Chino expressed satisfaction with the new agreement which emphasizes regional cooperation and poverty reduction. — MNA/Xinhua

Only when National Convention succeeds, will a new democratic nation emerge

U Phyo

The New York Times' *the World Almanac and Book of Facts* published in the US, which sells over 80 million copies, features that there are 193 sovereign nations in the world. The Whitaker Almanac published in England states that there are 265 sovereign nations in the world. The number of the nations may increase because the State Governments included in some Union States are counted as republics.

The world's population is over 6,500 million and there are 11 nations with a population of over 100 million. They are the People's Republic of China (1,300 million), India (1,000 million), USA (282 million), Indonesia (219 million), Brazil (178 million), Pakistan (153 million), Bangladesh (146 million), Russian Federation (143 million), Japan (127 million) and Nigeria (124 million).

Of the nations in the world, 191 are members of the United Nations Organization. Of the 193 sovereign nations in the world, except Britain and New Zealand have respective constitutions.

Myanmar has a population of 53 million in 2004. The population is increasing at about 900,000 per year. This rate of increase in population is roughly equivalent to 2,880 a day and 86,400 a month. Myanmar, with over 100 national races, has been civilized for over 2,000 years. World history counts four Ages, namely, the Early Historic Age, Slavery Age, the Feudalism Age and Capitalist Age. In Myanmar, there existed Feudalism Age until 1885 AD.

Myanmar was under the servitude of greedy British imperialists who invaded Myanmar by force beginning 1885. Thousands of patriotic heroes in Myanmar revolted against the imperialists. Later, they fought against them militarily and politically to regain national independence. As a result, Myanmar regained its sovereignty in 1948.

Regarding the constitution, Myanmar tried to introduce modern administrative system in early periods. If one system was not good, it was changed to another.

There was an attempt to exercise modern administrative system under the feudalist period.

In Myanmar there was a *Yazadhammathingaha Treatise* written by Yawmingyi U Po Hlaing on 7th Waxing of Nadaw 1240 ME, 126 years ago. The treatise included thoughts and ideas believed to be an early constitution of Myanmar. It pointed out that constitutional monarchy should be practised in Myanmar instead of Feudalist system and it included the idea of democracy. The statements in the book regarding legislative system were based on the experience in Europe. It stated that there were two legislative bodies—a group of gentlemen agreed by townships and villages in the country and a group of the ministers. They were referred to the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The second constitution for Myanmar emerged 69 years ago. It was the Burma Act 1935.

It is the repressive act designed to prolong Myanmar's life of poverty and servitude under the exploitation of British colonialists. The British named the act the new administrative act of Myanmar and it was approved by the British Parliament. Myanmar knew the act as 91-Departments administration. But it did not last long.

The third constitution of Myanmar emerged 61 years ago. It was the Administration Rule announced on the day of sham independence given by Japanese on 1 August 1943. Before the occasion, on 11 March 1943, the Japanese Government invited Myanmar leaders to hold meetings in Tokyo to placate Myanmar people who longed for independence. Then, they granted a fake independence. At that time it was called the Act of Administration Rule. The Head of State was called Adipadi or Chancellor. It was on paper effusively but in reality, Myanmar had no authority.

The fourth endeavour for emergence of the

Constitution was also made. This time, the Thirty Three Commission had to make efforts for the emergence of the Constitution hastily. The incident was that in the British parliament, there were Labour Party led by Clement Attlee who was cordial towards Myanmar and the Conservative Party led by Winston Churchill who was very aggressive towards Myanmar. Fortunately, Labour Party became the ruling party. It was not sure that Labour Party would win the next election. If the Conservatives won the election, the independence of Myanmar would drift. Therefore, the Aung San-Attlee Agreement was signed and the Constitution of Myanmar wanted by the ruling party drafted and submitted immediately. It is learnt that expert on the constitution Mr Rao of India was invited and consulted to draft the constitution immediately.

The item of the right to secede from the Union was included in this 1947 constitution although it should not be included. Although there are about two dozen countries which are practising Union system, the right to secede was only practised in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Australia, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Belgium, Mexico and the rest do not accept the right to secede. **Only those who are greedy, weak in Union Spirit and those who wish to rely on other countries call for the right of secession like a patient demanding dried beef. Bogoyoke Aung San disliked this matter and said "You should not talk of seceding before you are going to integrate."**

During the ten-year period after regaining independence, it was expected that through the efforts for development of the entire Union, the idea of secession would diminish.

In 1962, when the ruling party (U, Bo and Thakhin) split and the nation was suffering weakness, a handful of Sawbwas submitted the Federal System. It was, indeed, leading to confederation or federation of sovereign states. After introducing such system for over ten years, the US was well convinced that it made its strength weak. That was why the US had to establish the Union nation in 1789. **Myanmar was on the edge of collapse in 1962. What happened in the US in 1862? The US forces led by President Abraham Lincoln had to crush the southern states trying to secede from the US. The Civil War left over 600,000 people of both sides dead. Similarly, Myanmar strove politically for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union but in vain. The unavoidable Civil War resulted in over 100,000 dead on both sides. Then, the Tatmadaw had to take up the duties of State for non-disintegration of the Union in 1962, scrapping the 1947 State Constitution.**

The Tatmadaw had to take around three years making efforts systematically for writing and promulgating the 1974 State Constitution with the aim of handing over State power to the people, to whom the State power or flourishing of democracy in the nation belonged. The first draft, second draft and third draft of the State Constitution were written based on the wishes of the people. And a total of 63,356 members of the clarification group made field trips to the villages and respectfully clarified the drafts to the people. On 15 December 1973, the Referendum was held on a grand scale. Out of 14,760,036 people, 13,312,001 (90.19 per cent) voted in favour of the Referendum. In the similar case in the US, the percentage was only 60.

The 1974 Constitution became null and void at the time the Tatmadaw took up duties of the State due to the 1988 political unrest.

Now, there is the sixth attempt to see to the flourishing of democracy in the nation. On 30 August 2003, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt declared the State's seven-point Road Map, which explained the prevailing situation in the country.

The National Convention which was adjourned since 1996 is now in session. Delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates are now discussing and forwarding suggestions frankly to formulate fundamental and detailed principles for drafting the new State Constitution.

The outcome of the National Convention will be

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

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြကြောင်း ကြားသိရပါသည်။ ယင်းသို့ ယာဉ်စီးခပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိထိ ရောက် ရောက် အရေးယူနိုင်ရေးအတွက် အောက်ပါဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း ၁၉၉
(၂) ကြီးမဲကြေးနန်းနှင့် ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး ၂၉၁၅၅/၂၉၁၂၈၄
(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံ

ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄
ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

released chapter-wise to the national people. To ensure the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy, a enduring Constitution is required and the National Convention will lay down fundamental and detailed principles for drafting the Constitution. Only when the National Convention succeeds, will a democratic new nation come into existence. We wish the National Convention success.

(Translation: NY + BG + MS)

Myanmar was on the edge of collapse in 1962. What happened in the US in 1862? The US forces led by President Abraham Lincoln had to crush the southern states trying to secede from the US. The civil war left over 600,000 people of both sides dead. Similarly, Myanmar strove politically for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union but in vain. The unavoidable Civil War resulted in over 100,000 dead on both sides. Then, the Tatmadaw had to take up the duties of State for non-disintegration of the Union in 1962, scrapping the 1947 State Constitution.

Only those who are greedy, weak in Union Spirit and those who wish to rely on other countries call for the right of secession like a patient demands dried beef. Bogoyoke Aung San disliked this matter and said "You should not talk of seceding before you are going to integrate."

Prime Minister meets delegation to Meeting on the Rights...

(from page 16)

He said Myanmar enacted the Child Law in 1993. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child was formed in September 1993 and State/Division/District/Township level committees were also formed systematically. Moreover, the watch and assessment and scrutiny sub-committee was formed in May 1999. The Child Rules were enacted in December 2001, he added.

He said it is obviously seen that as a member of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Myanmar laid emphasis on taking appropriate measures on the child rights.

He said that Myanmar has been constantly making ef-

forts in carrying out child care services.

In this regard, in addition to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement which is mainly responsible for child care services, the wellwishers including such social organizations as the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association are actively participating in these tasks, he said.

Upholding own culture, traditions and customs, Myanmar never accepts abuse and torture of people but has a tradition of great sympathy for children, he said.

Myanmar has a fine tradition of looking after children under close guardianship and Myanmar parents still care

their offspring who have already got married, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to fully discuss measures taken by departments and social organizations for caring for children and flourishing of child rights in the nation, at the meeting in order to make them fully known to the international community.

The ministers, the deputy ministers and the MWAF president reported on measures for child rights including education, health, social and legal sectors of Myanmar sector-wise. Dr Daw May May Yi and delegates reported on preparations for the meeting.

The Prime Minister assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks.

MNA



National Convention delegates seen at the meeting.— MNA



National Convention delegates seen at the meeting.— MNA



National Convention delegates arrive at the meeting.— MNA



National Convention delegates arrive at the meeting.— MNA



National Convention delegates sign attendance at the meeting.— MNA



National Convention delegates sign attendance at the meeting.— MNA

Shopping arrangements for the delegates

YANGON, 18 May — Shops for the delegates to the National Convention were crowded in Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.

Government Employees Cooperative was running a shop selling foodstuff, clothes, books, stationery, traditional costumes of nationals and luggage. T-shirts, vests and bags by Seinsetkyar Manufacturing Ltd were also on sale as souvenirs of the National Convention. Winthuzar Shop of the Ministry of Industrial- 1 was also selling bicycles, sewing machines, umbrellas, food and beverages, clothes, textiles and cosmetics manufactured by the enterprises under the ministry and foreign and local medicines were sold at the shop of Green Health Care Ltd. Livestock and Fisheries Ministry has been selling ready to eat fried meat and fish, honey and milk.

Delegates also enjoyed photographing in the Shwe Pabedan Co-op photoshop and Mon Mon beauty salon was on service as well as Myanma Optic spectacle shop and Kaung San Ein laundry service.

Border Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce is running a hair dressers' salon and there is a post office run by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. The facilities cater for the convenience of the delegates. — MNA



The National Convention delegates seen at a welfare shop. — MNA

Entertainment for delegates

YANGON, 18 May — The National Convention delegates are being entertained daily with movies at Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township starting from 7 pm.

The film, "Father-in-law was once son-in-law" which won Academy Award 2002, starring Yan Aung, Kyaw Thu, Lwin Mo, Moe Moe Myint Aung and Khaing Thin Kyi was screened today. —MNA

Clarifications concerning ...

(from page 16)

of the State is formed with the President of the State, the vice-Presidents, the Pyidaungsu Ministers and the Pyidaungsu Attorney-General — have been laid down. Moreover, the basic principle — the executive power of the State is delegated among the administrative organs of the Pyidaungsu and regions and states, and self-administrative power shall be vested in self-administered areas as stipulated by the State Constitution — has also been laid down. As the principles have already been drafted, the principles to be formed as basis for designating the rights of the President of the State and the Pyidaungsu, prescribing the administrative and financial rights of the regions or states and designating the self-administration rights for self-administered areas are required to be laid down.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with the judiciary, basic principles laid down at the Convention, it is said:

(1) the judicial power of the State is distributed among Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw (the Supreme Court), Region Taya Hluttaw (Region High Court), State Taya Hluttaw (State High Court) and law courts of different levels including law courts of self-administered areas:

(2) In the Pyidaungsu, there is one Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw. Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw is the supreme court of the State:

(3) Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw has powers to is-



NCCWC Secretary U Thaung Nyunt gives clarifications. — MNA

sue writs:

(4) a Region Taya Hluttaw is constituted in each of the regions and a State Taya Hluttaw is constituted in each of the states:

(5) the following are stipulated as Judicial principles:— independent administration of justice in accord with law;— administration of justice in public except where restricted by law;— giving of right of defence and right of appeal by law in cases.

Based on the above-mentioned principles, I am now going to present the specific principles, that should be laid down as the basis for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors, that have inter-relationship and inter-dependence between one another. All the basic principles that should be laid down for the sectors are delicate and profound and also require serious consideration for the long-term interest of all the Union people. Thus, the Work Committee will make a comprehensive clarification on them so as to enable the delegates to make sector-wise discussions and present suggestions to their heart's content.

Respected Chairman,

It is a common knowledge for all the delegates that in connection with the delegation of the State's sovereign power, the National Convention has already laid down the basic principles — the three branches of sovereign power of the State, namely, the legislative power, executive power and judicial power, are separated as much as possible and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves; and the three branches of power so separated are shared among Pyidaungsu (Union), regions, states and self-administered areas.

As the basic principles concerning the legislative, executive and judicial structures will be formulated in accord with the already drafted fundamental principles, the current issue of the National Convention is to discuss and lay down detailed basic principles in connection with the division and sharing of power among the Pyidaungsu, regions or states and self-administered areas and to conduct as much as possible reciprocal control, check and balance among them.

To be able to draft the detailed principles on divi-

sion of power among the Pyidaungsu, regions or states and self-administered areas, I will now present the matter in three parts as follows:

- (1) Division of the legislative power;
- (2) Division of executive power; and
- (3) Division of judicial power.

In presenting the three parts, firstly, I will explain which of the matters in connection with legislative power be delegated to which of the legislative bodies.

Respected Chairman,

The Plenary Session of the National Convention which began on 9 January 1993 had already laid down the basic principles to be formulated as the basis for framing the State Constitution and some of the detailed basic principles.

The National Convention Work Committee has already published the book "The Basic Principles and Detailed Basic Principles laid down by the National Convention Plenary Sessions up to 30 March 1996".

Respected Chairman,

The basic principles laid down by the National Convention concerning the State structure, state, "The State will be formed a Union made up of seven regions and seven states and Union territories."

The nation, thus formed, is an independent and sovereign nation and it has laid down the following State objectives:

1. non-disintegration of the Union,
2. non-disintegration of national solidarity
3. perpetuation of sovereignty
4. flourishing of genuine multi-party democracy system
5. further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values, namely, justice, liberty and equality in the State,
6. for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

In accord with the objectives, a basic principle — the three branches of sovereign power of the State, namely, legislative power, executive power and judicial power, are separated as much as possible and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves — has been laid down.

In order to carry out legislative matters in line with the principle, the Pyithu Hluttaw will be formed with a maximum number of 440 representatives; and the Amyotha Hluttaw, with a maximum number of 224.

The two Hluttaws are called the Pyidaungsu



NCCWC member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gives clarifications. — MNA

Hluttaw, the highest legislative body of the State. There will be one Hluttaw each in every region or state.

Respected Chairman,

Three sectors — the structural sector, the power division sector and the work connection sector — are divided for legislature, executive, judiciary. The delegates have already known the laying down of principles to be formed as the basis for the structural sector. Concerning the sharing of legislative power, I will explain the list of Pyidaungsu laws stating the matters concerning the legislative power of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw; the list of laws of the region or state stating the matters concerning the legislative power of region or state; and the matters in connection with the legislative power of the self-administered areas.

Respected Chairman,

As we, the brethren of the same ancestors, unitedly took part in the struggle to liberate the Union of Myanmar from under the yoke of the British colonialists, the country has become an independent and sovereign nation since 4 January 1948. The national brethren have been living together in the whole Union in weal or woe, unitedly and



NCCWC Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung gives clarifications. — MNA

harmoniously warding off and winning victories over various kinds of internal and external enemies.

In this regard, it will be required to consider and discuss and to lay down the detailed basic principles in connection with the delegation of the legislative power so as to enable the respective Hluttaws to enact necessary laws, that concern with the whole Union, or to be exercised by regions or states, regarding the matters relating to the State defence and security, administration, economy, social sector and judiciary of the Union of Myanmar where national brethren are living in unity, peace and solidarity.

In conducting the legislative affairs covering State defence and security, administration, economy, social sector and judiciary of the Union of Myanmar, where national brethren are living in unity, peace and solidarity, it is required to lay down detailed basic principles to enable the respective Hluttaws to enact laws concerning the whole Union and the laws to be exercised region-wise or state-wise. A constitution that will be drafted and enacted based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles should be a durable one that can be observed and exercised not only by the present citizens, but also by the posterity. It is important for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw to ensure facilitation, effectiveness and success in practically implementing the laws enacted in accord with the legislative power entrusted to them. In considering the list of law to be enacted as required by the Hluttaw at Union level or by the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw, it is required to keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes of the State — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — and to view the matters including national defence and security, economy, social issue, culture and customs of the national races.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with the sharing of legislative power of the State, the National Convention has already laid down a fundamental principle, — the legislative power of the State is shared among Union Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws and State Hluttaws; legislative power stipulated by the State Constitution shall be distributed to self-administered areas. The Work Committee has invited officials of the ministries and respective departments and experts in their respective professions and collected necessary facts and documents after making discussions with them. Concerning the tasks and responsibilities implemented by the ministries, the work Committee has studied in detail weaknesses and advantages experienced by the central status

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NCCWC member Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin gives clarifications. — MNA

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and state and division levels. Regarding the sharing of legislative power, it has studied the Union Legislative list and State Legislative list in the 1947 Union of Myanmar Constitution. Moreover it has paid serious attention to studying the sharing of the legislative power stipulated in the constitutions of some of the former colonies that freed themselves from under the rule of the British, and some other nations around the world.

Respected Chairman,

The Work Committee has adopted as guideline the six objectives, including Our Three Main National Causes, of the National Convention, together with the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives of the State, in addition to the fundamental principles laid down by the National Convention and in compiling clarifications on the matters relating to the division of power and functions of the legislative, executive, judicial issues.

The clarifications thus compiled were submitted to the Commission. The Commission after thoroughly studying the presentations of the Work Committee, gave guidance to present them to the National Convention. In accord with the guidance, first, the Work Committee will clarify the proposed legislative list to be entrusted to the Pyithu Hluttaw comprising Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw in 11 sectors as follows:

- (1) Defence and security sector
- (2) Foreign Affairs sector
- (3) Finance and planning sector
- (4) Economic sector
- (5) Agricultural and livestock breeding sector
- (6) Energy, electric power, mining and forestry sector
- (7) Industrial sector
- (8) Transport and communication sector
- (9) Social sector
- (10) Management sector
- (11) Judicial sector.

**Clarifications of National Convention
Convening Work Committee Vice-Chairman
Attorney-General U Aye Maung**

Respected Chairman,

Of the two parts — the defence of the State and the security of the State, first and foremost, I will explain the part concerning defence of the State. It is a common knowledge for all the delegates that the defence of the State is as important as life itself for every nation. Once, our country fell under enslavement of the British colonialists for over 100 years due to weakness in the national defence strength. It is important for all of us to remember this. Sovereignty will perpetuate and the nation will stand as an independent country in the world only if all the citizens of the State unitedly strive together with the Tatmadaw to defend the nation. Almost every country in the world vests the legislative power concerning the State defence in the Hluttaw at the central level formed with delegates of the whole country and has the right to conduct the affairs of the entire nation.

As sharing and distribution of the legislative power is conducted in accord with all the conditions of a country concerned, there are differences to a certain degree in the task of sharing and distribution of the legislative power concerning the defence.

Respected Chairman,

In the 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, legislative power for the defence was invested in the Parliament at the central level. Thus, the matter was stated in detail in the List 1 — Union Legislature — of the Third Schedule under the heading Defence of the Constitution as follows:

I. Defence: that is to say, the defence of the Union and of every part thereof, including generally all preparations for defence as well as all such acts in times of war as may be conducive to its successful prosecution and to effectively demobilisation after its termination, and in particular —

- (1) the raising, training, maintenance and control of Navy, Army and Air Force and employment thereof for the defence of the Union and the execution of the laws of the Union and the States.
- (2) Defence Industries.
- (3) Naval, Army and Air Force works.
- (4) Local self-government in cantonment areas, the constitution and powers within such areas of cantonment authorities, the regulation of house accommodation in such areas and the delimitation of such areas.
- (5) Arms, firearms, ammunition and explosives.
- (6) Atomic energy, and mineral resources essential to its production.

(7) Conduct of War.

If we thoroughly study the stipulations in connection with Defence of the constitutions of some of the former colonies that regained independence from the British colonialists after the World War II and some other nations of the world, we can see that the legislative power concerning Defence is exercised only by the Hluttaw at the central level.

Respected Chairman,

Now I will deal with the matter relating to State security. Similar to the State defence, State security is also of vital importance for a country. There will be security of public lives and property only if there is State security. All-round efforts can be made for well rounded development of the nation only if there prevails peace and stability in the State. The State security means the ensuring of security in the whole nation.

In this regard, I will now continue to explain one by one the matters that should be included in the defence and security sector, that are vital requirement for the entire Union.

Respected Chairman,

A review of our history shows that because of the weakness in the defence power, the British colonialists launched three aggressive wars against the nation and enslaved her. The nation had lived under subjugation of the British colonialists for over 100 years.

The Tatmadaw had to safeguard the lives and property of the people due to deterioration of unity soon after the nation regained independence in 1948. And when the Kuomintang remnant troops intruded into Shan State under the support of their foreign masters in roundabout 1950, the Tatmadaw drove them out. In the later periods, the nation faced threats and aggression of some foreign countries. Thus, if we study the incidents, we can see that the colonialists and the neo-colonialists are always waiting for an opportune moment to disturb a country at any time when it becomes weak and to put it under their influence. Hence, the nation will be able to ward off all alien threats, aggression and intrusion and to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation only if its defence and security strength is strong.

In this world today, some powers are trying to dominate small countries, with human rights and democracy as an excuse. Under these circumstances, we will have to strive to enhance the internal strength and that of the nation in every aspect. We will have to rely on ourselves for the development of the nation.

In this regard, we need a consolidated and strong defence force that is able to defend the nation. We will be able to defend the State and every part of it only if we have a strong and consolidated defence force. So, we need to enact necessary laws to defend the State and all parts of it. Our nation has regained independence since over 50 years ago. We should always have awareness to safeguard the nation against the internal and external threats and dangers of intrusion and to ensure national security, while taking lessons from the experiences throughout the years during the over-50-year period. The act of exerting endeavours for the defence of the State is only to defend our own country. In order to safeguard the nation against any foreign intrusion, the National Convention has already laid down the basic principle — the Tatmadaw is strong, modern and must be the sole existing Tatmadaw — in addition to the basic principles — the State never starts aggression against any nation; and no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union.

All necessary requirements for a consolidated and strong defence cannot be fulfilled immediately. Necessary preparations and arrangements for State defence will have to be made in advance. In doing so, laws should be enacted when and as necessary. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws if necessary concerning the matter “the defence of the Union of Myanmar and of every part and the making of preparations and arrangements for the propose”. In making arrangements and preparations for State defence and security industries will have to be set up as necessary. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, concerning the matters “defence and security industries”.

Respected Chairman,

The defence of the State and the security of the State have inter-relationship between each other. As the State will have to defend the nation against the danger of foreign intrusion, it also needs to ensure security and safety of public lives and property. To ensure security and safety of public lives and property, a law that specifically controls arms, ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons is required. We need to protect our citizens from facing evil consequences some

other nations are experiencing resulting from the permission to hold fire arms and ammunition freely. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact necessary laws concerning the matter “arms, ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons”.

Respected Chairman,

Together with technological development, military hardware and personal goods are becoming more and more sophisticated with the passage of time. Nowadays, electricity is being generated from nuclear energy, while the nuclear bombs and nuclear-powered ships are being built in the military sector. But danger may befall the public if strict control measures cannot be taken in the use of nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation. Nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation are derived from the minerals. As it is necessary to control nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation, so also the mineral resources used in producing them need control. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws concerning “nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation and the mineral resources from which they can be obtained”.

Respected Chairman,

If we study the constitutions of the majority of countries, we can find that the power to declare war and to declare ceasefire is vested with the Hluttaws which are the highest legislative bodies of the State. A nation has the right to defend against and ward off an intrusion of another nation. And if another country one-sidedly declares war on it, it also has the right to declare war on that nation. Fighting usually stops and ceasefire is made between two warring countries because of the mutual understanding that reaches between them or the intervention or mediation of a third country or an organization to solve the problem. As the issue of the declaration of war and the reaching of ceasefire agreement concerns the entire nation and people, it has to be submitted to the highest legislative bodies of the nation concerned for approval.

In the 1947 Constitution adopted by Myanmar, only the Parliament exercised the legislative power concerning the declaration of war and ceasefire. The Article 75 of the 1974 Constitution states, “The council of State may take suitable military action in the face of aggression against the State and action so taken shall be submitted to an emergency session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Council of State may continue all necessary military action. Such action shall be submitted for approval to the nearest session of the Pyithu Hluttaw.” The article is stipulated for the Council of State to take necessary military action in the face of aggression against the State and to submit the action to the Pyithu Hluttaw for approval. It can be found that the said issue is handled only by the Legislative Hluttaw, the highest body of the State. Thus, it should be included in the Union: Legislative list to enact laws concerning “the declaration of war and ceasefire”.

Respected Chairman,

As the rule of law, peace and stability are essential requirements to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, efforts will have to be made for the rule of law and security systematically in the whole nation. There must be peace and stability and the rule of law in a nation for the development of its political, economic and social sectors. As the necessary laws, enacted for the prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law are required to be effective in the whole nation, only the highest legislative bodies of a nation enact the law. Thus, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws concerning “peace and stability of the State and the rule of law”.

Respected Chairman,

The Myanmar Police Force is responsible for the prevalence of peace and stability of the State and the rule of law. Members of the MPF are taking crime preventive measures, investigating the crimes and taking necessary actions, gathering firm evidence of crimes, and taking actions against the criminals according to law to effectively discharge their duty. The MPF is an organization dealing with the people for the prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law, while adhering to the law. Its main duty is the prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law. In addition, it is a reserve force to defend the nation in times of emergency. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws concerning the “Police Force”.

Respected Chairman,

Now, I have already explained the matters that should be included the Union Legislative list concerning the defence and security sector. Hence, the delegates will have to discuss and give suggestions on whether or not the following basic principles should be laid down to be included in the Union Legislative list concerning defence and security of the State:

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1. The defence of the Union of Myanmar and of its every part, and to prepare a defence programme thereof.
2. Defence and security industries.
3. Arms and ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons.
4. Nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation, and mineral resources that produce them.
5. Declaration of war and ceasefire.
6. Peace and stability of State and the rule of law.
7. Police Force.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Secretary U Thaung Nyunt Respected Chairman,

I will turn to the foreign affairs sector. When adopting the foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar plays an active role in such affairs as the global peace and security, the denunciation of colonialism and neo-colonialists, the condemnation of racial discrimination and apartheid, non-interference in one another countries internal affairs, non-aggression and non-manipulation of other countries. Just as it freely evaluates and figures out the true situation of international and regional affairs, as for international relations, it, as a trustworthy neighbour, also maintains cordial relations, especially with regional countries as well as with neighbouring countries. At the same time, the Union of Myanmar always respects the equal status of all peoples and nations and the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Respected Chairman,

The Sections 211 and 212 under the title of International Relations of Chapter XII of the 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, the foreign policy is defined as follows:

Section 211: The Union of Myanmar renounces war as an instrument of national policy, and accepts the generally recognized principles of international law as its rule of conduct in its relation with foreign States.

Section 212: The Union of Myanmar affirms its devotion to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation among nations founded on international justice and morality.

In 1962, the Revolutionary Council announced the foreign policy of the Union of Myanmar in order to forge and cement Myanmar's friendly relations with all countries. To present the announcement briefly, it is as follows:

— they reaffirm their unswerving dedication to the ideal of peace, friendly relations and cooperation between all nations based on international justice and morality;

— they reaffirm their wholehearted support for and complete faith in the purposes and principles of the United Nations as embodied in its Charter;

— they reaffirm their conviction that the policy of positive neutrality pursued by the Union of Myanmar is the policy best suited to her and the world; and

— accordingly, they look forward to the continuity of their existing cordial relations with all countries.

Respected Chairman,

The fundamental principles prescribed in Chapter II of the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar are as follows:

Article 26: The State consistently practises an independent foreign policy, aimed at international peace and friendly relations among nations and upholds the principles of peaceful coexistence of nations.

At the present time, our country still continues practising the independent foreign policy.

Respected Chairman,

With a view to further strengthening the independent and active foreign policy the State has been practising continuously and maintaining existing relations with international community, the fundamental principles set by the National Convention in respect of the foreign policy are as follows:

— the State practises the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy, aims at world peace and friendly relations with nations, and upholds the principles of peaceful coexistence among nations;

— the State never starts aggression against any nation; and

— no foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union. In line with the fundamental principles laid down by the National Convention, discussions are to be made with respect to detailed basic principles for legislative power of the foreign affairs sector.

It can be seen in the constitutions of the respective world nations that legislative power pertaining to the foreign policy is bestowed to the highest legislature of the country concerned.

Regarding the matters appropriate to the foreign

affairs sector, which is still in need of detailed basic principles, the National Convention Convening Work Committee's findings will be presented.

Respected Chairman,

Apart from being a member of the UN, the Union of Myanmar also joins international as well as regional organizations as a member country. Having established diplomatic relations with a great deal of countries, the Union of Myanmar also keeps its embassies open there as necessary. There may arise some cases concerning the appointment of trade representatives in some countries. When it comes to the legislation to send Myanmar ambassadors and consuls to work at the Myanmar Embassies in the countries concerned and to appoint trade representatives, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'diplomats, consular officials and trade representatives'.

As for the necessity to make legislation for the measures Myanmar has agreed to take as a member nation of the UN, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the matters relevant to the UN.

Respected Chairman,

Apart from being a member of the UN, the Non-aligned movement, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and BIMST-EC, the Union of Myanmar attends international or regional or bilateral conferences, seminars and meetings and also takes part in discussions. Necessary steps are also under way to enable the resolutions agreed at such conferences, seminars and meetings to take shape in our country. Continued efforts will have to be made to participate in such international or regional or bilateral conferences, seminars and meetings in cooperation with other associations and organizations, and to translate their resolutions into reality. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the making of legislation for 'the participation in international, regional and bilateral conferences, seminars, meetings, associations and other organizations and the implementation of their resolutions'.

Respected Chairman,

While practising the independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar is taking measures for entering into international and regional pacts, agreements, conventions, and bilateral agreements and treaties with respective countries as well as with international and regional organizations, in addition to ratifying contracts and enacting necessary laws. As such kinds of tasks will go on in the future, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'the realization and materialization of international and regional treaties, agreements, conventions, bilateral agreements and other contracts'.

Respected Chairman,

When our country was under the British colonialists, permission was granted to foreigners from the British colonies to enter our country freely without needing any passport and visa. On account of it, generation after generation right up to now has still suffered multifarious losses and degradations. As such, necessary laws as to foreigners wishing to visit our country or settle in it were enacted after the restoration of independence. Every free nation has their immigration acts. The citizens of our country wishing to go abroad are allowed to enter a particular foreign country on condition that they bear the passport our country has issued and the entry visa the embassy of that particular country has issued. Such procedures are being practised in our country too. For that reason, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'passports, entry visas and certificates of identity'.

Respected Chairman,

With the market-oriented system now in practice in the Union of Myanmar, peoples from foreign countries are coming into and going out of the country on business or politically or socially or for other reasons. Only when immigration laws are enacted for entry into the country, for departure from the country and for immigration control will foreigners notice and follow them.

In our country, like other countries, if a foreigner who is currently on a visit to our country violates a certain existing law, he will be punished according to the law; besides, he is also liable to deportation depending on the magnitude of the crime he has committed. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'the entry into the Union of Myanmar, the departure from the country, immigration control and deportation order'.

Respected Chairman,

If a citizen of our country who has committed a crime in the country is in a particular country, the case may involve making a request to that country to return

the guilty person to our country. For the same reason, if a person from other country on charges with a crime he has committed is in our country, the country concerned may ask our country to hand over the culprit to them. When it comes to the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned, some countries have a tradition of entering into such agreements as Extradition Treaty. By means of such treaties, a particular country has the right to officially ask for the extradition of the culprit to them if he is in a signatory country of the treaty. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned'.

Respected Chairman,

A study of the constitutions of a large number of world nations indicates that in almost every country legislative powers are invested only to their highest legislatures when it comes to making legislation relevant to the matters put under the foreign affairs sector which I have so far explained. It being the case, the esteemed delegates are to discuss as to whether or not detailed basic principles should be set in order to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws concerning the following matters appropriate for the foreign affairs sector of our country. They are as follows:

1. diplomats, consular officials and trade representatives;
2. the United Nations;
3. participation in international, regional and bilateral conferences, seminars, meetings, associations and other organizations and the implementation of their resolutions;
4. the realization and materialization of international and regional treaties, agreements, conventions, bilateral agreements and other contracts;
5. passports, entry visas and certificates of identity;
6. the entry into the Union of Myanmar, the departure from the country, immigration control and deportation order; and
7. the extradition of criminals to the home country and request made therefrom.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein Respected Chairman,

I will go on with the finance and planning sector.

The State is making efforts to raise and allocate funds, provide supervision for monetary and banking services, pour investments in national development projects, and lay down short- and long-term plans to ensure parallel development across the nation by putting in practice finance and revenue policies as well as monetary policies to be able to effectively and successfully implement its financial, economic and social policies and objectives. In addition, serious steps are also being taken with might and main so as to establish a new, modern, developed nation with the application of the political, economic and social objectives. The State needs a rate of economic growth higher than that of annual population growth. Only then will the economic boost be able to guarantee a higher living standard of the people. The State is taking measures to ensure regionwise economic development by doing everything that will help develop the economy: for instance, construction of dams, reservoirs, embankments, sluice gates, airports, and motor roads and railroads; and installation and extension of telephone lines. These measures are being taken with the aim of ensuring economic growth and easy accessibility between one region and another. Placing emphasis on economic development of the State implies raising the living standard of the people. Since economy is the foundation for national development, the economic boost will benefit other remaining sectors as well. The National Convention, with an eye to a higher living standard of the people and the improvement of national economy, has also laid down some fundamental principles relevant to the finance and planning sector. The principles to be adopted are as follows:— the State shall prioritize the higher living standard of the people and accumulation of general investments;

— the State shall render assistance to socio-economic development covering education, health, economy and transportation of less developed national races;— the State shall provide such assistance as technology, capital, machinery and raw material for development of national economy;

— the State shall not nationalize business undertakings; and

— the State shall not demonetize the legal tender currency in circulation.

To raise the living standard of the people and to promote general investments, the undertakings of the finance and planning are essential for not only the Union but also the region or the states.

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A glance at the development trends of the world nations will indicate that modern plans consistent with their countries are practised after being drawn. As necessary, the highest legislative bodies of the State enact laws relevant to the finance and planning undertakings concerning with the whole country. However, it is found that in some countries appropriate legislative powers are vested in the states that have their own legislative bodies. Also in our country, there will be seven regions and seven states in addition to union territories under the direct rule of the President in accordance with the detailed basic principles which have been laid down. Therefore, legislative powers are to be vested in legislative bodies at union level as well as in those at region or state level in an appropriate way.

Respected Chairman,

Only when the finance and planning undertakings are implemented harmoniously in uniformity on a national scale will a country be able to achieve progress. A study of the constitutions of a great deal of other countries and the 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar will reveal that the highest legislative bodies of the State exercise the legislative powers as to the finance and planning undertakings to be implemented harmoniously in uniformity on a national scale. Moreover, it is found that the highest legislative body of the State is vested with the legislative power as to the finance and planning undertakings which have to be implemented harmoniously on a national scale, while the legislative powers as to the finance and planning undertakings to be implemented only within the regions or the states are invested to the division or state concerned.

Respected Chairman,

In the first place, I will present the budget of the Union. To be able to successfully realize the political, economic and social policies and objectives of the State harmoniously on a national scale, systematic measures are to be taken for raising necessary funds, and keeping and allocating them. To be able to systematically implement such tasks, a country has to prepare the budget to carry out the tasks.

Respected Chairman,

In our country, there will be the Union budget as well as the region or state budgets. The Union budget will contain the budgets of organizations at Union level as well as those of the Union governmental ministries. Besides, it will also contain a sum of money reserved for supplying to the regions and states when necessary, cash assistance and loans. After having been drawn in accord with the set procedures, the Union budget is to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by the President or the one who is authorized to do so by the President.

When the President or the one who is authorized by the President submits the Union budget to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will then be able to discuss, amend and approve it and will enact necessary laws relevant to the Union budget. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the 'Union budget'.

Respected Chairman,

Union Fund Account has been opened for the income and expenditure accounts of the organizations at central, state, division, district and township levels; those of departments of ministries; those of State-owned economic organizations; and those of armed forces and city development affairs committees. Separate fund accounts have also been opened for the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and development affairs committees. There can be some arrangements to supervise and control the fund accounts in the future by enacting laws relevant to the Union Fund Account.

Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the 'Union Fund Account'.

Respected Chairman,

I will now explain the supervision and control of the State's financial matters. At present, the Central Bank of Myanmar takes charge of the financial matters of the State according to the Central Bank Law. The functions of the Central Bank are as follows:

(a) to act as a sole distributor of currency notes or coins for local use;

(b) to act as a Government Bank by keeping the Government's accounts;

(c) to act as adviser to the Government in connection with economic matters as required by the Government in addition to the policy and plans of economic development and the State's budget;

(d) to act as adviser to and representative of the Government as to distribution of government bonds;

(e) to lay down and implement the financial policy for the successful materialization of the objectives in accord with its own prime targets;

(f) to supervise and inspect monetary organizations to ensure secured financial system and for its betterment;

(g) to act as a bank representing the monetary organizations, foreign governments and international organizations;

(h) to exercise the foreign exchange rate policy of the State and to control the exchange of foreign currencies by acting as representative of the Government;

(i) to provide management for exclusive foreign exchange of the State and to assume responsibility for ways and means required for stable and proper foreign exchange account system that can regularize the international money exchange of those living in the country; and

(j) to take charge of the money exchanges for international governmental organizations with which the State involves in the area of banking service, loan and financial matter, to undertake all the tasks in the name of the Government and to establish relations with such organizations on behalf of the Government.

An analytical approach to such working procedures will show that the State acts as a sole distributor and circulates currency notes and coins through the Central Bank. Acting as the Government's bank by handling the Government's accounts, the Central Bank of Myanmar has to supervise the monetary organizations, implement the foreign exchange rate policy of the State and control the exchanges of foreign currencies as representative of the Government. Besides, it also has to take necessary measures through the direct deal with the International Monetary Fund. Deputizing for the State, it also prints government bonds and sells them.

The matters I have so far presented are those which have been dealt with only at central level since the time of independence. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with '(1) the printing of currency notes and the moulding of coins, (2) the Central Bank of Myanmar and monetary organizations, (3) supervision and control of foreign exchange and (4) capital and financial market'.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee member Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin

Respected Chairman,

It is learnt that insurance organizations are established in densely-populated areas and in areas where numerous factories exist, as there arise the need to buy insurance against Homogeneous Risks. The types of insurance are:

1. life insurance,
2. third party insurance,
3. miscellaneous insurance,
4. fire insurance,
5. marine cargo insurance,
6. marine hull insurance,
7. aviation insurance,
8. engineering insurance,
9. comprehensive car insurance,
10. oil and gas insurance,
11. cash in transit,
12. cash in safe,
13. fidelity insurance,
14. travel insurance,
15. personal insurance, and
16. reinsurance.

Of them, in some countries the State runs insurance industries it considers appropriate and also allows private entrepreneurs to run some insurance companies. In operating insurance companies either by the government or by private organizations according to the State's policy, it is necessary to be in consistence with the practices being exercised internationally when dealing with international organizations. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'insurance'.

Respected Chairman,

Taxation is involved with such basic principles as politics and economy of the State. The basic factors used for making and implementing the policies relevant to taxation are as follows:

1. transparency in working nature between the tax collector and the tax payer,
2. simplicity,
3. cost-effective and easy undertakings of taxation,
4. justifiability,
5. less tax evasion, and
6. fortification of national economy.

In particular, the taxation system should not be a

burden on the tax payers, but should be considered deeply as a buttress of State's economy. As taxation is associated with foreign trade, not only are the taxation management policies to be highlighted and implemented, but the international and regional trade practices and customs are also to be followed with respect. Hence, to see that collection of taxes and revenues is common throughout the nation, while respecting international and regional trading practices, serious attention should be paid to delegating power to introduce laws in connection with collection of taxes and revenues. It was found that the highest organ of the legislative body exercised the legislative power in connection with the revenues, namely, (1) income tax, (2) commercial tax, (3) stamp duty, (4) custom duty, and (5) the State lottery. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with income tax, commercial tax, stamp duty, custom duty and the State lottery.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with the collection of taxes and revenues I have just presented, there may be people who may approve or disapprove of the collection of taxes and revenues according to law by the organization concerned. There should be a court of appeal where the people, who disapprove of the collection of taxes and revenues, may air their grievances. As the court of appeal is concerned with the entire Union, it should be at the Union level. With the establishment of the court of appeal, the people can abide by the decision of the court. Since the court of appeal on the revenues has to pass judgements according to law, it will be necessary to introduce the relevant law.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the tax appeals.

Respected Chairman,

There should be a common practice in matters relating to service enterprises of the Union, disposal of the Union property through sale, rent or other means, disbursement of loans from the Union fund, investment with funds from the Union Fund, borrowing of loans from inside and outside the country, acquiring financial assistance and aid from outside.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the service enterprises of the Union, disposal of the Union property through sale, rent or other means, disbursement of loans from the Union fund, investment with funds from the Union Fund, borrowing of loans from inside and outside the country, acquiring financial assistance and aid from outside.

Respected Chairman,

According to international experiences, development plans are systematically and harmoniously laid down and implemented in the countries where market oriented economic system is practised to ensure success of their respective policies and objectives. In our nation also, we will have to implement the short-term and long-term National Development Plan step-by-step for the building of a modern, developed new nation.

In laying down the National Development Plan there will be the Comprehensive National Development Plan and the Regional Plan. In drafting the respective plans aimed at achieving success of the State policies and objectives, it will be necessary to lay down the policies and objectives, the strategy and tactics of the respective plans. To be able to give guidance in connection with the policies to draft the National Development Plans, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws if necessary.

Respected Chairman,

There may be weaknesses and strong points in implementing the plans laid down by the State. To be able to study and foresee them, data on the economic, social affairs etc are to be collected, processed and then released. Then only will it be possible to make proper preparations. In order to gather data from the respective sectors, statistics are obtained from the administrative records of the departments or through cooperation with the departments concerned or through field surveys. With the use of computers data are fed and processed followed by issuing of reports and data documents. Statistics on environment and the Geographical Information System covering social, economic, administrative and geographical data are studied and processed.

Moreover, it will be necessary to send and receive data between one government department and another through the medium of computer and to make use of data through storage and retrieval from Regional Statistical Database. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'data collection'.

(See page 14)

Clarifications concerning ...

(from page 13)

Respected Chairman,

Evidences and facts about the historical traditions, cultural heritage, administrative, economic and social matters of Myanmar Naing-Ngan are of utmost national importance. Documents containing such evidence and facts need to be kept together in a safe place. Methods are to be introduced as necessary to see that those documents are kept securely, and that there is access to them for study and so on. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to introduce ‘The National Archives Law’ if necessary.

Respected Chairman,

As market economy is being practised in our country for the economic progress of the nation, economic organizations and private individuals inside and outside the country are more or less investing in the country. To enable them to make investments according to law, it will be necessary to introduce laws concerning property ownership, rules and regulations concerning works and contracts, lay down duties and discipline for workers and promulgate laws, rules and regulations designed to create stable economic environment.

In connection with the existing laws, reviews and necessary amendments are to be made in accordance with the changing time and circumstances. As these laws need to be in force in uniformity throughout the nation, it is observed that it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘investment’.

Respected Chairman,

Laws concerning methods to be applied in connection with inspection of departmental statistics, works, regional organizations are to be introduced so that the respective organizations will be able to inspect the statistics according to law and submit their findings to the organizations concerned. It is to be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘inspection of statistics’.

Respected Chairman,

I would like to present matters that should be included under the Finance and Planning Sector and also included in the Union Legislative list. They are:

- (1) The Union budget
- (2) The Union Fund
- (3) Currency and coinage
- (4) The Central Bank of Myanmar and financial institutions
- (5) Foreign Exchange control
- (6) Capital and money market
- (7) Insurance
- (8) Income tax
- (9) Commercial tax
- (10) Stamp duty
- (11) Customs
- (12) State lottery
- (13) Tax appeal
- (14) Service enterprises of the Union
- (15) Disposal of Union-owned property through sale or rent or other means
- (16) Disbursement of loans from the Union funds
- (17) Investment with the Union funds
- (18) Loans borrowed from inside and outside the country
- (19) Acquisitions of the Union
- (20) External financial assistance and aid
- (21) National Plan
- (22) Data collection
- (23) National Archives
- (24) Investment, and
- (25) Inspection of statistics

I have clarified these points for the delegates to discuss and make suggestions whether to formulate detailed principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws.

Respected Chairman,

I will now present the matter concerning delegation of legislative power to the Region or State Hluttaws in connection with finance and planning. I have already clarified that it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws in connection with the budget. It should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws , if necessary, in connection with the ‘Region or State budget’.

Respected Chairman,

I will next present establishment of Regional or State Fund. As the Union Fund is to be established at the Union level, Regional or State Fund should be established in the respective Regions or States. Then only will it be

possible to make use of the Regional or State budgets as necessary. It should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the establishment of Regional or State Fund.

Respected Chairman,

As our country is an agro-based one, the number of peasants engaged in agriculture is estimated to be about 80 per cent of the total population of the nation. Those peasants pay land revenue to the State annually for the land they work. As the delegates are aware, the types of land vary. The types of land are also different in the Regions and States. As such, the respective Regions and States will be able to prescribe and collect appropriate land revenues. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the land revenue.

Respected Chairman,

Now I will present excise duties. In the 1947 Constitution, it is stated, Duties of excise on the following goods manufactured or produced in the State and countervailing duties at the same or lower rates on similar goods manufactured or produced elsewhere in the Union: —

- (a) alcoholic liquor for human consumption,
- (b) Opium,
- (c) Indian hemp and other narcotics; non-narcotic drugs,
- (d) Medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol or any substance included in item (b) or (c).

Respected Chairman,

The State has been taking strict measures by introducing law in order to curb production, sale and consumption of drugs including opium and psychotropic substances in the country since they endanger the life of the people. The respective Hluttaws are to promulgate laws in connection with collection of the excise duties on the substances permitted by the State. The term, excise, covers revenues collected on the related substances and the term will be used in this connection. Excise duties are collected by the departments concerned at present but once the new Constitution is in force, there will emerge the Region or State governments. There will be speedy and smooth performance of duties when the Region or State Hluttaws introduce laws in connection with excise duties which will be prescribed and collected by the respective Regions and States. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘excise’ (excluding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances).

Respected Chairman,

Development Affairs revenues such as building and land revenue, water tax, street light tax, wheel tax, etc. are to be presented. Nowadays, a large portion of development tasks are being undertaken by the Development Affairs Department under the supervision of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. With the population growth in the nation there is an increase in the urban and rural population day by day. It is necessary to do everything possible systematically and properly in all aspects for the improvement of the standard of living of the growing population. Appropriate measures are to be taken to see that the increasing number of buildings constructed meet the prescribed norms and standards and there is sufficient supply of water, electricity etc. In fulfilling the socio-economic requirements of the rural population, better transport and communication is vital. The socio-economic progress can be brought about only when there is better communication between the urban and rural areas. The respective Regions and States are to pay close attention to development of the suitable infrastructure in their areas with a view to improving the standard of living of the local population. In doing so, there may be tasks to be undertaken by the government departments as well as those to be carried out by the private sector under assignment of jobs. Development undertakings will be more successful if the Regions and States provide close supervision. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘Development Affairs revenues such as building and land revenue, water tax, street light tax and wheel tax’.

Respected Chairman,

There may be service enterprises in the Regions and States. The need may arise to introduce laws in connection with the existing service enterprises and the new ones that may emerge due to changing time and conditions. Hence, it should be included in the list of the Region or State laws to be introduced in connection with the service enterprises in the Regions or States.

Respected Chairman,

There will be Union-owned property as well as Region- or State-owned property when the new Constitution is in force. There may be times and circumstances when the Region- or State-owned property is no longer necessary and is to be disposed of through the sale or rent or other means. It should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, to provide controls when the Region- or State-owned property is disposed of through the sale or rent or other means.

Respected Chairman,

I have already presented earlier that the legislative power should be delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws to introduce laws in connection with the Regional or State Fund. The need may arise to introduce laws, if necessary, to disburse loans from the Regional or State Fund for the socio-economic progress in the respective Regions and States. Moreover, when the Regional or State Fund accumulates, the funds may be invested within the country. The profits can be added to the Regional or State Fund so that the increased funds may be used for the direct or indirect benefit of the people of the respective Regions or States. When the funds of the Regional or State Fund are invested within the country, it will be necessary to introduce laws to provide controls. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘disbursement of loans from the Regional or State Fund within the country’ and ‘investment of funds from the Regional or State Fund within the country’.

Respected Chairman,

There will invariably be national projects concerned with the entire Union and regional projects to be implemented on manageable scale in the respective Regions or States for the development of the nation. As the regional projects are to be drafted by the respective Regions and States and submitted to the respective Region or State Hluttaws, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list of to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the regional projects.

Respected Chairman,

At present, the Myanma Small Loans Enterprise has opened 181 branches in 13 States and Divisions to disburse small loans.

The small loans centres need to be opened not only in the urban areas but also in major villages in order that the people in need of cash may have access to them and solve their financial problems. Although the small loans disbursement centres are run at present by the department concerned, there may arise the need to introduce laws in connection with the small loans enterprise to sell the business, through permits, to the private sector through tender system or auction according to the conditions in the respective Regions or States. So, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the ‘small loans enterprise’.

Respected Chairman,

The points I have just clarified are those covered by the finance and planning sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws . They may be put together as follows:

- (1) The Region or State Budget
- (2) The Regional or State Fund
- (3) Land revenue
- (4) Excise duties (excluding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances)
- (5) Development Affairs revenues such as building and land revenue, water tax, street light tax, wheel tax
- (6) Service enterprises of the Regions or States
- (7) Disposal of the Region- or State-owned property through sale, rent or other means
- (8) Disbursement of loans within the country from the Regional or State Fund
- (9) Investment of funds from the Regional or State Fund within the country
- (10) Regional projects
- (11) Small loans enterprise

I have clarified these points for the National Convention delegates to discuss and give suggestions whether to formulate the detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws to carry out work in their respective regions or states. — MNA

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19-5-2004 (Wednesday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)	
9:00	Signature Tune
	Greeting
9:02	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Sweet and Juicy Pomelo
9:15	National News
9:20	Weaving School in Falam
9:25	Royal Rose
9:30	National News
9:35	Baugte: My village
9:40	Song "Moonlight Flower"
9:45	National News
9:50	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
9:58	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
19-5-2004 (Wednesday) Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)	
15:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
15:36	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Sweet and Juicy Pomelo
15:45	National News
15:50	Weaving School in Falam
15:55	Royal Rose
16:00	National News
16:05	Baugte: My village
16:10	Song "Moonlight Flower"
16:15	National News
16:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa-

	tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30	National News
16:35	Myanma Tapestry Art- ist
16:40	New Century Biotech Development Centre (Botany Department)
16:45	National News
16:50	Welcome To Shwe- myaing (Mawla- myaing)
16:55	Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
17:00	National News
17:05	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
17:10	Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
17:15	National News
17:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
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	Historical Shwe Inpin Monastery
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Prospective Ostrich Farming
19:45	National News
19:50	The beautiful green ice
19:55	Taung-Zabu-Paing Royal Group Dance
20:00	National News
20:05	Myanma Traditional Bronze Casting
20:10	Song "Blessed Myan- mar"
20:15	National News
20:20	Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
20:25	Myanmar Modern Song "No right to love, yet"
20:30	National News
20:35	The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
20:40	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part -II)
20:45	National News
20:50	The Pindaya Natural Cave
20:55	The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance

21:00	National News
21:05	Unforgettable Customs of the Chins
21:10	Song "Shadow of Love"
21:12	Glazed Earthen Pot
21:15	National News
21:20	Talent Show on a Maze of Xylophones
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
21:35	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Sweet and Juicy Pomelo
21:45	National News
21:50	Weaving School in Falam
21:55	Royal Rose
22:00	National News
22:05	Baugte: My village
22:10	Song "Moonlight Flower"
22:15	National News
22:20	Excursion in Yangon River
22:25	Myanmar Modern Song "Hakha"
22:30	National News
22:35	Myanma Tapestry Art- ist
22:40	New Century Biotech Development Centre (Botany Department)
22:45	National News
22:50	Welcome To Shwe- myaing (Mawla- myaing)
22:55	Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
23:00	National News
23:05	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
23:10	Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
23:15	National News
23:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
23:28	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

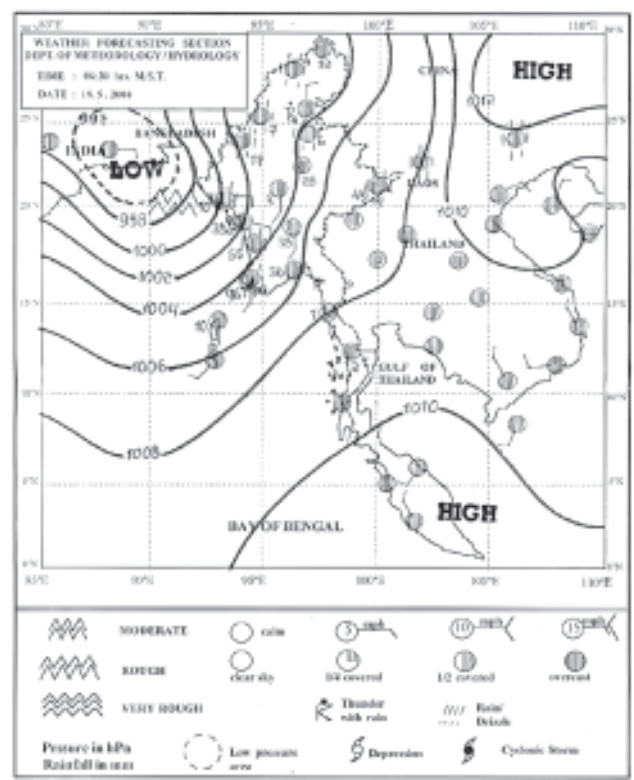
19-5-2004 (Wednesday) & 20-5-2004 (Thursday) Evening Transmission & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)	
23:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano-

23:36	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Sweet and Juicy Pomelo
23:45	National News
23:50	Weaving School in Falam
23:55	Royal Rose
24:00	National News
00:05	Baugte: My village
00:10	Song "Moonlight Flower"
00:15	National News
00:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30	National News
00:35	Myanma Tapestry Art- ist
00:40	New Century Biotech Development Centre (Botany Department)
00:45	National News
00:50	Welcome To Shwe- myaing (Mawla- myaing)
00:55	Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
00:58	Modern Embroidery
01:00	National News
01:05	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
01:10	Song "Welcome to Trasure Land"
01:15	National News
01:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
01:28	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

20-5-2004 (Thursday) Morning Transmission (03:30 - 07:30)	
03:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
03:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Historical Shwe Inpin Monastery
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Prospective Ostrich Farming
03:45	National News
03:50	The beautiful green ice
03:55	Taung-Zabu-Paing Royal Group Dance

04:00	National News
04:05	Myanma Traditional Bronze Casting
04:10	Song "Blessed Myan- mar"
04:15	National News
04:20	Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
04:25	Myanmar Modern Song "No right to love, yet"
04:30	National News
04:35	The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
04:40	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part -II)
04:45	National News
04:50	The Pindaya Natural Cave
04:55	The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
05:00	National News
05:05	Unforgettable Customs of the Chins
05:10	Song "Shadow of Love"
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05:35	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Sweet and Juicy Pomelo

05:45	National News
05:50	Weaving School in Falam
05:55	Royal Rose
06:00	National News
06:05	Baugte: My village
06:10	Song "Moonlight Flower"
06:15	National News
06:20	Excursion in Yangon River
06:25	Myanmar Modern Song "Hakha"
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06:40	New Century Biotech Development Centre (Botany Department)
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06:50	Welcome To Shwe- myaing (Mawla- myaing)
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06:58	Modern Embroidery
07:00	National News
07:05	Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
07:10	Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
07:15	National News
07:20	Exhibition on Imple- mentation of Special 4 Years National Educa- tion Promotion Plan (Part-I)
07:28	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



WEATHER

Tuesday, 18 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the re- maining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Shan State, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Thabeikkyin (4.13) inches, Patheingyi (3.82) inches, Hmawbi (3.78) inches, Namsam (3.32) inches and Shwegyin (2.99) inches. Maximum temperature on 17-5-2004 was 29.1°C (84°F). Minimum temperature on 18-5-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-5-2004 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2004 was (0.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-5- 2004 was 61mm (2.40 inches) at Yangon Airport, 36 mm (1.41 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 34 mm (1.33 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 224 mm (9.02 inches) at Yangon Airport and 219 mm (8.62 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 232 mm (9.13 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 22 mph from East at (08:40) hours MST on 18- 5-2004. Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Central Bay and south Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 19-5-2004: Rain or thun- dershowers will be isolated in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and scattered in to widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Occassional squalls with moderate to rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph to (40) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: The advancement of southwest monsoon are likely into central Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-5-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Manda- lay and neighbouring area for 19-5-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
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Wednesday, May 19

View today:

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရက္ခဂူရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတ်ကံ၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မသင်္ဂဟ ဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ တိပင်သဏီပရိတ်တရားတော်
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. မြို့ မြေကြွေ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
8:10 am
6. အရေးကြီးပွဲ
8:20 am
7. စလင်းရေလှောင်တမံ

8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Happy and Educational English Summer Course MRTV
4:00 am
1. Martial song
4:15 am
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 am
3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation
4:45 am
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
5:15 pm
6. Songs of national races
5:30 pm
7. Classical songs
5:45 pm
8. "နိုင်ငံသားကောင်းဟူသည်" ဓမ္မဝင်း၊ မြင့်ဝင်း၊ သန်းဝင်း၊ ကျော်စိုး

တင်တင်အိ၊ တင်မိုးအေး၊ ခါရိုက်တာ-ဌေးဝင်း
6:00 pm
9. Strong and healthy myanmar
6:10 pm
10. ရွှေယံရုံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
6:20 pm
11. Discovery
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. အေးချမ်းစေ့စည် ရှမ်းတို့၊ ဌာနီ (တောင်ပိုင်း)
7:25 pm
15. ရှမ်းရိုးရာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု
7:35 pm
16. ကျေးလက်ဒေသတစ်ခွင်အလှဆင်
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းစဉ် "အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)
21. The next day's programme



Wednesday, May 19

Tune in today:

8.30 am	Brief news
8.35 am	Music: Juanita (Shania Twain)
8.40 am	Perspectives
8.45 am	Music: Love to infinity (Boyzone)
8.50 am	National news/ Slogan
9.00 am	Music: Looking for heaven (Greta)
9.05 am	International news
9.10 am	Music: Don't you worry (Madasun)
1.30 pm	News/Slogan
1.40 pm	Luch Time Music: -Let me be (Britney Spears) -I want it that way (Backstreet Boys)
9.00 pm	Variations on a tune: "Bye-bye love" -Simon & Garfunkel - Connie Francis
9.15 pm	Article/Music
9.25 pm	Music at your request -May be baby (Emilia) -One love (Trisha Yearwood)
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEL

Prime Minister meets delegation to Meeting on the Rights of the Child to be held in Geneva

YANGON, 18 May— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met a delegation which will attend the Meeting on the Rights of the Child to be held in Geneva, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 5 pm today.

Present on the occasion were the ministers, the deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and delegation members.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said the 36th meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will be held in Geneva from 17 May to 4 June 2004.

At the meeting, facts in the second national report submitted by Myanmar will be discussed. Arrangements have been made to send a delegation led by Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets delegation to meeting on rights of child to be held in Geneva.— MNA

Affairs Federation Dr Daw May May Yi.

He said Myanmar became a member of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 15 August 1991. Members of the Convention have to submit re-

port. In 1995, Myanmar submitted its first report in accord with the procedures of the convention. At the 14th meeting held in 1997, Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and

Resettlement discussed Myanmar’s first report.

The second national report was sent on 5 June 2002 and the report will be discussed at the 36th meeting, he said.

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Clarifications concerning detailed basic principles for Executive, Legislative and Judiciary to be included in drafting State Constitution made

YANGON, 18 May — The followings are the translation of clarifications concerning detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors that are to be included in drafting State Constitution made at the National Convention today.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe

Respected Chairman and esteemed delegates,

May I greet you wishing “May you all enjoy physical and spiritual wellbeing and be blessed with auspiciousness.”



National Convention Convening Commission Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acts as master of ceremonies.— MNA

Respected Chairman,

Detailed basic principles for Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors, that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution, had already been laid down successfully at the National Convention, held from 28 November 1995 to 30 March 1996.

On 30 March 1996 at the National Convention, then Chairman of the Commission in his concluding address said, “As drastic changes are being effected in political and economic systems of Myanmar, it is imperative that there must be an enduring constitution that is in harmony with the changed political and economic systems and capable of properly guiding and controlling these political and economic systems.

With lessons taken from events of the past, and with vigil kept against the danger from reactionary elements subservient to colonialism and imperialism and subscribing to sectarianism, as is being seen and heard today, endeavours must be made to bring about a situation where only the people of our country can determine all their affairs in the future State that is truly free from any dependence and free from any stunting eclipse. So it is necessary for all the delegates to carry on with tenacity and courage to obtain necessary detailed basic principles without losing sight of the 104 basic principles that is the fruit of the National Convention presently. “Today, detailed basic principles on the formation of the fourth, fifth and sixth out of 15 chapter headings, namely, “The Legislative”, “The Executive” and “The Judiciary” are now in hand.

“Discussions will continue and suggestions are to be forwarded on the rights and powers to be exercised at the Union level and Region/State level in connection with these three headings.

This part, too, is important. How are rights and powers to be distributed among and exercised by the Union and Region/State? It will be necessary to realistically consider and lay down the principles to see that legislative, executive and judicial powers are smoothly, properly and harmoniously exercised. As this part is also important, it is necessary to obtain most suitable detailed basic principles after consideration in all aspects so that there exist no weaknesses and flaws and no confusion in exercise of the three powers.

“The principal duty of our National Convention is laying down the basic principles: the National Convention Convening Commission and the National Convention Convening Work Committee will have to continue to study and conduct research from all angles to obtain good and enduring basic principles for the State. National Convention delegates are urged to make studies when the National Convention is in recess.” In accord with the address, the Commission and the Work Committee, during the adjourned period conducted thorough studies on a wide array of fields to acquire detailed basic principles for distribution of power in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors.

Respected Chairman,

When the detailed principles to be laid down for the division of the legislative power is reviewed, we can see the sharing of the legislative power for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprising the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, the legislative power for Region or State Hluttaws and the leading bodies of the self-administered divisions or self-administered areas in accord with the stipulations contained in the Constitution. And when the sector of the sharing of the executive power is studied, we can see that the detailed basic principles for the executive structure have already been laid down at the plenary session of the National Convention. Of the principles, the principles — the head of executive of the State is the President of the State; the Pyidaungsu government

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Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe explains defence and security sector.— MNA

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