

Samananañca dassanam, to visit the monks; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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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



The National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township on 20-5-2004. — MNA

Uplift of morality and education as well as health and fitness of the entire people are especially required in building a modern and developed nation

Clarifications on detailed basic principles for social and management sectors made at National Convention

YANGON, 20 May— The followings are the translation of clarifications concerning detailed basic principles for social and management sectors that are to be included in drafting State Constitution made at the National Convention today.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee members

**Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein
and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin**

The social sector

Respected Chairman,

What I am going to present here is about the finds of the Work Committee on the sharing of legislative power among the Pyidaungsu legislative body and the region or state legislative bodies concerning the social sector. Of the legislative power in connection with the social sector, I will clarify which of the issues will be vested in the Pyidaungsu legislative body, and which of them in the

region or state legislative bodies.

Mainly, the educational functions, health activities, social tasks, labour affairs etc. are included in the social sector.

The matters in connection with the educational functions are curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, research, planning and drawing of projects and fixing of norms and standards; matters relating to examinations designated by the Union; the issue of the courses of universities, degree colleges and institutes and other organizations of the higher education sector; the sector of the government basic education schools; the issue of vocational schools; and the matter of private schools and training courses.

The matters relating to national health, free hospitals and dispensaries, and private hospitals and dispensaries; region, state, district, township and station hospitals; prevention against counterfeiting of foodstuff, medicines,

medical equipment and cosmetics or mixing them with other ingredients; traditional medicine and its development; and birth and death registration are included in the health activities.

The functions of the social sector are wide and numerous, covering a large array of areas from maternal and child welfare to Red Cross, social welfare; caring of children, youths, women, the disabled, the aged and homeless; relief and resettlement; and fire brigades and fire prevention.

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**Let hands of all
flowers be clasped**
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The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 May, 2004

In the interests of the people

The National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township on 20 May and the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified economic, agriculture and livestock breeding, energy, electricity, mining and forestry, industry, transport and communication sectors. The National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution.

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

Secretary of the Work Committee U Thauung Nyunt explained the industrial sector and the transport and communication sector. The Government, with the aim of ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, 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.

Paddy cultivation will have to be extended to produce enough food to meet the annual population growth of the nation and to export the surplus. The nation's economy will be in good shape only if there is balance between the value of exports and imports. The magnitude of the task for increasing production of oil and gas is so huge and vast that it ought to be implemented by the Union in the future.

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.

In order to build a modern developed nation, it is necessary to obtain capital from agriculture, which is the base. The capital thus obtained is to be invested proportionately in the industrial sector to gradually build an industrial nation.

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.

We believe that the delegates to the National Convention will try to make suggestions on the basic principles to be included in the State Constitution in the interests of the people.

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ပြည်သူ့အားလုံးပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 20 May— The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Names | Appointment |
|---|--|
| (a) Daw Theingi Tin Deputy Director-General Directorate of Investment & Companies Administration Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development | Director-General Directorate of Investment & Companies Administration Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development |
| (b) U Myint Shwe Director Beekeeping Dept Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries | Director-General Beekeeping Dept Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries |

MNA



The signing ceremony in progress. — MNA

Agreement on building road signed

YANGON, 19 May — The ceremony to sign a build and transfer agreement for the Kanpaikti-Washaung-Myitkyina Road between the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and the Htain Min Road Construction and Maintenance Co Ltd of China was held at the head office of Public Works on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this afternoon. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Mr Wang Cai Chun of Htain Chong District Foreign Friendship Federation and guests were present on the occasion. The 95-kilometre road to link boundary point-4 with the Washaung-Myitkyina road will be built in two years. Managing Director of Public Works U Nay Soe Naing and Htain Min Road Construction and Maintenance Co Ltd Managing Director Mr Chon Shan Chint signed the agreement and exchanged notes — MNA

Digital multifunctional system machine donated

YANGON, 20 May — A ceremony to donate digital multifunctional system machine was held at the Traders Hotel here at 10 am today. First, Chairman of Prime Boss Co Ltd U Aye Thant made a speech. Next, Mr Osamu Kobayashi of Sharp-Roxy Sales (Singapore) Pte Ltd demonstrated the multifunctional system. Next, U Aye Thant handed over the machine to Senior Engineer of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Nyan Win Aung. — (H)



Prime Boss Co Ltd Chairman U Aye Thant hands over the machine to Senior Engineer of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Education U Nyan Win Aung. — (H)

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

POEM:

Let hands of all flowers be clasped

- * Sabei, Kyetone, Gamone, Khatta
Zizawa and Natha Dawna
Plus orchids and Thawka, Hninzi
All in bloom together, with varied tints
Varicoloured beauty to behold
Peaceful and tranquil little garden.
- * This garden, with assembled flowers
Roses as one, Sabei as another
There's Myatlay, and also Khatta
Graced by Gamone, Orchid as a variety
Though exist variously, all colours blend
Beauty in unity, never to part
All together, not 'that' separate
Not 'me' alone, that's not the way
Staying together on same land, use same water
Ideas and thoughts unified
Thawka's beautiful, Dawna's fragrant
Myatlay's a dainty, Thazin's perfumous
Rose is substantial, Sabei lends blend
Each with own beauty, sister-brother of same kin
As "We brethren", with determination to help
Though matched, can't differentiate
All flowers beautiful, comparatively
One thinks of it, as celestial garden
Greatly gracious.
- * O, only because unity is strength
Though they divide, by driving wedge
We're not divided, stay hands clasped
Strength of unity, held to bosom
With noble heart and righteousness
Like the flowers in pride of unity
No different from celestial abode
"The path we'll tread, let's build it"
"The path we'll walk, let's choose"
Be it rough, no shirking
Let our garden be always developed
Garden's history, never to be rude
Let hands of all flowers be clasped
Without parting, let's tread along this path.
Yan Naing Oo (Trs)



The Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2004 was held at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road on 19 May morning (News reported). 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 open the trade fair by cutting a ribbon. — MNA



The International Trade Course (Program-1) concluded with ceremony on Thursday at the UMFCCT Training Centre on Bo Sun Pet Street, Yangon. Advisor U Khin Maung Yi presents gift to course instructor. (H)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development of Chaungtha Beach

YANGON, 20 May —

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, inspected progress of building Uto Village Basic Education Primary School donated by Max Myanmar Co Ltd in Patheingyi Township on 16 May. Building the school started on 22 March 2004. The school building which costs K 12.5 million will be 60 feet long, 36 feet wide and 10 feet high. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected hotel service of Hotel Max at Chaungtha Beach. At Ohndawgyi Village BEPS, Associate Professor U Htay Aung of Marine Science Department of Patheingyi University reported on building of research and training centre of Marine Science. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the centre.

In the hall of BEMS (Branch) in Shwethaung-



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects a hotel in Chaungtha Beach. — MNA

yan, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local authorities and people. He heard regional matters reported by officials and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander presented K 100,000 each for building the school in Wetthay Village to officials. Next, they viewed fishery tasks of private entrepreneurs in Ohntabinhlai Village. At Hotel Max in Chaungtha Beach, they met hoteliers from Myanmar Hoteliers Association and gave necessary instructions. **MNA**

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development in Dawei District

YANGON, 20 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental officials, on 12 May morning left Ye Township, Mon State, and arrived at Mahlataung in Taninthayi Division by car. Chief Engineer of Public Works U Thaw Ka and Divisional Superintending Engineer U Chin Pan reported on maintenance of Ye-Dawei Road to Lt-Gen Maung Bo, who then gave instructions on keeping the road in good condition, unblocking the drains and forming special groups for road maintenance.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Kakainaung in Yebyu Township where they met service personnel, member of social organizations and townsmen. Township officer, U Soe Lwin, reported on construction tasks in the township. Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed them to ensuring rule of law and order and community peace and tranquillity and to make cooperative efforts for implementing five rural development tasks. He then saw over construction of departmental buildings, gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. On arrival at the briefing hall of Heinze bridge construction site in Yebyu Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports by engineers on progress in construction works. The 180 feet long bridge is being built with concrete.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met departmental staff, members of social organizations and townsmen at Dawei Township Hall. Officials reported on cultivation of paddy, oil crops, rubber and pepper for regional self-sufficiency and utilization of land resources.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions, fulfilled the requirements and cordially greeted those present at the meeting. — **MNA**

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development in Ngwe Hsaung

YANGON, 20 May—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, on 17 May morning met with hoteliers at Yuzana Hotel on Ngwe Hsaung Beach and gave necessary instructions.

Present on the occasion were hoteliers and in-charges of 23 hotels on the beach. Chairman of Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin reported on number of hotels on the beach and services. Next, Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism reported on functions of the hotels while the commander gave a supplementary report. Next, hoteliers reported on the salient points of the hotels including services and extension of hotel rooms. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, in his address, said that hoteliers are to make concerted and collected efforts for development of hotel industries after forming Ngwe Hsaung Hoteliers Association, adding that Ngwe Hsaung beach is popular among local and foreign tourists like other resorts. It is incumbent upon hoteliers to strive their utmost for improvement of services to the liking of the holiday-makers. The hoteliers are required to make efforts in accord with rules and regulations. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met members of Division, District, Township and Ward Peace and Development Councils, townsmen of Ngwe Hsaung, members of social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing extended greetings. Next, Chairman of Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin reported on location and area of Ngwe Hsaung and social, economic, education and health conditions. Later, divisional level departmental officials reported on work being carried out for regional development. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said that Ngwe Hsaung is a resort town where foreign tourists often visit for their recreation. Thus, the government has been making arrangements for its development. Departmental officials and local people are to make strenuous efforts for the town to possess the characteristics of a town and for ensuring prevalence of peace and stability, he said.

Next, the Chairmen of Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils in the township reported on social, economic, health and education conditions. After the

meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected development of Ngwe Hsaung. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected Shaukchaung river crossing bridge in Shaukchaung Village where Senior Engineer U Myint Thein reported on fitness of the bridge and future tasks. On arrival at Shaukchaung Village Basic Education High School (Branch), Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by local people, teachers and students. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local people at the school where Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing extended greetings. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for local people to make relentless efforts for regional development and prevalence of law and order in the villages.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented K 750,000 for renovation of the school. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left there and stopped over for the night in Ngwe Hsaung. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Ngwe Hsaung BEHS on 18 May morning and they were welcomed there by departmental officials, social organization members, local people, teachers and students. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into construction of new school building and Ayeyawady Division Education officer U Maung Maung reported on matters related to construction works. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected electronic media language lab, computer aided instruction room of the school. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets departmental officials, teachers, members of social organization and local people. Head of Ngwe Hsaung BEHS U Khin Shwe reported on construction of new school building and academic matters. Chairman of Patheingyi District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thwin gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, in his address, said that teachers and members of the school board of trustees are to make efforts for all-round development of the school, adding that teachers are to nurture and train their students to become outstanding ones equipped with patriotism and the spirit to love and cherish the country. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented K 1 million for new school building. Next, Commander presented K 500,000 through members of the school board of trustees U Myint Kyi and U Win Soe. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected Ngwe Hsaung by car and left for Patheingyi. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Patheingyi by car and arrived back here in the evening. — **MNA**

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Saikkhaung-Namhsam railroad

YANGON, 20 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of the Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister of Rail Transportation U Pe Than and officials, arrived Namhsit No 3 bridge construction site on Saikkhaung-Namhsam railroad on 14 May afternoon.

Manager-In-charge of the project U Toe Toe Tun

reported on completion of the project. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions. The bridge will be built of reinforced concrete and it will be 140 feet long.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected progress of building Saikkhaung Namhsam railroad and earthwork. In the briefing hall of Pon Creek Bridge project, Col Thang Aye of local station reported on sector-wise completion of Ponchaung-Namhsam railroad. Project Director U Tin Soe briefed them on

progress of implementing the project and Deputy Minister U Pe Than on requirements of the project. Next, Taunggyi District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myint Tin and Loilem District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Win Tint reported on building the bridges on the railroad. Commander Maj-Gen Khin

Maung Myint reported on cooperation of Tatmadawmen and departmental personnel in building the railroad and bridges. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected completion of Pon Creek Bridge on Saikkhaung-Namhsam Railroad and laying of sleepers, rail tracks. — **MNA**

**The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

**အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း
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US generals take responsibility for Iraq prison abuse

WASHINGTON, 20 May—The two top US generals in charge of the occupation of Iraq said they took responsibility for the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal and warned that more soldiers could face action.

General John Abizaid, the head of US Central Command, and Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, commander of US forces in Iraq, appeared Wednesday before the Senate Armed Forces Committee to answer to outrage over the scandal.

"We have suffered a setback," Abizaid told the panel. "I accept responsibility for that setback."

"From evidence already gathered, we believe that

systemic problems existed at the prison that may have contributed to events there," Abizaid went on.

"Other investigations are currently underway," he added. "We will follow the trail of evidence wherever it leads, we will continue to correct systemic problems. We will hold people accountable."

Sanchez also assured lawmakers that measures had been taken to ensure no re-

peat of abuses that brought international criticism of the United States after pictures of naked prisoners being sexually humiliated appeared.

"While horrified at the abusive behaviour that took place, I believe that I've taken the proper steps to ensure that such behavior is not repeated," Sanchez said.

"I further believe that my actions have sent the correct message that such behavior

is inconsistent with our values, our standards and our training," he added.

The committee's Republican chairman Senator John Warner warned the officers of the anger that the scandal had caused.

"I just felt it was imperative that at some point in time ... you would face the American public and then face the world and give your own personal accounts of how this situation happened and most importantly, what we're going to do to see that it never happens again," Warner said at the start of the hearing.

Internet



A video grab image shows an Iraqi man crying in the cemetery in Ramadi on 19 May, 2004. The US army said on Thursday it killed around 40 people in an attack on suspected foreign fighters in Iraq near the Syrian border but disputed reports that the victims were members of a wedding party. — INTERNET

Honduran troops complete withdrawal from Iraq

TEGUCIGALPA, 20 May—The last Honduran troops in Iraq have completed their withdrawal earlier than planned because of the spiraling violence in the war zone, a Honduran defence ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

"All our soldiers have now left Iraq and are in Kuwait. The last group arrived in Kuwait today," Lt Col Rafael Moreno told Reuters.

The Central American nation's 370-strong contingent had intended to stay in Iraq until its mandate expired in July but decided to pull out early after Spain's announcement last month that it would withdraw its

1,400 troops.

The Honduran troops started their withdrawal on 11 May and the last group to leave will fly back on Friday to a military base shared with US troops in central Honduras, Moreno said.

Spain had been in charge of troops from other Spanish-speaking nations in Iraq, including those from El Salvador, Honduras,

Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

Although Central American countries were keen to build on close trade and immigration ties with the United States by sending troops to Iraq, support for the US-led coalition in Iraq has dwindled as attacks on foreign troops and civilians have escalated.

Internet

Berlusconi says Italy wants "clear breakthrough" in Iraq

ROME, 20 May — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, on his way to a meeting with US President George W. Bush, said on Tuesday Italy wanted "a clear breakthrough" in policy leading to sovereignty in Iraq.

Italy also wanted American soldiers accused of abusing prisoners in Iraq to have "public and exemplary" trials, Berlusconi said in a telephone interview with Rete 4 television from the plane taking him to the United States.

"We want to be sure that there will be a clear breakthrough in the Iraqi situation that will truly give sovereignty to the government, with the UN's (envoy

Lakhdar) Brahimi responsible," Berlusconi said.

Iraq should have a representative assembly of about 1,000 or 1,500 people ahead of elections "as soon as possible, presumably in the month of January", he added.

Many Italian politicians, both government supporters and opposition members, have called on Berlusconi to use his visit to Washington to voice concerns over events in Iraq.

An Italian soldier was killed during an upsurge in violence in the Italian-patrolled town of Nassiriya at the weekend and three civilians are still being held hostage by militants, adding to pressure on Berlusconi ahead of elections in June.

Berlusconi is due to meet UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday, ahead of his meeting with Bush on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Sivits gets a year in prison for his role in Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal

BAGHDAD, 20 May—A US court martial Wednesday sentenced Specialist Jeremy Sivits to a maximum penalty of one year in prison, reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge for his role in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse case. Sivits apologized to the Iraqi people.

"I'd like to apologize to the Iraqi people and those detainees," Sivits said, breaking down in tears as he made his statement. "I should have protected those detainees, not taken the photos."

"I have learned huge lessons, sir," he added. "You can't let people abuse people like they have done."

One of his lawyers, 1st Lieut Stanley Martin, had appealed to the judge, Col James Pohl, to be lenient, saying Sivits could be rehabilitated and had made a contribution to society in the past.

Sivits, who pleaded guilty to three abuse charges, took pictures of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated at Abu Ghraib prison. — Internet

US helicopter kills 40 at wedding in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 May—A US helicopter fired on a wedding party in western Iraq today, killing more than 40 people, Iraqi officials said.

The US military said it could not confirm the report and was investigating.

Lieutenant Colonel Ziyad al-Jbouri, deputy police chief of Ramadi, said between 42 and 45 people were killed in the attack, which took place about 2.45am in a remote desert area near the border with Syria and Jordan.

He said the dead included 15 children and 10 women.

Dr Salah al-Ani, who works at a hospital in Ramadi, put the death toll at 45.

Associated Press Television News obtained videotape showing a truck containing bodies of people who were

allegedly killed in the incident.

Most of the bodies were wrapped in blankets and other cloths, but the footage showed at least eight uncovered, bloody bodies, several of them children. One of the children was headless.

Iraqis interviewed on the videotape said partygoers were firing in the air in traditional wedding celebration.

American troops have sometimes mistaken celebratory gunfire for hostile fire.

Al-Ani said people at the wedding were firing weapons in the air, and that American troops came to investigate and then left.

However, he said, helicopters attacked the area at about 3 am. Two houses were destroyed in the attack.

US troops took the bodies and those injured in a truck to Rutba hospital, he said.

Ramadi is a stronghold of guerillas who are fighting the US-led coalition.

Internet

British worker killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 May—A British civilian worker was shot and killed in Iraq yesterday while driving between the northern cities of Mosul and Arbil, the Foreign Office said today. The man killed was Andrew Harris, 33, who was born in Cardiff, the Foreign Office said without giving any further details about the incident. — Internet



A US soldier walks between cells containing Iraqi detainees inside the Abu Ghraib prison, near Baghdad, on 17 May, 2004. The leaders of six Gulf Arab states meeting in Saudi Arabia on Sunday condemned the treatment of prisoners by US-led occupation forces in Iraq. — INTERNET

Fresh clashes in Iraqi holy city of Najaf

NAJAF, 20 May—Fighters loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr attacked a US base on the edge of the holy Iraqi city of Najaf on Tuesday with mortar bombs, witnesses said.

Two US tanks stationed around the main police station, some two km (one mile) from some of the holiest shrines for Shiite Muslims, moved towards the base and were attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, the witnesses said.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

Clashes between the two sides have been frequent in the last couple of

weeks and exploded into fierce fighting last Friday when US tanks thrust into Najaf's ancient cemetery, considered sacred ground, against fighters firing mortars.

There have also been fierce clashes between US-led forces and Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in other towns across the mainly Shiite south since the American incursion

into the Najaf cemetery, where devout Shi'ites wish to be buried.

Some of the fiercest have been in the nearby holy city of Kerbala, where Iraqi security forces are fighting alongside the Americans.

Italian troops have been attacked heavily in Nassiriya and British soldiers have fought fierce skirmishes around Amara. US com-

manders call it a "minor uprising", but on Monday evening chief US military spokesman Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said 51 Mehdi Army fighters had been killed in the previous 24 hours.

Sadr, who preaches trenchant anti-American sermons, launched an uprising against the US-led occupiers in early April and has taken refuge near the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, one of the holiest Shiite sites.

He accuses the US-led forces of intruding on sacred ground in Najaf and Kerbala, where US tanks frequently take up position around holy shrines and fight battles with his militia.

"My beloved people, rise up to express your views against these violations and so become the worthy people of these holy sanctities," Sadr wrote in his latest statement. —MNA/Reuters



Family members try to console a grieving relative as they wait to claim the body of Thamiir Abbas Rida, who was killed in a car bomb blast in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 May, 2004.—INTERNET

India warns fishermen against eastern cyclone

KOLKATA, 20 May—India warned fishermen on its eastern coast not to go to sea as a cyclone brewed in the Bay of Bengal, officials said on Tuesday.

The storm, which has been hovering off the coast for three days, lay 200 miles southeast of the coastal town of Balasore in Orissa where at least 10,000 people were killed in 1999 when a powerful cyclone slammed the eastern state.

"The cyclonic storm is behaving erratically and has moved in different directions in the past three days. We have to watch this one carefully," Tapan Kumar Bose, an official of the regional weather office in Kolkata,

told Reuters.

Authorities in Orissa and the neighbouring state of West Bengal told people to brace for wind speeds of up to 62mph from Wednesday morning.

Authorities have stocked food and tents in several places along the Orissa coast.

A cyclone pounded India's southeast coast last December, killing at least 45 people and damaging crops.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria sets up committee to evaluate oil, gas policy

ABUJA, 20 May—The Nigerian Government on Monday set up a nine-member committee in capital Abuja with the assignment of examining and making recommendations on the West African country's oil and gas policy.

Speaking at the inauguration, Nigerian Vice-President Atiku Abubakar said the committee had two months to conclude its work and submit its assessment report.

Abubakar said the oil and gas sector was a key component of the country's economic reforms and a crucial component that must be put right.

According to Vice-President, getting the sector right would give foreign investors the needed confidence to invest in the nation's economy and pave way for a more efficient utilization of available resources.

Members of the committee were drawn from the Central Bank of Nigeria, Ministries of the Finance, the National Planning Commission, the Bureau for Public Enterprises, as well as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.

Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and the sixth largest oil exporter in the world with a daily crude oil output of over two million barrels. Crude oil exportation accounted for 85 per cent of the government's revenue and 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda's teledensity among highest in sub-Saharan Africa

KAMPALA, 20 May—Uganda's teledensity is among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, Ugandan Minister of Works, Housing and Communications John Nasasira said here Monday. In a statement to mark the World Telecom Day, he said that eight years ago the Ugandan Government instituted reforms in the communications sector in order to improve the country's telecommunications service through private sector participation rather than the government intervention.

"As a result, the sector has indeed registered remarkable growth in terms of extensive penetration of basic telecommunications services across the country and improved quality of services as well as a general reduction in the tariffs for services," he said. He said his ministry has embarked on an e-government project, which aims at automating all government operations and will connect all government institutions together.

The minister said his country's overall target is by the end of 2005 to have at least the following in place: a public pay phone access point for every 5,000 inhabitants, district information portals (web sites) for every district, information communication technology training centres at every district headquarters, and Internet points of presence at every district to allow connectivity to schools and establishment of public Internet cafes. —MNA/Xinhua

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Iraqis want coalition troops out

BAGHDAD, 20 May—A Poll of Iraqi people has shown that more than half of them now want the US-led coalition troops to leave their country, while most regard the military presence as an occupying force, a British newspaper reported today.

The poll was conducted by the year-old Iraq Centre for Research and Strategic Studies, a group considered reliable enough for coalition officials to have submitted questions for inclusion in the poll, the Financial Times said.

According to the findings of the survey of 1600 Shia and Sunni Arabs and Kurds, not formally released until next week, more than half the population want coalition troops out of Iraq, the poll's organisers told the newspaper.

This compares with a figure of only about 20 per cent in a poll taken last October, the paper said, adding that the latest survey was taken before the scandal emerged of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops.

Also, 88 per cent of respondents saw coalition troops in Iraq as occupiers, while about two-thirds supported radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, a noted foe of US-led forces. "Iraqis always contrast American actions with American promises and there's now a wide gap in credibility," Saadoun Duleimi, the head of the centre, told the paper.

Internet

More photos obtained from Abu Ghraib by ABC

BAGHDAD, 20 May—ABC News has obtained two new photos taken at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq showing Spc Charles Graner and Spc Sabrina Harman posing over the body of a detainee who was allegedly beaten to death by CIA or civilian interrogators in the prison's showers. The detainee's name was Manadel al-Jamadi.

According to testimony from Spc. Jason Kenner, obtained by ABC NEWS, the man was brought to the prison by US Navy Seals in good health. Kenner said he saw extensive bruising on the detainee's body when he was brought out of the showers, dead.

Kenner says the body was packed in ice during a "battle" between CIA and military interrogators over who should dispose of the body. The Justice Department opened an investigation into this death and four others today following a referral from the CIA. The photos were taken by Staff Sgt

Ivan "Chip" Frederick, who in e-mails to his family has asked why the people responsible for the prisoner's death were not being prosecuted in the same manner that he is.

Frederick, Graner, and Harman are among six reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company who are facing charges in the abuse scandal.

A lawyer for Graner, Guy Womack, told ABC NEWS the photo of his client represents inappropriate "gallows humor." Womack questioned why US officials have not opened a criminal investigation into alleged murders at Abu Ghraib, while the investigation of his client has proceeded at a rapid pace.

A seventh member of the unit, Spc Jeremy Sivits, pleaded guilty today to four counts for taking pictures of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated. Sivits received the maximum penalty of a year in prison and a bad conduct discharge. —Internet



An Iraqi woman weeps after learning that her brother has died of his wounds caused by a car bomb, at Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad, on 17 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Uplift of morality and ...

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The sector concerning labour affairs includes working hours, break time, holidays, freight handling, social security, labour disputes, and labour organizations. Other matters inclusive in the social sector are matters relating to national sports; literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, and movies and video industries; running of theatres, cinemas and video houses; and staging of photo, painting and sculpture galleries; ancient or historical regions and edifices, monuments, documents, stone inscriptions, handicraft, inanimate objects, archaeological functions, museums, and libraries under the management of the Union; and cultural heritage restoration, museums and libraries under the management of regions or states.

Respected Chairman,

As it is known to the delegates, according to the detailed basic principles, already laid down by the National Convention, at the Union level are the legislative bodies called the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw comprising the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw; and at the region or state level there will be region Hluttaws and state Hluttaws. As the Hluttaws in regions and those in states will be in the same status, equal legislative powers will be distributed to them.

The basic principles laid down by the National Convention concerning health and education are:

1. The State shall earnestly strive to improve education and health of the people.
2. The State shall enact necessary laws to enable the national people to participate in matters of education and health of the people.
3. The State shall implement free compulsory primary education system.
4. The State shall implement a modern education system that will promote all-round correct thoughts and good morals and contribute towards building of the nation.

The delegates have already known the remarkable developments in the arts and science fields of the developed powers of the world. To become a modern and developed nation like them, we need to catch up with the nations enjoying development in the arts and science fields. We also need to have firm objectives such as uplift of the education of the entire nation, uplift of all-round education qualifications and uplift of morale and morality of the entire people. Concerning the uplift of education, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe in his 75th anniversary National Day message in 1995, gave guidance, saying, "Acquirement of education and outstanding education qualification and widening the scope of knowledge and vision are key factors towards prosperity of the national people and progress of the nation".

The educational undertakings of the State directly concern the people of the whole nation. Schools, institutes, degree colleges, universities etc. that are inclusive in the educational undertakings, have already been opened in all the states and divisions of the nation. Harmonious and uniform implementation of the tasks relating to the organization of courses in institutions of higher learning and other bodies of the higher education; designation of curricula, syllabus, teaching methods for educational institutions all over the nation; conducting of educational research; and designation and drawing of educational projects and plans and fixation of educational standards, and examinations designated by the Union, leads to simultaneous emergence of a modern and developed higher education system in every part of the nation. Thus, if the promulgation of laws concerning the issue is needed, it should be included in the Union legislative list.

In addition to the government schools, private schools have also been permitted to run in accord with the law. System and nation-wide uniformity are required in permitting private schools and courses, so that undesired cases may not occur. In this regard, the promulgation of laws in connection with the matter should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

The issue I will now explain is the national sports inclusive in the social sector. As the objective—Uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation—is one of the four social objectives laid down by the State, it is a special requirement for our country to promote the national sports standard in all sectors till it reaches the world level. Plans are to be laid down and systematically implemented as a national task for the well rounded development of the activities concerning the national sports. There are international sporting events as well as traditional sports in Myanmar. It is required to fix precise and correct systems and methods, to train and educate athletes through

precise and correct methods, and to enable them to gain international experience for the promotion of the said sporting events and emergence of outstanding athletes. Myanmar athletes are competing with their foreign counterparts at invitational and friendship games, and as the country is a member of the International Olympic Committee, its athletes are also taking part in the various Olympic games. There are State level, region or state level, district level and township level sports competitions in the nation. Harmony and uniformity is of vital importance to carry out the national sports activities to improve the standard of sports and techniques, to enable Myanmar sports standard to reach the world level and to realize the motto "Myanmar sports—the world to conquer".

In this regard, as necessary, the promulgation of laws in connection with "national sports" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Uplift of morality and education as well as health and fitness of the entire people are specially required in building a modern and developed nation. A modern and developed nation can be built with intensified acceleration only if the people are fit and healthy and their education level high. As health and fitness of the entire nation is a matter concerning the national health issue, it will become effective and achieve success only if plans are being laid down on national scale in implementing the national health sector covering disease prevention for the public health, health standard promotion, diagnosis and treatment, health rehabilitation, training and producing adequate number of qualified health staff including doctors and nurses, public health knowledge dissemination, and advanced health research programmes.

In addition, efforts will be made for permitting free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and dispensaries opened and run at any region of the State. Prescriptions to open and run the facilities must be in uniformity to the most possible degree in the whole country to enable them to give priority to serving public interest in a systematic way.

The national health activities covering diagnosis, disease control and treatment will be effectively successful only if plans are being laid down and implemented systematically, and the matter needs uniformity in the whole nation. In raising and developing the national health standard, consumer goods including daily foodstuff, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics, should be genuine and quality ones meeting the required standard; and in addition, there should be prevention against counterfeiting of and mixing them with other ingredients and selling of expired goods. The national health needs systematic plans, and facilitation and success of the plans depends on nation-wide uniformity in the links at different levels, implementation methods, and the set standards.

As Myanmar is a UN member as well as a member of the World Health Organization, a UN branch, it will have to make international contacts concerning the health issue as and when necessary. Thus, the task of national health activities should be of the same level and on a uniform manner in all parts of the nation.

Now, I will deal with the matters relating to development of traditional medicine and drugs. The State at present is concentrating its efforts on the progress of traditional medicine, rather than depending solely on western medicine. It is discovering and promoting latent traditional medicines and therapies. The tasks concerning the restoration and preservation of potent medical science and medicines, systematic cultivation of herbal plants, raising of the number of traditional medicine practitioners, development of traditional medical science and medicines, production and use of genuine and effective medicines that are free from harmful ingredients, promotion of advanced traditional medicines, medical science and therapies, and the conducting of international level research in the field are being systematically carried out. Hence, the progress of traditional medical profession and medicines will play a key role in ensuring health and fitness of the entire nation. The said tasks will become effective and achieve success only if they are being implemented in a harmonious and uniform manner in the whole country.

As necessary promulgation of laws concerning (1) national health; (2) development of traditional medical science and medicine; (3) free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and dispensaries, and (4) safeguards against counterfeiting of food, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics and mixing them with other ingredients is required, it should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will explain matters concerning maternal and child welfare; Red Cross activities; the caring of children,

Uplift of morality and education as well as health and fitness of the entire people are specially required in building a modern and developed nation. A modern and developed nation can be built with intensified acceleration only if the people are fit and healthy and their education level high.

women, disabled persons, aged persons and homeless; and the issue of relief and resettlement and fire brigade.

When constitutions of a number of countries are studied, it is found that they include stipulations concerning the caring of children, women, disabled persons, aged persons and homeless; and the issues of relief and resettlement in the social welfare sector. The 1947 Constitution of Myanmar stipulated, "The State shall pay special attention to the young and promote their education: The State shall direct its policy towards securing to each citizen—the right to maintenance in old age and during sickness or loss of capacity to work."

Concerning mothers, children and the old and the infirm, a basic principle laid down by the National convention states as follows:

— The State shall care for mothers and children, orphans, fallen Tatmadaw service men's children, the old and the infirm, and the disabled:

In connection with the youths, another principle states as follows:

— The State shall strive to imbue youths with strong and dynamic patriotic spirit, correct way of thinking and the five noble strengths:

It is specially important for the State to ensure equal rights for any religion or any race in the whole nation in providing care for children, youths, women, disabled persons, aged persons and homeless in accord with the basic principles. Moreover, as the nation is a signatory to the UN Child Rights Convention, it will have to materialize the stipulations contained in the UN Child Rights Convention, it has already agreed on. If required, the nation will have to make contacts with other countries.

If the State carries out the task to educate juvenile delinquents and to end juvenile delinquency; and to provide care and rehabilitation for helpless women, it will have to ensure equal rights for all religions and all races. Thus, promulgation of laws concerning 'children, youths, women, disabled persons, aged persons and homeless' should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

Ensuring health and social care for mothers and children all over the country is an important task for the national health. Maternal and child welfare associations have been formed from the central level to state/division levels, district levels and township levels in accord with the law and rules, and the bodies have been systematically expediting tasks to effectively carry out maternal and child welfare services, to widely disseminate basic knowledge on maternal and child care and to provide required health and social support in a wide array of sectors. The maternal and child welfare associations at different levels are social organizations. It is required to ensure equal rights in every part of the nation in conducting health care services of mothers and children and health and other social activities. Thus, promulgation of laws concerning "maternal and child welfare" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Another social organization, the Red Cross, has formed its bodies from the central level to ward/village level. The Red Cross Brigades helping the victims of natural hazards including fires, floods and storms with full kindness can be witnessed in the nation. Moreover, the Red Cross Brigade members are providing assistance for festivals held occasionally and health activities, as necessary. It is specially required for every Red Cross member to be skilled in first aid, which can be said the main task of the body. The first aid courses, which are producing outstanding Red Cross members, are being systematically conducted occasionally in the whole nation. In addition, the tasks of Red Cross are inclusive in many social functions, and the Myanmar Red Cross society is inviting members of Red Cross societies from abroad and sending its members to foreign countries on study tours. All the Red Cross societies at different levels should enjoy equal rights and should do their work in harmony. Thus, promulgation of laws concerning "Red Cross societies" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Fire Brigades are included in the bodies taking part in the social endeavours. In addition to the fire brigades formed with service personnel of Fire Service Department, the term "Fire Brigade" also covers voluntary fire brigades

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formed by the FSD with auxiliary fire brigade members and other fire brigades formed at industries, enterprises and departments and businesses, where the risk of fire is high, with the permission of FSD. In addition to fighting fires, the brigades are also taking part in fire prevention and fighting and relief programmes together with the public in times of natural hazards or epidemics or other emergency hazards. They are also launching public organization and education campaigns widely for the people to take part in rendering assistance to victims in case any hazard occurs. In addition, they have to take preventive measures in advance to protect State-owned property, private property, cultural heritage and public lives and property against loss or damage. For the effectiveness and success of their functions, the fire brigades should be formed in uniformity on national scale and equal training should be provided for them. Thus, promulgation of laws concerning "Fire Brigade" should be included in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

I will now deal with the relief and resettlement undertakings inclusive in the social sector. If there occurs natural hazards, fires, floods, storms or earthquakes, relief workers will have to travel to the place affected by the hazard soonest to provide emergency relief aids including food, clothing, shelter and health facilities, and other relief and resettlement aids. International assistance must be requested depending of the extent of the hazard and damage. It is required to provide equal rights and opportunities for victims regardless of the places they are living in. Thus, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning "relief and resettlement".

Respected Chairman,

Development of physical and intellectual ability of the blue and white collar workers employed in State-owned industries as well as private industries in various parts of the country, or in other words human resources development, is specially required to build a modern and developed nation. Thus, necessary facts relating to the issue must be systematically collected and kept. The building of a modern and developed nation needs compilation and keeping of precise and correct records on human resources. Laws concerning working hours, break time, holidays, labour disputes, workers rights, social welfare rights, the successful implementation of social welfare projects in the entire nation, the duties of employers and employees and the labour organizations should be enacted for employees and employers all over the country.

The constitutions of many other countries contain laws concerning similar matters. The National Convention has already laid down a basic principle, saying, "The State shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers."

There will be fairness and equality among workers discharging duties in the respective regions all over the country only if the matters I have explained concerning the workers are materialized in uniformity.

As the tasks concerning (1) working hours, break time and holidays; (2) labour disputes; (3) social welfare; (4) labour organization, cover the whole nation, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the said tasks.

Respected Chairman,

Concerning national culture, the National Convention has laid down the basic principle —The State shall help for development, consolidation and preservation of national culture. In the country, the national races who have been living through thick and thin and in weal or woe since many years have their own culture and customs. It is a common knowledge for delegates that the nation has a large number of historical heritage such as ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, handicraft, and inanimate objects all over it, and it is discovering and preserving more. They are invaluable ancient cultural heritage for the national people. It is the duty of all the national people to restore and protect the nation's large number of items of cultural heritage against destruction and loss and the danger of smugglers; and for their perpetuation. The tasks including the discovery, restoration and protection of the items can be done in harmony in the whole nation only if the Union takes care of their management. Of them, some need to be kept under the protection and restoration of the Union, and the State has built museums and libraries for them at the suitable places. Appropriate programmes will ensure effectiveness and success in carrying out the work concerning the items. Moreover taking of such an action

amounts to the uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character.

As the nation is rich in invaluable cultural items, the Union is required to continuously conduct research on them and to lay down and implement appropriate nationwide programmes covering the matter.

It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning the matter "(a) ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, handicraft, inanimate objects, and archaeological research; and (b) Museums and libraries, under the management of the Union".

Respected Chairman,

The objectives —Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character: and Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit — are specially required in the national development and modernization drive. Public education and organization activities should be launched through literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies and video plays to help materialize the objectives. It is specially required to prevent penetration of alien culture, that has no similarities or relations with the culture of the national races of Myanmar, into and take place in the Myanmar literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies and video plays in doing so. The delegates have already known that promotion of literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies and video plays is being carried out in the interest of the entire national people. I have already stated that efforts should be made for the success of the State objectives and for the benefit of the whole nation. It should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning the matter.

Respected Chairman,

I will now explain the matters relating to the social sector that should be included in the Union Legislative list as follows:

1. Curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, research, and projects and programmes
2. Courses of universities, degree colleges and institutes and other higher education organizations
3. Examinations designated by the Union
4. Private schools and courses
5. National sports
6. National health
7. Development of traditional medical science and medicines
8. Free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and dispensaries
9. Maternal and child welfare
10. Red Cross society
11. Counterfeiting of food, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics and mixing them with other ingredients
12. Caring children, youths, women, the disabled, the aged and homeless
13. Relief and resettlement
14. Fire Brigade
15. Working hours, break time and holidays
16. Labour disputes
17. Social security
18. Labour organizations
19. The matters managed by the Pyidaungsu concerning
 - (a) Ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, inanimate objects and archaeological undertakings
 - (b) Museums and libraries
20. Literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies and videos.

I have explained the above-mentioned points so as to enable delegates to make discussion and give suggestion on whether or not the detailed principles are to be formulated to include those points in the Union Legislative list.

Respected Chairman,

I have already explained matters relating to development of traditional medical science and medicines that should be included in the Union Legislative list. Now, I will deal with the matter relating to traditional medical science and medicines that should be included in the region or state legislative list. It is a common knowledge for delegates that the national races of Myanmar have the practice of producing and taking indigenous medicines. In almost all parts of the nation, the majority of people are taking not only western medicines, but also traditional medicine. Majority of rural people also rely on indigenous medicines. The task concerning the traditional medicine will be more effective if the regions or states carry out work in accord with the traditional medicine policies laid down by the Pyidaungsu. It should be included in the

Development of physical and intellectual ability of the blue and white collar workers employed in State-owned industries as well as private industries in various parts of the country, or in other words human resources development, is specially required to build a modern and developed nation.

region or state legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning the matter.

Respected Chairman,

Registration of births and deaths, that has connections with health affairs, is important for the population statistics of the State. Lists showing the actual population will be available, only if birth certificates and death certificates are issued and kept systematically. Implementation of the task concerning the matter will become more effective if the departments in the regions or states conduct the task in their respective regions or states under their instructions. It should be included in the region or state legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning the matter.

Respected Chairman,

In addition to social organizations such as the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Red Cross and Fire brigades, there may also be public welfare activities, which do not concern religion and politics at all, in the respective parts of the country. If the respective regions or states manage the implementation of the required social welfare programmes concerning the activities, they will become more effective and achieve greater success. The matter should be included in the region or state legislative list to enact laws, as necessary.

Respected Chairman,

Necessary fire prevention measures will have to be carried out in the respective areas of the nation. The risk of fire may not be in the same degree in all the localities. As such, the fire prevention of one region and another cannot be in the same extent. Cooperation of local people is required in the task. Fire prevention activities will be more effective and gain extra success if respective regions or states fix and supervise appropriate programmes within the framework of fire brigade laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It should be included in the region or state legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, concerning "fire prevention".

Respected Chairman,

The regions, districts and townships of the State have freight handling workers. Their main task in towns which have ports or jetties is to load and unload goods onto and from ships. They load and unload goods onto and from trains at places which have railway stations. They also carry out freight handling work at brokerage centres and markets. Freight handling work will be smoother and achieve greater success if the respective regions or states make arrangements that suit it, and supervise the work. Hence, it should be included in the region or state legislative list to enact laws concerning "freight handling". As freight handling concerns the labour affairs, the respective regions or states will have to look into the matter in accord with the specific rules prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Respected Chairman,

Just as there will be museums and libraries under the management of the Union, it will be also necessary to open museums and libraries under the supervision of the region or state concerned in the country.

Each of the national races residing in our country has their own cultures and traditions. Priceless are such kind of cultural heritage for our country, and they can be found in respective regions and states. The National Convention has laid down a basic principle that goes. "The State shall help for development, consolidation and preservation of national culture." If the region and state concerned are tasked to systematically supervise the perpetuation and preservation of cultural heritage on their own account, success can be achieved in such measures since the own cultural heritage of national races exist in respective regions and states.

Therefore, it should be included in the Legislative list of the region or state to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with "(a) preservation of cultural heritage and (b) museums and libraries, for which the region or the state has the right to supervise".

Respected Chairman,

Myanmar citizens living in urban and rural areas across the country have a tradition of enjoying the entertainment such as *Anyaint*, drama, movie and video show in their free times to relax their mind and body. A variety of such entertainments are launched in respective

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regions all the year round according to their seasons. Not only Anyeint and drama, as in the past, but also movie and video show are now presented occasionally in buildings. Photo exhibitions and contests as well as painting and sculpture exhibitions and contests are organized separately or in drama shows. In this context, it is found to be necessary to make arrangements for supervising the organizing of such entertainments systematically in consistence with the law, the security condition and health condition of the region or the state concerned.

Therefore, it should be included in the Legislative list of the region or the state to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with "(1) opera house, cinema hall and video house and (2) photo, painting and sculpture exhibitions".

Respected Chairman,

What I have dealt with so far is the matters that should be put in the social sector in order to include them in the Legislative list of the region or the state. They are:

1. traditional medicines that are not contrary to traditional medicine policies set by the Union
2. birth and death registration,
3. social welfare tasks in regions or states,
4. fire prevention,
5. freight handling,
6. matters for which the region or the state has the right to supervise:
 - (a) preservation of cultural heritage
 - (b) museums and libraries
7. opera house, cinema hall and video house, and
8. photo, painting and sculpture exhibitions.

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 the state to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

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

Management Sector

Respected Chairman,

I will continue to explain the findings of the National Convention Convening Work Committee. They are: of the legislative powers relevant to the management sector, what sort of legislative power should be distributed to Union legislative bodies, and what sort of legislative power should be distributed to legislative bodies of the region or state in their exercise of the power-sharing policy by the legislative bodies of Union and the region or state.

The matters involved in the management sector are: general administration, rural and urban area management, house rent and land rent, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, state secrets, associations, prisons, border area development, citizenship, the naturalization and revocation of citizenship, census, titles, decorations and medals, development affairs, human settlement and housing development, and civil planning.

The matters related to general administration included in the management sector are especially numerous and vast. Administration, it seems, has different dimensions. Just as there are urban administration and rural administration, there are also administrations regarding the forestry, land, agriculture, mineral, and water and air transport. The authorities concerned have to carry out administrative jobs within the frame of the laws enacted by legislative bodies in connection with the matters involved. The principle meaning of general administration is that general administrative officers working in respective townships, districts, divisions or states are to exercise the authority vested in them in accord with the laws enacted by legislative bodies. The service personnel taking charge of general administration were called township officer, district commissioner, deputy commissioner, division commissioner and secretary. Now, they are called township general administrative officer, district commissioner, and division or state commissioner, but the director-general of the General Administration Department at central level. The service personnel of general administration are also to carry out their responsibilities within the frame of the authorities vested in them according to the laws concerned.

The robust, swift, smooth, continuous and systematic movement of administrative machinery is crucial for the establishment of a modern and developed nation. Only then will a modern and prosperous nation we all desire be able to become a reality flawlessly. It is also necessary for responsible personnel who are to steer the administrative machinery of the State to possess well-

rounded qualifications and high morality. To ensure the smooth, swift and systematic movement of administrative machinery of the modern and developed country we aspire, measures related to "general administration" should be taken on a national scale. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

Respected Chairman,

The matters which I will continue to explain are those relevant to urban and rural management, human settlement and housing development and development affairs. Village area is referred to an area which is located out of urban area and which is set up for human settlement according to law by the authority concerned. Urban area is referred to either a certain area which is established according to law or a certain area which is designated as city according to the development affairs act. Only the officially authorized person has the right to designate a certain area as village or urban area. It is unallowable to establish an area as village or urban area on one's own account although there settle a number of people collectively. It is incumbent upon those residing in rural or urban areas to be in harmony with the rules and regulations prescribed according to the existing laws. Special care must be taken to implement the tasks concerning the village and urban area management after taking into account the social, health and security points of view of the people living there. If the people of our country establish a place of their choice as a village or urban area of their own accord and settle there, it will amount to violation of laws.

In the place which has been designated as village area in accord with the law, permission must be sought from the authorities concerned to build houses, to fence them and to dwell in them. As for the people residing in places designated as village areas, it is also necessary for them to be in harmony with the standards set by the authorities concerned from the security and health points of view when they build houses on the plots allotted to them. In case of the need to enact laws, measures should be taken for the termination of a certain village which has been designated as village area and the shifting of that village to a suitable place in view of public interest, designating it as a new village area, the extension of its area, the collection of the expenditure; and for the designation of a new urban area, land lease for plots in the designated village area, the issuing of temporary licence, the issuing of tax-exempt land grant for use in social or religious matters, the issuing of land grant to set up an ordination hall, the extension of urban area, and the designation of land for lakes and graveyard. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the village and urban area management.

Respected Chairman,

Among the people living in urban areas, there are those who live in houses of their own. On the other hand, there are those who cannot afford such accommodations. As for them, they have to live places rented from landlords and house owners. Moreover, accommodations are also rented for economic reason. A study of the course of history of Myanmar regarding house rental and land rental will indicate that those trying to escape the scourge of war re-entered the urban area after the Second World War. In the wake of the war, Urban Rent Control Order 1946 and Urban Rent Control Act 1948 were introduced with the aim of protecting those who were in difficulty to find accommodations from being bullied by landlords and homeowners. Those laws were just enacted on a temporary basis in time of emergency. As for Urban Rent Control Act, it expired in 1958. Urban Rent Control Law was enacted in 1960. Though not much different from Urban Rent Control Act 1948, it is still in effect up to now as there is no limitation for its duration.

As the country has become modernized and developed, population, businesses and industries are on the rise in number than they were before. Population grows as a consequence of increasing economic undertakings and industries and a large number of people moving to urban areas for business reason. There are house rent and land rent in the urban area on account of growing demand for accommodations, undertaking of businesses and construction of factories and workshops. Only when measures are taken for such matters on a national scale in harmony will there be equality and uniformity. Therefore, it should be included in the list of Union Legislation to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with "house rent and land rent".

Respected Chairman,

It is found that in the times of our own rule, Myanmar people were not in the habit of growing poppy, a major substance of narcotics. After occupying our country

unfairly, the expansionists introduced poppy cultivation and opium trade on Myanmar soil for their own benefits. Since then, poppy cultivation and opium trade have spread in our country. Therefore, they are the ill legacy left by the colonialists. Although growers and traders found this business profitable, the life of abusers ends up in vain. Opium Act, Excise Act and Dangerous Drugs Act enacted by the colonialists failed to effectively curb such businesses.

Regarding as a national concern, our country is taking measures to eliminate the narcotic drugs threatening the entire mankind. In doing so, our country accepted the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Moreover, with the aim of implementing the convention and eradicating the danger of narcotic drugs capable of terminating the mankind and human lives, our country enacted 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law. In line with that law, our country took effective measures to erase the danger of narcotic drugs on its own accord as well as in cooperation with UN agencies and other nations.

While our country is continuously and strenuously endeavouring to put an end to narcotic drugs, the danger posed by stimulants, ecstasies and psychotropic substances is growing day after day and threatening the whole mankind in the world. Therefore, the United Nations prescribed a convention against the illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in 1988. Myanmar also took part in that convention. In accord with that convention, the State Law and Order Restoration Council enacted Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law in 1993. Moreover, progressive efforts have been made with added momentum concerning the elimination of narcotic menace, which is regarded as a national concern, to an extent that announcement could be made to the world, declaring Mongla region in eastern Shan State to be an opium-free zone. The Government is also striving for the establishment of other regions in Shan State as opium-free zones. Furthermore, measures are also being taken through the implementation of the 15-year plan (1999-2000 to 2013-2014) for elimination of narcotic drugs from all over the country.

In gearing up for narcotic drug elimination tasks, our country is taking measures under the UNDP and international drugs elimination programmes, as well as in cooperation with neighbouring countries —Laos, Thailand, China and Vietnam—and also with Russia.

It is necessary for the people of our country to play their parts as a national concern in the elimination of narcotic drugs menacing the mankind. Moreover, cooperation is also to be made with UN agencies and foreign countries, if need be. Success will be achieved only when harmonious efforts are made in all regions throughout the country. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with 'narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances'.

Respected Chairman,

When taking measures to implement the three pillars for sovereignty of the country—legislative power, executive power and judicial power, there are some issues to be kept as secret according to time and condition. Regarding such secrets of the State, those at different levels taking charge of legislative machinery or administrative machinery or judicial machinery or functions relevant to the three powers are responsible to prevent the leakage of State secrets. There are State secrets in governmental offices and departments at township level, district level, region and state level and central level. In this context, measures should be taken on a national scale in uniformity to keep State secrets. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with "security of State secrets".

Respected Chairman,

Citizenry of all free countries are granted to the rights to join associations and organizations and to form them. When it comes to forming associations and organizations, there will be a diversity of groupings for religion, social affairs, labour, arts and sports. Similarly, there will also be associations concerning the professions, such as medical associations, engineering societies, lawyers associations and so on. These organizations and others are formed at ward and village levels, township level, district level and so on. In this context, such groupings should abstain from the acts that harm the public safety and tranquillity and smear the public morale. It is also especially necessary to keep to the laws in forming associations. In this context, there should be common practice and uniformity on a national scale. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with "associations".

(See page 9)

Uplift of morality and ...

(from page 8)

Respected Chairman,

I will now continue to explain matters related to prisons and prisoners. The State builds prisons in appropriate places to house those who got jail term as they were found guilty after the courts concerned in the country had heard the case according to the law; offenders out of those on trial at the courts concerned who are detained in jail by order of the court while the case is still pending; and those detained by order released according to the law concerned. Moreover, it also issues rules relevant to prisons and prisoners. The prison department is responsible to choose the prisons for detainees by taking into account the duration of prison term they receive and their age. Responsible officials have to take charge of inspection and supervision at times to ensure the systematic arrangements for prisoners. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with all the matters related to prisons.

Respected Chairman,

What I am going to explain is border area issues involved in the management sector. While the Union of Myanmar was under the colonialists' rule, all-round development of our national races residing in border areas was ignored. Their reason was that there was no condition beneficial to them in those areas. Also in the post-independence period, the border areas and the national races living there were not in frequent contact with other areas and the national races living there on account of the geographical condition, difficult accessibility and internal instability. As a result, the border areas lagged behind in all aspects such as economy, social affairs, education, health and transport, when compared to other areas of the country. The development of economy, transport, education, health and social affairs in border areas will bring prosperity to there. The National Convention has laid down a fundamental principle: "The State shall help promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communications of less developed national races."

Regional development measures are being taken all over the country including border areas, upholding our three main national causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuity of sovereignty. In this regard, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races and the Work Committee were formed, and efforts are being made to implement border area development tasks effectively and systematically by laying down projects. The Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, which had not existed before, was also formed. Now, the ministry is implementing the projects relating to development of border areas, joining hands with local national races. Of the border areas, some had suffered the scourge of internal upheaval for many years. It being the areas out of the stretch of Government's administrative power and with little contact with government service personnel, the language, literature and culture of neighbouring countries exerted an influence on them.

In a bid to enable social, economic and administrative sectors crucial for the State and development of border areas to take shape as early as possible, efforts are under way to implement economic infrastructure such as road, bridge, energy, construction and communication; social infrastructure such as education, health and public relations; and economic activities such as agriculture, meat and fish, forestry, mining and trade. Thanks to assiduous efforts made by the Government, border areas are now undergoing unprecedented affluence, unlike in the past. There should be coordinated efforts among related departments so that tasks for development of border areas can be carried out successfully in respective border areas in a harmonious way. Thus, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.

Respected Chairman,

Now, I am going to explain matters relevant to citizenship, the naturalization and revocation of citizenship, citizenship scrutiny, national registration, and census, which are covered in the management sector. One of the basic principles formulated by the National Convention is: All persons born of parents both of whom are nationals are citizens; all persons who have become citizens in accord with law on the date the State Constitution comes into force are citizens; and citizenship, naturalization and revocation of citizenship shall be as prescribed by law.

Absolutely imperative for the country are such matters as citizenship, and the neutralization and revocation of citizenship. Special care must be taken in dealing with them. Should a person whose application for citizenship proved unsuitable be granted citizenship, it would produce dangerous and fruitless consequences in the long run for the country. Similarly, should a person whose citizenship proved not to be revoked be deprived of his or her citizenship, it is likely that he or she would suffer losses.

Moreover, were he or she beneficial to the country, the country would also suffer losses. It is necessary to have precise and correct censuses of the people residing in our country when it comes to drawing plans needed for establishing the State into a modern and developed one. Only when the plans drawn on the ground of the precise and correct population records are implemented will success be achieved.

For population data to be precise and correct, the State conducts population inquests and takes census at times. In doing so, census is taken by fixing date and time for the population record of a country. As it is natural that people are born and dead, the comprehensive population records are to be compiled through a calculation of the annual population record with the rate of annual population growth. In doing so, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities provides necessary assistance. Based on the official population records collected by the Immigration and Population Department, the rate of annual population growth is figured out and fixed in line with the internationally accepted methods in cooperation with invited experts of relevant fields. Among the people residing in our country are citizen by birth, those who are granted citizenship and foreigners. The Immigration and Population Department is now taking charge of carrying out the matters relevant to registration and census.

Now, I have presented the matters relevant to citizenship, the neutralization and revocation of citizenship, census, national registration, which are involved with all the people residing in the country. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the said matters.

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will continue to clarify matters related to titles and honourary awards, which are included in the management sector. Since the time when we, Myanmar people, lived



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



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



NCCWC member Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye gives clarifications on management sector. MNA

under our own rule, the kings, heads of State, praised those from ministers and commanders down to servants by conferring appropriate titles, honourary awards on them for their excellent service to the country. Religious titles were also conferred on members of the Sangha who deserved them. Rules are promulgated regarding honourary titles and medals in every independent and sovereign nation. It is usual that the leadership of a country decorates appropriate persons on great occasions and on days of great significance.

Also in our country from the post-independence period to date, the Government designates honourary titles and medals depending on time and condition in order to award those for their excellent performance in administrative or social or economic spheres. The leadership of the State has a tradition of decorating appropriate persons with honourary titles and medals on days of great significance. Religious titles are also designated and conferred on appropriate members of the Sangha and lay persons. As for military titles and medals, the honourary titles and medals to be decorated by Head of State himself, are also awarded by him.

The President of the State will assume the responsibility as the Head of State when the new Constitution has been formulated in our country. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, in connection with the honourary titles and medals to be awarded by the President.

Respected Chairman,

Matters covered by the Management Sector that should be included in the Union legislative list may be put together as follows:

1. General administration
2. Management of village and urban areas
3. House rent and land rent
4. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
5. State secrets
6. Associations
7. Prisons
8. Border area development
9. Census
10. Citizenship, naturalization, revocation of citizenship, citizenship scrutiny and registration
11. Titles and decorations

I have clarified the above matters for the National Convention delegates to discuss and make suggestion on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary.

Respected Chairman,

I will now explain the management matter that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary.

I will clarify the human settlement and housing development matters and development affairs covered by the management sector. Human settlement and housing development matters and development affairs are related to each other. Their functions take care of the way of living, welfare, convenience and physical and spiritual well-being of the people residing in the development area. So, their tasks require to keep in touch with the public daily. These tasks include development of the human settlements; building, repair, maintenance and demolition of houses; removal, shifting and settlement of squatters, building, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges; establishment, repair and maintenance of parks, gardens, playgrounds and rest and recreation centres; street lights, water supply and sanitation; building, repair, maintenance and management of markets; and enforcement of discipline to be followed by motor vehicles and slow-moving vehicles and roadside shops. These tasks can be speedily, effectively and successfully carried out if permission is granted to do so according to the time and circumstances within the officially designated development areas in the Regions or States. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with these tasks.

Respected Chairman,

I will clarify the honorary titles and decorations included in the management sector. As I have explained above, there will be honourary titles and medals awarded by the President or the Head of State. Similarly, the respective Prime Ministers of the Region or State will also occasionally confer titles and medals on whom honour is due. It should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary, to enable the Prime Ministers of the Region or State concerned to do so under the topic, 'titles and decorations'.

Respected Chairman,

Management matters that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list may be put together as follows:

1. Development affairs
2. Human settlement and housing development
3. Honourary titles and medals

Hence, National Convention delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to lay down the detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list concerning the above matters. — MNA

It is necessary to build ...

(from page 16)

a great influence on development of all sectors in the country. That is why it is no longer sufficient to aim merely towards raising the level of education of our students in our efforts to promote national education. What must aspire to in our endeavours to enhance education is a much higher goal; and that is to lay the foundations and organize and plan for the building up of an absolutely secure future for our country and our people to protect the interests of the entire nation. All scholars and members of the academic world I am certain realize the fact that such is the situation today.

That is why I would like to bring to the attention of scholars and senior academic staff present that the tasks of the education sector has expended in both breadth and depth and that what we are undertaken is a crucial national task to enhance the interests of the nation through education. So I would like to urge, all educationists present to take this important factor into account in their discussions and deliberations.

In today's international arena, ideological conflicts have led to the occurrence of sensitive and volatile events and incidents, which have had worldwide impact. Furthermore the revolutionary advances made in science and technology have given rise to the technological divide and a gap in wealth among the nations of the world. Then there is the fact that not all nations enjoy equal opportunities for development. All these factors have created some concerns and posed new challenges for developing countries like the Union of Myanmar.

In such condition and times we must do our best to raise the education standard of our people, develop to the full our capabilities in science and technology, expand our outlook and increase general knowledge, and revitalize and enhance our spirit of nationalism. And with the assistance and contribution of the education that shall build up and reinforce the inner strength and determination that shall hold us resolute and steadfast. Only then shall we be able to stand with dignity as a nation and a people in the international sphere and so sustain our nation and work to protect and enhance its national interests.

At present the government is doing its very best for the progress and development of our country and our people, so that we can take our rightful place as an independent and sovereign state and stand all and proud among the nations of the world. It has also exerted every effort so that a strong and United Nation shall stand in perpetuity for as long as the world shall exist. With this vision we have laid down our national objectives in the political, economic and social fronts, which are now being concurrently implemented. This includes the education sector, which must play its role to assist and contribute towards the realization of these national objectives.

For these very reasons, the Government has systematically drawn up its education plans and is in the process of raising the standard and quality of the education sector. In carrying out the important task of development in various areas such as the economic, social and defence, it is necessary to develop and consolidate the vast reserve of human resources and to achieve this we must endeavour to systematically raise the educational standard of the entire nation by laying the foundations for an education system that will facilitate and provide opportunities for continual learning.

In laying down and implementing the plan and projects for the promotion of national education, the Higher Education sector to coincide and link up with the third stage of the education enhancement programme (in 2000) of the Basic Education sector. This has therefore for the Promotion of National Education. In addition, in the second year of this Special Four-Year Plan, 2001, it has become possible to forge links between the State's long-term economic, social and development plans with the education sector, which further led to the drawing up and implementation of the long-term Thirty-Year Education Plan.

We have now successfully implemented the Special Four-Year Plan for the Promotion of National Education in the Higher Education sector. Based on the results of this successful implementation we shall now be able to forge ahead with might and main to implement necessary tasks of the Long-Term Thirty-Year Plan.

Thus the Higher Education Sector, in conformity with the changing times has been able to nurture and produce a high calibre of human resources as required for various development programmes. It has succeeded in raising the momentum to build up the various disciplines in the advancing fields of science and technology and facilitated the multi-disciplinary approach in the field of developmental studies and thereby fulfilling requirements for the advancement of science and technology in all fields within the country. Systematic efforts have been made to raise the quality of teaching and learning processes and this makes them more comprehensive and these developments have been applied in practice in the interest of the nation and for the benefit of Myanmar society.

All this has been systematically done and we can now observe the fruitful results of these various endeavours.

We can take great pride in the achievements made by the Higher Education Sector for its achievement in "accessibility, quality and diversity" in accordance with the aims and objective of the Special Four-Year Plan for enhancing education and those of the Long-Term Thirty-Year Plan, which is now in the process of being implemented.

To establish an education system that opens up opportunities for the nurturing of human resources, the number of universities and colleges has been increased and set up in almost all capital cities of the States and Divisions. At the same time standards have been raised with comprehensive teaching programmes and curricula that offer not only post-graduate doctorate degrees and master of research degrees, but also other additional multi-disciplinary courses.

Moreover, Centres for Human Resource Development have been established, which offer undergraduate and post-graduate diplomas and other vocational and professional training courses. Many other new education centres have been set up such as the New Century Resource Centre, the Resource Centre for Ancient Myanmar Manuscripts (RCAMM) and the New Century Biotechnology Development Centre. We have been able to open not only these new centres which are the foundation for advanced studies, but have also been making preparations to open up an Online education system—that is a Web-based Teaching System for some Master of Science degree courses.

But this is not all. Research studies of the scientific research department have been accelerated so that its results can be applied with fruitful results.

If we should review what has been done to raise the quality of education, it will be seen that syllabi have been revised and necessary text books have been adequately provided to enhance teaching and learning in post graduate masters and master of research courses and in doctoral degree programmes. Requirements for laboratory equipment and facilities for IT are provided for application. Moreover international research seminars and international education seminars are regularly held. Scholars and academics are given opportunities to attend seminars abroad to present their papers and research work is being carried out in collaboration with other international think tanks and research organizations.

Moreover to provide choices and opportunities to study many disciplines as well as to enable specialization in subjects of a particular field, a new elective system has been instituted for undergraduate courses. There are also multidisciplinary studies for post-graduate courses and many research opportunities for regional development and for fulfilling regional needs. Curricula and syllabi have accordingly been revised and refurbished.

For the smooth and systematic functioning of these innovative programmes workshops and seminars on education, as well as conferences for the successful implementation of the plans and programmes for Promotion of National Education are held regularly. The fact that we have been able to hold such forums where thorough discussions take place with a free exchange of ideas has led to cooperative efforts in implementation and the results have been rewarding. The successes achieved are there for all to see.

To look at the expansion of and development of universities and colleges, it will be seen that 13 new universities were established in the post 1988 period and 17 others were upgraded. So the number of universities in the country today is thirty and the number of all universities and colleges for education in higher studies now totals 154 in country today.

Due to the increase in the number of universities and colleges there are over six hundred thousand students who now have access to higher education compared to the 130,000 students in the period before 1988.

In the efforts to raise the standard of the education sector, it was considered not enough to enhance education only in the states and divisions where there were already established centres of higher education, for there were still some gaps in some regions, which were still in need of development. So, in order to fill these gaps in progress and growth throughout the country, 24 special regions were demarcated for further development. There have emerged additional universities, colleges and vocational institutes and colleges the young people of all national race groups living across the country now have opportunities to continue their studies in higher education within their own regions.

Then, a study of the courses available in universities and colleges will also show that in the period before 1988, there were only 59 different courses for both undergraduate and post graduate classes, whereas there are now 157 courses including those for the doctorate degree. If we should add the 40 different undergraduate and postgraduate diploma courses that are now offered by the Centres for Human Resources Development, there are now a total of nearly 160 different courses on offer today.

In order to enhance the quality of teaching and learning

and to provide opportunities to continue learning irrespective of place, age or educational level, the Higher Education Departments in collaboration with universities and colleges have established teaching and learning centres based on modern information and communications technology and through the use of the computer network.

Firm foundations have also been laid for widespread use of Information and Communications Technology with the result that today there are 51 e-Learning Centres, 143 computer training centres, 49 e-Education resource centres, many Multi-media lecture rooms, conference rooms and Computer Aided Language Labs.

Furthermore, because VSAT Networks have been installed in 56 locations in the education departments and universities and colleges, there is now access to e-mail, Internet, Intranet and Video Conferencing systems.

So, because the Higher Education Sector's goal for "accessibility, quality and diversity" is now a reality, we should take advantage of the favourable time and conditions to maintain the momentum already achieved, while continuing to strive for further progress in the Promotion for National Education by successfully fulfilling the goals of the Long Term Thirty Year Education Plan.

The world today is a rapidly changing one, where we will have to face and overcome many challenges and at the same time protect and enhance our national interests for now and for the future. To face and overcome these challenges and to protect our national interest we require educational programmes that are broad enough to encompass all fields of study, and approaches that are firmly based on modern technology. But at the same time we should all be aware that is most vital in confronting and overcoming these problems is a positive and resolute national outlook.

I would like to state here that it is imperative for the learned scholars and senior academic staff present to do their level best for the further development of an education system that is firmly based on the requirements of our country and which takes into serious consideration the history and culture of our peoples. In other words it must be an education system, which is in accord with our national policy and is capable therefore of realizing our national objectives and laying firm and sound political, economic and social foundations.

As long as we cannot lay sound foundations based on nationalism for educational, health, social and economic development, no matter what political system is adhered to and pursued, it cannot guarantee peace and development for the country in the long run. So, what is vitally necessary is to build the country's future with the support of an educational system that is directed towards national development. That is in fact the responsibility and national duty of the education sector.

I most sincerely wish for the learned scholars and teachers present to be aware that the Promotion of National Education is in fact inevitably linked to the task of establishing the peace, stability and welfare of the country. So, I would like to call upon all present to join hands and imbued with the spirit of nationalism work towards the successful implementation of the Plans of Promote National Education.

The National Convention is now in process. So the country has systematically embarked on the first stage of the Seven-stage Road Map for the emergence of a democratic state and a firm and sound government that will ensure a peaceful and stable future State. Moreover, we believe that the delegates of the National Convention now in progress, consisting of members of national races, members of different strata and of many masses and classes of the people as well as various Political Parties, will hold deliberations and consultations in a positive and unified spirit to draw up a national constitution based on highly essential and comprehensive principles and policies. Therefore with a view directed towards the emergence of a modernized and developed state in the future I would like to urge the members of the education sector to do their duty and thereby contribute towards the successful conduct and outcome of the National Convention.

In conclusion, I would like to call upon all present:

—To make every effort to enhance the quality of National Education, so that the Union of Myanmar can stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations with pride and dignity as a sovereign and independent country.

—To work towards the continual development of science and technology in the country; to constantly nurture human resources of high calibre in all regions and sectors and to strive for the successful achievement of the targets of the Thirty Year Long Term Education Plan, so that the vision of a continually Learning Society will be realized in Myanmar.

—I would like to call upon you to faithfully carry out whatever duties you have been assigned and thus contribute towards the successful conduct of the National Convention, which is the first Stage in the Seven-Stage Road Map.

After the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially met educational delegates.

The Conference on the Promotion of National Education of the Higher Education Sector continues till 23 May.

MNA



NCCC Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a gift to a delegate undergoing medical treatment. — MNA



NCCC Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects welfare shops at the National Convention. — MNA

NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein asks after delegates undergoing medical treatment

YANGON, 20 May—Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence and officials, asked after the condition of delegates to the Convention who are undergoing medical treatment at the hospital at Nyaungnnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, this evening.

On arrival at the hospital, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party were welcomed by Director (Treatment) of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, hospital in-charge Dr Khin Khin Yi, specialists and health staff.

NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party enquired after the condition of

delegate U Mahn Tin Aung Than of Union Kayin League, delegate U Maha Kya of Shwepyiaye (MTA) Group, delegate of national races U Khin Zaw from Kayah State, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia group Director U Khin Zaw and Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Sein Tin and delegate of national races U Than of Shan State and Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented provisions to the delegates.

Afterwards, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party proceeded to the golf course and viewed the delegates golfing.

At the gymnasium, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed delegates exercising and playing tennis.

Next, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected welfare facilities such as Mon Mon Beauty Parlour, optical shop, communication station, medical stores of Grand Health Care Cooperative Syndicate, Winthuzha Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 and GEC Shop and left at 5 pm.—MNA

Principles and detailed basic principles laid down in plenary meetings of National Convention clarified

YANGON, 20 May—The Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified the principles and detailed basic principles laid down in the plenary meetings of the National Convention till 30 March 1996 to delegates to the National Convention at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 2 pm today. Also present on the occasion were members of National Convention Convening Work Committee and Management Committee and the delegates.

Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt presided over the meeting and Director (Meeting) U Than Aung acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung explained 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down in the plenary meetings of the National Convention till 30 March 1996. Later, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe gave the concluding remarks.—MNA



NCCWC Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt preside over the meeting. — MNA



Delegates seen attending the National Convention. — MNA



Delegates sign attendance at the National Convention. — MNA

National Convention Plenary ...

(from page 16)

People's Liberation Organization (Ya La La Pha), New Mon State Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Phayagun Special Region Group, Shan State National Army, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Homein Region Welfare and Development Group, Shwepyiaye (MTA) Group, Manpan Regional Militia Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon Splinter Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) who exchanged arms for peace.

Before the plenary session of the National Convention, the delegates signed in the attendance registers. NCC Commission Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein



Delegates arrive at the National Convention. — MNA

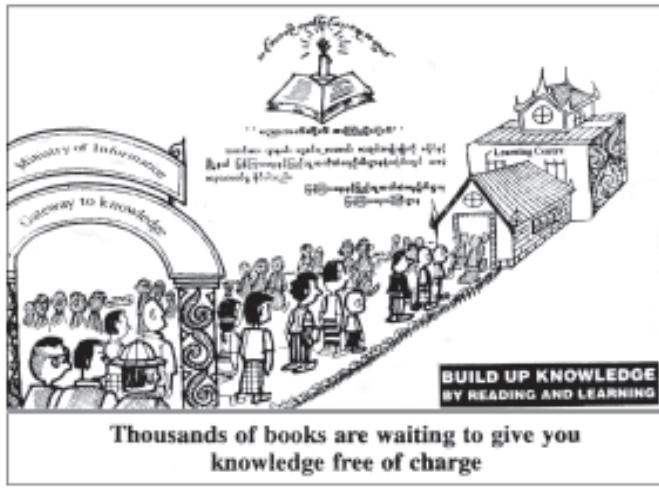
Sein chaired the National Convention Plenary Session and Secretary of the NCC Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan emceed it.

The emcee announced the start of the meeting as there were 1,072 out of 1,088 listed accounting for 98.53 per cent. The National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary sectors that are to be included in writing the State Constitution. Members of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Information U Thein

Sein and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin clarified the social sector, and the meeting went into recess.

The meeting resumed at 10.25 pm. Member of the Work Committee Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye made clarification to the matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the management sector. The Plenary Session went into recess later in the morning.

(The sector-wise clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee is reported separately.) The Plenary Session continues tomorrow. — MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

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1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Solar Generator, Under Ground Signalling Cable, Under Ground Signalling Communication Cable and Glass Fibre Insulation Rail Joint 75 Lbs which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

| Sr No. | Tender No | Description | Quantity |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| 1. | 14(T)1/MR(S&T) 2004-2005 | Solar Generator 19.8 V,55 W | 85 - Nos |
| 2. | 14(T)2/MR(S&T) 2004-2005 | Under Ground Signalling Cable(2.5 ² mm x 19C) | 1500 - Meters |
| 3. | 14(T)3/MR(S&T) 2004-2005 | Under Ground Signalling Cable(2.5 ² mm x 27C) | 1000 - Meters |
| 4. | 14(T)4/MR(S&T) 2004-2005 | Under Ground Communication Cable(9-Pairs) | 4500 - Meters |
| | | Glass Fibre Insulation Rail Joint 75 Lbs | 100 - Sets |

Closing Date: 23.6.2004 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours } For Sr.No.(1,2,3)
Opening Date: 23.6.2004 (Wednesday) (14:00) Hours }
Closing Date: 7.7.2004 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours } For Sr.No.(4)
Opening Date: 7.7.2004 (Wednesday) (14:00) Hours }

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 20.5.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605,612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

| စဉ် | ယူဆောင်အမျိုးအမည် | အရေအတွက် | တင်ဒါပိတ်ချက် |
|-----|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| ၁။ | SLURRY PUMP & IMO PUMP | 2 SETS | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၂။ | DIAMOND WIRE | 200 METRES | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၃။ | LABORATORY APPRATUS | 28 ITEMS | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၄။ | SUBMERSIBLE PUMP | 12 ITEMS | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၅။ | CONVEYOR BELT | 40 ITEMS | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၆။ | GRINDING MEDIA | 413 MT | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၇။ | SPARE PARTS FOR DIESEL GENERATOR | 6 ITMES | ၁၅.၆.၂၀၀၄ |

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၁၉) ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တွင် ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း အကျဉ်းချုပ်ချမှတ် လာရောက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပိတ်တင်ဒါဝယ်ယူသူများအား တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူချက်နှင့်အညီ (အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၅၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၂)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

(၂)အောင်စ ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း(အဖုံးပါ) ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း

| ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား | လိုအပ်ချက် | ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| ၁။ (က) (၂)အောင်စ ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်းအဖုံးပါ Screw Type Cap With Safety Ring, (စုစုပေါင်းထုတ်လုပ်မှု) H.D.P.E (Plastic) | ၂၀၀၀၀၀၀-ခု | မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ |
| (ခ) (၂)အောင်စ ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်းအဖုံးပါ (Screw Type) | ၂၀၀၀၀၀၀-ခု (စုစုပေါင်းထုတ်လုပ်မှု) | အကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏မြို့နယ်ဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း |

တင်ဒါပိတ်ချက် (၂၀-၅-၂၀၀၄) (သောကြာ)နေ့ မွန်းလွဲ (၂:၀၀) နာရီ မှတ်ချက်။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင်ရှိချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါပိတ်ချက်ကိုလည်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန်တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၆၆၆၂၉၀)

စက်ရုံမှူး
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

မြည်တွင်းမြန်မာ့အလင်း

Thailand opens fruit, vegetable export centre

BANGKOK, 19 May — A fruit and vegetable export centre has been launched in Thailand to become it an one-stop service point to distribute local agricultural products, said Deputy Commerce Minister Pongsak Ruktapongpisal.

Pongsak was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Wednesday that the so-called Perishable One-Stop Service Export Centre, or POSSEC, was considered the most modern export centre in the region. — *MNA/Xinhua*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

SK Corporation of 99, Soosil-dong, Jongro-gu, Seoul 110-110, Korea is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

ZIC

(Reg. No. 1431702900) used in respect of Int'l Class 4: "Lubricating oil, spray type lubricants, coal, gasoline, kerosene, grease, fuel oil, liquefied petroleum gas, paraffin wax, boiled oil."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Co (LLP) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtplp@gmail.com
Tel: 2544007 G.P.O. Box: 886
Yangon 21 May 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION

TREMCO INCORPORATED, a Company incorporated in United States of America, of 3735 Green Road Beachwood, Ohio 44122, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

MONO

Reg. No. 2544/1995

in respect of "Sealing compositions for channel glazing, bedding, caulking and the like, the sealing compositions containing organic acrylic polymers and having enduring elasticity"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for TREMCO INCORPORATED
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 21 May, 2004.

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG 770/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 770/N are hereby notified that the vessel arrives at Yangon port on 21-5-2004 and will be berthing on about 22-5-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

Japan aims to bolster 7 promising industries

TOKYO, 20 May — The Japanese Government plans to boost the development of seven industries to increase the size of their markets to about 300 trillion yen (2.65 trillion US dollars) by 2010, the major newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, said Tuesday.

To reach this goal, the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry has come up with an strategic programme, known as "Strategy for Creating New Industries," designed to make the seven sectors a driving force for the economy in the 21st century, the paper said.

The spectrum encompasses digital home appliances, fuel cells, robots, entertainment software, the health and welfare fields, environment and energy fields as well as business services. The total market value currently stands at 205 trillion yen (1.81 trillion dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Thai MP calls for more parliamentary support to "IT" development

BANGKOK, 20 May — President of the National Assembly of Thailand Uthai Pimchaichon on Monday called on world parliamentarians to give more support to the development of the global information and communication technology (ICT).

Parliaments of different countries should build up related ICT networks to exchange information and data, which can overcome language problems and obstacles posed by different communication systems, the MP said at the opening ceremony of the second General Assembly of the

International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology.

He said the meeting itself should serve as a driving force for governments to strengthen information infrastructure both at national and international levels, so as to achieve the ultimate goal of providing people with equal access to the technology.

Uthai also noted that there is a growing "digital divide" between developed and developing countries that threatens to undermine the shared goal of a truly inclusive global information society. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Shanghai to expand rail transport networks

SHANGHAI, 20 May — City design officials in Shanghai said that the traffic management department was considering a plan to connect Shanghai with the neighbouring cities in the Yangtze River delta through rail transport systems.

Lu Ximing, president of the Institute of Shanghai City Transport Research, said the planned rail transport will cover areas within 150 to 200 kilometre from Shanghai. Suzhou, a famous tourist resort some 100 kilometres west of Shanghai, was likely to be the first city connected to the rail transport system, said Zhu Husheng, board chair of Shanghai Subway Construction Co., Ltd. — *MNA/Xinhua*

မညာရူးပြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

US study finds sodas raise cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 20 May—Carbonated drinks may raise the risk of esophageal cancer, a usually fatal disease, researchers reported on Monday.

Several studies presented at a meeting of cancer and gastrointestinal experts in New Orleans showed that what people eat and drink could affect a range of cancers.

"This research supports the widespread medical recommendations for healthy eating," said Dr. Lee Kaplan of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. A team at Tata Memorial Hospital in India found a strong correlation between the rise in per capita consumption of carbonated soft drinks in the past 50 years and a documented increase in rates of esophageal cancer in the United States.

Team members studied US Department of Agriculture data to find that per capita consumption of carbonated drinks rose by more than 450 per cent, from 10.8

gallons on average in 1946 to 49.2 gallons in 2000.

And over the past 25 years, the incidence rates of esophageal cancer have risen by more than 570 per cent in White American men. Esophageal cancer affected 13,900 US men and women in 2003—more than 10,000 men—and killed almost all of them, according to the American Cancer Society.

The number of esophageal cancer cases clearly followed the rise in intake of carbonated soft drinks, the researchers found.

That could be coincidence, but they also found research that showed a possible biological basis for the effect. Carbonated soft drinks cause the stomach to distend, which in turn causes the gastric reflux associated with esophageal cancer.

The researchers found similar trends worldwide.

Countries with per capita annual consumption of more than 20 gallons of fizzy soft drinks also had rising rates of esophageal cancer.

"The surprisingly strong correlation demonstrates the impact of diet patterns on health trends," Dr Mohandas Mallath, who led the study, said in a statement.

But another study showed a potential benefit from drinking coffee and other caffeinated beverages.

A team at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease studied people with a high risk of liver problems and found those who drank more caffeine had fewer liver abnormalities.

They surveyed 5,944 adults at high risk for liver damage because of heavy drinking, hepatitis infection, iron overload or obesity.

MNA/Reuters

Arctic temperatures warming rapidly

OTTAWA, 20 May—Summer temperatures in the Arctic have risen at an incredible rate over the past three years and large patches of what should be ice are now open water, a British polar explorer said on Monday.

Ben Saunders, forced by the warm weather to abandon an attempt to ski solo from northern Russia across the North Pole to Canada, said he had been amazed at how much of the ice had melted.

"It's obvious to me that things are changing a lot and changing very quickly," a sunburnt Saunders told Reuters less than two days after being rescued from the thinning ice sheet close to the North Pole.

"I do know it's happening because that was my third time in the Arctic (in the last three years)," said Saunders, who explored the region in 2001 and 2003.

An international study last year said global warming would melt most of the Arctic icecap in summertime by the end of the century. Many scientists blame the rising temperatures on human emissions of greenhouse gases while others point to what they say are longer-term natural warming and cooling cycles.

MNA/Reuters



Aila, a 10-year-old capuchin monkey, retrieves a compact disc from inside a CD player as she demonstrates the tasks that trained monkeys can accomplish for the disabled at the 'Helping Hands' Monkey Helpers for the Disabled' organizations's 'monkey college' facility in Boston in this photograph taken on 18 May, 2004. The organization, which has already trained more than 93 monkeys to live with and assist severely disabled or paralyzed people, hopes to enroll many more student monkeys in its 2-3 year 'monkey college' training programme and then provide them to the disabled for assistance. — INTERNET

Feeding ship collapse kills three, injures five in Shanghai

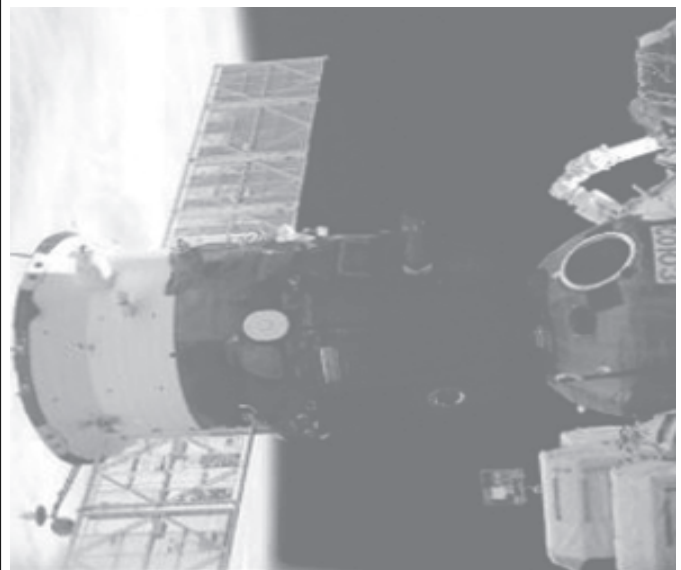
SHANGHAI, 20 May—Three people were killed and five others injured in the collapse of a feeding ship that occurred on Monday in a foundry in east China's Shanghai Municipality, a local government official confirmed Tuesday.

A feeding ship of the Dongxin Foundry Co., Ltd., based in the Jinshan District, suddenly collapsed at 2:30 Monday in the course of trial production, destroying several workshops and burying three workers on duty.

Bodies of the three killed workers had been recovered

by 6:50 Tuesday, according to Zhou Weigang, an official with the Jinshan District government.

The five injured workers have been hospitalized and were in stable condition, doctors said. Investigation into the cause of the accident was going on. — MNA/Xinhua



This NASA image obtained on 4 May, 2004, shows a port on the International Space Station (ISS). A well-known Japanese personality, whose name is being kept secret, is to go on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) orbiting the Earth, a US company announced. — INTERNET

Japan rejects Peru's request on Fujimori

LIMA, 20 May—Japan rejected Peru's request Tuesday that former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori should testify through teleconference as a witness in a trial against Vladimiro Montesinos.

Such an interrogation was an interference in Japanese sovereignty, Nita Gamio, a Japanese official was quoted by the Andina news agency as saying.

Montesinos, jailed at El Callao, was Fujimori's former aide and chief of the defunct

National Intelligence Service (SIN).

He had requested Fujimori to declare as a witness in a trial on payments to former owners of television channels, who backed Fujimori's reelection in 2000.

The Peruvian Anti-Cor-

ruption Chamber accepted the request and asked the Peruvian Government to take steps to interrogate Fujimori, who has been in exile in Japan since 2000 and was charged with corruption and illegal association.

MNA/Xinhua

Greece's tourist arrivals forecast to drop significantly this year

ATHENS, 20 May—Tourist arrivals are expected to decline by 5-8 per cent this year, the Panhellenic Federation of Tourism Enterprises (POET) said on Monday, while its members predicted an even larger decline in tourist foreign exchange revenues.

An annual general assembly held in Rhodes concluded that the main factors behind this expected negative development was a reduced competitiveness of the Greek tourist products, insufficient promotion of the Athens Olympic Games, increased competition from countries outside

the euro-zone area and lack of cooperation between state authorities and services.

Tourism Deputy Minister Anastasios Liaskos reiterated the government's will to promote tourism as the spearhead of growth and added that authorities were currently drafting a new tour-

ism policy, including measures to support business activity and combating bureaucracy.

The Greek Government has earmarked about five million euros (six million US dollars) in funds to support a tourism publicity campaign abroad for Greece.

MNA/Xinhua

57th World Health Assembly Conference opens in Geneva

GENEVA, 20 May—The 57th conference of the World Health Assembly (WHA) opened at the Palais des Nations here on Monday.

The WHA is the supreme decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO), which has a total of 192 members. The conference is scheduled to end on Saturday.

Key issues including HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, road safety, a proposed strategy on diet, and physical activity and health will top the agenda

of the conference.

WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook, former South Korean president Kim Dae-jung and former US president Jimmy Carter will address the conference.

A Chinese delegation, led by Vice-Minister of Health Gao Qiang, also attended the six-day conference.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai to build "underground city"

BEIJING, 20 May — Shanghai will build a 60,000-square-metre "underground city", the Jiefang Daily reported Monday. The Shanghai-based newspaper said that the multi-level "underground city", four-storey high in some places, will be equipped with stores, garages, restaurants and all kinds of entertainment centres and facilities.

The "underground city", to be completed in 2006, has been listed as a major scientific and technological programme by the Shanghai Municipality and is inviting public bidding, the paper said. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Leeds reject two Man Utd bids for Smith

LONDON, 20 May — Leeds United have rejected two offers from Manchester United for striker Alan Smith, the relegated club said on Tuesday. Manchester United bid 3.5 million pounds (6.2 million US dollars) and 5.5 million pounds for the player who has scored 10 league goals this season, the Leeds web site said.

Leeds turned down both bids because they did not meet their valuation of Smith, who has made it clear he will leave his home town club following their relegation from the English Premier League.

"He is worth far more than what Manchester United are prepared to pay for him and both offers were rejected immediately," a Leeds statement said on their web site. Media has reported Smith as saying he would like to play in Italy or Spain but had not discounted the possibility of joining Manchester United, one of Leeds' biggest rivals.

Smith missed out on a place in Sven Goran Eriksson's 23-man squad for Euro 2004 named on Monday but has been told to stay on stand-by in case of injuries. Manchester United were not available to comment.

MNA/Reuters

Eriksson voices England shortcomings

LONDON, 20 May — England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson says his squad for next month's European championship in Portugal has shortcomings in goal and up front.

"David James has done well and I have great faith in him but we don't have a Gordon Banks figure in goal," Eriksson was quoted as saying in British newspapers on Wednesday. Banks was the goalkeeper when England won the 1966 World Cup on home soil.

The Swede said there was a gap in class between first choice James and his deputies, Paul Robinson and Ian Walker. "Beyond James there's something of a void in the position, which is unusual for England, who have a tradition of great goalkeepers," added Eriksson.

Eriksson, who named strikers Michael Owen, Wayne Rooney, Emile Heskey and Darius Vassell in his Euro 2004 squad on Monday, also believes England lack depth up front.

"It's our attack which is our weak point. We don't have as much cover as in other positions," he said.

"Owen is our top man. He's had injury problems and was not scoring for a while but he has recovered and he's at his best in the big games.

"Then we have Rooney, with his imagination and intelligence. But apart from those two, we don't have

world class strikers."

However, Eriksson said his squad was strong in defence and midfield.

"Our defenders are strong and our midfielders brave and skilful," he said.

"Steven Gerrard is an excellent left-sided midfielder and we have seldom lost with him in the side."

England, who fell at the first hurdle at Euro 2000 but reached the World Cup quarter-finals two years later, open their campaign in Euro 2004 Group B against holders France on June 13 before facing Switzerland and Croatia. Eriksson must submit his official squad for Portugal by June 2. — MNA/Reuters

Blatter honoured by Chirac

PARIS, 20 May — FIFA President Sepp Blatter has been named a Knight of the French Legion of Honour by the President Jacques Chirac, soccer's governing body said on Tuesday. Chirac bestowed the title upon Blatter at a ceremony held in the Elysée Palace in Paris.

Napoleon Bonaparte created the French Legion of Honour in 1802 to reward military achievements or other forms of extraordinary service to the State.

Knight is the leading rank.

MNA/Reuters

Bayern coach to leave at the weekend

BERLIN, 20 May — Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld will leave the 2003 German champions at the end of this season after a lacklustre campaign in which they failed to win a trophy, the club said on Tuesday.

Germany's most successful club ended weeks of speculation with a statement saying Saturday's game against SC Freiburg, which wraps up the team's Bundesliga season, would be Hitzfeld's last as Bayern's coach.

The decision follows a disappointing season in which Bayern were knocked

out of the Champions League and domestic cup competitions early on and deposed last week as German champions by Werder Bremen.

Hitzfeld, Germany's most successful club coach ever, said he would have liked to have stayed until his contract expired at the end of the 2004/05 season but realized after talking with executive director Uli Hoeness that it was impossible.

"Uli Hoeness told me the club had decided otherwise," he told German television following a friendly match in Hungary.

"I have always been a

fighter and I would have liked to carry on, even though there would have been a lot of pressure. But the club didn't want it because the pressure on everyone would have been immense," he said.

"Maybe if we'd won against Bremen and Stuttgart, the situation would have been different."

Hitzfeld, 55, has been at Bayern since 1998 and led the club to four Bundesliga titles and two German Cups as well as a Champions League triumph in 2001 after they lost the final in a dramatic finale to Manchester United 2-1 in 1999.

MNA/Reuters

West Ham to play Crystal Palace in playoff final

LONDON, 20 May — West Ham United will face Crystal Palace in an all-London first division playoff final at the Millennium Stadium this month after a 2-0 win over Ipswich Town on Tuesday night put them through 2-1 on aggregate.

West Ham have the chance to bounce straight back into the Premier League after second-half goals from midfielder Matthew Etherington and defender Christian Dailly gave them a deserved victory in a tough battle with their Suffolk visitors.

"The players' performance tonight was exceptional and I don't think anyone would warrant that we didn't deserve to win 2-0," said West Ham manager Alan Pardew as he looked forward to battling with Palace manager Iain Dowie's team on May 29.

"The prize is probably the biggest in English football right now," he added. "There are two good teams in the final and they will put on a great show." We will celebrate the victory (tonight) but we know that the job is not done yet."

Palace reached the final on Monday after beating Sunderland 5-4 on penalties at the Stadium of Light despite a 2-1 defeat on the night

that levelled the scores at 4-4 on aggregate.

Ipswich, who were relegated from the Premier League in 2002, had finished the season in fourth spot, a point and a place behind West Ham. But the east London team always had the upper hand in front of their own raucous supporters.

West Ham took control after a goalless first half in which Steve Lomas clipped the Ipswich bar with a fierce first-time effort and Town's goalkeeper Kelvin Davis made impressive saves from a Bobby Zamora header and a long-range Dailly drive.

The home side took the lead five minutes after the break when Etherington fired a left-foot shot into the top corner from the edge of the 18-metre box giving Davis no chance.

West Ham's Ireland striker David Connolly then missed two chances to put West Ham ahead on aggregate when he miscued a volley after being set up by substitute Brian Deane and then dinked the ball over the bar with the outside of his foot.

It was left to Scotland's Dailly to grab what proved to be the winner over the two legs when he poked the ball home through a crowded penalty area helped by a deflection off Ipswich defender Richard Naylor after an Etherington corner.

Ipswich had a final chance to draw level but Ian Westlake's volley hit the outside of the post after a deflection off Lomas and their chance of getting back into the top flight was gone. — MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Thierry Henry, of France, poses with his Golden Boot trophy (L) and the Player of the Year award, ahead of the Martin Keown testimonial soccer match between Arsenal and an England Selected XI at Highbury, on 17 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Sparta Prague win Czech Cup to deny Ostrava double

PRAGUE, 20 May — Petr Johana scored six minutes from full time to give Sparta Prague a 2-1 win against league champions Ostrava in the Czech-Moravian Cup final on Tuesday.

Jan Rezek also scored for the Prague side in the first ever cup final between teams placed first and second in the Czech league.

It was Sparta's first cup win since 1996, and their 15th overall including results from the former Czechoslovakia. Ostrava, who trailed 1-0 until Mario Licka's 56th minute shot drew his team level, won the league title by five points over Sparta, who had won the title in 10 of the previous 11 seasons.

Ostrava had been looking to become the first club to win a Cup-League double since Sparta accomplished the feat in 1989. — MNA/Reuters



Marcel Desailly, Robert Pires, Patrick Viera, Zinedine Zidane, and Claude Makele, from left, jog during a training session in Clairefontaine, west of Paris, on 18 May, 2004. France will play a friendly soccer match against Brazil on 20 May. Others are unidentified. — INTERNET

Myanmar delegation attends 37th annual meeting of ADB

YANGON, 19 May — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back this morning after attending the 37th annual meeting of Asian Development Bank held in Jajeu, the Republic of Korea, from 14 to 17 May.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Col Than Nyein and officials.

On 15 May, the delegation attended the opening of the 37th annual meeting of ADB at International Convention Centre and posed for documentary photos with the governors. Korean dance troupes entertained the guests. Prime Minister Mr Goh Kun extended greetings. Minister of Finance and Economy of the ROK Mr Hun Jai Lee and Chairman of ADB Mr Tadao Chino delivered speeches. The delegation attended ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting and lunch hosted by Minister at



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets with ADB Chairman Mr Tadao Chino. — FINANCE

the Prime Minister Office of Singapore and Minister of Finance Mr Lim Hug Kiang at Hyatt Hotel.

They discussed matters relating to investors' seminar to be held in New York in September 2004.

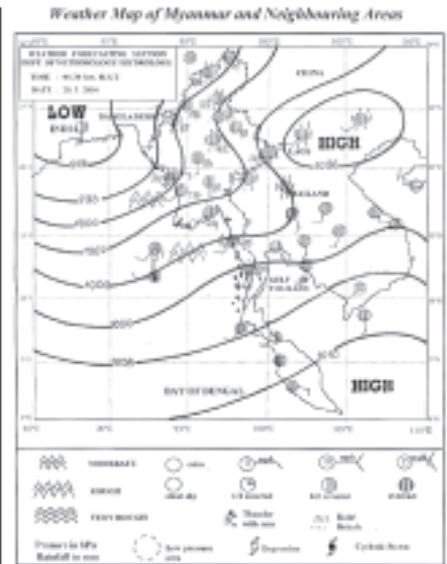
On 15 May, the delegation attended Finance Ministers' Meeting of ASEAN+3 at International Convention Centre. The ministers signed in Protocol to Amend the Protocol Governing the Implementation of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature. Then Asian Bond Online website was launched and a press conference was held.

The delegation attended the reception hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy Mr Hun Jai Lee.

On 16 May, Minister of Finance of Japan Mr Sadakazu Tanigaki hosted breakfast. Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun attended it and economic and financial cooperation among the Finance Ministers of the members of ADB were discussed.

At the annual meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun explained Myanmar's economic development, regional cooperation and tasks to be taken. The meeting successfully concluded on

17 May. The minister also met Chief Executive Mr Yoshihiro Watanabe of Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi on 14 May. He met Chairman of ADB Mr Tadao Chino and discussed cooperation. On 18 May, the minister met Chairman of Daewoo Co Ltd Mr Tae Yong Lee. Governor of CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Director of CBM Daw Ohnmar Sein and Staff Officer U Min Han Soe of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue arrived back on the same flight.—MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 20 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has advanced into the central Myanmar areas. Rain have been widespread in the whole country with isolated heavyfalls in Shan, Chin, Kayah States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Pinlong (7.56) inches, Homalin (7.01) inches, Ann (5.94) inches, Mindat (5.51) inches, Thandwe (5.39) inches, Kale (5.04) inches, Taungoo (3.90) inches, Pinyinana (3.35) inches, Dawei (3.23) inches and Loikaw (3.07) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-5-2004 was 30.0°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 20-5-2004 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-5-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 19-5-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 20-5-2004 was 15mm (0.58 inches) at Yangon Airport, 24 mm (0.95 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 46 mm (1.81 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 263 mm (10.35 inches) at Yangon Airport and 260 mm (10.24 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 314 mm (12.36 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from West at (08:00) hours MST on 20-5-2004.

Bay inference: Yesterday's severe cyclonic storm over North Bay has crossed Rakhine coast near Sittwe and weekend. Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 21-5-2004:** Rain will be scattered in Kachin, Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Shan States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltaic and Rakhine coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Decrease of rain in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-5-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-5-2004:** One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Significant Water Level Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hours MST on 20-5-2004)

According to the (06.30) hrs MST observation today, the water level 804 cm of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina shows a sharp rise of 259 cm (about 8.5-feet) within 24 hours. The water level will rise sharply about 270 cm (about 9-feet) along the upper Ayeyawady reach during the next 3 days and about 240 cm (about 8-feet) along the middle Ayeyawady reach during the next 6 days commencing noon today.

Donate blood



Friday, May 21

View today:

7:00 am

1. ဓမ္မစာအုပ် မင်္ဂလာဆောင်တော် အကူအညီ၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံသယဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့၊ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြော၊ အဘိဓမ္မာဟော သဒ္ဓမ္မစာတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မတာဓမ္မ၊ ဂါရိယ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရား၊ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိသင်္ဂဟ၊ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. နိုးရာဆွေးလက်ကစားနည်း

8:05 am

6. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

7. အစိုးရဦးစီး

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ် ဟောပြော နှစ်ပတ်လည်အထိမ်းအမှတ် တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Song of national races

5:25 pm

7. နည်းစနစ်နမူနာ အကူအညီအစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm

8. Song of yesteryears

5:55 pm

9. တထာဝရစုစုတိုင်ရာ တိုင်ရင်းသား ဓမ္မာနုပဿ

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:15 pm

11. ဗဟုသုတသွယ်သွယ်ကြွယ်

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နိုးရင်းသား" (အပိုင်း ၂၄)

7:30 pm

15. ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုစာမေးပွဲ (အပိုင်း ၁)

7:45 pm

16. ကျေးလက်ဒေသတစ်ခွင်အထူးဆောင်

8:00 pm

17. News

8:15 pm

18. International news

8:30 pm

19. Weather report

8:45 pm

20. "မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့တော်လှန်ရေးတော်လှန်ရေး" (မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့တော်လှန်ရေးတော်လှန်ရေး)

8:55 pm

21. The next day's programme



Friday, May 21

Tune in today:

8:30 am

- Brief news

8:35 am

- Music: I don't want to love (Duran Duran)

8:40 am

- Perspectives

8:45 am

- Music: This is one's for you (OTT)

8:50 am

- National news/Slogan

9:00 am

- Music: Baby I was made for you (No Mercy)

9:05 am

- International news

9:10 am

- Music: My Baby (Leann Rymes)

1:30 pm

- News/Slogan

1:40 pm

- Lunch Time Music: -The love thieves (Ultra)

9:00 pm

- Open your heart - Golden eyes (Tina Turner)

9:15 pm

- World of music Songs from "China"

9:25 pm

- Article Music

9:30 pm

- Music at your request -I'd love you to want me (Brian Chapman)

10:00 pm

- Take a bow (Medonna)

10:00 pm

- Just the way you are (Billy Joel)

10:00 pm

- News/Slogan

10:00 pm

- PEL

Don't smoke

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 20 May — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses opening of Conference on Promotion of National Education of Higher Education Sector.— MNA

It is necessary to build the country's future with the support of an educational system that is directed towards national development

MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses opening of Conference on Promotion of National Education of Higher Education Sector

YANGON, 20 May— Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the Conference on the Promotion of National Education of the Higher Education Sector at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road at 8 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of MEC, presidents and members of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science and Myanmar

History Commission, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, directors-general and chairmen of departments and boards under the Ministry of Education, rectors and faculty members of universities, degree colleges and colleges and librarians.

At the ceremony, Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

We are in the age in which advances being made in science and technology internationally, and these advances have
(See page 10)



National Convention Plenary Session continues

YANGON, 20 May—The National Convention Plenary Session continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

The National Convention Convening Work Commit-

tee clarified social and management sectors concerning the basic principles for legislative, administrative and judicial powers to be included in the State Constitution.

Present on the occasion 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 intel-

lectuals 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
(See page 11)



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



With hands linked firm around the National Convention.