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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

Detailed basic principles for economic, agriculture, livestock breeding, energy, electricity, mining and forestry, industry, transport and communication sectors clarified at National Convention

YANGON, 19 May— The National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified economic, agriculture and livestock breeding, energy, electricity, mining and forestry, industry, transport and communication sectors in the plenary session of the National Convention which continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

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 from 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, invited persons and other invited delegates and 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 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, Shwepyithar (MTA) Group, Manpan Regional Militia Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chuangchi Region), Mon Splinter 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 National Convention and Secretary of the NCC Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan announced the start of the meeting as there were 1,072 out of 1,088 listed accounting for 98.53 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.

National Convention Convening Work Committee member Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye clarified the economic sector and National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, the agriculture and livestock breeding sector.

National Convention Convening Work Committee Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung explained the agriculture and livestock breeding sector and the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sectors and the plenary session recessed.

At 10.45 am, Secretary of the Work Committee U Thaug Nyunt explained the industry sector and the transport and communication sector. Next, the plenary session went into recess in the morning.

(The sectoral clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee is reported separately.)

The plenary session of the National Convention will continue tomorrow.—MNA



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman
State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presides over
the session of National Convention.— MNA



Welcome the National Convention.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 May, 2004

For emergence of Constitution that can meet the best interests of the entire people

The National Convention continued at the Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township on 18 May.

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

Afterwards, Secretary of the Work Committee U Thauung Nyunt explained the foreign affairs sector and, members of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin the financial and planning sector.

Basic principles for the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution and for division of power at the Union level and regions, states and self-administered areas have already been laid down. At the ongoing National Convention, the details for division of power and reciprocal control and check and balance of the branches of sovereign power of the State — the legislative, the executive and the judiciary — are to be discussed. Only if the State's defence and security forces are strong, will it be safe against foreign invasions. Therefore, a strong and modern Tatmadaw is necessary for the defence of the State. And the higher living standard of the people and development of the national economy will be ensured only if the financial and planning work are carried out harmoniously all over the nation.

The Union of Myanmar needs to change its political and economic systems and therefore it is very important that it has a constitution that will be harmonious with and can control the new political and economic systems well.

Taking lessons from the past and being vigilant against the danger of lackeys of the imperialists, the entire people are to try to be in a position to determine their own destiny without depending on others. We believe that all the delegates to the National Convention will try their best to be able lay down details, adhering to the 104 basic principles.

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair opens

YANGON, 19 May — The opening ceremony of Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2004 was held at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road this morning. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Tong Tah Co Ltd Chairman Mr Peter Loh and Tong Tah Co Ltd Managing Director U Khin Maung Latt formally opened the trade fair by cutting a ribbon.

Also present on the occasion were Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, departmental heads and guests. Altogether 67 companies put on display various kinds of consumer and household goods in 178 booths there. The Trade Fair continues till 23 May from 9 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA

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ပြည်သူ့အားလုံးပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး

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

U Soe Myint appointed as Ambassador to Algeria

YANGON, 20 May — The Chairman of State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to MWAFF

YANGON, 19 May — A ceremony to donate cash and kind to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at the office of MWAFF on Thanlwin Road here this morning. MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended it and accepted the donations.

Also present were MWAFF Vice-presidents Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers, executives and wellwishers.

First, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks, and accepted the donations including K 3 million by Thukhamein Video Production and Vetvet Bossom Video Production; K 200,000 by Attorney General U Aye Maung and wife; K 300,000 by the Ministry of Industry-2; K 500,000 by U Aung Zaw Ye Myint of Yetagun Co; K 500,000 and 5,000 badges worth K 600,000 by Dana Aung Co; K 200,000 by Daw Thi Thi Lwin, Daw Ni Ni Lwin, Daw Lwin Lwin May and Daw Thwe Yin Yin Kyaw; and 20 Rose sewing machines worth K 610,000 by Tri Star General Trading Co. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented certificates of honour to the donors. — MNA

Improvement of rivers coordinated

YANGON, 18 May — A coordination meeting on improvement of rivers and conservation of natural environment was held today at the Ministry of Transport here with an opening address by the Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe.

Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Soe Myint reported on conditions of the rivers and their environs. Deputy Minister U Pe Than also discussed condition of Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin rivers and proper flow of water and adverse effect on rivers due to extraction of timber and natural resources.

After discussions, the minister urged officials to make efforts on improvement of rivers, clearing of creeks which flow into the rivers and conservation. — MNA

Rural roads opened

YANGON, 19 May — Director-General of the Development Affairs department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint together with officials attended the opening ceremony of paving roads in Kyauktan this morning. The roads opened today were independence road which is 252 feet long and 12 feet wide, built at K 2.53 million; Ahngu jetty road which is 496 feet long and 12 feet wide, built at K 3.53 million; and Gymnasium 1st lane which is 1231 feet long and 12 feet wide. — MNA

Energy Minister inspects filling station

YANGON, 19 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi arrived at the field of Seintamuni Phayagyi Monastery where final rite of Presiding Nayaka of the monastery member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala will be held on 18 May morning and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister proceeded to No 0189 Filling Station of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Dedaye Township and inspected distribution of fuel and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

"Soon" offered to Sangha

YANGON, 18 May — Families of the Ministry of Energy offered "soon" to members of the Sangha at the State Pariyatti Sasana Tekkatho (Yangon) this morning.

Energy Minister's wife Daw Khin Mar Aye presented offertories to Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panitabhivamsa. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay presented cash donation K 200,000 for offering the alms. — MNA

POEM:

Good Start On The Right Path

- * Our land Myanmar, to be prosperous
To be perpetuated in solidarity
These aims in all loving citizens
In all patriots are enshrined
- * With the aim of bringing into being
Toward at end, on noble path
To start on the path, the convention
Has been set in motion.
- * Noble thought, goodwill
With innate will, for good of nation
For the pride of the Myanmar
We hold aloft what is our pride
Independence without darkness
With clear roots, clear outlook
Moving with consolidated strength
The Convention is appropriate
And as it is stable
It is seen to be encouraging.
- * Bereft of bounds, with clear concept
Convention with clear concept
Must surely succeed.
- * Because of good start
Convention with clear path
Must surely succeed.

May Ru (Trs)

POEM:

Convention Full of Tints

- * All colours brought together
It's been known as the rainbow
Wherever it appears amid the sky
Forms part of the circumference
Fixed it pleasant and joyful
With equanimity of "sky" and "sun"
All good qualities brought together
It's truly colourful
Ever ioyous sight.
- * Nyaungnabin pleasant venue
While the monsoon rains commence
Brethren all hand in hand
Convene nationally
Let's discuss all together
To participate with zest and zeal
With goodwill and loving kindness
For the sake of the Union.
- * Many assembled as one
There's the good messing hall
Serviced regularly
Cordially and satisfactorily
Place correctly appointed
The place is well furnished
As you enter the dining hall
There's pleasant fragrance.
- * Instantly, when necessary
There's hospital for check-up
There's also hair dresser and laundry
For cleaning of soiled clothes.
Beauty parlour not excluded
Damsels at all times
Line-up in turn
And break into sing-song.

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)

New oil-well in Myanaung Oil Field

YANGON, 19 May — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected oil and gas field in Myanaung region, Ayeyawady Division, on 16 May.

At the briefing hall, General Manager U Nu reported on brief history of oil production in Myanaung Oil Field, plans to increase oil production and achievement on drilling new well No 166 and Director U Kyaw Hlaing on prospects of Myanaung Oil and Gas Field. The well produces 82 barrels of crude oil and 1.11 million cu-ft of natural gas daily. Myanaung Shwepyitha Oil and Gas Field is now producing 502 barrels of crude oil and 2.361 million cu-ft of gas a day. A total of 0.492 million barrels of crude oil as well as 13,000 million cu-ft of gas deposit is still left. — MNA

Iraq war weakens bond between Bush, evangelicals

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—Concern among evangelical Christians over the course of the war in Iraq is opening a crack in their strong bond with President Bush and the Republican Party, political analysts who track this powerful voting group said.

But they caution there are doubts over whether John Kerry can lure evangelicals into the Democratic camp in November's presidential election.

"I know there are a lot of evangelicals who are disillusioned with the war and worried about a lot of things, the Woodward book, the Clarke book ... (and) how we got into this thing," said Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif, referring to recent books on the al-Qaeda threat and the Iraqi war and occupation.

Compounding that is the growing scandal about prisoner abuses by US troops in Iraq.

Evangelical Christians are still expected to vote overwhelmingly for Bush, but the erosion of support could reduce their turnout on election day, a potentially ominous development for the incumbent president.

If the race is very close in several states, experts said poor turnout by this core voting group could conceivably cost Bush the election, especially if a cliffhanger like the Florida

contest in 2000 were to reoccur.

Some academics estimate evangelical Christians represent 25 to 30 percent of the 105 million people who voted in the last presidential election. Evangelical Christians are concentrated in Southern and Midwestern states considered by many political analysts to be the battleground of the 2004 campaign. Traditionally evangelicals have been politically conservative and voted overwhelmingly Republican although some

Democratic candidates have been able to win a substantial slice of their vote, most notably Jimmy Carter, a self-described born-again Christian, in 1976.

"I don't see anything but trouble over there (in Iraq). People could increasingly become disenchanted with George Bush, evangelicals too," said Derek Davis, director of the JM Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University.

"I think the war could have an effect on the evangelical vote," he said but estimated it would cost Bush no more than 10 to 15 percent of support among evangelicals at the most. He noted that in the 2000 election Bush received about 80 to 85 percent of the evangelical vote.

Evangelical Christians consider President Bush, a man who frequently refers to his Christian beliefs, as one of their own. Kerry in contrast is a Roman Catholic who rarely talks in the public about his faith and is in the midst of controversy as conservative Catholic bishops talk about withholding communion from him because of his views on abortion rights.

"John Kerry ... likes to use the mantra that JFK used about observing the principle of separation of church and state," Davis said.

Internet



A US soldier walks past Iraqi detainees standing behind razor wire at Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad on 18 May, 2004.

INTERNET

India, China plan reciprocal lines of credit to boost exports

BEIJING, 19 May — For the first time, the Exim Banks of India and China are discussing exchange of reciprocal lines of credit which would further stimulate the growing trade between the two countries, official sources said here.

"The Exim Banks of the two countries have had an initial exchange of views on exchange of reciprocal lines of credit to finance project exports in each other's country," Chairman and Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India, T C Venkat Subramanian told PTI here.

China had extended a credit line of 100 million US dollars last year for financing export of Chinese capital goods to India. Following this, the Exim Bank of India was designated as the nodal agency in India to discuss the matter further. "The Exim Bank of India, with the approval of the Government of India, has also proposed a reciprocal credit line," Subramanian said, adding the two sides will hold further consultations to finalize the arrangement.

He said the Chinese side was studying the Indian proposal since the Chinese Exim Bank was not engaged in financing imports unlike the Exim Bank of India which does both — financing exports as well as imports.

Similarly, he said the two sides should explore the possibility to promote trade finance and bilateral letter of

credit confirmation facility which will be useful to boost trade from the current seven billion to 20 billion "within a short period." Bilateral trade between India and China in 2000 was three billion US dollars. In 2003, it touched a record 7.6 billion US dollars. During the first quarter of 2004, trade has already touched 3.1 billion US dollars, Chinese Customs statistics showed.

While the Exim Bank of India has no immediate plans to open an office in China, the regional office in Singapore will be more active in the Chinese market to promote Indian exports and tap business opportunities, Subramanian said.

Subramanian, along with the executive director of Exim Bank, S Sridhar, who visited Beijing to attend the 10th annual meeting of Asian Export Credit Agencies, said India and China should step up cooperation and tap the enormous business opportunities for mutual benefit.

India, which initiated the meeting of heads of Export Credit Agencies (ECA) in 1996, will be hosting the 11th meeting next year, he said. — MNA/PTI

UAE's Etisalat becomes member of global security alliance

ABUDHABI, 19 May — Etisalat, the major telecommunication company of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has joined a global alliance to ensure and promote a safe and secure global electronic environment, the English daily Gulf News reported recently.

With this, Etisalat has become the first corporation in the Middle East and Africa to be a member of the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams

(FIRST), a global alliance of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) that collaborates and shares information to protect members against

online threats, viruses and hacking. Etisalat's commitment to Internet and computer security has secured its entry into FIRST, a 100-plus member community

that shares information, alerts and jointly coordinates incident responses and security teams around the world.

MNAX/inhwa

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Iraq situation said tougher than expected

LONDON, 19 May—The situation in Iraq is tougher than Britain anticipated last year, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Tuesday.

"It's palpable that the difficulties which we have faced have been more extensive than it was reasonable to assume nine months ago," Straw told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

He said many of the security problems in Iraq had arisen following the attacks on the UN headquarters in Baghdad. The first on 19 Aug killed 22 people including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

But Straw insisted that the US-led coalition would transfer sovereignty to an interim Iraqi administration on June 30. He added that it would be up to the Iraqis to decide if they wanted foreign troops to remain in the country after that date to help with security.

"We believe that they will so decide, but if they decide that they don't want those troops then all those troops will leave," Straw said.

He declined to comment on whether Britain planned to send any more troops to Iraq. — Internet

British contractor killed in Iraq

LONDON, 19 May—A British ex-Marine working in Iraq as a private contractor has been shot dead, according to reports.

Brian Tilley, 47, was killed on Friday after a gunman walked into the house where he was staying and opened fire, not specifying where the incident took place.

Britain's Foreign Office said it could give no details of the death.

"We can confirm we have been informed that a British national was killed in Iraq on Friday. We are still seeking to inform next of kin and are giving no further details yet," a spokesman said.

Tilley, a veteran of Britain's Royal Marines, had been due to travel home on Wednesday but missed his flight and was waiting for another.

Tilley had served in the first Gulf War of 1991, left the Marines' elite Special Boat Squadron two years ago to set up his own company and had been based in Baghdad for 14 months.

Tilley was among an unknown number of Britons working in Iraq, many of whom are military veterans tempted by high salaries to work as private security guards.

In April, another former British soldier Michael Bloss, who was working for a US private security firm, was killed protecting workers who came under attack in the town of Hit, around 150 kilometres (90 miles) west of Baghdad.

Fifty-nine British soldiers have also died in Iraq, 33 of them since the war was officially declared over on May 1, 2003.

Internet



A US Marine from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment examines debris after an improvised explosive device was detonated overnight near an Iraqi police station in Kharmah, near Fallujah, Iraq on 18 May, 2004. — INTERNET

US cardinal accuses Bush of moral failure in Iraq

VATICAN CITY, 19 May—A senior American cardinal in the Vatican has accused the US administration of “moral failure” and deception in Iraq and warned the war had severely compromised future relations with the Arab world.

In an interview due to be published in the June edition of “*Inside the Vatican*” magazine, Cardinal James Francis Stafford also said the abuse of Iraqi prisoners was the work of “barbarians.” An advance copy was made available to Reuters.

Stafford, the former archbishop of Denver who

has been working in the Vatican since 1996, said the reasons for starting the war in Iraq were a “moral failure” because there had been no conclusive proof of weapons of mass destruction.

“Why did the president, the vice-president and the secretary of defence say there was an immediate danger to the peace of American

society by the proximate use of weapons that would come from Iraq, either directly or through al Qaeda?” he said.

“Why did they say that when they didn’t have direct evidence?” Stafford said.

Stafford, who is close to Pope John Paul, said he feared the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by the US military would have long-term

consequences on relations with Arabs and Muslims.

“Not only have we humiliated the Iraqi people, but we’ve deceived them. We’ve deceived the Arab peoples,” he said.

“Is this what American democracy is producing? Men and women who, just below the surface, are barbarians ... Is that what we’re producing?” he said.

The pope strongly opposed the war and dispatched envoys to both President Bush and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to try to avert the conflict.

Internet

စက်မှုဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဓနိတိကုန်သွယ်

Most Italians want out of Iraq

ROME, 19 May— More than 60 per cent of Italians questioned in an opinion poll said they wanted their country’s troops to come home from Iraq by 30 June, the *La Repubblica* newspaper said today.

The poll, held yesterday in the aftermath of the death of an Italian soldier in active combat in Iraq, found that 61 per cent of respondents were in favour of bringing the troops back before 30 June, when the United States has said it will hand back some power to Iraqis.

A similar poll a week earlier found that 52 per cent were in favour of an early departure from Iraq, where Italy has sent 3,000 troops as part of the US-led occupation force.

Just over a quarter of respondents—26 per cent—in the latest poll said they wanted the Italian contingent to stay in Iraq whatever happened.

That was down from 36 per cent of diehards in the previous week’s poll.

The polls were carried out by the Eurisko institute, on a sample of 1,100 people contacted by telephone.—Internet

Kopassus slams Iraq prisoner abuse

JAKARTA, 19 May—An Indonesian special forces unit, on Tuesday, denounced the US military for mistreating prisoners in Iraq.

“It is ironic that torture and sexual abuse were committed by the military of a country that always claims to be the world’s human rights guardian,” said Maj Farid Ma’ruf, a spokesman for Indonesia’s special forces brigade, known by the acronym of Kopassus.

“The treatment of Iraq prisoners was clearly inhumane because the military should have strict standards on how to properly interrogate detainees,” Ma’ruf said. Ma’ruf accused Washington of hypocrisy in its treatment of Indonesia.

“The United States has criticized the Indonesian army and Kopassus as human rights abusers, but now that their own immoral soldiers have ignored the universal values of human rights and insulted human beings like that, where are their principles?” he said. “If the

United States wants to preach to the world about how to respect the values of human rights, they should first set a good example,” he said.

Internet

Civilian foreigners said killed in Iraq

MOSUL, 19 May—Gunmen opened fire Tuesday on two civilian cars believed to be carrying foreigners, killing two and wounding another, witnesses said.

The attack occurred in the centre of the northern city of Mosul. American troops sealed off the area after the attack, witnesses said. Guerillas have targeted civilian foreigners involved in reconstruction in Iraq. In an attack in Mosul in March, assailants killed four American missionaries who were working on a water project.—Internet

Jail fire kills 104 inmates in Honduras

MANAGUA, 19 May—Honduras suffered its worst prison tragedy on Monday when a fire killed 104 inmates charged with belonging to street gangs, reports reaching here said. President Ricardo Maduro has cut short his European tour to return home to handle the aftermath of the early-morning fire, which struck a prison in San Pedro Sula, the second largest city in Honduras. Twenty-six people were wounded.

Some blamed the fire on a short circuit, but there were reports that people heard an explosion before the fire broke out. The Honduran authorities were quoted as saying that they will probe into the incident to define who were responsible for the fire, amid speculation that it was a deliberate act to “exterminate” the gang members.—MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Pentagon admits Iraq mistakes

WASHINGTON, 19 May —The Defence Department underestimated its enemy in the Iraq war, failing to predict how resilient Saddam Hussein and his government would be, the Pentagon’s No 2 civilian said Tuesday.

In a rare admission of prewar miscalculations, Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz also said it is impossible to say how long a large American military force will have to stay in Iraq after political power is handed to Iraqis on June 30.

Wolfowitz spoke at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, the latest called by lawmakers worried about the Bush administration’s handling of the war and reconstruction so far and about its plans for the future.

Internet



A US Army soldier secures the area after finding an improvised explosive device (IED) in the centre of Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 May, 2004.—INTERNET

Police seize over a ton of hashish in southern Iran

TEHERAN, 19 May — A special Iranian anti-drug police unit on Sunday seized more than one ton of narcotics, including 1,224 kilos of hashish, in the southern province of Fars, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The seizure followed the arrest of a drug kingpin in an eastern province.

Iran sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.

The country accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

The Islamic republic spends some 800 million US dollars annually in anti-drug operations.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ to strengthen int’l research collaboration

WASHINGTON, 19 May— The New Zealand Government is establishing a new research fund designed to help New Zealand scientists capture a bigger share of international research funding, Research, Science and Technology Minister Pete Hodgson said Monday.

The minister said in a statement that the International Investment Opportunities Fund was being set up with new money in budget 2004. It will have 3 million NZ dollars (about 1.8 million US dollars) available for investment in 2004-05, and it will increase to about 2.4 million US dollars in 2005-06 and near 3 million US dollars from 2006-07 onwards.

“This fund will be open to researchers who have the opportunity to participate in international research collaborations. It will help New Zealand research organizations to compete in the global market for funding, by giving them the chance to bring some matching funds to the deal,” Hodgson said. He expected the fund would increase productivity in the science sector and help create more jobs in science, technology, and medical research.

He said that longer term benefits would be seen in economic growth and employment as businesses took up the results of the new research, improving the quality and value of their products or services.

The fund would also help local research organizations recruit top overseas researchers who were interested in working in New Zealand, by providing assistance for them to relocate here and establish research teams, he added.

The minister said that the initiative would “help increase New Zealand’s global connectedness, a key theme of the government’s Growth and Innovation Framework.”

MNA/Xinhua



An unidentified relative grieves after the doctors were unable to save the life of his family member who had been injured in a car bomb blast in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 May, 2004.—INTERNET

Soros steps up attack on Bush policies in Iraq

NEW YORK, 19 May — Billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros on Monday stepped up his attack on President George W Bush's international policies, saying the US war on terror had claimed more innocent lives than the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Soros said the invasion of Afghanistan could be justified because the Taliban had helped al-Qaeda, but the invasion of Iraq "could not be similarly justified".

Speaking at a graduation ceremony at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York, he further charged that recently published photographs of US troops abusing Iraqi prisoners were "not a case of a few bad apples, but a pattern tol-

erated and even encouraged by the authorities."

"We claim to be liberators, but we turned into oppressors," Hungarian-born Soros said of US actions in Iraq. Soros has been a staunch critic of the Republican Administration's policy on Iraq and has donated or pledged at least 12.5 million US dollars to the Democratic campaign to defeat Bush in the November elections.

"September 11 was a traumatic event that shook

the nation to its core — but it would not have changed the course of history for the worse if President Bush had not responded the way he did," Soros said.

"Declaring war on terrorism was understandable, perhaps even appropriate, as a figure of speech. But the President meant it literally and that is when things started going seriously wrong."

Soros said now that the US position in Iraq had

become "unsustainable," it was handing over power to local militias.

"This prepares the ground for religious and ethnic divisions and possible civil war in the manner of Bosnia rather than Western-style democracy," he said.

Soros said the United States must not fight terrorism by creating new victims. "By succumbing to fear, we are doing the terrorists' bidding — we are unleashing a vicious circle of violence," he said.

"If we go on like this, we may find ourselves in a permanent state of war."

MNA/Reuters

Saudi Arabia criticizes US sanctions on Syria

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia), 19 May — Saudi Arabia criticized US economic sanctions against Syria on Monday, saying they would increase tensions in the Middle East.

Information Minister Fouad Farisi, speaking after a Cabinet meeting in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, said Washington's decision "does not serve stability in the region but will lead to more tension and feelings of injustice among Arab people".

President George W Bush banned all US exports to Syria other than food or medicine last week, accusing Damascus of supporting terrorism, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and failing to stop anti-US militants crossing into Iraq.

Arab anger was even greater because the US action coincided with Israel's "continued violations of international law", the official Saudi Press Agency quoted Farisi as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Jordan's King says Iraqi sovereignty transfer would be difficult

AMMAN, 19 May — Iraq's sovereignty transfer would be difficult and the stability in Iraq now will require "some pretty dramatic moves," Jordan's King Abdullah II warned here on Monday.

"The handover of Iraq is going to be tough because the situation on the ground is tough," the King told reporters at the World Economic Forum (WEF) held at Jordan's Dead Sea resort of Shuneh.

"The difficulty would be in picking who is Prime Minister (of Iraq). You're going to need somebody from inside that has been in Iraq all his life as opposed to somebody who's coming from outside," he said. US-handpicked Iraqi Governing Council members, he said, are not very popular among ordinary Iraqi people, who would be more likely to see more Iraqi leaders from inside Iraq.

The rotating head of Iraqi Governing Council, Izzadine Saleem, was killed in a car bombing Monday near a US checkpoint in central Baghdad. He was the second member of the Iraqi Governing Council to be assassinated since the group was established last July. — MNA/Xinhua

carried on. Meanwhile, he said, the CPC is willing to forge and develop friendly ties, in order to lay an even more solid political foundation for the overall bilateral relations. MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman peers through a window while a US Army soldier secures the area after finding an improvised explosive device (IED) in the centre of Baghdad, Iraq on 17 May, 2004. —INTERNET

Red Cross chief in US quits amid Iraq POW scandal

WASHINGTON, 19 May — The head of the Washington office of the International Committee of the Red Cross has resigned for "personal reasons," amid turmoil created by a secret ICRC report on Iraqi prisoner abuse by US forces.

Christophe Girod, a 17-year veteran of the international body, declined on Monday to comment on his reasons for leaving and would not say whether his decision was linked to dismay over the world body's handling of the Iraqi abuse scandal.

"I am leaving for private reasons. I have had 17 years of the ICRC and it's time to try something else," said Girod, who heads up the ICRC's work in the United States and Canada.

In Geneva, the ICRC said Girod resigned "for personal reasons" about a month ago and the decision had nothing to do with the prison abuse scandal.

Sources in the community of non-government groups that work with the Red Cross told Reuters they believed Girod was unhappy with his own organization and with the US Government.

"My reading of it is that he felt they (Red Cross) should have gone public with their report. He never told me he was quitting, but

I think he was very upset about the situation," one source said.

Sources also said Girod came away dissatisfied from a meeting on the abuse issue with US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Earlier this month, a 24-page ICRC report was leaked to the media in which the Red Cross said the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers was "in some cases tantamount to torture".

The February report came to light days after the US media published graphic photographs showing US forces humiliating and degrading Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

The report raised questions over the ICRC's policy of neutrality and public silence over what it hears or sees about prisoners as a price for gaining access to jails in trouble spots around the world..

MNA/Reuters

Fake police officer arrested at Windsor Castle

LONDON, 19 May — A man posing as a police officer was arrested in the grounds of Windsor Castle on Monday, but police said that no member of the British Royal Family was present at the time at their main southern English residence.

"A man was arrested... in the public area of Windsor Castle for impersonating a police officer. At this stage it is not believed that security was breached. No mem-

ber of the Royal Family was in residence at the time," a spokesman said.

Security at the castle 20 miles west of London was raised in May last year when self-styled "comedy

terrorist" Aaron Barschak managed to gate-crash the 21st birthday party of Prince William that was being held there. He was arrested without incident. — MNA/Reuters

Senior CPC official meets Iraqi guests

BEIJING, 19 May — Liu Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, met here Monday with a delegation of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from Iraq, led by Kamal Fuad.

Noting that both Iraq

and China are ancient civilized nations, Liu said, they have enjoyed a long-standing friendship and the CPC, the Chinese Government and people very much valued the Sino-Iraqi traditional friendship and hoped that it will be

carried on.

Meanwhile, he said, the CPC is willing to forge and develop friendly ties, in order to lay an even more solid political foundation for the overall bilateral relations. MNA/Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits southern Philippines

MANILA, 19 May — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale jolted the southern Philippines on Sunday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Monday.

The Phivolcs told the Philippine Star newspaper that the earthquake at 7:01 Sunday night was triggered by movement of the Philippine Fault Zone, which traverses the Philippine archipelago from Luzon to Mindanao.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine keeps watch from atop his Humvee during patrols near Falluja, on 17 May, 2004. —INTERNET

Clarifications on detailed ...

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In the future also, only the Union level should lay down economic policies, enact necessary laws for the economic sector, and draw and implement economic plans, covering the entire State, for the improvement of the standard of living of all the national people.

Thus, the matter of enacting laws, concerning "economy" and laws laying down economic policies should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Trade and economy of the State are related. Domestic and foreign trade activities are being carried out at present, and the State-owned, cooperative-owned and the private-owned sectors are taking part in them on a wider scale. The State-owned enterprises are forming joint ventures in cooperation with local and foreign entrepreneurs, while permitting local entrepreneurs to set up enterprises on partnership basis and companies limited. Trade fairs and market festivals are being held in the nation, while domestic products are being displayed at foreign trade fairs to extend markets for local products and for export promotion. The State continues to make efforts to facilitate the participation of the private sector in the economy and trade of the nation.

Endeavours have been exerted for development of trade in the whole nation, and likewise, in the future also, there will be harmonious progress in the entire nation, only if the necessary requirements are being fulfilled by the Union level. Thus, the enacting of laws concerning "trade" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

In changing the State economy to a free market system, it is required to provide control enabling entrepreneurs to do their work systematically. In doing so, the cooperative sector will have to play a role to help balance the State economy.

Currently, the role of the cooperative sector has been promoted for national economic development. More cooperative colleges are being opened and upgraded to, cooperative degree colleges to bring out skilled labour while cooperative market festivals are being organized to increase distribution of cooperative products to local markets and abroad. The State has also enacted necessary laws concerning the cooperative sector. The cooperative enterprises are running businesses on a wide scale in accord with the laws. In the future also, there are prospects for gradual extension of the cooperative enterprises as much as they are achieving success.

Only the Union level should lay down necessary policies and work guidelines for facilitating the functions of cooperatives and link between each other to do business. Thus, the enacting of laws, as necessary, concerning "cooperatives" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The State is giving impetus to participation of the private sector in its economy and trade activities. Thus, some of its economic enterprises and entrepreneurs are setting up corporations, companies and partnerships and running trade businesses to the extent of their capacity. The State on its part has also enacted necessary laws concerning corporations, companies and partnerships to enable them to do so. If the enacting of laws concerning corporations, boards, enterprises, companies and partnerships is required in the future systematically in accord with the international practices, it should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

At present, the nation is increasing its exports, while, at the same time, importing more goods. The nation's economy will be in good shape only if there is balance between the value of exports and imports or if there is surplus in its foreign trade. Hence, the nation's economy will enjoy development and be in good shape, only if the institutions at central level continuously study, amend and control the condition of exports and imports.

As the State has laid down the economic objective — proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system — and is providing necessary assistance, the volume of production, sales and distribution businesses will gradually grow larger. In the future also, the State economic institutions or the private sector will compete one another in running production, sale and distribution businesses in accord with the market-oriented economic system. Quality control is required in production, sale and distribution of goods to ensure customer satisfaction. Thus, if promulgation of law concerning "imports, exports and quality control" are needed it should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Not only the State-owned sector, but also the private sector is participating in striving to raise foreign exchange revenues from hotels and tourism services. After designating 1996 "Visit Myanmar Year" the nation has seen gradual rise in the number of tourists visiting the country. As the number of foreign tourists is increasing, necessary arrangements should be made to ensure standard accommodation and transport for them during their stay in Myanmar. In the future also, laws will have to be enacted if the legislation of laws in connection with hotels and tour business, is needed, for offering convenient and standard accommodation and transport to tourists. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning "hotels and accommodation and tour business".

Respected Chairman,

The following is a collection of issues concerning the economic sector that should be included in the Union Legislative list:

1. Economy
2. Trade
3. Cooperatives
4. Corporations, boards, enterprises, companies and partnerships
5. Imports and exports and quality control
6. Hotels and accommodation
7. Tour business

In this regard, I have explained the said issues so as to enable delegates to make discussion and give suggestion on whether or not the detailed principles are to be formulated to include in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will continue to explain the economic matters that should be included in the region or state legislative list.

As the market-oriented economic system has been practised in the country, the economic and trade activities are gradually developing and increasing. Thus, a large number of entrepreneurs are taking part in the activities. As there is development in the economy and trade of the State, that of the regions and states will also develop. Economic and trade laws to be observed by the whole nation will be enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as and when necessary. And a region or state may enact laws in connection with the economic or trade activities in accord with the laws issued by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

If a region or state needs to enact laws concerning the "economic or trade activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu", and "trade activities carried out in a region of state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu", the matter should be included in the region or state legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The State objective — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well — has been laid down and being implemented for economic development of the State. In this context, the cooperatives sector is extending agricultural producers cooperatives and transforming rural cooperatives to cooperatives concentrating their activities on agriculture and crop production. In this way, the cooperatives are participating in the task to implement the objective.

Now, arrangements are under way to extend agriculture producers cooperatives and export business. Agriculture producers cooperatives have already been set up in 14 states and divisions, and in addition, special agricultural production zone townships have been designated state-wise or division-wise in giving priority to cooperative agricultural production sector.

In this way, the cooperatives are taking part with might and main for national economic development. I have already explained that if enacting of laws concerning the cooperatives for the entire country is required also in the future, the matter should be put in the Union Legislative list. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will enact necessary laws for the entire nation. But the matter concerning the enacting of laws, if necessary, should be included in the region or state legislative list in connection with cooperative affairs undertaken in the regions or states in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu.

Respected Chairman,

The following is a collection of issues that should be included in the region or state Legislative list concerning the economic sector:

1. Economic activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
2. Trade activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
3. Cooperative activities carried out in a region or state in

Trade and economy of the State are related. Domestic and foreign trade activities are being carried out at present, and the State-owned, cooperative-owned and the private-owned sectors are taking part in them on a wider scale.

accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

In this regard, I have explained the said issues so as to enable delegates to make discussion and give suggestion on whether or not to lay down detailed basic principles to include the matter in the region or state Legislative list.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice

U Aung Toe

Agriculture and livestock breeding sector

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will continue to explain matters relating to the agriculture and livestock breeding sector. The first one of the four State objectives states, "Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well." The National Convention has also laid down the detailed basic principles — The State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized agriculture. The main objectives of the agricultural sector are: to extend crop cultivation and boost production to ensure domestic food sufficiency; to cultivate and produce raw materials for domestic industries; and to strive to increase agricultural exports. In addition, agricultural activities that will help develop border areas will be extended.

Policies in connection with land management have been laid down and necessary laws have been enacted for the entire Myanmar to successfully implement the objectives.

In the future also, only if the highest legislative bodies of the Union make coordination and enact necessary laws concerning land management of 167,186,000 acres (one hundred sixty seven million and one hundred eighty six thousand acres) of land in the whole Union.

Myanmar regained independence in 1948. In accord with the policy — Land possession shall be only in the hands of cultivators — of the 1947 Constitution of Myanmar, the Parliament, the highest legislative body of the nation, enacted the 1948 Land Nationalization Act. But when the Act was practically materialized, it was found that the Act was not comprehensive. Hence, the 1953 Land Nationalization Act and the 1954 Land Nationalization Bye laws were drafted and enacted. In accord with the 1953 Act, beginning 1954, land from land-owners was nationalized, and then distributed to peasants under the system of Tadon-htun (the extent of land which can be tilled by a pair of oxen drawing a harrow).

In the regions where Land Nationalization Act had not yet come into force, land owners rented their land as they wished. The disputes between land owners and tenants were settled by village heads or courts. Land nationalization task had to be terminated in 1958 due to occurrence of weakness, defects and errors in it.

In 1963, the Revolutionary Council enacted the 1963 Renting Cultivable Land Law with Law No 8.

From 1963 to 1976, land management was conducted through the Land Use Committees at different levels in accord with the Law and bylaws. In 1976, the duties and rights of the Land Use Committees at different levels were transferred to the executive committees at different levels of the People's Councils at different levels.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council abolished the People's Councils at different levels by issuing the Notification No 2/88 on 18 September 1988. The State Law and Order Restoration Council enacted the Substitution of Clauses Law with Law No 8/88, and in accord with the law, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry took over the land management task in accord with the law.

Throughout the successive eras, only the highest legislative bodies of the State enacted laws concerning land management. Thus, the promulgation of laws, if necessary, concerning "land management" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Rice is the staple food for everyday life of the people. Thus, rice cultivation should be extended to ensure domestic food sufficiency and to export the surplus. Rice cultivation will have to be extended to produce food to meet the annual population growth of the nation.

The nation has about 16,256,000 acres (sixteen million

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Clarifications on detailed ...

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and two-hundred-fifty-six thousand acres) of untamed cultivable land. All the cultivable fallow, virgin and vacant lands must be reclaimed as necessary for cultivation. In this regard, the promulgation of laws, if necessary, in connection with "reclamation of fallow, virgin and vacant lands" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Fixing of land tax rates, collection of land taxes and documentation and keeping of land ownership records are being carried out in accord with the existing land tax laws. Furthermore, necessary laws and bylaws have been enacted to conduct tasks including collection of land and farm records, land survey, collection of land tax, and land management.

Also in the future, uniformed land management system can be ensured and precise and correct figures and facts can be gathered only if the said task can be carried out harmoniously in the whole nation. Hence, the promulgation of the laws, if necessary, concerning "settlements and land records" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The task of land survey, mapping, and keeping precise maps and land survey and settlement records in the whole nation plays a vital role in developing agriculture. Furthermore, the task of aerial survey and photographing and the issuance of maps must be conducted as necessary. As laws may be enacted to issue policy guidelines for the tasks, the matters relating to "survey" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

As food sufficiency is important for human life, the State is making strenuous efforts to promote agriculture, the foundation for food sufficiency. Land and water are the main requirements in agriculture. In this context, the State is tapping water resource and, carrying out water management task covering dam building, river water pumping station erection and flood prevention all over the nation for the availability of water for crops. The State is striving with might and main to build dams for irrigation and flood prevention for agriculture development. It is also conducting maintenance work for the durability of the facilities.

During the period from fiscal 1988-89 to this date, the State has built 159 dams, irrigating thousands of acres and helping develop the nation's agriculture. Thus, farmers are enjoying greater benefits from the facilities. Of the dams, reservoirs, drainage canals and other irrigation works, some of them may be run and maintained by the Union, in the future; and some, by the regions or states. There may also be irrigation facilities built and managed by the State as well as regions and states. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning "dams, reservoirs and other irrigation facilities, managed by the Union".

Respected Chairman,

Weather, hydrological changes and earthquakes cannot be bounded by state, territory, region or border. They are the forces of nature, and they or their effects can occur in any place at any time around the world.

The central level will have to take the leading role in conducting meteorological, hydrological, and seismic survey nation-wise, division-wise or state-wise, with the regional cooperation.

Myanmar is a member of World Meteorological Organization. So, the country should observe the rules of the body. Moreover, skill is required in carrying out meteorological, hydrological and seismic survey and tasks relating to aviation and agriculture meteorology, and necessary supervision will have to be made for development of the sciences concerning the matters. As the issues are included in the field of natural science, acquirement of advanced knowledge is also needed to conduct operations ranging from survey to documentation, research and weather forecasting. As the task of carrying out meteorological, hydrological and seismic survey demands high qualification, it should be supervised by the Union level in the future also.

Thus, the enacting of laws concerning "meteorological, hydrological and seismic survey" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Myanmar has already enacted the Registration Law. The Law may concern with the matters that involve persons from abroad in addition to the domestic affairs. Hence, the promulgation of laws in connection with the "registration" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

At present, arrangements are being made to transform from conventional farming to mechanized farming to develop agricultural production, increase the income of farmers and save their labour and time. The State is carrying out the following tasks to introduce mechanized farming involving the use of advanced machinery for agriculture development:

1. Mechanization of agricultural works including harrowing, harvesting and winnowing.
2. Purchase of farm machinery in the country and also from abroad to distribute and sell them to farmers.
3. Invention and testing of farm machinery that suit Myanmar's agricultural industry.
4. Mass production of farm machinery that suit Myanmar's agricultural industry for local distribution.
5. Reclamation of new land with the help of machines to extend cultivable land.
6. Tapping of underground water for multiple-cropping.

The Myanmar Industrial Development Committee was formed to change over to mechanized farming. Moreover, industrial zones have been set up state- and division-wise with the supervision of regional committees and exhibitions on locally produced and foreign-made farm machinery are being held and know-how imparted to reach this end. Industrial zones that will give support to the farm mechanization programme have been established in states and divisions.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Myanmar Heavy Industries, industrial zones and entrepreneurs are locally manufacturing and importing farm machinery to distribute and sell them to farmers annually.

In the future also, the State should play a leading role for the emergence of advanced and scientific cultivation and for dissemination of knowledge to regions and states as necessary. Thus, the promulgation of laws concerning "mechanized farming" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

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

Respected Chairman,

With the objectives —to ensure local food sufficiency and to extend exports; and to supply necessary raw materials for domestic industries — the State is striving to develop the agricultural sector, applying various means including extension of cultivation, supplying of enough water for cultivation, mechanized farming, introduction of technical reforms, and production and use of quality seeds. In addition, it is setting up model farms for wider dissemination of farm technology, and holding demonstrations on the practical use of farm machinery. It is also doing research on the new strains that are suitable to the nation's soil and climate and distributing them to raise quality and yield of crops. Agricultural research plays a vital role in farming and distributing new strains that grow well in the country. Quality and the yield of crops will improve, only if high-yield quality strains can be produced. And success can be achieved only if research work can be conducted scientifically with the leadership of the central level. Thus, the promulgation of laws concerning "research" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The State, on its part, is building dams, canals and river water pumping stations, which are the basic facilities for agricultural development. It is continuously doing research on production of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to grow crops scientifically. It is also distributing enough fertilizer and insecticides to all parts of the Union. Hence, the promulgation of laws concerning "chemical fertilizer and pesticides" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

It is required to systematically harness resources in and beneath the water of the nation and to conserve natural fish species and natural environment. It is also required to supervise fishing of species consumed as food. There are two types of commercial fishing in Myanmar is for local consumption and for export. And they are sea fishing industry and fresh water fishing industry. Concerning the sea fishing, some of the states and regions of the nation are lying contiguous to the sea. As the sea fishing has connections with other nations, the industry should run its business in accord with the international laws and regulations. Thus, promulgation of laws concerning "sea fishing industry" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

What I have so far presented is the matters that must be put in the agriculture and livestock sector and that should be included in the Union Legislative list. They may be stated together as follows:

1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. settlement and land records,
4. survey,
5. dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu,
6. meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey,
7. registration,
8. mechanized farming,
9. agricultural research,
10. chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and
11. marine fisheries.

Therefore, delegates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

Now, I will explain the matters of the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The agricultural boost of the State will bring with it success to the endeavours for local food sufficiency, export promotion, and supply of raw materials needed for domestic industries. In placing emphasis on agriculture, measures are being taken for more output of paddy, sufficiency of edible oil and extended cultivation of beans and pulses, sugarcane and cotton by laying projects.

When agricultural policies and projects at Union level are laid down on a national scale in the future, the regions and states are responsible to provide close supervision for agricultural tasks that will be carried out in their respective areas. The regions and states are to be in harmony when taking steps to successfully implement agricultural tasks. The weakness in any aspect will adversely affect the tasks being undertaken. Absolutely imperative for agriculture are the prevention and control of pests. Failure to take preventive measures for control of plant and crop diseases will entail the destruction of crops, causing losses for farmers. The authorities concerned are required to provide close supervision for such matters. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "1. agriculture, 2. prevention and control of pests and 3. proper use of chemical fertilizer and systematic production of inorganic fertilizer".

Respected Chairman,

Farmers may be in want of capitals for their agricultural work. In the time of colonial rule, farmers who went short of capital had to borrow money from money lenders at high rates of interest. On account of it, farmers were working just for the rich, with their life engaging in a failed struggle with poverty. In the post-independence period, the government disbursed agricultural loans to farmers and allowed them to pay back at affordable rates of interest.

In a bid to enable farmers to receive enough loans in time and to ensure effectiveness in recollection of loans and convenience in the opening of accounts for surplus cash, the Myanmar Agriculture and Rural Development Bank was transferred from the Ministry of Finance and Revenue to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in December 1996. Later, it was reorganized as the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. For agriculture and livestock works and tasks for all-round development of rural areas, the MADB provides farmers and breeders more and more each year with development disbursements such as agricultural loans, loans for purchase of cattle, carts, water pumps, hand-tiller and farm implements, special loans for border area development, garden loans and livestock loans. With a view to raising the living standard of farmers, the Government is disbursing agricultural loans. Therefore, the regions or the states concerned are to share these responsibilities among themselves for raising the living standard of farmers through close contact with them, when the Constitution comes into effect in the future. Moreover, arrangements are to be made for farmers to enable them to save their surplus cash in hand without any difficulty. For the introduction of laws as to disbursing agricultural loans timely to farmers who run short of capital and enabling farmers who have surplus cash in hand to save their lucre without any difficulty, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "agricultural loans and savings".

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Respected Chairman,

To present the tasks related to irrigation facilities, I have clarified that of the tasks for dams, embankments, lakes, ditches and supply of irrigation water, there would also be tasks for dams, embankments and supply of irrigation water to be managed by Union; similarly, so would there be such tasks to be managed by regions and states. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative lists to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "tasks for dams, embankments, lakes, ditches and supply of irrigation water, for which the divisions or states have the right to manage".

Respected Chairman,

There will exist fresh water fisheries in some regions or states. Private fish breeders and economic organizations will also conduct prawn breeding and fresh water fisheries. Now, arrangements are under way to allow private entrepreneurs to work at lakes with the land survey system, to disburse more livestock loans and to distribute more fishery by the department concerned. Such measures will also be taken in the future. Only then will fresh water fish be produced more, and the people will also be able to consume fish at reasonable prices. The organizations that will have to give close supervision to the drive for development of fresh water fisheries are none other than the regions or states concerned. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the systematic undertaking of 'fresh water fisheries'.

Respected Chairman,

As an agro-based country, our country still has to rely on cattle for agricultural purpose. With the aim of boosting the animal breeding culture, the State therefore is taking measures extensively for prevention and treatment of animal diseases as well as for hybridization of animals with superior species of their kind. It establishes pastures to ensure adequate animal feedstuff and prevents smuggling of cattle across the border. More and more assistance is also being given to the drive for improvement of livestock breeding industries to ensure sufficient public consumption, and that of manageable-scale livestock breeding industries regionwise for increased meat production. Constant assistance is to be rendered to livestock breeding industries so that the people will be able to consume meat at fair prices. When livestock breeding industries mushroom, animals should be kept systematically for they may cause annoyance for the people. In the future, the regions and states concerned have to give close supervision to livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically.

Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically".

Respected Chairman,

The matters of the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list are as follows:

1. agriculture,
2. prevention and control of pests,
3. proper use of chemical fertilizer and systematic production of inorganic fertilizer,
4. agricultural loans and savings,
5. dams, embankments, lakes, ditches and supply of irrigation water, for which the divisions or states have the right to manage,
6. fresh water fisheries, and
7. livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically.

Therefore, the delegates to the Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Region or State Legislative list in connection with the matters mentioned above.

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

Energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector

Respected Chairman,

I will now explain the matters related to the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector. Concerning the land, water and air resources, the National Convention has formulated the fundamental principles as follows:

1. The State is the ultimate owner of all the land, and natural resources above and below the ground, above and

beneath the water and in the atmosphere within its territorial boundary.

2. The State shall enact necessary law to supervise economic forces' extraction and utilization of State-owned natural resources.

Particularly, there are two items in the energy sector: oil and natural gas, and electricity. Efforts are to be made to produce more oil and natural gas to be used in the country or to export them. The State is implementing oil and gas exploration tasks in order to produce more oil and gas. It is also working hard in various ways and means to increase the productivity of the old oil fields in State-owned sector and in cooperation with foreign companies on contracts. Moreover, it also carries out offshore oil exploration for increased production of crude oil and gas.

Huge and vast is the magnitude of the task for increased production of oil and gas. Therefore, such tasks ought to be implemented by the Union in the future. The Union also ought to provide supervision for production, distribution and sale of other liquid or solid products dangerously inflammable. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "oil, gas and other liquid and solid products considered dangerously inflammable according to Pyidaungsu Law".

Respected Chairman,

As for the production and distribution of electricity, the State is striving in various ways and means to generate more electricity needed for national development. Water power, gas power, coal power, diesel power, thermal power and steam power are used to be able to produce more electricity. Moreover, energy resources are being exploited by laying down short- and long-term projects. Arrangements are being made to implement projects for small hydel power stations in addition to diesel-powered electricity projects in areas out of the reach of power grids and to distribute electricity in cooperation with local organizations and private entrepreneurs. Electricity is vital in developing the State. Only adequate supply and production of electricity all over the country will benefit the growing industries and population to the full. So huge and vast is the magnitude of the tasks: to meet the demand of growing industries and population and to sell the surplus electricity to foreign countries.

Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "Union electricity production and distribution".

Respected Chairman,

To earn annually more foreign exchange from the mining sector, measures are being taken for the exploration of minerals by forming work committees systematically. Surveys for such minerals as gold, copper, lead, zinc and silver and feasibility studies are also conducted in cooperation with foreign companies by means of contract. Tin, tungsten and alloys of tin and tungsten are also exploited on a profit-sharing basis in cooperation with local private entrepreneurs. Permission is also granted to private entrepreneurs for gold mining work on a profit-sharing basis. As such, it is necessary to take measures to provide control and supervision for systematic mining works, safety of mine workers, and environmental conservation and reconstruction when it comes to the utilization of State-owned mineral resources by the State and private entrepreneurs.

Gems extraction is also conducted in cooperation with local entrepreneurs. So delicate is the gems industry that items can fetch the prices they deserve only through the application of modern technologies in production and finishing lines. In the future, it should therefore be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "minerals, mines, safety of mines workers, and environmental conservation and reconstruction" as well as with "gems".

Respected Chairman,

In the Union of Myanmar there exist coasts stretching from Sittway in the north to Kawthoung in the south. In suitable areas along the coast, oysters are bred for production and sale of pearls. Pearl production and sale can be conducted only in offshore shallow-water areas and archipelago areas. In the future, such industries may be undertaken in some areas of regions or states situated along the coast of Myanmar. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "pearl" so that the undertakings can be uniform.

Respected Chairman,

I will continue with the matters related to the forestry sector as well as to environmental protection and conservation.

The basic resources of a country are land, water, forest and weather. The destruction of forest entails the

deterioration of land and the pollution of water alongside adverse weather conditions. Therefore, efforts are to be made to preserve the forests. Of the basic resources, forest is of prime importance. It will be necessary to lay emphasis on prevention of deforestation, and collective efforts should also be rendered to the drive for reforestation. To prevent deforestation, measures are to be taken against the indiscriminate cutting of trees while reforestation is conducted.

In improving the forestry sector, the tasks for conservation of the forests, extraction and sale are to be carried out systematically. If the amount of extraction and sale of timber is much more than the amount of conservation of forests, it will mean a loss of an economic sector crucial for the generations to come. Forests are to be preserved to enable them to exist as an economic resource on which the State can rely for keeps. Similarly, the extraction and sale of timber are also to be carried out systematically.

The regional development measures and the natural environment intermingle with each other. The lack of favourable conditions of natural environment will undermine the regional development measures. Failure to maintain and preserve the forest resources of the State will give rise to ill effects in the long run. Furthermore, the ruin of forest resources will have a similar adverse effect on water and land resources. Therefore, the forests should be preserved in view of perennial interest. Only then will the prosperity of the country lead to reality, if measures are taken for preservation and maintenance of natural environment and resources of the State.

Now, it is found that arrangements are under way for long-term extraction of timber on a commercial scale by using the forest resources of the country without causing deforestation, for environmental protection and conservation, for temperate climatic conditions, and for increased production of value-added finished wooden items.

The acreage of the forest reserve area in the country totals over 37.41 millions while other forest areas stand at over 55.31 million acres. It is not that the forest reserve areas are designated in respect of the location of divisions or states, but are designated in respect of the nature of forests. These forest reserve areas are located straddling between some divisions and some states. Therefore, the State provides systematic supervision for such undertakings as the conservation, protection and reforestation and the extraction of teak, hard wood and other forest products, in line with the Forest Law enacted in 1992.

The State formed the Forest Conservation Committee in 1990 and also such committees at state, division, district and township levels. These committees are now carrying out the tasks for the growing and nursing of trees. Systematic steps are being taken in accord with the 1994 Protection of Wildlife and Natural Trees and Conservation of Natural Areas Law. Furthermore, tasks for regional greening and safe water supply are also being implemented.

Forests are maintained by means of natural hybridization for long-term extraction of forest products while forest plantations are established annually by means of Pawutti hybridization. Teak, Myanma forest product, is Myanma valuable resource which is famous for its superior quality all over the world. Only when wildlife, natural trees and natural areas are maintained in a systematic way will the natural environment be conserved and protected. Laws are to be introduced, when necessary, for the perennial and commercial-scale extraction of timber and forest products, which are precious resources of Myanmar, by preserving the forests systematically, as well as for protection and maintenance of wildlife, natural trees and natural areas including the environment. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws as to "forest" and "conservation and protection of wildlife, natural trees and natural areas including the environment".

Respected Chairman,

The matters related to the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector that should be included in the Union Legislative list are as follows:

1. oil, gas and other liquid and solid products considered dangerously inflammable according to Pyidaungsu Law;
2. Union electricity production and distribution;
3. minerals, mines, safety of mines workers, and environmental conservation and reconstruction;
4. gems;
5. pearl;
6. forest; and
7. conservation and protection of wildlife, natural trees and natural areas including the environment.

Not only do the matters suitable to be put in the
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Clarifications on detailed ...

(from page 8)

energy, electricity, mineral and forestry sector concern the whole nation, but they also link with regions or states. Therefore, the delegates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

Respected Chairman,

The functions involved in the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector are very huge and need enormous capital. Just as there are works that are to be done by persons with special skills, there are also medium or small industries to be operated on a manageable scale. Some industries that can be operated on a manageable scale in a region or a state should be put under the management of that region or that state.

When it comes to the distribution of electricity, the State is implementing medium and small hydel power station projects and coal-fired power station projects by laying down short- and long-term plans so that more electricity will be able to be produced within the reach of the power grid. It is also supplying electricity to the areas out of the reach of power grid by means of diesel-fired generators as well as by constructing small hydel power stations. In the future, there will be the tasks for production and supply of electricity under the arrangement of the Union. Likewise, there will also be enterprises that will distribute electricity by means of diesel-fired generators, small hydel power stations and biogas-fired power stations under the arrangement of the region or the state in areas out of the reach of power grid.

Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "small electricity production and distribution industry under the supervision of the region or the state, except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union".

Respected Chairman,

The business undertakings for salt and salt products can be conducted in regions or states concerned separately. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the production and distribution of "salt and salt products".

Respected Chairman,

As regards the exploitation of precious stones, I have explained that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should enact necessary laws so that there will be common practice and uniformity all over the country. The region or state concerned will undertake, if they wish, the cutting and polishing of uncut gem stones extracted in line with the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "the cutting and polishing of gem stones in the region or state".

Respected Chairman,

People use firewood or charcoal as fuel to cook rice and curry. The increased use of electric ovens in some cities and villages where there is a supply of electricity has resulted in the decreased use of firewood and charcoal. However, a majority of rural people are still using firewood as main fuel in cooking their food. If they continue cutting trees in the woods for fuel, it will have an adverse effect on the environmental protection and conservation causing deforestation in the long run. The danger of deforestation can be prevented by urging the rural people to establish village-owned fuel wood plantations and to use as fuel only the firewood cut from those plantations. Only then will environmental protection and conservation be in systematic order.

Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "cultivation of village-owned fuel wood plantations, maintenance and production".

Respected Chairman,

It is probable that regions or states may wish to establish recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens in suitable places in their respective areas for widening the scope of general knowledge of the people and for relaxation. Therefore, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with "recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens".

Respected Chairman,

Now, I have given a brief account of the matters related to the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list. They can be categorized as follows:

1. small electricity production and distribution industry under the supervision of the region or the state, except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union;
2. salt and salt products;
3. the cutting and polishing of gem stones in the region or state;
4. village-owned fuel wood plantations; and
5. recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens.

Therefore, the delegates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Legislative list of the Region or State concerned to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Secretary U Thuang Nyunt

Industry sector

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will present the industrial sector. Two of the four economic objectives of the State call for Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, and Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad. The industrial sector plays a vital role in the realization of these two economic objectives.

As is known to all that in the industrial sector, the State has been running only the industries which the people can not manage while making arrangements to encourage and support the cooperative and private sectors to engage in the remaining industries. In order to build a modern developed nation, it is necessary to obtain capital from the agriculture, which is the base. The capital thus obtained is to be invested proportionately in the industrial sector to gradually build an industrial nation.

Hence, the State has built industries and

- produces the farm machinery and implements as necessary,
- produces, according to requirements, motor vehicles and bicycles which contribute to the transport sector,
- produces electrical goods designed to fulfil the energy requirements,
- increases the number of disciplined and efficient technicians in the country,
- enhances the manufacturing technology and tries to match, in the field of technology, other nations.

With a view to further developing the industrial sector and running the businesses more freely, the State has decontrolled the State-owned industries. To see that there is integrated and harmonious growth in commodity production, the State has transferred some of the mills and factories to the related ministries, or recognized them. In an effort to boost commodity production, the State has employed various means including cooperation between the State-owned enterprises and economic organizations from outside under which commodities are exported, cooperation between the private entrepreneurs inside and outside the country under which raw materials are provided in the return for the finished goods while enjoying production fees plus establishment of joint venture undertakings.

With a view to promoting the private sector and industries and creating market economic system, the State has transferred the mills and factories to the private sector, disbursed loans, organized trade fairs and cooperative market festivals in a bid to seek internal and external market in order to boost export. Moreover, industrial zones have been set up in the States and Divisions.

Measures are being taken to develop the industrial sector. Similarly in future, necessary policies are to be adopted and assistance extended in connection with the industries to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level. Then only will be the industrial sector develop and the country match other developed industrial nations.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the 'industries to be taken by the Pyidaungsu level'.

Respected Chairman,

I will now present matters concerning the industrial zones. Progress of the industries is of vital importance at a time when we are building a modern developed new nation. If we study the modern advanced nations in the world today we will find that conventional farming is being replaced by the mechanized farming in the agriculture sector and more and more researches and inventions are conducted for further advancement in the industries. A basic principle laid down in connection with

economy by the National Convention states that the State economic system shall be market economic system. In connection with the industry it was laid down that the State shall provide inputs such as technology, investment, machinery, raw materials etc as much as it can for development of industries.

Our country has practised market oriented economy since 1988 and investments from inside and abroad are being permitted in the economic enterprises and industries according to law. The State has promulgated relevant laws inviting investments from inside and those from outside the nation. It is necessary to always strive for the advancement of science and technology concerned with industries for the industrial development.

In the country today, advanced industrial zones have been developed in order to promote the industries. Products to be manufactured by major factories in those advanced industrial zones may be of the same kind or different from one factory and another. Those mills and factories in the course of production are to take safety precautions to make sure that there is no environmental pollution.

In connection with the natural environment, the National Convention has already laid down a basic principle: the State shall protect the natural environment. Concerning the environmental protection, our country has already accepted the Vienna Convention on the protection of the Ozone layers, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. As such, mills and factories to be built in the industrial zones, are to take all possible measures in order not to cause environmental pollution in producing goods. In this connection, measures taken should be in uniformity from one area and another.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the 'industrial zones'.

Respected Chairman,

Science and technology is to be acquired in parallel with conducting research and development with the aim of developing the industries in the country. Technology acquired from research is to be disseminated to the industries concerned in time to ensure development of industries of the State and gradual improvement of the quality of manufactured products.

Moreover, the State will always be providing services such as science and technical assistance required by the ministries run by the State organizations, industries of the cooperative and private sectors, consultancy services, inspection of imports and exports. The Ministry of Science and Technology has been set up to provide leadership and supervision in order to acquire advanced technology.

Regarding above matters, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary in future, in connection with 'science and technology as well as research on science and technology'.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with weights and measures, standard weights and measures are being used in the country or in coordination with the international practices and standards. Trade and Commerce will be smooth only when there is uniformity in the use of weights and measures. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the 'standardization of weights and measures' in the country.

Respected Chairman,

Efforts are being exerted in all aspects to realize one of the four economic objectives—proper evolution of the market-oriented system. When the market-oriented economic system takes shaped, the need will arise to introduce laws covering intellectual properties, copy right, patents, trademarks, industrial designs and so on in order the organizations and individuals producing and trading commodities will receive protection of law for their products.

Myanmar is an initial member of the Marrakesh agreement which marked the founding of the World Trade Organization. Agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) is an appendix to the first agreement. So, every member of the WTO is required to abide by the Intellectual Property Rights. TRIPS Agreement is mainly concerned with protection of intellectual property rights by all WTO members. Each and every WTO member nation is required to provided intellectual property rights to the citizens of the WTO member nations to an extent no less than it provides to its citizens. Relevant laws are to be introduced to fulfil this duty.

As a member of the ASEAN, Myanmar has signed the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Co-operation. According to the agreement, (See page 10)

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Myanmar has to cooperate with other ASEAN members and provide reciprocal protection in connection with intellectual property rights. Relevant laws will have to be introduced in connection with the intellectual property rights to fulfil this duty. Only after introduction of the relevant laws by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, will there be uniformity in practice in the country in accordance with the international practices.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with intellectual property rights such as copy rights, patents, trade marks, industrial designs.

I have clarified these points for the delegates to discuss and make suggestions on whether to formulate detailed basic principles to include in the Union Legislative list to introduce laws, if necessary, in connection with the following points that should be included under the industrial sector —

1. Industries to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level,
2. Industrial Zones,
3. Science and technology and research on science and technology,
4. Standardization of weights and measures,
5. Intellectual properties such as copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs.

Respected Chairman,

I will present the legislative powers that should be delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws in connection with the industrial sector. I have already clarified that industries designated by the Pyidaungsu Law for the progress of the industrial sector should be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu to ensure their greater progress and that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should introduce relevant laws for those industries.

In a nation, it is necessary to develop not only various industries but also cottage industries to ensure progress of the industries. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is to introduce the required laws for the industries designated by the Pyidaungsu Law but at the same time legislative power should be delegated to the Region or State Hluttaws to introduce laws in connection with the 'industries other than those designated to be undertaken at the Pyidaungsu level' and 'cottage industries'.

Hence, the delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to formulate detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws in connection with

1. Industries other than those designated to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level,
2. Cottage industries, which should be included under the industrial sector.

Transport and communication sector

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will clarify the transport and communication sector.

The transport and communication sector plays a vital role in striving for economic progress to achieve national development. As it is known to all, the State has been earnestly building and repairing roads and bridges which will contribute towards economy and commerce. Better transport is conducive to regional economic progress resulting in the closer contacts among the national races and strengthened friendship among them. In the transport sector, the State has given top priority to importing passenger buses and cargo trucks, rented and sold motor vehicles to the private sector, reconditioned and repaired motor vehicles in cooperation with foreign firms, built railroads under special projects, expanded joint ventures with private companies in railway transport, inland water transport and transport inside and outside the country, extended or upgraded airports and built new ones.

In the field of communications, IDD telephone service has been extended; transmission, reception and satellite stations have been built to communicate with foreign nations; transmission and reception stations have also been set up to make contact with ocean-going ships; directives of the International Telecommunications Union are studied, put on record and acted upon.

The Inland Water Transport also plays a major role in the internal trade and commerce and transport of domestic products to the sea ports for export. The State-owned and cooperative-owned motorized vessels and other vessels are transporting passengers and goods in the country. In the private sector also, registered motorized vessels and coastal going vessels are transporting passengers and goods.

To ensure secure and smooth transport of passengers and goods on board the vessels in the entire country, necessary laws will have to be introduced in a uniform manner in the business through out the nation. Hence, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should be vested with the legislative power to introduce laws in connection with 'inland water transport'.

Moreover, waterways used for inland water transport are to be constantly maintained in order to prevent formation of sand banks and change of water courses along the waterway so that it will be serviceable at all time. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws in connection with 'maintenance of waterways'.

Respected Chairman,

Moreover, watercourses used for inland water transport need to be constantly maintained in order that formation of sand banks along the water courses as well as change of water courses may be prevented thereby contributing towards continued and constant use of the watercourses. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'maintenance of water ways'.

Respected Chairman,

With a view to ensuring greater effectiveness in maintenance of watercourses for the utilization of natural waterways to meet the needs of the State, preventing the loss of fresh water, minimizing siltage, ensuring beneficial use of water for agriculture and drinking, and beneficial use of water resources, the State has been improving water resources and river systems. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'water resources and improvement of river systems'.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with overseas shipping, the State-owned ocean-going vessels are now transporting passengers and cargo on overseas voyages and coastal runs. The international ocean-going vessels berth at the port terminals to load and unload cargo. In connection with overseas shipping, it will be necessary in future to enact laws in accordance with the international practices. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Overseas shipping'.

Moreover, there will be port terminals for ocean-going vessels and other sea ports in the coastal areas and in the country where ocean-going vessels can berth. At the port terminals, modern equipment is being installed to keep them advanced always. This calls for efforts to keep the port terminals modern and advanced. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws in connection with the 'Port terminals'.

Respected Chairman,

To see that ocean-going vessels and coastal ships can travel safely, arrangements to provide such as light houses, lightships and light house facilities are being made. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Light houses, lightships and light house facilities'.

Respected Chairman,

In building and maintaining ships it will be necessary to carry out the work in accordance with the internationally prescribed and accepted 'standards'. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws 'if necessary' in connection with 'ship building and maintenance'.

Respected Chairman,

In connection with air transport, all Myanmar aviation matters are carried out in accordance with the Myanmar Aircraft Act and Myanmar Aircraft Rules, or in consultation with the international civil aviation bodies or the international authority. Being a signatory to the ICAO Chicago Convention, Myanmar abides by the rules and regulations, directives and procedures of the convention. As rance with the Myanmar Aircraft Act and Myanmar Aircraft Rules, or in consultation with the international civil aviation bodies or the international authority. Being a signatory to the ICAO Chicago Convention, Myanmar abides by the rules and regulations, directives and procedures of the convention. As a member of the international conventions, Myanmar is responsible for preventing illegal acts which threaten the civil aviation security; accordingly, it is necessary to take measures through administrative means and enactment of relevant laws occasionally. The international conventions signed by Myanmar are:

- (a) Convention on offences and Certain other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo Convention 1963)
- (b) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague Convention, 1970)

- (c) Convention for the Suppressions of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal Convention, 1971)

According to the above conventions, occasion may arise to amend existing laws or introduce new ones to deal with extradition matters resulting from the hijackings or acts of violence at airports. Such laws are to be enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so that all will abide by it in uniformity and it will be in accordance with international practices.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws in connection with 'Air transport'.

Respected Chairman,

Air flight control and aviation communication services are to continuously discharge their duty to ensure safety of domestic aircraft starting from their departure to landing the destinations as well as of international aircraft until they have passed the Flight Information Region of Myanmar.

Moreover, the State has been extending development projects of international airports, building new airfields and repairing and upgrading the old ones in some of the States and Divisions. In building new airfields, it is necessary to meet the prescribed norms and standards, while efficiency is of utmost importance. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws in connection with 'Air flights, flight control and building of airfields'.

Respected Chairman,

As the State has been endeavouring for the smooth transport and communications, improvements may be witnessed year after year. I have already clarified earlier that the State has given top priority to importing passenger buses and cargo trucks, rented and sold motor vehicles to the private sector, reconditioned and repaired motor vehicles in cooperation with foreign firms. The road transport also plays a major role in providing the passengers with convenience at fair costs and ensuring smooth transport of goods.

The State-owned motor vehicles of Road Transport are being used for transport of passengers and goods and the private motor vehicles too are also engaged in the business. To enable the passengers to travel in safety and goods to be transported systematically without loss and damages, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with road transport so that it can be put in force to be followed by all equally.

Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Road transport'.

Respected Chairman,

The railways service plays a major role in transport of passengers and goods in the country.

The Myanmar Railways has been transporting passengers and goods. It has made effective use of the available engines and coaches.

The railway service needs a great deal of investment and with a view to providing systematic and improved railway service across the country, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Railways'.

Respected Chairman,

The State has been actively engaged in the building, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges to contribute towards socio-economic progress of the State. It has already built 177 river-crossing bridges with the length exceeding 180 feet all over the country. Moreover, priority is given to the extension, upgrading and repair of roads and building and renovation of bridges in the States and Divisions.

It is believed that by providing close supervision to the roads and bridges designated for secure and smooth transport in future, the Pyidaungsu and the respective Regions or States will be able to supervise the building of the new roads and bridges and their maintenance more successfully. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Roads and bridges under the management of the Union'.

Respected Chairman,

We need to modernize and improve our communication services along with advancing communication services around the globe. Communication services such as posts, telecommunications, tele phones, fax, e-mail, Internet and Intranet as well as TV, satellite communication, transmission, reception and similar services since they have to deal with domestic clients and foreign nations. All the services, there fore, should be in uniformity. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection (See page 11)

In some of Regions and States, there will be ports under the management of the Pyidaungsu as well as ports, jetties and pontoons under the charge of Regions or States concerned. It should be included in Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'ports, jetties and pontoons under management of the Region or State'.

Clarifications on detailed ...

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with 'Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services' as well as 'TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services'.

Matters under the Transport and Communications Sector which should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws may be put together as follows:

1. Inland Water Transport
2. Maintenance of waterways
3. Water resources and river systems improvement
4. Overseas shipping
5. Port terminals
6. Light house, lightship and light house facilities
7. Ship building, repair and maintenance
8. Air transport
9. Aviation, flight control and building of airfields
10. Road transport
11. Railways
12. Roads and bridges under the management of Pyidaungsu
13. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
14. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services

I have clarified the above-mentioned points for the National Convention delegates to discuss and make suggestions whether to lay down detailed principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws.

Respected Chairman,

I will continue to clarify matters relating to the Transport and Communications which should be included in the Region or State Legislative list.

In some of the Regions and States, there will be ports under the management of the Pyidaungsu as well as ports, jetties and pontoons under the charge of the Regions or States concerned. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'ports, jetties and pontoons under the management of the Region or State'.

Respected Chairman,

As I have clarified points earlier, building of roads and bridges requires a large sum of financial resources and a high level of technical skills and efficiency and as such the facilities are to be built under the supervision and management of the Pyidaungsu. Similarly, there will be roads and bridges built under the supervision and management of the Regions and States. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Roads and bridges under the management of the Region or State'.

Respected Chairman,

There will invariably be State-owned and private-owned vehicles transporting passengers and goods in a Region or State. As the Pyidaungsu has enacted laws concerning the State-owned and private-owned vehicles running in the entire country, the Region or State concerned needs to enact laws regarding the private-owned vehicles in their areas. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with 'Systematic movement of the private-owned vehicles within a Region or State'.

Respected Chairman,

The above matters relating to the Transport and Communication Sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list may be put together as follows:

1. Ports, jetties and pontoons under the management of the Region or State
2. Roads and bridges under the management of the Region or State
3. Systematic movement of the private-owned vehicles within a Region or a State

Hence, the National Convention delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to lay down as detailed principles to be included in the Region or State Legislative list, if necessary, in connection with matters that should be covered by the Transport and Communication Sector. — MNA



NCCWC member Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye gives clarifications.— MNA



NCCWC Secretary U Thaung Nyunt gives clarifications.— MNA



Delegates seen at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates seen at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates arrive at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates arrive at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates sign attendance at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates sign attendance at the National Convention.— MNA



Delegates play golf at the Nyaungnapin Camp.— MNA



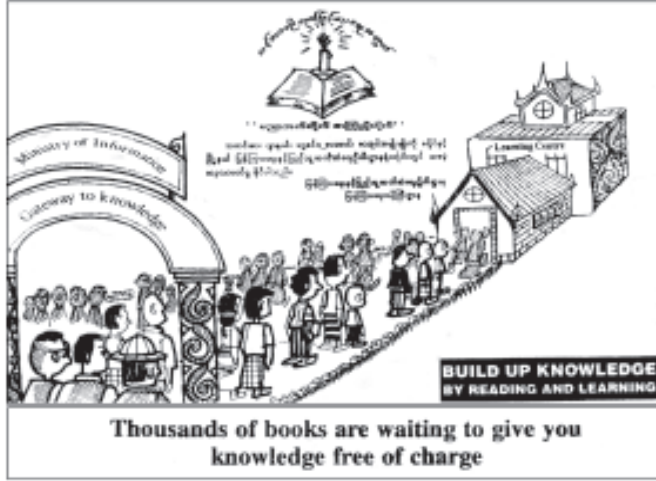
Delegates play billiards at Nyaungnapin Camp.—MNA

National Convention delegates play golf, table tennis, billiards and other sports

YANGON, 19 May—The delegates to the National Convention were playing golf, table tennis and billiards and exercising according to their choice at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, where the Convention is being held.

The Entertainment and Welfare Sub-Committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee provided sports gear, sports techniques and sports instructors for the delegates to enable them to exercise with peace of mind. For fitness exercise, sports gear including universal machines and rolling machines have been set up.

The film "Shwemon-Kyede-Moekaungkin" and documentary films were screened. The performers of the film are Yaza Nay Win, Lu Min, Tha Nyi, Htet Htet Moe Oo, Soe Myat Nanda, Kyi Le Le Oo, Khin Soe Paing and Soe Moe Kyi.—MNA



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စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကုသိုလ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေး
အမှတ် ၃၀/၃၀၄ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
၂၅၀ ကီလိုမီတာ၊ ဒီစီအင်ဂျင်နီယာအေးစက်ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း
ချိတ်မိတ်တင်ဒါကြေညာခြင်း

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ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

၂။ ဒီစီအင်ဂျင်နီယာအေးစက်ကို ချိတ်မိတ်တင်ဒါ တင်သွင်းလိုပါက
မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ တတိယထပ်ရှိ ဖွဲ့စည်းစက်
ဌာနတွင် သတ်မှတ်ထားသော တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းချက်များအရ ဝယ်ယူခြင်း၊ ရေးနှုန်း
တင်သွင်းယူခြင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းနှင့်အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို သိလိုပါက ဖွဲ့
စည်းစက်ဌာနတွင် စစ်မ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်းနှင့်တင်ဒါခံယူလိုရန် အောက်ပါ
အတိုင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

(က) တင်ဒါခံယူရန်(၃၀-၅-၂၀၀၄)(တနင်္လာနေ့) ဝမ်းဝန်ရုံစီတိတ်
ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါစီစဉ်ရေးသူချုပ်ရေးကော်မတီ
မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေး (ရုံးချုပ်)

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FAO says poor missing out on benefits of GM food

ROME, 19 May — The world's poor are missing out on big benefits from genetically modified (GM) food because the technology is concentrated on lucrative cash crops rather than staples, the UN's food agency said on Monday.

"Biotechnology holds great promise for agriculture in developing countries, but so far only farmers in a few developing countries are reaping these benefits," the Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report on world farming.

The world will have an extra two billion mouths to feed in 30 years' time, a challenge biotechnology could help face, the report said. But as yet, little progress has been made.

Instead of improving the nutritional value of staple crops like rice and cassava, industry has developed four main GM varieties: cotton, maize, canola and soya, the FAO said.

The FAO said the poor were missing out because their staples were "orphan crops" not favoured by the

three billion US dollars a year spent by business on research into agricultural biotechnology.

"Other barriers that prevent the poor from accessing and fully benefiting from modern biotechnology include inadequate regulatory procedures, complex intellectual property issues, poorly functioning markets and seed delivery systems and weak domestic breeding capacity," FAO head Jacques Diouf said.

Six countries account for 99 percent of the total planted area of GM crops: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, South Africa and the United States. In many countries, food safety and environmental fears have held back the spread of GM.

The European Union has blocked new GM imports since 1998. Since then it has implemented tougher testing and monitoring regulations and is set to lift its moratorium later this week.

Biotech giant Monsanto announced earlier this month it had shelved plans to launch the first GM variety of wheat

after a storm of opposition.

US President George W. Bush last year launched a trade suit against the EU, saying its stance was hurting US exports and had also caused African countries to shun GM foods.

The FAO report said concerns about long-term effects genetic engineering could have on the environment were justified and GM crops needed to be carefully regulated to guard against such risks and gain the trust of consumers. —MNA/Reuters

Cameroon arrests woman carrying 266 dead parrots

YAOUNDE, 19 May — Cameroon has arrested a Nigerian woman who was found carrying more than 200 dead parrots and rare Bannerman Turaco feathers, given that each of the birds has about 10 red feathers," Edwin Nuvaqa Fongod, chief of Customs in the North West province, told Reuters by phone from Bamenda.

The 41-year-old woman planned to sell the birds and the highly prized feathers, used in black magic rites and to decorate

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Indonesian telecommunication firm plans regional expansion

JAKARTA, 19 May — The State telecommunication firm PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) is planning to acquire several telecommunication companies in the region as part of its strategy to become a leading regional player, the company management said.

Telkom president Kristiono said the firm would have the capability to acquire several telecommunication firms in Southeast Asia in 2007, after it had completed its major network expansion in the domestic market.

"We may head for regional expansion in 2007 after sufficiently meeting the telecommunication needs of the domestic market.

With 220 million people here, there is still huge

S Korean foreign minister to visit Russia

SEOUL, 19 May — South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon will visit Russia next week to make preparations for President Roh Moo-hyun's first trip to Moscow, officials said Monday.

Departing on May 23, Ban will be in Moscow through May 25, holding talks with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on Roh's visit to Russia, the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula and bilateral issues, Kim Young-seok, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Bureau, said.

Roh originally planned to visit Russia in July, but the plan was put on hold as he was suspended from office following his impeachment by the National Assembly.

Roh returned to office last Friday after the Constitutional Court overruled the

impeachment.

Kim said the two countries plan to schedule Roh's visit for the "earliest possible date," but added that a July visit is unlikely as there is not enough time left for preparation.

Besides the meeting with Lavrov, slated for May 25, Ban also plans to meet other Russian leaders, including Lavrov's predecessor and Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov and the chairman of the Duma Foreign Affairs Committee, Konstantin Kosachev.

On his way home, Ban will visit Vladivostok for talks with the region's governor, Sergei Darkin, to promote cooperation between the two countries in the energy and fisheries areas, Kim said.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian Development Bank ends 37th annual meeting

JEJU (South Korea), 19 May — The 37th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank closed here Monday after broadly discussed ways of poverty reduction and further financial and economic cooperation in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Finance and economic ministers from member economies and representatives from international finance institutions, other financial and banking sectors and civil society attended the three-day meeting.

They discussed how to assist the developing member economies to reach the millennium development goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 and the extension of regional financial and economic cooperation.

The meeting, together with several seminars, also discussed the question of regional bond market, the possibility of establishment of a single currency for East Asia, corporate restructuring, the role of domestic credit rating agencies in Asia, structure reforms and the role of private sectors. —MNA/Xinhua

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Russia wants faster aid for rusting nuclear subs

BERLIN, 19 May—Russia faces grave environmental and terrorist threats unless donors accelerate a slow trickle of international aid for dismantling its rusting nuclear submarines, a senior official said.

Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Sergei Antipov said Russia would raise its concerns next month at a meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) leading nations in the United States.

He said Moscow was very worried at the slow rate of funding, despite a much-trumpeted G-8 initiative at a 2002 summit in Canada to spend 20 billion US dollars over 10 years to secure stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

"The longer a submarine remains without being scrapped and without the nuclear fuel being removed...

the more danger for the environment, the greater the risk of these materials falling into the hands of terrorists or other groups for malicious purposes," Antipov said in an interview.

"Any of the submarines — and we have 96 waiting to be scrapped — could sink. Any of them could rust through or break up. Anything could happen," he told Reuters in Berlin, where he attended a 14-nation meeting on the issue last week.

The submarines are decommissioned vessels of the former Soviet fleet, some of which "have been rotting at their piers for several decades", Antipov told Parliament last November.

Dismantling them involves removing the highly radioactive reactor compartment, hermetically sealing it to prevent leakage, and eventually transferring it to be stored for decades at a special site which Russia is building, with German help, in the northern region of

Murmansk.

Antipov said Moscow was concerned about some talk among G-8 members of extending the 20 billion US dollars programme to cover more countries, diluting the funds available in Russia itself.

"It's reasonable to ask the question: if we can't help just one country effectively, is there any point in extending efforts to others? The lion's share of all the dangers, as far as nuclear materials are concerned, is situated in Russia."

"We (also) have a huge problem with stocks of chemical weapons, on which this money is also to be spent. If the money isn't spent here but in Iraq or Nigeria or Ukraine, then solving the security problems in Russia will be put back."

Antipov said a large proportion of the promised aid money was being spent ineffectively by donors in their own countries on "various experts, trips and discussions". — MNA/Reuters



After a 17-year nap a newly emerged Cicada is seen in the yard of a home in suburban Washington, on Saturday, 15 May, 2004. Trillions of red-eyed insects are crawling their way above ground in 14 states and the nation's capital. Loudmouthed and ugly, the cicadas will fly clumsily into pets, bushes and unwitting pedestrians as they engage in a frenetic mating ritual that lasts well into June. Then they'll disappear for another 17 years.—INTERNET

Ukraine wins Eurovision Song Contest

ISTANBUL, 19 May—Ukraine won the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday, delighting fans with an eye-catching mix of frenetic dancing, skimpy leather costumes and passionate vocals in a song called "Wild Dance".

Singer Ruslana, a cult figure in the former Soviet republic, was accompanied by a group of dancers in warrior costumes intended to evoke the Carpathian mountains.

"All of us are making a positive image of Ukraine. I want my country to open up before you with friendship and hospitality," an ecstatic Ruslana told a news conference after the show.

"I would like you to forget about Chernobyl," she said, referring to the 1986 nuclear accident which has long marred Ukraine's image. — MNA/Reuters

Elephants destroy farmland in northern Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 19 May—At least 80 acres of farmland have been destroyed by a large group of elephants which invaded the village of Mwalari in northern Tanzania's Shinyanga region, an official said Sunday.

Bariadi District officer Samuel Msafiri said more than 100 elephants had ravaged maize and millet farms several times since late April, and local villagers' attempts of driving these huge animals out proved futile.

Mwalari village is next to Tanzania's famous Serengeti National Park and similar incidents also took place in the past, Msafiri said, adding the district had asked the national park to take measures to stop the elephants' intrusion. — MNA/Xinhua

India's Congress pledges closer ties with China, US

NEW DELHI, 19 May—The Indian Congress Party, all set to lead a coalition government, favours closest relations with China and the United States, and will resolutely continue the peace process with Pakistan.

On India's relations with China, K Natwar Singh, widely tipped to become the new foreign minister, said on Sunday that "we place the highest importance to this".

In a wide-ranging interview to the Press Trust of India, Singh, Chairman of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Foreign Affairs Department, said the process to improve relations with China was started by the then-Congress Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in December, 1988, which was a real breakthrough. Singh was a member of that delegation.

During the last five years, the Congress had always stressed on the importance of positive forward movement in Sino-Indian ties, he said.

"We will take this process of improving bilateral relations further in all areas," he said.

Asked whether the process of speeding up resolution of the protracted boundary issue would be continued, he said there will be no abrupt departure on this.

In the interview, Singh also said the new government would attach great importance to the relations with the United States.

"We are for the closest relations with the US. It is in our interest and it is in their interest (to move in this direction). We are two great democracies," he said.

On the US suggestion that with UN presence in Iraq after June 30 by when the coalition forces have expressed their readiness to withdraw, countries like India could extend support, including sending its troops to work under the aegis of the world body in the war-ravaged country, Singh said they would examine the issue very carefully because "we don't want to annoy Iraq to satisfy some other countries".

On a question whether a new roadmap would be charted out to take the peace process forward with Pakistan, Singh, a former minister of state for external affairs, said the peace process will be resolutely continued.

He said the new government will have a consistent

Pakistan policy and every aspect will be discussed under the 1972 Simla agreement and subsequent declarations and agreements.

Singh said throughout the last five years, the Congress Party had given its broad support to the Vajpayee government for improving relations with Pakistan.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand to open embassy in Cairo

WELLINGTON, 19 May—New Zealand is to open a new embassy in Egypt in 2006 in an effort to expand its interests in the Middle East, Prime Minister Helen Clark has announced.

"The growing prominence of the Middle East in world affairs calls for greater attention, and New Zealanders have a direct stake in the stability of this region," Clark said in a government Press statement released Monday.

Clark said 1.65 million NZ dollars (about 990,000 US dollars) had been flagged in Budget 2004 to allow work to begin on establishing the new post.

Egypt exerts a significant and moderating influence throughout the Middle East and beyond. It is a leader of the Arab world, respected among Islamic countries and members of the Non-Aligned Movement, she said.

Autonomous Region, east China's Fujian Province and central China's Hunan Province which used to be home to the valuable and beautiful wild plant, said Yu Yongfu, President of the CWFCA.

A number of rare genera of wild orchid have become endangered and only a few are still growing in remote mountainous regions, he said.

Enthusiasm about orchids in China and abroad lured local villagers to pick as many as they could, Yu said.

Merchants bought tons of wild orchids from villagers at a very low price and selected rare genera from them, which was sold expensively, with the rest usually thrown

away.

China should stop commercial export of wild orchids since the demand in the international market is one of the major causes of over-collection in China, Yu said.

Dendrobium, a genus of orchid that has long been used as an herbal medicine by Chinese, is disappearing because of long-time excessive exploitation, he said.

Yu suggested that wild orchids be included on the list of wild flora under legal protection and the government establish nature reserves in the home of the plant. The country also needs a seed bank for wild orchids to preserve the variety of orchids, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

SPORTS

Beckham gets second red card for Real Madrid

MADRID, 19 May—Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham was sent off in the 36th minute of his side's Primera Liga match against bottom club Murcia on Sunday for insulting a linesman.

It means the England captain's first season in Spain ends on a low note as he will miss the final game at home to Real Sociedad next week. Television replays clearly showed Beckham turning towards the linesman and shouting an insult at him in Spanish after his side went 2-0 down when Murcia forward Luis Garcia scored from the penalty spot.

It is the second time the England captain has been sent off since joining Real Madrid at the start of the season and the fourth in his professional career.

He received his first red card in Spain in his side's 3-0 win over Valencia in a King's Cup quarterfinal, first leg in January.

His other red cards came for England against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup finals in France and for Manchester United in a World Club Cup match in 2000. —MNA/Reuters



Alexander Korolyuk (R) of the San Jose Sharks passes the puck under pressure from Robyn Regehr (L) of the Calgary Flames during Game four of the 2004 NHL Western Conference Finals. The Sharks won 4-2 to even the series.—INTERNET

FIFA confirms huge cash prize for Club World Cup

PARIS, 19 May—A revamped Club World Championship with six teams will be held in Tokyo from December 2005 with 15.0-million-US-dollar prize money on offer, FIFA announced on Monday.

Three months after announcing the bare bones of the competition, FIFA confirmed on Friday that it will take place from December 11-18 next year and that all six confederations had agreed to send their champion clubs.

The annual championship will replace the current World Club Cup which has been played between the champions of South America and Europe most years since 1960. Those games have been staged in Tokyo since 1980.

The European and South American champions will now join those from Africa, Asia, Oceania and CONCACAF in the tournament that has so far been staged once in Brazil in 2000.

The idea has been opposed by Europe's leading clubs, but their opposition may be tempered by the huge annual prize money on offer.

The new competition was ratified by FIFA's executive committee meeting in Paris on Monday after the representatives of all of FIFA's confederations agreed their champion teams would be obliged to take part in the tournament.

The format was agreed in London in February and it

will last for eight days. The European and South American champions will be introduced at the semi-final stage, meaning they will play a maximum of two games.

The four other teams will meet each other in a first round knockout match to decide who qualifies for the semi-finals.

In February, the 102-strong European Club forum said it was totally opposed to the championship,

but it would now seem that next season's European champion will have little option but to take part.

In other matters, FIFA agreed to set up a task force to examine complaints lodged by the G-14 group of major European clubs with the Swiss Competitions Committee (COMCO). The G-14 wants salary and insurance compensation for its players called up for international duty.—MNA/Reuters

Espanyol throw away chance to guarantee survival

MADRID, 19 May—Espanyol missed a chance to ensure their Primera Liga survival when they surrendered a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 at Real Mallorca on Sunday.

The result means Celta Vigo and Valladolid, who both lost on Saturday, have been thrown a lifeline and may yet avoid the drop if results go their way in the final round of matches next week.

Espanyol, though, can still make sure they stay up with a home win next week over already relegated Murcia, who prop up the table on 23 points.

Valladolid have 38 points, Celta 39 and Espanyol 40, with two of the three certain to join John Toshack's side in the Second Division.

Athletic Bilbao clinched a UEFA Cup place with a 2-1 win at Osasuna, the victory coming courtesy of goals from midfielder Francisco Yeates and Ismael Urzaiz. Atletico Madrid missed a chance to move back among the UEFA Cup qualification places after a last-gasp 2-1 defeat at home to Real Zaragoza in a game preceded by a minute's silence in memory of former Atletico president Jesus Gil who died on Friday.—MNA/Reuters

Federer ends Coria streak in Hamburg final

HAMBURG (Germany), 19 May—World number one Roger Federer ended Guillermo Coria's claycourt run with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory in the Hamburg Masters final on Sunday.

The Wimbledon and Australian Open champion stepped up a gear after a sluggish start, putting on an aggressive baseline display and confirming that he would be a serious contender at the French Open starting on May 24. The Swiss all rounder, who was in a class of his own in the last two sets, sealed victory with a service winner on his first match point after two hours and 20 minutes.

Argentine Coria, the defending champion and second seed, made a promising start but was then hampered by a blister on a finger of his right hand and could not keep up with the pace.

Coria had won 31 consecutive matches on clay including all 16 he had played this year and had not lost on the slow surface since his semifinal defeat at last year's French Open.

Federer, 22, made his breakthrough by winning in Hamburg two years ago. His second round exit at last week's Rome Masters had suggested he needed time to adapt to clay but his performances here this week designate him as a favourite for the French Open.

The gifted Swiss, who had impressed in previous matches in the tournament with crushing victories over Carlos Moya and Lleyton Hewitt, looked sloppy at first.

He dropped serve in the opening game before losing the first set by hitting a return into the net on set point.

Coria was in control throughout the first set, holding serve confidently and wearing down his opponent with metronomic

groundstrokes. Federer picked up his game in the second set, in which the pair traded early breaks before the Swiss managed the telling one in the final game, taking the set with a backhand volley.

That was the turning point. Coria, who needed treatment on his finger, collapsed. He dropped his serve early in the third set and again in its eighth game, netting a backhand on set point.

MNA/Reuters

Three off as River beat Boca in Argentine derby

BUENOS AIRES, 19 May—Three players were sent off as River Plate beat Boca Juniors 1-0 in a fiercely-contested derby on Sunday to end their arch-rivals' unbeaten record in the Argentine championship and knock them off the top of the table.

Fernando Cavenaghi headed the winner as River went top of the Clausura championship with 32 points from 14 games, one point ahead of Boca, despite losing injury-plagued Chilean striker Marcelo Salas early in the game.

Boca finished with nine men after midfielder Jose Calvo and striker Carlos Tevez were sent off in the second half.

To add insult to injury, the defeat came before a 56,000 crowd in their usually impregnable Bombonera stadium.

River had defender Eduardo Tuzzio dismissed.

Salas limped off with a problem in his left leg and was replaced by Maximiliano Lopez after seven minutes.

River made light of his absence as Cavenaghi headed home from close range in the 37th minute following a free kick taken by former Monaco midfielder Marcelo Gallardo.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool board approves Thai bid

BANGKOK, 19 May—Thailand's bid for a 30 per cent stake of Liverpool has been approved by the Premier League club's board, Thai officials said on Tuesday.

"I am flying to Liverpool, England tonight," said Santiparb Tejavaniya, whose Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) was appointed by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to work on the details of the investment.

"Our proposal has been approved," Santiparb told Channel 3 television.

Thaksin, a billionaire telecoms tycoon before he turned to politics, offered 4.6 billion baht (112.7 million US dollars) for a 30 per cent stake in the club.

Another senior official at Thaksin's office confirmed the deal.

"They (Liverpool's board) informed us by telephone at 4 p.m. (0900 GMT Monday) that our deal has been accepted," the official said. "We are waiting a final written confirmation."

Santiparb told a Bangkok radio station that the Cabinet was due to discuss a scheme later on Tuesday to raise funds to pay for the stake. He would then take this approved plan to England.

"What I will sign in England would be something of a memorandum of understanding or letter of intent, and after that we will work on the legal details of the investment," he said.

Santiparb said a company

would be set up to buy and manage the stake, in which the SAT would hold a 51 per cent interest. The other 49 per cent would be sold to the public.

He said the SAT would raise funds for its 51 per cent holding through a one-

off state lottery. He gave no other details.

The Bangkok Post newspaper said the planned lottery would raise 10 billion baht (245 million US dollars), with a first-prize jackpot of up to one billion baht.

MNA/Reuters



Lorena Ochoa, pictured here at the Michelob Ultra Open, claimed her first LPGA Tour victory, feeding off the emotions from her brother's accomplishment in climbing Mount Everest to survive a scary finish and win the Franklin Championship by one stroke.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
**20-5-2004 (Thursday)
(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-II)
9:10 National News
9:12 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
9:15 National News
9:20 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
9:25 Sein-Kyaung-Nilar
Royal Group Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 Nipa Palm Forest
9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Peace Be With
You"
9:45 National News
9:50 Exhibition on Imple-
mentation of Special 4
Years National Educa-
tion Promotion (Plan-
II)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**20-5-2004 (Thursday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
15:40 National News
15:42 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)

- 15:45 National News**
15:50 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
15:55 Sein-Kyaung-Nilar
Royal Group Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Nipa Palm Forest
16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Peace Be With
You"

- 16:15 National News**
16:20 Exhibition on Imple-
mentation of Special 4
Years National Educa-
tion Promotion (Plan-
II)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

- 16:30 National News**
16:35 SA-LE Monastery
Decorated with
Handicrafts
16:40 Golden Mandalay Hills
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanmar Traditional
Food (Pone Ye Gyi)
16:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance

- 16:58 Paper Toys
17:00 National News
17:05 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"
17:10 New Century Biotech
Development Centre
(Zoology Department)
17:15 National News
17:20 The King of Musical
Instrument
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 "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
19:36 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
19:40 National News
19:42 Sweet and Juicy
Pomelo

- 19:45 National News**
19:50 Weaving School in
Falam
19:55 Royal Rose
20:00 National News
20:05 Bauge: My village
20:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"

- 20:15 National News**
20:20 Excursion in Yangon
River
20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Welcome to
Kachin State"

- 20:30 National News**
20:35 Myanma Tapestry Art-
ist
20:40 New Century Biotech
Development Centre
(Botany Department)
20:45 National News
20:50 Welcome To Shwe-
myaing (Mawla-
myaing)

- 20:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
21:00 National News
21:05 Myanma Natural
Spirulina (Part-III)
21:10 Song "Welcome to
Treasure Land"

- 21:15 National News**
21:20 Exhibition on Imple-
mentation of Special 4
Years National Educa-
tion Promotion (Plan-
I)
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)

- 21:40 National News**
21:42 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
21:45 National News
21:50 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
21:55 Sein-Kyaung-Nilar
Royal Group Dance

- 22:00 National News**
22:05 Nipa Palm Forest
22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Peace Be With
You"
22:15 National News
22:20 Exhibition on Imple-
mentation of Special 4
Years National Educa-
tion Promotion (Plan-

- II)
22:25 Song "Our Cherry-
land"
22:30 National News
22:35 SA-LE Monastery
Decorated with
Handicrafts
22:40 Golden Mandalay Hills
22:45 National News
22:50 Myanmar Traditional
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"

- 22:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance
22:58 Paper Toys
23:00 National News
23:05 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"

- 23:10 New Century Biotech
Development Centre
(Zoology Department)
23:15 National News
23:20 The King of Musical
Instrument
23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 20-5-2004 (Thursday)
21-5-2004 (Friday)
Evening Transmission &
Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 23:36 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
23:40 National News
23:42 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)

- 23:45 National News**
23:50 Myanmar's Ancient
City Bagan
23:55 Sein-Kyaung-Nilar
Royal Group Dance

- 24:00 National News**
00:05 Nipa Palm Forest
00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Peace Be With
You"

- 00:15 National News**
00:20 Exhibition on Imple-
mentation of Special 4
Years National Educa-
tion Promotion (Plan-
II)

- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

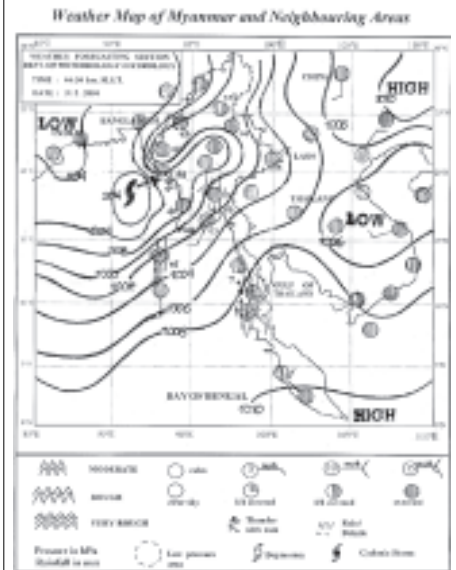
- 00:30 National News**
00:35 SA-LE Monastery
Decorated with
Handicrafts
00:40 Golden Mandalay Hills
00:45 National News
00:50 Myanmar Traditional
Food (Pone Ye Gyi)

- 00:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance

- Dance
00:58 Paper Toys
01:00 National News
01:05 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"

- 01:10 New Century Biotech
Development Centre
(Zoology Department)
01:15 National News
01:20 The King of Musical
Instrument

- 01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**
Wednesday, 19 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine States, isolated heavyfall in Mon State and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Myitkyina (7.01) inches, Mogaung (6.97) inches, Hkamti (5.55) inches, Mawlamyine (5.08) inches, Ann (4.25) inches, Gwa (3.23) inches, Sittwe (2.99) inches and Thandwe (2.91) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-5-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 19-5-2004 was 21.5°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-5-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 18-5-2004 was (0.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 19-5-2004 was 19mm (0.75 inches) at Yangon Airport, 17 mm (0.67 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 36 mm (1.42 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 248 mm (9.77 inches) at Yangon Airport and 236 mm (9.29 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 268 mm (10.55 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 20 mph from Southwest at (16:45) hours MST on 18-5-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm in the North Bay of Bengal has centred at about (140) miles southwest of Sittwe. It is forecast to cross between Sittwe and Kyaukpadaung next within (12) hrs commencing noon today. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the South Bay and Central Bay and weather is cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 20-5-2004:** Rain will be scattered to widespread in the whole country with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely often off and along Deltaic and Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (80) to (100) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-5-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-5-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 15:30 hours MST on today)

An earthquake of Moderate intensity (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1586) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hrs (39) min (32) sec MST on 19th May, 2004.

New Rainfall record

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST on 19 May 2004)

The amount of rainfall 178 mm (7.01 inches) observed at (09:30) hrs MST today at Myitkyina is the new maximum (24) hrs rainfall record of the station for the Month of May during last (39) years. The former record was 130 mm (5.12 inches) On 31 May 1984.


Thursday, May 20
View today:
7:00 am

1. ကော့ကုရ် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
ဓမ္မာနုပဋိ၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတ
ဓမ္မာနုပဋိ၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အထိစေတနာရရှိရန်၊ အထိစေတနာ
သဘောတရား၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မာတော်
ဂါရုဏ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှိခိုးဩဇာရာ
တိပိဋကဓမ္မာတော်

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. Dance of national races

8:10 am

6. Dance variety

8:20 am

7. မင်္ဂလာတေးဂီတ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အစောင့်အရှောက်လုပ် ထည့်စေရန်
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ်
(ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား) (ရုပ်မြင်သံ)

5:15 pm

6. Cute little dancers

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစာတော်

5:50 pm

8. "သတိတရားတော်သင်ခန်းစာ"
ကော့ကုရ်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
ဓမ္မာနုပဋိ၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတ
ဓမ္မာနုပဋိ၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အထိစေတနာရရှိရန်၊ အထိစေတနာ
သဘောတရား၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မာတော်
ဂါရုဏ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှိခိုးဩဇာရာ
တိပိဋကဓမ္မာတော်

6:00 pm

9. Musical programme

6:10 pm

10. နိုင်ငံအဖွဲ့ သစ်တောပျိုးမြို့

- မိမိလမ်းဆုံရမည့်

6:20 pm

11. ကချင်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး တိုင်းရင်းသား
ကော့ကုရ်

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတို
"မိုးခန့်ခွဲ" (အပိုင်း ၂၃)

7:30 pm

15. တောင်ငူလမ်းဆုံ၊ မွန်လမ်းဆုံ
သွေးစိုင်းတို့သွားရာ

7:45 pm

16. ကော့ကုရ်သေတစွာအထူးဆင်

8:00 pm

17. News

8:15 pm

18. International news

8:30 pm

19. Weather report

8:45 pm

20. "မင်းလုံးမြင်းမင်းသား"
တိုင်းရင်းသား၊ မြတ်တော်သော
ဒါနီတော်-အောင်မြင်လှပ

9:00 pm

21. The next day's
programme


Thursday, May 20
Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: One for sorrow (Step)

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: Wedgy (Big Bass)

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9.00 am Music: Power of two (Indigo Girls)

9.05 am International news

9.10 am Music: We take the chance (Modern Talking)

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Luch Time Music:

-I'll be there for you (Solid Harmonie)

-Somewhere down the road (Faith Hill)

-I want you back (N'sync)

-Somebody stands by me (Stevie Nicks)

9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar

-Novitiation Ceremony

9.10 pm Article

9.20 pm Pourri

-Louvre Officials Worried About

Damage To Mona Lisa Tarceva Drug

Extends Life In Lung Cancer Patients

-Measles Deaths Drops World Wide

9.30 pm Favourite song

chosen by music lovers

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL



The National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township on 19-5-2004. — MNA

Clarifications on detailed basic principles for economic, agriculture and livestock breeding, energy, electricity, mining and forestry, industry, transport and communications sectors made at National Convention

YANGON, 19 May— The followings are the translation of clarifications concerning detailed basic principles for economic, agriculture and livestock breeding, energy, electricity, mining and forestry, industry and transport and communication sectors that are to be included in drafting State, Constitution made at the National Convention today.

**Clarifications of National Convention
Convening Work Committee member
Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye**

The economic sector

I am now going to explain the economic sector. The State, with the aim of ensuring the emergence of a peaceful,



NCCS Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acts as master of ceremonies.— MNA

modern and developed nation, is making endeavours for the economic sector, laying down the economic objectives and long-term and short-term plans, and making systematic and coordinated efforts.

The endeavours for economic development are being made in accord with the following objectives:

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system

- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technology 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 people

A robust economy is required for a nation as its economy is serving as the main link connecting politics and the social sector. The connection between the politics and social sectors will be strong only if the economic link is strong.

Respected Chairman,

An economic system that will help build the task of building a new nation is the market-oriented economic system. Thus, the State is introducing necessary economic

reforms for proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system.

Since after 1988, economic and legal reforms have been made to build market-economic infrastructures in the economy of Myanmar. Some of the significant economic reforms are:

1. Farmers are permitted to cultivate their chosen crops and mill, transport and trade their produce systematically;
2. Permitting foreign investments;
3. Promoting support for infrastructure;
4. Encouragement of the private sector development;
5. Export promotion and export and import facilitation.

The State has been issuing laws, bye-laws, rules and notifications as and when necessary for successful implementation of the market-oriented economic system.

The main activities in the legal sector are reviewing of the existing laws to make amendments, to annul laws or to enact new laws as and when necessary. Some of the laws promulgated are: Union of Myanmar Foreign Investment Law in 1988; the State-Owned Economic Enterprises Law and the Fishing Rights of Foreign Fishing Vessels Law in 1989; the Private Industry Law, the Myanmar Travels Law, the Commercial Tax Law, the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, the Financial Institutions of Myanmar Law, the Myanmar Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Law, and the Myanmar Maritime Fisheries Law in 1990; the Promotion of Cottage Industries Law, and the Fresh Water Fisheries Law in 1991; the Forest Law, and the Tariff Law in 1992; the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law, and the Myanmar Insurance Law in 1993; the Science and Technology Development Law, the Myanmar Mines Law, and the Myanmar Citizens' Investment Law in 1994; the Law Amending the Union of Myanmar Central Bank Law in 1995; the Insurance Business Law in 1996; the Law



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

Amending the Myanmar Agriculture and Rural Development Bank and the Law Amending the State-Owned Economic Enterprises Law in 1997; the Overseas Employment Law and Law Amending the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act in 1999; the Illegal Money and Property Control Law and the Chemical Fertilizer Law in 2002; and the Law Amending the Myanmar Gems Law in 2003. Concerning the economy, the National Convention has also laid down the following principles to be formulated as the basis:

1. the State economic system shall be market-oriented economic system;
2. the State permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint ventures organizations and private concerns etc, to take part in economic activities for the development of national economy;
3. the State shall prevent acts that harm public interests through monopolization or manipulation of prices



NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe gives clarifications.— MNA

by an individual or group with intent to jeopardize fair competition in economic activities.

When we study the above points, we will find that the State has laid down policies, and introduced a large array of economic and political reform programmes harmoniously. Single reforms would not be enough for some of the economic reform programmes. So some of the reforms are to be amended and harmoniously integrated with other reform programmes for their effectiveness.

(See page 6)

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Convention full of tints
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For emergence of Constitution that can meet the best interests of the entire people
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Circulation: 22381

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